FCE READING AND USE OF ENGLISH PART 7

You are going to read five reviews of fantasy novels. Before you read, underline the main idea in each question.

A A Stitch in Time by Penelope Lively

Maria is always lost in her own little world in which she prefers to chat with animals, trees, plants and inanimate objects, rather than other human beings. But while on holiday she begins to hear things that others can't, and she's not sure what is real any more. Then she finds a nineteenth-century sewn picture and she feels a strange connection with Harriet, the girl who sewed it. As Maria becomes more involved in Harriet's world, she begins to fear that something sad has happened. This book is a gentle, funny and mysterious read from an author who started her career writing film scripts.

B The Girl Who Fell Beneath Fairyland and Led the Revels There by Catherynne M. Valente

This is the second breathtaking adventure for September, the strange girl who returns to Fairyland to find that the fairy creatures are in trouble. For a while now they have been losing their shadows and, with their shadow, their magic is disappearing. September learns that it is all to do with a conflict with Fairyland-Below, a dark place where there is no law, and terrifying creatures live. It is a place that September knows she has to visit in order to get back the shadows from the thieves, and to sort out the mess that Fairyland is in. It takes her on an incredible journey that is sometimes dangerous, sometimes terrifying, but always fascinating. Readers young and old will have great fun with this one.

C Shadow Spell by Caro King

When Nina is set the task to stop the evil Mr Strood from killing the dying land of Drift, she has to find Simeon Dark, the last surviving king and his mansion, for he is the only one who can make sure she is successful. But with Dark's love of tricks, strange creatures and monsters – good and bad – in the way, Nina has a hard mission before her. Readers watch the hero survive a series of thrilling adventures, and fall in love along the way. The book is written for the teen market, but there is nothing unsuitable for younger readers in here. In fact, the movie rights have already been sold to a family-friendly Hollywood production company, and it is due for release next year.

D Ante's Inferno by Griselda Heppel

Adults will have heard of Dante's Inferno and the author says she was inspired to write her book drawing on the Inferno's riches. Ante and her enemy at school, Florence, plus a boy who has been trapped in the music room for a hundred years, fall into a tunnel leading to the Underworld. There they find themselves in a dark and nightmarish place where characters from Greek mythology exist alongside terrifying, monstrous beings. Their horrifying journey and need to get back to the real world is full of exciting events. While it may be a bit much for pre-teens to deal with, more mature readers will keep turning the pages to find out what dreadful thing is going to happen next.

E The Deadly Trap by Jan Burchett & Sara Vogler

Young hero Sam is taken back 300 years onto his favourite pirate ship, the Sea Wolf, where the pirates are planning to steal some English gold. Within minutes he meets the new shipmate, Mick, who Sam suspects is not all he claims to be. The other pirates all like him, but Sam is not so sure and sets a trap that Mick falls into, but the others refuse to believe it, going ahead with their piracy plans involving Mick. Sam and his close friend Charlie have to find a way to stop Mick's plan. This is a fast-moving tale, which brings to mind the old-fashioned adventure stories of such classic writers as Stevenson and Defoe.

Match questions 1-10 with the reviews (A-E). The reviews may be chosen more than once.

1. Which book is probably too frightening for young readers?
2. Which book is about regaining something that has been lost?
3. Which book contains an element of humour?
4. Which book involves a journey into the past?
5. Which book features a character who may be hiding something?
6. Which book is being turned into a film?
7. Which book has a main character who is not very sociable?
8. Which book is one of a series of novels?
9. Which book takes some ideas from another work?
10. Which book includes a character interested in magic and games?