

Listening

Task One

Listen to the information about the novel *Frankenstein*. Then, choose the most appropriate words to complete the notes in the fact file.

1. The novel was written and published ____
at the beginning of the 20th century;

near the beginning of the 19th century;

near the end of the 19th century;

near the beginning of the 18th century.

2. The author, Mary Godwin, later married ____
the famous artist Percy Shelley;

the famous playwright Percy Shelley;

the famous poet Percy Shelley.

3. Mary and some friends decided to write stories on holiday because of ____
bad weather;

a writing competition;

the quick scientific progress.

4. The idea for the story came to Mary ____
during the debate with friends;

after her reading one of her husband's works;

in a dream;

while reading ghost stories.

5. In the novel, Frankenstein is the name of ____
the monster;

the scientist;

both the monster and the scientist.

6. The novel's themes reflect concerns of the day, such as ____ consequences of natural disasters;
the fear of zombies and vampires;
the fear that scientists were becoming too powerful;
the place of a woman in the society of that time.

Task Two

Read and listen to Wordsworth's poem *Daffodils*. Choose the correct definitions to the omitted words.

*I 7) ____ lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the 8) ____,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
The waves beside them danced ; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:
For oft, when on my couch I lie*

*In 9) _____ or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the 10) _____ of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

7. to move easily through air;
to walk around slowly without any clear purpose;
to move down under the water.

8. the galaxy that includes the earth, seen at night as a pale strip across the sky;
a small, usually round area of colour that is different from the surface around it;
a very large ball of burning gas in space that is usually seen from the earth as a point
of light in the sky at night.

9. not filled or occupied, available to be used;
without thoughts;
carefully considering things.

10. great unhappiness;
a state of being unable to think or speak clearly because of fever or mental confusion;
perfect happiness.

READING

Time: 20 minutes

Read the text and choose the correct answers A, B, C or D.

THE BOOK OF THE CENTURY

*A classic of our times or an escapist yarn? Although its popularity is unparalleled, some intellectuals dismiss **The Lord of the Rings** as boyish fantasy, Andrew O'Hehir defends Tolkien's 'true myth' as a modern masterpiece, and attempts to discover the secret of its success.*

In January 1997, reporter Susan Jeffreys of the London *Sunday Times* informed a colleague that J.R.R. Tolkien's epic fantasy *The Lord of the Rings* had been voted the greatest book of the 20th century in a readers' poll conducted by Britain's Channel 4 and the Waterstone's bookstore chain. Her colleague responded: "What? Has it? Oh dear. Dear oh dear oh dear."

Attitudes in America are arguably more relaxed about this kind of thing. No one from the American educated classes expressed much dismay when a 1999 poll of American on-line bookshop Amazon.com customers chose *The Lord of the Rings* as the greatest book not merely of the century but of the millennium. Tolkien's book is so deeply ingrained in popular culture, after all, that a great many of today's American academics and journalists probably still have those dog-eared paperbacks they read avidly in eighth grade with their hallucinatory mid-1970s cover art, stashed somewhere in the attic.

Furthermore, members of the U.S. intelligentsia fully expect to have their tastes ignored, if not openly derided, by the public at large. To some American intellectuals it seems gratifying, even touching, that so many millions of readers will happily devour a work as complicated as *The Lord of the Rings*. Whatever one may make of it, it's a more challenging read than *Gone With the Wind* (runner-up in the Amazon survey), not to mention *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (fifth place).

Hugely ambitious in scope, *The Lord of the Rings* occupies an uncomfortable position in 20th century literature. Tolkien's epic poses a stern challenge to modern literature and its defenders. (Tolkien on his critics: "Some who have read the book, or at any rate have reviewed it, have found it boring, absurd, or contemptible; and I have no cause to complain, since I have similar opinions of their works, or of the kinds of writing that they evidently prefer.") Yet *The Lord of the Rings* has enjoyed massive and enduring popularity, it would seem that Tolkien's work supplied something that was missing among the formal innovations of 20th century fiction, something for which readers were ravenous. But what was it, and why was it important?

