



B.E.S.T. Group Of Schools, Saudi Arabia

Worksheet

SET A

Subject: English

Class: 8

Examination: Half Yearly (2018)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

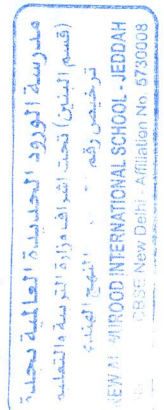
We have been brought up to fear insects. We regard them as unnecessary creatures that do more harm than good. Man continually wages war on them, for they contaminate his food, carry diseases or devour his crops. They sting or bite without provocation, they fly uninvited into our rooms on summer nights, or beat against our lighted windows. We live in dread not only of unpleasant insects like spiders or wasps, but of quite harmless ones like moths. Reading about them increases our understanding without dispelling our fears knowing that the industrious ant lives in a highly organised society does nothing to prevent us from being filled with revulsion when we find hordes of them crawling over a carefully prepared picnic lunch. No matter how much we like honey, or how much we have read about uncanny sense of direction which bees possess, we have a horror of being stung. Most of our fears are unnecessary and unreasonable, but they are difficult to erase. At the same time, however, insects are strangely fascinating.

- (a) What do we think of insects as creatures?
- (b) Why does man continually wage war on insects?
- (c) How are the ants described in the passage?
- (d) What, do you think, are most of the fears of insects?
- (e) Find words from the passage which mean the following:
 - i. large groups
 - ii. a very strong feeling of dislike

II. Read the following passage carefully.

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In the Dutch colonial town, New York, there lived a baker, Van Amsterdam, who was as honest as he could be, and he took great care to give his customers exactly what they paid for - not more and not less. Van Amsterdam's shop was always busy, because people trusted him and because he was a good baker as well. And never was the shop busier than in the days before December 6, when the Dutch celebrate Saint Nicholas Day.

One Saint Nicholas Day morning, the baker was just ready for business, when the door of his shop flew open. In walked an old woman. "I have come for a dozen of your Saint Nicholas cookies". Taking a tray, Van Amsterdam counted out twelve cookies. He started to wrap them, but the woman reached out and stopped him. "I asked for a dozen. You have given me only twelve". "Madam", said the baker, "everyone knows that a dozen is twelve". "But I say a dozen is thirteen", said the woman. "Give me one more". Van Amsterdam was not a man to bear foolishness. "Madam, my customers get exactly what they pay for - not more and not less". "Then you may keep the cookies". The woman turned to go but stopped at the door.

Van Amsterdam ! However honest you may be, your heart is small and your fist is tight. *Fall again, mount again, and learn how to count again!*" From that day, everything went wrong in Van Amsterdam's bakery. His bread rose too high or not at all. His pies were sour or too sweet. His cakes crumbled or were chewy. His cookies were burnt. His customers soon noticed the difference. Before long, most of them were going to other bakers. "That old woman has bewitched me", said the baker to himself. "Is this how my honesty is rewarded"?

A year passed. The baker grew poorer and poorer. Finally, on the day before Saint Nicholas Day, not one customer came to Van Amsterdam's shop. At day's end, the baker sat alone, staring at his unsold Saint Nicholas cookies. "I wish Saint Nicholas could help me now", he said. Then he closed his shop and went sadly to bed. That night, the baker had a dream. Nicholas handed a gift to Van Amsterdam. It was one of the baker's own Saint Nicholas cookies! Van Amsterdam looked up to thank him, but it was no longer Saint Nicholas standing there. Smiling down at him was the old woman.

The next morning, Saint Nicholas Day, the baker rose early. He mixed his gingerbread dough and rolled it out. He moulded the shapes and baked them. When finished, the door flew open. In walked the old woman with the long black shawl. "I have come for a dozen of your Saint Nicholas cookies". In great excitement, Van Amsterdam counted out twelve cookies - and

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one more. "In this shop", he said, "from now on, a dozen is thirteen". "You have learned to count well", said the woman. "You will surely be rewarded". When people heard he counted thirteen as a dozen, he had more customers than ever.

1. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

Van Amsterdam, was a professional (a) _____ and was an (b) _____ man. One day an

(c) _____ walked in and asked for Saint Nicholas cookies. He counted and gave (d) _____ cookies but she wanted (e) _____. Amsterdam said "Not more and not less". The old woman got (f) _____ and left the place without taking the cookies. From that day he grew poorer and

(g) _____. Finally she made him realize the business secret. From then onwards a dozen was

(h) _____ in his shop.

2. Answer the following questions.

- How was Van Amsterdam's business in the beginning?
- Why did the old woman get angry?
- What did he dream that night?
- What did he learn in the end?

3. Give words which mean the same as:

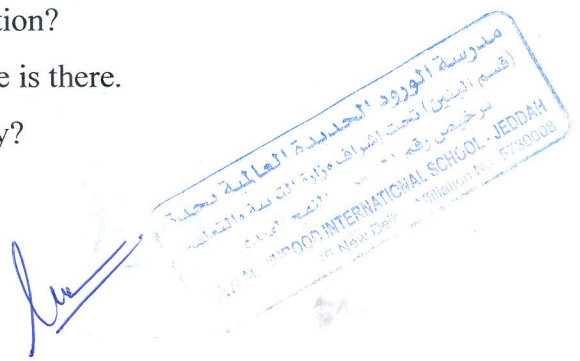
- stupid / unwise (para 2)
- enchant / captive (para 3)

Grammar

Rewrite the sentences in indirect speech.

- Ali said to Akbar, "I have completed my assignment."
- Rohan asked Rahim, "Where have you hidden the paper?"
- Tina to Daniya: Don't forget to carry your sports bag tomorrow.
- Alan: How are you planning to spend your vacation?
Ali: I am travelling to England because my uncle is there.
- Shyma: Are you going to celebrate your birthday?

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Sanal: Yes, I am celebrating it with my parents. They will come and take me home tomorrow.

Read the given conversation and complete the paragraph given below

Mr. Floyd : When are you leaving for Kolkata?

Dennis : We will leave right after the examination

Mr. Floyd : Would you like me to drop you at the station?

Dennis : Thanks, it would really help us.

Dennis and Joey went to the park to play. There they met Mr. Floyd. The boys and Mr. Floyd greeted each other.

Mr. Floyd then asked the boys (a) _____
_____. Dennis replied (b) _____
_____. Mr. Floyd then (c) _____
_____. Dennis thanked for enquiring
and said (d) _____

Add appropriate prepositional phrase.

- Shyma works _____
- Hari went to _____
- Hina waited _____
- You cannot stare _____
- My mother and I are going to fly _____
- It would have slipped _____
- The children looked _____
- The two statues were erect _____

Use the prepositional phrases given and frame sentences.

out of the box

into the mall

near the sea

over the wall

on the laptop

at the restaurant

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Tick the sentences where the -ing form of the verb is used as a gerund.

1. My friend is good at playing volleyball.
2. She is bullying all her friends.
3. They are afraid of losing the match.
4. She doesn't feel like working on the computer.
5. We are looking forward to go out at the weekend.
6. Swimming is a good exercise.
7. I like jogging in the morning.
8. She was playing tennis with her friends.
9. Winning is not important.
10. Lucia likes gardening.

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