



READING COMPREHENSION

1 Read the text and answer the questions below.

Pamela Coleman is a very famous British writer. This is an article about a teacher who was very influential to her during her adolescence.

An Inspirational Teacher

When I was born, my parents were living in Italy, but at the age of eleven they sent me back to England to study at a state boarding school. It was really a very nice school, but I was very disoriented. I was 2,000 miles from home and very shy and I didn't like the fact that I could never be alone. It was so noisy!

I just survived school. Until I got to the sixth form I had been fairly mediocre. I had plenty of friends, but I didn't have good marks, didn't try hard. Nobody encouraged me, nobody really knew I was there.

Then, in the sixth form, I met Neil Clayton, my English teacher. It was a fortunate moment. I was suddenly interested in all the things he had to offer - excitement about poetry and Literature. I realise now that he was probably very young - I guess in his late twenties. He was quite strict and enjoyed reading and writing poetry. He later became my hero. He was medium height and fairly handsome, played golf and cricket and had the ability, without too much effort, to communicate a passion for reading widely.

He had been educated at Cambridge and brought us that important sense of studying Literature. His classes were fun. His favourite authors were romantic poets. He wasn't afraid of difficulty and he knew we would be proud of trying something different. He got things out of me that no one else had. I was keen to have his good opinion. I decided to become a writer.

I sent Neil Clayton a copy of my first book and others I wrote in the early years. He was always enthusiastic. After I left school our contact was only occasional. It is always a matter of luck who walks into your life at a certain point, and only now that I am older I realise how lucky I was to have had such a great teacher with such passion for Literature and the ability to communicate it.

1 Where had Pamela studied before studying in England?

2. At the beginning Pamela was happy with her school in England. TRUE FALSE

3. Why did she consider herself a mediocre student?

4. What happened when she met Neil Clayton?

5. She saw Neil quite often after she had finished school. TRUE FALSE