



**Read the text and choose the right option.**

### The Skier

Afel was only a very small boy when he first saw snow. But it wasn't real snow that he saw. No, there was no real snow where he lived. He saw the snow in a picture book. The book had lots of pictures of children playing in big white fields. His mother tried to explain to him what snow was, but Afel didn't really understand. It didn't matter. Even when he was only a very small boy, Afel was already in love with snow. He dreamed about snow all the time, trying to imagine how it really was. He thought of big white fields. He thought of the big, heavy clothes the children playing in the snow wore. He thought about feeling cold. He dreamed of being able to fly across the white fields of snow. Then, when Afel was twelve years old, another thing happened. One day he was watching the TV at his uncle's house. Afel was watching one of the satellite channels, and the programme was full of snow. Lots and lots of it. And not only snow - there were people flying across the snow. They looked like strange animals, like fantastic birds. They had hats which covered all their heads and big goggles over their eyes. They wore brightly-coloured clothes. And on their feet, they had things that looked like strange shoes.

"What are those?" he asked his uncle excitedly.

"Skis," replied his uncle, "And those people are called skiers." Afel was in love. Here was the snow, and here were people who were flying across the snow. It was just like one of his dreams. It was perfect. At that moment, he decided. He wanted to be a skier. He asked his uncle what the programme was.

"The Winter Olympics," said his uncle. "It's like the normal Olympics, but for sports where you need snow - skiing, ice-skating, bobsleigh, those sorts of things. They have it every four years."

"Perfect," he thought. "Enough time for me to become a brilliant skier. Then I'll go to the Winter Olympics, and win the gold medal for skiing." "But there's no snow here!" people told him. "Where are you going to ski?" Afel didn't care. He made himself a pair of skis from two pieces of wood. He tied them to his feet and practised skiing holding two sticks in his hands. At first, he couldn't move, but he practiced and practised and practised until he could move quite quickly across the sand or the earth. He tried to fly down the hills like the people on TV, but he couldn't. He could only move slowly.

"Never mind," he thought. "It's a start..."

"Why don't you do up athletics instead?" people asked him. "You don't need lots of expensive equipment to practise. Our country is very good at athletics. We have lots of runners. And every time we win lots of medals at the Olympics. But no skiing, no."

Afel didn't care. He found that Jamaica had sent a bobsleigh team to the Olympics a few years ago.

"If Jamaica have a bobsleigh team," he thought, "then our country can have a skier."

So, every night, out in the middle of the desert, Afel now practises skiing down sand dunes. He dreams that the yellow sand and brown earth of the desert is the white-white snow of the mountains he saw on the television.

Afel keeps his dreams.

**1. Afel's mother explained to him \_\_\_\_\_**

1. why there was no snow in his native place
2. what snow is
3. what the children in the picture were playing
4. when he can see the real snow

**2. Afel \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. understood what snow is and fell in love with it
2. was sorry because he didn't understand what snow is
3. was happy to understand what snow is
4. didn't understand what snow is but fell in love with it

3. Afel saw \_\_\_\_\_ on the television.
1. skiers
  2. strange animals in the snow
  3. fantastic birds over the snow field
  4. people flying in planes over the snow field
4. Afel wanted \_\_\_\_\_ when he saw the programme.
1. to get a perfect dream
  2. to become a skier
  3. to hug his uncle
  4. to get new shoes and brightly-coloured clothes
5. His dream was \_\_\_\_\_.
1. to go to the Winter Olympics to watch the best of skiing
  2. to become the Winter Olympics champion in skiing
  3. to take part in the TV programme about skiing
  4. to have snow where he lived
6. Afel \_\_\_\_\_ skis.
1. asked his uncle to buy him some
  2. read special books and invented a new type of
  3. made himself a pair of
  4. bought some
7. Afel's country \_\_\_\_\_ .
1. was very good at winter sports
  2. never took part in the Winter Olympics
  3. had some indoor facilities for skiing
  4. was famous for its bobsleigh team
8. Afel feels \_\_\_\_\_ about achieving his dream.
1. optimistic
  2. frustrated
  3. doubted
  4. worried

**Click FINISH below**

