

VAUXHALL HIGH SCHOOL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Grade 9 worksheet

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and then select the correct response for each item below.

The School Teacher

Miss Lambert sat at a table in the centre of the room picking her ear with a yellow pencil, with her head cocked to one side. The pupils cuffed and pinched each other and Tommy was scratching a piece of chalk underneath the desk with as innocent a face as he could hold, so that the boy who sat next to him would soil his serge trousers later on. His hand, the white chalk in it, moved slowly, curving round and round with the same motion that the yellow pencil made, as Miss Lambert twisted it round and round, her face pained, grimaced, and from time to time bore an expression of ecstatic pleasure. But the pupils knew her sudden glances, the instant stare of her large and flared-out eyes that caught them. One second she was looking out into space, and they dared to yawn, or whisper; then there were Miss Lambert's eyes. As if by instinct they knew that when she picked her ears with a sharpened pencil they were free from the quick and sudden jerks of her head that let her eyes catch them in some kind of mischief.

(From The Jumble Bird by Ismith Khan)

Questions

1. The students misbehaved because they knew Miss Lambert

- (a) had flared out eyes that caught them.
- (b) was feeling pain at the time.
- (c) could not catch them at that moment.
- (d) was sitting at a table in the centre of the room.

2. Miss Lambert cocked her head to one side to

- (a) hear what they were saying.
- (b) twist the pencil round and round.
- (c) look into space.
- (d) pick her ears.

3. Tommy 'had as innocent face as he could hold' (line 3) because he

- (a) was pretending he was doing nothing.
- (b) never misbehaved.
- (c) liked Miss Lambert quite a lot.
- (d) had been given a piece of chalk.

4. The passage suggests that the Miss Lambert's pupils

- (a) were very small in her eyes.
- (b) knew her quite well.
- (c) were always fighting one another.
- (d) could not understand her.

5. On most occasions when the pupils misbehaved, Miss Lambert

- (a) let them get away with it.
- (b) would stare into space.
- (c) discovered them immediately

(d) felt ecstatic pleasure.

6. The word “cuffed” (line 2) means

- (a) the end of a shirt sleeve.
- (b) to hit with an open hand.
- (c) to secure both hands with a metal fastener.
- (d) to pinch someone.

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

a. Use your dictionary to find the meanings of the following words :

Gulp, Crouch, Immerse, Ironic, Passive, Perplex, Sentimental, Bewildered, Conservative, Eminent

b. The meanings of the above words are jumbled. By using the letter beside each word, match the meanings of each word on the right to its meaning on the left. A line is provided to put your answer.

Words

Meanings

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| a. Gulp | ----- excessively romantic |
| b. Crouch | -----puzzle |
| c. Immerse | -----swallow hastily |
| d. Ironic | -----distinguished |
| e. Passive | -----moderate |
| f. Perplex | -----bend low with legs and body close |
| g. Sentimental | -----plunge into liquid |
| h. Bewildered | ----- the opposite of what one would expect |
| i. Conservative | -----submissive, not playing an active part |
| j. Eminent | -----confused utterly |

9. Write a description of a senic landscape and give your personal impressions. No error
A B C D
10. There are plenty of courses and carears for girls where they will not have to compete
against men. No error
A B C D