Reading Comprehension – The Present Takers

Name: _____ Date: _____

Grade: ____

English Language

Read the passage twice. Then answer **ALL** questions that follow.

The central character in this book is Lucy Hall, aged 11, who will shortly leave her primary school to join a secondary school. A group of bullying girls, led by Melanie, seize Lucy at school. They hit her and demand 'presents' from her. They are the 'present takers' of the title.

Lucy has to endure daily attacks by the bullies. She is comforted by a boy and a girl. She is comforted by a boy and a girl. The boy is Angus Burns. He is fond of Lucy and tries to protect her but is not very successful. The girl is another victim of the bullies and cannot do more but give Lucy occasional advice.

Lucy is very reluctant to tell her teachers about the bullies because she has no definite evidence. The bullies always take care to ensure that there are no witnesses to their attacks. Without clear leadership, other victims of bullies are too scared to unite and confront Melanie and her two helpers.

Lucy is unwilling to tell her parents what is happening to her. She endures the attacks and hands over money to keep the bullies at bay. Eventually, Lucy's parents discover what is happening when Melanie forces Lucy to steal things from stores for her. Lucy's mother visits Melanie's mother but finds that she, too, is abusive and violent.

Near the end of the school year, Lucy realizes that she has to find a way of exposing and stopping Melanie's bullying. With the help of Angus (now a good friend) and other children, Lucy arranges to have a display of pupils' work on the walls of their classroom. The title of the articles and reports is 'Guess Who' and suddenly the walls are covered with detailed descriptions of how Melanie and her helpers bully other children and lead them into crime. Melanie is not named but everybody knows that the articles refer to her. When she sees the display, Melanie becomes violent and almost hysterical. She disappears from the school and the bullying stops.

Aiden Chambers

Questions

Section 1 - Multiple Choice (1 pt. each)

Instructions: Read the questions carefully. Place the correct letter grade for the response in the space provided.

1. Who is Aiden Chambers? ____
   a. a primary school pupil c. a bully
   b. the author of the book d. a boy who became Lucy's friend.

2. Which word in lines 1-4 of the report tells us that Lucy will soon go to a secondary school? ___
   a. central c. shortly
   b. primary d. daily

3. Why did Angus try to help Lucy? ___
   a. he was her brother. c. He was a prefect.
   b. Melanie bullied him too. d. He liked her.

4. We know from the second paragraph that another victim of the bullies ____
   a. sympathised with Lucy c. complained to her teacher
   b. received advice from Lucy d. always told Lucy what to do.

5. The third paragraph tells us ____. _____
   a. what the bullies did c. why Lucy received no help
   b. why Melanie bullied Lucy d. how Lucy escaped

6. In line 21, 'too' implies that ____ was a nasty person. ___
   a. Melanie c. Angus
   b. Lucy d. Lucy's mother

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7. Whose name was mentioned in the articles and reports? ___
   a. Lucy's c. Angus's
   b. Melanie's d. Nobody's

8. Melanie apparently felt _____ by the articles. ___
   a. praised c. puzzled
   b. angered d. delighted

Exercise B – Vocabulary – (1pt each)

Instructions: Choose the best meaning for each underlined word. Write the letter of the correct choice on the line provide.

9. The **central** character in this book. ___ (line 1) ___
   a. female c. best
   b. main d. unlucky

10. Lucy has to **endure** daily attacks by the bullies. (line 6) ___
   a. suffer from c. avoid
   b. expect d. look forward to

11. She is **comforted** by a boy and a girl. (line 7) ___
   a. helped to feel better c. accompanied
   b. rescued d. given excuses

12. Lucy is very **reluctant** to tell her teachers about the bullies. (line 11) ___
   a. anxious c. unwilling
   b. Eager d. unable

13. The bullies always take care to **ensure** that there are no witnesses (line (13) ___
   a. pay money to protect c. make certain
   b. use force d. ask about

14. **Without** clear leadership, other victims of the bullies are too scared. (line 14) ____
   a. enquiring about c. not wanting
   b. not having d. trying to obtain

15. **Eventually**, Lucy's parents discover what is happening. (line 18) ___
   a. as a result c. because of this
   b. at last d. very soon

16. She, too is **abusive** and violent. (line 21) ___
   a. breaking the law c. stealing things from people
   b. bad-tempered d. speaking and behaving very badly

17. She has to find a way of **exposing** and stopping Melanie's bullying. (line 23) ___
   a. making public c. preventing
   b. investigating d. getting witnesses to

18. Melanie becomes violent and almost hysterical. (line 31) __
   a. sorry c. losing control of herself
   b. unconscious d. full of shame

19. 'Lucy turned the tables on Melanie.' This sentence is an idiom. Explain what it means.
   _____(2)

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