Answering this question properly would probably require a book rather than an article. But it seems that the crux of the matter lies in Tolkien's wholehearted rejection of modernity and modernism. This is what so powerfully attracts some

readers, and just as powerfully repels others. In his book *J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century*, T.A. Shippey expands on this notion by arguing that Tolkien saw his realm of Middle-earth not as fiction or invention, but as the recovery of something genuine that had become buried beneath fragments of fairy tale and nursery rhyme.

“However fanciful Tolkien’s creation of Middle-earth was,” Shippey writes, “he did not think that he was entirely making it up. He was ‘reconstructing’, he was harmonising contradictions in his source-texts, sometimes he was supplying entirely new concepts (like hobbits), but he was also reaching back to an imaginative world which he believed had once really existed, at least in a collective imagination.”

The book is also deeply grounded in Tolkien's linguistic expertise – he invented whole languages for his characters. Sometimes he became so absorbed in the creation of languages, in fact, that he put the story itself aside for months or years at a time, believing he could not continue until some quandary or consistency in his invented realm had been resolved. But Tolkien's immense intellect and erudition is not the source of success; without his storytelling gift, *The Lord of the Rings* would be little more than a curiosity. And this gift seems to stem straight from his refusal to break from classical and traditional forms.

Tolkien himself often spoke of his work as something ‘found’ or ‘discovered’, something whose existence was independent of him. It’s wise to tread lightly in this sort of interpretation, but it seems clear that he believed his work to be something given, something revealed, which contained a kind of truth beyond measure. As a result, his details have the weight of reality, linguistic and otherwise, and because of this his great sweep of story feels real as well: you might say that his imaginary castles are built with a certain amount of genuine stone. Other writers’ fantasy worlds are made up. Tolkien’s is inherited.

1. When *The Lord of the Rings* was voted the greatest book of the 20th century,

- A) many Americans were annoyed.
- B) some people didn't believe it.
- C) some people found the fact shocking.
- D) American academics disagreed.

2. It is implied in the second paragraph that *The Lord of the Rings*

- A) is more popular in the States than in the UK.
- B) is taught in many schools throughout the world.
- C) is mainly appreciated by academics and journalists.

D) is mostly read by school children.

3. The word “dismay” in the second passage means

A) the feeling of being happy.

B) a feeling of unhappiness and disappointment.

C) pleasure, enjoyment, or entertainment.

D) actions or behavior that use threats or force against others.

4. What do we learn about *Gone With the Wind*?

A) It was once more popular than *The Lord of the Rings*.

B) It is seen as more challenging than *The Lord of the Rings*.

C) It was voted one place behind *The Lord of the Rings*.

D) It is more touching than *The Lord of the Rings*.

5. When the writer uses the adjective “gratifying” he means

A) making you feel excited.

B) upset and angry because someone that you love seems interested in another person.

C) making you feel unhappy and without hope for the future.

D) pleasing and satisfying.

6. What was Tolkien's reaction to criticism of *The Lord of the Rings*?

A) He felt it was unjustified.

B) He wasn't bothered by it.

C) He couldn't understand it.

D) He partly agreed with it.

7. According to Shippey, Tolkien believed that the world he described

A) was full of unresolved contradictions.

B) was completely accurate, historically.

C) was imaginative but not pure fantasy.

D) was as incredible as his sources.

8. Making up languages for *The Lord of the Rings*

A) helped Tolkien to take the story forward.

- B) was more interesting to Tolkien than writing the story.
- C) was sometimes rather frustrating for Tolkien.
- D) resulted in lengthy interruptions to Tolkien's writing.

9. According to the writer of the article, the details in Tolkien's work

- A) are sometimes rather difficult to follow.
- B) make the story seem more realistic.
- C) include some modern elements.
- D) can be interpreted in many different ways.

10. The word “inherited” in the last passage means

- A) to provide the money needed for something to happen.
- B) having special ability in a particular subject or activity.
- C) received from someone who has died.
- D) having one or more hinges (= pieces of metal that fasten the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. to something else and allow it to open or close).

Use of English
Time 45 minutes

Task 1

Complete the following text with the correct form of the words in the right column.

