

# Comprehension Open-ended Worksheets

## P5 English Language CA1 2014

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### Instruction

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

## P5 Comprehension Open-ended - CA1 – St Nicholas

When Ben discovered that Gully was under the bed, he jumped up in fright. Gully was pressed into the corner at the head of the bunk but Ben could still have stretched out his hand and touched him. Gully was so close that Ben could hear every whimpering breath he drew.

He would have to get out of there before Gully realised that he had company. Maybe he could make it to the closet. He started to wriggle forward.

Barn! Crash! Crrackle-BOOM!

Ben backed up so fast that he hit his head against the bed. The storm sounded as though it was right in the room with them. Thunder was rattling the open window. A blinding pink glare of lightning flashed across everything Ben could see. He gasped and covered his face with his arm. He could not make himself go out there, Gully or no Gully.

Rumble-grumble-BAM!

Ben was shaking now and **(Q2) fighting not to cry**. He did his best to keep still so that Gully would not notice him. He could not figure out why Gully had hidden under the bed too in the first place.

Then, all at once, he guessed. Wasn't Gully shivering even harder than he was? Hadn't he heard the big dog whimper? As the lightning flashed next time, he watched the dog. He was sure he saw Gully cover his eyes with one of his giant paws.

Gulliver Gallivant was as scared of thunderstorms as Ben Tucker.

He's too big to be afraid, Ben thought. Then he remembered Dad saying, "You're too big to be such a crybaby, Ben." Being big did not help a bit.

The thunder roared again. Gully moaned.

**(Q3) "It's okay, Gully," Ben found himself saying. He did his best to sound like Dad but Gully stayed scrunched down. However, when Ben spoke to him, his tail gave a feeble thunk against the floorboards and, the next moment, he began to creep towards Ben. The boy hesitated, and then kept talking.**

**As he tried to pacify the timid creature, he was amazed at how he sounded just like a grown-up. He went on, not really sure whether he was talking to Gully or to himself. Gully was new almost touching him.**

"This is only sheet lightning. My father says sheet lightning never hurt..."

This time the flash of lightning came right on top of the crack of thunder. Without stopping to think, Ben clutched at Gully. He buried his face in Gully's thick, warm fur. He did not remember that this was a dog nor that he was afraid of dogs. He just wrapped his arm around the dog's great neck.

Gully turned his head and gave Ben's ear a quick lick. Then they both waited. The next peal of thunder was not quite so loud. Ben raised his head a little and listened. Was the worst part over already? It was. The storm, which had blown up so fast, was leaving as quickly as it had come.

Gully was still shaking. He did not understand that the storm was going away. His brown eyes met Ben's. Then, the big Labrador dropped his head onto his paws and gave a long sigh that ended in a little whimper.

"Hey," said Ben softly, "you're not such a dragon after all. You're a big marshmallow!"

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

1. Who is Gully?

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2. Why was Ben, in paragraph, fighting not to cry?

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3. Choose words paragraph 11 & 12, which have similar meanings to the words below:

calm	
weak	

4. Based on the passage, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so.

	True/False	Reason
The storm was right in the room with them.		
Gully was afraid of thunderstorms but Ben was not.		
Ben showed concern for Gully when he crept towards him.		

5. The table below shows the character's actions and the causes of their actions. Fill in the blanks using information from the story.

Part of the Story	Cause	Action effect
In the beginning of the story		Ben tried to wriggle towards the closet.
At the end of the story		Gully dropped his head onto his paws and gave a long sigh of relief.

## P5 Comprehension Open-ended - CA1 – MGS

The pond was very big, so people swam at one side while others fished at the other. I had always been able to swim and my friends used to say that was because fat floats-well, I did not mind. They called me Sausage.

I swam but I never dived – not from any diving board, thank you. I had to take my glasses off and I could not see without them, so I was not going to dive and they stopped nagging about it long ago.

