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| **Lesson Title:** Reading Comprehension | | **Theme:** Reading | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-145 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcomes**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:  1. Demonstrate understanding of the passage by answering questions on the subject matter and use of words.  2. Identify the part of speech that some words in the passage belong to. | | | |

**Overview**

After reading a text for BECE, you are often asked to answer ‘Wh-’ questions — who, what, when, where, why or how. One strategy you can use is **scanning**. Scanning means you quickly look for specific information in the text and do not focus on understanding the text as a whole. Scanning requires you to read the questions first. Then, you can look for keywords in the text that would help answer the question.

For example, if the question is ‘What appealed to the writer on his last visit to Sierra Leone?’, we would look for words such as ‘Sierra Leone’, ‘last’ and ‘visit’ in the text to find the answer

The passage below is about how the writer feels when he is at sea, returning to Sierra Leone. He describes what he sees. He admires the beauty of the land. As you read, pay close attention to the **subject matter** – what the passage is about. Here are some vocabulary from the text to help you:

* **peninsula**: an area of land that is almost surrounded by water but is joined to a larger piece of land
* **charm**: pleasing or attractive to the eye
* **utmost**: maximum, to the fullest
* **brilliancy**: brightness, radiance

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

Read the following passage. Then, identify the parts of speech in bold in the questions that follow.

The Charm of Sierra Leone

Oh my! I have often approached the peninsula of Sierra Leone on a return journey, and never without fresh admiration for its natural beauties. The charm of the land appealed to me more than ever on my last visit, when it happened to be at the height of ‘the dries’, when everything was at its utmost brilliancy. The heat was intense, but to me that tropical heat acts as a restorative, although for many others it has quite an opposite effect.

After several days on the open seas, I eagerly look for the mountains of Sierra Leone. When those who are scanning the horizon finally see them, they receive the impression of what they take to be ‘the loom of the land’.

Gradually the impression becomes a certainty; minute by minute the scene develops, and the distant mountains become faintly visible, rapidly gaining distinctiveness.

After a while, the lighthouse on Cape Sierra Leone appears, towards which the steamer makes a beeline.

**Questions**

1. ‘After **several** days on the open seas…’
2. ‘After a while the **lighthouse** on Cape Sierra Leone appears…’
3. ‘When those who are **scanning** the horizon finally see them…’
4. ‘…the distant mountains become faintly visible, **rapidly** gaining distinctiveness’
5. ‘The heat was intense, **but** to me that tropical heat acts as a restorative…’

**Activity 2**

Read the following text. Then go back and read the passage in Activity 1 again. Answer the comprehension questions below.

The Unfortunate Journey

I was so sick I could barely raise my head off my bed. I could not wait to arrive back to my sweet, sweet land of Sierra Leone.

The voyage had taken months, but I had never quite gotten used to the rolling sea. It made my stomach churn, and I frequently had to hang my head over the side of the steamer. Whatever I had eaten earlier would be made into fish food. The fish were happy, but not I.

I missed the glorious mountains and sparkling beaches of my home. At sea, there were only miles and miles of boring blue, the sun blinding as it reflected off the surface. I couldn’t wait for something interesting to cast my eyes upon.

When the captain finally announced that land was in sight, I forgot all about my ills. I jumped up and hurried to the deck. Along with the rest of the passengers, also weary from their travels, we gazed at a glorious sight! There, in front of us, was land! There, in front of us, was home! There, in front of us, was Sierra Leone.

**Comprehension questions**

1. Why was the character in ‘The Unfortunate Journey’ miserable?
2. How did the character describe the ocean?
3. How did the story change when the captain announced that they could see land?
4. What are the main differences between the texts, ‘The Unfortunate Journey’ and ‘The Charm of Sierra Leone’?
5. What are the similarities of ‘The Unfortunate Journey’ and ‘The Charm of Sierra Leone’?

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**Activity 1**

1. adjective
2. noun
3. verb
4. adverb
5. conjunction

**Activity 2**

1. The character was miserable because being on the sea made him sick to his stomach.
2. The ocean was described as miles and miles of boring blue.
3. When the captain announced land, all of a sudden the character felt fine. He forgot he was sick.
4. Answers may vary. Example answer: The main difference between the two texts is that ‘The Charm of Sierra Leone’ has an upbeat and happy tone throughout the whole story. ‘The Unfortunate Journey’ starts off in an unhappy tone.
5. Answers may vary. Example answer: The two texts are similar because they both praise Sierra Leone.