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# English

**Year**

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**Donna Gibbs**

## Reading and Comprehension

### 1 Timmy's triumph



2 There was a smell invading Timmy's dreams. A  
3 smell he didn't like. His nose quivered. His fur  
4 bristled. He shook off his sleep mask. It was  
5 smoke—smoke pouring from beneath the doors of  
6 the barn!

7 Timmy barked loudly. No reply. His mistress, Elly,  
8 was upstairs, sound asleep, dreaming she was in a  
9 field of buttercups. She dreamed she was throwing  
10 a ball for Timmy so he could have fun bringing it  
11 back to her.

12 Now flames were licking at the bottom of the barn doors. Timmy had watched the fire brigade  
13 put out fires on television. He knew what to do. He ran to the tap and tried to turn it on with  
14 his mouth. It wouldn't budge.

15 With a herculean effort, Timmy tried to turn on the tap once more. This time it moved slightly.  
16 He kept at it and soon the water was flowing into the hose. The hose snaked this way and that  
17 spurting water everywhere. Timmy caught the hose in his mouth and directed it at the flames.  
18 They flickered then died. He'd put out the fire all by himself!

19 Timmy decided to give himself a pat on the back for a job well done. Then, with a satisfied look  
20 around the yard, he settled back into his bed, checked his alarm and donned his eye mask.  
21 Before long he was dreaming he was in a field of buttercups. He was fetching a ball for Elly so  
22 she could have fun throwing it far away.

- 1 What was the smell invading Timmy's dreams?
  - A buttercups
  - B smoke
  - C fire
  - D an alarm clock
- 2 How did Timmy reward himself for putting out the fire?
  - A He checked his alarm.
  - B He drank some water.
  - C He dreamed of playing with Elly.
  - D He gave himself a pat on the back.
- 3 What did Timmy learn from watching the program about the fire brigade?
  - A how to be a hero
  - B that you need a hose and water to put out fire
  - C that firefighters arrive in a red truck
  - D how to pat yourself on the back
- 4 How did Timmy stop the hose snaking "this way and that"?
  - A He took hold of it with his mouth.
  - B He barked at it.
  - C He cooled the hose down.
  - D He turned the water off.
- 5 This text is best described as
  - A a narrative.
  - B an information text.
  - C a descriptive text.
  - D a discussion.
- 6 Elly's and Timmy's dreams were
  - A exactly the same.
  - B completely different.
  - C not at all alike.
  - D similar but with an important difference.

## Spelling

Rewrite the misspelt words.

- 1 Smoke was poring out of the barn.  
.....
- 2 Are you satisfied the fire is out?  
.....
- 3 What were you dreeming about?  
.....
- 4 The tap was stiff and it wouldn't budje.  
.....
- 5 Add the letters that are missing from these words.
  - A She was soon s.....nd asleep.
  - B The dog's hair bri.....led and stood on end.
  - C Elly c.....ght the ball and threw it back to Timmy.

## Vocabulary

Circle the word that has the nearest meaning to the underlined word.

- 6 The scent was invading his nostrils.
  - A interrupting
  - B filling
  - C capturing
  - D disturbing
- 7 He made one last herculean effort to turn on the tap.
  - A mighty
  - B tough
  - C ambitious
  - D strong
- 8 Add a word from the text to the sentence.  
Can you see the flames .....  
at the wood?
- 9 Write a word from the text to match the meaning.  
requiring the strength of a Hercules  
.....

Circle the word on each line that does **not** belong.

- 10 smell aroma smoke scent
- 11 flowing cascading dripping streaming

## Grammar

- 12 Complete the sentence with a noun group from the text.  
..... snaked this way and that.
- 13 Complete the sentence with a thinking verb from the text.  
Elly ..... she was throwing a ball to Timmy.
- 14 Write a phrase from the text to tell **how**.  
Timmy tried to turn the tap on  
.....
- 15 Use a pronoun from the box to complete the sentence.  

he	she	it	you	they	I	we
----	-----	----	-----	------	---	----

 The fire flickered and then, before long,  
..... went out.

## Punctuation

- 16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A Timmys triumph was that hed put out the fire.
  - B Timmy's triumph was that hed put out the fire.
  - C Timmy's triumph was that he'd put out the fire?
  - D Timmy's triumph was that he'd put out the fire.

Rewrite each sentence correctly.

- 17 The dog, Timmy was a hero because he had put out the fire  
.....  
.....
- 18 His nose quivered, and his hair bristled  
.....  
.....

## Reading and Comprehension

### 1 Black Friday: 13 January 1939

2 Australia has a long history of deadly bushfires. Among the worst  
3 of these were the Victorian bushfires of January 1939.

