

VIRTUAL HEROES

A worksheet to accompany
Vienna's English Theatre's touring production 2013/14

Warm-Up

1. Do you like PC/PS/Smartphone/Tablet games or game apps?

if yes

if no

Why not?

.....

.....

Which ones do you like best? Name three!

.....

.....

.....

What kind of games *do* you like?

.....

.....

How often do you play? (Tick as applicable)

- several times a day
- once a day
- a few times per week
- once a week
- only at the weekend
- less that four times per month
- only on/during holidays

When is your favourite playing time?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> as soon as I come home from school | or | <input type="checkbox"/> as soon as I wake up/before going to school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> after I've done my homework | or | <input type="checkbox"/> before starting homework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in the evening before I go to bed | or | <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes quite late at night |

Do you play on your own? Or do you prefer to play with a friend/friends? Say why!

.....

Which device(s) do you usually play on? Tick the appropriate box(es) below.

- PC/notebook
- games console (PS3/PS4, Xbox, etc.)
- smartphone
- tablet
- other

Find someone who! Everybody walks around in the classroom, asking questions and trying to find at least 5 colleagues who have marked the same boxes. Always say why (e.g. PC or console because the large screen is nice; tablet or mobile because you can play anywhere; etc.)!

2. Why do like PC/PS/Smartphone games or game apps? Think about it, look at the statements below and tick the one(s) which apply to you. Then talk to a partner and/or compare with your colleagues in class!

- There is a lot of action which I'm part of, not just watching (like on TV).
 - I can control the characters and the action.
- I'm good at playing and enjoy winning/reaching a higher level/getting a 'second life'.
 - I just like the fast action, the graphics, the colours and the sounds.
- When I play, I become one of the characters and do/see lots of exciting things.
 - I like computers and what they can do/what I can do with them.
- One never knows what's going to happen and there are always surprises.
 - Other:

.....

3. Is there anything you don't like about these games (e.g. when you can't complete a task, you get impatient and download 'cheats'; not all games/apps you like are available for your software; some games are too expensive/there is no free download; etc.)? **Make notes on the lines below!**

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

4. Have you ever heard the word *avatar* before?

☞ Do you know how to pronounce the word? Look it up in a dictionary!

☞ Can you explain what an *avatar* is?

.....
.....

☞ How many famous avatars do you know? In pairs or small groups, make a list!

e.g. *Tomb Raider* → *Lara Croft*

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

5. Do you have an avatar?

If **yes** → talk to a partner and tell him/her about your avatar (e.g. what is his/her name; is he human or an animal; what is his/her name; what does he/she do; what is special about him/her, etc.).
Make a drawing if you like!

If **no** → find a partner who has one and ask him/her to help you make up your own avatar. On an A4 sheet, describe him/her in detail (clothes, character, special abilities, etc.) and make a colourful drawing so that everyone can see what he/she looks like. If you have a favourite piece of music which is typical for your avatar, bring the CD/MP3 along or, if you like, compose your own!

Scene 1

1. Does Kevin like Rita? What does he think of her?
2. How does Kevin describe himself? Complete the sentence below.

Kevin thinks he, he's just a!

3. What does he dream about?

☞ In the text, look at the scene with Kevin and Mr Smith. Underline or highlight all sentences that *you* think are part of Kevin's daydream. Then compare with a partner or in class.

☞ Is the scene with Kevin's parents real, do you think? Do you all agree?

4. What does Rita think about Kevin? Complete the sentence below.

Rita thinks Kevin is the, an and

5. What do we learn about Rita? Find and underline/highlight any errors in the following text:

Rita is always allowed to work in the IT room at lunchtime because she is a very good pupil and researches her homework. She has a lot of friends at school and everybody likes her because she is very clever. She likes to go to chatrooms and has lots of friends at 'My Space'.

6. Is www.My Dream Space.com the website Rita actually wanted to go to? What may have happened?

7. What is www.My Dream Space.com, do you think? Talk to a partner or discuss in class.

8. Rita's avatar is called *Sapphire Stone*. In pairs or small groups, describe what she looks like, what her job is, where she lives, etc. Make a drawing if you like!

9. Kevin comes into the IT room and sees Rita typing. What does he do? Complete the sentences below:

Kevin says that he and shows Rita

Rita knows that it's a She tells Kevin that he is

..... and shouldn't be in

10. Who are Aaron and Sharon? Read through the scene. Then look at the statements below. Are they true or false? Discuss with a partner or in class what Aaron and Sharon are doing to Rita and Kevin.

☞ Kevin is Rita's boyfriend and wants to kiss her.

