SOUTHERN AFRICAN ENGLISH OLYMPIADS

E-mail: Info@saolympiads.co.za website: www.saolympiads.co.za

SOUTH AFRICAN INTERMEDIATE PHASE ENGLISH OLYMPIAD (HL) GRADE 5

DATE: 19 AUGUST 2026

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

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

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	GRADE:

QUESTION ONE:

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

PAST AND FUTURE FRIENDS

It was the first day of school. Mike looked around self-consciously and tightened his grip on his books. When he spotted his friend Jack down the hall, he smiled slightly and increased his pace. Before he could catch up, however, two other boys sprinted down the hall and fell into step with Jack. Lou and Patrick, two of the most popular guys in school, were Jack's new football teammates. Mike stopped walking and watched Jack, Lou and Patrick laughing and playfully shoving each other as they walked down the hall.

Later that day, Mike saw that Jack was in his P.E. class. Relieved, he approached Jack and was greeted with a "hey". Before Mike could answer, though, Patrick strutted into the gym and Jack hurried to join him on the court.

The scene in front of him faded away as Mike remembered another day of school almost two years earlier.

"Got anything good?"
The dark-skinned boy looked up from the cafeteria table where he was sitting alone. He waved his hand at the remains of his paper-bag lunch. "Not really."
"I'm Mike Adams," Mike had said. "You're Jack, right? How do you like Markham Elementary School so far?"
Jack gave a small smile. "Can't say I like being the new kid. People aren't being very friendly."
"You just have to give them a chance," Mike said. "Come over to my table and I'll introduce you."

The two boys had quickly become best friends. They had done everything together: practicing their skateboarding moves, riding their bikes to get ice cream, and fishing at Miller's Pond.

Still Mike had not seen much of Jack over this last summer. Jack's family had gone on vacation for several weeks and then Jack had started football practice which was clearly how he had become such good friends with Lou and Patrick. Mike felt a knot in the pit of his stomach. Was he going to lose his best friend because he had not tried out for football? As he looked at Jack's stylish new clothes and haircut, the knot in his stomach grew. After class he left without trying to talk to Jack and for the next few days Mike avoided him altogether. Mike was walking home from school on Thursday when he heard footsteps behind him.

"Hey Mike! Wait up!" It was Jack. Catching up to Mike, he asked, "What's *with* you, man?"
"What's with *me*?" Mike snapped. "Where's your fan club? Patrick and Lou? I'm surprised to see you without them?"
Jack looked shocked. "They're good guys. You just have to give them a chance." He shook his head, and as he turned to walk off, he muttered, "Tomorrow, come over to my table and I'll introduce you."

Mike was a frozen statue as he watched Jack stomp away. Did his friend realize that was the same invitation Mike had offered to Jack two years ago?

At lunch the next day Mike entered the cafeteria and saw Jack and Lou sitting together. Before he could change his mind, he carried his tray over to their table. Trying to sound casual, he asked, "Got anything good?"

1. **Choose the correct answer from the following options:**

1.1 How can the reader tell that this story is realistic fiction?

(a) The character's experiences actually happened to real people.
(b) The characters are not real, but they have believable experiences.
(c) The characters have experiences that are impossible in real-life situations.
(d) The characters are real people whose experiences are invented by the author.

(1)

1.2 Mike expects Jack to be friendly when the new school year starts because they:

(a) have been pals since they met
(b) play on the same football team
(c) know many of the same people
(d) have spent the summer together

(1)

1.3 Read these sentences from the story.

> "What's with *me?*" Mike snapped.
> "Where's your fan club? Patrick and Lou?
> I'm surprised to see you without them."
> Jack looked shocked. "They're good guys.
> You just have to give them a chance."

Why did Jack look "shocked" in this part of the story?

(a) He is angry at Mike's behaviour.
(b) He is unaware of Mike's feelings.
(c) He is surprised that Mike joined the team.
(d) He is amazed that Mike is a friend of Lou's.

(1)

1.4 What happened after Jack offered to introduce Mike to his new friends?

(a) Jack stopped Mike after school to discuss their friendship.
(b) Mike avoided Jack and his friends in the hallway.
(c) Mike remembered giving Jack the same invitation two years ago.
(d) Mike and Jack spend the summer fishing at Miller's pond.

(1)

1.5 Read this sentence from the story.

> Before he could catch up, however, two other boys sprinted down the hall and fell into step with Jack.

At this point in the story, Mike *probably* feels:

(a) jealous of Patrick and Lou
(b) confused by Jack's actions
(c) anxious to make new friends
(d) hopeful about the school year

(1)

1.6 Read this sentence from the story:

"Mike felt a knot in the pit of his stomach."

