READING PRACTICE :

Our school newspaper

by Michael Williams

Some years ago, our head teacher, **Mrs Waters, decided to start a school newspaper, and get as many students as possible to take on the job of producing it – and parents, too**. **She felt the newspaper would help them learn more about school life,** through articles on things like sports achievements and arts projects, which not all students know about if they're not taking part. Students took the whole thing very seriously – and we now have a prize-winning newspaper!

1 **Michael's head teacher wanted to start a student newspaper to**

- ***A*** *provide an activity for students not interested in sport or art.*
- ***B*** *make students feel more confident about taking part in something.*
- ***C*** *keep students better informed(ĐƯỢC THÔNG TIN) about what was happening at school.*
- ***D*** *give students the experience of being responsible for something.*

Some of my friends joined the newspaper team immediately and enjoyed it. **I'd always loved creative writing and drawing cartoons, which I thought would be perfect in the newspaper, so I signed up.** My dad, who's a journalist, was pleased – he thought that even though I wasn't keen on a job like his, the newspaper would be a great opportunity for me. And he was right – I loved it! Dad often came along to give advice, which was popular with the students. It was difficult sometimes, if he was busy, but he learned a lot about the school that way.

2 **Michael decided to join the newspaper because**

- ***A*** *he had ideas about some work he could do for it.*
- ***B*** *he was considering a career in journalism.*
- ***C*** *his friends had encouraged him to do so.*

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D *he liked the idea of being part of a team.*

My first job was writing a report about a sports event – a writing style I'd never attempted before. But Dad reminded me it was similar in some ways to writing a story – getting information in the right order. **Once I'd understood that, there was no stopping me – and after my first efforts, I developed quite a professional style, which was brilliant.**(XUẤT SẮC) Sometimes the team couldn't use what I'd written, or my cartoons, for whatever reason, but I didn't mind. And sometimes it was hard to finish stuff on time, but I usually got there.

3 ***When Michael first started working on the newspaper, he was***

A *disappointed when his stories sometimes weren't used.*

B *delighted at the way his writing skills improved.*

C *pleased to find he could make use of his art skills.*

D *worried he'd be late completing some of his writing.*

I'm now one of the editors – we decide what goes into the newspaper, so our names no longer appear in print. And it's stressful sometimes as we don't have much time, but we try to manage that properly. We also correct mistakes in people's articles, which we all had to get used to, but we were soon doing it without thinking – and in our own schoolwork, too. **I still put off calling people outside school for comments on stuff, but I guess it's all good experience – at least, that's what Dad says!**

4 **What does Michael say about his role on the newspaper now?**

A *He feels uncomfortable about correcting other students' work.*

B *He still needs to improve the way he manages his time.*

C *He's happier to handle making telephone calls to others.*

D *He's become better at making articles more accurate.*

5 What would Michael's dad say about the newspaper?

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A *I was surprised at how keen Michael was to get involved – he's never shown that much interest in writing before.*

B *I occasionally had problems finding the time to help out at Michael's school, but the students really seemed to like my suggestions.*

C *Michael would never admit it, but I know he's proud to see his name in the newspaper these days – and I am, too!*

D *It's been great to finally find out about life at the school through reading the newspaper. I didn't really know much about it before.*

TASK 2 :

Coasteering: chạy bộ dọc quanh bờ biển

Lily Carter had no idea what present she wanted for her 14th birthday. But she'd always been keen on challenging sports, especially to do with water, like surfing and sailing. **So when her parents heard about an activity called coasteering – exploring rocks along the coast by climbing and swimming – they thought Lily would love it. They found a course offered at an activity centre called Porthdean, just along the coast from the family home,** which was perfect. So after checking it was led by experienced instructors, they signed her up.

1 ***Why did Lily's parents choose Porthdean for her coasteering present?***

A *It offered various courses in her favourite watersport.*

B *The instructors there were highly recommended.*

C *It wasn't too far away from where they lived.*

D *She had already tried some activities there.*

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Lily had seen a TV show about coasteering, and was interested in doing it, although she'd thought only adults could take part. But then she discovered that on courses at Porthdean, there'd also be people her age jumping from rocks into the sea, and also exploring caves – which she was never normally allowed to do, so she really wanted to go. But she still asked her dad to go along too and, although he wondered whether he'd like coasteering himself, he knew how much Lily wanted someone to accompany her, so he agreed.

2. How did Lily feel about the coasteering course?

- **A** *pleased that it included something she'd always wanted to try*
- **B** *excited about doing the experience all on her own*
- **C** *keen to find out more about what it involved*
- **D** *interested to see whether she was the only teenager*

Lily and her dad drove to Porthdean, where they attended a session with their instructors to learn basic safety and techniques and be given helmets and special wetsuits to keep the cold out. The group they joined was quite small, which meant they got lots of individual attention. Says Lily, 'The entire trip was awesome – although the water was freezing! **But our instructors encouraged the whole group so much, we were ready to try absolutely all the challenges, even stuff we hadn't expected at all, like jumping off high cliffs! I** must admit, the one I jumped off wasn't that high, but Dad went much higher!'

