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SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD (HL): GRADE 4

DATE: 14 AUGUST 2024

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: COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and then answer the questions that follow.

Belling the Cat

The mice in the old house called a meeting to decide on a plan to free themselves of their enemy, the ginger cat who prowled around silently and pounced on them day after day. They needed to find some way of knowing when she was coming, so they would have time to run away. Something had to be done. They lived in a constant fear of her claws and they hardly dared to go out of their mouse holes during the day.

At the meeting, many plans were discussed, but none of them seemed to be good enough.

At last, a very young mouse got up and suggested his plan. “I have a plan that seems very simple, but I know it will be successful. All we must do is to hang a bell around the cat’s neck. When we hear the bell ringing we will know immediately that our enemy is coming.”

All the mice were very surprised that they had not thought of such a good plan before. They praised the young mouse for his wisdom. But, then, as they were dancing around with happiness over the new plan, an old mouse arose and said, “I think that the plan of the young mouse is very good. I like it very much. However, let me ask one question, “Who will put the bell around the cat’s neck?”

The young mouse immediately replied, “I came up with the plan, so it should be someone else who carries it out and not me!”

Another mouse said, “I am too old to do it.”

A third mouse squeaked, “I am not fast enough or quiet enough to bell the cat.”

The plan had sounded so simple to the mice. However, would there be a mouse bold enough to carry out this plan? One by one each mouse had a reason why they should not get the job of belling the cat. Every mouse was just too scared to bell the cat. The old mouse stood up and said, “Well, my mice friends, we are back where we started. “What are we going to do to find out when our enemy is stalking us?”

[Source: Aesop Fables]

Choose one answer from each question below:

1. **Why did the mice call a meeting?**

   (a) To make a plan to find out who was pouncing on them.
   (b) To plan how to convince themselves not to live in fear.
   (c) To plan to rid themselves of their enemy.
   (d) To plan when it was safe to go out during their day. **(1)**

2. **At the meeting, the mice all praised a very young mouse for his wisdom. Why did they do this?**

   (a) They thought he was wise because the plan was so intricate.
   (b) They thought the mouse was wise because he explained the plan so clearly.
   (c) They praised his wisdom because he was so young.
   (d) They praised his wisdom because they could not wait to hear the bell ring.
   (1)

3. **Why did none of the mice want to "bell" the cat?**

   (a) One mouse said he thought of the plan.
   (b) Another mouse said that he was too fast and may make a mistake.
   (c) They were all too scared.
   (d) One said he was too noisy and may alert the cat.

   (1)

4. **At the end of the meeting, were the mice?**

   (a) Successful at finding a solution?
   (b) Still discussing how the chosen mouse would bell the cat?
   (c) Very pleased with themselves because of their new plan?
   (d) Right back where they started at the beginning of the meeting?

   (1)

5. **Give an antonym for the word "wisdom".** **(1)**

6. **Read the sentence, "The ginger cat who prowled around silently."**

   What part of speech are the following words:

   6.1 ginger **(1)**

   6.2 prowled **(1)**

   6.3 silently **(1)**

   6.4 who **(1)**

7. **Give a synonym for the word "stalking".** **(2)**

Total: 11

QUESTION TWO:

Punctuate the following passage:

a strange noise woke carl up He sat up in bed. Carl listened carefully.

He squinted his eyes into the darkness. He heard the noise again. this time

it was closer. Carl began to feel scared. he pulled his blanket higher the noise

entered his room.

Total: 7

QUESTION THREE:

Match the sentence in COLUMN A with the figure of speech in COLUMN B.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
(a) Her voice is like an angel's.	1 Metaphor
(b) She is a gem.	2 Alliteration
(c) I told you a million times.	3 Hyperbole
(d) Crash!	4 Simile
(e) The blue ball bounced.	5 Onomatopoeia

Total: 5

QUESTION FOUR:

Choose the correct word in each of the following sentences:

1. This beach is (more relaxed/ relaxer) than the one we saw last year.
2. The baby horse is (clumsier/ more clumsy) than his older brother.
3. The (whole/ hole) in the material was very big.
4. The girl had on a very (plain/ plane) dress.
5. (You're/ Your) family is coming for Christmas.

Total: 5

QUESTION FIVE: Match the idiom in Column A to the correct meaning in Column B. Write the meaning of the idiom in column be under the correct numbers of the idioms listed in Column A.

	COLUMN A	COLUMN B
5.1	Don't cut corners	You're joking
5.2	Hang in there	Don't tell the secret
5.3	I'm under the weather	Do your best instead of skipping something
5.4	You crack me up	Don't talk
5.5	Don't spill the beans	I'm sick
5.6	Hold your tongue	Don't give up

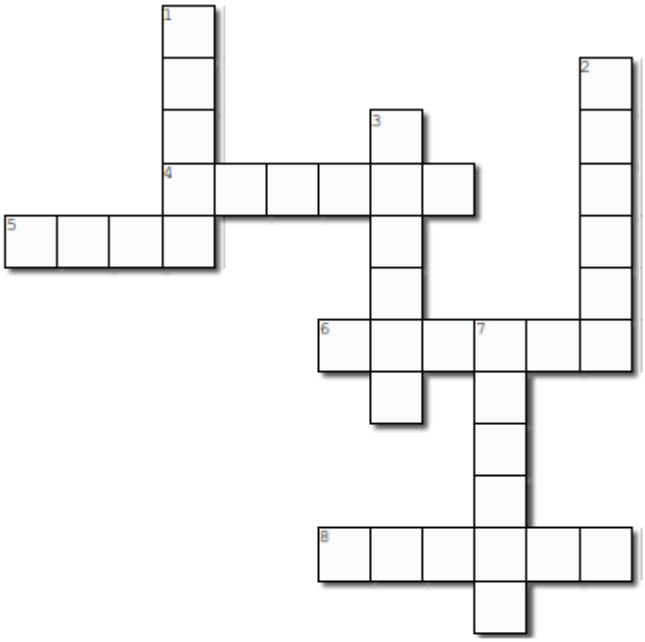
(6)

QUESTION SIX:

Read the clues below and then fill in the crossword puzzle that follows.

ACROSS:	**DOWN:**
4.A hard, white substance covering a tooth	1.A piece of thick absorbent cloth or paper used for drying oneself or wiping things dry.
5.Having a rounded or slightly elongated shape or outline.	2.Existing, happening, or operating in the air.
6.Soft and delicate shades of colours.	3.A breakfast food that you enjoy with milk.
8.a, e, i, o, u.	7.A Christmas decoration consisting of thin strips of shiny metal foil attached to a thread.

Complete the crossword puzzle below



(16)

Total for paper: 50