



NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

YOUR TEACHER'S NAME: _____

9th GRADE

1. Write the words that match the definitions.

- a. **T _ _ M _** : The central message, "moral of the story", and underlying meaning of a fictional piece.
- b. **_ L _ T** : The action that takes place in the story. It is a series of connected happenings and their result.
- c. **_ _ T T _ N _** : The background against which the incidents of the story take place. It includes the place where, the time when and social conditions under which the story moves along.
- d. **_ _ AR _ _ T _ _** : The person in a fictional story.
- e. **C _ _ _ A _** : The turning point of the story. Readers wonder what will happen next; will the conflict be resolved or not?
- f. **R _ S _ _ _ T _ _ N** : The final outcome of events in the story.
- g. **P _ I _ T OF V _ _ W** : The angle from which the story is told.
- h. **_ L _ S _ B _ C _** : . A sudden, brief relocation to a previous time, that interrupts the normal chronological order of events. Then, just as suddenly, a return to the present story.

Points: __/8

2. Read the story.

Jamie tried to ignore the shouts from the spectators, urging the players on. Across the squash court, Danny Powell glared back at him. But there was an element of doubt in Danny's eyes. His arrogance had gone – the first two games had at least knocked that a bit – but having fought back with usual aggression to two games all, he still felt he was in with a chance of taking the match.

Jamie tried to focus his mind and energy. He knew the pressure was on him now. He had been two games ahead and had thrown that lead away. Though this was meant to be a minor event, the semi-final of the Under 19 Knockout in the 'friendly' atmosphere of their own club, it was obvious that everyone wanted to know who the winner would be, as they saw it as a taster for the Regional Championships in two weeks' time.

Jamie glanced up at the faces in the gallery. Their classmates were all there, and, of course, Bob Powell, who was going on and on with pride every time Danny won a point, as

though his son were a superstar and not the show-off that he was. But there was only one face up there Jamie was bothered about – his own father's. And right now, he did not dare to look at it.

'Fifth and final game,' called Geoff, the umpire. The shouts from the gallery died away and Jamie forced his mind back to the match. Danny served. Jamie started to dive forward. Earlier in the match, he would have reached this shot, but now, with his energy almost spent, he stopped, knowing it was out of reach, anxious to save what strength he had left.

Powell's voice bellowed out: 'Good boy, Danny, good boy! He's finished!' Jamie heard disapproving noises from Joe who, as owner of the club, always tried to limit Powell's open hostility towards his son's opponents. It never did any good.

Jamie turned back to the court, determined to fight back, but now desperately jaded. It seemed to him suddenly that he'd been on a squash court every waking moment of his sixteen years. And before the next ball came towards him, he just had time to reflect that this wasn't far from the truth. No wonder these walls had come to feel like a prison cell; and it was a cell of tension, with moments of victory, but dominated for the most part by an ambition he sensed he would never fulfil.

The next point was given to Jamie. Danny turned to Geoff: 'It was out.' Jamie looked away. He knew it was his point but he didn't expect a problem. Geoff was not a person to be fazed by anyone, not even Danny or his father. 'Come on,' said Danny. 'It was my point.' Jamie had heard this sort of dialogue so many times from Danny and, if it went on long enough, which it usually did, Bob Powell was bound to join in. 'I've given my decision,' said Geoff. 'Now play on.'

Jamie said nothing and continued to wait, ball in hand. In a strange way, he was grateful for this interruption. It gave him a moment to catch his breath. But not for long. Geoff leaned on the rail and fixed his eyes on Danny. 'Danny, play on, please, or I'll award a penalty point.' Danny, with a final glare, walked back into position to continue the match. Jamie served at once, hoping the incident would have unsettled Danny's rhythm.

But Danny was now fired up. The ball came back like a bullet. To Jamie, the next four points seemed to fly past in a maze of volleys and smashes that forced him back, pulled him forward, played with him like a toy. He knew then that he could not beat Danny. Not today. Perhaps not ever. Danny was too strong.

