

Malorie Blackman

Malorie Blackman is a popular author who has written multiple award-winning books, television scripts and even a stage play. Malorie is known for tackling a range of issues within her books.



Early Life

Malorie was born in London on 8th February 1962. As a young child, she enjoyed spending time in the library and read all sorts of books from classic stories to science fiction.

Malorie trained in computer science and later graduated from a school that specialised in film and television. She worked as a computer programmer before making the decision to leave computing to become a writer.



Writing Career

Thinking about the stories that she read as a child, Malorie noticed that none of the featured characters were Black people. Wanting to change this, she made the decision to start writing the books that she would have wanted to read when she was a child: sci-fi books, adventure tales and more, all of which featured Black characters.

Malorie spent over two years sending stories that she had written to different publishers. After 82 rejection letters, Malorie received her first 'yes'. In 1990, her first book 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories' (a collection of short stories for young adults) was published.

Two years later, Malorie's first book for children was published. 'Hacker' follows the story of a girl who uses her incredible computer skills to attempt to break into a bank's computer files. She does this to try and prove her dad's innocence after he's accused of stealing one million pounds.

In 1997, Malorie's well-known book 'Pig Heart Boy' was published. This book was shortlisted for several awards and was made into a six-part television series where it won an award for best children's drama.



Since her first book was published, Malorie has written lots of novels for young children, older children and young adults.

Tackling Important Issues



Malorie believes that books can help people to view things from another person's point of view. She suggests that, by representing a range of cultures, beliefs and **ethnicities** within stories, we can start to combat **racism** and **discrimination** by giving people the opportunity to walk in other people's shoes. In an interview conducted in 2016, Malorie said, "Books should be mirrors as well as windows."

In 2007, Malorie collected short poems and stories on the theme of slavery for a book entitled 'Unheard Voices'. The book marked 200 years since slavery was outlawed in the British empire. At the start of the book, Malorie writes that she made the collection because 'more often than not, the only way to move forward is to first look back and learn from the lessons of the past.'



Children's Laureate

Between 2013 and 2015, Malorie won the title of Children's Laureate. The award (which is given every two years) celebrates the amazing achievements of writers and illustrators of children's books. Nominations are taken from a wide range of people before a panel of judges make the final decision.

Malorie said that, as Children's Laureate, she wanted to bring books and teenagers together. During her time in the role, she helped to set up the first YALC (Young Adult Literature Convention). This brought different worlds from television, film, books, video games and graphic novels together in one space.



During her two years as Children's Laureate, Malorie travelled across the UK and gave talks to children and young adults about reading for pleasure. Malorie often talks about how much she enjoyed meeting so many amazing and talented young people as she visited different parts of the country.



In her spare time, Malorie enjoys playing video games and writing music. She is still writing and continues to speak openly about issues that she believes strongly in.



Glossary

discrimination:

When someone is treated unfairly because of their religion, nationality or other factor when compared to others.

ethnicities:

Groups of people who often identify with each other through a common language, culture, religion or ancestry.

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Questions

- Before she became a writer, what did Malorie work as? Tick one.
 - ☐ a television script writer
 - ☐ a director
 - ☐ a computer programmer
 - ☐ a computer salesperson
- Number the events from 1- 4 to show the order that they happened in.
 - ☐ Malorie collected poems and short stories for 'Unheard Voices'.
 - ☐ Malorie's first book for children was published.
 - ☐ Malorie became the Children's Laureate.
 - ☐ 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories' was published.
- Look at the first paragraph.
Find and copy **two** words or groups of words that mean the same as **lots**.
 - _____
 - _____

7. Do you think that people will be inspired to become authors after reading about Malorie Blackman? Explain your answer.

8. Imagine that this text is from a book about Malorie Blackman.
Write a short blurb for the book.

9. Explain why you think that the author chose to include the last paragraph.

4. What did Malorie say that she wanted to do as Children's Laureate?

5. Fill in the missing words.

'Unheard Voices' marked 200 years since _____
was outlawed in the British _____.

