Ron Bosworth
Thinking Skills: Odd one Out

What is similar about these pictures?

What is different?

How might these pictures be connected?

What is different?

How might these pictures be connected?
Is it possible to decide what people are like from the way they look?

What thoughts do you have about this man?

Why is the first slide a picture of a boat? What connection is there?
Does this piece of writing help to understand the picture? Is everything accurate here?

I hope with this true story it will help you to understand.

Well I’ll start as I can remember it. It began in the 1930’s, I was 10 years old, my father from Saul, Moor Street, was a tugboat skipper at Bristol and Avonmouth (I must say skipper because in those days these people didn’t need tickets. They just knew what was expected to know). As I had been versed in the art of seamanship, he sent me back to Saul to understand where he came from and its seafaring history.

Already in his early years he had been to sea with his father Captain Charley Bosworth in the Trow ‘Spartan’, sailing to Ireland and North Africa. He also sailed in the Gloucester ketch ‘Ann’. The other son in that family Alfred come to Bristol to sail in the sand dredger with his cousins Oswald and Frank Phillips. So after being put on a bus with ham sandwich and a bottle of water, I made my way up the A38 to Saul.

Down the road to Frampton Green, where my mother worked to earn a penny or two cleaning at the Pub, (her mother had died when she was young). On towards Saul to see Aunt Flo Travel, the telephone operator and wife of the skipper of the Trow ‘Flower of the Severn’.

While I remember this, Frank Phillips lost his life in enemy action on the SS Durham. My mother lost her cousin off Barry in the Bristol Channel in the 1800s.

I wish to add here that the end of the two Trows was that ‘The Flower of the Severn’ landed up in the Pill reach and the ‘Spartan’ at No 1 Tobacco Bond at Cumberland Basin.

My Grandfather had sold the ‘Spartan’ to Benjamin Perry after she had carried cargos of gravel from Frampton pits to Avonmouth for the building of the new Dock.

Grandfather retired early, also because of ill health, (the usual complaint in those days, hernia), and Uncle Bill Travel with another complaint Trow men got - arthritis.

After travelling the oceans of the world I did run the gauntlet of the Severn to Lydney and Sharpness. I did see some of the bad accidents on the Severn. My father never wanted me to take a cargo up there but I did and after going through the war years, I still come out alive on both occasions. Now I am 84 years old, born in 1923 and though Captain James of the ‘Harp’ the one that picked me up out of the Irish Sea (He was from Saul) well I’m the last one of the Bosworths and the one that spent their time at sea, though in dangerous times, I’m still here to tell the tale.

The postcard of the Junction was sent to me when my grandfather C Bosworth was dying in 1947.

Ron Bosworth
4 November 2007
This is Ron’s own account of a terrible event that he suffered on the ship Port Townsville.

The teacher could become Ron and enact the series of events, describing feelings as they go.

Children to freeze frame parts of the event. Teacher to ask how each character feels whilst they are frozen.

**Living Graphs**

Children to be given a graph of Ron’s feelings and statements on separate cards.

Can they fit the statement to the relevant part of the graph?

**Fortune Lines**

Similar, but uses face symbols instead.

Obviously, this will lead to emotive writing in letters, diary entries etc.

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**Port Townsville**

I joined this ship on 12 February 1941. On the 3rd March 1941 during a voyage from Bristol to Melbourne the ship was machine-gunned and bombed by German aircraft in the St Georges Channel, Pembrokeshire and because of this I was paid off on that day. I lost all my belongings. I remember a great hole in the side of the ship and a fire inside No 3 hold. We were put ashore in to the Bethel and slept on the stone floor. In the morning a man came with a suitcase full of clothing for us, and again another train ticket to get me to Bristol. It took two days because of the bombing of the South Wales ports.

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Ron Bosworth

2008
Ron’s Living Graph Statements or Fortune Lines

I lost all my belongings

A ship saw me in the water and picked me up

I was transferred to a French boat, called a Corvette

I saw a great hole in the side of the ship

Number 3 hold was completely on fire

I had to sleep on a stone floor

A man brought me a suitcase of clothes and a train ticket to get home to Bristol
**Mystery:** we have learned so much about Ron’s war, now it is time to use his experiences to explore the wider issues of the World War 2, notably, the effect of being an Island surrounded by invaded countries and the sea. The latter, effectively, cutting Britain off from its trading partners.