*Then, one summer, my instructor made me learn duck-diving. I would be swimming on the surface of the water and suddenly I upended myself just like a duck and dived deep into the water. I had to swim to the bottom of the pond, and pick up a brick he had thrown in, and bring it up again. You practise that in case you have to rescue anyone from drowning. Of course **(Q2) they** would be bigger and heavier than a brick, but you have to begin with bricks and work up gradually to people.*

*The swimming instructor said, "Sausage, I'm going to throw the brick in - it was brick with a piece of old white cloth wrapped round it to make it more visible underwater. "—Sausage, I'm going to throw it in, you go after it – go after it, Sausage, and get it before it reaches the bottom and settles in the mud or you'll never get it.*

He had made everyone come out of the water to give me a chance to succeed, and they were standing and watching. **(Q4) I could see them blurred along the bank as I was treading the water, waiting.** Then I saw the brick go over my head as he threw it, and there was a splash as it went into the water ahead of me. I took a deep breath and then my head went down and my legs went up into the air and I went right down into the water.

The water was like a thick greenish-brown lemonade. The brick went down a few seconds ahead of me but I could still see a whitish glimmer that must be the white cloth around it. It was fading into the lower water as I moved after it. It was dark underwater and I could hardly see anything at all, but I caught up with the brick. It looked different down there, and it had already settled in the mud – there was only one corner sticking up. I dug into the mud and got hold of the thing and then I let myself go up. I shot upwards as I was in a hurry. The colour of the water changed as I went up and then I could almost see the sun shining through the water.

*Then suddenly, I was at the surface – I had exploded back from the water into the air. Pond water was trickling down inside my nose and into my mouth. I let out the breath I had been holding and took a couple of fresh, quick breaths and treaded water and held up the brick.*

*I noticed the instructor and my friends shouting from the bank. My friends were cheering and shouting and then I heard the instructor bellowing. "Sausage! Sausage! What on earth have you got there, Sausage!"*

1. Which seven-word phrase from paragraph 2 shows that people had given up trying to get Sausage to dive into the water?

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ANSWERS QUESTIONS 2 TO 7 IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

2. What does the word "they" in paragraph 3 refer to?

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3. Why was the brick wrapped with a piece of white cloth?

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4. "I could see them blurred along the bank..." in paragraph 5. Why were the people standing along the bank 'blurred'?

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5. Why would Sausage need to find the brick before it reached the bottom of the pond?

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6. Based on the passage, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so.

	True/False	Reason
Sausage did not take offence easily.		
The instructor made special concession to Sausage.		
Sausage managed to emerge from the water with the brick in his hand.		

7. Choose words from tines paragraphs 3 to 4 and last two paragraphs which have the same meanings as the words below.

overturned	
progressively	
dribbling	
shouting	

## P5 Comprehension Open-ended - CA1 – Nan Hua

Dark clouds loomed as Henry sprinted out of the school gate and raced along the pavement. Thunder reverberated overhead and he knew that a downpour was imminent. He usually took the bus home from school, but today he decided to take an alternative route by using a short-cut through the sheltered areas.

Suddenly, Henry tripped over a bump and stretched out his arms to break his fall. As he fell, he heard a yelp. His right elbow hit the concrete pavement and the pain was so excruciating that he cried out loudly. Blood started to drip slowly down his arm from the wound. He lay on the ground, clutching his elbow in pain. He opened his eyes when he felt something soft and wet licking his cheeks. A pair of friendly brown eyes was staring at him.

Henry sat up, his throbbing pain forgotten as he gazed at the creature. It had shiny brown fur and it was wagging its bushy tail. Henry wanted to pat it but resisted as he recalled what his mother had said about humans catching fleas from stray animals. As much as Henry wanted to bring the creature home as a pet, he knew could not do so. His mother was allergic to animal fur. So, he got up, reluctantly took his eyes off from the creature and continued his journey home.

As Henry was about to unlock the front door of his house, he heard a familiar yelp. He turned around and caught sight of the creature looking at him, its tail wagging happily. "Perhaps it's hungry," Henry thought.

