

## **English Work – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Please read the following extract and answer the questions.

### **Bugsy Malone Film**

*Bugsy Malone* is a musical film set in a made-up version of 1920s America, where gangsters, speakeasies and fast-talking characters fill the streets. Although the story sounds dangerous, the film is playful rather than frightening. Every important moment is shaped by songs, lively dancing and clever costumes, so the audience quickly understands that this world is comic and exaggerated. The director uses this style to make the film feel entertaining and unusual, while still telling a story about rivalry, ambition and friendship.

The plot follows Bugsy, a kind but thoughtful young man who becomes involved in a struggle between two gangs. Fat Sam runs one side of the city, while Dandy Dan tries to take control of the other. As the conflict grows, Bugsy must decide where his loyalties lie. He also meets Blousey, who wants to become a singer, and the audience can infer that her confidence and determination are just as important as Bugsy's bravery. Their dialogue shows that they trust each other, even when they disagree.

One of the most striking features of the film is its use of music. Songs do more than entertain; they help to move the plot forward and reveal characters' feelings. When characters sing, the mood can change from cheerful to tense in a few moments. The soundtrack, choreography and facial expressions work together to show meaning. For example, a proud stance or a sly grin can suggest power, arrogance or planning without any explanation being spoken aloud.

The setting also helps the audience to understand the story. Although the film is not set in a real gangster world, it borrows ideas from the 1920s, such as sharp suits, bright dresses, polished shoes and smoky clubs. Props like toy weapons and creamy pies replace real violence, which makes the action humorous instead of upsetting. This contrast between serious ideas and silly behaviour creates a distinctive atmosphere.

If you were watching closely, you might predict that Bugsy will continue to challenge the bullies around him. You might also expect Blousey to keep pursuing her dream, because she refuses to give up easily. By the end of the film, the main characters have changed slightly: they are more confident, more united and more aware that choices have consequences. A good summary would include the rivalry between the gangs, the importance of the songs, and the way the comic style keeps the story light-hearted.

*Bugsy Malone* is memorable because it combines performance, humour and storytelling in a way that invites the audience to think carefully. It encourages viewers to ask how music, costume, setting and gesture create meaning. It also shows that even a film about gangsters can explore themes of teamwork, courage and growing up.

## Comprehension Questions

1. In the first paragraph, what does the word “**playful**” tell you about the film? Answer in 1 complete sentence.
2. What does the phrase “**distinctive atmosphere**” mean in the fourth paragraph? Explain in 2 complete sentences.
3. In the text, the word “**striking**” is used to describe the film's features. Why is this a good word to use here? Support your answer with 2 pieces of evidence from the text.
4. How does the writer show that *Bugsy Malone* is not meant to feel frightening? Answer in 2–3 sentences using evidence from the text.
5. Why are the songs important in the film, according to the text? Give two reasons and quote one short phrase.
6. The text says the film uses “serious ideas and silly behaviour”. How does this contrast help to make the film effective? Write 3–4 sentences.
7. What can you infer about Bugsy's personality from the text? Answer in 1–2 complete sentences.
8. What does the text suggest about Blousey's attitude towards her dream of becoming a singer? Use evidence from the text in 2 sentences.
9. Why do you think the writer describes the characters' choices as having “consequences”? Explain your idea in 3 sentences.
10. What kind of film is *Bugsy Malone*? Answer in 1 sentence.
11. Name two things that replace real violence in the film. Use bullet points.
12. Which two gangs are mentioned in the text, and what is Bugsy asked to decide? Answer in 2–3 sentences.
13. Compare Bugsy and Blousey. In what ways are they both shown as strong characters? Answer in 2–3 sentences.
14. Compare the film's gangster ideas with the way it is presented. How does the text show that these two things are different? Write 3 sentences.
15. Summarise how music, setting and costume work together in the film. Include at least 3 details from the text in 4 sentences.