

D. Identify the noun phrases in the following sentences.

1. He wished to talk to his manager.
2. The wicked man loves getting poor people into trouble.
3. The poor man wanted to pay back every penny he owed.
4. All the kids were sleeping.
5. Horses prefer living in dark stables.

E. Complete each sentence with a properly formed noun clause.

1. Jamal asked me _____.
a) where was his wallet b) where his wallet was
2. I couldn't tell him _____.
a) where was I b) where I was
3. I don't know _____.
a) how many children he has b) how many children does he have
4. _____ is not important.
a) How close we are b) How close are we
5. _____ was sad.
a) What did she say b) What she said

Unit 2

The Champions

(Adapted from Amigo Brothers by Piri Thomas, with slight modifications to suit social and cultural sensitivities)

Students Learning Outcomes

After reading the lesson the students will be able to:

- use critical thinking to respond orally and in writing to the text (post-reading) to:
 - give a personal opinion and justify stance related to viewpoints/ ideas and issues in the text read.
 - relate what is read to his or her own feelings and experiences.
 - explore causes and consequences of a problem or an issue and propose various solutions.
 - evaluate material read.
- enhance and use appropriate vocabulary and correct spelling in speech and writing:
 - illustrate the use of dictionary for finding appropriate meaning and correct spellings.
- read text to make predictions about story line / content, characters, using contextual clues and prior knowledge.
- analyze story elements: characters, events, setting, plot, theme, tone, point of view.
- identify the speaker or narrator in a selection.
- recognize the author's purpose and point of view.
- read a text to:
 - make connections between their own lives and the characters, events, motives, and causes of conflict in texts.
 - make inferences and draw conclusion about character using supportive evidence from the text.
 - compare characters in a literary selection to near similar one's in real life.
- apply rules for use of a, an and the, wherever applicable in speech and writing.
- illustrate use and functions of all modal verbs.
- illustrate use of regular and irregular verbs in speech and writing.

Pre-reading

- Look at the picture and guess what the story is about.



Reading

Ahmad Ali and Gul Sher were classmates, studying in grade ten in a government school, situated in the impoverished neighbourhood of Lyari, Karachi. They were so together in friendship that they felt themselves to be brothers. They had known each other since childhood, growing up on the lower Eastern side of Lyari River. Gul Sher was fair, lean, and lanky; his family had moved from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Karachi before his birth. Ahmad Ali was Sheedi, dark, short, and husky. Gul Sher's hair was always falling over his eyes, while Ahmad Ali wore his black hair in a natural Afro style. Each youngster had a dream of someday becoming a lightweight boxing champion of the world. To achieve this cherished dream, they would strive hard day and night. Early morning sunrises would find them running along the River Lyari; and would attend the boxing club daily without any break. They had a collection of pictures of famous boxers like Joe Louis, Evander Holyfield, Rocky Marciano, Joe Frazier, Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson; cut out from old newspapers and magazines. If asked a question about any given fighter, they would immediately zip out from their memory ranks, divisions, weights, records of