4 Years of drought in Victoria were followed by a particularly hot,  
5 dry summer. Then record temperatures occurred on 8 (43.7 °C)  
6 and 10 (44.7 °C) January. On 13 January, another high-temperature  
7 day, a strong northerly wind blew up. It fanned many smaller fires  
8 burning across the state. Some people had used fire in careless  
9 ways that meant fires were still smouldering when the winds  
10 hit. Others who had used controlled burning to protect their  
11 properties unintentionally made the fire worse. The result was a major disaster: Black Friday.

12 Seventy-one people lost their lives and hundreds of homes were destroyed. Sawmills were  
13 burnt to the ground. Sheep, cattle and horses were killed in their thousands. Countless  
14 bush animals died and their 'homes' were destroyed. Embers from the fires were carried for  
15 kilometres ahead of the main fire front, starting new fires. Reports of falling ash came from as  
16 far away as New Zealand.

17 An area of almost two million hectares was burned, five townships were completely destroyed  
18 and others badly damaged. There was widespread damage to soil and water catchment areas.  
19 Recovery took decades.

20 It was decided a royal commission was needed to investigate the causes of the fires, to find  
21 ways to improve forest and fire management, and to understand how best to protect life and  
22 property in the future.



- 1 What, in 1939, followed years of drought in Victoria?
  - A a hot summer
  - B a dry summer
  - C a hot, dry summer
  - D storms
- 2 What fanned the fires on 13 January?
  - A a warm breeze
  - B a strong northerly wind
  - C people using fans to cool down
  - D overuse of air conditioning
- 3 Choose all that apply. To what does the word "black" in the name Black Friday refer?
  - A the dark clouds on the night of the fires
  - B the blackness of the night when the fires raged
  - C the sadness and despair the day represents
  - D the charred, black remains caused by the fires
- 4 The writer says ash spread to New Zealand to
  - A exaggerate what happened.
  - B make people in New Zealand anxious.
  - C show what a widespread impact the fire had.
  - D round off the report.
- 5 What made a royal commission necessary?
  - A The fire had badly worried the Royal Family.
  - B People wanted to find someone to blame for causing the fires.
  - C The government needed specialised information to prevent further fires.
  - D Politicians were afraid the public would not vote for them.
- 6 Could the fire be described as an environmental disaster? Why or why not? (Use your own paper.)

## Spelling

Rewrite the misspelt words.

- 1 It was one of the wurst fires in Victoria's histry.  
.....
- 2 What temprature is it today?  
.....
- 3 The fire brigade uses controled burning in our suburb.  
.....
- 4 I wonder what the royal comision found.  
.....
- 5 Add the letters that are missing from these words.
  - A It was a severe drou.....t.
  - B Th.....sands of animals died.
  - C Winds blew embers ah.....d of the main fire.

## Vocabulary

Circle the word that has the nearest meaning to the underlined word.

- 6 Australia has a long history of deadly bushfires.
 

A worrying	B fatal
C severe	D nasty
- 7 Countless bush animals lost their lives.
 

A numerous	B endless
C several	D multiple
- 8 Add a word from the text to the sentence.  
The use of .....  
burning is a strategy used to prevent fires.
- 9 Write a word from the text to match the meaning.  
not done on purpose .....

Circle the word on each line that does **not** belong.

- 10 study explore investigate spy
- 11 overpriced important major significant

## Grammar

- 12 Complete the sentence with a noun group from the text.  
..... was a catastrophe.
- 13 Complete the sentence with a thinking verb from the text.  
It ..... more information was needed to prevent another Black Friday.
- 14 Write a phrase from the text to tell **how**.  
Those who used fires ..... added to the danger.
- 15 Use a pronoun from the box to complete the sentence.

he	she	it	you	they	I	we
----	-----	----	-----	------	---	----

When people recall Black Friday, they think of .....  
with sadness and grief.

## Punctuation

- 16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A People, cattle, and bush animals were killed by the fires.
  - B People, cattle and bush animals were killed by the fires.
  - C People cattle, and bush animals were killed by the fires.
  - D People, cattle and bush animals were killed, by the fires.

Rewrite each sentence correctly.

- 17 The fires of black friday in victoria led to a royal commision.  
.....  
.....
- 18 On 13 January another hot day a northerly wind blew up.  
.....  
.....

## Reading and Comprehension

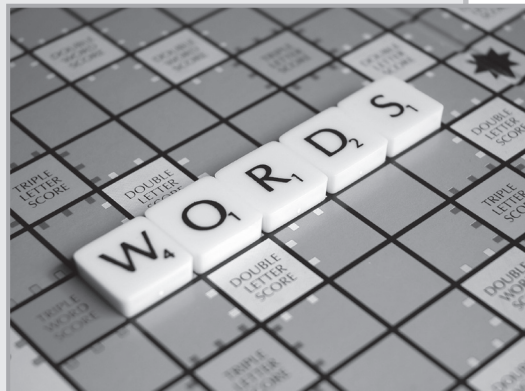
### 1 Where do words come from?

