SOUTHERN AFRICAN ENGLISH OLYMPIADS

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SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS
ENGLISH OLYMPIAD HOME LANGUAGE (HL)
GRADE 6

DATE: 20 AUGUST 2026

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 7 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 Text A and then answer the questions that follow:

The Bird

"Come back, Butch!" shouted Tom as he scrambled after the brown terrier.
"You're not dry yet!"
The dog raced across the field behind Tom's house, heading for some pine trees.
Butch was not overly fond of his weekly bath and tried to escape at every opportunity.
"If he gets into the woods, he'll need another bath," mumbled Tom. "I wish Molly were here to help."
Just then a girl rushed up. "Did he take off again?"
Turning to find his friend Molly, Tom replied, "Yes, and he's probably already rolling in dirt. We need to bring him back."
As the two friends headed for the trees on the far side of the field, they heard Butch barking.
"Butch doesn't usually bark unless there's trouble" said Tom. Molly and Tom hurried.
They found Butch barking furiously at a small bird on the ground. It flapped one wing rapidly in a desperate attempt to fly away while it held the other wing close to its side.
Tom grabbed Butch and pulled him away. Molly carefully picked up the bird and tried to console it with a soothing voice.
"I think its wing is broken" whispered Molly.
"Let's take it to my house. Dad will know what to do," said Tom.
Back at the house, Tom's Dad looked at the bird. He agreed that the wing was broken. Carefully, he set the wing to keep it still.
"The bird will need looking after until its wing heals," said Tom's dad. "Are you up for it?"
"Oh, sure," both Tom and Molly replied.
"You'll need to keep it fed and watered every day," cautioned Tom's dad.
"We will," promised Tom and Molly. The two found an old birdcage in the garage and set it on Tom's porch. Molly put the bird inside while Tom found a water dish.
Molly suggested, "How about we take turns? I'll go hunt for some worms while you stay and watch the bird. Tomorrow we'll switch."
"Okay," agreed Tom.
The two friends took turns caring for the bird. They became quite fond of the little bird as each day it grew stronger.
After a few weeks has passed, Tom's dad said, "It looks fine." The bird seemed to confirm this as it fluttered both wings.
"I think we need to keep the bird a while longer," said Tom.
"Yeah. I don't want to let it go too soon and have it not be able to live on its own," chimed in Molly.

Butch tagged along as Molly and Tom walked slowly to the trees where they had first found the bird. Opening the cage door, they stood back. The bird hopped slowly to the opening and then suddenly flew out. It settled on a nearby tree limb. Butch barked once, and the bird flew off into the deep green needles of the pine trees.
"Well, Butch, it's bath time again," said Tom. "But we'll make sure you don't get out until you're dry."

Choose the correct answer from the questions that follow:

1.1 The author's purpose in writing "The Bird" is to:

(a) Tell people about keeping wild birds as pets.
(b) Show how caring people can help injured animals.
(c) Teach people how to care for young wildlife.
(d) Illustrate how surprise inconveniences happen.

(1)

1.2 What is the climax of the story?

(a) The bird flew out of the cage.
(b) The bird flapped one wing, trying to fly.
(c) Molly and Tom took turns gathering worms.
(d) The bird lived in the old birdcage.

(1)

1.3 The beginning of the story and the ending of the story are *similar* in that:

(a) Butch disappears into the woods.
(b) Molly and Tom capture a bird.
(c) Butch is in need of a bath.
(d) Tom's dad helps the bird.

(1)

1.4 The main conflict of the story can be described as:

(a) man against nature;
(b) man against society;
(c) man against himself;
(d) man against man.

(1)

1.5 One detail that supports the main idea of this story is:

(a) Butch has a bath weekly.
(b) Butch was barking at a bird.
(c) Molly handled the bird very gently
(d) Tom set the bird's broken wing.

(1)

1.6 One conflict in the story is that Butch:

(a) prefers to run in the woods rather than play
(b) does not like to take baths, but needs one
(c) likes to roll in the dirt after having a bath
(d) does not like to bark if there is trouble

(1)

1.7 You can tell that Tom's dad:

(a) is nervous about caring for animals
(b) wishes to keep the injured bird as a pet
(c) is unhappy with Tom and Molly
(d) wants what is best for the bird

(1)

1.8 The author describes how Tom and Molly take care of the bird in order to:

(a) suggest a way to begin a wild animal hospital
(b) show that being kind and helpful can save a life
(c) imply that wild birds can interact well with dogs
(d) compare how birds and dogs interact with people

(1)

1.9 The conflict Tom and Molly have when letting the bird go is about:

(a) working
(b) helping
(c) feelings
(d) bathing

(1)

1.10. Give a synonym from the text for the word "despairing." (1)

1.11. "Longer" is the comparative form of the word "long". What is the comparative form of the word "good"? (1)

1.12. What is another word for a "porch"? (1)

Total: 12

<u>QUESTION TWO</u>: Homophones
Choose the correct word from the pair in brackets.

