Reading Task 3

SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

A slow and heavy step, which had been heard upon the stairs and in the corridor, paused immediately outside the door. Then there was a loud knock on the door.

"Come in!" said Holmes.

A very tall man entered, with the chest and limbs of a Hercules. His dress was rich with a richness which would, in England, be considered bad taste. He was wearing a double-breasted coat with fur-trimmed collar and cuffs, over which he wore a deep blue cloak lined with flame-coloured silk. His boots, which went halfway up his legs, were also trimmed with fur, completing his appearance of barbaric richness. He had a thick moustache and a straight chin suggesting strong determination, but a black mask hid the upper part of his face. He was carrying a hat in one hand, while his other hand was raised, as if he had just finished straightening his mask.

"Please take a seat," said Holmes. "This is my friend and colleague, Dr Watson. Whom have I the honour to address?"

"You may address me as Count von Kramm, a Bohemian aristocrat. I hope your friend is a man I can trust. If not, I prefer to speak to you alone," said our strange visitor.

"You can say anything in front of this man that you can say to me," Holmes replied. The Count nodded and continued. "You will excuse the mask; my employer wishes my true identity to remain a secret."

"If your majesty would like to tell us your problem," Holmes remarked, "I will be happy to advise you."

The Count sprang from his chair, paced nervously up and down the room, then took off the mask and threw it on the floor.

"You are right!" he cried. "I am the King. Why should I try to hide it?"

"Why, indeed?" said Holmes. "I knew, even before you spoke, that you were the Grand Duke of Cassel-Felstein and the King of Bohemia."

1.	The visitor's mouth and chin are hidden by a mask.	❑ True	❑ False
2.	The visitor says he is Count von Kramm.	❑ True	❑ False
3.	The visitor is unsure whether to trust Watson.	❑ True	❑ False
4.	Holmes does not know why the visitor has come.	❑ True	❑ False
5.	Holmes realises the visitor is the King when he takes off the mask.	❑ True	❑ False

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Task 4

Read the text and decide if the sentences are True, False or Doesn't Say.

FACE YOUR FEARS DAY

What are you afraid of? Snakes, heights, the dark?

Whatever it is, it's time to face your fears! Face Your Fears Day is on the third Tuesday in October, and it is the day when people stand up to the things that scare them and say "You don't scare me anymore!" The day was started by a blogger called Steve Hughes in 2007 to help people become a little braver.

On Face Your Fears Day, people do brave things. Last year, The Grove School in England met 'scary' animals like snakes and spiders, and even had a climbing wall setup in the playground for students who wanted to face their fear of heights. Many charities visit schools and colleges to do presentations about how to beat social fears, like public speaking or hanging out with people they don't know. Also, over the last few years, bloggers have posted videos of themselves facing their fears in order to encourage others to do the same.

Facing your fears can be difficult. If you are afraid of something, you should try slowly facing it. For example, if you are afraid of snakes, start by looking at pictures and videos of them. Do some research and learn everything you can about them, because a lot of the time it is the fear of the unknown that is the biggest fear of all. When you feel you are ready, maybe take a trip to the zoo to watch them behind the glass. After a while you'll feel comfortable and confident enough to hold them. It'll take time, but don't worry or rush, all fears are beatable!

Our fears can hold us back in life, but we shouldn't let them. Face Your Fears Day gives people the boost they need to defeat the things that scare them. This day is actually more about courage than fear. Will you be brave enough to face your fears this year?

1. The first Face Your Fears Day was in 2007.

   ❑ True ❑ False ❑ Doesn't say

2. On that day, people avoid the things that scare them.

   ❑ True ❑ False ❑ Doesn't say

3. Some people are afraid of going to parties.

   ❑ True ❑ False ❑ Doesn't say

4. It's easier to beat a phobia if you do it quickly.

   ❑ True ❑ False ❑ Doesn't say

5. Face Your Fears Day focuses more on people being brave than being scared.

   ❑ True ❑ False ❑ Doesn't say

LIVEWORKSHEETS