☞ Sharon records the scene on her mobile and puts it on 'You Tube'.

☞ Rita invites Sharon and pays for her lunch.

☞ Aaron likes Rita's purse so she gives it to him.

11. People like Aaron and Sharon are called friends cowards
 bullies thieves

12. Rita tells Kevin he's 'as bad as they are'. Which options does Kevin think he has?

☞ Option 1 (what he would have liked to do):

.....

☞ Option 2 (what parents and teachers say):

.....

☞ Option 3 (tell someone):

.....

☞ Last option (magic):

.....

13. How does Kevin find out about www.My Dream Space.com? Is this ok, do you think? Why/why not?

14. Kevin's avatar is called *Byron Tombs*. In pairs or small groups, describe what he looks like, what his job is, where he lives, etc. Make a drawing if you like!

Scene 2

1. In the evening at home, Kevin goes back on to www.My Dream Space.com.

- ☞ As *Byron Tombs*, which country is he going to?
- ☞ What is Byron doing there? Write five sentences using the following words (you may need to change the order they are in):

Tutankhamun – treasure – the Golden Sphinx – pyramid – stone – Alexandria – map

2. Is the scene virtual or real, do you think? Say why!
3. What do *you* know about Egypt? In groups of 4 or 5, collect information about ancient Egypt (from the internet, your History textbooks, etc.) and put together poster presentations for your classroom wall.
4. With a partner (or in the same groups) make a list of the names of famous 'ancient Egyptians' (*Wikipedia* or *Google* can help you)! Compare your lists. Have other pairs/groups found different names/persons?
5. Who are Crouch and Bent? Where do they come from?

- ☞ Why have they been following Byron?
- ☞ What do they want to do with the Golden Sphinx?

6. What happens when Sapphire Stone turns up?

- ☞ Who does she say she is?
- ☞ Is she virtual or real?
- ☞ How does she help Byron when Crouch and Bent want to kill him? Put the following sentences into the right order (numbering them 1 – 5):

..... Sapphire steps on Bent's toe and he throws the Sphinx in the air.

..... Byron runs after Crouch and Bent tries to catch Sapphire.

..... Crouch knows Sapphire and asks for an autograph.

..... Byron catches the Sphinx but Crouch grabs it again and runs away.

..... Sapphire uses karate moves on Bent.

7. Crouch and Bent get away with the Golden Sphinx. What does Byron find out about Sapphire?

Sapphire is

8. Rita/Sapphire and Kevin/Byron sit at their PCs and are sending emails to each other. In pairs or small groups, answer the following questions:

- ☞ What does Rita think of Byron Tombs? Does she like him?
- ☞ Where is Byron now?
- ☞ How does Kevin feel about Sapphire?
- ☞ What is Rita talking about when she tells Byron that she needed help today?
- ☞ Why is Byron surprised that Sapphire needs help?
- ☞ They start 'talking' to each other. What are they talking about?

Rita tells Kevin

.....

Kevin tells Rita

.....

- ☞ What do they find out about each other? Have their feelings about each other changed between the beginning of the play and now? If yes, why is that, do you think?
- ☞ Kevin wants to know Sapphire's real name. How does Rita explain why she is not telling Kevin her real name? Do you agree with her?
- ☞ Kevin says he might be a '*giant penguin*'. Have you come across a giant penguin in the play before? If yes, where? Underline all reference(s) in the text!
- ☞ Which lectures does Byron have to teach in the morning?
- ☞ What happens at Sapphire's Hyde Park concert? Is Byron there? Why does he have to leave?

9. Go to page 8/question 9 of the worksheet and have a closer look at the lyrics of Sapphire's song.
10. Which country/town is Byron going to? What is he looking for? Where?
11. How is Byron trying to fool Crouch and Bent? Look at the statements below. Cross out the one(s) that you think are wrong, and say why!
- he puts on sun glasses, a straw hat and a Hawaii shirt
 - he tells them he's on holiday in Egypt
 - he puts on a false moustache and pretends he wants to buy the Golden Sphinx
 - he tells them he wants the Golden Sphinx as a present for Sapphire
12. Was Byron's trick very clever, do you think? Why/why not? What would *you* have done in Byron's situation? Work with a partner or find a better plan in class.
13. Crouch says the similarity between the names *Graves* and *Tombs* told him it was Byron. Can you explain this without looking the words up in a dictionary or online?
14. What do Crouch and Bent do this time to get rid of Byron?
15. Sapphire does not recognize Byron when she arrives. Why is that, do you think?
16. How does Sapphire rescue Byron?
17. Crouch has dropped a letter. Sapphire and Byron can't read it because it's in German. Here's the German text.

