

#### FOCUS 4 – MID-YEAR ACTIVITY

**READING:** You are going to read an article in which four people comment on a book they have read recently. For questions 1-15, choose from the people A-D. The people may be chosen more than once.

**A** *Sundance by Teresa Wilson*

**Kerry:**

I really don't know why this book is so popular. I mean, I suppose it is going to appeal to young girls who want danger and romance, but I found this book really tedious. For a start, the characters were really unconvincing. The author went out of her way to add lots of details about the characters, but I found these details really pointless. I thought that some of the facts she presented about the main characters would become significant in some way later in the novel, but they didn't. They were just worthless bits of information. I also was disappointed that, although this book is meant to be about kids at high school, the writer seems to have no recollection at all about what it's like to be 17. The main character thought and acted like a 32-year old. It just wasn't believable. I'm not saying Teresa Wilson is a bad writer. She can obviously string words together and come up with a story that is appealing to a large number of people, but she lacks anything original. There is no flair. It just uses the same sort of language as you can see in many other mediocre novels.

**B** *Wild Ways by Margery Emerson*

**Liz:**

I have to say that I won't forget this book for a long time. I was hooked from the very first chapter. The devastating story affected me so much that I don't know if I'll ever feel the same again. I was close to tears on several occasions. I've got images in my brain now that I don't think will ever leave me. It's incredibly well-researched and, although it is fiction, is based on shocking real-life events. I learned an awful lot about things that went on that I never knew before. Margaret Emerson has a brilliant way with words and I really felt real empathy towards the characters, although I was sometimes irritated by the choices they made. However, the parallel story, the part that is set in the present, is not quite so good. I found myself just flicking through that part so that I could get back to 1940s Paris.

**C** *Orchid by Henry Rathbone*

**Imogen:**

This is a delightful novel full of wonderful imagery, it paints a remarkable picture of life in a distant time and a far-away place. If you're looking to learn about Eastern culture in great detail, then this is probably not the book for you, as the writer skims over most of the more complicated aspects of the country's etiquette. The historical aspects are also not covered in much depth. However, I wonder whether this was the writer's intention. By doing this, he symbolises the superficiality of the girl's life. She, like the book, is beautiful and eager to please, but remains too distant from us, the readers, to teach us much. Although I loved the book and read it in one sitting, the ending was a bit of a disappointment. A story which involves so much turmoil, in a place where the future is uncertain, should not have a happy-ever-after fairy-tale ending.

**D** *High Hills by Mary Holland*

**Hannah:**

I read this book for a literature class. I know it's a classic, and I did try to like it, but I just didn't get into it. I kept persevering, hoping that I'd start to enjoy it, but no such luck. The famous scene out on the moors was definitely the best bit of the book, but even that I found ridiculous when it is clearly supposed to be passionate. As I approached the end of the book, I figured there must be some kind of moral to the story, something that I would learn from the experience of trudging through seven hundred long pages, but there was nothing worthwhile. I don't know why the literary world sees this book as such a masterpiece. The characters are portrayed as being intelligent, but they do such stupid things! And as for it being a *love* story - marrying someone you don't love and then being abused by them - that doesn't spell love to me.

**Which person read a book which...**

1. was set in an Oriental country

2. finished in an unrealistic way
3. had characters that the reader could sympathise with
4. is well-known and was written a long time ago
5. contained two stories
6. was not set in the past
7. was historically accurate
8. made the reader cry
9. contained insignificant details
10. has a well-known scene

**USE OF ENGLISH:**

**1- HABITS IN THE PRESENT AND THE PAST (used to – would – present simple – present continuous) – Complete the dialogue with the correct expression**

1. Do you remember how your Uncle David \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in that chair and smoke those disgusting cigars.
2. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (always - wear) my clothes. I have told her not to a million times!
3. For years, they \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on holiday to the Rockies, but then it became very fashionable and, hence, expensive.
4. Years ago, I \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a diary every day but then I got bored with doing it and I stopped. Maybe it was my life that was boring!
5. Every day, they \_\_\_\_\_ (go) shopping to the nearest supermarket to get the freshest products.
6. You \_\_\_\_\_ spell so well. Whatever happened?
7. When I was five, I \_\_\_\_\_ be able to do incredible gymnastics. Now I can't even touch my toes.
8. Before getting my driving licence, I \_\_\_\_\_ ride a bicycle everywhere.

