

Key stage 2 training exercise 2

Pupil B - Piece B: a newspaper report

Context: this newspaper report was based on a real-life event in which surfer Matthew Bryce survived after 32 hours adrift at sea. Pupils read news articles and listened to an interview with Matthew, before writing an article for a daily newspaper.

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32 HOURS OF HORROR	
<p>Thirty-two hours of fear have ended now that Matthew Bryce has been safely rescued from the North Sea.</p> <p>Yesterday morning, at 11.30am, a missing man by the name of Matthew Bryce was finally rescued thirteen miles from the coastline of Masrihanish Beach after he had engaged in a surfing trip which became exceedingly dangerous.</p> <p>Rescuing Matthew:</p> <p>As the evening of Monday 1st May drew in, rescue workers became increasingly anxious as the disappearance of Matthew Bryce, aged 22 from Glasgow, reached its thirty-first hour. Family and friends, worried about his whereabouts, undertook searches of their own in the hope that they would find the young university student. At 7:10pm a local fisherman made a telephone call to the coastguard: this was the communication that Matthew's friends, relatives and the rescue workers who were searching for him were waiting to receive. John Smithson, aged 45, was returning to land after a long day spent fishing in the deeper waters of the North Sea when he was forced to stop his vessel's engine.</p> <p>"I panicked when I saw something in the water in front of my boat," John commented, as he spoke in an interview with a journalist from The Daily Express earlier today. "If I'd have carried on the way I was heading, I would've run straight over whatever it was ahead of me. At the time, I didn't know it was a young lad out there, did I? It could've been anything really: plastic, pollution, a bit of rubbish – so much gets dumped in these waters."</p> <p>Investigating the outline that he had observed in the water, Mr Smithson, without hesitation, called the coastguard and reported the situation. Still unaware as to whether the person in the water was alive, Mr Smithson began to call Matthew in the hope that he would communicate in return.</p> <p>"It took a few attempts like, but eventually he murmured something back to me. Help, I think it was, but I was just glad that he called to me; I knew he was alive then."</p>	<p>Within minutes, the rescue team, who were already scouring the surrounding area for Matthew, made their way to the location of the fisherman's boat. Upon their arrival, a full-scale rescue mission began and two highly qualified paramedics were hoisted down from the helicopter to treat Matthew in the ocean. Connecting him to their secure equipment, and covering him in a foil blanket, he was then raised back out of the water and taken to Belfast hospital's emergency unit to receive treatment for hypothermia.</p> <p>Hospitalisation</p> <p>Matthew had suffered from hypothermia while he was in the water; however, it was reported that he was still conscious as he reached Belfast. The doctor confirmed that he had only survived this treacherous 32 hour struggle in the ocean due to the fact that he was wearing a new wetsuit but, most importantly, he used his surfboard as a buoyancy aid so that he could float in the water.</p> <p>One of Matthew's family members (his mother, Isabella Bryce) was interviewed this morning; here are her exact words:</p> <p>"The last 32 hours I've had my heart in my mouth – what if he doesn't come back alive? What if I never see him again? All of these questions have been pounding in my brain. I have felt ill with worry, really I have. I've never hugged Matthew so tightly as I did yesterday when I was reunited with him. I can't even think now about what would've happened if the fisherman hadn't found him out in that ocean. We owe our lives to him."</p> <p>The event</p> <p>Nobody could have predicted how strong the current was on Sunday; however, it was more forceful than any that the coastguard has ever experienced in his 24 years of service. Whilst undertaking his journey, Mathew's body and board were clawed at by the strong waves. The situation became rapidly worse, the further he was forced out into the ocean. Eventually, Matthew was driven an incredible thirteen miles off the coast by the</p>

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undercurrent and his only form of support was the surfboard which he lay upon.

"I remember that moment vividly," Matthew stated, when he was questioned about how he felt when he realised that he was trapped thirteen miles off shore. "Although I can't remember exactly how far I had been pushed out, I knew it was quite far. It was so far that I couldn't see the land anymore. It was so scary. Hours passed on Sunday afternoon and I was so worried when the light began to fade. At one point, a small boat passed by close to me but I didn't have the energy to shout to them – I was gutted. They drove away and didn't even see me. I thought then that was my only sign of hope and I'd lost it!"

The outlook

Matthew is still in hospital, but is starting to overcome his hypothermia. This illness can present long-lasting side-effects so he must be monitored closely over the next few days.

In an interview with the hospital two hours ago, Matthew reported, "Now I just wish I'd got out of the water to get to the coast because I could've still been surfing. However, I am so happy that the fisherman was out there on Monday because if he wasn't, then I could still be in that dreadful sea today. To be honest, I do think that I am fortunate to have people like these doctors here to look after me: they've saved my life."

All of us at The Daily Express wish Matthew a speedy recovery.