

Comprehension based on this web page: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52471924>

Happy Birthday Captain Tom!

The fundraising hero is celebrating his 100th birthday today!

Tom has broken world records and helped to raise millions for the NHS through his charity challenges.

Special honours and celebrations

To mark his special birthday, people from all over the country have been sending Tom cards and presents. He's even received a personalised telegram from the Queen to celebrate reaching 100. In honour of the milestone and his charity efforts, he has also been given the special title of Honorary Colonel!



Captain Tom salutes the RAF flyby to celebrate his birthday

The RAF carried out a special birthday aerial salute to Captain Tom with old spitfire and hurricane planes joining a flypast of his home in Bedfordshire, and even the Prime Minister sent him a message of good wishes, saying: "Your heroic efforts have lifted the spirits of the entire nation."

Tom has been typically modest with all the attention, he told the BBC: "It hardly feels any different than yesterday. I don't know what you're meant to feel like when you get to be 100."

"I've never been a hundred before so I really can't tell you what difference there is from yesterday, today or maybe tomorrow but I must say I'm absolutely delighted with all the people who've been so kind to make those remarks. Thank you all very much."

"People keep saying what I have done is remarkable, however it's actually what you have done for me which is remarkable."

Captain Tom

VIPER Reading Questions - Captain Tom



1. Which planes joined the flypast of Captain Tom's home?



2. List three special things which Captain Tom has received for his birthday.

3. Name four features of a newspaper report which are used in this text.



4. What does the phrase "typically modest" mean?



5. How would you describe Captain Tom's attitude towards his birthday celebrations? Explain in detail, referring back to the text.



6. Which word means 'made for, directed or adjusted for a particular individual'?

7. Often there will be multiple news articles about one particular subject or topic. You may want to now use the links on the website to read more articles about Captain Tom.

VIPER Reading Questions - Captain Tom

ANSWERS

1. Spitfire and hurricane planes (1 mark)
2. Answer may include: Personalised telegram from the Queen, special title of Honorary Colonel, birthday aerial salute from RAF, a message from the Prime Minister (1 mark)
3. Answer may include: headline, subheading, paragraphs, direct quotes, picture with caption, use of third person and past tense (1 mark)
4. Answer should refer to someone who is normally, or usually humble or does not think a lot of themselves, or is unassuming of their achievements (1 mark)
5. Answer should discuss along themes of Tom being humble/modest or thankful/happy, that he doesn't think it is much different to before, he doesn't think it is very different to being 99. Must refer to text for both marks (2 marks)
6. Personalised (1 mark)