English X

Story

The Champions

The champion

fights, knockouts, technical knockouts, and draws or losses. Each had fought many fights and had won many medals. They were equally good boxers. The difference was in their boxing style. Gul's lean form and long reach made him the better boxer, while Ali's short and muscular frame made him the better slugger. Whenever they had met in the ring for friendly fight, it had always been hot and heavy contest. Once they were fighting from two different poles for National Boxing Championship and the winner of the final was to represent the country in World Lightweight Boxing Championship. After a series of elimination fights, they had been informed that they were to meet each other in the final that was scheduled to be held on the 14th of August, two weeks away. The two boys continued to run together, but even when joking with each other, they both had sensed that a wall was rising between them. One morning less than a week before their bout, they met as usual for their daily workout. Running lightly along the river's edge, Gul glanced at Ali who kept his eyes purposely straight ahead, pausing from time to time to throw fists at an imaginary jaws. After a mile or so, Ali puffed and said, "Let's stop for a while, bro. I think we both got something to say to each other." Gul nodded. It was not natural to be acting as though nothing unusual was happening when two star players and bosom friends were going to fight each other within a few short days. They rested their elbows on the railing separating them from the river. Ali broke the silence. "Man. I don't know how to come out with it." Gul helped. "It's about our fight, right?" "Yeah, right." "I've been thinking about it too, buddy. In fact, since we found out it was going to be me and you, I've been awake at nights, pulling punches on you, trying not to hurt you." "Same here. It is natural to think about the fight. I mean, we both are outstanding fighters, and we both want to win. But only one of us can win. There is no draw in the elimination." Ali tapped Gul gently on the shoulder. "I don't mean to sound like I'm bragging, bro. But I want to win, fair and square." Gul nodded quietly. "Yeah. We both know that in the ring the better man wins. Friend or no friend, brother or no..." They shook hands and departed to confront each other in the ring. Walking the streets had not relaxed Ali; the more he thought about the fight the more perplexed he felt. Lost in thoughts he let himself quietly into his apartment and went straight to bed, falling into a restless and fitful sleep with sounds of the

English X

gong for Round One. When Gul reached home, he made his way to the rooftop. In the quiet early dark, he peered below where the lights of the city blinked, and the sounds of cars mingled with the shout and the laughter of children in the street. He was passing some heavy time on his rooftop. How would the coming fight affect his relationship with Ali?

As the two climbed into the ring, the crowd exploded with a roar. Gul and Ali both bowed gracefully and then raised their arms in acknowledgment. Gul turned slowly and his eyes met Ali's. Suddenly Ali's left eye winked and Gul responded. Bong, bong, bong! The roar turned to stillness. "Ladies and Gentlemen," The announcer spoke slowly. "Now the moment we have all been waiting for—the main event between two fine young fighters. In this corner, weighing 131 pounds, Ahmad Ali. And in this corner, weighing 133 pounds, Gul Sher Khan. The winner will represent Pakistan in World Boxing Championship in the Lightweight Category. There will be no draw. May the best man win!"

"BONG! BONG! ROUND ONE. Ali and Gul turned and faced each other squarely in a fighting pose. Ali wasted no time. He came in fast, head low, half hunched toward his right shoulder, and lashed out with a straight left. He missed a right cross as Gul slipped the punch and countered with one-two-three lefts that snapped Ali's head back, sending a mild shock coursing through him. If Ali had any small doubt about their friendship affecting their fight, it was completely dispelled. Gul's left hand was like a piston pumping jabs one right after another with seeming ease. Ali bobbed and weaved and threw occasional punches with his right. He ducked a short right and missed a left hook. Ali trapped him against the ropes just long enough to pour some punishing rights and lefts to Gul's hard midsection. Bong! Round one came to conclusion.



Both Lyarite brothers froze their punches well on its way, sending up a roar of approval for good sportsmanship. No sooner did the Round two begin than Ali was off his stool and rushed at Gul like a bull, sending a hard right to his head. Beads of water exploded from Gul's long hair. Lights suddenly exploded inside Ali's head as Gul slipped the blow and hit him with a piston like left on Ali's chin. Uproar and yelling broke out in the stadium when Gul's crushing blow momentarily unbalanced Ali's legs. Neither fighter was giving an inch. Suddenly a short right punch struck Gul squarely on the chin. His long legs turned to jelly, and his arms flailed out desperately. Ali grunting like a bull, threw wild punches from every direction. Gul felt dizzy, disoriented, bobbed and weaved, evading most of the blows.

Ali lashed back with a haymaker but at the same instant, his eye caught another left hook from Gul. Ali swung out, trying to clear the pain. In a fog, he heard the roaring of the crowd, who seemed to have gone insane. His head cleared to hear the bell sound at the end of the round.

