

THE TRIP OF 'LE HORLA'

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ACTIVITY II

7. Draft a 'LIVE TV REPORT' of the Le Horla's take off.

PARIS

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,
 'Today' is a page which will be written in golden ink in the history of France. A journey with a difference is about to take place — a journey through the 'skies'. A few gentlemen are going to get the feeling of free birds, mastering the winds and the skies. Yes. Here is a balloon ride, a ride from Paris through the Belgian border land moving to Scheldt through air.

As you can all see, a crowd has assembled here, to watch history through their own eyes. The Le Horla the balloon to be — is lying on the ground and has the appearance of a cake made of yellow cloth. Gas is filled into it. Now the balloon expands, it looks like a worm, wriggling in the air. The travellers dine at the canteen before their ride. The crowd is engaged in serious talk — happiness, doubts, opinions etc. Meanwhile the balloon has become enormous and transparent, like a golden prodigious fruit, a fantastic pear,

which is ripening, by the last rays of the setting orange sun.

The basket has come, it is attached to the balloon, the barometers, the siren, the trumpets, the eatables, the overcoats, the raincoats, and everything. Lieutenant Mallet jumps in first, inspects everything and he will be the night watchman.

The officer on watch M. Etierine Beer gets in after him, M. Bessard, M. Eyzies and the author get in too. But as the basket is too heavy M. Eyzies goes away, sad.

M. Joliet now asks the crowd to move away as the sand which will be thrown upon the rising of the balloon will fall on their faces. Capt. Jovis is now ready. All efforts will bear fruit.

The ropes of the Le Horla are now cut off and the balloon gets its 'LIBERTY' true to the spirits of a Frenchman.

Ladies and Gentleman, you are all witnesses to the historical take off of the Le Horla — let's all wish the best to the travellers. May their eyes enjoy the feasts of the air and their minds find comfort in the peaceful sights on looking at the earth from heaven above.

This is the reporter from Reuters TV, right from Paris.

Activity IV (Comparison)

1. The Degree of Comparison used in the sentence "Nothing is more amusing...." is the comparative degree.
2. Rewriting the passage comparing it with life on earth!

Now our minds and thoughts were more independent than it was when we were on earth. We were less regretful and hopeful than when we were on the earth. We could enjoy this fantastic journey more than a trip on land. We are more like planets than people of the world; more like a travelling world than a static one.

Activity V

Landing of the Le Horla from the point of view of the peasant present there.

In the early hours of the dawn of July 9, 1886, I felt an urge to go to my beet fields, to see if any wild herd of pigs or bulls had stamped on them the previous night. I thought I heard a storm approaching too. I wondered if my friends were already there in their fields. I got up, took my bamboo stick to protect myself, my sweater,

my hat, a torch and ran to my field the place of my hard labour and sweat for the last six months. I sighed in relief as I saw my vegetable garden fresh and live as ever. But I was alert, and heard a swish and a cry of something leaving out air or gas. The sound came from up above but I saw the shadow of a ball on the ground. Suddenly the ball was moving fast, appearing bigger, but one thing caught my attention there were people and sounds of murmur in the sky. I looked up and saw to my surprise, a balloon, a hot air balloon, with travellers in it. They were all shouting out loud, "Where are we?" I was taken by fright. I ran too and I shouted "... there's a storm approaching land fast you are going towards the seas Drop fast" Suddenly the air was let loose fast, and the balloon landed with a bang, then a series of bangs. But no danger, every thing was okay. I ran to the balloon waited for a few moments for the top to fall, and helped the passengers get out. Then we together took the baggage. Many more villagers came to help. We took them to the nearest station to board a train. Oh! what a way it was to start a day. I thought I saw a SHOOTING STAR.

Q. "We float along through space in delicious inertia" — Identify the figure of speech used in 'delicious inertia'.

Ans. Transferred Epithet. The adjective delicious which is associated with taste is applied here to the noun inertia.

Q. Why is space travel considered as 'delicious inertia' by the narrator?

Ans. Floating in air is easy and enjoyable. He feels lazy, needn't do any work. It is a continuous experience. They don't have to exert themselves physically to travel. So the inertia to remain floating is delicious.

Q. Delicious inertia : A combination of senses. Delicious is associated with taste, and inertia is associated with movement. Two sensations are combined together. So the figure of speech is synesthesia.