Over time, people add new words and expressions to their language. Where do these words come from? One way is for people to borrow words from other cultures. The English language, for example, is made up of words borrowed from Aboriginal, Latin, Greek, French, Italian, Arabic, Chinese and many other cultures.

*Ab origine* is Latin for “from the beginning”. The people who first settled in Latium, where Rome was later built, were called aborigines. Today, the word refers to the original inhabitants of a country, anywhere in the world. In Australia, we call these people Indigenous Australians or Aboriginal people.

Many words in our English language have come from various Aboriginal languages. Place names such as Uluru, Barangaroo, Bondi, Woolloomooloo and Parramatta are examples. Other borrowed words relate to flora and fauna such as waratah, billabong, kangaroo, koala, kookaburra, dingo and wombat.

*Sauros* is the Greek word for a lizard and *bronto* is their word for thunder. The Greeks put these two words together to create a new word. Maybe the Greeks imagined that the ground rumbled and shook like thunder when this dinosaur moved. The brontosaurus was huge: about 24 m long (half the length of an Olympic swimming pool) and 30 t in weight (the size of a big truck).



- 1 When do new words enter our language?
  - A daily
  - B over time
  - C weekly
  - D rarely
- 2 Where are words borrowed from?
  - A the dictionary
  - B Scrabble games
  - C languages used by other cultures
  - D the internet
- 3 What does the word *Aboriginal* tell us about “Aboriginal people”?
  - A They used to live in Rome.
  - B They live all over the world.
  - C They have named many Australian places.
  - D They are the original inhabitants of Australia.
- 4 Would some cultures borrow words from English?
  - A definitely not
  - B of course
  - C maybe
  - D never
- 5 Why are the names of animals often taken from Aboriginal languages?
  - A They are Australian animals.
  - B Their Aboriginal names were borrowed by English-speaking people.
  - C It is just a coincidence.
  - D They sound like the animal they describe.
- 6 “Understanding where words come from gives us lots of information.”  
Do you agree? Why or why not?  
(Use your own paper.)

## Spelling

Rewrite the misspelt words.

- 1 Do you know what a bilabong is?  
.....
- 2 Let's start at the very begining.  
.....
- 3 I didn't know we had borowed so many words!  
.....
- 4 The brontosawus was absolutely huge.  
.....
- 5 Add the letters that are missing from these words.
  - A Our c.....ntry was first settled by Aboriginal people.
  - B Our lang.....ge is made up of words from many cultures.
  - C I hadn't realised dinos.....rs were as huge as that!

## Vocabulary

Circle the word that has the nearest meaning to the underlined word.

- 6 Did you know that we borrow words from other cultures?
  - A beg
  - B rent
  - C obtain
  - D hire
- 7 It is hard to imagine how large the dinosaurs were.
  - A picture
  - B brainstorm
  - C see
  - D dream
- 8 Add a word from the text to the sentence. We have borrowed hundreds of words from other .....
- 9 Write a word from the text to match the meaning. first or earliest .....

Circle the word on each line that does **not** belong.

- 10 first original real beginning
- 11 vegetation plants flora fauna

## Grammar

- 12 Complete the sentence with a noun group from the text.  
.....  
is made up of many borrowed words.
- 13 Complete the sentence with a thinking verb from the text.  
The Greeks .....  
the brontosaurus made the ground rumble beneath its feet.
- 14 Write a phrase from the text to tell **how**.  
The ground rumbled and shook  
.....
- 15 Use a pronoun from the box to complete the sentence.

he she it you they I we

"Jenny, do .....  
think it's an Aboriginal name?"

## Punctuation

- 16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A Words such as koala kangaroo and wombat come from their aboriginal names!
  - B Words such as koala, kangaroo and wombat come from their Aboriginal names!
  - C Words such as koala, kangaroo and wombat come from their Aboriginal names.
  - D Words such as koala, kangaroo and wombat come from their aboriginal names.

Rewrite each sentence correctly.

- 17 we borrow words from many languages  
.....  
.....
- 18 There are many words from latin and greek in English.  
.....  
.....