(a) You might eat this for lunch on a cold day. (chili, chilly).
(b) You use this to stop a car. (brake, break).
(c) This can help you to carry water. (pail, pale).
(d) The man was pushing a cart down the (aisle, isle) in the shop.

Total: 4

<u>QUESTION THREE</u>: VISUAL LITERACY

3.1 What is the full name of this movie? **(1)**

3.2 Who is in charge of the music and lyrics? **(1)**

3.3 Who is the original author of the book Matilda? **(1)**

3.4 Find a synonym for the word "movie" from the poster. **(1)**

3.5 What does the letter **N** in the top left corner represent? **(1)**

Total: 5

QUESTION FOUR:

4.1 Punctuate the following sentence:

Oh cried the boy i have hurt my finger **(3)**

4.2 Change the underlined singulars in the following sentence into plurals:

I heard the echo in the cave. **(3)**

4.3 What part of speech is each of the underlined words is in the the following sentence.

The farmer stored his hay in a large barn for many years. **(4)**

Total: 10

QUESTION FIVE: Opposites

Give the opposite of the word underlined in each sentence.

5. (a) He has a temporary post. **(1)**
(b) She purchased the toy in the shop. **(1)**
(c) He gave an intelligent answer to the question. **(1)**

Total: 3

QUESTION SIX: LOGIC

Solve these visual word puzzles by looking for clues in the placement or number of words.

6.1 **K K K**

K K K

K K K

(1)

6.2

OVER
OVER
OVER

(1)

Total: 2

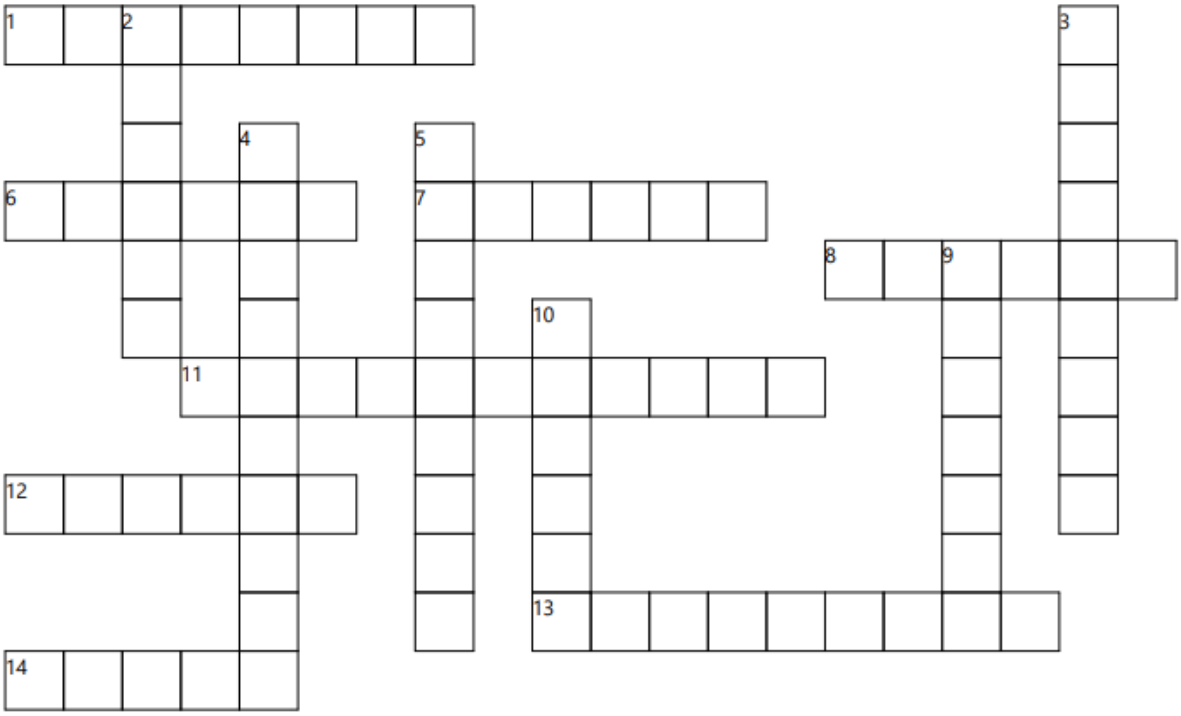
QUESTION SEVEN: CROSSWORD: SYNONYMS

Fill in the crossword below from the clues given:

Across:	**Down:**
1 relocation	2 yearly
6 clashed	3 sensible
7 meagre	4 caring
8 beginning	5 colleague
11 farming	9 fierce
12 make	10 dive
13 meeting	
14 ethical	

WORD BANK:

moral	fought	agriculture	thoughtful	intense	plunge	origin
annual	transfer	associate	sparse	create	encounter	realistic



(14)

Total for paper: 50