6TH INTENSIVE
Test #3

Name:..... Book: American Full Blast B 2 - Units 6-8

READING COMPREHENSION

A. A saga is a story about what happens to a group of characters over a long period of time, in this particular case, over a few movies. Have you ever seen any of the Rocky movies? Read this article and do the reading comprehension activities below.

40 Years of Rocky': Sylvester Stallone's best revelations in the new documentary

Bryan Alexander
USA TODAY

In 1975, then-unknown actor Sylvester Stallone was confused why director John G.Avildsen, who died in 2017, was continually shooting home movies behind the scenes on the set of "Rocky."
Decades after "Rocky" became a surprise hit, took the best-picture Oscar and made Stallone a global superstar, he came to appreciate the candid **footage** from the low-budget, long-shot movie about a boxing **underdog**. Those moments have been crafted into the new documentary "40 Years of Rocky: The Birth of a Classic" (available Tuesday on digital HD platforms), directed by Derek Wayne Johnson with Stallone narrating. Though he thought it was a waste of film, now he is glad he did it.

Sylvester Stallone fought to give Rocky Balboa that famous **fedora**

The cheap felt hat worn by Rocky Balboa was a bone of contention with the film's producers. "No one wanted me to wear the hat," Stallone says of his spontaneous $3 purchase. The filmmakers **balked** because Gene Hackman had worn a similar hat in 1971's "The French Connection." Stallone said "It kind of tops off the character." The actor would go on to wear the hat in all five Rocky sequels and two "Creed" films. The hat shows "he's kind of nerdy in a way," he says.

The 300 extras were cut from the ice rink scene

Stallone had written an elaborate ice skating scene for "Rocky" depicting the socially awkward boxer's first date with Adrian (Talia Shire). The scene featured 300 extras and a show-off ice instructor who ended up in a **tussle** with Rocky. But on shooting day, Stallone showed up to an empty ice rink set. Stallone says he was told, "We had to cut back on the extras a bit: 'To what?' To none. I said, 'You're kidding me.' He rewrote the scene on the spot to make Rocky and Adrian alone on the ice. "It turned out to be 1,000 times better," says Stallone

The fight makeup ruined Stallone's eyebrows forever

In the months of "Rocky" rehearsal, makeup artists worked up experimental attempts to depict Rocky's swollen fight face. Many were comic failures. One failed experiment featured Stallone having his nose glued to the side of his face. "It was so bad, it looked like a cartoon, like I had run into a wall," says the star. But they got it right, even if the adhesive and removal took a hair toll of Stallone. "I ended up with barely any eyebrows left for the rest of my life. So there is that," he says.

"Rocky" was a family affair

Stallone's brother Frank Jr. played a street singer ("We couldn't afford anyone else") and father Frank served as the fight's bell ringer as Rocky was outmatched in the fight against Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers). "He kept ringing the bell 20 seconds late! He wasn't good at it!"

The camera work was revolutionary

The documentary shows Avildsen's car camera, a gigantic apparatus **latched** to the moving car for driving scenes. "Rocky" was also one of the pioneer movies for inventor Garrett Brown's "Steadicam," which Stallone said "looked like a vacuum cleaner." But it was a "game changer" in holding the camera perfectly steady to shoot Stallone sprinting through the streets for those memorable training scenes.

Stallone personally greeted fans at theaters

Stallone recalls the film's opening in two theaters, including one in New York City, where he had worked as an **usher**. At a Los Angeles theater, Stallone showed up to personally thank ticket purchasers. "I didn't know how long it was going to last. I didn't know I was going to be that successful," says Stallone.

The documentary features Stallone celebrating the film's editing at a **paper-plate** home barbecue with crew members, Avildsen and the director's children.

"The future biggest world superstar with the director and friends and they have no clue what's about to happen, no idea," Johnson tells USA TODAY.

