

By Gina Koehne

"It was like a movie." You hear witnesses say that all the time on the news: a big factory explosion, a dramatic car chase, a giraffe escaped from the zoo. But really, how often is life that exciting?

Some of my friends believe every moment of every day should be thrilling. When they tell me this, I blame Hollywood for their crazy dreams. They think the hot guy from *Twilight* will ask them out or they'll actually become a mega-famous singing-and-dancing student like in *Glee*.

Why can't life in the movies be more like a typical day? I stub my toe right as Josh is walking by (chick-flick: *How to lose a guy in 10 clumsy ways*). In music class my violin sounds like a rusty seesaw (tear-jerker: *No strings attached*). And what about all those times I'm just hanging out, doing nothing? Sitting there picking my nails or searching under the bed for the iPod. Why don't they make a movie like that? Lights, camera, dissatisfaction!

Maybe if we knew how to be properly bored and not always online or on show, we'd "appreciate the simple things" (Dad's favourite corny saying). Then we might watch the next blockbuster not as something to imitate but as pure escapism. We might finally realise we're all directors in our very own productions. And ... cut!

Read each question carefully and circle one answer.

- 1 **What is the first clue that this text is a personal response?**
 - the word *you* in the first line
 - the word *I* in the first paragraph
 - the word *My* in the title
 - the word *my* in the fourth sentence
- 2 **What information does the writer assume that readers know?**
 - The writer plays the violin badly.
 - The writer wears braces.
 - The writer is Josh's sister.
 - Twilight* is a popular young adult movie.
- 3 **Why does the writer ask this question? *But really, how often is life that exciting?***
 - She is drawing the reader's attention to her main idea that real life isn't like the movies.
 - She wants an answer from someone.
 - She is confused as to what is exciting and what isn't.
 - She wants her life to be different.
- 4 **Why does the writer put 'real' events next to 'imagined' movie titles?**
 - She does this to show how Hollywood movies are just like real life.
 - She does this to make people understand how exciting her life is.
 - She does this to show how small daily moments would be turned into Hollywood movie plots.
 - She does this to explain why she wants to make a movie of her life.
- 5 **To whom is the writer directing the question, *Why don't they make a movie like that?***
 - the readers of this Text Response
 - the writer's friends
 - movie directors
 - people watching the news
- 6 **What unstated message is the writer sending in these sentences? *And what about all those times I'm just hanging out, doing nothing? Sitting there picking my nails or searching under the bed for the iPod.***
 - She lives a boring life, compared to other people.
 - Like most teenagers, she loses things all the time.
 - She has no friends and nothing to look forward to.
 - Most people's lives involve boring activities.
- 7 **Which of the following lines is a pun?**
 - Lights, camera, action!
 - Lights, camera, dissatisfaction!
 - properly bored
 - corny saying
- 8 **Which of these terms is not an example of colloquial language?**
 - tear-jerker
 - chick-flick
 - typical
 - mega-famous
- 9 **Which statement best summarises the writer's personal opinion?**
 - Everyday life should not be expected to be as exciting as Hollywood movies all the time.
 - Everyday life should always be as exciting as Hollywood movies.
 - If we made news stories about our everyday lives, the television news would be more exciting.
 - Things that happen in *Twilight* happen to ordinary people every day.
- 10 **What does the writer think will be her best production?**
 - the story of her friends' lives
 - when she and Josh get married
 - her own real life
 - She hasn't thought of a movie idea good enough for Hollywood yet.

Text type: Text Response

NAPLAN*-style questions: Reading

- 1 the word *My* in the title
- 2 *Twilight* is a popular young adult movie.
- 3 She is drawing the reader's attention to her main idea that real life isn't like the movies.
- 4 She does this to show how small daily moments would be turned into Hollywood movie plots.
- 5 the readers of this Text Response
- 6 Most people's lives involve boring activities.
- 7 Lights, camera, dissatisfaction!
- 8 typical
- 9 Everyday life should not be expected to be as exciting as Hollywood movies all the time.
- 10 her own real life