

THT WORKSHEETS

Learn With the Solutions

Australian Curriculum

Year 7 English

Reading Comprehension & Language Analysis

These solutions are designed to show students how strong readers locate evidence, make inferences and explain how an author creates meaning.

1.

Understanding the Question

This is a **literal comprehension** question. The answer is directly stated in the passage, so the first step is to locate the sentence explaining why trains stopped using Ashcombe Station.

The passage states that the railway company built a faster route through the valley. As a result, Ashcombe Station was gradually removed from the timetable.

Sample Answer

Ashcombe Station disappeared from the railway timetable because the railway company built a faster route through the valley, meaning trains no longer needed to stop there.

Evidence from the Passage

“The railway company had built a faster route through the valley, and Ashcombe slowly slipped from the timetable...”

Final Answer: The station disappeared because a faster railway route was built through the valley.

Reading Tip

For literal questions, underline the sentence that directly answers the question before writing your response.

2.

Understanding the Question

This question asks for **evidence**, not simply an opinion.

To show that Nathan cared about the station, look for his actions. What a character repeatedly chooses to do often reveals more than what the character says.

Possible evidence includes:

- He unlocked the waiting room every morning.
- He swept the platform.
- He wound the old station clock.
- He continued caring for the station even though he could have retired.
- He spoke about the station as a place where journeys begin.

Sample Answer

Nathan cared deeply about the station because he continued to unlock the waiting room, sweep the platform and wind the clock every morning. He also chose not to retire, even though the station had not received a scheduled train for many years.

Final Answer: Any two relevant pieces of evidence, clearly explained, are acceptable.

Common Mistake

Do not write only, “Nathan loved the station.” The question asks you to prove this using details from the passage.

3.

Understanding the Question

This question requires an **inference**.

The passage does not directly state, “The visit made Nathan happy.” Instead, we must infer its importance from the change in the station’s atmosphere and Nathan’s feelings.

Before the woman arrived:

- the platform was empty;
- the station had almost been forgotten;
- Nathan worked there alone.

After she arrived:

- they shared memories;
- the station felt busy again;
- the platform no longer felt empty.

Sample Answer

The woman's visit was important because it reminded Nathan that the station still mattered to people. Their shared memories brought the station back to life emotionally, even though it remained closed to regular trains. This is shown when the station feels "busy again" and when the platform no longer feels empty at the end.

Final Answer: Her visit restored meaning and companionship to the station and reminded Nathan that its memories had not been lost.

Key Idea

A strong inference combines:

Evidence from the text + what that evidence suggests

4.

Understanding the Question

The station has not physically changed. The platform, clock and waiting room are still there.

What has changed is Nathan's emotional experience of the place.

At the beginning, the station feels abandoned and forgotten. By the end, the visit has renewed Nathan's connection to it.

Sample Answer

The final paragraph suggests that Nathan's feelings have changed. The station is still physically quiet and unused, but it no longer feels empty to him because the woman's visit has reminded him of its importance and the memories connected to it.

Final Answer: Nathan's outlook has changed; the station now feels meaningful rather than abandoned.

Reading Tip

When a question contrasts what has and has not changed, identify both parts clearly in your answer.

5.

Understanding the Question

The sentence is:

“The platform had long forgotten what punctuality meant.”

A platform cannot literally forget. Forgetting is a human action.

The author has therefore given the platform a human quality.

Technique

Personification

Effect

The personification makes the station seem neglected and abandoned. It suggests that trains have not arrived regularly for such a long time that punctuality no longer has any meaning there.

Sample Answer

The author uses personification by describing the platform as if it could “forget.” This emphasises how long the station has been unused and helps create a lonely, abandoned atmosphere.

Final Answer: Personification; it highlights the station’s long period of abandonment.

Common Mistake

Naming the technique is only half the answer. Always explain the effect it creates.

6.

Understanding the Question

The station clock appears several times:

- Nathan checks it at the beginning.
- He winds it each morning.
- It keeps perfect time.
- He looks at it again at the end.

Repeated objects often become **symbols**.

THT.

The station has changed, but the clock continues working. Nathan has also remained loyal to the station despite the passing years.

Sample Answer

The station clock symbolises continuity and endurance. Although Ashcombe Station has been forgotten and removed from the timetable, the clock still keeps perfect time. This reflects Nathan's own loyalty and suggests that some memories and responsibilities continue even when the world changes around them.

Final Answer: The clock symbolises continuity, loyalty and the persistence of memory.

Key Idea

When an object is repeated throughout a story, ask:

- What stays the same?
- What idea might the object represent?
- How does its meaning change by the ending?

7.

Understanding the Question

Imagery is language that helps the reader picture, hear or feel something.

One example is:

“The train disappeared into the morning mist as quietly as it had arrived.”

This creates both visual and auditory imagery.

Sample Answer

The phrase “the train disappeared into the morning mist” creates visual imagery. It helps the reader picture the train slowly fading from view and contributes to the quiet, reflective mood of the ending.

Other valid examples may include:

- “birds in the nearby gum trees”;
- “wind moving through the tall grass”;
- “polished windows reflected the first light of morning.”

Final Answer: Any suitable example of imagery, with a clear explanation of its effect, is acceptable.

Common Mistake

Do not simply copy a descriptive sentence. Explain what the reader imagines and how it affects the mood.

8.

Understanding the Question

Dialogue can reveal:

- what characters remember;
- how comfortable they are with one another;
- their emotions;
- their shared history.

Nathan remembers a very specific detail about the woman's grandfather: he always bought two newspapers. This shows that Nathan remembers the people who once passed through the station.

The woman's surprise also shows that she did not expect anyone to remember her family.