"I can't let you enter the house. Stay here and I will bring you some food," he instructed. The creature put its head on one side and thumped its tail. Henry thought the creature might have actually understood what he was saying. He opened the door and in the blink of an eye, the creature zoomed into the house Henry was caught off-guard and that instant, his mind went blank.

"Oh, no!" Henry exclaimed. "Mum's going to get mad when she sees the creature." He immediately kicked off his shoes, threw his bag on the couch and began searching for the mischievous creature. He knew he had to find it before his mother returned home. He searched the whole house frantically but the creature was nowhere to be seen. Minutes passed and Henry felt a chilly panic grow in him. He had to think of a way to entice the creature to come out from its hiding place. An idea struck him and he fetched a huge, tasty bone from the refrigerator.

Dangling the bait in front of him Henry walked round the house calling out to the creature. He was still at **(Q26) it** when he heard the dreaded sound — a key turning in the front door lock. Then his mother shouted, "Henry! I'm home!"

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

1. In paragraph 1, why do you think Henry was running?

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2. Which three-word phrase from paragraph 3 tells you that Henry did not remember the pain he was experiencing?

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3. Choose words from paragraph 2 and 3 which have similar meanings to the words below.

looked	
unbearable	
unwillingly	

4. How did the creature find its way to Henry's house?

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5. Why did Henry feel a chilly panic grow in him?

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6. What does the word "it" in last paragraph refer to?

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7. What animal do you think the creature was? Support your answer with 1 evidence from the passage.

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8. Based on the passage, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so.

	True / False	Reason
Henry did not sustain any injuries from his fall.		
Henry heard a yelp when he was outside his house.		
Henry instructed the creature to enter his house.		

9. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the passage.

\_\_\_\_\_ Henry had a fall and injured himself.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Henry tried to lure the creature with a bone.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The creature managed to enter the house.

10. Do you think Henry's mother would allow him to keep the creature as a pet? Support your answer with 2 reasons from the passage.

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## P5 Comprehension Open-ended - CA1 – Nanyang

I sat down on a deserted bench beneath the long, straggly branches of an old willow tree. A frown formed on my forehead as I sighed over the unfairness of it all. John, my opponent, walked away with the trophy wearing a smug look on his face. I lowered my eyes in embarrassment when he looked at me. Peter, who had tried to console me, would never understand. An involuntary tear fell from my eye, not for my defeat in the competition, but for fear of disappointing my mother.

And if that wasn't enough to ruin my day, a young boy approached me, all dirty from play. He stood right before me with his head tilted down and he said with great excitement, "Look what I found!"

In his hand was a pitiful-looking flower. The few petals that were left were all worn and wrinkly, yellowing at the sides. Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to play, I faked a weak smile and turned away. Instead of retreating, he sat down next to me. His body reeked of sweat. I turned to look at him in annoyance, hoping to turn him away. To my dismay, he placed the flower to his nose. He declared with overacted surprise, "It sure smells pretty and it's beautiful too. That's why I picked it. Here, it's for you."

The weed before me was dead. It looked pathetic, like my life. The boy was not helping. I just wanted the boy to leave me alone. I knew then what I must **(Q5) do** or he would never go away. I reached for the flower, and replied, "Just what I need." But instead of him placing the flower in my hand, he held it in mid-air without reason or plan. It was then that I noticed for the very first time that the boy could not see. He was blind.

I realised that I had stopped breathing for a moment. I blinked. Shame overcame me like a flood in my selfish need to wallow in my own insignificant defeat, I had failed to see him for who he was. In fact, I was the one who was blind. I heard my voice quiver as I thanked him for picking the very best **(Q6) one**. I took the flower from him with shaking hands.

"You're welcome," he smiled. He skipped away, unaware that he had changed me. I sat there in stunned silence. I wondered how he had managed to see a self-pitying boy beneath an old willow tree. Defeat, then, no longer seemed that hopeless.