Bong! Round three—the final round. Up to now it had been pretty much even. But everyone knew there could be no draw and that this round would decide the winner. This time, to Ali's surprise, it was Gul Sher who came out fast, charging across the ring. Ali braced himself but couldn't ward off the barrage of punches. Gul drove Ali hard against the ropes. The crowd got frenzied. So far the two had fought with courage and bravery. Ali tapped his gloves and commenced his attack anew. Gul, throwing boxer's caution to the wind, jumped in to meet him. Both pounded away. Neither gave an inch, and neither fell to the canvas. Ali's left eye was tightly closed. Coral red blood poured from Gul's nose. They fought toe-to-toe. The sounds of their blows were loud in contrast to the silence of the crowd. The referee was stunned by their savagery. Bong! Bong! Bong! Bell sounded over and over again. Ali and Gul were past hearing. Their blows continued to pound on each other like hailstones. Finally the referee and the two trainers pried Ali and Gul apart. Cold water was poured over them to bring them back to their senses. They looked around and then rushed toward each other. A cry of alarm surged through stadium. Was this a fight to the death instead of a boxing match? The fear soon gave way to wave upon wave of cheering as the two Lyarite brothers embraced at the conclusion

of the final round. No matter what the decision, they knew they would always be champions to each other.

Bong! Bong! Bong! "Ladies and Gentlemen. The winner and champion of the grand finale is ..." The announcer turned to point to the winner and found himself alone. Arm in arm, the champions had already left the ring.

Glossary

Words	Meaning
lanky	tall, skinny person with long hanging arm and long stride
Sheedi	an ethnic group inhabiting Karachi. Members are descended from the Bantu peoples of the African Great Lakes region
husky	(of a person) big and strong
bragging	excessively proud and boastful talk about one's achievements or possessions
gong	a large, flat, circular tick metal that you hit with a hammer to make a sound like a loud bell
rumbled	to make or cause to make a deep resonant sound
pounding	strike or hit heavily and repeatedly
pried	use force in order to move or open (something) or to separate (something) from something else
ducked	lower the head or the body quickly to avoid a blow
grunting	short, deep, hoarse sounds in exhalation
*barrage	a large number of blows delivered simultaneously or in rapid succession

Exercise

Comprehension

A. Answer the following questions.

1. What is the significance of the title "The Champions"?
2. What was the dream of Ahmad Ali and Gul Sher?
3. Why was the fight so important for both Ali and Gul Sher?
4. How did the two friends fight? Describe in your own words in five sentences.
5. Compare and contrast the characters of Ali and Gul.
6. Is there any conflict in the story? If yes, describe it in detail.
7. What was the effect of the fight on the relationship of the two friends?
8. Keeping in view the relationship of the two friends, is it easier or harder for them to fight each other? Support your answer by giving references from the text.
9. Are you satisfied with the ending? Support your response with cogent arguments.

B. Choose the correct option for the following statements.

1. Gul's lean form and long reach made him better boxer. This statement means that Gul was a better boxer because _____.
 - a) he was short, big with long arms
 - b) he was tall, skinny with long arms
 - c) he was short, skinny with long arms
 - d) he was high, well-built with short arms
2. "Ali was dark, short and husky". In this sentence the phrase "short and husky" means:

a) huge and muscular	b) thick and strong
c) small and well-built	d) a powerful and huge
3. They both sensed that a wall was rising between them. This statement means:
 - a) they were climbing higher on the wall of fame.
 - b) communication gap was increasing between them.
 - c) they were getting closer to each other.
 - d) they were not happy about their fight.

4. They could not win the contest because _____.
- they were not good boxers.
 - they were afraid of each other.
 - they realised that boxing is not a good sport.
 - friendship was greater than winning fight.
5. Ali had restless and fitful sleep on the night before the fight because _____.
- he had quarrelled with Gul Sher
 - he was challenged by Gul Sher
 - he had fallen ill on that particular night
 - he was disturbed about the effects of the forthcoming fight on their friendship

Vocabulary

There are some special words or expressions used by a professional or group that are difficult for others to understand. In the story "The Champions" the writer uses some special words and phrases which give the story a realistic touch. Some of these boxing terms and phrases are explained below.

