



Bijlage VSBO TKL

**2025**

tijdvak 1  
vrijdag 9 mei  
07.30 – 10.00 uur

**Engels**

Tekstboekje

## Text 1 The soothing surprise

- 1 I needed a dentist procedure on one of my back teeth and I'll admit that I was scared out of my wits. I don't do well with dentists – even just a cleaning sends me into panic mode. That morning, as the dentist leaned in to give me an injection against pain, I began to shake and tear up. 'I'm sorry, but I am really, really nervous,' I blurted, not caring if the mother and little girl in the next treatment room could hear me. It seemed like the mom had gotten a cleaning and they were about to leave. I envied them.



- 2 After my shot, the dentist stepped out, saying he would give me a few minutes to let me get numb. When he returned, he was holding a crayon drawing of brightly colored flowers with the words BE HAPPY! He said the little girl had asked him to give it to me. He taped it to the wall so I could stare at it during my procedure, and I did so. I had never felt calmer during a dentist visit. It really helped me get through the procedure, and I gratefully took the drawing home with me.
- 3 Have I gotten any better at enduring the dentist? No, but every time I go, I now take that drawing with me, and it helps me calm down. Knowing what that little girl did for me gives me strength. I'll be forever grateful to my anonymous little artist who knew just what I needed to get me through!

*Adapted from: First magazine*

## Text 2 Should emotional support animals be allowed on planes?

- 1 The holidays are some of the most chaotic times for air travel. Large crowds, cranky kids and sometimes icy or hot weather can turn a simple trip into a nightmare. In recent years a new concern has been added to this list of issues: potential problems caused by emotional support animals (ESAs) on board airplanes.



2        ESAs are creatures that provide general comfort to people with psychological conditions such as anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression. ESAs are distinct from service animals such as guide dogs. Guide dogs perform specific tasks for people with a physical handicap. Blind people for instance, or people in wheelchairs use guide dogs to help them perform their –daily– activities. Service animals undergo intense training to support individuals with a specific disability. Emotional support animals require no specific training.

3        In 1986 the American government passed a law permitting ESAs to accompany passengers on planes, but ESAs didn't become a common sight until recent years. One company that sells products for service and emotional support animals says its registry grew from 2,400 animals in 2011 to more than 200,000 this year. Unfortunately, along with the increase in numbers, a spike in animal-related incidents has occurred. There have been reports of support animals biting flight attendants, pooping in the cabin and panicking during flights.

#### **Why there's debate**

4        Apparently, an ESA certification can easily be obtained online. Now rumor has it that people who just want to travel with their pets for free, abuse this option. There are viral news stories about people trying to take exotic animals such as peacocks or squirrels with them on planes, claiming they are their 'support animals'.

5        As a result, there has been a lot of criticism from 'regular' passengers. Besides, airline employees complain that the animals have made their jobs more difficult and are a safety risk. In addition, people with a legitimate need for an ESA fear that this abuse of the rules will have a negative impact on how people view the use of ESAs in general. They demand strong official action be taken to punish the abusers.

6        Now the Department of Transportation has published new, stricter regulations with regard to certification for ESAs on flights. However, this could make it very hard for many people with a real need for a support animal to prove their case. Just because someone lacks the right paperwork or a highly trained animal, doesn't mean his need of an ESA is false. According to doctors, criticism of ESAs may create the impression that support for emotional health is not as important as support for physical health.

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*Adapted from: Yahoo news*

### Text 3 A lifesaving irritation

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1 I adore my teenage daughter Jill, but she's addicted to texting and messaging me countless times a day about little, unimportant things that she's doing. I've told her I don't have time to respond to everything she sends me, but then she'll text me about that, telling me I need more rest.

2 While driving home one night after my shift, working long hours as a restaurant manager, I was so tired, I could barely keep my eyes open, and the quiet

country road in the darkness didn't help. Next thing I knew, I was shaken by a *ping* coming from my cellphone. I gasped, realizing that I had fallen asleep and had changed lane into oncoming traffic! Quickly, I pulled back into my lane, narrowly avoiding a serious car accident.

