



**Open Ended
Comprehension**

The Write Tribe



Exercise 4

Read this passage and answer questions questions 1 to 10.

It was a fine and windy day, perfect weather to enjoy a day at the beach. Thus, my parents had taken my siblings and me to have a relaxing day outdoors. My parents laid out a picnic mat while my siblings and I changed into our swim attire. After promising our parents to be careful, we ran to play in the sea.

I shrieked initially when my foot made contact with the water as it was quite cold. Gingerly, I entered the water until I gradually grew used to the temperature and enjoyed frolicking in it with my siblings. We had brought along a ball with us and played with it, together with some other children. After some time, we became tired and went back to our parents who had laid out the food on the mat. We tucked into the food eagerly, devouring the sandwiches and enjoying the fruit juice my mother had made.

After our meal, we rested for a while, satisfied with our meal. However, I grew bored after a while and decided to build sandcastles. I had an ambition to build a grand castle, together with a moat. I made sure to build it at a spot where it would not be washed away by the tide for I did not want my **work** to be interrupted before it was completed. With the help of my siblings, we managed to construct one that was quite big. I added some finishing touches while my siblings went to gather some seashells to decorate it.

Just then, I noticed a **commotion** in the sea. Curious, I went to take a closer look. I gasped when I realised that a child was **having difficulty** in the sea! His head was bobbing up and down and his hands were flailing desperately in the water. A lifeguard had rushed to the sea and was swimming towards the boy. With strong confident strokes, the lifeguard reached the boy in no time. He put one arm around the boy and made his way back to shore with him.

Once back at the beach, the lifeguard laid the boy flat on the sand. I realised that the boy was unconscious. The lifeguard began to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation on him. As the crowd which had gathered looked on anxiously, the lifeguard pressed on the chest of the boy and blew into his mouth. After what seemed like an eternity, the boy finally regained consciousness, looking a little dazed. The crowd broke into applause as the boy's parents went up to hug their son and thank the lifeguard for saving their son's life.

Relieved that the boy was all right, I went back to complete my sandcastle. We then showed our work proudly to our parents, who praised us for our work. As the sun began setting over the horizon, we packed up and left for home after an eventful day.

1. What led the writer's parents to take her and her siblings to the beach?

2. Pick out a five-word phrase from paragraph 2 which suggests that the writer and her siblings were famished.

3. Which **two** words from paragraph 2 show that the writer did not find the sea welcoming initially? The words are found in two separate sentences.

4. What was the writer careful about when building her sandcastle?

5. Which **two** of the following words best describe how the writer felt in paragraph 4?

Put a tick ✓ in the box beside each of your answers.

DO NOT TICK MORE THAN TWO BOXES.

shocked

relieved

depressed

annoyed

envious

inquisitive

6. In what way was the child 'having difficulty in the sea' (paragraph 4)?

7. Look at the table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage? Write your answers in the column on the right.

Word(s) from the passage	What the word(s) refer(s) to
it (paragraph 2)	
work (paragraph 3)	
commotion (paragraph 4)	

8. Based on information from paragraphs 2–6, fill in the blanks in the following table.

How the writer felt	What made the writer feel that way	What the writer did as a result
tired	The writer played in the sea.	
bored		The writer went to make sandcastles.
	The writer realised that the boy was all right.	The writer went to complete her sandcastle.

9. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story.

The writer was praised by her parents.

The writer was tired.

The writer's siblings went to gather seashells.

10. Based on the passage, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so.

	True/False	Reason
The lifeguard was a skilful swimmer.		
The crowd appreciated the lifeguard's efforts.		
The writer was not proud of her creation.		