UNIT 4: SPECIAL EDUCATION

Reading 4: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions below

For more than six million American children, coming home after school means coming back to an empty house. Some deal with the situation by watching TV. Some may hide. But all of them have something in common. They spend part of each day alone. They are called "latchkey children". They are children who look after themselves while their parents work. And their bad condition has become a subject of concern.

Lynette Long was once the principal of an elementary school. She said, "we had a school rule against wearing jewelry. A lot of kids had chains around their necks with keys attached. I was constantly telling them to put the keys inside shirts. There were so many keys; it never came to my mind what they meant." Slowly, she learned that they were house keys.

She and her husband began talking to the children who had keys. They learned of the effect working couples and single parents were having on their children. Fear was the biggest problem faced by children at home alone. One in three latchkey children the Longs talked to reported being frightened. Many had nightmares and were worried about their own safety. The most common way latchkey children deal with their fears is by hiding. They may hide in a shower stall, under a bed or in a closet. The second is TV. They often turn the volume up. It's hard to get statistics on latchkey children, the Longs have learned. Most parents are slow to admit that they leave their children alone.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. The phrase. "an empty house" in the passage mostly means_____.
   A. a house with too much space B. a house with no furniture
   C. a house with no people inside D. a house with nothing inside
2. One thing that the children in the passage share is that _____.
   A. they all wear jewelry B. they spend part of each day alone
   C. they all watch TV D. they are from single-parent families
3. The phrase. "latchkeychildren" in the passage means children who _____.
   A. look after themselves while their parents are not at home
   B. close doors with keys and watch TV by themselves
   C. like to carry latches and keys with them everywhere
   D. are locked inside houses with latches and keys
4. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
   A. Why kids hate going home.
   B. Children's activities at home.
   C. Bad condition of latchkey children.
   D. How kids spend free time.
5. What do latchkey children suffer most from when they are at home alone?
   A. Tiredness B. Boredom C. Loneliness D. Fear
6. Lynette Long learned of latchkey children's problems by _____.
   A. visiting their homes B. talking to them
   C. delivering questionnaires D. interviewing their parents
7. It's difficult to find out the number of latchkey children because_____.
   A. there are too many of them in the whole country
   B. most parents are reluctant to admit that they leave their children alone
   C. they hide themselves in shower stalls or under beds
   D. they do not give information about themselves for safety reasons

LIVEWORKSHEETS