## Reading and Comprehension

### 1 Ping, the elastic man

- 2 **Abbey:** Grandpa, what sort of books did you read when you were my age?
- 3 **Grandpa:** Well, let me see now. You were ten last birthday, weren't you? When I was ten, I  
4 read lots of fiction books but I also liked comics. I had a favourite about a character called  
5 Mr Ping.
- 6 **Abbey:** I've never heard of him.
- 7 **Grandpa:** No, he hasn't been around for a very long time. I found the comic strip in *The*  
8 *Beano* in a pile of my dad's old comics.
- 9 **Abbey:** Tell me about Mr Ping. Was he like Superman?
- 10 **Grandpa:** Not really. He couldn't fly but he was the only elastic man in the world. So now you  
11 can guess how he got his name.
- 12 **Abbey:** I think I can! Could he stretch to get anywhere he wanted?
- 13 **Grandpa:** Yes. As you can imagine he could get himself out of all sorts of trouble quite easily.
- 14 **Abbey:** It would be quite handy to be like Mr Ping.
- 15 **Grandpa:** Oh, yes! Sometimes he'd reach up high to an upstairs window and steal things  
16 like cakes or buns or he could stretch his arm around a corner to grab something he needed.  
17 He could also make himself very small or very tall depending on the situation. He could do  
18 incredible things that always made me laugh!
- 19 **Abbey:** Maybe I'll make up a story about him. He sounds like just the sort of person who'd be  
20 fun to write about.

- 1 How old is Abbey?
  - A eight
  - B nine
  - C ten
  - D eleven
- 2 Who owned *The Beano* comics Abbey's grandfather liked to read?
  - A his grandpa
  - B his dad
  - C Abbey
  - D Mr Ping
- 3 What power did Superman have that Ping didn't?
  - A He could stretch his arm around corners.
  - B He could make himself small.
  - C He was famous.
  - D He could fly.
- 4 How would Mr Ping avoid a punch coming towards him?
  - A by stretching up high
  - B by making himself small
  - C by standing on tiptoe
  - D by turning upside down
- 5 What kind of character was Mr Ping?
  - A virtuous
  - B unkind
  - C naughty
  - D wicked
- 6 Mr Ping got his name because
  - A he looked as if that would be his name.
  - B he was made of elastic.
  - C his mother and father liked the name.
  - D he chose it.



## Spelling

Rewrite the misspelt words.

- 1 Which is your favorite comic strip?  
.....
- 2 Which carachter do you like best?  
.....
- 3 Mr Ping could do incredibile things.  
.....
- 4 Did you gess what his name meant?  
.....
- 5 Add the letters that are missing from these words.
  - A He was in a difficult sit.....tion.
  - B Mr Ping always found himself in tr.....ble.
  - C Superman c.....ld fly like a bird.

## Vocabulary

Circle the word that has the nearest meaning to the underlined word.

- 6 I found it in a big pile of comics.
  - A stack
  - B lump
  - C cluster
  - D wedge
- 7 Mr Ping found it handy to have elastic arms.
  - A tricky
  - B hospitable
  - C clever
  - D useful
- 8 Add a word from the text to the sentence.  
Mr Ping could .....  
his arm around a corner.
- 9 Write a word from the text to match the meaning.  
stories made up by the imagination  
.....

Circle the word on each line that does **not** belong.

- 10 grab snatch seize place
- 11 consistently regularly sometimes constantly

## Grammar

- 12 Complete the sentence with a noun group from the text.  
..... has  
an elastic body.
- 13 Complete the sentence with a thinking verb from the text.  
It is hard to .....  
what he looked like without seeing him.
- 14 Write a phrase from the text to tell **how**.  
Mr Ping got himself out of trouble  
.....
- 15 Use a pronoun from the box to complete the sentence.

he	she	it	you	they	I	we
----	-----	----	-----	------	---	----

If I had elastic arms .....  
would have lots of fun.

## Punctuation

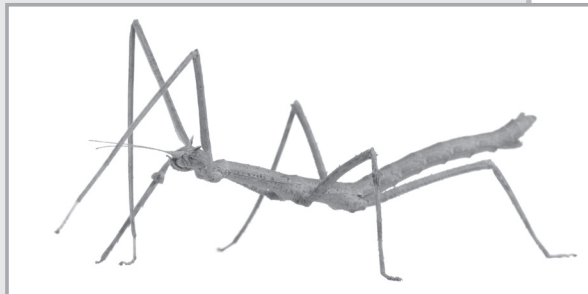
- 16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A Mr Ping was "incredible".
  - B Mr Ping was incredible?
  - C Mr Ping was incredible!
  - D Mr Ping, was incredible.

Rewrite each sentence correctly.

- 17 was he like superman  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 18 I couldnt reach that high even on tippy toes.  
.....  
.....  
.....

## Reading and Comprehension

### Stick insects



1  
2 Stick insects, or phasmids (from the Greek word  
3 *phasma*, meaning 'ghost' or 'phantom'), are found  
4 in most countries in the world. There are about  
5 150 species of stick insect in Australia. They vary  
6 in length, ranging from a few centimetres to  
7 around 27 cm, and look like sticks or leaves. Their  
8 appearance makes for an excellent camouflage  
9 which keeps them safe from predators. Some  
10 species also suddenly reveal brightly coloured  
11 wings or spray toxic chemicals at their enemies.

