VOCABULARY Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

inherit crumble dedicate obsession priceless

1. to fall into many pieces
   The pages of the old book started to _____ as I turned them.
2. to do something for a special reason
   He wanted to _____ his life to helping others.
3. something that you can't stop thinking about
   My _____ with travel is expensive.
4. very valuable; worth a lot of money
   The pictures in the art gallery are _____.
5. to get something from your parents after they die
   I hope to _____ my mother's book collection.

READING Read in chunks. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words above.

The Amazing Book Collector

Sir Thomas Phillipps, / an English nobleman born in 1792, / loved books. // He read about books / being burned by church leaders / who disagreed with the ideas written in them. // He was extremely upset by this and decided to 1_____ his life to saving as many old books as he could. He 2_____ a large amount of money and immediately started buying old books and handwritten manuscripts. Sometimes he would go into a bookshop and buy every book in the shop! He told a friend that he wanted to have a copy of every book in the world.

It was impossible to keep track of all the books arriving at the house and Sir Thomas was so afraid of losing his collection that he put the books in special boxes which could be easily carried away if there was a fire.

He borrowed money which he could not repay, and in the meantime, the house itself began to 3_____. Its floors started to sag under the weight of hundreds of tons of paper. Sir Thomas decided that he needed more room for his books, and bought a larger house. Moving the entire collection was a huge job.

Sir Thomas continued to add to his library until his death in 1872. After his death, his family had no room for his collection and began to sell the books. The library was so large that the collection was still being sold more than a hundred years later.

Many 4_____ works were saved from destruction by the 5_____ of the greatest book collector of all time.

Reading Time

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READ & THINK Answer the questions.

1. Why did Sir Thomas Phillipps collect books?
   a. His house was a perfect library.
   b. He hated people destroying books.
   c. He wanted to sell rare books.
   d. He didn't know what to do with his money.

2. What did Sir Thomas fear might happen to his books?
   a. Church leaders would destroy them.
   b. Beetles might crawl on them.
   c. Fire might burn them.
   d. People might steal them.

3. Sir Thomas bought a new house because _____.
   a. his old house burned down
   b. his old house was too small for all his books
   c. he inherited a lot of money
   d. he owed people a lot of money

4. If you 'borrow' something, you _____.
   a. take it temporarily
   b. remove it
   c. lend it to someone
   d. reject it

5. Why was Sir Thomas's collection still being sold one hundred years after his death?

   _____

6. Why did Sir Thomas need to borrow money?

   _____

7. How do people buy books today?

   _____

SUMMARY Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

vast collector copy weight constantly

Sir Thomas Phillipps was a nineteenth-century English book and manuscript 1_____ who collected so many books that he was 2_____ in debt and his house was unable to bear the 3_____. He wanted to have a 4_____ of every book that was ever printed. When he died at the age of 80, his collection was so 5_____ that it took more than a hundred years to sell it all.

LIVEWORKSHEETS