READING 9th grade

Name: ..... **Class:** .....

Famous for a day

Do you know who Brett Cohen is? He's famous – but not for the reason you might think. He isn't a pop star or an actor; he isn't a politician or a writer. In fact, he just goes to university every day, like millions of other young people around the world.

'I've been dreaming of this moment for years!' screams one girl as she sees him walk by. Another, crying and laughing at the same time, calls out, 'Do you want to marry me?' When asked why he is so important to them, a group of teenage girls all agree that, 'We feel better by looking at his picture and just knowing he's alive.'

The funny thing is that Brett Cohen is a nobody. This is a stunt he has been planning for months with a group of friends. He guessed that if he was surrounded by photographers and bodyguards as he walked through New York, people would think he was famous.

The important point is that Brett never said he was famous – he let people think that he was to see how they would behave. Walking around the city for three hours, he was photographed with over 300 girls eager to have their picture taken alongside him.

Fooling them was an experiment, he says. He wanted to test the public's fascination with celebrities – and to see how it would feel to be famous for a day. Brett says it was fun for a while, but his face started aching with smiling at everyone. To end the stunt, he had to hide in a hotel.

'Do you fancy doing that again?' I asked him. He shivers a little as he answers that he doesn't like being famous and is much happier just being himself. Maybe fame isn't everything after all.

1 **Read the text. Put these ideas in the order they appear in the text.**

a Brett set off with a group of photographers and bodyguards. .....

b Brett went to a hotel. .....

c Brett prepared the event with his friends. .....

d Brett walked around for three hours. .....

2 **Are the sentences true (T), false (F) or don't know (DK)?**

1 Brett told a few people that he was famous so they would tell their friends. .....

2 Brett ended the experiment by hiding in a hotel. .....

3 Brett is studying Sociology at university. .....

4 The public is fascinated by celebrities. .....

5 Brett spent two weeks 'being a celebrity'. .....

3 **Choose the correct meaning for the words: a, b or c.**

1 stunt (paragraph 3)
a celebrity b event
c photograph

2 surrounded (paragraph 3)
a made famous
b photographed by fans
c with people all around you

3 aching (paragraph 5)
a hurting b blushing
c crying

4 fancy (paragraph 6)
a refuse b dream of
c want

5 shivers (paragraph 6)
a shakes as if he's cold
b hides his face
c goes red in the face

LIVEWORKSHEETS