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## Winnie the Pooh to make a comeback

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13th January, 2009

## THE ARTICLE

2009 will see the return of one of the world's best-loved fictional characters, Winnie the Pooh. The loveable bear was created by British writer A.A. Milne and first appeared in a book in 1926. Milne only wrote two novels about Pooh's adventures, the last being 'The House at Pooh Corner' in 1928. Eighty years later, those in charge of the Pooh name allowed the publication of a sequel. The third book will be called 'Return to the Hundred Acre Wood'. It will hit bookstore shelves on October the 5th and should be an instant bestseller. Many people predict it will be the biggest seller of the year. The Pooh books have been translated into 50 languages. In 1966, the Walt Disney company started making movies about Pooh and turned the character into a household name.

The author David Benedictus wrote the new book. He described it as "an honour to have my sequel to the original stories approved". He added: "I hope that the new book will...maintain Milne's idea that whatever happens, a little boy and his bear will always be playing." Mark Burgess, a spokesperson for the Pooh Trustees, said he was sure the new book captures the spirit of the two books written eight decades ago. He said: "We hope that the many millions of Pooh enthusiasts and readers around the world will embrace and cherish these new stories as if they had just emerged from the pen of A.A. Milne himself." Mr. Burgess explained how important Pooh is, saying: "The original books are one of the greatest celebrations of childhood in any language."

# WARM-UPS

**1. BOOKS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about books. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*fictional characters / bears / adventures / bookstores / bestsellers / Walt Disney / authors / playing / spirit / eight decades ago / cherishing stories / celebrations*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. FICTIONAL CHARACTERS:** Are children's fictional characters good for kids? Complete the table below with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote.

Character	What is OK	What isn't OK
Winnie the Pooh		
Mickey Mouse		
Superman		
Powerpuff Girls		
Harry Potter		
Other _____		

**4. WALT DISNEY:** Students A **strongly** believe Walt Disney is great for kids; Students B **strongly** believe Walt Disney is bad for kids. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. CHARACTERS:** What is important in a fictional character for children? Rank these things with your partner(s). Change partners and talk about your rankings.

- |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ cuteness             | _____ has an English name         |
| _____ special powers       | _____ has two eyes                |
| _____ being an animal      | _____ can communicate with humans |
| _____ getting into trouble | _____ gives a positive message    |

**6. NOVEL:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'novel'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. Winnie the Pooh was the idea of an American writer.                  | T / F |
| b. The author A.A. Milne wrote more than two Pooh novels.               | T / F |
| c. The new Winnie the Pooh book already has a name.                     | T / F |
| d. Walt Disney made its first Winnie the Pooh movie 60 years ago.       | T / F |
| e. The writer of the new book is pleased he wrote it.                   | T / F |
| f. The writer has totally moved away from the ideas of A.A. Milne.      | T / F |
| g. Those who look after the Pooh name are unhappy with the new book.    | T / F |
| h. Someone said Pooh is one of the greatest ever children's characters. | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. fictional   | a. let       |
| 2. created     | b. fans      |
| 3. allowed     | c. forecast  |
| 4. instant     | d. came out  |
| 5. predict     | e. imaginary |
| 6. honour      | f. immediate |
| 7. maintain    | g. treasure  |
| 8. enthusiasts | h. produced  |
| 9. cherish     | i. privilege |
| 10. emerged    | j. keep up   |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. the return of one of the world's best- | a. the Pooh name              |
| 2. those in charge of                     | b. name                       |
| 3. It will hit bookstore shelves on       | c. Pooh enthusiasts           |
| 4. The Pooh books have been translated    | d. ago                        |
| 5. turned the character into a household  | e. loved fictional characters |
| 6. the new book will                      | f. of childhood               |
| 7. the new book captures the              | g. into 50 languages          |
| 8. eight decades                          | h. spirit of the two books    |
| 9. many millions of                       | i. October the 5th            |
| 10. one of the greatest celebrations      | j. maintain Milne's idea      |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

2009 will see the \_\_\_\_\_ of one of the world's best-loved fictional characters, Winnie the Pooh. The \_\_\_\_\_ bear was created by British writer A.A. Milne and first appeared in a book in 1926. Milne only wrote two \_\_\_\_\_ about Pooh's adventures, the last being 'The House at Pooh Corner' in 1928. Eighty years later, those in \_\_\_\_\_ of the Pooh name allowed the publication of a sequel. The third book will be called 'Return to the Hundred Acre Wood'. It will hit bookstore \_\_\_\_\_ on October the 5th and should be an instant bestseller. Many people predict it will be the biggest \_\_\_\_\_ of the year. The Pooh books have been \_\_\_\_\_ into 50 languages. In 1966, the Walt Disney company started making movies about Pooh and turned the character into a \_\_\_\_\_ name.