**Mysteries are useful for –**

- Sorting relevant from irrelevant information
- Hypothesising
- Recognising cause and effect
- Analysing and identifying relationships
- Checking and refining
- Explaining and justifying
How it works:

Based around a central question such as,

‘What was the cause of so many ships being attacked and was there an effect on the people of the British Isles during World War 2?’.

Children are given chunks of information on separate pieces of paper.

These might include:

• Background factors

• Trigger events

• Red herrings (warn the children if you are going to use these!)

• Factual information about the characters and setting

• Opinions
Children are helped to become familiar with the information through reading and discussion. They then work as a group to come up with a tentative solution or reason for the events.

- No ‘right’ answers

- Children are engaged by the curiosity of the Mystery

- Working as a group encourages collaboration and discussion

- Can be used to develop these skills the first time you use this strategy

- Ask for opinions from other groups to see if this helps change their minds

- Debrief the process of working together as well as the ‘solutions’ to the task
What was the cause of so many ships being attacked and what was the effect on the people of the British Isles during World War 2?

• Britain is an island surrounded by sea.

• During World War 2 Hitler and the Nazis invaded the countries just over the sea from Britain.

• When Europe was occupied by Hitler and the Nazis, Britain was unable to get food, coal, and steel from Europe.

• Britain could not produce enough food for its people to eat.

• Britain was very short of large ships to carry cargo, so all the old, slow, and dilapidated boats were used to go across the Atlantic to America to load up with cargo.

• They were fitted with small guns to fight off Nazi aircraft and Nazi ships that might try to attack them.

• The chief of the Nazi Navy persuaded Hitler to build lots of U-boats, which were submarines with a lot of guns and they were able to attack ships on the surface of the sea.

• When the Nazis invaded France, they sent their U-boats out to sea from France to hunt cargo ships going to Britain.

• The British cargo ships sailed in groups called convoys, which were protected by usually five British Navy ships.

• British aircraft protected the ships, but only up to 100 miles west of Ireland. They weren’t powerful enough to go further.

• The U-boats were able to go further across the Atlantic to hunt the convoys, when they went to sea from France.
• Convoys of ships were slow and had to take longer routes to avoid the U-boats.

• Because convoys travelled as a group, unloading them took longer.

• Nazi aircraft could spot convoys from a long way off and tell the U-boats where they were.

• In 1942 7.8 million tons of shipping was destroyed by the Nazis.

• In 1942 imports into Britain fell to one-third of 1939 levels.

• Stocks of oil fuel fell to just two months consumption.

• In Britain all farmers were ordered to grow food.

• Summer holidays were stopped during World War 2 in Britain.

• Britain did not have Easter eggs during World War 2.

• Christmas was still celebrated during World War 2 in Britain.

• British people found travelling difficult as petrol was rationed and the Government tried to stop people using trains so that the coal could be used by ships bringing in food.

• The Nazis bombed Britain from the air, this damaged factories making guns and aircraft, shipyards building boats and frightened people.

• Britain also bombed the Nazis from the air.

• Football matches took place in Britain, but teams could not travel far.
• Bananas and oranges were very scarce in Britain.

• In Britain people were only allowed to buy: 4 ounces of bacon or ham, 6 ounces of butter, or margarine, 2 ounces of tea, 8 ounces of sugar, 2 ounces of cooking fat and meat to the value of 9p. Also only 3 ounces of cheese, 4 ounces of jam, 2 pints of milk, and 3 eggs each month.

• Most popular present for Christmas in 1941 was soap.

• Other Christmas presents were; gardening tools, books, jam jars, seeds.

• Wrapping paper was very scarce.

• There were no turkeys, chocolates or fruit.

• Parks were dug up for people to grow vegetables.

The fields at Malt House Farm, Saul, Gloucestershire, were ploughed up and corn was grown in them during the Second World War.
LEAVE OR DUTY RATION BOOK

SOLDIER OR SAILOR

Serial No. 11

No. 031516

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2. Unit or Ship
3. Proceeding from
4. Beginning of leave or duty
5. End of leave or duty
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N. 9 (Revised)

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