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INTERMEDIATE (B1)
MID-TERM TEST

READING

1. Read the article about Toni Morrison, an American writer. Match the paragraphs (1–5) with the headings (A–E).

Toni Morrison

1 ___

Morrison was only two years old when the house she lived in was burned down. Her family hadn't been able to pay the rent so the owner of the house started a fire. Most people would be terrified in that situation, but her family just tried to laugh about it. Black families like hers faced many difficulties in 1930s America, but Morrison's parents taught her to be proud of being a Black American.

2 ___

As a child, Morrison's parents used to tell her stories and Morrison especially loved their ghost stories. This was the beginning of her love of language and novels. She used to love reading as a child and was also starting to become a skilled writer. Once, at school, she wrote an essay which her teacher thought was outstanding. He used it to show other students an example of good writing.

3 ___

Morrison later went to university in Washington to study English. While she was there, she experienced segregation, which meant that black people couldn't use the same buses or restaurants as white people. Differences in skin colour were also a big issue at university, but Morrison completed her studies and went on to teach English. She later became an editor working with many well-known writers.

4 ___

While Morrison was teaching, she had the idea for her first novel, The Bluest Eye. However, she had become a mother by this time, so it took many years to finish it. She used to get up at four o'clock in the morning so she could write before waking up her children and going to work. The Bluest Eye was finally published in 1970. Although it didn't sell many copies at first, it got positive book reviews. She produced three more novels before leaving her editing job to concentrate on writing in the 1980s.

5 ___

Morrison died in 2019 after a fifty-year writing career which included plays, poetry and many novels. Race was an important subject in her work and she was never afraid to talk about things she thought were wrong. She made a huge contribution to American literature and she was given the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize in Literature, which are among the most important prizes for writing. Not only that, but she even has a day named after her in Ohio: Toni Morrison Day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. **Read the text again. Choose the correct answers, A, B, C or D.**

1 What does the writer say about Morrison's early life?
A Her parents owned a house.
B Her family was in a difficult situation.
C She was terrified of her parents.
D She used to laugh a lot.

2 Why were ghost stories important to Morrison?
A She liked telling them to her family.
B She used to write them for school.
C She heard them from other students.
D She enjoyed listening to them.

3 What was Morrison's experience at university?
A She found it difficult to complete her studies.
B She saw that some people weren't treated equally.
C She wasn't able to use buses or restaurants.
D She realised that differences didn't matter.

4 What does the writer say about The Bluest Eye?
A Morrison took many years to complete it.
B Morrison left her job to finish it.
C It was Morrison's most successful novel.
D It was the last of Morrison's novels.

5 What is the writer doing in the final paragraph?
A Explaining how Morrison died
B Describing one of her novels
C Talking about what she's achieved
D Saying which of her novels is best

LIVEWORKSHEETS