

Part 3

Questions 11 – 15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

A short story competition

My name's Amy Shaw and I'm 13 years old. Recently I wrote a short story for a competition. I love writing, but I usually keep my stories to myself. But when my mum read about this national competition for teenagers, she said I should take part before it was too late – you have to be under 14 to enter. I'm so glad she did. I started immediately. I wrote a plan quite quickly, then used that to write the story. I spent ages changing things and rewriting until I was happy, then I sent it in. I read later that 50 000 people entered.

Six weeks later, Mum showed me an email she'd got. It said the judges had selected my story for the final. It was going to be at a museum, with a famous person reading each story. Mum said that, to attend, I'd have to miss a day of school and get a nice dress. I'm not great at choosing clothes, so I thought that might be a problem. Luckily, Mum helped me.

The day of the final was fantastic. I'll never forget it. Mum and Dad came with me to the museum, which was full of people. The ten finalists had to go up on the stage. Because we were all together, it was actually fun, rather than scary. The thing I remember most is listening to the actor reading my story. I enjoy acting at school, but I'll never be that good. For each character, he spoke in a different, often silly way, and made everyone laugh. My words sounded so much better the way he read them. We chatted afterwards, and he asked about what I'm writing now. I told him I've got lots of ideas.

My story didn't win, but I still got a prize; 40 books for me and 500 for my school. There was hardly space for them all in the library! The head teacher asked me to stand up in front of the whole school and explain how I'd won them. I was a bit embarrassed, but it's great to have won a prize that everyone can get some benefit from.

11 What does Amy do in the first paragraph?

A Encourage other people to write stories for competitions.
B Tell people how to find out about writing competitions.
C Complain about the rules of the competition.
D Explain why she entered the competition.

12 How did Amy feel when she found out she was in the final?

A Surprised that the judges liked her work.
B Excited about meeting famous people.
C Worried about what she would wear.
D Pleased about missing school.

13 Amy says that the actor who read her story

A chatted with each of the competition finalists.
B improved the story by using amusing voices.
C made her consider becoming an actor.
D gave her ideas for another story.

14 What does Amy say about the books that she won?

A She feels proud to see them in her school.
B She wishes there were not so many of them.
C She is glad she can share them with her schoolmates.
D She thinks they're better than what the winner received.

15 What would Amy write in her diary after the final?

A

It took me so long to write
that story, but it was
worth every minute.

B

I had the best day ever.
It's just a shame that my
family couldn't be there.

C

It's incredible to think that my
story was the best one out of
so many thousands.

D

There were so many
people at the museum.
I felt really nervous.