Sehr geehrter Herr Crouch,

*Danke für Ihren Brief. Ja, wir sind daran interessiert zu kaufen.
Kommen Sie zu meinem Geschäft in Wien.*

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen
Herr Schmidt*

- ☞ Can you help Sapphire and Byron and translate it into English? Write it in your exercise book!
- ☞ Have a closer look at the German text. Does it sound right to you? If not, say why you think so!

18. Who, do you think, is Herr Schmidt? Tick the correct box below.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rita and Kevin's teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin's dad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aaron and Sharon's avatar | <input type="checkbox"/> an antique dealer |

19. Now Sapphire and Byron know that they have to go to Vienna to get the Golden Sphinx back. Suddenly they hear a funny noise. Complete the following sentences:

Suddenly there is a sound, like an

..... Sapphire picks up and notices that it has a

..... When she pressed the, it went

back Now it's

..... and they

20. Where did the beeping really come from?

Scene 3

1. Rita and Kevin get detention for being late. Why are they so tired, so you think?
2. Read through the dialogue. How are Rita and Kevin talking to each other? Do you get the feeling they like each other very much? Find a few typical phrases for each of them and fill them in the T-diagram below:

Kevin	Rita
<i>e.g. you should think yourself lucky, being allowed to spend lunchtime with me</i>	<i>e.g. two bullies or a idiot- some choice</i>

3. Rita tells Kevin about her 'historian boyfriend'. How does she describe him? Who is 'Byron' really?
4. Kevin tells Rita about his beautiful 'internet date'. How does he describe her? Who is 'Sapphire' really?
5. Rita thinks Kevin can't be Byron. Why?
6. Kevin thinks Rita can't be Sapphire. Why?
7. What did Kevin like about Sapphire? Tick the box(es):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> her looks | <input type="checkbox"/> her songs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> her voice | <input type="checkbox"/> the bomb disposal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> her chest | <input type="checkbox"/> everything about her |

8. How do Kevin and Rita feel now? Talk to a partner or discuss in class. Choose three words from the list below and explain why you think so!

angry – disappointed – silly – unhappy – foolish – sad – terrible – hurt – at a loss – or what?

9. Look at the lyrics of the song Sapphire sings for Byron in Hyde Park (on page 18 in your text). Work with a partner and answer the following questions:

☞ What is the song all about, do you think? Choose one of the options below and say why:

- rescuing people from the sea after a shipwreck
- being there for/helping a friend in need
- protect people from floods/storms

☞ Look at each verse and underline/highlight all words and phrases referring to life/dangers at sea. With a partner, draw a mindmap or word network and add other topic words you know!

☞ Now imagine your best friend is in a dangerous situation. Write a short paragraph or poem (it doesn't have to rhyme) describing which danger he/she was in and how you rescued him/her.

☞ Try to be a singer/songwriter like Sapphire! Take your story or poem and turn it into a song: think of a tune you like and add the lyrics to the melody. Why not sing your song to the class?

10. They are arguing and Rita threatens to tell the class about Kevin's Dad. Kevin thinks this is

- unfair nasty bullying he doesn't care

11. When Rita blames Kevin about the kiss, what does he do? Complete the sentence below:

Kevin admits that

Scene 4

1. Back on the www.My Dream Space.com site, do Rita/Sapphire and Kevin/Byron still enjoy the game? With a partner or in class, answer the following questions:

- ☞ What does Sapphire no longer want to do?
- ☞ What are Byron's plans?

2. Look at the lyrics of Sapphire's and Byron's song and underline/highlight all computer terms you can find. Are there any you don't know or are not quite sure about? Try and find someone in your class who can help you!

☞ What is this song all about? Choose one of the statements below and tick the appropriate box. Check with a partner/your neighbour. Say why you think so. Do you agree?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> virtual friendships (Facebook) | <input type="checkbox"/> real love |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer problems | <input type="checkbox"/> a romantic film (video stream) |

☞ Is this song different from the one Sapphire sang for Byron in Hyde Park, do you think? If yes, how? In small groups or with a partner, share your ideas and make notes. Then compare with other groups/pairs and/or talk about your results/ideas in class.

☞ Looking at the lyrics again, do you think that computers/technology can be 'romantic'? How does the text 'sound' to you? Choose three adjectives from the list below. Say why!

romantic – silly – loving – impersonal – technical – lonely – distant – unreal – strange – funny – or ...?

3. What do Rita and Kevin do now? Complete the sentences below and say what you think:

Rita Kevin, saying that she enjoyed in the chatroom and that she would like to

.....