Sample Answer

The dialogue reveals a connection based on shared memories. Nathan's detailed memory of the woman's grandfather shows that he cared about the people who used the station. The woman's surprise and willingness to talk about her childhood suggest that she quickly feels understood and comfortable with him.

Final Answer: Their dialogue creates a quiet sense of trust and shared history.

Reading Tip

When analysing dialogue, focus on what the characters reveal indirectly—not only on the words they say.

9.

Understanding the Question

Nathan is speaking metaphorically.

A station is literally a place where trains depart and arrive. However, Nathan believes it also represents:

- beginnings;
- opportunities;

THT.

- change;
- memory;
- important moments in people's lives.

Sample Answer

Nathan means that a station represents more than physical travel. It can mark the beginning of new experiences, relationships and important memories. For him, the station matters because of the journeys and lives connected to it, not simply because trains once stopped there.

Final Answer: The station symbolises beginnings, experiences and memories, not just transport.

Common Mistake

Avoid repeating the quotation in different words. Explain the deeper idea behind it.

10.

Understanding the Question

The setting includes:

- an empty platform;
- winter dawn;
- gum trees;
- tall grass between the sleepers;
- morning mist;
- silence broken by a distant whistle.

These details create a quiet, reflective and slightly mysterious atmosphere.

Sample Answer

The setting creates a calm and reflective mood. The empty platform, winter dawn and morning mist make the station seem isolated and almost forgotten. The distant whistle briefly introduces suspense because Nathan does not expect a train to arrive. By the end, the quiet setting becomes peaceful rather than lonely.

Final Answer: The setting creates loneliness, suspense and finally a sense of peaceful reflection.

Key Idea

A strong setting answer should explain:

Setting detail → mood created → effect on the story

11.

Understanding the Question

The sentence is important because the woman's decision to step off the train causes the entire emotional change in the story.

If she had stayed aboard:

- she would not have spoken to Nathan;
- the memories would not have been shared;
- Nathan's feelings about the station would have remained unchanged.

Sample Answer

The sentence is important because it shows how a small decision can have a powerful effect. By choosing to get off the train, the woman reconnects with her past and gives Nathan a moment of companionship and hope. Her decision supports the story's message that revisiting old places can restore memories and meaning.

Final Answer: It shows that one small decision can reconnect people with the past and change another person's outlook.

Reading Tip

When a character mentions a choice, consider what would have happened if they had chosen differently.

12.

Understanding the Question

The question asks for:

1. one suitable character trait;
2. evidence from the passage;
3. an explanation connecting the evidence to the trait.

Several answers are possible, including:

- dedicated;
- loyal;
- patient;

THT.

- thoughtful;
- observant;
- kind.

Sample Answer

Nathan is **dedicated**. Even though the station has not received a scheduled train for nearly fifteen years, he continues to unlock the waiting room, sweep the platform and wind the clock every morning. These actions show that he remains committed to the station despite its decline.

Final Answer: Dedicated, supported by his continued care for the station.

Common Mistake

Do not select a character trait without explaining which actions prove it.

13.

Understanding the Question

The extended response asks:

To what extent does the story explore the idea that places become important because of the memories people attach to them?

“To what extent” means you must make a clear judgement.

A strong response should:

- state a clear position;
- discuss Nathan’s memories;
- discuss the woman’s memories;
- refer to the station and the clock;
- include evidence;
- explain how the story’s ending reinforces the idea.

Planning the Paragraph

A useful paragraph structure is:

Point

State your main argument.

Evidence

Use a quotation or detail from the story.

Explanation

Explain how the evidence supports your argument.

Further Evidence

Add another example.

Link

Return to the central idea.

Sample Response

The idea that places become meaningful because of the memories attached to them is explored strongly throughout *The Last Train Before Dawn*. Although Ashcombe Station is no longer part of the railway timetable, it remains important to Nathan because it represents the many people and journeys he has witnessed. His daily routine of sweeping the platform and winding the clock shows that he values the station for more than its practical use. The woman also returns because the station is connected to childhood memories of travelling with her grandfather. Their conversation briefly makes the station feel “busy again,” not because crowds have returned, but because their memories give the place new life. The repeated image of the clock reinforces this idea, as it continues keeping time even while the station appears forgotten. By the end, the platform “no longer felt empty,” showing that a place can remain emotionally significant even after its original purpose has disappeared. The story therefore suggests that memories can preserve the value of a place long after the physical activity around it has ended.

Why This Response Is Strong

- It answers the question directly.
- It makes a clear judgement: the idea is explored strongly.
- It uses several details from the passage.
- It explains the importance of those details.
- It avoids simply retelling the story.

Final Answer: Responses will vary, but they should present a clear interpretation supported by relevant evidence.

Writing Tip

Do not begin with a plot summary. Begin with your argument about the central idea.

Quick Answer Check

1. A faster route was built through the valley, so the station was removed from the timetable.
2. Any two relevant details showing Nathan's continued care for the station.
3. The visit reminded Nathan that the station and its memories still mattered.
4. Nathan's feelings have changed; the station no longer feels empty to him.
5. Personification; it emphasises abandonment and the passing of time.
6. The clock symbolises continuity, loyalty and memory.
7. Any valid example of imagery with an explanation of its effect.
8. The dialogue reveals trust, shared memories and a meaningful connection.
9. The station represents beginnings, experiences and memories.
10. The setting creates loneliness, suspense and reflection.
11. The woman's decision to step off allows both characters to reconnect with the past.
12. Any suitable character trait supported by evidence; for example, dedicated.
13. Responses will vary. A strong paragraph should explain how memories give Ashcombe Station emotional significance.