haymaker	the word usually used in boxing, when the person swings with full force, twists his waist and shoulders round before turning back unleashing a mighty blow!
bobbed and weaved	in boxing, a series of movements executed in which one participant dodges and defends himself/herself against his opponent's punches by moving quickly back and forth, and up and down, so as not to present a stable target
jab	jab is a type of punch used in boxing, several variations of the jab exist, but every jab shares these characteristics: while in a fighting stance, the lead fist is thrown straight ahead and the arm is fully extended.
pulling punches	it's a boxing term, when you pull a punch you don't hit the other fighter as hard as you can

English X

bout	a wrestling or boxing match
slugger	a person who strikes hard, especially a boxer noted for the ability to deliver hard punches

Find out the common meaning of the above words in dictionary and identify the part of speech of the word through abbreviations used.

Writing

- A. Having read the story, one feels that boxing is too brutal to be a sport for young people. Do you agree? Which side of this debate is presented in "The Champions"? Using details and examples from the story, write a paragraph with a clear opening statement, specific details and examples to explain your response.
- B. Imagine Ali and Gul Sher as they walk away from the boxing ring after the fight. Now, keeping in mind their friendship, write their conversation as a one-page dialogue.

Listening and speaking

Present and explain your point of view and feeling about the story 'The Champions' to the class.

Grammar

Articles

A. Complete the following sentences using appropriate articles.

- My mother is _____ doctor and my father is _____ author.
a) a / a b) a / an c) the / an d) a / no article
- Amjad recommended _____ good dentist, but _____ dentist doesn't have any openings for two months.
a) a / no article b) the / an c) a / the d) the / the
- Do you have _____ broom? I dropped _____ piece of cake, and I need to clean it up.
a) a / a b) no article / a c) the / the d) an / a

English X

4. Do you have _____ dictionary? I don't have one, and I need to look up _____ word.

a) a / the b) an / a c) the / a d) a / a

5. Do you have _____ passport? You need _____ passport to travel outside of _____ country.

a) a / a / the b) an / a / the c) the / the / a d) a / the / a

B. Complete the following exercise with an or the articles. Put "x" where no article is needed.

Boxing was originated in _____ Ancient Greece and has been _____ popular sport ever since, especially for _____ men. Lately, however, it has been _____ major health fitness trend for _____ women. Boxing was included during _____ first Olympic games. In _____ Ancient Greece boxing was not _____ safe, sport, they never used gloves. Professional boxing is _____ excellent career. _____ boxer's aim is to land as many punches on _____ opponent as possible. For most of _____ 20th century, boxing attracted huge fan and media attention.

Pronouns

A. Choose the correct pronoun to correctly finish this sentence.

- My name is Sonia. _____ love my family.
a) He b) I c) She d) We
- I met Sonia yesterday. _____ made me laugh.
a) It b) Her c) She d) They
- At the left, you can see Saad. _____ is my brother.
a) That b) He c) It d) Him

4. Birds flap _____ wings.

a) it b) his c) their d) those

5. My grandparents live in Karachi. _____ visit us.

a) Them b) They c) Their d) He

6. Lubna, Laila and Tahira were cross because _____ had waited ages for the bus.

a) them b) he c) they d) it

7. Palwasha watched the children carefully as _____ crossed the road.

a) them b) he c) they d) it

8. Hold the bag please while I put the shopping in _____.

a) him b) it c) she d) i

B. Choose one of the relative pronouns who, which or whose to complete each sentence.

- I talked to the girl _____ car had broken down in front of the shop.
- Mr. Razaaq, _____ is a taxi driver, lives on the corner.
- I live in a house in Naran _____ is in Northern Pakistan.
- This is the girl _____ comes from Swat.
- That's Naeem, the boy _____ has just arrived at the airport.
- Those _____ haven't paid their fee should do so at once.
- This is a detective novel _____ you might like.
- Here are the keys _____ you were searching for.

C. Underline the indefinite pronouns in the following sentences.

- Everybody enjoys a good movie.
- Does anybody have the time?
- Nobody knows the trouble I've seen.
- The secret was known by few.
- No, the secret was known by many.
- Calculus is too hard for some.
- Surely you recognize somebody.
- He's not a liar. I'm sure everything he said was true.