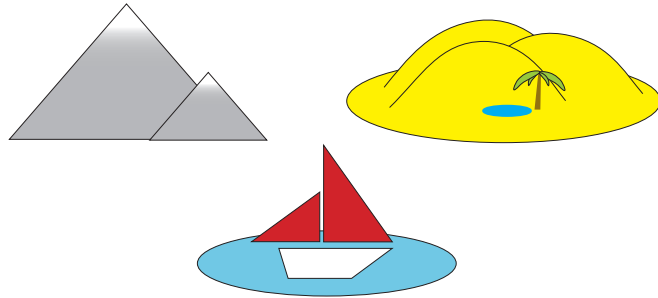


## Homecoming hero

### 1 WARMER

Answer the questions and give reasons for your answers.

- a. Would you like to ...  
... sail around the world?  
... climb a mountain?  
... drive across a desert?
- b. How old do you think someone should be in order to do these things (alone)?



### 2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Skim-read the article to find the words that fit in the gaps. The paragraph is given to help you.

- done by one person alone, without any help \_\_\_\_\_ (para 1)
- the final part of a journey or the final effort needed to finish \_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)
- When something is damaged severely so that it doesn't work properly, it is \_\_\_\_\_. (para 2)
- An unplanned meeting \_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)
- to complete your studies at a university or college, usually by getting a degree \_\_\_\_\_ (para 6)
- to show that you understand the importance or power of something \_\_\_\_\_ (para 7)
- making you feel annoyed and impatient because you are prevented from achieving something \_\_\_\_\_ (para 7)
- paying attention to what is happening and ready to react quickly if necessary \_\_\_\_\_ (para 8)
- a group of people or vehicles that move around a place in order to prevent trouble or crime \_\_\_\_\_ (para 9)
- to take money or property that was illegally taken from a person or place, often using threats or violence \_\_\_\_\_ (para 12, past tense)
- far away from other cities, towns or people \_\_\_\_\_ (para 16)
- to achieve something that you planned to do or attempted to do \_\_\_\_\_ (para 17)

Definitions from [www.macmillandictionary.com](http://www.macmillandictionary.com)

## Homecoming hero

### HOMECOMING HERO

by Talitha Linehan

1 He's risked his life and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to make his dream come true. Seventeen-year-old Zac Sunderland is one of the youngest people ever to sail solo around the world.

2 On June 14, 2008, Zac climbed aboard his boat, *Intrepid*, to start his 40,000-mile journey around the world. He has sailed from the west coast of the USA to Australia, then across the Indian Ocean to South Africa. He's had to survive violent storms, a crippled boat and an encounter with pirates. This interview took place when Zac was on the home stretch after a year of sailing.

3 "I've been really lucky", Zac said. "This isn't something I've done on my own. Everything just fell into place to make it happen. I've been sailing all my life, and I have great parents who've helped me a lot. It's been an amazing experience and a lot of fun."

#### Life at sea

4 "The first six months at sea were harder than the second six months. When I first left home, it all felt strange and new. It took a few months to get used to being away from everything and everyone I knew and to living on canned food and not much sleep. But now it feels like everyday life.

5 Time goes by quickly out here, and there's always something that needs doing on the boat. Sometimes I have to stop on an island to repair something, and other times I just make sure that everything is in working order. I've learned so much and have become a better sailor.

6 I had planned to graduate on the boat, but I haven't done any studying for a while. I only have three classes to finish before I can graduate, so I'll do that once I get home.

#### Hard times

7 The sea doesn't frighten me. I respect the sea. But I don't like it when things I can't control go wrong. I've had a lot of problems with my boat, for example. Because of a problem with my engine, I stopped at Saint Helena, an island in the South

Atlantic about halfway between Africa and South America. It's one of the most remote places in the world. I had to wait three weeks to get the parts I needed for the engine. That was really frustrating.

8 I had to cross the equator twice. It's really hot and there's hardly any wind, so you can be stuck in one place for a whole week. But there are also dangerous storms called squalls. So even though you're going nowhere for days, you have to be alert all the time in case you get hit by a squall.

9 My most frightening experience occurred in the Indian Ocean in October 2008, about 150 miles off the coast of Indonesia. A pirate ship came and started sailing around me. I didn't know what they wanted or what they were going to do. I'd heard stories of pirates firing at boats and sinking them, so I locked myself in my cabin and called the coast watch patrol. When the patrol arrived, the pirates left – so luckily, nothing happened in the end.