*seller*  
*charge*  
*loveable*  
*shelves*  
*return*  
*household*  
*novels*  
*translated*

The author David Benedictus wrote the new book. He \_\_\_\_\_ it as "an honour to have my sequel to the \_\_\_\_\_ stories approved". He added: "I hope that the new book will...maintain Milne's idea that whatever \_\_\_\_\_, a little boy and his bear will always be playing." Mark Burgess, a spokesperson for the Pooh Trustees, said he was sure the new book captures the \_\_\_\_\_ of the two books written eight \_\_\_\_\_ ago. He said: "We hope that the many millions of Pooh enthusiasts and readers around the world will embrace and \_\_\_\_\_ these new stories as if they had just emerged from the \_\_\_\_\_ of A.A. Milne himself." Mr. Burgess explained how important Pooh is, saying: "The original books are one of the greatest celebrations of \_\_\_\_\_ in any language."

*happens*  
*childhood*  
*cherish*  
*spirit*  
*described*  
*pen*  
*original*  
*decades*

## **LISTENING:** Listen and fill in the spaces.

2009 will see the return of one \_\_\_\_\_-loved fictional characters, Winnie the Pooh. The loveable bear was created by British writer A.A. Milne \_\_\_\_\_ book in 1926. Milne only wrote two novels about Pooh's adventures, the last being 'The House at Pooh Corner' in 1928. Eighty years later, \_\_\_\_\_ the Pooh name allowed the publication of a sequel. The third book will be called 'Return to the Hundred Acre Wood'. It will \_\_\_\_\_ on October the 5th and should be an instant bestseller. Many people predict it will be the biggest \_\_\_\_\_. The Pooh books have been translated into 50 languages. In 1966, the Walt Disney company started making movies about Pooh and turned the character \_\_\_\_\_.

The author David Benedictus \_\_\_\_\_. He described it as "an honour to have my sequel to the original stories approved". He added: "I hope that the new book will...maintain Milne's \_\_\_\_\_ happens, a little boy and his bear will always be playing." Mark Burgess, a spokesperson for the Pooh Trustees, \_\_\_\_\_ new book captures the spirit of the two books written eight decades ago. He said: "We hope \_\_\_\_\_ of Pooh enthusiasts and readers around the world will embrace and cherish these new stories as if they had just \_\_\_\_\_ pen of A.A. Milne himself." Mr. Burgess explained how important Pooh is, saying: "The original books are one of the greatest celebrations of childhood \_\_\_\_\_."

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'fiction' and 'character'.

fiction	character

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• created</li><li>• last</li><li>• eighty</li><li>• third</li><li>• instant</li><li>• 50</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• honour</li><li>• maintain</li><li>• spirit</li><li>• cherish</li><li>• pen</li><li>• original</li></ul>
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# STUDENT FICTIONAL CHARACTERS SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about fictional characters in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# WINNIE THE POOH DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'comeback'?
- c) Do you know anyone who has made a comeback recently? Was it successful?
- d) What do you know about Winnie the Pooh?
- e) What was your favourite fictional character when you were little?
- f) Who do you think is the world's best-loved fictional character?
- g) What do you think of the sequel coming out after 80 years?
- h) What are the best children's books written in your language?
- i) Are any fictional characters from your country household names?
- j) Would you like to be a household name?

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# WINNIE THE POOH DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you think of the idea of someone other than A.A. Milne writing the story?
- c) If A.A. Milne were still alive, do you think he would like the idea of someone else writing a book about Pooh?
- d) Do you think the new book is breaking intellectual copyright?
- e) Which of today's popular characters do you think will still be around 80 years from now?
- f) Did you have an imaginary childhood friend?
- g) What do you think is the "greatest celebration of childhood"?
- h) What kind of book would you write for children?
- i) Why do you think publishers are waiting until October to publish the book if it is already finished?
- j) What questions would you like to ask David Benedictus?

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# LANGUAGE

2009 will see the (1) \_\_\_\_ of one of the world's best-loved fictional characters, Winnie the Pooh. The loveable bear was (2) \_\_\_\_ by British writer A.A. Milne and first appeared in a book in 1926. Milne only wrote two novels about Pooh's adventures, the last (3) \_\_\_\_ 'The House at Pooh Corner' in 1928. Eighty years later, those in charge of the Pooh name allowed the publication of a sequel. The third book will be called 'Return to the Hundred Acre Wood'. It will (4) \_\_\_\_ bookstore shelves on October the 5th and should be an (5) \_\_\_\_ bestseller. Many people predict it will be the biggest seller of the year. The Pooh books have been translated (6) \_\_\_\_ 50 languages. In 1966, the Walt Disney company started making movies about Pooh and turned the character into a household name.