12 Like all insects, stick insects have six legs but their legs are unusual in that each can move  
13 independently of the others. In fact, researchers have studied the way stick insects walk so  
14 they can apply what they learn to the development of walking robots.

15 Stick insects are herbivorous. Many species live in eucalypt trees. You will occasionally see  
16 one in a rosebush or elsewhere in a garden. Very occasionally they occur in plague numbers.  
17 When this happens they can cause great damage to eucalypt forests.

18 Their life cycle has three stages: eggs, nymphs and adults. Depending on the species, the  
19 female lays from 100 to 1200 eggs.

20 For the last eighty years, it was thought rats that came to Lord Howe Island after a  
21 shipwreck in 1918 had made a type of phasmid, the Land Lobster, extinct. However, the  
22 discovery of three living specimens in 2001 has made their recovery possible.

- 1 About how many species of stick insects are there in Australia?
  - A 100
  - B 1200
  - C 27
  - D 150
- 2 How often are there plagues of stick insects?
  - A very often
  - B very occasionally
  - C never
  - D frequently
- 3 Why are eucalypt forests harmed by stick-insect plagues?
  - A Eucalypt forests are where the stick insects get their food.
  - B They can camouflage themselves in the leaves.
  - C They are smallish trees.
  - D Rose bushes are not large enough to hide them.
- 4 Why don't we see many stick insects?
  - A They camouflage themselves well.
  - B They fly away quickly.
  - C Researchers have collected most of them.
  - D Rats have killed them all off.
- 5 What makes a stick insect (a phasmid) like a ghost or phantom?
  - A You can see straight through it.
  - B You can't be sure if it is what it seems.
  - C It is coloured white.
  - D It is spooky.
- 6 How best can the Land Lobster be saved?
  - A prevent any future shipwrecks
  - B grow more eucalypts on Lord Howe Island
  - C arrange a program to protect it and encourage it to breed
  - D isolate the female stick insects

## Spelling

Rewrite the misspelt words.

- 1 The Land Lobster is an unusual species of stick insect.  
.....
- 2 Stick insects love to eat the leaves of the eucalpt.  
.....
- 3 I have only seen a stick insect ocasionally.  
.....
- 4 That was a terrible shipreck.  
.....
- 5 Add the letters that are missing from these words.
  - A Their app.....rance is surprising!
  - B Stick insects use cam.....flage to avoid predators.
  - C What do herbivor.....s insects eat?

## Vocabulary

Circle the word that has the nearest meaning to the underlined word.

- 6 Toxic chemicals can be fatal.
  - A strong
  - B stinging
  - C any
  - D poisonous
- 7 The Land Lobster wasn't extinct after all.
  - A dead
  - B old
  - C wiped out
  - D vanished
- 8 Add a word from the text to the sentence.  
Stick insects are also known as .....

- 9 Write a word from the text to match the meaning.  
animals that prey on others .....

Circle the word on each line that does **not** belong.

- 10 species group individual type
- 11 moisten wet spray absorb

## Grammar

- 12 Complete the sentence with a noun group from the text.  
..... of three surviving stick insects was good news.
- 13 Complete the sentence with a thinking verb from the text.  
It ..... that rats were their main enemy.
- 14 Write a phrase from the text to tell **how**.  
Each stick insect's leg moves .....
- 15 Use a pronoun from the box to complete the sentence.
 

he	she	it	you	they	I	we
----	-----	----	-----	------	---	----

Land Lobsters were almost made extinct after ..... were eaten by rats.

## Punctuation

- 16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A Like all, phasmids stick insects' have six legs.
  - B Like, all phasmids stick insects have six legs.
  - C Like all phasmids, stick insects have six legs.
  - D Like all phasmids, stick insects' have six legs.

Rewrite each sentence correctly.

- 17 Phasmids are related to grasshoppers, crickets, and cockroaches.  
.....  
.....
- 18 however Ive never even seen a stick insect  
.....  
.....

## Reading and Comprehension

### Escape at bedtime

1 As a young Scottish boy, Robert Louis Stevenson spent a lot of time sick in bed.  
2 He decided that when he grew up he would be a writer and was dictating stories to his  
3 mother even before he could read. His poem "Escape at bedtime" was printed in *A Child's*  
4 *Garden of Verses* in 1885.

6 The lights from the parlour and kitchen shone out  
7 Through the blinds and the windows and bars;  
8 And high overhead and all moving about,  
9 There were thousands of millions of stars.

10 There ne'er were such thousands of leaves on a tree,  
11 Nor of people in church or the Park,  
12 As the crowds of the stars that looked down upon me,  
13 And that glittered and winked in the dark.

