SECTION 1 – GRAMMAR AND USAGE

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The Stories We Tell

People love stories. We have told stories in times of confusion and destruction as well as in times of peace and prosperity. We've told them around campfires and dinner tables, in grass huts and grand opera houses. Sometimes we've told them through poetry, sometimes through song. Sometimes they are told orally, sometimes they are written down for us to read. We never run out of stories because storytellers constantly replenish our supply. They create new stories, and they make old stories seem new by telling them in new ways. We enjoy stories that make us laugh; we even enjoy stories that make us cry. Perhaps this is because sad stories are rarely told to demoralize us. Instead, they lift our spirits because they usually tell us how people persevere in times of extremity such as war and natural disasters. Stories serve many functions. They entertain us by stirring our emotions and moving us to action. They tell us about our culture.

Each culture learns about itself through its stories and uses them to spread knowledge among all the members of the culture. Even the silliest television comedy tells us something about our culture – what we value and how we live our lives. Our stories manifest what we believe about our world; they reveal who we are. Some people, for example, believe that to destroy the stories of their culture would completely eradicate the culture itself.

It makes sense then to study the stories of peoples we want to understand. Scholars have long known that a culture's literature is an important part of the historical record of what people believe about themselves.

We may prefer one story one day and another story a different day, depending on our mood, but one thing is certain. Stories will never go out of style.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Fill in the blanks in each of the following sentences with a single word so as to complete the sense. The word you use should be made out of a word already used in the passage.

The Stories We Tell

People love stories. We have told stories in times of confusion and destruction as well as in times of peace and prosperity.

Storytellers are constantly _____ (line 5) new stories or making old ones seem new; but one thing is certain, whether stories made us laugh or cry we find them _____ (line 7).

It is _____ (line 7) for sad stories to demoralize us. Instead, they lift our spirits because we also learn about _____ (lines 8–9) from stories which are told about war and natural disasters. Stories serve many functions. They often make us _____ (line 10), and move us to action. They tell us about our culture. Even _____ (line 13) television comedies tell us about our culture – what we believe to be _____ (line 14). Simply put, stories are a _____ (line 14) of what we believe about our world. So the _____ (line 15) of these stories would be to eradicate the culture itself.

Therefore if you want to learn about a people it is _____ (line 17) then to read their stories – it is an important part of their history.

LIVEWORKSHEETS