

## VOCABULARY ( Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

inherit      crumble      dedicate      obsession      priceless

1. to fall into many pieces  
The pages of the old book started to \_\_\_\_\_ as I turned them.
2. to do something for a special reason  
He wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ his life to helping others.
3. something that you can't stop thinking about  
My \_\_\_\_\_ with travel is expensive.
4. very valuable; worth a lot of money  
The pictures in the art gallery are \_\_\_\_\_.
5. to get something from your parents after they die  
I hope to \_\_\_\_\_ my mother's book collection.

## READING ( Read in chunks. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words above.

### The Amazing Book Collector

Sir Thomas Phillipps, / an English nobleman born in 1792, / loved books. // He read about books / being burned by church leaders / who disagreed with the ideas written in them. // He was extremely upset by this and decided to 1 \_\_\_\_\_ his life to saving as many old books as he could. He 2 \_\_\_\_\_ a large amount of money and immediately started buying old books and handwritten manuscripts. Sometimes he would go into a bookshop and buy every book in the shop! He told a friend that he wanted to have a copy of every book in the world.

It was impossible to keep track of all the books arriving at the house and Sir Thomas was so afraid of losing his collection that he put the books in special boxes which could be easily carried away if there was a fire.

He borrowed money which he could not repay, and in the meantime, the house itself began to 3 \_\_\_\_\_. Its floors started to sag under the weight of hundreds of tons of paper. Sir Thomas decided that he needed more room for his books, and bought a larger house. Moving the entire collection was a huge job.

Sir Thomas continued to add to his library until his death in 1872. After his death, his family had no room for his collection and began to sell the books. The library was so large that the collection was still being sold more than a hundred years later.

Many 4 \_\_\_\_\_ works were saved from destruction by the 5 \_\_\_\_\_ of the greatest book collector of all time.

Reading Time

## READ & THINK (Answer the questions.

1. Why did Sir Thomas Phillipps collect books?
  - a. His house was a perfect library.
  - b. He hated people destroying books.
  - c. He wanted to sell rare books.
  - d. He didn't know what to do with his money.
2. What did Sir Thomas fear might happen to his books?
  - a. Church leaders would destroy them.
  - b. Beetles might crawl on them.
  - c. Fire might burn them.
  - d. People might steal them.
3. Sir Thomas bought a new house because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. his old house burned down
  - b. his old house was too small for all his books
  - c. he inherited a lot of money
  - d. he owed people a lot of money
4. If you 'borrow' something, you \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. take it temporarily
  - b. remove it
  - c. lend it to someone
  - d. reject it
5. Why was Sir Thomas's collection still being sold one hundred years after his death?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did Sir Thomas need to borrow money?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How do people buy books today?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMARY (Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

vast      collector      copy      weight      constantly

Sir Thomas Phillipps was a nineteenth-century English book and manuscript  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ who collected so many books that he was 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
in debt and his house was unable to bear the 3 \_\_\_\_\_. He wanted to  
have a 4 \_\_\_\_\_ of every book that was ever printed. When he died at  
the age of 80, his collection was so 5 \_\_\_\_\_ that it took more than a  
hundred years to sell it all.