☞ What would *you* have done? Why?

.....

.....

Kevin thinks that Sapphire/Rita

so he logs off and www.My Dream Space.com from

.....

☞ Is this what you would have done, too? If not, explain why!

.....

.....

Scene 5

1. Where do they go on their school trip?

a. On a map of London (*Google Earth*), look for the British Museum. Mark it and write down the address!

.....

b. Have you ever been to the British Museum (on holiday, on a school trip to London, etc.)?

2. What is the task they are given and how are they supposed to work? Look at the sentences below and mark them **T** (true) or **F** (false):

They are given worksheets and have to complete them in one hour.

They can work alone, in pairs or in small groups.

Kevin is Sapphire's Partner.

Question 1 is about Egyptian coins.

Roman Artefacts are on the fourth floor.

Rita wants to walk up the stairs, Kevin wants to take the lift.

3. What happens when they take the lift to the fourth floor? The lift.....
 between !
4. Rita and Kevin are trying to call for help. Complete the sentences below, using the words in brackets):
- First, they try (shout)
- Then, Kevin imagines (Byron)
- Rita tells him what (Sapphire)
- Finally, Kevin uses (mobile)
5. Stuck in the lift, Kevin tells Rita that *he made up* (=created) the character of Byron Tombs, therefore *he is* Byron, or rather, Byron is part of him. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences:
- Byron examines the lift and finds a He climbs through it and
 on top Then he shoots
 The end of the wire has attached which gets
 caught and escapes through
 Kevin has a banana and pretends that it is
6. Rita thinks Kevin is funny and tells him what Sapphire would have done! Sapphire would have
7. How does Kevin really get them rescued from the stuck lift? Tick one of the boxes below:
- He calls the International Secret Service and leaves a message on their voice mail.
 - He resets the trip switch.
 - He uses the phone number on the worksheet to call the museum and tells them that the lift is stuck.
8. What reason does Kevin give for not calling the museum earlier?
- a. How do *you* feel about his explanation? Do you think Kevin is nice, just silly, or what? Talk to a partner or discuss in class. Say why you think so.
 - b. How would *you* have handled this situation? Would you have had a better idea? If yes, which one? Explain to a partner or the class.
9. Who is waiting for them back on the ground floor, just as Rita kisses Kevin?
10. What does Sharon want from Rita?
11. Compare the two scenes in the beginning and at the end of the play. How does Kevin react to Aaron's and Sharon's bullying now? What does Rita do? Fill in the T-diagrams below:

a. What does Kevin do when Sharon wants to take Rita's purse?

then	now

b. How does he respond when Aaron hits him?

then	now

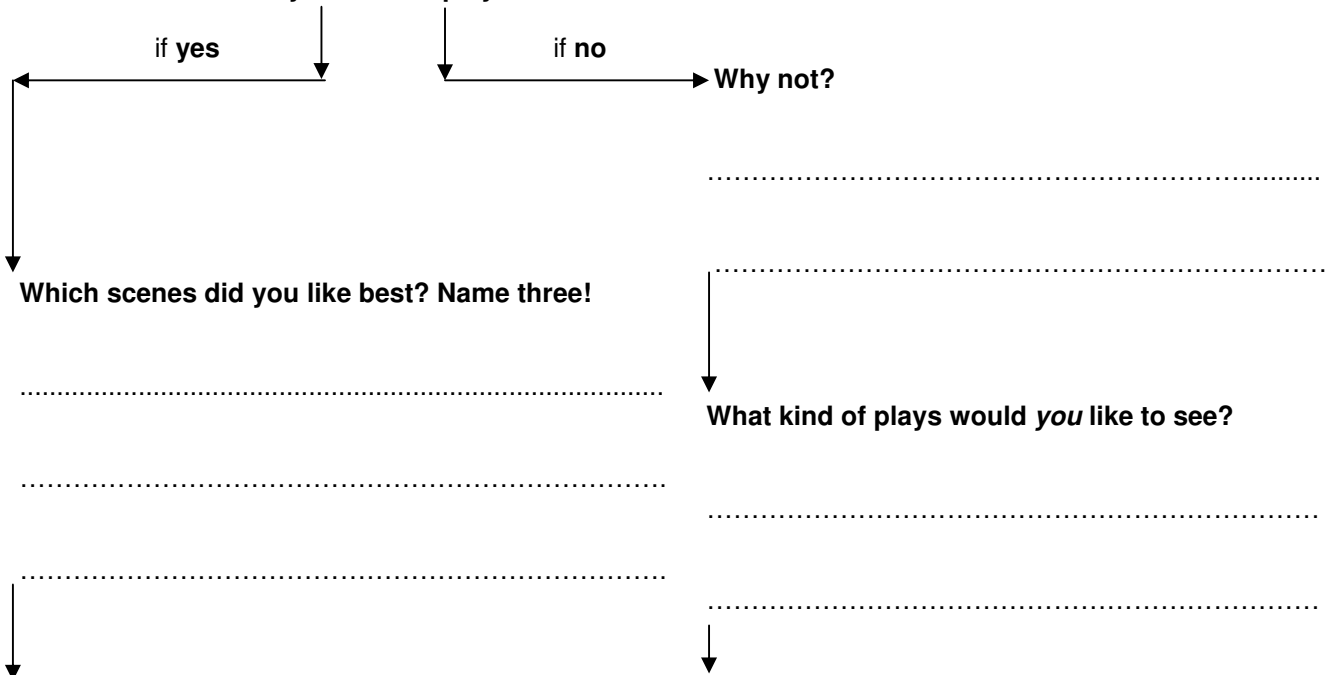
c. How does Rita respond? What is she telling the two bullies?

