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SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD: GRADE 4

DATE: 4 - 9 SEPTEMBER 2023

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 6 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the website: www.saolympiads.co.za.

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	GRADE:

QUESTION ONE: Read Text A and then answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A:

Mouse Madness

The tunnel was dark, but Marty knew his way through it. He used his powerful nose to find the passage. It smelled like his favourite food: cheese! When he got to the edge of the passage, Marty paused. His mother had lectured him enough about dashing into the open without looking. It was dangerous. A zoo patron could see him and start screaming. Then zookeepers might bring in exterminators to shoo them out of their homes. There could be hawks around, ready to grab them. Marty was not ready to be devoured by a hungry hawk. He had to be careful. He watched. He waited. Then slowly, carefully, silently he crept out a little further.

He could see the nachos and cheese under the bench, where someone had carelessly left it. “Jackpot!” he thought. It must be the lunch rush now because there were not many people over by the bird exhibit. He waited until the few guests turned away and he ran to the nachos. They smelled delicious. He would have liked to bring some back to his family but they were too big for a mouse to carry. Marty took a bite. Mmmmmm! Just as he was about to take another bite, he saw a movement from the corner of his eye. Oh no! A hawk!

Marty ran as fast as he could back to the tunnel. It wasn’t far, and he was desperately hoping that the hawk hadn’t seen him when it landed. He was almost there when he was suddenly lifted off the ground. Marty was terrified. His mother had warned him about this all of his life. He should have been more aware, instead of being focused on the delicious nachos and cheese. Up they went, higher and higher. The view of the zoo was fantastic but Marty was too scared to appreciate it. They were circling in the air and Marty knew he had to do something, or he was going to be the hawk’s lunch! Think, think, THINK! He said to himself. The hawk’s talons were surrounding him but he had an idea. There was one talon close to his face, so he took a deep breath, and bit the hawk!

The hawk swerved but didn’t let go. Marty did it again, clenching his little mouse jaws as hard as he possibly could! Then, he was falling. Marty didn’t even have a chance to think about anything but the feeling of falling, until, THUMP! He bounced off an umbrella. THUMP! He bounced off another one, and went flying into the bushes. He landed softly in the dirt. For a while, Marty stayed still. He could not believe that he was still alive. He didn’t want to move in case the hawk came back. Finally, his breathing

started to slow. He was sore from hitting the ground but he didn’t feel seriously hurt. Marty stood up, and made his way to the closest tunnel. He was ready to go home. That was enough of an adventure for one day!

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Choose the correct answer from the questions below.

1. **How did the mouse find his way out of the dark tunnel? He used:**

   (a) His whiskers
   (b) His eyes
   (c) His nose
   (d) His perceptual senses **(1)**

2. **Why was it dangerous for Marty to "rush out into the open"?**

   (a) He could be squashed by a car.
   (b) He might get picked up by a visitor to the zoo.
   (c) He might get eaten by a snake.
   (d) He might be carried off by a large bird. **(1)**

3. **Why did Marty rush over to the benches?**

   (a) He could hide under there.
   (b) He could see the cheese.
   (c) He was very hungry and thought he might find food.
   (d) He wanted to find a friend.

   (1)

4. **How did the hawk manage to catch Marty?**

   (a) He caught Marty because the mouse was too busy eating.
   (b) He caught Marty because the mouse could not run as he was so scared.
   (c) He caught him because the mouse ran as fast as he could but not fast enough.
   (d) He caught him because the mouse stopped and just stared at the hawk.

   (1)

5. **How did Marty save himself?**

   (a) He wriggled until he was free.
   (b) He covered the hawk's eyes with his paws.
   (c) He bit one of the hawk's claws.
   (d) He screamed so loudly that the hawk got a fright and dropped him.

   (1)

6. **Give a synonym for the word "patron".**

(a) member **(c) visitor**

(b) worker **(d) zookeeper**

(1)

7. **Give another word for "talon".**

(a) nail **(c) foot**

(b) leg **(d) claw**

(1)

8. **What part of speech is "favourite" in the second line?**

(a) noun **(c) adverb**

(b) adjective **(d) verb** **(1)**

Total: 8

QUESTION TWO:

Underline the correct word in the sentences below:

(a) Bicycles cross the river on a **sement/cement** bridge.
(b) John is much taller **than/then** his brother.
(c) You may donate all items **except/accept** car seats and beds.

(3)

QUESTION THREE:

Fill in the correct pronouns in the following sentences:

(a) The Boswell brothers and all _____ children worked in the circus.
(b) If _____ had a choice, would you work in a circus?
(c) The father trained _____ daughters to be tightrope walkers.
(d) "_____ would never let _____ children work in a circus", said one spectator.

(4)

QUESTION FOUR:

Choose the correct conjunctions from the box to complete these sentences. Read the whole paragraph before you start to write.

so that
because
but

We want to see living dinosaurs, ____(a)___ we cannot see them ____(b)____ they are all dead. Instead, we look at their bones and teeth ___(c)___ we can work out what they looked like long ago. Scientists say that dinosaurs with blunt teeth ate plants, ___(d)____ dinosaurs with sharp, pointy teeth ate meat ___(e)____ they could tear and chew.