A. Answer the questions

1. In the first paragraph, what did Jamie notice about Danny?

- A. wasn't happy with the way he was playing.
- B. wasn't quite so sure of himself as he had been
- C. was annoyed by the noise from the spectators
- D. was being less aggressive than normal

2. What did Jamie feel when he looked at the gallery?

- A. anxiety about what his father would be thinking
- B. pride that his father was watching him

- C. annoyance that Danny had more supporters
 - D. pleasure that his friends were watching
3. In the fourth paragraph, how did Jamie react to the ball?
- A. He misjudged where it was going to land.
 - B. He thought it wasn't a good shot.
 - C. He decided it wasn't worth trying to hit it.
 - D. He tried to hit it and missed.
4. What do we learn about Joe in the fifth paragraph?
- A. He didn't think Danny was a good player.
 - B. He attempted to stop Danny's opponents shouting.
 - C. He thought Powell should praise his son more.
 - D. He had little effect on Powell's behaviour.
5. What did Jamie realise in the sixth paragraph?
- A. He should have concentrated harder on his practice.
 - B. He was tired of the constant pressure he felt.
 - C. He didn't need to worry so much about his skills.
 - D. He should be more ambitious for the future.
6. What did Jamie think when Danny argued with Geoff?
- A. He expected Geoff to stick to his decision.
 - B. He knew Geoff might ask for his opinion.
 - C. He wondered how Geoff would react.
 - D. He hoped Geoff would sort the problem out quickly.



Points: __/12

B. Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- a. **Paragraph 1:** to try earnestly or persistently to persuade (someone) to do something _____
- b. **Paragraph 3:** to take a brief or hurried look _____
- c. **Paragraph 4:** very eager or concerned to do something or for something to happen _____
- d. **Paragraph 6:** to think deeply or carefully about something _____
- e. **Paragraph 8 :** feeling or showing an appreciation for something done or received _____
- f. **Paragraph 8 :** to wait and rest for a moment when you have been very active, so that you can begin to breathe more slowly _____
- g. **Paragraph 8:** an event or episode - an instance of something happening _____
- h. **Paragraph 9:** in an energized and excited state _____

Points: __/4

3. Fill in the gaps with the most appropriate narrative tenses of the verbs in brackets: past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

We thought that we were on the right path when suddenly we 1 _____ (run into) a very familiar rock and 2 _____ (realise) that we 3 _____ (walk) in circles for quite a long time. We 4 _____ (be) totally lost, and the fact that we 5 _____ (already/finish) our water provisions wasn't very promising.

We 6 _____ (decide) to go uphill because according to John, it would be easier to spot a way out from an elevated point. He 7 _____ (learn) that from a documentary he 8 _____ (see) about survival. But what the documentary 9 _____ (not teach) John was that maybe it's not such a good idea to go up a mountain when you are exhausted and waterless.

We 10 _____ (trek) one mile when we 11 _____ (started) to have a horrible feeling that that might be our last trek. Of course, we 12 _____ (say) anything, but we could see in each other's eyes that at that precise moment we 13 _____ (think) precisely the same. We couldn't walk any longer, so we 14 _____ (decide) to sit and rest, quietly, because neither of us wanted to share any of our gloomy thoughts.

"Hello, can I help you?" we suddenly 15 _____ (hear). We 16 _____ (raise) our heads and 17 _____ (see) a little man with slanted eyes and a childish grin. He 18 _____ (stand) right next to us. I wondered where he 19 _____ (come) from and how long he 20 _____ (stand) there. But it didn't matter really, because we were safe.

Points: __/10

4. Read the sentences. Fill the space using the word given below to form a word that fits in the gaps.

1. There are _____ ways you can reach the hotel, but the tram service in this city is excellent and is probably your best option.

VARY

2. You have to go in there and _____ them! Without your encouragement and enthusiasm, I don't know what we would do.

ENERGY

3. We are sorry to say that there hasn't been much _____ in your son's grades.

IMPROVE

4. It's not _____ to do a degree course in only two years, but you would need to work very hard.

POSSIBLE

5. Your friend was a _____ host last night. I can't wait to meet her again.

DELIGHT

6. That was one of the most uncomfortable _____ I have ever been on. The turbulence was awful.

FLY

Points: __/6

5. Choose ONE of the following options and write about 140-190 words.

A: Write a summary of a short story you know.

B: Your English teacher has asked you to write a story for the college magazine. The story must begin with the following words:

As I left the house I promised that I'd be back by five.

Points: __/10

Total: __/50