A-1 Write any of the underlined words in the text, next to their definitions. **(8/0,5=4)**

1) A low, soft felt hat with a curled brim and the crown creased lengthways _____
2) One who escorts people to their seats _____
3) Part of a cinema or television film recording a particular event _____
4) A disposable plate made of cardboard _____
5) The person who seems least likely to succeed or win _____
6) Refused abruptly _____
7) Fastened _____
8) An intense argument, controversy, or struggle _____

A-2 Read the article again and choose the best answer to these questions. **(8/2=16)**

1. When was the first "Rocky" released?

a) 1960 *b) 1975* *c) 2017*

2. "Rocky" shooting involved a big money investment.

a) Yes *b) No* *c) Does not mention*

3. Who directed the first movie?

a) Derek Wayne *b) Sylvester Stallone* *c) John Avildsen*

4. Before "Rocky", Stallone was…..

a) an unknown actor *b) a boxing underdog* *c) a global superstar*

5. What element "topped off the character", according to Stallone?

a) Make up *b) A fedora* *c) Gloves*

6. The scene where he met Adrian had….

a) 300 extras *b) an ice instructor* *c) an empty skate rink*

7. What ruined Stallone's eyebrows?

a) A fight *b) Make up* *c) Glue*

8. Why did they hire relatives for the movie?

a) They couldn't afford actors *b) They were good actors* *c) The actors didn't go*

VOCABULARY

B.1 Most men prefer to watch thrillers and crimes stories, and from the list, here you have some reviews. Complete them dragging a suitable word or phrase from the box. WATCH OUT! There is an extra word in each box. (8/2=16)

theft	**breaks into**	**murder**	**drug dealing**	**bribery**

THE GODFATHER

The film traces the career of a Mafia capo from the years of his undisputed ascendancy immediately after World War II, when he indignantly refuses to become part of _____, and makes room for his youngest son Michael Corleone, destined to inherit the mantle of the Godfather.

DEATH WISH

Bruce Willis plays a man who becomes a murderous vigilante after his wife is a victim of _____ and his daughter left in a coma after a man _____ his home.

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

Based on the true story of Jordan Belfort, from his rise to a wealthy stock-broker living the high life, thanks to the favors granted by the federal government in exchange of _____, to his fall involving crime and corruption.

get away with	**fraud**	**vandalism**	**cover up**	**blackmailed**

THE SECRET PARTNER

A classical movie in which a wealthy London-based shipping magnate is _____ by an evil dentist who threatens to reveal an old case of _____to a financial company, while the dentist himself is threatened by a mysterious masked man.

PASADENA

Lily McAllister has lived a charmed life as part of the most powerful family in the upscale Southern California enclave of Pasadena. All that changes, however, when a murder and _____ in her own mansion push Lily into a search to unlock her family's long-buried secrets.

MATCH POINT

At a turning point in his life, a former tennis pro falls for an actress who happens to be dating his friend and soon-to-be brother-in-law. When he is about to be discovered, he loses control. Will he _____ his crime?

EXTRA WORDS: _____ _____

B.2 For most viewers "Joker" was the movie of the year in 2019. Read some facts about it, and choose the correct phrasal verb to complete each idea. (4/1=4)

1. Joaquin Phoenix has _____since his first roles in publicity campaigns or a tv show together with his brother River Phoenix.

a) come true b) come in handy c) come a long way

2. Most critics agree, that Joaquin has _____ with his controversial but superb role in Joker.

a) come to the conclusion b) come of age c) come to an end

3. The Joker's story and life experience may _____ for a lot of people who need to do more to support the poor and those in need of psychological and medical care.

a) come to think of it b) come in handy c) come to the conclusion

4. This new "Joker" _____ for the public, due to they have always thought of it as "the villain Marvel character", but haven´t seen him from his human side.

a) comes as a surprise b) comes to an end c) comes true

LISTENING

C- Have you ever asked yourself why we watch movies? Listen to these ideas and choose True or False for the statements below. (10/2=20)

