

COMPREHENSION [7 PNTS]

A Secret Message

- 1 Inspector James was at his office that Sunday. There was an urgent case which needed his attention. A thirteen-year old girl had been kidnapped near her home a few days ago.

- 2 It happened like this. Shirley, the kidnapped victim, was walking towards her house when she was kidnapped by four burly men in a red van. Two of the men grabbed and took the poor girl and carried her into the van which sped off immediately. A neighbor had witnessed this incident who quickly informed her parents and together lodged a police report. The next day, a ransom* note was sent to her wealthy parents demanding a quarter of a million dollars to release her. The police were trying all they could to rescue the girl and to apprehend her kidnappers.

- 3 That Sunday morning, Inspector James received a mysterious message at his office. It was sent by mail in a white envelope and written on a plain white A4-size paper. It read: "The girl is save for the moment. Hurry or she will be raped and killed when the ransom is paid."

- 4 The message was signed "A Friend". Inspector James knew that what the message indicated could well be true. He thought that Shirley saw the faces of the kidnappers and they would well kill her when they received the money to save themselves from being identified in future.

- 5 But the inspector James wanted to know who wrote the message It seemed to him that it must be one of the kidnappers who did not want to be accused as an accessory to murder. Inspector James scrutinized and examined the piece of paper and turned it first one side and then the other. The writer told him to hurry but he didn't reveal and say the place where the girl was held captive.

- 6 He pondered and thought deeply over this message for a long while and then an idea struck him. He went to the wastepaper basket and retrieved the envelope in which the message was sent. There right before his eyes was the address of an industrial office building in Mamba Street. That was the actual message, the location of the kidnappers.

- 7 Inspector James quickly gathered a force of his men and raided the location. It proved to be true. The kidnappers, who thought that they were sitting pretty, were not prepared for the police raid and were quickly overpowered and arrested. The girl was found tied to a chair and was not harmed in any way.

*ransom: money paid to free someone who has been captured or kidnapped
Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Source: English Essays [android app/Play Store]: High School English Essays

A. Choose A B or C to complete each sentence: 3PTS

- Shirley was kidnapped because
A. she was really beautiful
B. the kidnappers wants a ransom from her rich parents
C. she was walking towards her house
- The kidnappers put Shirley in.....
A. in a building
B. in a farm
C. in a flat
- The inspector found the kidnappers' address
A. in the address book
B. by calling the police
C. in the envelop

B. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? 1PT

they ----- (parag 2)

him ----- (parag 5)

C. Find in the text words meaning the same as: 1PT

rich ----- (parag 2)

arrest and stop ----- (parag 2)

D. Answer the question from the text: 2PTS

1. How did inspector James know about the kidnap?

2. How was Shirley when the police found her?

LANGUAGE [5.5 PNTS]

E. Complete with the correct quantifiers: 2PTS

1. Some people will come, but ----- will not because the film is long and boring.

no - many - much

2. This bakery makes ----- of the best bread in town.

any - a few - some

3. The climb is really tough. I can't walk ----- farther.

some - no - any

4. The car won't start; I think there is ----- petrol left in the tank.

some - much - no

F. Choose a an the Ø to complete the sentences: 2PTS

1. Last week I read ----- wonderful story. ----- story talks about the zombies and other fantasies.
2. My family is ----- most important thing in my life.
3. People use ----- laptops and smart phones to surf the net.

G. Complete the sentences with the correct indefinite pronouns: 1.5PT

1. Listen to the chatters and footsteps! I think ----- is coming. Hide, Hide!!
2. There is ----- I can go to. I belong to this place and I will stay and die here!
3. Look Nora! There is ----- white on your shoulder? What's on earth is that!

VOCABULARY [2.5 PNTS]

H. Fill in with the correct words from the box:

expressions - loaf - steam - disappointed - diet

1. sorry I can't accept your offer for this cake. I'm on -----
2. Nora feels really ----- because her friend Mary told her secret to everyone at school.
3. Nowadays, a lot of people prefer to ----- their food; they say it's very healthy.
4. Learners of English should pay attention to some bad ----- used in some songs and films.
5. I had tea and a ----- of bread with olive oil for my breakfast this morning.

WRITING [5 PNTS]

Is your diet healthy and organised or not? Give reasons in a well written paragraph.

Note: don't go beyond 90 words.