Little Women

by Louisa May Alcott

Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.

"I don't think it's fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all," added little Amy, with an injured sniff.

"We've got Father and Mother, and each other," said Beth contentedly from her corner.

The four young faces on which the firelight shone brightened at the cheerful words but darkened again as Jo said sadly, "We haven't got Father, and shall not have him for a long time." She didn't say "perhaps never," but each silently added it, thinking of Father far away, where the fighting was.

Nobody spoke for a minute; then Meg said in an altered tone, "Mother proposed not having any presents this Christmas because it's going to be a hard winter for everyone, and she thinks we ought not to spend money for pleasure when our men are suffering so in the army. We can't do much, but we can make our little sacrifices and ought to do it gladly."

"But I am afraid I don't," said Jo. "I'm tired of thinking about other people. I'm tired of hearing people say 'Do your duty,' and 'Don't worry,' and 'Be grateful.' I wish I could just enjoy myself and not think about anything else."

"Jo!" cried Meg reprovingly, while Beth said nothing but looked distressed, and Amy exclaimed, "Well, I do believe you're the most selfish girl I ever saw."

"I suppose I am," said Jo, "but it's so dreadful to feel poor and have to give up everything. Don't you wish we had the money Papa lost when we were little, Meg? Dear me! How happy and good we'd be if we had no worries!"

"You said the other day you thought we were a deal happier than the King children, for they were fighting and fretting all the time in spite of their money."

"So I did, Beth. Well, I think we are. For though we do have to work, we make fun for ourselves, and we're a pretty jolly set, as Jo would say."

"Jo does use such slang words!" observed Amy, with a reproving look at the long figure stretched on the rug.

Jo immediately sat up, put her hands in her pockets, and began to whistle.

"Don't, Jo; it's so boyish!"

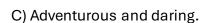"That's why I do it."

"I detest rude, unladylike girls!"

"I hate affected, niminy-piminy chits!"

"Birds in their little nests agree," sang Beth, the peacemaker, with such a funny face that both sharp voices softened to a laugh, and the "pecking" ended for that time.

Questions:

1. The main reason the sisters are unhappy at the beginning of the passage is because:

A) They are bored during the holiday season.

B) Their father is away at war, and they miss him.

C) They have no new dresses to wear to a party.

D) They cannot afford Christmas presents.

E) Their mother has forbidden them from celebrating Christmas.

2. Beth's attitude toward their situation can best be described as:

A) Resentful and angry.

B) Content and accepting.

C) Indifferent and detached.

D) Jealous and envious.

E) Excited and enthusiastic.

3. Jo's statement, "I'm tired of thinking about other people," suggests that she is feeling:

A) Selfish and frustrated.

B) Compassionate and empathetic.

C) Adventurous and daring.

D) Fearful and anxious.

E) Grateful and humble.

4. When Amy accuses Jo of being the "most selfish girl," Jo responds by:

A) Apologizing sincerely.

B) Ignoring Amy completely.

C) Admitting that she might be selfish.

D) Arguing that Amy is wrong.

E) Changing the subject abruptly.

5. The phrase "niminy-piminy chits" as used by Jo most likely means:

A) Young girls who are graceful and elegant.

B) Children who are naughty and mischievous.

C) Ladies who are overly delicate and affected.

D) Friends who are loyal and trustworthy.

E) People who are wise and knowledgeable.

6. Which sister tries to diffuse the tension during the argument?

A) Meg

B) Jo

C) Beth

D) Amy

E) None of them

7. The reference to "Birds in their little nests agree" is meant to:

A) Encourage the sisters to go outside.

B) Remind the sisters to be thankful for their home.

C) Suggest that they should stop arguing and get along.

D) Indicate that it's time for bed.

E) Criticize the sisters for being childish.

8. The passage implies that the family is facing financial difficulties because:

A) Their father lost money when they were younger.

B) Their mother spends extravagantly.

C) They recently moved to a new house.

D) The economy is in a depression.

E) They donated all their money to charity.

9. An appropriate title for this passage would be:

A) "A Merry Christmas Morning"

B) "Sisters at Odds"

C) "Longing for Father"

D) "The Quarrel Over Chores"

E) "A Family's Sacrifice"

English Section Two – Part A

"Invictus"

By William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,

Black as the pit from pole to pole,

I thank whatever gods may be

For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance

I have not winced nor cried aloud.

Under the bludgeonings of chance

My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears

Looms but the Horror of the shade,

And yet the menace of the years

Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,

How charged with punishments the scroll,

I am the master of my fate,

I am the captain of my soul.

Questions

1. Write a paragraph about how the poet expresses resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

(You are advised to write one paragraph but no more than half a side of A4 for your answer.)

