

Comprehension – Main Idea

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: 9

English Language

Exercise A

Instructions: Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

For the next two weeks, Wilby knew that his mother would be watching – monitoring. Tallboy would say – all his movements, and he was determined to try to live by her rules. The countdown had already begun, and secretly he was crossing off each passing day on the calendar.

But inspite of Wilby's resolve, the last four days preceding "D – Day" were almost unbearable for him. Miss Milly's tension and extreme anxiety began to effect him. If he cleared his throat, she asked, "Wil, yuh getting the flu? Yuh hear measles goin around, jus keep away from it, yes."

Then, exasperated, he would remind her, "Ma, I had it when I was seven years old!"

Growing up with Miss Milly, there had been times in young Wilby's life when he had had the desire to leave home, never to return. Well, that Thursday evening preceding that Friday examination, Wilby had an overwhelming desire to wander off into the night. It would be so nice, so very nice to be a firefly, he thought, as he watched a fleet of fireflies illuminate the dark area in front of his home. They moved to and fro like tiny ships, crisscrossing a silent, motionless sea. He remembered a long time ago, when the phrase "Eleven Plus Examination" was meaningless to him. He must have been in Standard 1 when he used to catch the fireflies and place them in a jar.

For a year perhaps longer, Miss Milly had been preparing her son and herself for the day that was dawning. There should be something special about dis day. Miss Milly watched over Wilby as he ate a special breakfast of cornflakes, toast and strawberry jam.

from *Growing Up With Miss Milly* by Sybil Seaforth

1. The countdown the writer mentions in paragraph one is _____.

2. What does D-Day mean in this passage?

3. Why did Wilby think of leaving home?

4. Wilby wished he could be a _____.

5. Explain the meaning of 'illuminate'