The author David Benedictus wrote the new book. He described it (7) \_\_\_\_ "an honour to have my sequel to the original stories approved". He added: "I hope that the new book will...maintain Milne's idea that whatever happens, a little boy and his bear will always (8) \_\_\_\_ playing." Mark Burgess, a spokesperson for the Pooh Trustees, said he was sure the new book captures the spirit of the two books (9) \_\_\_\_ eight decades ago. He said: "We hope that the many millions of Pooh enthusiasts and readers around the world will embrace and cherish these new stories (10) \_\_\_\_ if they had just emerged (11) \_\_\_\_ the pen of A.A. Milne himself." Mr. Burgess explained how important Pooh is, saying: "The original books are one of the greatest celebrations of (12) \_\_\_\_ in any language."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |               |              |               |
|-----|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) returning | (b) returned  | (c) returns  | (d) return    |
| 2.  | (a) creative  | (b) creator   | (c) created  | (d) creates   |
| 3.  | (a) been      | (b) being     | (c) were     | (d) be        |
| 4.  | (a) hit       | (b) smash     | (c) punch    | (d) slap      |
| 5.  | (a) instance  | (b) instantly | (c) instant  | (d) instances |
| 6.  | (a) up to     | (b) of        | (c) from     | (d) into      |
| 7.  | (a) at        | (b) as        | (c) an       | (d) ah        |
| 8.  | (a) be        | (b) was       | (c) being    | (d) been      |
| 9.  | (a) writing   | (b) written   | (c) wrote    | (d) writes    |
| 10. | (a) an        | (b) at        | (c) as       | (d) ah        |
| 11. | (a) from      | (b) at        | (c) to       | (d) by        |
| 12. | (a) childlike | (b) child     | (c) childish | (d) childhood |



# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about Winnie the Pooh. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. FICTIONAL CHARACTERS:** Make a poster about fictional characters from your own language and some from the English language. Compare them. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SEQUEL:** Write a magazine article about the third Winnie the Pooh book. Include imaginary interviews with a Pooh Trustee (who wants the new book to be published) and a relative of A.A. Milne (who thinks the new book disrespects the memory of Milne and is simply a moneymaking idea).

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. HELLO POOH:** Write an imaginary conversation between Winnie the Pooh and A.A. Milne. They are talking about Pooh's comeback.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s). Role play your conversation in front of the class.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to the Pooh Trustees. Ask them three questions about Winnie the Pooh. Give them three suggestions on how to make more money out of Winnie the Pooh. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. F      c. T      d. F      e. T      f. F      g. F      h. T

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. fictional   | a. imaginary |
| 2. created     | b. produced  |
| 3. allowed     | c. let       |
| 4. instant     | d. immediate |
| 5. predict     | e. forecast  |
| 6. honour      | f. privilege |
| 7. maintain    | g. keep up   |
| 8. enthusiasts | h. fans      |
| 9. cherish     | i. treasure  |
| 10. emerged    | j. came out  |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. the return of one of the world's best- | a. loved fictional characters |
| 2. those in charge of                     | b. the Pooh name              |
| 3. It will hit bookstore shelves on       | c. October the 5th            |
| 4. The Pooh books have been translated    | d. into 50 languages          |
| 5. turned the character into a household  | e. name                       |
| 6. the new book will                      | f. maintain Milne's idea      |
| 7. the new book captures the              | g. spirit of the two books    |
| 8. eight decades                          | h. ago                        |
| 9. many millions of                       | i. Pooh enthusiasts           |
| 10. one of the greatest celebrations      | j. of childhood               |

## GAP FILL:

### Winnie the Pooh to make a comeback

2009 will see the **return** of one of the world's best-loved fictional characters, Winnie the Pooh. The **loveable** bear was created by British writer A.A. Milne and first appeared in a book in 1926. Milne only wrote two **novels** about Pooh's adventures, the last being 'The House at Pooh Corner' in 1928. Eighty years later, those in **charge** of the Pooh name allowed the publication of a sequel. The third book will be called 'Return to the Hundred Acre Wood'. It will hit bookstore **shelves** on October the 5th and should be an instant bestseller. Many people predict it will be the biggest **seller** of the year. The Pooh books have been **translated** into 50 languages. In 1966, the Walt Disney company started making movies about Pooh and turned the character into a **household** name.

The author David Benedictus wrote the new book. He **described** it as "an honour to have my sequel to the **original** stories approved". He added: "I hope that the new book will...maintain Milne's idea that whatever **happens**, a little boy and his bear will always be playing." Mark Burgess, a spokesperson for the Pooh Trustees, said he was sure the new book captures the **spirit** of the two books written eight **decades** ago. He said: "We hope that the many millions of Pooh enthusiasts and readers around the world will embrace and **cherish** these new stories as if they had just emerged from the **pen** of A.A. Milne himself." Mr. Burgess explained how important Pooh is, saying: "The original books are one of the greatest celebrations of **childhood** in any language."

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d    2 - c    3 - b    4 - a    5 - c    6 - d    7 - b    8 - a    9 - b    10 - c    11 - a    12 - d