This sentence shows how Mike feels by:

(a) explaining that someone is sick
(b) describing a physical sensation
(c) comparing two similar sensations
(d) expressing the idea of hunger

(1)

1.7 Which of these is a metaphor in the story?

(a) "Mike was walking home from school on Thursday when he heard footsteps behind him."
(b) "The two boys had quickly become the best of friends."
(c) "Mike was a frozen statue as he watched Jack stomp away."
(d) "Before he could catch up, however, two other boys sprinted down the hall and fell into step with Jack."

(1)

1.8 Write down a synonym for the word "strutted" as used in the passage.

(1)

1.9 What figure of speech is used in the following sentence:

"Mike felt a knot in the pit of his stomach."

(a) Simile
(b) Hyperbole
(c) Idiom
(d) Personification

(1)

1.10 Choose the best antonym for the word "casual" that is used at the end of the passage.

(a) Permanent
(b) Formal
(c) Cool
(d) Smart

(1)

Total: 10

QUESTION TWO:

2.1 Circle the **adverbs** in the following sentences and say **what type of adverbs they are.**

(a) “The Grade 5s were extremely excited for the camp.”
(b) “I had seen a llama yesterday.”

(2)

2.2 Underline the **correct conjunction** in the following sentences.

(a) He passed the exam (and, although) he was ill.
(b) I decided to study (while, and) my mom had a meeting with my teacher.

(2)

2.3 Change the following sentences **from the Active Voice to the Passive Voice:**

(a) The girl read the book.
(b) We ate the pizza for dinner.

(2)

Total: 6

QUESTION THREE: IDIOMS

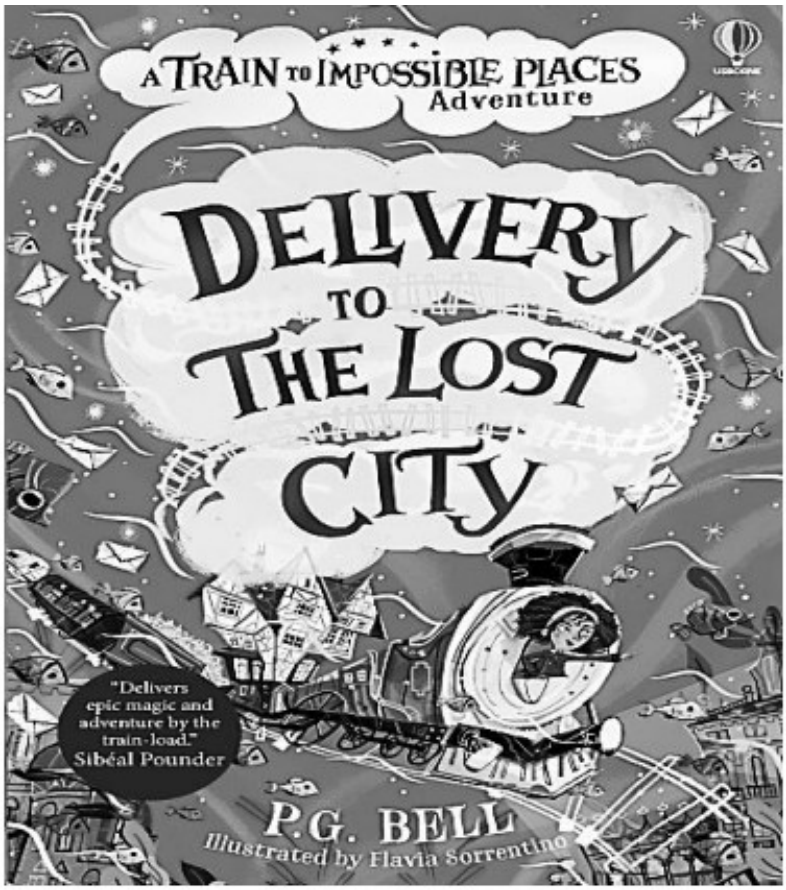
Match the Idioms in Column A with the correct meanings in Column B .

Column A	Column B
1 A blessing in disguise	(a) To complain about a loss from the past.
2 A slap on the wrist	(b) Something good that is not recognized at first.
3 It cost an arm and a leg	(c) Do not rely on something until you are sure of it.
4 Cry over spilt milk	(d) A very mild punishment.
5 Don't count your chickens before they hatch	(e) Very expensive. A large amount of money.

