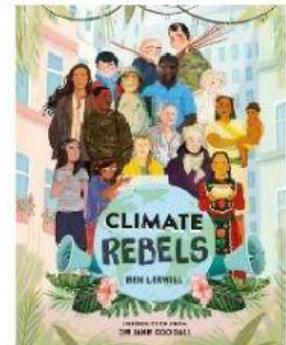
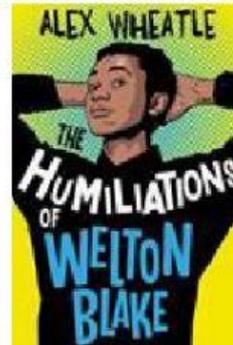
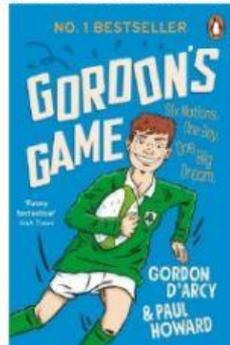
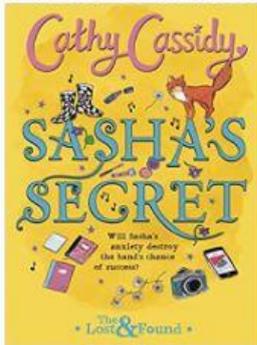


Name: _____ Date: _____ Grade/ Class: _____

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

Life-Changing Events

A. Listen to four book reviews. Put the book covers in the correct order.



B. Listen again and mark these sentences T (true) or F (false).

1. Welton was too shy, so he didn't ask Carmella out. _____
2. Sasha is struggling with anxiety problems. _____
3. There are several people from different countries that are fighting to save our planet.

4. Gordon is a wonderful football player. _____

C. Listen once more and complete the sentences.

1. With _____ to avoid, girls ready to knock him out and all the drama with his mum and dad, _____ for Welton is about to go very, very wrong...
2. Sasha seems to have it all. She's the lead singer of an amazing _____, she's starting to get famous _____ and it seems like the coolest boy in school might have a crush on her.
3. These are true stories to make you think, make you cry, make you _____ - and these are stories to make us all stand _____ and protect our home.
4. Gordon is the star player for Wexford Wanderers and dreams of one day wearing the Ireland jersey. A dream like that means hard _____, talent and never losing sight of your _____.

The Worst Day in the History of Everything

It was one of those days when everything went madly wrong. It all started in the morning. I woke up and found my mobile phone was dead. It refused to charge. No matter what buttons I pressed, it wouldn't switch on. I took out the SIM card and put it back fifteen times. Nothing. I should've taken as a sign that my day wasn't going to be blessed.

I went to the kitchen. I was in secondary school, I had to make my own breakfast. I had my regular two slices of toast and a glass of mango juice.

At the breakfast table I tried switching my phone on again and... nothing. How was I going to text the great love of my life, Carmella McKenzie? Even worse, how was she going to text me? It had taken me four months to build up the courage to chat to her.

After school yesterday, I don't know what got into me. There Carmella was at the bus stop. Alone. She had her headphones on. She was listening to music. It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance. I took a deep breath. This is the moment, I told myself.

"Hi, Carmella," I said.

"Hi, Blakey," she replied. I normally didn't love being called Blakey, but Carmella could get away with it because she was super-pretty.

I tried to look as cool as possible.

"Do you..." I started. "There... There's this film. Yes, there's this film that's showing in the cinema. You know, the one in the Orchard shopping centre... the cinema there."

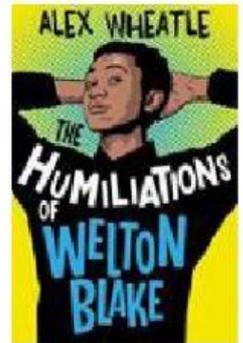
"I know where the cinema is, Welton."

"Can... can I take you to see a film?"

"Yeah, all right," she said. "Call me to tell me what day, what time the film starts and where to meet."

"I... yes, of course I'll call you. Thanks so much... I haven't got your number. I need your number to call you."

She smiled. We swapped numbers. I got over one of my worst fears and asked a girl out. But now, a day later, my phone was dead. It was the worst crisis in my life.



Alex Wheatle, *The Humiliations of Welton Blake* (abridged and adapted)

A. Read the text and mark the following sentences T (true) or F (false).

1. There was something wrong with Welton's mobile phone. _____
2. Welton was in primary school. _____
3. He decided to prepare a special breakfast. _____
4. It took Welton four months to find the courage to talk to Carmella. _____
5. Carmella didn't want to go to the cinema with Welton. _____

B. Answer the following questions about the text.

1. What was the problem with Welton's mobile phone?

_____.

2. What did he have for breakfast?

_____.

3. What was Carmella doing while she was waiting for the bus?

_____.

4. What did Carmella look like?

_____.

5. What was Welton's plan?

_____.