

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A: Reading Comprehension**

Read about William Wilkie Collins.

***William Wilkie Collins***

William Wilkie Collins was born on January 8, 1824. Today he is best known for *The Moonstone* (1868), often regarded as the first true detective novel, and *The Woman in White* (1860), the archetypal sensation novel. He died at age 65 on September 23, 1889.

He was the son of popular landscape painter, William Collins. His childhood schooldays began in 1835 at the Maida Hill Academy, followed by a two year interruption when he accompanied his parents and younger brother, Charles, to France and Italy from September 1836 to August 1838. He later recalled that he had learned more in Italy 'among the scenery, the pictures, and the people, than I ever learned at school.'

At age 22, Collins became a law student at London's Lincoln's Inn. Collins was called to the bar in 1851, the same year he met novelist Charles Dickens, with whom he kept closely associated with for most of his life, including traveling together and collaborating on many works. Instead of practicing law, Collins adopted literature as his profession.

It was during the 1860s that Collins achieved enduring fame with his four major novels, *The Woman in White* (1860), *No Name* (1862), *Armada* (1866) and *The Moonstone* (1868). The first of these was published in Dickens's new journal, *All the Year Round* from November 1859 to August 1860. It was received with great popular acclaim and ran to seven editions in 1860, alone. The real-life woman in white was Caroline Graves who probably met Wilkie in the spring of 1856. She was a widow, originally came from Gloucestershire, and had a young daughter, Harriet Elizabeth (usually known as Carrie). Caroline and Wilkie never married but lived together from about 1858 for the best part of 30 years.

Despite his growing success, Collins's health began to decline during the 1850s and 1860s, suffering from what he always described as 'rheumatic gout' or 'neuralgia'. These medical conditions affected his eyes with particular severity and he often required the services of a secretary. During the 1880s, Wilkie's always delicate health continued to decline. Breathing difficulties due to heart problems became more common, and he resorted to capsules of amyl nitrate and hypo-phosphate. In January 1889, he was involved in an accident, in which he was thrown from a cab by the force of the collision. There followed a severe attack of bronchitis. He suffered a stroke on June 30 and, with further complications, died on September 23, 1889.



1) Check the following sentences. CHOOSE True (T) or False (F).

- A. Wilkie Collins's parents were landscape painters.
- B. The author claimed that he had learned more travelling than at school.
- C. Wilkie Collins and Dickens worked together as partners.
- D. The Woman in White was inspired in a real-life woman.
- E. The author died from cancer.

Section B - Use of English.

1) Read the sentences about The Woman in White. Choose the correct option.

- A. If I *am not feeling / won't feel* better tomorrow, I'm going to go to the Doctor's. I *will call / call* you as soon as I *will decide / decide* what to do.
- B. Walter has lived in London for years. He is *used to driving / used to drive* on the left. He offered *to drive / driving* me home yesterday and I only agree *to go / going* with him after he told me that.
- C. What *did you do / were you doing* yesterday when I *saw / was seeing* you? You *must be / must have been* reading Gilmore's letter.
- D. People say that in two years, things will be really different in Cumberland. We *will be having / will have* much higher temperatures, as high as 40°. We *won't be relaxing / won't relax* on the beach.
- E. Oh Marian, he can be so annoying! I wish he *would stop doing / stopped doing* those horrible things! I wish I *didn't marry / wasn't marry* him. What a terrible mistake!
- F. By the time we *get / got* to London, Laura have already *gone / had* already gone.

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**2) Read about Marian's favourite city. Complete the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

My favourite city in the world has to be Barcelona. I first \_\_\_\_\_ **(go)** there with my family when I \_\_\_\_\_ **(be)** fourteen. We \_\_\_\_\_ **(visit)** places before going to Barcelona, but no other city feels the same. We always rent the same apartment, right in the middle of the Gothic Quarter. I can see it so vividly: my sister and I \_\_\_\_\_ **(sit)** on the balcony, sipping mineral water and nibbling olives. We \_\_\_\_\_ **(have)** any worries at all, we're just happy to watch the world go by.

It \_\_\_\_\_ **(bring)** back memories of one summer evening several years ago. We \_\_\_\_\_ **(spend)** the day on the beach just outside of the city and we \_\_\_\_\_ **(walk)** back to the apartment through the twisty, narrow streets. It must have been ten o'clock in the evening and it still \_\_\_\_\_ **(feel)** warm. Instead of going straight back to the apartment, my parents decided to stop at a restaurant in a bustling little square. There was so much life there.

Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ **(go out)** for the evening and it made me realise how different life was at home.

**3) Paraphrase the following sentences using the phrases provided so that both sentences have the same meaning.**

**A.** Cumberland is an old historic village. However, it isn't very lively.

ALTHOUGH \_\_\_\_\_ .

**B.** "I'm sorry I was so rude", I said.

I \_\_\_\_\_ SO RUDE.

**C.** Somebody locked Anne in an asylum some years ago.

ANNE \_\_\_\_\_ .

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**D.** “Don’t forget to sign the documents”, Gilmore told me.

GILMORE \_\_\_\_\_ THE DOCUMENTS.

**E.** Count Fosco have just caught Anne Catherick.

ANNE CATHERICK \_\_\_\_\_.

**F.** “Can you take me to the station Marian?”, said Laura.

LAURA \_\_\_\_\_.

**4) Mr. Hartright received a letter from his friend in Italy. Use the words given in CAPITALS to form a word that fits the gap.**

I recently left my job in an \_\_\_\_\_ (1) agency after I had a  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2) with my boss. She accepted my resignation, but warned  
me that because of the \_\_\_\_\_ (3) situation, I might have to  
get used to the idea of being \_\_\_\_\_ (4) for a while. I thought  
that she was trying to make a point, but after fifty \_\_\_\_\_ (5)  
to other companies, I realized she was right. Although I am a \_\_\_\_\_ (6)  
designer, I didn’t receive any offers of a job. After that, I tried working  
from home, but it was not very \_\_\_\_\_ (7). Later on I became an  
\_\_\_\_\_ (8) in a fast-food restaurant, though my earnings were  
\_\_\_\_\_ (9) low.  
Now, I wish I had accepted early \_\_\_\_\_ (10) from my old job.  
That is what I disagreed with my boss about!

**ADVERT**  
**AGREE**  
**ECONOMY**  
**EMPLOY**  
**APPLY**  
**QUALIFY**  
**PROFIT**  
**EMPLOY**  
**EXTREME**  
**RETIRE**

**Section C: Listening**

**1) Listen to a presentation about unusual British festivals celebrated in Cumberland.**

**Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).**

1. Many of these festivals are actually races or competitions. True False
2. The Burning of the Clavie brings good luck for the new year. True False
3. Cheese rolling involves running away from a big, round cheese. True False
4. Snail racing started in the UK. True False
5. The competition to pull the ugliest face is an old tradition. True False
6. The Burning of the Clocks festival ends with people throwing water. True False