SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD
FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (FAL)
GRADE 5

DATE: 19 AUGUST 2026

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 11 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 the following passage and then answer the questions that follow.

The Headless Ghost by R.L Stine

Stephanie Alpert and I haunt our neighbourhood. We got the idea last Halloween. There are a lot of kids in our neighbourhood, and we like to haunt them and give them a little scare. Sometimes we sneak out late at night in masks and stare into kids' windows. Sometimes we leave rubber hands and rubber fingers on windowsills. Sometimes we hide disgusting things in mailboxes. Sometimes Stephanie and I duck down behind bushes or trees and make the most frightening sounds - animal howls and ghostly moans. Stephanie can do a terrifying werewolf howl. And I can toss back my head and shriek loud enough to shake the leaves on the trees. We keep almost all the kids on our block pretty frightened. In the mornings, we catch them peeking out of their doors, seeing if it's safe to come out. And at night, most of them are afraid to leave their houses alone.

Stephanie and I are really proud of that. During the day, we are just Stephanie Alpert and Duane Comack, two normal twelve-year-olds. But at night, we become the Twin Terrors of Wheeler Falls. No one knows. No one. Look at us, and you see two sixth graders at Wheeler Middle School. Both of us have brown eyes and brown hair. Both of us are tall and thin. Stephanie is a few inches taller because she has higher hair. Some people see us hanging out together and think we're brother and sister. But we're not. We don't have any brothers and sisters, and we don't mind one bit. We live across the street from one another. We walk to school together in the morning. We usually trade lunches, even though our parents both pack us peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches. We're normal. Totally normal. Except for our secret late-night hobby.

How did we become the Twin Terrors? Well, it's sort of a long story…. Last Halloween was a cool, clear night. A full moon floated over the bare trees. I was standing outside Stephanie's front window in my scary Grim Reaper costume. I stood up on tiptoes, trying to peek inside to check out her costume. "Hey—beat it, Duane! No looking!" she shouted through the closed window. Then she pulled down the shade. "I wasn't looking. I was just stretching!" I shouted back. I was eager to see what Stephanie was going to be. Every Halloween, she comes up with something awesome. The year before, she came waddling out inside a huge ball of green toilet paper. You guessed it. She was an iceberg lettuce. But this year, I thought maybe I had her beat. I'd worked really hard on my Grim Reaper costume. I wore high platform shoes—so high that I'd tower over Stephanie. My black, hooded cape swung along the ground. I hid my curly brown hair under a tight rubber skullcap. And I smeared my face with sick-looking makeup, the colour you see on mouldy bread. My dad didn't want to look at me. He said I turned his stomach. A success! I couldn't wait to make Stephanie sick! I banged my Grim Reaper sickle on Stephanie's window. "Hey, Steph—hurry up!" I called. "I'm getting hungry. I want candy!" I waited and waited.

I started pacing back and forth across her front lawn, my long cape sweeping over the grass and dead leaves. “Hey! Where are you?” I called again. No Stephanie. With an impatient groan, I turned back to the house. And a huge, hairy animal jumped me from behind and chewed off my head. Well, it didn’t really chew off my head. But it tried to. It growled and tried to sink its gleaming fangs into my throat. I staggered back. The creature looked like an enormous black cat, covered in thick, black bristles. Gobs of yellow goo poured from its hairy ears and black nose. Its long, pointed fangs glowed in the dark. The creature snarled again and shot out a hairy paw. “Candy… give me all your candy!” “Stephanie—?” I choked out. It was Stephanie. Wasn’t it? The creature jabbed its claws into my stomach in reply. That’s when I recognized Stephanie’s Mickey Mouse watch on its hairy wrist. “Wow. Stephanie, you look awesome! You really - ” I didn’t finish. Stephanie ducked behind the hedge and yanked me down beside her. My knees hit the sidewalk hard. “Ow! Are you crazy?” I shrieked. “What’s the big idea?” A group of little kids in costumes paraded by. Stephanie leapt out of the hedge. “Arrrggghhh!” she growled. The little kids totally freaked. They turned and started to run. Three of them dropped their trick-or-treat bags. Stephanie scooped up the bags. “Yummmm!” “Whoa! You really scared them,” I said, watching the little kids run up the street. “That was cool.” Stephanie started to laugh. She has a high, silly laugh that always starts me laughing, too. It sounds like a chicken being tickled.