6. Would you like to read 'Hacker'? Explain your answer.

Stage: 6	Challenge Words
List: 7	

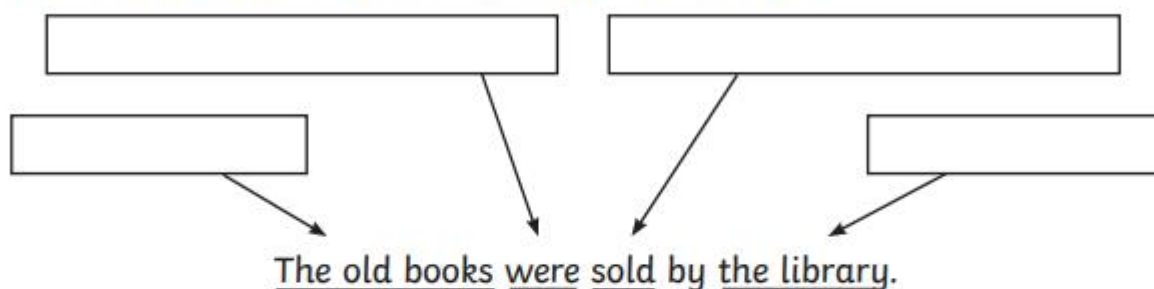


Spellings	1 st Attempt	2 nd Attempt	3 rd Attempt
ancient			
cemetery			
criticise			
equipped			
government			
leisure			
opportunity			
recognise			
sincerely			
variety			

Spellings	Write the correct spelling into each sentence.
ancient	The new _____ centre will be _____ with the latest state of the art exercise facilities.
cemetery	The _____ the need to ban plastic bottles and drinking straws in order to protect the environment.
criticise	Protestors attended the rally in order to _____ the plans for the new road which would damage a _____ of wildlife habitats.
equipped	The special guest made a speech and _____ thanked the teachers for the _____ that they had given him.
government	Write your own sentence which includes both spellings not already used in the sentences above.
leisure	
opportunity	
recognise	
sincerely	
variety	

Using the Passive Mini Test

1. Complete the labels to describe the parts of this passive sentence:



2. Label these sentences active or passive:

Harry bought a new bag for school. _____

My bike was stolen by a burglar. _____

Collars are worn by many cats. _____

The restaurant critic tasted the ice-cream. _____

The dog is being chased by the cat. _____

3. Change these sentences from active to passive.

Katy lost the instructions for the game.

The boy hid the stinky socks.

Philip Pullman wrote 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter'.

The band recorded a new single.

A poisonous snake bit Jake.



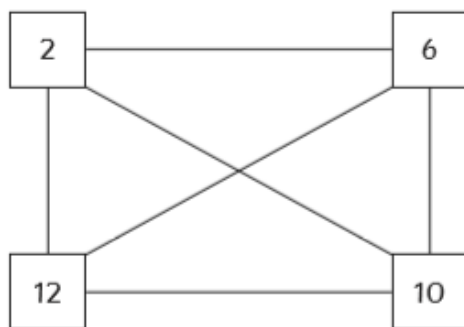
Factors, Multiples and Prime Numbers

I can identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers.



- 1) a) What is the highest common factor of 24 and 36? _____
b) What is the highest common factor of 21 and 54? _____
c) What is the highest common factor of 19 and 48? _____

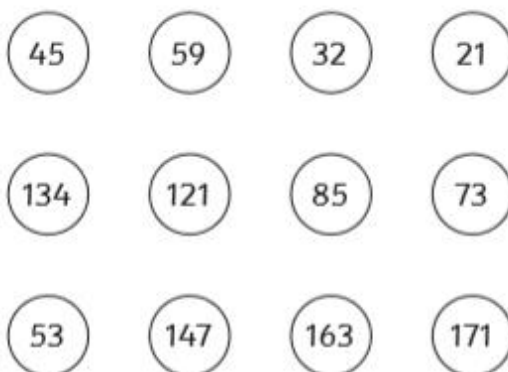
- 2) Work out the lowest common multiple of each pair of linked numbers.



