

ACTIVITY 1

A01

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, REASONING,
DECISION MAKING

▼ IDENTIFYING TYPES OF NON-FICTION

Which of the types of non-fiction text described on page 58 do you think the following extracts come from? Give reasons for your decision. Which one do you think is more objective? Explain why you think this.

▼ FROM *THE INDEPENDENT* NEWSPAPER

Even the keenest gamers generally suffer nothing more than sore thumbs or tired eyes from their hobby. But scientists looking into the health effects of video game consoles have linked overplaying to dozens of injuries – some even life-threatening. The cases were uncovered after a team of Dutch researchers gathered all reported cases of Nintendo-related injuries, spanning 30 years.

▼ FROM *IN THE EMPIRE OF GENGHIS KHAN*
BY STANLEY STEWART

On a low stool stood a mountainous plate of sheep parts, with the favoured cut, the great fatty tail, like a grey glacier on its summit. Younger sisters hustled in and out making last-minute preparations. While we were at breakfast the first lookouts were posted to watch for the return of the truck bearing the wedding party from the bride's camp.

BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY



▲ Yachtswoman Dame Ellen MacArthur

Read the following extract from an autobiography that tells Ellen MacArthur's account of her extraordinary life as a lone yachtswoman. While reading it, think about what MacArthur is writing about and how she has written her account.

▼ FROM *TAKING ON THE WORLD* BY ELLEN MACARTHUR

The wind continued to rise during the first few days, and by the third I was changing down to the storm jib on the foredeck, and was thrown off my feet before cracking my head hard against the inner forestay rod, resulting in an instant lump and a strange nausea. Soon afterwards, the weather front passed, only to bring even stronger 55-knot gusts in a steady 45-knot wind. It was an unreal, crazy situation: just trying to hang on inside the boat took every ounce of strength. Food was hurled around the cabin along with water containers and spares, while I tried to scrape things up and put them back in the boxes. My hands stung, my eye was swollen, and my wrists were already covered in open sores...

Dawn brought some respite. My body temperature warmed after the freezing night, but if I sweated through the physical exertion of a sail change, when I stopped, I'd once again cool to a shiver. Sleep proved virtually impossible – just snatched ten-minute bursts ended by the cold.

jib A small sail.

foredeck The deck near the bows of the yacht.

forestay Another sail.

knot A nautical mile per hour.