“That was kind of fun,” she replied. “More fun than trick-or-treating.” So we spent the rest of the night scaring kids. We didn’t get much candy. But we had a great time. “I wish we could do this every night!” I exclaimed as we walked home. “We can,” Stephanie said, grinning. “It doesn’t have to be Halloween to scare kids, Duane. Get my meaning?” I got her meaning. She tossed back her bristly head and let out her chicken laugh. And I laughed, too. And that’s how Stephanie and I started haunting our neighbourhood. Late at night, the Twin Terrors strike, up and down our neighbourhood. We’re everywhere! Well… almost everywhere. There’s one place in our neighbourhood that even Stephanie and I are afraid of. It’s an old stone house on the next block. It’s called Hill House. I guess that’s because it sits up on a high hill on Hill Street. I know. I know. A lot of towns have a haunted house. But Hill House really is haunted. Stephanie and I know that for sure. Because that’s where we met the Headless Ghost.

[Extract Adapted from: The Headless Ghost- R.L. Stine]

QUESTION ONE:

1. Use the information in the story to answer the questions below. Circle the correct answer below:

1.1 Stephanie and Duane got the idea to haunt the neighbourhood _____.

(a) Last Summer
(b) Last Christmas
(c) Last Halloween
(d) Last night

(1)

1.2 How do you know the children's parents never know what they were doing?

(a) They sneak out of their houses.
(b) There are lots of kids in the neighbourhood.
(c) The kids duck down to avoid being seen.
(d) None of the above.

(1)

1.3 What do Stephanie and Duane NOT do to scare the other children?

(a) Wear masks and stare into children's windows.
(b) Make scary sounds.
(c) Prank call children making scary sounds.
(d) Leave rubber hands and rubber fingers on windowsills. **(1)**

1.4 Which of the following is NOT a synonym for "frightened?"

(a) Alarmed
(b) Reassured
(c) Terrified
(d) Petrified **(1)**

1.5 Tick the correct option. The Twin Terrors of Wheeler Falls are just 12 years old.

True	False

(1)

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1.6 What could Stephanie do well?

A terrifying werewolf howl.	Shriek loud enough to make the trees shake.

(1)

1.7 What normal things do Stephanie and Duane do? (choose all options that apply)

(a) Have a fun hobby like other children.
(b) Walk to school together in the morning.
(c) Trade lunches with each other.
(d) They are the Twin Terrors.

(2)

1.8 What does the word, "shrieked," mean? Choose all the definitions that best suit the word.

(a) Scream
(b) Screech
(c) Whisper
(d) Sigh

(2)

1.9 A person who causes terror is called a _____.

(a) terrorist
(b) terrify
(c) terrifying
(d) terror

(1)

1.10 Tick the correct option. Last Halloween, Stephanie was _____.

Iceberg lettuce	A hairy animal

(1)

1.11 Duane chose to be a _____ for the last Halloween.

(a) Grim Reaper
(b) Iceberg lettuce
(c) Scary hairy animal
(d) Tortoise shell

(1)

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1.12 Tick the correct option. The Twin Terrors were afraid of _____.

Hill House	Haunting the neighbourhood

(1)

1.13 An antonym for haunted is:

untroubled	spooky	eerie

(1)

(15)

Marks: 15

QUESTION TWO:

Choose the correct word in the following sentences:

2.1 Even though / dough Stephanie and Duane scared others, they were afraid too.

2.2 Stephanie hated Hill House to / too / two.

2.3 Stephanie and Duane kept their / there secret.

(3)