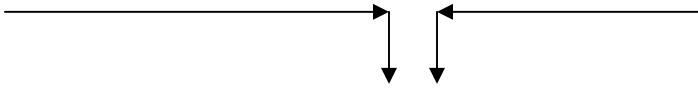
then	now

- 12. Why does Kevin tell Aaron and Sharon that they are losers and really stupid?
- 13. Aaron and Sharon leave very quickly. Can you explain why?
- 14. What is item number 4 on the worksheet?
- 15. How does Kevin explain that the Golden Sphinx is now in the British Museum?
- 16. Why, do you think, does he pull out the banana and asks to be logged into www.My Dream Space.com?
Talk to a partner or discuss in class? Do you all agree? Why/why not?

Cool-Down

1. **Did you like the play?**

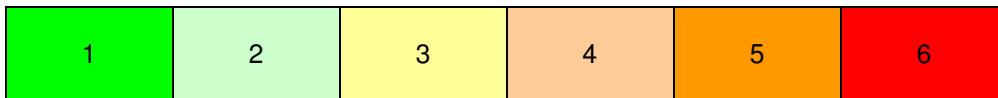




2. Which of the characters did/didn't you like? Why?

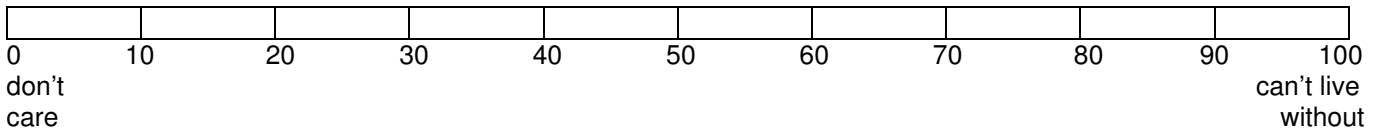
3. Which parts of the play did you find really
- funny?
 - interesting?
 - realistic?
 - silly?
 - romantic?
 - boring?

4. Did you find the language in the play easy or difficult to understand? Mark it on the scale below:



- 1 = very easy, didn't need any help
- 2 = easy, and the footnotes helped
- 3 = I understood most of it but not every word/sentence
- 4 = I understood what the play is about but needed to ask quite often
- 5 = I needed a lot of help from my teacher/colleagues
- 6 = too difficult – I didn't understand much and wasn't really interested

5. If you read the play before seeing the performance, do you feel it helped you understand the action? Why/why not?
6. If you saw the performance before reading the play: was the action clear through the performance (e.g. gestures, voices, miming of the actors, scenery, etc.) - even if you didn't understand every word? Why is that, do you think?
7. Did you like the topics (PC/PS games, the internet, bullying, getting to know someone better, etc.) in the play? Why? Why not?
8. Do you think that reality and virtual reality can become one so that one doesn't really know what is what anymore? Talk to teachers, parents, friends, etc. about it, then discuss in class.
9. How important is your PC/games console/mobile/smartphone/tablet for you? On a scale from 1 – 100, you would rate yourself – where?



Now ask your parents / brothers or sisters / friends: do they agree with your rating? Why/why not?

10. What is your preferred (=favourite) way of communication? On the list below, choose 3. Say why!

- writing letters
- talking face to face
- talking on the phone
- texting (SMS)
- writing emails
- skype-ing
- chatting in chatrooms
- blogging
- Facebook/Twitter
-