(5)

QUESTION FIVE: TENSES

Change the following sentences from the simple past tense to the present continuous tense by changing the verbs.

5.1

a) He ran away from the crime scene.
b) We learnt to write it in a secret code.
c) The villagers tried to pick up the bones. **(3)**

5.2

Add a suffix to make the following words adjectives.

a) change
b) love
c) move **(3)**

5.3

What are the opposites for these adjectives?

a) bright
b) smooth
c) friendly
d) warm **(4)**

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QUESTION SIX: CROSSWORD PUZZLE - VOCABULARY

Read the clues given below and then fill in the correct answer from the words listed in the WORD BANK in order to complete the Crossword Puzzle.

CLUES:

Across:	**Down:**
3 lost	1 an area
6 flies a plane	2 attraction between large bodies like the Earth
7 can be heard when someone speaks	4 loud noise of warning
10 to show something	5 person who writes a book
13 sound of fire	8 awkward and uncoordinated
14 in a pile	9 musical
16 when something is very stylish, we say frills and elegance	11 hard working
17 to hold tight	12 to defend
18 synonym for disappear	15 a dessert eaten with jelly

Word Bank:

siren	**portray**	**custard**	**tireless**	**pilot**	**fancy**
clumsy	**vanish**	**voice**	**zone**	**dither**	**crackle**
gravity	**squeeze**	**tuneful**	**missing**	**fend**	**stack**
mislaid	**squash**	**fight**	**noise**	**acre**	**author**

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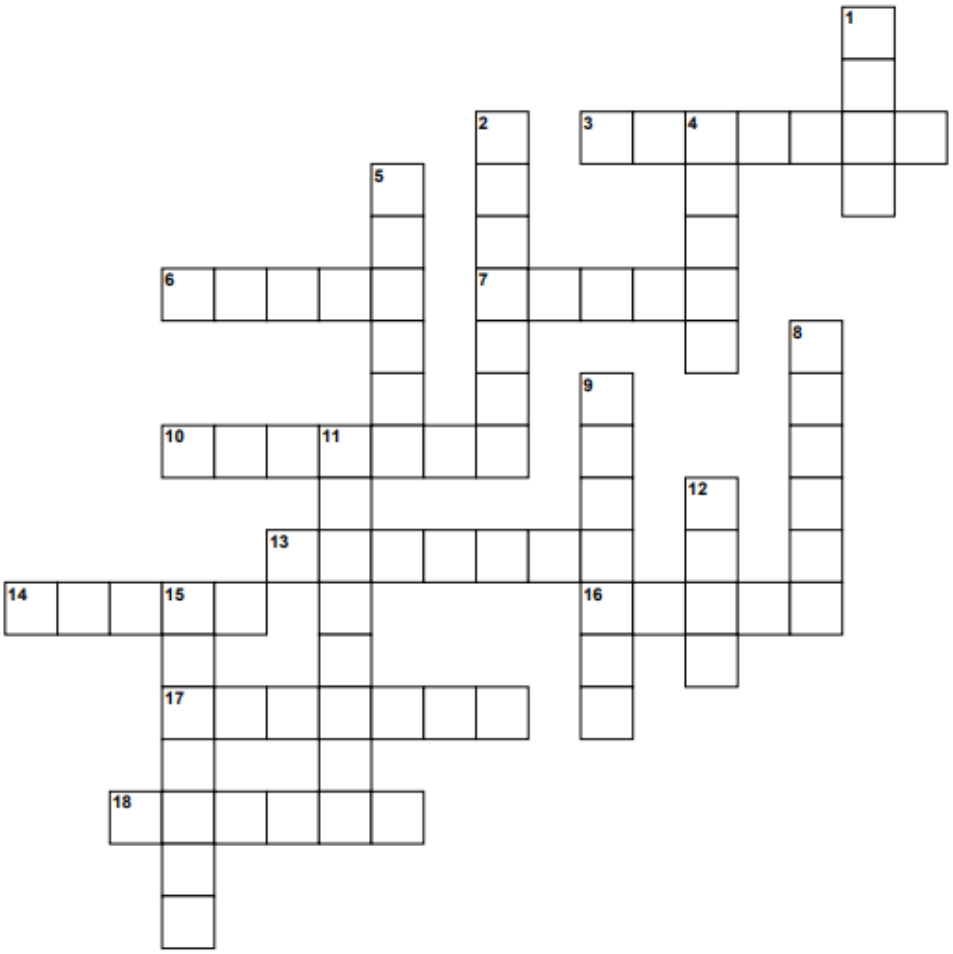

Across: **Down:**

3.	1.
6.	2.
7.	4.
10.	5.
13.	8.
14.	9.
16.	11.
17.	12.
18.	15.

(20)

Total for paper: 50