Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits the gap.

PANTOMIMES



Pantomime is a marvellous and **(1)** _____ [WONDER] (if a little eccentric!) British **(2)** _____ [INSTITUTE].

Pantomimes take place around the Christmas period and are **(3)** _____ [NEAR] always based on **(4)** _____ [KNOW] children's stories such as Peter Pan, Aladdin, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, etc. Pantomimes are performed not only in the best theatres in the land but also in village halls **(5)** _____ [THROUGH] Britain. Whether a lavish professional **(6)** _____ [PERFORM] or a hammy local amateur **(7)** _____ [DRAMA] production, all pantomimes are well attended.

Audience **(8)** _____ [PARTICIPATE] is a very important part of a pantomime. The audience are **(9)** _____ [COURAGE] to boo the villain whenever he enters the stage, argue with the Dame (who is always a man) and warn the Principal Boy (who is always a girl) when the villain is behind them by shouting out "He's behind you!".

Slapstick is another important part of a British pantomime – the **(10)** _____ [THROW] of custard pies, the ugly sisters (who are always played by men) falling over, lots of silly costumes including, of course, the pantomime horse which is played by two people in a horse costume.

By the end of the pantomime, the villain has been defeated, true love has conquered all and everyone lives **(11)** _____ [HAPPY] ever after.

So how did this curious British institution come about?

Pantomime **(12)** _____ [LITERAL] means "all kinds" of "mime" (panto-mime). It is generally **(13)** _____ [KNOWLEDGE] that British pantomime is modelled on the early masques of the Elizabethan and Stuart days. In the 14th century the early masques were **(14)** _____ [MUSIC], mime or spoken dramas, **(15)** _____ [USUAL] performed in grand houses although by the 17th century they were really no more than an excuse for a theme party.

The **(16)** _____ [TIME] of the British pantomime at Christmas and the role reversal of the lead characters (the principal boy being played by a girl and the Dame by a man) may have also evolved from the Tudor "Feast of Fools", presided over by the Lord of Misrule. The feast was an **(17)** _____ [RULE] event, involving much drinking, **(18)** _____ [REVEL] and role reversal.

The Lord of Misrule, normally a **(19)** _____ [COMMON] with a reputation of knowing how to enjoy himself, was selected to direct the **(20)** _____ [ENTERTAIN]. The festival is thought to have originated from the benevolent Roman masters who allowed their servants to be the boss for a while.

Adapted from https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pantomime/

LIVEWORKSHEETS