Total: 5

QUESTION FOUR: VISUAL LITERACY

Study the picture below and answer the questions that follow:



4.1 Where would you find this visual text?

(a) In an advertisement
(b) On the cover of a novel
(c) On a movie poster
(d) In a newspaper

(1)

4.2 Who is the author of the novel? **(1)**

4.3 Who created the illustrations/pictures for the novel? **(1)**

4.4 Who is the main character in the novel?

(a) A talking book
(b) A girl in the train
(c) A magical postman

(1)

4.5 What is happening in the picture on the book cover?

(a) A girl is delivering a package.
(b) A girl is talking to a magical book.
(c) A girl is writing a letter.
(d) A girl is riding a magical train for fun.

(1)

Total: 5

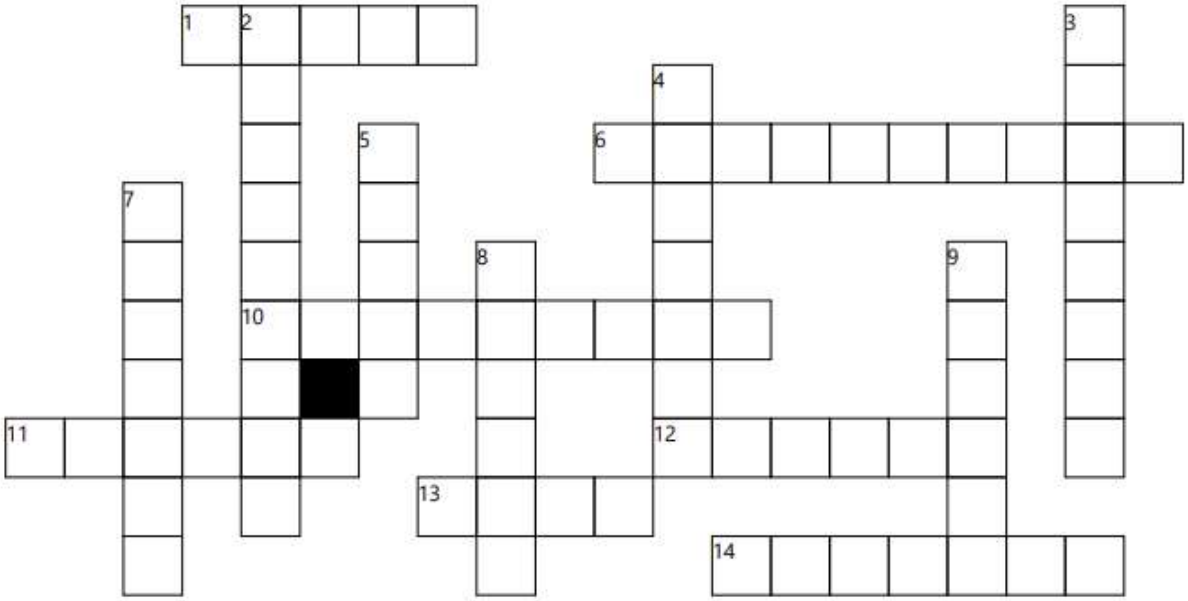
QUESTION FIVE: Choose the correct homophone from the options in brackets.

(a) She bought some (stake, steak).
(b) We have found a (hoard, horde) of candles.
(c) The boy broke a (pane, pain) of glass.
(d) The joiner (bored, board) a small (whole, hole) in the (would, wood).
(e) The cloth had (shrank, shrunk) in the wash.
(f) He just wanted a (peace, piece) of cake at the (beech, beach).
(g) The car was (stationery, stationary) in the car park.

(1 mark per correct word) Total: 10

QUESTION SIX: **Crossword: VOCABULARY**

Read the clues below and then fill in the grid.



CLUES:

Across:	**Down:**
1 A person who acts or plays a part in a play, a movie, or a radio or television programme.	2 The act or condition of being worn or eaten away slowly.
6 Required or necessary	3 To get something by paying money for it or buying it.
10 Kept, maintained and supported something over time (9 letters)	4 A general idea or thought.
11 Someone who sells.	5 To lift or haul up using a mechanical device.
12 A small, flat computer with a touch screen.	7 The colour that comes from mixing red and purple paint.
13 The length of one step; stride.	8 An open shoe made from a sole fastened to the foot with straps.
14 To temporarily ban someone from school or a job as a punishment.	9 A reptile with a soft body covered by a hard shell that lives in water and on land.

Vocabulary choice:

suspend purchase compulsory
hoist pace concept
actor sustained turtle
magenta tablet sandal vendor
corrosion

Total: 14

Total for paper: 50