3 I did not read Jill's text until I got home. It said: *Maria isn't speaking to me. She thinks I'm the worst friend in the world!* I drew in a sigh, and texted back: *I disagree. In fact, you're my hero!*

*Adapted from: First magazine*

### Text 4 Did you know?

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1 *Orcas do not always stay in cold waters; they sometimes visit the Caribbean ... even Bonaire! Until recently, seeing a whale shark was at the top of my bucket list, but now the orca has taken over that spot.*

2 Orcas are marine mammals: they breathe air and their young are dependent on milk from their mother, just like humans. Orcas are actually considered to be dolphins, not whales, because they have cone-shaped teeth and a single blowhole. They are the largest dolphin species with a few individuals reaching lengths of almost 10 meters and weighing ten tons!

3 The reason orcas are referred to as 'killer whales' is because they sometimes hunt, kill and eat whales. Depending on where they live, orcas may eat sharks, rays, fish, sea lions, seals, dolphins and whales. The manner in which these highly intelligent mammals hunt, depends on their prey and the knowledge or 'culture' of their pod or family group. Orcas sometimes ram their prey with their heads, whack prey with their tails, often coordinate attacks with other members of their pod, and sometimes even swim onto a beach to be able to catch their prey. Some orcas use 'bubble nets' to hunt, where they swim in

spirals around a group of fish while making bubbles. The spirals get tighter and tighter until the fish are concentrated at the top of the column and are easier to eat. Orcas are so-called 'apex predators', meaning that they are at the very top of the food web and have no known predators (apart from humans).

- 4 Orcas are among the world's most widely distributed mammals (together with rats and humans) and are divided into communities depending on their territories. Communities consist of several clans that each have their own language of clicks, whistles and body language. If individuals of two different clans were brought together, they would probably not understand each other, just like humans that speak two different languages. Clans are comprised of several pods, or family groups, each with its own dialect, accent and even culture.

- 5 In 2008, one orca was spotted midway between Bonaire and Curaçao. There were 173 records of orcas in the Caribbean between 1866 and 2012, with one pod having 25 orcas! In 2016, two orcas were captured and killed by local fishermen near St. Vincent, while a whale watching expedition looked on. Although it was allowed by law for local fishermen to harvest up to four whales a year, the local government pledged to protect orcas in the future, after seeing the negative consequences on tourism (and international criticism) that the incident caused.

- 6 The conservation status of orcas with the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is 'data deficient', meaning that little is known about these animals. Some local populations are considered threatened or endangered. Because they are apex predators, they are very vulnerable to pollution and chemicals and suffer from diseases and reproductive problems as a result.



- 7 So, although very rare, there are orcas in our waters. It's pretty amazing to think that one day you or I may be lucky enough to see one of these incredible animals!

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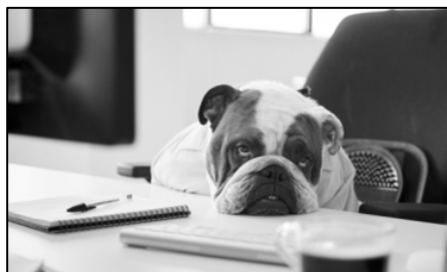
*Adapted from: The Bonaire Reporter*

## Text 5 The benefits of boredom

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*Feeling a bit bored? It could be just what you need to generate your best ideas, unleash your creativity or simply give your brain a rest...*

- 1 Back in 1973, children from across the UK attempted to inspire their peers to try out various activities, such as creating portraits out of staples or rustling up some mini ham-and-cheese sandwiches.



- 2 Nowadays, in the age of round-the-clock entertainment, it's (technically) trickier to be bored. If the show you're watching has lost its spark, you can select an instant dynamic alternative or keep yourself occupied by scrolling through social media without even leaving the sofa. But that's not necessarily a good thing; doing nothing does have its benefits, according to researchers.
- 3 Most importantly, being bored motivates you to search out something less boring to do. Feeling bored at work, for example, could inspire you to explore a change of career. Or if you decide there's nothing worth watching on TV, you might choose to switch it off and make your own entertainment by taking up a new hobby. This can explain why the lockdowns of the past years saw a surge in creativity among people stuck at home.
- 4 But what about those times when you have no choice but to stick with the boring situation – carrying out a dull task at work or waiting for a bus, for instance? The good news is that the boredom you're feeling now could spark your creativity and help you come up with some of your best ideas. People who'd taken part in a boring task later performed better at coming up with creative ideas than another group who'd been given something more interesting to do first.
- 5 And, despite what parents and teachers may have told you, daydreaming *is* good for you. Letting your thoughts wander without the distractions of technology can be a useful way to allow your mind to unwind, relieve stress and solve problems. It can boost your productivity and creativity in the process. People who reported more frequent daydreaming scored higher on intellectual and creative ability and had more efficient brains.
- 6 Likewise, doodling during a tedious class or call can provide just the right amount of stimulation to help you stay alert and pay attention. People who doodled while listening to a dull, rambling voicemail message were better able to recall details from the call than those who'd simply sat and listened.

