

WRITING SYNTHESIS: Lesson 11 - Life Without Parents

Vulnerable Youth, Case Studies & Causative Verbs Grammar Guide

Objective: Analyze orphan and vulnerable youth case studies and master causative verbs grammar

Track: Secondary Level

1. Core Thematic Concepts (Case Studies)

This lesson explores the harsh realities faced by children who lose parental support:

A. Overview of Youth Case Studies

- **Justin (Malawi, Age 14):** Lost parents to AIDS; dropped out of school to work and look after his younger siblings [cite: 1].
- **Meseret (Ethiopia, Age 15):** Lost parents in a road accident; faced abuse and forced marriage by her step-brother before being rescued by her teacher, Masresha [cite: 1].
- **Jimmy (USA, Age 17):** Suffered extreme neglect from alcoholic, poor parents; now resides in a foster home for troubled teens [cite: 1].

2. Key Vocabulary Bank

Essential terms for discussing vulnerable children:

- **Drop out:** To leave school prematurely [cite: 1].
- **Dependent upon:** Reliant on someone or something for survival or support [cite: 1].
- **Guardian:** A person legally entrusted with the care of a child.
- **Foster home:** A household where a child is raised by appointed foster parents.

3. Grammar Focus: Causative Verbs

Expressing obligation, permission, and requests through causative structures:

- **Make + someone + base verb:** Expresses obligation or force (e.g., **“His wife made them work hard”** [cite: 1] / **“He made me write it again”**).
- **Let + someone + base verb:** Expresses permission (e.g., **“Does your father let you go to the cinema?”**).
- **Have + someone + base verb:** Expresses a request or delegated duty (e.g., **“I’ll have somebody repair the car”**).

4. Discussion & Synthesis

Key Themes for Writing & Speaking:

- **Deprivations:** Loss of education, emotional support, physical safety, and basic childhood joys.
- **Support Systems:** Teachers, foster care institutions, community networks, and social organizations.