Marks: 3

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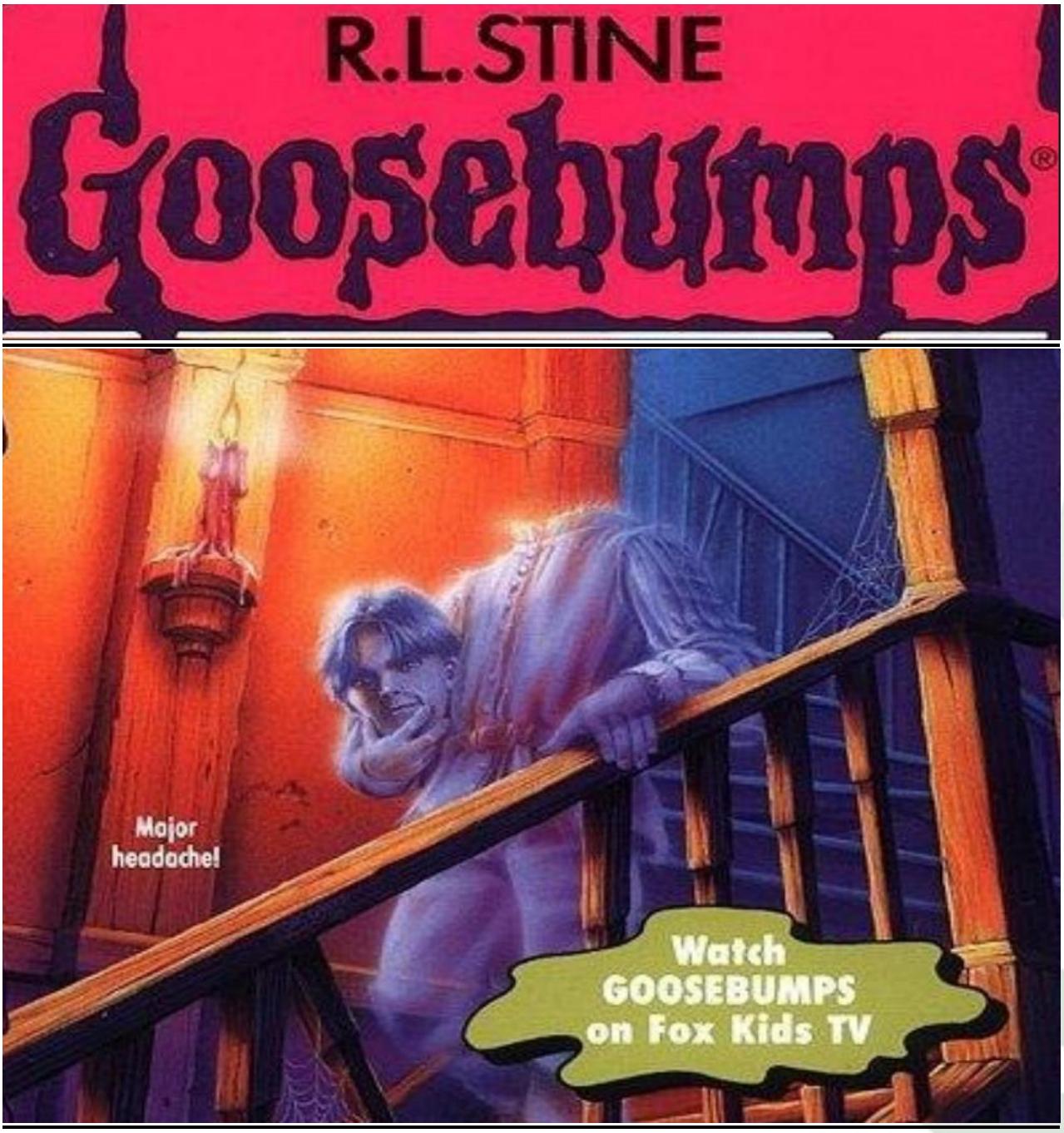
QUESTION THREE:

Look at the book cover below and answer the questions that follow:



3.1 Who is the author of the book, "*The Headless Ghost*"? (1)

_____

3.2 Where can you watch *Goosebumps*? (1)

_____

3.3 What does Goosebumps mean? (1)

_____

3.4 What two things do you notice about the house where the Headless Ghost lives? (2)

_____

_____

3.5 Why is the phrase, "a major headache" a joke? (1)

_____

3.6 Stephanie and Duane were too chicken to go to Hill House. What does too chicken mean in this sentence? (1)

_____

Marks: 7

QUESTION FOUR:

Choose the correct adjective to complete these sentences below:

4.1 Horror movies were _____ than the Twin Terrors.

(a) scary
(b) scarier
(c) scariest

4.2 Duane was _____ of the Headless Ghost.

(a) afraid
(b) more afraid
(c) most afraid

(2)

Marks: 2

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QUESTION FIVE:

Write the prefix from the box that will change the underlined word:

dis	re	un

5.1 All of the other children ____liked the Twin Terrors.
5.2 Stephanie crept up on Duane _____expectedly.
5.3 Sometimes, Stephanie and Duane _____peat their pranks.

(3)

Marks: 3

QUESTION SIX:

6.1 Can you solve the spooky riddle below?

I walk through walls and make no noise,
but I might just pop out and say, "Boo!"

_____

(1)

6.2 Can you solve the spooky riddle below?

I'm tall when I'm young,
I'm short when I'm old,
and once a year I make heavy pumpkins light.
What am I?

_____

(1)

6.3 Can you solve the spooky riddle below?

Once a year, I am decorated in style
and I'm the centre of attention
even when I'm turned into a pie.