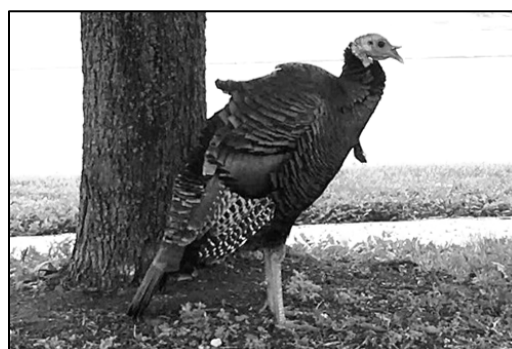
- 7        ...21... if we take it for granted that there'll always be something close at hand to entertain us, we start to lose the ability to entertain others, think creatively and allow our minds to switch off and relax. We stop coming up with new ideas and we're less motivated to find ways to do something less boring instead. Whisper it: we run the risk of becoming boring ourselves.

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*Adapted from: [www.readersdigest.co.uk](http://www.readersdigest.co.uk)*

## Text 6 The Tina Show

- 1        As though things weren't strange enough a few years back (lock-down!), a wild turkey started showing up on my block. It's normally one of the busiest intersections in Minneapolis, but this turkey strutted down the sidewalk day after day as if she belonged. As word got out about her, more and more people came out to see her and they named her Tina – Tina the Turkey.



- 2        Tina had been laying eggs in front of the neighbors' house. She would squat and wiggle her butt in the same place in their yard every day. A few weeks later, she paraded through the parking lot with five little turkeys, up the two-and-a-half-foot cement wall, and into the yard. I watched in awe – six wild turkeys! One had her feathers ruffled; I think it must have been Tina. This was her territory now. There were many days when Tina would stand in the parking lot – a dangerous place for a slow-moving bird – and refuse to move, blocking cars from coming or going.
- 3        This became a show for Tina in the starring role until the day a new character appeared on stage: an eerie-looking man with matted black hair. He was homeless. He was covered in dirt, his posture stiff. He approached Tina and began to strike curious poses in a beautiful, trance-like dance. Tina engaged with him in this dance. Together, they were art in motion. And because of the stay-at-home order, I got to see them. I'll always remember this turkey when I think back on the coronavirus pandemic. She brought a lot of joy to a community at a time when people desperately needed an escape.

*Adapted from: Reader's Digest*

## Text 7 Wonder Woman's Invisible Jet



Wonder Woman first appeared in the comic book world in 1941. Since then, she has become probably the most ...29... female super hero. Aside from having super strength, she is typically armed with indestructible bracelets, a boomerang tiara, and of course, her Lasso of Truth – a lasso which, when it ...30... a bad guy (or for that matter, a good guy), prevents him from telling a lie. But perhaps her coolest gadget isn't one she is always equipped with and, for that matter, is one she is never seen with. That's because it's invisible – the Invisible Jet.



The Invisible Jet wasn't just a method of super ...31...; it would also be undetected while moving quietly at supersonic speeds so that it would not be shot down. The idea was to ...32... problems and conflicts rather than fighting them. But as the years ticked by, the Invisible Jet became less and less important in the Wonder Woman story line and it was something of a joke. *In fact, in 2010 it became, literally, a joke. And it became real. But still invisible.*



In July of 2010, San Diego ...33... the 43rd annual Comic-Con, a gathering of comic book fans and those in the industry. Comic-Con 2010 had more than 130,000 participants and attracted people from around the world. Mattel, the toy company behind Wonder Woman action figures, decided to use Wonder Woman's phantom plane as a promotional tool. A few months before Comic-Con, Mattel ...34... a new product: the Invisible Jet action figure.

