

Reading and Comprehension

Literal

1. Who wrote the letter?

Li May Fong

2. What is Mr Ricardo Bello's point of view about the topic?

Mr Bello thinks that mobile phones are impractical, distracting and expensive for children to have at school.

Inferential

3. What problems does the writer admit that mobile phones cause? What solutions does the writer suggest?

The writer admits that mobile phones can be a distraction in the classroom and that they can be expensive. Her solutions are that phones can be turned off and stored during lessons, and that parents can give their children a budget that limits the phone cost.

4. What arguments does the writer use to support her opinion about the topic?

The writer argues that mobile phones:

allow parents to call and give important information to their children;

allow children to call for help in an emergency.

Creative

5. Who do you think is right in this argument? Why?

Students should choose and defend a point of view given in the text.

6. What other reasons could there be for mobile phones being allowed or being banned from schools?

Which side would you take, and why?

Responses should reflect an original point of view and support it with a reasonable argument.

Critical

7. What do you know about the person who wrote the letter? What do you think is important to her?

The writer is a student who lives at Cinnamon Hill. Because she is a student, she would probably see it as important to have a mobile phone.

8. Is the writer arguing for the benefit of others or herself? How do you know?

The writer is arguing for all school children because she refers to children and families generally.

Writing Features Checklist

Using the headings and checklists below, help the student to discuss and note features of an argument. Encourage students to create their own checklist with these features and then to use it to check their writing.

Topic and content	The topic of the argument is shown in the heading and the first paragraph.	✓
	The argument gives opinions and reasons about the topic.	✓
Structure and organisation	The information is organised in paragraphs.	✓
	The letter begins with details about the topic.	✓
	The body of the text gives arguments and reasons.	✓
	The letter ends with the name of the writer.	✓
Style, grammar and usage	Letters to the editor are short.	✓
	Letters are from the writer's point of view (uses pronoun 'I')	✓
	In each paragraph, the writer sticks to the point of her argument.	✓
	Connectives are used to link ideas – opinions and reasons.	✓
	Thinking and speaking verbs are used in arguments.	✓
Writing conventions	Vocabulary (antonyms in arguments)	✓
	Punctuation (apostrophe of possession)	✓

References and Word Knowledge

Antonyms

prevent: enable, allow, permit *wrong: right, correct* *true: untrue, false*

expensive: inexpensive, cheap *positive: negative*

Spelling (ph)

sphinx *gryphon* *aphid* *amphibians*

Performance Assessment Criteria

Fluency	Tone and style
• Reads at a rapid pace but in a clear manner	• Reads in an expressive manner to demonstrate feelings about the topic