_____

(1)

Marks: 3

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QUESTION SEVEN:

Underline the subjects in the sentences below:

7.1 I was standing outside.

7.2 Stephanie scooped up the bags.

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION EIGHT:

Put the verbs in brackets in the past continuous tense:

8.1 The kids were just _____ tricks. (play)

8.2 The Twin Terrors spent the entire night _____ kids. (trick)

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION NINE:

Underline the correct helping verbs in the brackets so that the sentences below make sense.

9.1 Stephanie and Duane (is / are) going to Hill House.

9.2 The child (was / were) scared of Stephanie's costume.

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION TEN:

Find two proper nouns and two common nouns in the passage below:

Stephanie Alpert and I haunt our neighbourhood. We got the idea last Halloween. There are a lot of kids in our neighbourhood.

Proper nouns	Common nouns

(4)

Marks: 4

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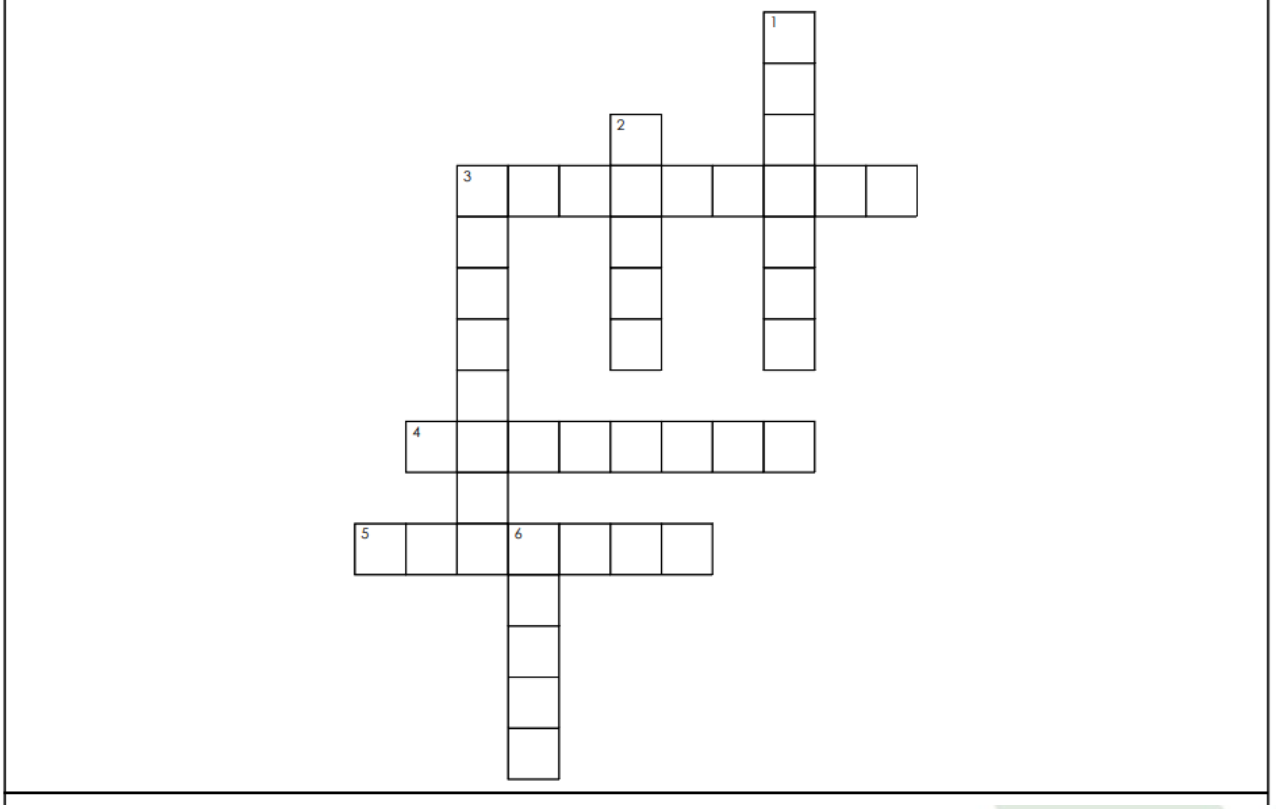
QUESTION ELEVEN:

Complete the crossword puzzle below:

Elements of a Story Crossword



Across: →

3. A person who takes part in the action.
4. A conversation between two people.
5. Where an event is taking place.

Down: ↓

1. A story that is fake and not true.
2. A story performed for an audience.
3. A struggle between characters.
6. Central idea of a story.

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ACROSS	
3.	
4.	
5.	
DOWN	
1.	
2.	
3.	
6.	

(7)

Marks: 7

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50