Most fans immediately saw through the joke. The date of the announcement was April 1st, and the Invisible Jet was an April Fool's joke. But so many people asked the company where they could purchase the Invisible Jet that Mattel decided to make it a 'limited-edition collectible'. The Invisible Jet, available for \$5, was an ...35... item sold only at Comic-Con. The 'toy' was just packaging of course; the plastic mold inside the case contained only an outline of a plane, helping to sell the joke. And it sold pretty well, even though the packaging was ...36.... Today, the not-quite-real 'Invisible Jet' is a collector's item that often sells for over \$100. Imagine that!

*Adapted from: [www.nowiknow.com](http://www.nowiknow.com)*



## Text 8 Sleeping and breathing

1 For people to survive – and this is true for mammals, generally – we need to do three basic things: sleep, breathe, and eat/drink. Luckily for us, we don't have to do the last one constantly, which would be impossible when we sleep. And also luckily for us – while required around the clock – our breathing happens subconsciously. Otherwise, we'd suffocate in our sleep. It's just one of the really neat ways that we humans are designed to survive.

2 But imagine if breathing was a conscious act – one you had to intentionally perform, and, therefore, be awake to do. How could we sleep and breathe at the same time? We – humans – probably can't. But there are other mammals for whom breathing happens only consciously, most notably dolphins and whales. Because they live and eat while underwater but, unlike fish, can not extract oxygen from the ocean, these animals need to come to the surface to breathe. And to do that, they need to be awake. But their brains need rest, just like ours do. Their solution: Whales and dolphins turn off only half their brains at a time.



3 According to research, these mammals of the sea have a weird way of taking a nap. For two-hour stretches, bottlenose dolphins (like the one seen above) swim near the surface of the water, with half their brain (and one eye, the opposite one) asleep. The active side of the brain and the other eye function at a lower than typical level – similar to the feeling we people get when we're on the verge of falling asleep, but not quite out yet. This way, the dolphins' and whales' brains can send the "go above water and take a breath" signal needed to survive. And at the end of the two-hour shift, the resting half of the brain wakes up and the active one goes to sleep. All together, these creatures spend eight hours a day (or night) in this half-awake, half-asleep state.

4 This neat little trick of nature also has a secondary benefit. Because these creatures do not have homes, they can't seek shelter from predators, so going to sleep means being susceptible to attack. However, one need not be fully awake to avoid harm. Whales and dolphins can avoid attacks even in this state of lower brain function, fleeing the area when a threat approaches.

*Adapted from: [www.science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/mammals](http://www.science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/mammals)*

## Text 9 Are zoos a good thing?

*Zoos are hugely popular attractions for adults and children alike.  
But are they actually a good thing?*

- 1 Critics of zoos would argue that animals often suffer physically and mentally by being enclosed. Even the best artificial environments can't come close to matching the space, diversity, and freedom that animals have in their natural habitats. This deprivation causes many zoo animals to become stressed or mentally ill. Capturing animals in the wild also causes much suffering by splitting up families. Some zoos make animals behave unnaturally. For example, marine parks often force dolphins and whales to perform tricks. These mammals may die decades earlier than their wild relatives.
- 2 ...41... by bringing people and animals together, zoos have the potential to educate the public about conservation issues and inspire people to protect animals and their habitats. Some zoos provide a safe environment for animals which have been mistreated in circuses, or which have been abandoned. Zoos also carry out important research into, for instance, animal behavior and how to treat illnesses.
- 3 One of the most important modern functions of zoos is supporting international breeding programs, particularly for endangered species. In the wild, some of the rarest species have difficulties finding mates and breeding, and they might also be threatened by poachers, predators and loss of their habitat. A good zoo will enable these species to live and breed in a secure environment.
- 4 However, opponents of zoos say that the vast majority of captive breeding programs do not release animals back into the wild. Surplus animals are sold not only to other zoos but also to circuses or hunting ranches in the US or South Africa, where some people are willing to pay a lot of money for the chance to kill an animal in a fenced enclosure.
- 5 So, are zoos a good thing or not? Perhaps it all depends on how well individual zoos are managed. The benefits of zoos surely outweigh their harmful aspects. However, it is understandable that many people believe imprisoning animals for any reason is simply wrong.

*Adapted from: BBC teens*