Harewood House is a large, beautiful (1) _____. The former home of HRH Princess Mary, it is situated in the north of England and attracts many (2) _____ each year. It is a romantic and historical building set in (3) _____ surroundings with 1,000 acres of gardens. The current (4) _____ inhabitants are the Earl and Countess of Harewood, who open it to public inspection every year. It is most famous for its beautiful furniture and collections of paintings, porcelain and china. It also has interesting plasterwork ceilings designed by the Scottish architect Robert Adam. The annual exhibition is a must for any (5) _____ of stately homes.	<u>BUILD</u> <u>TOUR</u> <u>PEACE</u> <u>FORTUNE</u> <u>ADMIRE</u>
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Task 2

Read the first part of the text. There are ten statements listed after the text. The statements are not related to the text but they contain **antonyms (in bold)** to the words in the text. Find synonyms to the words in bold in the text and write them down in the box. **Do not change the word form given in the text.**

Good reading

With the winter upon us, long evenings spent by the fire with a good book start sounding more and more attractive. The trouble is, with books being sold at prices you'd expect to pay for bottles of fine wine, how do you decide which ones are worth buying? I asked five well-known celebrities to tell me what they think. Actress Lilian Daniels did not hesitate at all. "*The Pumpkin Field* is the best novel I've read in ages. I found it absolutely convincing, especially the characters, who are 10th century rural people, so I felt as if I was expanding my knowledge of life and my understanding of people's feelings."

We don't often picture glamorous TV presenters as literary types, but Moira Wilkins knocks that stereotype on the head. "I read every day," she says, "and I have very high standards. There aren't many books that actually live up to all my expectations. Emily Chalmers' book, *The White Door*, is a rare exception. Every word in the book is carefully chosen – in fact it's the ultimate example of what I consider good writing to be. The plot is excellent as well, and it has an element of humour that you don't normally expect to find in this type of book."

Another unexpected reader is former footballer and successful TV personality, Daniel Long. Daniel is a man who loves adventure – both in real life and in his reading – and he chose his book on that basis. "I like good writing," he says, "but it's what a book can bring to life for me that I really pay attention to. *Every Mountain* is a brilliant piece of work. As Darryl Smith, the writer, describes his experiences on some of the world's most challenging mountains, you feel you're there with him. I'd look up from the page and feel ice on my face and see the sharp, cold

sun reflecting off the snow. It brought back memories for me, since I've done some climbing myself but I think almost any attentive reader will get the same feeling from it."

1. I find this park really **disgusting**! I don't want to go out there. Your answer

2. **Ordinary people** do speak a lot about famous people but they don't know even a half of their lives. Your answer

3. The list of suspects is **growing** more **narrow**. Your answer

4. Having hesitated for a while, he **took** his money **out** of his pocket and gave it to the thief.

Your answer

5. He is an **unlucky** artist. He's been trying to sell his pictures since last year but he hasn't sold any of them yet. Your answer

6. **Selling** goods brings us a lot of money so why ruining all our achievements in this area?.

Your answer

7. **Fire** and water can't be mixed, though. Your answer

8. This **plain** goes far East, where our adversaries have their camps. Your answer

9. Their first view of the world is **indistinct** and only in shades of gray. Your answer

10. Don't you think that good **speaking** skills depend on the number of books you've read?

Your answer

Task 3

Choose the correct item.

11. I grew up in a small town on the south _____ of England.

- A. shore
- B. coast
- C. bank
- D. beach

12. Can you give me that _____ of biscuits?

- A. pocket
- B. packet
- C. parcel
- D. package

13. Julie decided to _____ with her boyfriend after they'd been together for two years.

- A. break in
- B. break out
- C. break up
- D. break off

14. Large companies sometimes try to _____ smaller companies by buying a majority of the shares.

- A. take in
- B. take after
- C. take down
- D. take over

15. If you _____ the cheese, I'll make the sauce for the spaghetti.

- A. grate
- B. chop
- C. beat
- D. whip

Writing

WRITING

Time: 35 minutes

Give your own version of the events described in Roald Dahl's novel "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory":

What would happen if Charlie accepted the offer of the man who wanted to buy his Golden Ticket?

Write an **essay of 100 or 120 words**. Use the following words in your writing:

1. treasure
2. starve
3. afford
4. eager
5. tremendous

Underline the required words when you use them in your writing.