

Reading Part (12 pts.)

Read the following article, in which the writer tells about an activist's mission to Nepal, searching for kids that were exploited by traffickers¹. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

The Seeker

1. In the remote villages of Nepal, even natives avoid walking at night, for one might get trapped in the unforgiving mountains of this country for months. Connor Grennan, a 32-year-old Australian activist, had been warned about the dangers he could encounter in the mountains, yet he insisted that he had no other choice. This was not an adventure; it was a mission.
2. Inside Grennan's bag, there was a folder with the photographs of 24 children he had grown to love after volunteering at an orphanage² near Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. During years of civil war, traffickers had taken these children and many others from remote villages near the Tibetan border and got them to the capital city. While the children's parents thought that they were paying for their sons to be saved from joining the militias, they had unknowingly signed their children up for a life of hard work, or worse, in the nation's capital. Traffickers used to leave the children on the streets to take care of themselves, force them into unpaid work, or sell them into slavery. This very bad condition moved Grennan to try something no one had yet attempted: reuniting the children with their parents.
3. By the time Grennan arrived in Nepal in November, 2004, the civil war had been raging in the country for years. The children he found at the orphanage were the luckiest because their traffickers had agreed to relinquish them to that place. The guy who had "never really been around kids much before" was soon happily devoting his waking hours to the youngsters, who loved to shout his name and pile on top of him, giggling and laughing in high voices. He shared their twice-daily meals of *dal bhat* (lentils over rice) and watched them **lick their metal plates clean**. When there was a bit of chicken to treat, the kids devoured the bones as well. Grennan had never imagined such hunger.
4. On his way to the far northwestern region of Humla, where there were more children to rescue, Grennan hired a translator and two local porters to carry bags of rice and supplies, then set off with nothing but a crude map that guides him to the first village called Ripa. In Ripa, everybody came out and looked at Grennan. He gave the village elders the names of the families he was looking for. The first parents to arrive bought a bag of walnuts and honey to give to the stranger who had news of their son.
5. "I knew the minute I saw them they were Dharma's parents because he looked exactly just like them," Grennan says. Still, he proceeded cautiously, "Do you have a son? What's his name? Whom did you send him off with? When did he leave?" Only then did Grennan bring out the photo of the 10-year-old boy whose parents had given him up at five. "They both burst into million tears."

¹ **traffickers**: people who buy and sell illegal goods, especially drugs

² **orphanage**: a large house where children whose parents are dead live and are taken good care of

6. He offered them the letter Dharma had written them, saying he missed them much. He watched the weeping mother kiss the photo and press it to her forehead like a sacred and holy object. Over the next three weeks, the heart-breaking scene repeated itself, in village after village, until Grennan got to the last child.

7. Many of the families, Grennan discovered, were far too poor to feed another child and hoped their children could continue to be cared for and educated in Kathmandu. Grennan offered to pay the families the transportation fees when they want to visit their new children's home, named Dhaulagiri House. So, the children have become Grennan's main responsibility.

Reader's Digest
(Adapted)
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Questions

A. Skim the above article to spot out how being away from their parents has influenced the kids (emotionally, socially, educationally...). Then fill out the chart below, using phrases. (0.75 pt.)

Effects of Being Away from Parents
1.
2.
3.

B. Refer to the article to complete the following statements. (1 pt.)

1. Grennan insisted on hiking the dangerous mountain so that
2. Grennan decided to help the families with going to the city when

C. Answer the following questions about the article in complete sentences. (3.5 pts.)

1. "The Seeker" has been suggested as a title for the article. Do you think it is a suitable title? Explain.
2. Explain what is meant by the following statement as quoted from the third paragraph of the article, "...and watched them lick their metal plates clean."
3. What were two reasons that made many families in Nepal give their kids up and send them away?
4. Give two traits that best describe Grennan's personality. Support each trait with a piece of evidence from the article.

D. Fill in each blank below with the suitable word from paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the article. (2 pts.)

1. Dozens of people got underground when the building fell down.
2. When everybody refused to have the party at his house without being paid or helped, Helen
3. Nobody knows what will happen next in Bahrain, for the disagreement between the people and the government is still and continuing with great violence.
4. The Arab presidents don't want to their position once they have it.

E. In paragraph 1, the writer says, "...one might get trapped in the unforgiving mountains of this country for months." (1.25 pts)

What is the figurative language device used in the sentence above? Explain.

F. Correct the ONE grammatical error in each sentence below. (1 pt.)

1. Grennan realized how difficult was searching for the kids.
2. Neither the children nor Grennan like to get away from each other.
3. Never Grennan thought of giving up his mission to save the children.
4. Grennan felt very interesting when he heard that the traffickers would relinquish the children to the orphanage.

G. Rewrite the following sentences, starting as indicated, without changing their meanings. (2.5 pts.)

1. Grennan hired two local porters because he wanted them to take the kids enough food.

If

2. "Do you have a son? What's his name?" Grennan said.

Grennan asked and

3. Traffickers left the kids on the streets of the capital.

The kids

Writing Part (8 pts.)

"Kids whose behavior is illegal or immoral might change into dangerous criminals if they are not given a helping hand."

In a well-organized essay of 150-200 words, relate the story of a young kid who became a harmful criminal because he was totally neglected. .

First, outline your ideas. Then develop those ideas into an essay, provided with a suitable title.

Score: 2 pts. for **outline and title**, 3 pts. for **content**, and 3 pts. for **language**

All the Best

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In the Name of God

Subject: Answer Key of the Final Common English Exam

School Year: 2010-2011

Grade: 9

A.

Effects of Being Away from Parents
1. Suffering Hunger
2. Being Sold into Slavery
3. Doing Unpaid Hard Work
4. Missing Parents

Score: 0.25 pt. for each correct item (Students should list three effects only.)

B.

1. ... he could bring the children back to their families.
2. ... he noticed how poor they were.

Score: 0.5 pt. for completing each statement

C.

1. The title is appropriate because it reflects the content of the article. The title is “The Seeker”, and the article shows how Grennan went on his mission of searching for the kids’ families and reuniting them with each other.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for the explanation
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure**

2. It means that the children ate all the food they were served out of their great hunger.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for explaining the statement
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure**

3. The families wanted to save their kids from joining the militias. Besides, they were far too poor to take good care of their kids and educate them.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the two reasons.
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure**

4. Grennan is caring, courageous, determined, helpful... He risked his life to help the kids and reunite them with their families, and he insisted on his mission though it was risky.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for giving two correct traits
0.5 pt. for the piece of evidence
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure**

D.

1. trapped
2. volunteered
3. raging
4. relinquish

Score: 0.5 pt. for each correct item

E. It is personification, for the writer is giving a human quality, which is “forgiving”, to what is non-human, which is the mountain.

Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the figure of speech
0.5 pt. for proper explanation
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

F.

1. ... was searching for the kids: searching for the kids was
2. Grennan like: Grennan likes
3. Never Grennan thought: Never did Grennan think
4. interesting: interested

Score: 0.25 pt. for correcting each mistake

G.

1. If Grennan had not wanted to take the kids enough food, he would not have hired two local porters.

Score: 1 pt. for rewriting the sentence properly

2. Grennan asked if they had a son and what his name was.

Score: 0.25 pt. for each underlined item

3. The kids were left on the streets of the capital by traffickers.

Score: 0.5 pt. for the verb form