

Reading for Meaning

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is a working railway that shows us what the steam era of rail was like on the Isle of Wight.
- ▶ There are many documents that survive from the period of Steam Rail on the Isle of Wight. Can you work out what the meaning, purpose and context of this text document is?

Understanding Railway Texts & Contexts

READING TASK

- ✓ Analyse why the text below, from 1845, was written, considering it from a critical perspective.
- ✓ Read the text, thoroughly.
- ✓ Answer the questions on page 1&2. Your teacher may require you to write on this sheet, or on paper.

Teaching resources by Education Destination Ltd.

Curriculum relevant materials supporting school trips to the Isle of Wight

Book today with Education Destination and get full access to this and hundreds more quality resources

www.edudest.uk

RAILWAYS.

Declaration of Landowners & other Inhabitants.

WE, the undersigned, Landowners, Clergy, Yeomen, Traders, and others, Inhabitants of the Isle of Wight, have seen with extreme surprise, Advertisements having reference to a project for establishing Railways in the Island.

We hereby declare our direct and determined hostility to this wild and dangerous speculation, which, so far from benefiting the Island, would painfully affect its interests, and would threaten with ruin a large class of its inhabitants.

Neither the importance of our Trade, nor the extent of our Roads, nor the size of the limited area to which we are confined, lead us to require any facilities of transport other than those which we at present enjoy; nor do we believe that the Visitors, whose occasional residence gives profit and support to numbers, would wish to exchange for the hurried speed of a Railway those ordinary means of conveyance to the quiet enjoyment of which they look for pleasure and for health.

We protest therefore most anxiously and earnestly against a proposal, thrust upon us contrary to our wishes and to our interests, involving serious risk to the Speculators, threatening deep injury to the Inhabitants of the Island, and utterly useless and valueless to the Community at large.

Questions

1. What is the form and purpose of the text?

Questions (continued...)

2. What do you think is happening on the Isle of Wight at the time (the context) that has produced this response?
3. Who is the audience for this petition?
4. Can you identify any bias? Give examples.

Teaching resources by Education Destination Ltd.

Curriculum relevant materials supporting school trips to the Isle of Wight

5. Emotive language and hyperbole are used here to emphasise the points raised. Give 3 examples of this Book today with Education Destination and get full access to this and hundreds more quality resources below, in the form of quotations.

www.edudest.uk

- -
 -
6. What other persuasive techniques are used here? Give 2 examples.

7. What 2 main reasons are given as to why the railway should not be built? Use quotations in your answer.

8. What language is used metaphorically by the writer to suggest that islanders will be physically harmed by the railway, if it were to be built?

