

Killer Clown Craze - Why?

Something very strange and disturbing is happening right now, around the world. We are suddenly seeing people dressed up as killer clowns. They are appearing in strange places. It's scary and weird. The question is, why? Are these people attention seekers? Or, just nutters? What is making people want to dress up in a killer clown outfit, and go round scaring people? Worse, is that some of them are attacking innocent people; hence the term 'Killer Clowns'.

The craze may have begun in South Carolina, USA, in August, when some clowns tried to entice children into a wood, with large sums of money. The US born craze, has seen clowns chasing children, with weapons, such as knives and baseball bats. In some instances, they specifically targeted schools.

The Killer Clowns are now all around the world. They have been seen in Sweden, Canada and Australia. In the USA, the craze is rife. Chicago, New York, and Palm Bay, Florida, have seen Killer Clowns. One video shows a Killer Clown, chasing innocent people, with a chain saw running. The spine-chilling clowns have also been spotted in the US States of California, Minnesota, and South Carolina. There is even the hashtag #IfISeeAClown and @ClownSightings on Twitter.

Clown costumes are now getting more extreme, with these people attacking innocent folk, using knives, and other weapons. Many children are really scared of this new, sinister phenomenon.

The Killer Clowns have appeared in numerous spots in the UK. Recently, in South Yorkshire, there were 59 incidents in 3 days of Killer Clowns. Fancy dress shops in the UK have been warned by police not to sell creepy clown costumes to suspected pranksters. The craze is currently sweeping the nation.

SPEAKING

What is a Killer Clown? Have you seen any Killer Clowns, recently? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is a Killer Clown?
- 2) Name three countries.
- 3) Name three American States the spine-chilling clowns have been seen in.
- 4) Name the hashtag.
- 5) What does 'prankster' mean?

Student B questions

- 1) How many incidents were there in South Yorkshire, recently?
- 2) What have British police said to whom?
- 3) Where may the craze have started?
- 4) What are getting more extreme?
- 5) Where are these Killer Clowns appearing?

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Killer Clowns**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Think of three reasons why people might want to be a Killer Clown. Write them below and discuss.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Think of three things you might do, to defend yourself from a Killer Clown. Write them below and discuss.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

Allow 5-10 minutes prep – As a class.

*Prepare a two minute presentation on:
Different sorts of clowns*

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you have any Killer Clowns in your country? If yes, where?
- 3) Have you seen any Killer Clowns? If yes, where?
- 4) Should these Killer Clowns be outlawed?
- 5) Why are people wanting to dress up as a Killer Clown?
- 6) What should the police do with people dressed up as Killer Clowns?
- 7) Is social media responsible for the spread of this craze?
- 8) Why are people dressed in a spooky clown mask suddenly wanting to attack, or even kill people?
- 9) Do you know any children, who have been spooked by the Killer Clowns?
- 10) Is Halloween the cause of all this?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* studio. Today's interview is: *Killer Clowns – Why?*

- 1) Someone who was attacked by a Killer Clown.
- 2) A real clown (Not a Killer Clown)
- 3) A police spokesperson.
- 4) A fancy dress shop owner.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a café/pub in your town/city. One of you has just witnessed a Killer Clown. How did you feel? What happened? Start a conversation about what you saw. *3-5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION 2

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Killer Clowns – Should they be banned? Or is it just good business for the fancy dress shops?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you watched any Killer Clown instances, online?
- 3) What do your friends think of these Killer Clowns?
- 4) What would you do if you saw a Killer Clown?
- 5) Do these Killer Clown people need psychological help?
- 6) What do clowns, including children's party clowns, and circus clowns, think of this new type of clown?
- 7) What makes someone dress up as a Killer Clown?
- 8) Why are we suddenly seeing so many people dressing up as Killer Clowns?
- 9) Would you dress up as a Killer Clown? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Killer Clown Craze - Why?

Something very strange and disturbing is happening right now, around the world. We are suddenly seeing people dressed up as killer clowns. They are appearing in strange places. It's (1)___ and (2)__. The question is, why? Are these people attention seekers? Or, just nutters? What is making people want to dress up in a killer clown (3)___, and go round scaring people? Worse, is that some of them are attacking (4)___ people; hence the term 'Killer Clowns'.

The craze may have begun in South Carolina, USA, in August, when some (5)___ tried to (6)___ children into a wood, with large sums of money. The US born (7)___, has seen clowns chasing children, with weapons, such as knives and baseball bats. In some instances, they (8)___ targeted schools.

specifically / entice / scary / clowns / weird / outfit / craze / innocent

The Killer Clowns are now all around the world. They have been seen in Sweden, Canada and Australia. In the USA, the craze is (1)__. Chicago, New York, and Palm Bay, Florida, have seen Killer Clowns. One video shows a Killer Clown, chasing innocent people, with a chain saw running. The spine-chilling clowns have also been spotted in the US States of California, Minnesota, and South Carolina. There is even the (2)___ #IfISeeAClown and @ClownSightings on Twitter.

