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English Comprehension Multiple Choice Introductory Paper 2B

Read the passage below and answer the following questions carefully. It is a good idea to go back and check the passage to find your answers. Write your answers neatly on the answer sheet.

Androcles and the Lion

In Roman times, many hundreds of years of ago, lived a slave called Androcles. Desperate for his freedom, Androcles escaped from his master and fled to the forest...

With the hot sun beating down on his back, legs aching and heart pumping Androcles eventually reached the forest. He knew he would be safe here and hoped he would be able to survive if he were able to avoid wild animals and find enough roots and berries to eat. As a runaway slave he knew he would be executed if caught.

As Androcles peered around him, anxiously looking for pursuers, he felt the first splash of raindrops on his skin. It would soon be getting dark and he knew he needed to find shelter for the night. Through a gap in the trees Androcles spotted the opening of a cave in the hillside and he decided it would be an ideal place to spend the night.

Moving cautiously, lest a sound should alert those searching for him, Androcles made his way hesitantly towards the gaping mouth of the cave. When he reached the sanctuary of the opening he stepped inside and breathed a deep sigh of relief as he knew now he would be safe. He looked around, eyes searching in the gloom for a place to rest. Suddenly, as his sight became accustomed to the half-light he noticed the unmistakable outline of a great beast... a lion!

With his heart pounding with fear, Androcles prayed that the lion had already eaten and would not want to devour him where he stood. Androcles began to back out of the cave when suddenly the lion raised its great head and groaned and moaned, sorrowfully, or so Androcles thought.

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- Slowly, he retraced his steps and as he neared the lion it put out its paw.

 Androcles saw immediately that it was all swollen and bleeding. Androcles could see a huge thorn had embedded itself in the lion's paw and was causing all the pain. Speaking quietly and reassuringly to the suffering animal, Androcles gently pulled out the thorn and using some cloth torn from the hem of his tunic, cleaned and bound up the wound. The lion licked the hand of Androcles appreciatively and then shuddered, groaned, sighed and fell asleep. Exhausted after his ordeal, Androcles too fell into a deep sleep.
 - For the next few weeks, Androcles and the lion lived together in the large cave. The lion quickly recovered from its injury and was able to hunt, bringing Androcles fresh meat each day. Androcles regained his strength and soon was able to hunt and gather food, together with his new friend.

Whilst out collecting water on his own one day, Androcles was startled. "Stand still!" ordered a savage voice, "we know who you are and there's a big reward for runaway slaves, you're coming with us."

English Comprehension Multiple Choice Introductory Paper 2B

Answer these questions carefully. It is a good idea to go back and check the passage to find your answers. You should choose the best answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

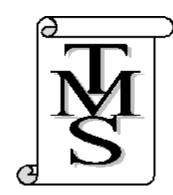
- 1. From the opening two paragraphs we know that Androcles has been
 - a) sauntering along
 - b) ambling casually
 - c) rambling slowly
 - d) running fast
 - e) strolling gently
- 2. His destination was
 - a) a copse
 - b) a wood
 - c) a forest
 - d) the jungle
 - e) a cave
- 3. The three most important things for Androcles were to
 - a) find food, avoid wild animals, avoid capture
 - b) avoid food, find wild animals, escape capture
 - c) eat wild animals, find food, be captured
 - d) capture wild animals, avoid capture, avoid food
 - e) find wild animals, escape food, avoid capture
- 4. The first thing that reminded Androcles that he needed to find shelter was when

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- a) he spotted his pursuers
- b) he noticed a hidden cave
- c) the sun was setting
- d) he saw a gap in the trees
- e) he felt the splash of raindrops on his skin
- 5. Androcles decided that the best place to spend the night would be
 - a) up a tree in the forest
 - b) in a hole in the hillside
 - c) in a hole by the seaside
 - d) in a gap in the trees
 - e) in the roots of the trees
- 6. As Androcles approached the cave he was probably feeling quite
 - a) brave
 - b) fearless
 - c) bold
 - d) nervous
 - e) plucky

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ENGLISHComposition/Essay

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30 minutes
Total Marks: 50

Choose one of these to write

1. In the comprehension passage you have read, the dangers caused by fire are plain to see. Sometimes fire can be bad and dangerous but it can also at times be helpful, for example, it can keep us warm or help us celebrate special days.

Think about a time when you experienced a fire. You may have seen one, been involved in one or been celebrating one. Now write a story about what happened. Use the title,

"My Fire Experience"

OR

- 2. Imagine you are a reporter for a local newspaper. The day after the fire your editor asks you to write a report of what happened that night and in particular to highlight the heroic role played by young James Howard. Use information from the passage, plus your imagination to tell the story. You should include:
 - a) How the fire began and how it spread (there are clues in the first 3 paragraphs)
 - b) An account of how the horses were saved and in particular what James Howard did to help.
 - c) An interview with James Howard about his feelings about what has happened and his actions.

Use the newspaper headline,

"Brave James the Hero in Stable Fire Rescue"

Marking scheme for Compositions

Technical Skills	Marks up to
How well does the story show evidence of a clear beginning, middle and end?	5
How well does the story give a sense of completion?	5
How well has punctuation been used (including paragraphing)?	5
How accurate is the spelling?	5
Overall impression of presentation (neatness, legibility, correction of errors, etc.).	2
Content and Quality	Marks up to
How well does the story reflect the requirements of the title given?	5
How well has the candidate used descriptive techniques, e.g., adjectives, adverbs, similes, to enhance the story?	6
How well has direct speech been used and punctuated correctly?	6
How well have the feelings of the character(s) been described?	5
How coherent is the story, i.e., does it flow from beginning to end?	3
Discretionary marks awarded for overall impression of the story's effectiveness.	3

Marking scheme for Letters

Technical Skills	Marks up to
Are the address and date placed correctly?	2
Appropriate salutation reflecting the type of letter and person addressed, e.g., Dear Sir/Madam etc.	2
How well does the letter show evidence of a suitable introduction/beginning, middle and end?	4
How well does the letter give a sense of completion?	5
Has the writer signed off the letter in a manner appropriate to the recipient, i.e., in a formal or informal manner?	2
How well has punctuation been used (including paragraphing)?	5
How accurate is the spelling?	5
Overall impression of presentation (neatness, legibility, correction of errors, etc.).	2
Content and Quality	Marks up to
How well does the letter reflect the requirements of the title given?	5
How well has the candidate covered the three areas suggested in the task advice?	9 (3 per area)
Is an attempt made to address the recipient using appropriate language, i.e., formal (standard English) or informal (non-standard English)?	3
How coherent is the letter, i.e., does it flow?	3
Discretionary marks for overall impression of the letter's effectiveness in achieving the task set.	3

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For more detailed advice and practical help with understanding punctuation, punctuation for direct speech and layout for letter writing and reports, see *Tutor Master helps you Learn English – A Literacy Dictionary*.