14 The Dog, and the Plough, and the Hunter, and all,  
15 And the star of the sailor, and Mars,  
16 These shone in the sky, and the pail by the wall  
17 Would be half full of water and stars.

18 They saw me at last, and they chased me with cries,  
19 And they soon had me packed into bed;  
20 But the glory kept shining and bright in my eyes,  
21 And the stars going round in my head.



- 1 How many stars does the poet claim to have seen?
  - A five
  - B thousands
  - C thousands of millions
  - D millions
- 2 Who does the poet think the stars are looking at?
  - A himself
  - B the Dog
  - C the Hunter
  - D the people who chased him
- 3 Where is the poet in verse 1?
  - A inside
  - B outside
  - C in bed
  - D in church
- 4 Which word used to describe the stars links them with lots of people?
  - A leaves
  - B church
  - C Park
  - D crowds
- 5 What is the "glory" that kept shining?
  - A the sight of stars reflected in the water pail
  - B heaven
  - C the whole splendid sight that stays in his imagination
  - D the moon
- 6 For what reasons might children like this poem?
 

.....

.....

## Spelling

Rewrite the misspelt words.

- 1 I could see stars in their thousands.  
.....
- 2 I could see the stars reflected in the pale.  
.....
- 3 The stars were shinning in the sky.  
.....
- 4 Are there really milions of stars?  
.....
- 5 Add the letters that are missing from these words.  
A He looked up and saw the night sky overh.....d.  
B The stars shone bri.....tly in the sky.  
C They were seated in the parl.....r.

## Vocabulary

Circle the word that has the nearest meaning to the underlined word.

- 6 There were crowds of people in the park today.  
A troupes                      B lots  
C clusters                      D groups
- 7 They soon had me packed into bed.  
A pressed                      B jammed  
C pushed                      D put
- 8 Add a word from the text to the sentence.  
The stars ..... in the night sky.
- 9 Write a word from the text to match the meaning.  
giving out or reflecting bright light  
.....

Circle the word on each line that does **not** belong.

- 10 Dog Plough Hunter Moon
- 11 chased caught followed pursued

## Grammar

- 12 Complete the sentence with a noun group from the text.  
..... shone through the windows.
- 13 Complete the sentence with a thinking verb from the text.  
He ..... to write stories for children when he grew up.
- 14 Write a phrase from the text to tell **how**.  
They chased after me  
.....
- 15 Use a pronoun from the box to complete the sentence.

he	she	it	you	they	I	we
----	-----	----	-----	------	---	----

I asked Mum if .....  
had seen the Dog star?

## Punctuation

- 16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?  
A He'd ne'er seen so many stars!  
B Hed ne'er seen so many stars!  
C He'd neer seen so many stars!  
D He'd n'eer seen so many stars!

Rewrite each sentence correctly.

- 17 the dog and the plough are names of star clusters  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 18 he didnt know if mars was a planet or a star  
.....  
.....  
.....

## Reading and Comprehension

### Reaching for the stars

#### FROM CITY HIGH TO THE UTAH DESERT

Jeffrey Swinnerton, old boy of City High in Tasmania, is making headlines in the wider world. Along with a carefully selected team, he is heading for the Utah desert to carry out a mission related to travel to Mars. The team proposes to research human survival skills in the desert landscape. They are concentrating on planting a variety of seeds in different soils.

Mrs Black, Jeff's former science teacher at City High, interviewed him at a school assembly last week. She remembered Jeff had always had his eye on the possibility of space travel. Movies such as *2001: A Space Odyssey* had roused his interest as early as primary school.

"What are your ambitions now, Jeff?" she asked.

"Much the same, Mrs Black, as when I was at school. As you'd know NASA has a mission to explore space, aeronautics and flight research. They plan to get humans to Mars by the early 2030s. Some agencies have even more ambitious plans. I would love to be part of that although it is still only a pipe dream of mine."

"What other advances do you think will be made in space travel this century, Jeff?"

"It is pretty clear to me that humans will be living in space well before the end of the century. That means children will be born there!"

Jeff's visit proved very popular with our students and *City High News* will watch his future career with great interest.

- 1 What is the name of the school Jeff attended?
  - A Utah
  - B City High
  - C NASA
  - D primary school
- 2 When does NASA aim to have people on Mars?
  - A 2001
  - B the early 2030s
  - C before the early 2030s
  - D the end of the century
- 3 What were Jeff's ambitions at school?
  - A to go to Utah
  - B to practise survival skills
  - C to travel to Mars
  - D to do flight research
- 4 Which of the following necessities for survival on Mars is the team researching?
  - A breathable air
  - B water
  - C protection from radiation
  - D suitable crops
- 5 How convincing is the newsletter's description of Jeff's visit as "very popular"?
  - A completely
  - B not at all
  - C not very
  - D quite
- 6 What is the most surprising information in this article?
  - A that an Australian has joined an American research team
  - B that humans may be born on Mars in this century
  - C that Jeff is a former pupil of City High
  - D that Mrs Black has known Jeff since primary school

## Spelling

Rewrite the misspelt words.

