

KS: To identify the features of a balanced argument

**Clouds task:** If you can print this text – colour code the key and then highlight the different features.

If you are using your workbook – Use the features in the key as subheadings and write some examples under each one (colour code too if you like)

### Should children be allowed to keep animals as pets?

Thousands of children around the world keep pets in their family home, ranging from goldfish, cats and guinea pigs to exotic reptiles. These animals often become one of the family. Yet, it has been argued that children are unable to provide the care that these animals require. Should children really be allowed to keep their own pets?

Some people think that there are many benefits for allowing children to look after a pet since it is a good way to help children learn about life. For example, they can become responsible for looking after another living thing and this allows them to become a more rounded person. Also, many children argue that they get a great deal of pleasure from playing with an animal. Doctors claim that they help to cheer you up when you are feeling down and give you somebody to play with if you are feeling lonely.

On the other hand, many people feel that children are not ready to look after animals properly. Critics argue that children today are so busy with other activities that they do not have the time needed to care for a pet. Consequently, it is often left up to the adults in the family to look after the pets. Furthermore, a busy family life can mean that pets get neglected. The RSPCA reports that some animals are left all day in a house without seeing anyone.

While there are rare occasions when pets are neglected by those meant to care for them, the majority of pets live in happy, loving homes. In a modern family, it would seem that rather than solely being the responsibility of children, the whole family needs to be on board to bring up an animal and in doing so, keeping pets can teach children valuable life skills.

**Key:**

Introduction

Formal Language of debate

Arguments for

Arguments against

Facts and evidence

Connecting words and phrases

Conclusion

Conjunctions e.g. and, but, so, because

Read Text A and answer the following questions:

1. After reading the passage, what are the features of a balanced argument embedded in the passage? List three features.

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2. How do you infer that some people are proponents of allowing children to have pets? Quote from the passage.

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3. The author referred to critics who have concerns about looking after a pet. List their argument mentioning their concerns.

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4. It has been argued that children are unable to provide the care that these animals require. Change the sentence from the passive to active voice.

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5. From the passage, find the following:
  - a) Conjunction
  - b) Rhetorical question
  - c) A word that means 'fully developed' person