#### Exciting places

10 I've visited so many parts of the world. It's been amazing to see all the different cultures and how people live. Everywhere I went, people were waiting for me, and sometimes my dad or friends came out to meet me too. People everywhere were really friendly and interested in hearing my stories.

11 The most beautiful place I visited was Cocos Keeling Island, which is a tiny place in the Indian Ocean. It's not even six square miles – but it has white beaches and green jungles. Only about 500 people live there.



12 One place I really hated was Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. I had to stay there

## Homecoming hero

for about a week because of another problem with my boat. It was really dangerous. You can't walk around there alone at night or you might get robbed or even killed.

### Homecoming

13 It's going to be incredible to return to the US at the end of this trip. I can't wait to see my family and friends. The first thing I want to eat is a cheeseburger. American food is the best! I miss it a lot. Then I want to go surfing and skateboarding with my friends. We're also planning to do a road trip. We've bought an old van and will probably go to Mexico or across the US. It'll be nice to travel on land again after all these months at sea.

### Media star

14 I did hundreds of interviews about my journey last summer. After the first few, I learned how to answer all the questions and what to say. When I get home, I'll do interviews on at least three TV shows, including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. That will be very exciting.

15 I'm used to being in front of the camera now. I've had cameras on my boat ever since leaving home. I use them for a few hours a day to film my life and talk about what's been happening. I hope to make a TV show when I get home. I've already started writing a book about my experience.

### The next adventure

16 I've been getting so many job offers in the last few months. I could sail around the world giving sailing classes. Or I could go on a new adventure. I'm thinking about sailing across the top of Alaska for six months with a friend. We'd be alone for weeks at a time and stop on small, remote islands. That would be amazing.

17 The biggest thing I've learned in the last year is that you can do anything you want to do. Never let anyone tell you that you can't do it. If you have a dream, try hard to make it come true. Who knows? You might even succeed!"

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### 3 FIND THE INFORMATION

1. Approximately how long did it take Zac to sail around the world?
2. Approximately how many miles did he travel?
3. What did he not manage to do on the way?
4. Which place did he not like and why?
5. Which was his favourite place and why?
6. How did he escape the pirates?
7. How long was he on Saint Helena and why?
8. What is he looking forward to when he gets back?
9. Where will he go next and how?
10. Which famous person is going to interview him?

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### 4 TEEN TALK: THE BEST

Look back at the article and complete the sentence.

Zac says "American food is the best!"

Teens use *the best* to say that ...

- a) ... they do not like something.
- b) ... they really like something and think it is better than everything else.
- c) ... something is acceptable or ok.

Who or what do you think is *the best*?

### 5 WRITING

In the article, Zac talks about being interviewed. Write six questions you would like to ask Zac during an interview. Use the question words below.

What      Where      Why      Who      When      How

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

### 6 ROLE-PLAY

Work in groups of three (A, B and C).

- A is Zac
- B is the interviewer
- C is the camera operator / director

Combine the questions you wrote to make a longer interview. Practice asking and answering the questions. Add an introduction and an ending, and then film your interview with Zac. Show your video to your class.



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### 7 WEBQUEST

**Imagine you are going to travel around the world.**

Where will you start from?

Which route will you take?

Which countries will you visit on the way?

How will you travel - by road, sea, air, or a combination of all three?

How many kilometres will you travel?

**Use the Internet to answer all of the questions. Route planning websites and websites that include maps of the world (such as *Google Earth* and *Google Maps*) may help you.**

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### KEY

**2**

1. solo
2. home stretch
3. crippled
4. encounter
5. graduate
6. respect
7. frustrating
8. alert
9. patrol
10. robbed
11. remote
12. succeed

**4**

- a. they really like something and think it is better than everything else.
- b. they really like something and think it is better than everything else.

**3**

1. A year.
2. 40,000
3. Graduate.
4. Port Moresby because it is so dangerous.
5. Cocos Keeling Island because it's so small and beautiful.
6. By locking himself in the cabin and calling the coast guard.
7. Three weeks because he had to wait for spare parts for the engine.
8. Cheeseburgers, surfing and skateboarding with his friends.
9. To Mexico in an old van with his friends.
10. Oprah Winfrey