3 **Lily particularly liked her instructors because they made sure everyone**

- **A** *was comfortable with the kit they were given.*
- **B** *felt confident about the new things they would attempt.*

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C *got the same amount of attention.*

D *knew all the activities they would take part in.*

'Anyway, Dad and I hadn't realised how hard it would be physically, so we were glad we were fit,' explains Lily. 'Even so, afterwards, we actually felt like we'd done loads of hard exercise in the gym! But I'll keep the memories of that trip forever, I reckon. And the instructors are going to put a video of it onto the website, so my friends will see it. They'd never believe me otherwise!'

4 **Lily says that after the course, she <u>was</u>**

A *happy she'd shared something so exciting with her dad.*

B *sorry she hadn't worked at getting fitter before she went.*

C *proud that her friends all thought she'd done well.*

D *surprised at how exhausted she was by the activities.*

5 **What would Lily text to a friend while she was away on the course?**

A *I don't think Dad was sure before he came that he'd enjoy it – but actually, he's been braver than me!*

B *I wanted to do the coasteering course, and mentioned it to my parents before my birthday. But I never expected they'd let me go!*

C *Our session before the activities was great, although I really didn't think I'd need a wetsuit for the cold – and I was right!*

D *Going into caves was amazing. I'd love to explore them by myself when we're next at the beach – I'm sure my parents will let me!*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Cross-country skiing in Sweden

by Jenna Walton, aged 15

Last year, Mum and I wanted to try a winter sport called cross-country skiing – travelling on skis across the countryside. And pictures of one area in Sweden, with people skiing along through forests on wonderful white snow, persuaded us that destination was a good choice. We hadn't done much skiing, though, so weren't sure how difficult cross-country skiing was, compared with skiing fast down steep mountains. But we signed up to join a group of people, of all ages, plus a guide.

1 Jenna and her mum decided to go cross-country skiing in Sweden because

- **A** they wanted a change from mountain skiing holidays.
- **B** they'd heard the sport would be easier than skiing down hills.
- **C** they'd met a group of people who wanted to go, too.
- **D** they found a place there that they were keen to visit.

We'd read about the place we went to before we left, so we knew it was close to where Sweden ends and Norway starts. And our family knew we couldn't text home, as there was no internet connection – and actually, it was relaxing to be far from anywhere, or anyone. **What we hadn't realised was that from there, we'd be able to see amazing coloured lights in the sky**, which appeared at certain times of year, called the Northern Lights – what a sight!

2 After their arrival, what did they discover about where they were staying?

- **A** It wasn't far from the border with another country.
- **B** They could get great views of a spectacular natural event.

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C It was at a point where they couldn't use technology.
D They weren't near local people of their homes.

On our first day there, I hated getting up in the dark, but it meant I saw the sun come up over the forest, so I was glad I did. And sunshine was forecast for the week, I was delighted to hear! **But the real problem was my 15kg rucksack, full of food and clothes – I had no idea it would weigh that much. Anyway, we skied for hours across mainly flat snow.** Having special light skis was supposed to help us climb the few hills there were – although I still couldn't do it!

3 How did Jenna feel about the long trips through the snow on skis?

A surprised she had to carry such a heavy bag
B pleased about the weight of the skis she was given
C glad that going uphill wasn't as hard as she'd thought
D worried the good weather they were having wouldn't last

Finally we stopped for the night. It wasn't until we'd reached our hut that our guide mentioned we'd just crossed a frozen lake to get there – but nothing surprised us by that point! Anyway, he gave us all jobs to do – cutting fire wood and cooking food – and soon we were having dinner, made from whatever food we'd brought – a strange mix, but it tasted delicious. **And everywhere was so peaceful outside that none of us stayed awake long.**

Mum and I want to try another winter sports trip, maybe snowboarding. But we'll probably end up just as exhausted as we were after this trip!

4 Regarding their accommodation, Jenna says everyone

A had difficulties getting to sleep there.

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B was unhappy at the quality of the food.

C had to help out with all the housework.

D was shocked to hear details of their journey there.

5 What would Jenna text to a friend about her trip?

A One reason we chose this trip was that we thought we'd be among loads of trees, which we love – but that hasn't happened so far.

B The people in our group were really friendly – but they were all Mum's age and older, really.

C I'm not used to getting out of bed so early to do things! But it was worth it, as the sunrise was wonderful.

D Mum and I have agreed that although the trip was great, we might attempt something less tiring on our next winter holiday.

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