Task 31

Rick Riordan – Author of Percy Jackson

How does an ordinary history teacher living in San Antonio, Texas, become one of the most well-known middle-grade writers of the 21st century?

Rick Riordan's first book series "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" **32** _____ out as a bedtime story for his son Haley, who had just been diagnosed with ADHD (attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder) and dyslexia. **33** _____ the time Haley was in the second grade and was studying Greek mythology. He asked his father to **34** _____ him some myths as bedtime stories. When Rick ran out of myths, Haley insisted that he make **35** _____ some new ones. This is how the fictional character Percy Jackson was born, who, just as Haley did, suffered from ADHD and dyslexia. Later Rick told some of these stories to his 6th and 7th grade history class, who critiqued it, made some improvements and **36** _____ him to write the story down. At that time Rick Riordan was already an aspiring writer. He was trying and **37** _____ to get some of his works published. On a whim, he sent his agent a manuscript with the title: "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief", which very quickly got published.

Rick Riordan got enough money from his first book to quit his teaching job and become a full-time writer. **38** _____ then, he has written three more series based not only on Greek, but also on Roman, Egyptian, and Norse mythology. And he doesn't seem to intend to stop writing any time soon!

Task 32

British theatre

The theatre has always been very strong in Britain. Its centre is, of course, London, where successful plays can **32** _____ without a break for many years. London has several dozens of theatres, most of them not **33** _____ from Trafalgar Square. **34** _____ London even some quite big towns have no public theatre at all, but every town has its private theatres. British theatre is much admired. There you can **35** _____ the best of everything – an excellent orchestra, famous conductors, celebrated actors and a well-dressed **36** _____.

Choose a good play, and you'll enjoy yourself throughout from the moment the curtain **37** _____ to the end of the last act. Get your seats beforehand, either at the box-office or at the theatre itself. You'll probably want to sit as near to the **38** _____ as possible.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 33

A Chinese vase

When I was a child I loved visiting my grandmother. I thought her house was as beautiful as a palace. As I grew older the house and garden seemed smaller, but I still loved visiting the old lady. There were so many lovely things to look **32** _____ in the house.

I loved her paintings and the old clock, but **33** _____ all I loved a big Chinese vase which stood in the hall. It was **34** _____ than me, and I couldn't see **35** _____ it. I walked round and round it looking at the beautiful ladies and the birds and flowers and trees, and Grandmother often **36** _____ me stories about these ladies. She said that her grandfather had brought the vase with him when he returned from a long **37** _____to China.

We live in a modern house, and I'm afraid my husband and I often nag at the children. "Don't make the new carpet dirty, Paul!" "Be careful with the new table, Philip!"

Before she died, Grandmother gave me the vase I loved so much. It **38** _____ beautiful in our modern hall.

One day I came home from the shop. The boys met me at the door. "I'm as strong as George Bes, Mummy," said Paul. "I got a goal and I broke the vase." Philip tried to be more diplomatic than Paul, "It doesn't really matter, does it? You told us it wasn't new. You aren't cross, are you?"

Task 34

Tracy

Tracy was as excited as a child about her first trip abroad. Early in the morning, she stopped at a **32** _____ agency and reserved a suite on the Signal Deck of *the Queen Elizabeth II*. The next three days she spent buying clothes and luggage.

On the morning of the sailing, Tracy hired a limousine to drive her to the pier. When she **33** _____ at Pier 90, where *the Queen Elizabeth II* was docked, it was crowded with photographers and television reporters, and for a moment Tracy was panic stricken. Then she realized they were interviewing the two men posturing at the foot of the gangplank. The members of the crew were helping the passengers with their luggage. On deck, a steward looked at Tracy's ticket and **34** _____ her to her stateroom. It was a lovely suite with a private terrace. It had been ridiculously expensive but Tracy **35** _____ it was worth it.

She unpacked and then wandered along the corridor. In almost every cabin there were farewell parties going on, with laughter and champagne and conversation. She felt a sudden ache of loneliness. There was no one to see her **36** _____, no one for her to care about, and no one who cared about her. She was sailing into a completely unknown future.

Suddenly she felt the huge ship shudder as the tugs started to pull it out of the harbor, and she stood **37** _____ the passengers on the boat deck, watching the Statue of Liberty slide out of **38** _____, and then she went exploring.

LIVEWORKSHEETS