

Task 15

After the war

When the war ended I returned to Trinity College and was granted an extra year to complete my degree. [32] my father and mother considered my grant at Trinity the highlight of the year, I thought Dad's receiving an award from the Queen was more important.

The ceremony turned [33] to be a double delight, because I was able to witness my old tutor, Professor Bradford, receive his award for the role he had played in the field of breaking German military codes [34] the war. I was proud of our little team working under Professor Bradford – as Churchill stated in the House of Commons, we had probably cut the length of the war by a year.

We all met up afterwards for tea at the Ritz, and not unnaturally at some [35] during the afternoon the conversation switched to what career I proposed to follow now the war was over. To my father's credit he had never once [36] that I should join him at the family company, especially as I knew how much he had longed for another son who might eventually [37] his place. In fact, during the summer vacation I became even more conscious of my good fortune, as Father seemed to be preoccupied with the business and Mother was unable to hide her own anxiety about the future of the company. But whenever I asked if I could help all she would [38] was, "Don't worry, it will all work out in the end."

Task 16

Virtual High School

Christina C. was determined to graduate from high school. Yet, being not a driven student she faced numerous hurdles, leading to frustration.

At that point, a school administrator told Christina about a new public schooling [32] –Youth Connection Charter School (YCCS) Virtual High School – that could be a path to graduation.

Christina chose the combination of Virtual High School's online instruction coupled with the support from classroom teachers. This hybrid education model [33] her to take online courses at home and attend some lessons at school.

"When I found out about this program, my mother said it was a good idea and told me she would help me get [34] it. The school even provided bus [35] so I could attend – and it was the best decision," she said.

"It was hard for me to adjust but taking the classes on the computer gave me a chance to study at my own [36]," said Christina. The online courses also relieved the pressure Christina often felt in a traditional classroom. "Sometimes I was hesitant to let a teacher know I didn't understand something. Because there were so many students, I couldn't get the individual attention I needed. The online courses really take the pressure off because you can [37] your time till you understand it all," she explained.

This past June, Christina, aged 19, graduated from High School and her academic success and newfound confidence spurred her to apply – and to be accepted – to Trinity Christian College, with a partial scholarship.

"I was shocked ... Here I was ready to give up, and I graduated with As. I can go to college and make my dreams [38] true," she said.

Task 17

The Chameleon Stone

That morning Tanon, a young farmer's boy, discovered a strange stone in the cattle shed. It felt cold [32] _____ the touch. Well, not exactly cold, more cool and smooth. It was fashioned like no other stone that Tanon had ever seen. He was fascinated by it and it [33] _____ his gaze like a venomous snake did its prey, just before making its lethal strike. Yet there was no strike – just the beautiful curves of this most precious of objects. At least, Tanon presumed it was precious, but now he had a decision to [34] _____. Should he take it immediately to his master or could he hold [35] _____ to its smoothness for just a little longer? A clap of thunder broke his daydream and he turned his gaze heavenwards. Dark clouds were forming [36] _____ smoke billowing from an open fire and Tanon knew he had not much time before the rain came. He had to get the cattle inside before the full force of the storm came to bear down on the farm. [37] _____ as he was standing up, his prize started to change. Swirling mists and patterns drifted over its outer layer and a pale pulsing light seemed to throb from its core. Tanon [38] _____ in wonder – was this some sort of magical object?

Task 18

Growing up with Joey

I enjoy thinking of my childhood. But when I think of my home town where I grew up, all that I [32] _____ to remember is dust. I remember the brown, crumbly dust of late summer that gets into the eyes and makes them water. It is the kind of dust that gets into the throat and between the [33] _____ of bare brown feet. I don't know why I should remember only the dust. There must have been green lawns and paved streets under leafy shady trees somewhere in town.

One day returns to me clearly for some reason. I was resting under the great oak tree in the yard. I was deep in thought which I have now forgotten except that it involved some secret. Joey and a bunch of kids were bored now with the old tire hanging from an oak limb. It had [34] _____ them busy for a while. "Hey, Lizabeth," Joey yelled. He never talked when he could yell. "He, Lizabeth, let's go somewhere."

I came back from the thoughts of my private world. "Where at, Joey?"

The truth was that we were becoming tired [35] _____ the empty summer days.

"Let's go over to Miss Lottie's," said Joey.

The idea caught on at once. Annoying Miss Lottie was always fun. I was still child [36] _____ to run along with the group.

We went over old fences and through bushes that tore our [37] _____ ripped clothes, back to where Miss Lottie lived. I think now that we must have looked partly funny and partly sad. There were six of us, all different ages, dressed in only one thing [38] _____. The girls wore faded dresses that were too long or too short. The boys wore patched pants. A little cloud of dust followed our thin legs and bare feet as we tramped over the dusty ground.