Unit 2 Reading

It was not the best time of the year for travelling, and certainly not the best time of day. The winter sun was low in the sky and the bright silver light was in Danny's eyes as he drove west. He had nearly decided not to come. Snow was forecast and that would make the return journey much more dangerous. However, he had promised, and he didn't like breaking a promise. His sister, Gracie, who he had not seen for over five years, had asked him to meet her outside their childhood home, for reasons she had not revealed.

Her request was unexpected. As far as Danny knew, neither he nor Gracie had been to the property since their parents had moved to the city. They had left the old cottage to live in a modern block of flats in the city. Although he had only been about six years old, he remembered the speed and surprise of the move. In one day, the surroundings had changed dramatically. Danny's old, small room, with its football posters and secondhand lamp shade, had overlooked an overgrown garden. This new, spacious modern bedroom had chrome door handles, overhead lighting and underfloor heating, and a view over busy roads. To begin with, the noise had bothered him. The cottage had been so silent with its creaky stairs and autumn wind occasionally howling in the attic. The city flat seemed to shake with the constant passing of the traffic.

'I'd be really grateful, Dan,' she had said on the phone. 'I'll explain everything when I see you.'

'It will be good to see you too, Gracie,' he had replied. He was not sure when and why they had lost touch, but he had missed her.

'Absolutely!' he could hear the smile in her voice. 'So, six o'clock at the gate.'

So, here he was, outside his old home, with the evening closing around him. Dan got out and stood at the rickety gate, looking at the old building. It was almost hidden behind tall hedges, but he could see the balcony outside a first-floor window. He remembered how much he had envied Gracie for having that room.

'It's because I'm the oldest,' she had explained, at the age of seven. 'When you're the oldest, you'll have a balcony room.' At five that explanation had seemed reasonable. Now, Dan smiled at the memory.

As he looked at the cottage. A car had stopped behind him and the headlights lit up the front of the house. Suddenly his heart jumped. Was that a movement at the balcony room window? Instinctively he moved back and bumped into someone behind him.

'Hey, careful!' Grace laughed. 'That's not the way to greet your sister!'

'Ssh!' Danny whispered. 'Look.' He pointed at the roof. A thin breath of white smoke was coming from the chimney. 'I thought you said it was empty?'

'I did,' Grace said. 'It was.'

W zadaniach wielokrotnego wyboru niektóre pytania mogą odnosić się do chronologii wydarzeń, dlatego należy zwrócić szczególną uwagę na: • podane daty lub wiek osoby w czasie określonego zdarzenia (*in 2009, at the age of ten, when she was five*) • przysłówki czasu (*afterwards, earlier on, a few days later*) • wyrażenia określające czas (*after, before, while*) • zdania z użyciem czasu *past perfect*, które sugerują, że coś wydarzyło się przed innym zdarzeniem w przeszłości.

Przeczytaj tekst. Z podanych odpowiedzi wybierz właściwą, zgodną z treścią tekstu. Zakreśl jedną z liter: A, B, C albo D.

1 While driving, Danny was concerned because ☐
- **A** the snow was creating dangerous driving conditions.
- **B** the sun had already set.
- **C** he might be late for his meeting.
- **D** he couldn't see the road very well.

2 How had Danny felt about moving house when he was young? ☐
- **A** He was happy to have a much larger room.
- **B** He was angry with his parents for moving to an urban area.
- **C** He was astonished by how quickly things changed.
- **D** He was excited by the hustle and bustle of the city.

3 Which of the following happened first chronologically? ☐
- **A** Danny relised somebody lived in the cottage.
- **B** Danny and Grace met at the gate of the cottage.
- **C** Danny and Grace moved to the new house in the city.
- **D** Grace explained to Danny why she needed a room with a balcony.

4 From the last section of the extract we learn that ☐
- **A** Grace arrived just after Danny.
- **B** Grace wanted to frighten Danny.
- **C** Grace had lied to Danny about the cottage being vacant.
- **D** Grace had already been inside the cottage.

5 Which is the best title for the story? ☐
- **A** A dangerous journey
- **B** Memories and mysteries
- **C** A move to the city
- **D** Secret fears

LIVEWORKSHEETS