Modern-Day Shakespeare...Maybe

I should have been born with my fingers permanently glued to a keyboard. From the age of five, I've known that I want to be a professional writer: a journalist, a novelist, a modern-day Shakespeare, maybe. Okay, not Shakespeare. William used to give me terrible headaches back in my freshman year as I tried to figure out what he was talking about in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar. Macbeth* in my sophomore year was much easier to understand.

Regardless, I'm practically addicted to books, whether I'm reading or writing them. I can't go a single day without writing something - a short story a novel chapter, an article - and if I do, *I feel a tingling in my fingers*, an itch that won't go away until I sit in front of a computer or pick up a well-sharpened pencil and just let my thoughts out.

My extended family is so widespread that whenever I meet with a cousin or an aunt I only vaguely remember, I tell him or her I'm a writer because I know it will distinguish me from all the other "kids" in the family and make me memorable. I tell my relatives about the stories I used to write as a child, the projects I'm working on now, and why I'm working so hard to make a breakthrough in the competitive world of publishing. One aunt hugged me and told me, "Just don't forget about the rest of us when you become the next J.K. Rowling."

Smiling, I replied, "Don't worry, I won't." Call it a hunch, intuition, or confidence, but I know that I will become the next J .K. Rowling. I have the ambition, I have the means, and I have the talent. My English and History teachers don't praise my writing and tell me I have an innate writing talent because they want to be nice - they know how passionate I am about writing, and how that passion slips through my fingertips to the paper.

I don't really know why I love writing so much, I just do. There's something about putting a story down on paper for friends halfway across the globe to read and understand, about finding just the right word to describe what I can see so clearly in my head, that lures me in like a siren's song. Writing makes me who I am.

1) Which of the following can be inferred about the author from paragraph 1?

A She believes it is impossible for modern writers to better Shakespeare.
B She draws great inspiration for her writing when reading Shakespeare.
C She admits it was difficult for her to understand Shakespeare's works.
D She thinks Shakespeare's works are inappropriate for modern readers.

2) Saying *"I feel a tingling in my fingers"* (paragraph 2), the author means that _____.

A she is tired of sharpening pencils
B she is addicted to reading e-books
C she spends all her days typing
D she has a strong desire to write

3) Why does the author tell her relatives that she is a writer?

A To create an image of a hard-working person
B To get their help in pursuing a writing career
C To stand out among the other youngsters
D To impress them with her published stories

4) According to the text, what is the attitude of the author's teachers to her writing?

A They ignore her attempts to write.
B They doubt her talent for writing.
C They share her passion for writing.
D They develop her ambition to write.

5) While explaining her love for writing the author mentions all of the following EXCEPT the opportunity to _____ .

A describe her friends in her books
B use accurate language in her works
C develop her own creative personality
D put her ideas across to other people

LIVEWORKSHEETS