1 READING

a Read the text quickly. Which information is not revealed about the *Afghan Girl*?

1 what she is called
2 how old she was when the photo was taken
3 whether she has a family
4 where she lives now

b Read the text again and choose a, b, or c.

1 The most remarkable thing about the photo is…
   a her hair.
   b her clothes.
   c her eyes.
2 The photographer did not take the girl's picture immediately because…
   a he wanted to give her time to get used to him.
   b he didn't notice her at first.
   c she refused to be photographed.
3 It was hard for the photographer to find the girl again because…
   a he wasn't allowed to talk to the refugees.
   b a lot of Afghan women looked like her.
   c he didn't know anything about her.
4 When the photographer found Sharbat Gula, she was living…
   a in a different refugee camp.
   b in an isolated part of Afghanistan.
   c in a different country.
5 What is the photographer's attitude towards Sharbat Gula today?
   a He is concerned about her and her family's future.
   b He is keen to take more photographs of her.
   c He is grateful to her for making him famous.

c Match the highlighted words and phrases in the text to the definitions below.

1 remembered _____
2 said that something is true _____
3 very noticeable _____
4 the state of being alone and not disturbed by other people _____
5 make somebody want to know something _____
6 a job that you are given to do _____
7 go near to somebody _____
8 questions _____

Who is the *Afghan Girl*?



In June 1985, a photograph of a young woman appeared on the front cover of the *National Geographic* magazine. The image showed a face with a pair of striking green eyes staring directly into the camera. A red scarf hung loosely over her hair. The title of the picture was *Afghan Girl*, and today it is regarded as one of the most viewed photographs in the world. So, who took it and what is the story behind it?

The photograph was taken by American photojournalist Steve McCurry. In 1984, he was sent to Afghanistan to take a series of photos reflecting the conflict in the area. McCurry spent most of his time on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, where there were a number of refugee camps. It was in one of these camps that he met the girl in the photograph. Realizing that she was very shy, he did not approach her at first. Instead he started photographing her classmates, hoping to arouse her curiosity. Eventually, she came up to him and agreed to have her photo taken.

Almost as soon as the photograph was published, the magazine received hundreds of enquiries about the girl's identity. But McCurry had not asked her name and so he could not answer. That is, until 2002, when *National Geographic* sent him to Afghanistan on an assignment to try and find her. With no name, no address, and no information about what tribe she came from, this was not an easy task. All McCurry and his team could do was to visit the refugee camps and show her photo to the remaining inhabitants. Many women claimed that they were the girl in the picture, but McCurry was not convinced. Then one day, he spoke to a man who said that he knew her brother. A message was sent to her hometown, and some time later, a much older version of the girl in the picture walked through McCurry's door.

The photographer discovered that the woman's name was Sharbat Gula. She had only been 12 years old when he had taken her photograph, but now she was 30 and had three daughters of her own. She had returned to Afghanistan from the refugee camp in 1992 and she was living in a remote region of the country with her husband, a baker. Sharbat recalled being photographed by McCurry, but she had never seen her famous portrait before.

Since their meeting, McCurry and his team are continually in contact with Sharbat. *National Geographic* has paid her for the photograph, so she has been able to send her daughters to school. However, the magazine is keeping the location of her hometown a secret to protect her privacy.

2 VOCABULARY photography

a Complete the description of the photo.



This photo was taken in a garden. [1]In the foreground, there's a woman and the trunk of a tree that has been cut down. The trunk is [2]i_____ th_____ b_____ r_____-h_____ c_____ of the photo and the woman is standing [3]b_____ it. She's leaning on the tree trunk with her left hand [4]o_____ t_____ o_____ it. She's holding out her other hand. [5]I_____ th_____ c_____ of the photo is an older man. He looks much smaller than the woman because he's [6]i_____ th_____ d_____. It looks as if he is standing on the woman's hand. There's a bush [7]i_____ fr_____ o_____ the man, and [8]o_____ the woman there's a wall with a lot of flowers planted in it. [9]I_____ th_____ b_____, there are a lot of trees and [10]i_____ th_____ t_____ l_____-h_____ c_____, there's a large white house.

b Complete the sentences with the words in the list.

~~blurred~~ enlarge flash lenses out of focus portrait setting zoom in

1 I moved when I was taking the photo, so the image is *blurred*.
2 I use different _____, depending on the shot I want.
3 I wanted to take a close-up of my boyfriend, so I used the _____.
4 I'm going to _____ this photo and frame it for my parents as a present.
5 The people are too far away because I didn't _____ on them.
6 The photo is very dark because I didn't use the _____.
7 I didn't use the right setting, so the building is _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS