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## RADIO POPREEL 8:

### Game of Thrones, George R.R. Martin and Northern Ireland



#### A. LISTENING COMPREHENSION

**1. Where was Game of Thrones filmed?**

- a) Wales
- b) Northern Ireland
- c) Scotland

**2. What do the filmmakers do to keep the sets free from too many visitors?**

- a) Only a certain amount of visitors are allowed to visit each day.
- b) Only tiny signs show the locations where they are filming.
- c) The filming areas are kept secret.

**3. What is the name of the studios where GoT is filmed?**

- a) Titanic studios
- b) Game of Thrones Quarters
- c) Clearsky Adventure Centre

**4. What does William Kells demonstrate to the visitors?**

- a) How to put on the costumes.
- b) How to shoot a bow and arrow.
- c) How to use a sword.

**5. How did Ruairí McErlean become interested in Game of Thrones?**

- a) He visited the sets and got fascinated with the story.
- b) He read all the books.
- c) The area where it is filmed is familiar to him because he grew up there.

**6. According to Ned Kelly a good story has got to have...**

- a) ...a hero that doesn't remind us of ourselves.
- b) ...a setting that is totally different from our real-life environment.
- c) ...characters that you can identify with.

**7. Why does George R.R. Martin like the film Psycho so much?**

- a) Because he doesn't want the audience to feel safe and get too comfortable.
- b) Because it was directed by Alfred Hitchcock.
- c) Because Janet Leigh was the star of that movie.

**8. What is the challenge that many authors face, according to Martin?**

- a) No authors can be experts on everything they write about.
- b) They can't add things that wouldn't be there in real life when creating a historical setting.
- c) Most authors know nothing about chess.

**9. Why are details important to George R.R. Martin?**

- a) Because he wants his story to be as realistic as possible.
- b) Because he wants the reader to see, feel and smell the scenes in the story.
- c) Because he wants to make the story as detailed as possible.





## B. FILL IN THE GAPS

The text below is an excerpt from the interview with George R.R. Martin. What are the missing words? Fill in the gaps!

### George:

You know, you find that the audience is full of people who are expert on all sorts of things. And if you get any detail wrong, you're going to get an email about it from some annoying git, who's \_\_\_\_\_ (*olyckligtvis*) usually right about it.

"The place you said has the best wine \_\_\_\_\_ (*skulle inte vara*) a very good place to grow wine in", or stuff like that. You get letters like that, you get letters about your geology, you get letters about your botany. And, "Oh no, that kind of tree wouldn't grow in this kind of climate."

I do try to absorb the lessons and keep them in mind going forward. I'm in some ways, since I'm writing a secondary world fantasy, Westeros is modeled on the \_\_\_\_\_ (*medeltiden*), but it's not the \_\_\_\_\_ (*medeltiden*), so I have a partial defense there.

And some of the changes I made quite deliberately, you know, as Tolkien did. You know, he has Sam and Frodo eating "taters", and \_\_\_\_\_ (*givetvis*) there were no "taters" in Medieval England. But the Shire isn't Medieval England, even though it feels a lot like it. So, he can have "taters" and I have \_\_\_\_\_ (*majs*) on the same principal, and \_\_\_\_\_ (*pumpor*) and...

Back when I was in college, and a few years out of college, I played a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ (*schack*). In fact, ran \_\_\_\_\_ (*schack turneringar*). And when I encountered chess games in fiction, like nine out of ten times they get it wrong.

And it takes me right out of the book, you know? And I have a particular expertise about chess, \_\_\_\_\_(*speciellt*) tournament chess, and the way it's played. And most writers are kind of researching that, they do a very cursory job, they're not imbued with the world. And it's a little off and it takes me out.

But the truth is, when you're writing a big book, you have to be an expert on \_\_\_\_\_(*allt*), and very few of us are an expert on everything. Sometimes we just make assumptions. We think we know something but we don't actually know it. We know some common misconception about it.



**C. LET'S WRITE ESSAYS LIKE "THE GARDENERS"!**

In the programme George R.R. Martin says that he is the "gardener". That means that when he writes he just digs a hole and plants the seed and sees what comes up. Let's see if we can write like this, too! To help you dig into your story you may choose one of the locations below and one or more of the clouds. Let one thing lead to another!

- A graveyard
- Kuta beach on Bali
- Sergels torg in Stockholm
- Your own kitchen
- The school library





**Key to listening comprehension Radio Popreel 8**

- 1) b
- 2) b
- 3) a
- 4) b
- 5) c
- 6) c
- 7) a
- 8) a
- 9) b

**Key to exercise C. Fill in the gaps:**

unfortunately, wouldn't be, Middle Ages, Middle Ages, of course, corn, pumpkins, chess, chess tournaments, particularly, everything