

Section A – a Word

Level 1

Read the short paragraphs and answer the questions that follow.

1. Dinnertime was something I looked forward to every weekend. Firstly, it was a respite from the usual food I ate at the food centre during the week. Secondly, it was when we all sat down together – Ma, Pa, Aunty Mabel and even my younger sister Vicky who usually ate before we did. It was a noisy time, moments I treasured. Not all my friends could have a family dinner once a week.

(a) Write the word that suggests the writer did not like the food at the food centre.

(b) Write the word that suggests the family dinner was important to the writer.



Look for a verb that shows a feeling towards something.

2. "Is there anything you would like at the bakery?" my mother asked me. I shrugged and headed towards the toy shop next door. The figurines from my favourite online game were on sale, peeking at me from their display case. I wondered if my promise to study hard for my upcoming test would be enough for my mother to buy one for me.

(a) Write the word that suggests the writer was unconcerned about food.

(b) Which word suggests that the figurines were looking at the writer?

Level 3

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

8.

Peter stared at the calendar. The date was circled in bright red ink with the permanent marker that Peter could not erase.

As the dreaded day arrived, Peter started hoping that a multitude things would happen so that the visit would have to be cancelled. In his dreams, long burly arms rose from the sides of the dental chair and slammed across his puny body, locking him in a vicious vice-like grip.

"You do remember we are going to the dentist after school today, don't you?" his mother asked him that morning. Peter's nod was barely noticeable. "I'll be waiting for you at the gate. Don't take the school bus back today." Peter kept his head up as he walked briskly out of the house. Oh, how he hated the dentist. He had to refrain from eating sweets and also forgo his favourite soda for a week before the visit. Although each visit turned out rather pleasant, he disliked the reclining dental chair and the glaring bright light shining into his mouth. Somehow, the ticking clock on the wall made him nervous too. He did not like the dentist glancing at his assistant while peering into Peter's mouth. There was also the gurgling from the suction and the buzzing of the drill. They made him tremble.

The day flew past. Peter even tried to misbehave so that he would be given detention. However, the teachers seemed particularly tolerant of any misdemeanour that day. As Peter made his way out of the school gate, he realised that all his attempts to avoid the dental visit had been futile. With a sigh, he walked towards his mother.

(a) Which word in paragraph 1 refers to something that lasts forever?

(b) Which word in paragraph 2 suggests that Peter was fearful of the dental visit?

Section D – Understanding Character and Feelings

Level 1

Read the short paragraphs and answer the questions that follow.

1. Dave frowned when he saw Jack's new pair of running shoes. "Don't you think everyone would notice you from a mile away? What happened to your old blue pair? This new one is really ugly." Jack merely grinned at Dave and told him that his old pair was torn. This pair belonged to his sister. He preferred his old pair but at least he could still go jogging with Dave until he bought a new pair.

Tick the correct answers.

(a) Which word best describes Dave?

candid selfish aloof troubled

(b) Which word best describes Jack?

understanding	<input type="checkbox"/>
well-mannered	<input type="checkbox"/>
good-natured	<input type="checkbox"/>
compassionate	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. I walked behind Jim, gripping his hand tightly. My heart was thumping wildly and I trembled despite the heat. His hand was cold and clammy but he continued to take one step after another, slowly and carefully. "Stay close," he hissed and I was reminded once again of the dangers of being in the forest at night. We could hear the buzz of insects and mosquitoes were attacking us with a vengeance.

Tick the correct answers.

(a) Which word best describes the writer's feelings?

exhausted annoyed horrified fearful

(b) Which word best describes Jim?

powerful protective pessimistic patient

3. I sighed when I heard the quiet sobs coming from the living room. Peering in, I saw my sister, Emma, watching a film. An emotional scene was taking place and as usual, Emma was absorbed in it. "Don't be silly, Emma! It's just a show! How can I take you to the cinema with me when you're such a crybaby?" Emma wiped away her tears immediately. Sniffing, she promised that she would not cry when she watched a film in the cinema. "No! My friends will probably laugh at me for bringing you along!" I replied.

Tick the correct answers.

(a) Which word best describes Emma?

cowardly trusting sentimental reliable

(b) Which word best describes the writer?

insensitive aggressive disloyal cunning

4. Sarah turned over the drawing paper. At the bottom of the paper, her teacher had scrawled a bright red 'C'. Sarah's face turned red. Crushing the paper, she tossed it into the dustbin. She had spent such a long time on her artwork. Her teacher had told her she would be able to do better than before if she painted within the lines and used more vibrant colours. She had done both. Her grade did not improve. What more could she do to improve? She sighed.

Tick the correct answers.

(a) Which word best describes how Sarah felt immediately after she received her artwork?

envious obnoxious nervous discouraged

(b) Which word best describes how Sarah felt at the end of the passage?

shocked exasperated angry disappointed

5. When Jane saw her brother limping down the stairs, she rushed to help him. Her heart ached and tears welled in her eyes. Just a month ago, she would have raced him down the stairs and they would call each other names. Sometimes, her brother would even stick out his leg. But he never intended to harm her. He knew she would see it and avoid it. She had stuck out her leg without realising that her brother had been in a hurry that day and was rushing down the stairs faster than usual. He smiled when she tried to help him but he told her that he would be able to go down the stairs himself.

Tick the correct answers.

(a) Which two words best describe how Jane was feeling?

remorseful

displeased

irritated

anxious

uncertain

hesitant

guilty

listless

(b) The passage describes how Jane's brother behaved when they were playing on the stairs. Which word best describes Jane's brother?

scheming

playful

revengeful

optimistic

Level 2

Read the paragraphs and answer the questions that follow.

6.

"Oh, let's eat at this restaurant!" exclaimed Ben as he peered through the dark glass windows. Without waiting for a reply, he hurried to the front door. Tom took a step forward, staring at the name of the restaurant emblazoned across the glass windows. He paused. "Come on! There are seats inside!" Ben called out. Tom dragged his feet. He wanted to take a look at the menu but Ben was pulling him inside.

A waiter was already showing Ben to their table. He stood with a smile and waited behind the chair he had pulled out for Tom. The menu was more extensive than they had thought it would be. "What do you want to eat? Nothing sounds familiar to me. I'm not sure what to eat," Tom mumbled. Ben pointed at several unpronounceable words, telling Tom that those looked delicious. "Do you want to try everything?" Tom's voice rose a notch. Ben looked sheepishly at his friend. He had just noticed the prices written in such fine print, it was easy to overlook them.

"I don't know which one to pick," Ben replied as he sank back in his seat, wondering if they would have to leave without ordering anything.

Tom knew though. He called the waiter over and ordered an appetiser and a main course. "You may serve them together. We're sharing."

"Wouldn't you like a main course each?" the waiter asked in surprise. Ben was squirming in his seat but Tom shook his head firmly. "We'll see how good these are first," he replied with a wave of his hand. Ben stared at his friend in surprise. He tried to stifle a chuckle. Who would have guessed that Tom could hide the true reason so well?

(a) Complete the table with examples from paragraph 1 that reveal the boys' character.

Ben's character	Example	Tom's character	Example
(i) impulsive		(iii) alert	
(ii) impatient		(iv) cautious	

(b) (i) Who was more quick-witted while speaking to the waiter?

(ii) Explain your answer in (i) with one example from the passage.
