A VERY YOUNG NOVELIST

Twelve-year-old Jake Marcionette wasn't enjoying his school summer holiday. Instead of playing outside with his friends, his mother was making him write every morning from breakfast to lunch. Jake felt pretty fed up with it. But then something changed. Slowly, he began to enjoy writing. He wrote about what he was doing every day, how he felt, and he soon discovered that he couldn't stop.

Then, Jake found a reason for writing. Usually the only books he had to read were his older sister's. So he decided to write his own book, with a plot and a setting that he liked, about a boy very similar to himself. He called it *Just Jake*, and wrote chapter after chapter. Soon he had his very first novel.

Jake was interested to know what his friends thought of his novel, and luckily, they thought it was hilarious. But when he decided to look for an agent, it was much harder to get a positive reaction. A lot of them weren't interested, and some were shocked that a twelve-year-old boy was calling them. But then, finally, an agent called Dan Lazar at Writers House in New York City asked Jake to send him a copy. Just a few weeks later, he had a publishing deal with Penguin Books!

Just Jake soon became a bestseller, and Jake began to write his second book. Today there are three *Just Jake* novels, and Jake is now working on a new project.

Jake is full of gratitude for those mornings every summer and he has some advice to pass on to other young novelists. Jake believes you shouldn't try to write something really dramatic or spectacular. You should simply write about what you know.

1. Match the sentence halves 1–5 to A–E.

1. Jake's mum	A. discovered that he loved writing.
2. Jake	B. wanted to put Jake's book in shops.
3. Jake's sister	C. had books that Jake didn't like.
4. Jake's friends	D. thought his book was funny.
5. A famous publisher	E. believed that writing was good for children.

2. Complete each sentence with ONLY ONE WORD.

1. Jake had to write every _____.

2. Jake discovered that he couldn't stop _____.

3. Usually Jake read his sister's _____.

4 The boy in the book is very similar to _____.

5. Before Jake looked for a publisher, he gave the book to his _____.

6. Jake believes that writers should describe what they _____.

3. Choose the correct answer.

1. Why couldn't Jake do what he wanted in the school holidays?

A) Because he had to write every morning.

B) Because he was playing with his friends.

C) Because he was receiving private lessons about writing with his friends.

2. What did he think of his sister's books?

A) They were always a good choice.

B) It was difficult to choose because they were too old.

C) He didn't like them very much.

3. Who are the *Just Jake* books about?

A) About a similar person like his sister.

B) They are about a boy like Jake.

C) About a boy called Jake who has superpowers.

4. How many Just Jake books did Jake write?

A) He is writing the third novel that will be published soon.

B) He will soon begin to write the third novel.

C) He wrote three and they are already published.

5. Why does Jake feel gratitude to his mother?

A) Because she made him write and he began to enjoy it.

B) Because she gave him the idea to write his own novels.

C) Because she corrected and helped published the first novel.