Clown costumes are now getting more (3)___, with these people attacking (4)___ (5)___, using knives, and other weapons. Many children are really scared of this new, (6)___ (7)___.

The Killer Clowns have appeared in numerous spots in the UK. Recently, in South Yorkshire, there were 59 incidents in 3 days of Killer Clowns. Fancy dress shops in the UK have been warned by police not to sell creepy clown costumes to suspected (8)__. The craze is currently sweeping the nation.

pranksters / phenomenon / hashtag / sinister / innocent / rife / extreme / folk

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Killer Clown Craze - Why?

Something (1)___ strange and disturbing is happening right now, around the world. We are suddenly seeing people dressed up as killer clowns. They are appearing in strange places. It's scary and weird. The question is, why? Are (2)___ people attention seekers? Or, just nutters? (3)___ is making people want to dress up in a killer clown outfit, and go round scaring people? Worse, is (4)___ some of them are attacking innocent people; hence the term 'Killer Clowns'.

The craze may have begun in South Carolina, USA, in August, (5)___ (6)___ clowns tried to entice children into a wood, (7)___ large sums of money. The US born craze, has seen clowns chasing children, with weapons, (8)___ knives and baseball bats. In some instances, they specifically targeted schools.

such as / that / with / when / what / some / very / these

The Killer Clowns are now all around the world. They have been seen (1)___ Sweden, Canada (2)___ Australia. In the USA, (3)___ craze is rife. Chicago, New York, and Palm Bay, Florida, have seen Killer Clowns. One video shows (4)___ Killer Clown, chasing innocent people, with a chain saw running. The spine-chilling clowns have also been spotted in the US States of California, Minnesota, and South Carolina. There is even the hashtag #IfISeeAClown and @ClownSightings (5)___ Twitter.

Clown costumes are now getting more extreme, (6)___ these people attacking innocent folk, using knives, and other weapons. Many children are really scared of this new, sinister phenomenon.

The Killer Clowns have appeared in numerous spots in the UK. Recently, in South Yorkshire, there were 59 incidents in 3 days (7)___ Killer Clowns. Fancy dress shops in the UK have been warned (8)___ police not to sell creepy clown costumes to suspected pranksters. The craze is currently sweeping the nation.

by / of / on / in / the / and / a / with

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Killer Clown Craze - Why?

Something very _____ is happening right now, around the world. We are suddenly seeing people dressed up as killer clowns. They are appearing in strange places. It's scary and weird. The question is, why? Are these people _____? Or, just nutters? What is making people want to dress up in a killer clown outfit, and go round scaring people? Worse, is that some of them are attacking innocent people; _____ 'Killer Clowns'.

The craze may have begun in South Carolina, USA, in August, when some clowns tried to entice children into a wood, with _____. The US born craze, has seen clowns chasing children, with weapons, such as knives and baseball bats. In some instances, they specifically targeted schools.

The Killer Clowns are now all around the world. They have been seen in Sweden, _____. In the USA, the craze is rife. Chicago, New York, and Palm Bay, Florida, have seen Killer Clowns. One video shows a Killer Clown, chasing innocent people, with _____.

The spine-chilling clowns have also been spotted in the US States of California, Minnesota, and South Carolina. There is even the hashtag #IfISeeAClown and @ClownSightings on Twitter. _____ now getting more extreme, with these people attacking innocent folk, using knives, and other weapons. Many children are really scared of this new, _____.

The _____ have appeared in numerous spots in the UK. Recently, in South Yorkshire, there were 59 incidents in 3 days of Killer Clowns. Fancy dress shops in the UK have been warned by police not to sell creepy clown costumes to _____. The craze is currently sweeping the nation.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING / DRAWING

1) On the board - *In pairs/small groups* – Draw a Killer Clown. Next to it, create a list of ten other fancy dress costumes, you might like to wear. Why? Describe the characters you choose. *5-10 mins.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Killer Clowns _____
- 2) The craze _____
- 3) Children are _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *Killer Clown Craze – Why?* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Killer Clown Craze – Why?*** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) knives
- 2) clowns
- 3) instances
- 4) outfit
- 5) weapons
- 6) killer
- 7) weird
- 8) extreme
- 9) pranksters
- 10) currently

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) creepy
- 12) numerous
- 13) phenomenon
- 14) sinister
- 15) spine-chilling
- 16) specifically
- 17) entice
- 18) innocent
- 19) just
- 20) nutters

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