- 1 He will be with a carefully selected team.  
.....
- 2 They are going to be in the dessert in Utah.  
.....
- 3 What kind of research were they consentrating on?  
.....
- 4 No wonder his talk was so poppular.  
.....
- 5 Add the letters that are missing from these words.
  - A My dad studied .....ronautics at university.
  - B His ambit .....ns have not changed.
  - C I think living on Mars is a remote poss .....ility.

## Vocabulary

Circle the word that has the nearest meaning to the underlined word.

- 6 They were carrying out research into crop-growing.
  - A investigation
  - B skills
  - C checks
  - D excavation
- 7 The teacher remembered the former student.
  - A respected
  - B recalled
  - C regarded
  - D honoured
- 8 Add a word from the text to the sentence.  
It sounds as if humans will be .....  
in space before too long!
- 9 Write a word from the text to match the meaning.  
the science or art of flight .....

Circle the word on each line that does **not** belong.

- 10 roused awakened lessened inspired
- 11 ambitions aversions desires hopes

## Grammar

- 12 Complete the sentence with a noun group from the text.  
..... interviewed Jeff at a City High assembly.
- 13 Complete the sentence with a thinking verb from the text.  
She ..... Jeff was always interested in space.
- 14 Write a phrase from the text to tell **how**.  
They plan to watch his career .....
- 15 Use a pronoun from the box to complete the sentence.

he	she	it	you	they	I	we
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Jeff will travel to Mars if ..... gets the chance.

## Punctuation

- 16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A Mrs Black a teacher at City High, asked the questions.
  - B Mrs Black, a teacher at City High, asked the questions!
  - C Mrs Black, a teacher at City High, asked the questions.
  - D Mrs Black, a teacher at City High asked the questions.

Rewrite each sentence correctly.

- 17 Humans will reach space quite soon Jeff answered.  
.....  
.....
- 18 What will you do next Jeff she asked  
.....  
.....

# Answers

## Unit 1A page 8

1. B. See line 5.
2. D. See line 19.
3. B. You can work out Timmy learned how to put out a fire using a hose and water from watching the fire brigade at work.
4. A. You can work out the hose snakes about when it is not being held. Once it was in Timmy's mouth he could direct the flow of water.
5. A. You can judge this text tells a story about how Timmy put out a fire.
6. D. You can judge Elly and Timmy dreamed about exactly the same event but each imagined it differently. Timmy thought he was giving Elly a good time and Elly thought she was giving Timmy a good time.

## Unit 1B page 9

1. pouring
2. satisfied
3. dreaming
4. budge
5. A sound B bristled C caught
6. B.
7. A.
8. licking
9. herculean
10. smoke
11. dripping
12. The hose
13. dreamed
14. with his mouth
15. it
16. D.
17. The dog, Timmy, was a hero because he had put out the fire.
18. His nose quivered and his hair bristled.

## Unit 2A page 10

1. C. See lines 4–5.
2. B. See line 7.
3. C, D. You can work out the fire literally reduced everything in its path to charred black remains and that metaphorically the word

“black” represents dark feelings of grief and loss.

4. C. You can work out the author uses the fact about ash being blown to New Zealand to impress on the reader the powerful nature of those terrible fires.
5. C. You can judge the government was horrified by what had happened to Victoria under its watch. It knew its reaction had to be based on an impartial, detailed report about the causes of the fires and the best ways to prevent it happening again.
6. Answers may vary. You can judge, for example, that since soil and water catchments took decades to recover, the Black Friday fires certainly can be labelled an environmental disaster.

## Unit 2B page 11

1. worst, history
2. temperature
3. controlled
4. commission
5. A drought B Thousands C ahead
6. B.
7. A.
8. controlled
9. unintentionally
10. spy
11. overpriced
12. The result
13. was decided
14. in careless ways
15. it
16. B.
17. The fires of Black Friday in Victoria led to a royal commission.
18. On 13 January, another hot day, a northerly wind blew up.

## Unit 3A page 12

1. B. See line 2.
2. C. See line 3.
3. D. You can work out that since the words *Ab origine* mean ‘from the beginning’, the words ‘Aboriginal people’ tell us these

people are the original or first inhabitants of Australia.