**2- VERB PATTERNS – Put the verb in the correct form: TO / ING**

- 1) I couldn't sleep so I tried \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) some hot milk.
- 2) She tried \_\_\_\_\_ (reach) the book on the high shelf but she was too small.
- 3) You should stop \_\_\_\_\_ (smoke), it's not good for your health.
- 4) We stopped \_\_\_\_\_ (study) because we were tired.
- 5) Oh no! I forgot \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) milk.
- 6) I forget \_\_\_\_\_ (lock) the door, but I'm sure I must have locked it.
- 7) Please remember \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) your homework.
- 8) He enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a bath in the evening.
- 9) Do you mind \_\_\_\_\_ (give) me a hand?
- 10) He asked \_\_\_\_\_ (come) with us.

**VOCABULARY: 1- Complete the phrases with the correct verb MAKE/DO/HAVE/TAKE**

<p>1</p> <p>You can't _____ noise in the library.</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>I like scuba diving and _____ underwater photos.</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>_____ (you) the shopping with me tomorrow?</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>You look tired. You should _____ a rest.</p> 
<p>5</p> <p>I _____ (already) part in a marathon three times.</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Mr. Rich sells second-hand cars and he _____ a lot of money.</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Judy and Kim _____ the afternoon tea now.</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>I _____ (not) my homework yet.</p> 
<p>9</p> <p>We _____ a barbecue with our neighbours last weekend.</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>I _____ lots of tests these days.</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Eve _____ lunch with her mum today.</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>My grandparents always _____ a walk after dinner.</p> 

2-Complete the sentences with a word from the box

HARD-WORKING	GO	THRILLED	DETERMINED	CATCH	HANDED
PUT	THINKERS	LOOKING	FRUSTRATED	RELIEVED	

- a- Have you \_\_\_\_\_ in your homework?
- b- I haven't seen my friends since March, I want to \_\_\_\_\_ up with them.
- c- Philosophers are deep \_\_\_\_\_. They always have great questions about everything.
- d- John was \_\_\_\_\_ about the movie. He thought it was great!
- e- Caroline is not going to \_\_\_\_\_ on to further studies. She will start working as soon as she finishes school.
- f- I was very \_\_\_\_\_ to see that I had failed the exam.
- g- Helen is very \_\_\_\_\_. She always stays late in her office.
- h- I am \_\_\_\_\_ forward to receiving a response to the e-mail I sent yesterday.
- i- I was so \_\_\_\_\_ when I got the results of my COVID-19 test. It was negative.
- j- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ off till tomorrow what you can do today.
- k- Professional athletes are very \_\_\_\_\_. They never stop training.

**LISTENING: You will hear a radio report about a new type of air transport. For questions 1-10, complete the sentences. Write no more than three words and/or a number.**

1. It will take 37 hours for the new form of transport to travel from London to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Unlike crowded jets, the Aircruise will allow passengers to travel in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Aircruise can travel at low altitudes if there is something \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Hydrogen fuels the airship and also provides \_\_\_\_\_ for the people on board.
5. The Hindenburg airship disaster killed \_\_\_\_\_ people.
6. Scientists are keen to develop transport options which are both \_\_\_\_\_ and environmentally friendly.
7. The Aircruise will carry a total of \_\_\_\_\_ passengers.
8. The luxury features on board include private apartments, a bar and a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Compared to airports, the Aircruise has the potential to land closer to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The concept is getting a lot of attention from a Korean company which makes \_\_\_\_\_