- 2 and 6 _____
6 and 10 _____
6 and 12 _____
2 and 10 _____
10 and 12 _____
2 and 12 _____

Which pairs of numbers have the same lowest common multiple?

- 3) Oh no! The maths machine has broken!
Can you help identify the prime numbers by circling the correct balls?

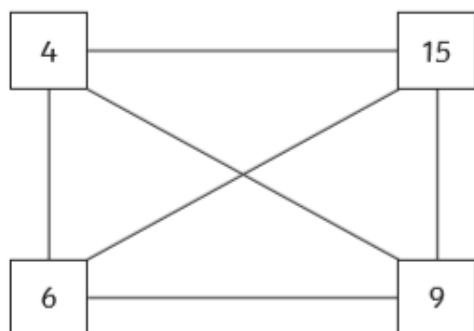


I can identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers.



- 1) What is the highest common factor of 32 and 52 multiplied by the highest common factor of 12 and 48?

- 2) Work out the lowest common multiple of each pair of linked numbers.



4 and 15 _____

4 and 9 _____

4 and 6 _____

15 and 9 _____

15 and 6 _____

9 and 6 _____

- 3) Write three pairs of prime numbers that, when added together, create square numbers.

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

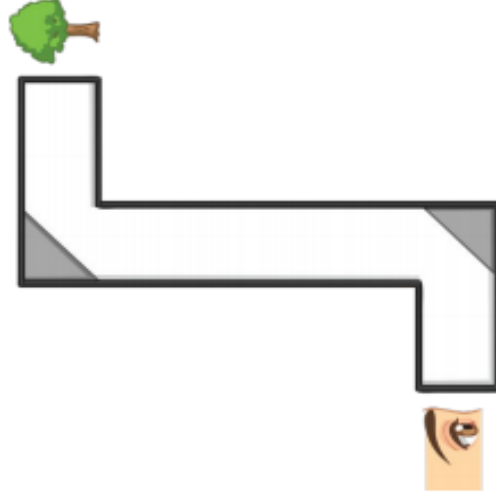
Year 6 Light Revision Activity Mat

The law of reflection says that the angle that a ray of light hits a surface (the angle of incidence) is equal to the angle that the ray of light bounces off a surface (the angle of reflection).

Draw a line showing the angle at which the ray of light bounces off the mirror, using the law of reflection.



Using arrows to show how light travels, explain how this periscope works to help people see objects higher than them.



Match these words to their definitions.

refraction

an area of darkness where light has been blocked

visible spectrum

when light bends as it passes from one medium to another

shadow

light that is visible to the human eye

Write the term for each of the definitions.

An object that lets light travel through it easily.

An object that lets some light through but scatters it.

An object that does not let any light pass through it.

The Romans

This half term, we will be learning about the Romans and the Roman Empire. During the half term break, research the romans and complete your choice of task:



If you complete 1 task = 2 RR

2 tasks = 5RR

3 tasks = 10RR

1. Make a list of objects that we would use now that the Romans used.
2. Draw or paint a picture of a scene from the Roman times e.g. a Roman banquet, a chariot race, a Roman household. Write a caption to go with it.
3. Write a short newspaper article announcing the invasion of Britain.
4. Draw yourself as a Roman - you can be any type of Roman you like (soldier, slave, Emperor).
5. Write a diary entry from someone in a British village which gets taken over by the Romans.
6. Find a Roman recipe. Make the recipe and take a photo to show your creation.
7. Write your own acrostic poem about something Roman.
8. Make a 3D object from Roman times.
9. Imagine you are a child in a rich Roman house - write a diary entry describing your day.
10. Imagine you are a child in a poor Roman house - write a diary entry describing your day.
11. Find out some Roman foods and use these to design a menu for a Roman café.
12. Draw a Roman gladiator and label all of his equipment.
13. If you were the Roman Emperor what new laws would you make and why?
14. Imagine you are living in Roman times. Write a paragraph describing three things you would like about living in that time and three things you don't think you would like. Remember to say why.
15. Invent a new toy for Roman children. You can only use materials that would be available in Roman times.