4. B. You can work out borrowing words is a two-way process. Many cultures borrow words from each other.
5. B. You can judge that the English would have heard the Aboriginal names for animals they had never seen before and so would be likely to have adopted those names to refer to them.
6. Answers may vary. You can judge that being able to see where a word came from gives you information about another culture—how the people of that culture think, their way of life, what they value, and so on.

## Unit 3B page 13

1. billabong
2. beginning
3. borrowed
4. brontosaurus
5. A country B language C dinosaurs
6. C.
7. A.
8. cultures/languages
9. original
10. real
11. fauna
12. The English language
13. imagined
14. like thunder
15. you
16. C.
17. We borrow words from many languages.
18. There are many words from Latin and Greek in English.

## Unit 4A page 14

1. C. See line 3.
2. B. See lines 7–8.
3. D. You can work out there is no evidence that Mr Ping could fly but it is implied that Superman could.
4. B. You can work out that if Mr Ping shrank down, the punch would go over his head.
5. C. You can judge that since he stole cakes and buns and had



# Answers

to get himself out of trouble he was mainly naughty. It doesn't sound as if the things he did were nasty and evil as he made Abbey's grandpa laugh when he read about him.

6. B. You can judge, as Abbey did, that it was the pinging noise made by elastic when it is stretched and then let go that gave him his name.

## Unit 4B page 15

1. favourite
2. character
3. incredible
4. guess
5. A situation B trouble C could
6. A.
7. D.
8. stretch
9. fiction
10. place
11. sometimes
12. Mr Ping
13. think/imagine
14. quite easily
15. I
16. C.
17. Was he like Superman?
18. I couldn't reach that high, even on tippy toes. / I couldn't reach that high, even on tippy toes!

## Unit 5A page 16

1. D. See lines 4–5.
2. B. See line 16.
3. A. You can work out the eucalypt forests attract the insects because they provide the food they like to eat.
4. A. You can work out that because stick insects camouflage themselves so well they are difficult for us to see.
5. B. You can judge that a stick insect can be so well camouflaged that when you look at it on a branch you may not be sure if it is real or part of the branch.
6. C. You can judge that the best way to save the Land Lobster would be to protect the surviving ones and encourage

them to breed in a recovery program.

## Unit 5B page 17

1. species
2. eucalypt
3. occasionally
4. shipwreck
5. A appearance B camouflage C herbivorous
6. D.
7. C.
8. phasmids
9. predators
10. individual
11. absorb
12. The discovery
13. was thought
14. independently of the others
15. they
16. C.
17. Phasmids are related to grasshoppers, crickets and cockroaches.
18. However, I've never even seen a stick insect! / However, I've never even seen a stick insect.

## Unit 6A page 18

1. C. See line 9.
2. A. See line 12.
3. B. You can work out the poet is outside because he has escaped at bedtime, he sees a pail by the wall and his carers/parents chase him back inside to bed.
4. D. You can work out that the word "crowds" usually describes lots of people but in this poem the word is used to describe the stars who "look down" on him as if they are people.
5. C. You can judge the glory that lives on in the poet's imagination is like magic for him. The sight he has just seen is still there inside him so he can look at the glory of the sight whenever he wants.
6. Answers may vary. You can judge reasons include: it is told from a child's point of view; it captures the excitement of doing something special all by yourself; and it brings to life a

vivid picture of the wonder and beauty of the night sky.

## Unit 6B page 19

1. thousands
2. pail
3. shining
4. millions
5. A overhead B brightly C parlour
6. B.
7. D.
8. glittered/winked/shone
9. shining
10. Moon
11. caught
12. The lights
13. decided
14. with cries
15. she
16. A.
17. The Dog and the Plough are names of star clusters.
18. He didn't know if Mars was a planet or a star.

## Unit 7A page 20

1. B. See line 3.
2. B. See lines 6–7.
3. C. You can work out that as Jeff's ambitions are the same now as they were in the past, his dream to travel to Mars must be what he has wanted to do ever since his schooldays.
4. D. You can work out the survival skills they are working on in the dry, arid desert relate to seeds and soils that lead to crops. This is relevant to surviving on Mars which is also arid and dry.
5. A. You can judge this talk would have been very popular as it is about a previous student who has found fame. It also deals with a new frontier—the possibility of living on Mars which would be of interest to many.
6. B. You can judge that the most surprising information would be that which changes life as we know it. That humans may be born on Mars within decades is a life-changing thought!

# Answers

## Unit 7B page 21

1. carefully
2. desert
3. concentrating
4. popular
5. A aeronautics B ambitions  
C possibility
6. A.
7. B.
8. living
9. aeronautics
10. lessened
11. aversions
12. Mrs Black
13. remembered
14. with great interest
15. he
16. C.
17. "Humans will reach space quite soon," Jeff answered.
18. "What will you do next, Jeff?" she asked.