1)	Entertainment is difficult to obtain.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
2)	Social media makes us be the heroes in our own stories.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
3)	Movie tickets are really cheap.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
4)	When you go to the movies, you know how the movie will turn out.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
5)	Movies make us experience things different from our daily lives.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
6)	Movies have the power to transport us through different times.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
7)	Movies make distinctions because of our peculiarities.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
8)	Movies show people's flaws and make us still accept them.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
9)	According to Bergman, any form of art can go beyond consciousness.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***
10)	Watching movies allows us to know other people and ourselves.	***TRUE***	***FALSE***

GRAMMAR

D.1 Many young fans were waiting outside Marvel Studios waiting for Robert Downey Jr. Turn the underlined part of the sentence into a ***Participle Clause.***
(5/1.5=7.5)

1. *They are waiting in the hall* and they are enjoying this great experience.

   → _____, they are enjoying this great experience.

2. *The boy had paid his ticket.* He was allowed to participate in the "greet & meet".

   → _____, the boy was allowed to participate in the "greet & meet".

3. *The children sat on their seats* and watched the trailer of the new movie.

   → _____ the children watched the trailer of the new movie.

4. *They were surprised by the main actors* and had to look for their cameras and cellphones.

   → _____, they had to look for their cameras and cellphones.

5. *When they had found their mobiles*, they started searching for someone who takes the picture.

   → _____, they started searching for someone who takes the picture.

D.2 Read the article about "Going to the movies will be a different experience in the new coronavirus reality" and drag the correct modal verb to the blanks. (6/1,5=9)

NEEDN'T	***OUGHT TO***	***MUSTN'T***	***HAD BETTER***	***SHOULD***	***HAD TO***

The days of packing into a chilly, air-conditioned theater at midnight to catch the hottest blockbuster release of the summer are in the past, at least for a little while.

Movie theaters re opened in some countries, two months late this year, ushering in a new kind of normal for moviegoers.

To start, you(1)…….. wear a mask to be allowed to enter. While health guidelines will vary state by state in the U.S., common Covid-19 measures have included the use of face masks by patrons and staff.

Temperature checks (2) …….…… also be part of the entrance process at theaters. While these checks are not perfect, they can weed out obvious cases of coronavirus. Some venues have opted to use hand-held temperature readers for scanning staff and patrons, but you (3)……..use it for larger crowds, because it may not be feasible.

In order to get in the door, customers (4)…….……..buy their tickets in the venue, they'll have to do it online or through an app ahead of arriving at the theater. Venues are actively looking for ways to remove physical interactions and eliminating the need for paper tickets,

"We wanted to talk to every guest, we wanted it to be a very hands-on experience, but we (5)…….....change our customs drastically," managers said.

They also agreed that many theaters (6) ……..diminish the quantity of seats by a half of their capacity, even though it may contribute to an economic downfall.

D.3 "Top Gun" sequel's release date was long awaited by millions of fans around the world. But, *Maverick* will now speed into theaters on July 2, 2021, instead of December this year, thanks to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

Write ***conditional sentences*** making the necessary changes. (3/1=3)

- The movie won't be released because the ongoing coronavirus pandemic does not stop.

Unless _____ .

- Tom Cruise and Val Kilmer promised to attend the premiere next year if their agents agree on the venue.

On condition_____.

- The actress Kelly Mc Gillis revealed she would have liked to be in the sequel, but she was never asked to be part of it.

As long as _____.

E. WRITING. Choose task 1 or 2.

1. Read part of the article that appeared in a NY magazine and write a four-paragraph opinion letter about the topic. Start it as: *"Dear Editor, "*

When we last checked in with our public-health expert on the safety of returning to theaters in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak, his outlook was bleak: "It's like Russian roulette," he said. "You never know." As the staggered reopening of chains begins, many moviegoers will soon be faced with the question of whether it's worth risking one's health to go back to the multiplex, no matter how badly they might want to see the last movies. But some people feel that, as long as theaters employees and moviegoers are acting responsibly, it can be done.

2. Write a movie review about a movie you enjoyed (or not). Organize it in four paragraphs.