

EXERCISE**1**

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BASIC / MCQ

Read the diary entry below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

25 December 2015

Dear Diary,

The day started when I woke up at 8.00 a.m. I ran downstairs with my brother and sister. I saw how beautiful our Christmas tree looked. My sister and I had decorated it with lights and colourful ornaments a few days ago. I found my Christmas stocking under the tree. I was so excited to find out what Santa Claus had for me. I ripped off the packaging and unwrapped my present. It was a talking doll. It spoke when I pushed a button on its back. I received a board game from my parents today. My sister received a pair of shoes and a dress. As for my brother, an encyclopaedia was a perfect present for him.

We went to church in the morning. When we arrived home, it was already afternoon. It was snowing heavily, but there was a group of people carolling outside my house. We had lunch and then I sat down by the fireplace with my brother and sister to watch a Christmas movie. At around 7.00 p.m., my friends came over to my house for Christmas dinner. We wore paper hats and sat down to a hearty dinner. There was so much of delicious food, including roasted turkey, roasted potatoes and fruit cake. After that, we played games and munched on candy bars. It was a very merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas to you too, Diary!

Catherine



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Choose the correct answer and write its number in the brackets.

I. How many siblings does Catherine have?

- (1) One
- (2) Two
- (3) Three
- (4) Four

II. How do you think Catherine felt on Christmas Day?

- (1) She felt very sad.
- (2) She felt so nervous.
- (3) She felt very happy.
- (4) She felt so worried.

III. Which of these is **not** a gift that Catherine and her sister received on Christmas Day?

- (1) A talking doll
- (2) A dress
- (3) A board game
- (4) Candies

IV. Where were the carollers singing Christmas songs?

- (1) Inside Catherine's house
- (2) Outside Catherine's house
- (3) Outside the grocery store
- (4) Outside the church

V. Catherine did all of the following activities on Christmas Day **except**

- (1) she went to church
- (2) she sang Christmas songs
- (3) she watched a Christmas film
- (4) she played games

GLOSSARY

1. **ripped off** – removed something quickly, often by pulling it apart
e.g. The roof of the house was ripped off by the strong wind.
2. **carolling** – singing songs in a cheerful way, especially for Christmas
e.g. When I passed by the church, I could hear people carolling.
3. **munched** – ate something noisily
e.g. Kelly munched two slices of toast and drank a glass of milk.

EXERCISE**2**

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BASIC / OE

Read the book review below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Bridge to Terabithia

by Katherine Paterson

Jess Aaron's ambition is to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. He has been practising every day for the whole summer, running in the fields around his farmhouse until he sweats profusely. He cannot wait to see the look on his classmates' face if he wins. Then a new girl called Leslie Burke moves next door to his farmhouse. From then on, his life is changed forever. Leslie does not act or look like the other girls who Jess knows but she is the fastest runner in the fifth grade. At first, Jess is humiliated and shocked to be beaten by a girl, but he gradually starts to enjoy being with her.

Jess and Leslie are soon inseparable. Together, Jess and Leslie create their own imaginary magical kingdom in the woods which they name Terabithia. The only way to enter Terabithia is by swinging on an enchanted rope over a creek. Jess and Leslie take on the roles of king and queen in Terabithia. Their imagination and creativity know no limit in Terabithia. Leslie and Jess share stories and plot against their schoolmates who tease them. Then one day, an accident befalls Leslie and causes Leslie and Jess to be separated forever. The grief and anger experienced by Jess due to the accident is sure to touch readers.



Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What is Jess Aaron's ambition?

2. Where does Leslie Burke move to?

3. How do Jess and Leslie go to Terabithia?

4. Who is the queen of Terabithia?

5. Why are Leslie and Jess separated forever?

GLOSSARY

1. **humiliated** – made to feel ashamed
e.g. I felt humiliated when my neighbours scolded me in front of my friends.
2. **inseparable** – (of people) spending most of their time together and are very good friends
e.g. When we were kids, Zoe and I did everything together, and we were inseparable.
3. **enchanted** – affected by magic
e.g. The story is about a prince's adventure in an enchanted forest.