    2.   Explain carefully what you understand by the following quotations.

(a) "**My head is bloody, but unbowed**."

(b) "**I am the master of my fate,**

I am the captain of my soul."

English Part Two – Part B

Write about a time when you had to adapt to an unexpected change in your plans. You should include:

- A description of what you originally planned and what happened instead
- A specific moment or conversation that helped you handle the change
- How this experience changed your view on flexibility and adapting to new situations

You can plan your work in any way that you find helpful (spidergram/brainstorm/bullet points) before you start writing.

Remember to check and correct your work before the end of the test.

(You are advised to write in pen at least two paragraphs but no more than one side of A4 for your answer.)

Maths

Question 1:

A rope is 16 meters long. If one piece is cut to be 4.5 meters, how long is the remaining piece?

Answer: _____

Question 2:

Which fraction lies between 0.55 and 0.6?

A) 3/5

B) 11/20

C) 13/25

D) 4/7

Question 3:

What is 250,000 divided by the square of 50?

Answer: _____

Question 4:

How many numbers between 1 and 150 are divisible by both 2 and 3?

Answer: _____

Question 5:

Three numbers have a mean of 18 and a range of 9. If the smallest number is 12, what is the product of these three numbers?

Answer: _____

Question 6:

In a class, 50 students were asked about their preferred sports. 30 like football, 22 like basketball, and 12 like both. How many students like either football or basketball?

Answer: _____

Question 7:

If 4 kg of apples cost £5.20, how much do 9 kg cost?

Answer: _____

Question 8:

A rectangle has an area of 72 cm^2, and its length is three times its width. Find the perimeter of the rectangle.

Answer: _____

Question 9:

Emma has £120. She spends 1/3 of it on a concert ticket and 1/4 of the remaining amount on a meal. How much money does she have left?

Answer: _____

Question 10:

Plot the points (2,3), (5,3), (5,7), and (2,7) on a grid. What shape do they form?

Answer: _____

Question 11:

Using the digits 4, 2, 7, and 6, create the largest possible four-digit number divisible by 4.

Answer: _____

Question 12:

Find the next number in the sequence: 3, 8, 15, 24, 35, ___.

Answer: _____

11

Question 13:

A jar contains green and blue marbles in a ratio of 3:7. If there are 42 blue marbles, how many marbles are in total?

Answer: _____

Question 14:

A car travels 240 km at a constant speed of 60 km/h. How long does the journey take?

Answer: _____

Question 15:

Express 5/8 as the sum of two unit fractions.

Answer: _____

Question 16:

A book has 180 pages. Lily reads 12 pages each day starting on a Wednesday. On which day will she finish the book?

Answer: _____

Question 17:

A park is divided into 40 sections. If the ratio of shaded to unshaded sections is 3:5, how many sections are shaded?

Answer: _____

Question 18:

In a bouquet, the ratio of roses to lilies is 5:9. If there are 25 roses, how many flowers are there in total?

Answer: _____

Question 19:

Pencils cost 75p each. With £15, how many pencils can you buy?

Answer: _____

Question 20:

If 9 × 6 = 54, what is 90 × 6?

Answer: _____

Question 21:

Which two-digit number looks the same when rotated 180 degrees?

Answer: _____

Question 22:

If A = 2 kg, B = 3 kg, C = 4 kg, and so on, what is the total weight of the word "BOOK"?

Answer: _____

Question 23:

In a pie chart, the angles for History, Maths, and Science are 90°, 60°, and 120°, respectively. What percentage does "Other" represent, and what is its angle?

Answer: _____

Question 24:

A tree has 1,000 leaves. Each day, 15% of the leaves fall off. How many leaves remain after one day?

Answer: _____

Question 25:

A machine multiplies the input by 5 and then subtracts 4 to give the output. If the output is 21, what was the input?

Answer: _____

Question 26:

In a school of 200 students, 80 play basketball, 70 play soccer, and 30 play both. How many students play neither?

Answer: _____

Question 27:

A piece of wood is 9.2 meters long. Rounded to the nearest meter, how long is it? If cut into 4 equal pieces, how long is each piece?

14

Answer: _____

Question 28:

Calculate the perimeter and area of an L-shaped figure made of two rectangles, one 5 cm by 3 cm and the other 3 cm by 3 cm, attached along the sides.

Answer: _____

Question 29:

A cylinder has a height of 12 cm and a circumference of 8 cm. What is the surface area of its curved side?

Answer: _____

Question 30:

Four octagons, each with a side length of 3 cm, are arranged in a straight line with shared sides. What is the perimeter of the resulting shape?

Answer: _____