I held that wilted flower up to my nose and breathed in the fragrance of a beautiful rose. I smiled as I watched that young boy, with another weed in his hand, about to change the life of an unsuspecting old man.

I stood up with my newfound courage. I decided then that I would tell my mother the truth. Surely, she would understand that I could no longer pursue her dreams of becoming a world-class violinist. Despite the many violin competitions I had already won, my passion had always been in acting, a career I intended to pursue.

I trudged back home with hope. When I reached home, I paused at the door. I took a deep breath, smiled and rang the doorbell.

The door swung open almost immediately. Mother, as usual, was standing there, grinning with hope, "Where is your trophy?"

*(Adapted from "A Beautiful Flower")*

ANSWER IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. From paragraph 1, how do we know that the writer wanted to be alone?

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2. What was the main reason why the writer cried?

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3. Choose words from paragraph 3 which have the opposite meanings to the words below.

smooth	
strong	
advancing	

4. Based on the passage, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so.

	True/False	Reason
John was the victor in the competition.		
The writer told the boy to go away the moment the boy approached him.		
The writer could play the violin very well.		

5. What must the writer do paragraph 4 to get the blind boy to go away?

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6. What does the word "one" in paragraph 5 refer to?

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7. What had the writer decided to tell his mother in the end?

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8. Which sentence tells you that the writer's mother had been expecting his return?

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9. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the passage.

\_\_\_\_\_ The boy approached the writer with enthusiasm.

\_\_\_\_\_ The writer was wallowing in his own defeat. The boy's body odour put the writer off.

10. Based on your understanding of the passage, track the change in the writer by filling in the empty boxes below.

Before	After
The writer was discouraged by his defeat.	
The writer saw a wilted and unattractive weed.	

## P5 Comprehension Open-ended - CA1 – Rosyth

Mr. Lim, an elderly man, was having his breakfast at a coffeeshop one morning when he lost his money and handphone to a trickster. It was the second time he had been duped.

The first time, Mr. Lim was tricked in his own house. His nephew, Dan, had visited him one afternoon when everyone was at work. Dan had gone to Mr. Lim's house on the pretext of checking on his health. After making some casual enquiries about his high blood pressure, Dan whipped out a handphone to show Mr. Lim how he could use it to help monitor his blood pressure.

He convinced his uncle to buy the handphone by saying, "Uncle, it is cheaper for you to buy this phone for \$1000 and applications or apps for short to monitor your blood pressure than to see a doctor every month," It sounded logical to Mr. Lim as he was not well-informed about the market value of handphones and knew nothing about apps. As such, he was not aware that such a new handphone could be bought at only \$400. As for the apps that Dan had mentioned, they were actually free apps.

When Mr. Lim's daughter found out about her father's new handphone, she asked why he had handed over his money so easily to Dan. He explained resignedly, "He is my relative so I have no reason to doubt him." His daughter thought of making a police report but Mr. Lim stopped her, saying it would hurt family ties. In the end, she confronted Dan and asked for a refund. However, Dan claimed he had spent all the money. She was furious and complained to Dan's father who had apologised but did not pay up for his son.

A few months later, Mr. Lim was tricked again. This time it was by a woman named Nina who had chatted with him at a coffeeshop. She showed Mr. Lim how she could check for lucky draw and lottery updates on her handphone. She claimed that her handphone had an application that allowed her to study the pattern of the lottery numbers. This would make it easier to predict the winning numbers and that was why she could make a fortune by betting on the right numbers. When Mr. Lim found out she had won \$13 000 using that app, he asked if she could help him install it on his handphone.

She replied, "Uncle, as you are a nice man, I will do this for you for free." Mr. Lim was so grateful that he attempted to tip her with \$20. **(Q8) Feeling a little guilty**, she pushed the money back to him and said, "No trouble, no need."

Nina assured him that she would return next week with his handphone. Then she scribbled her handphone number on a piece of paper and handed it to Mr. Lim when he requested for it. When she did not show up a week later, Mr. Lim rang the given number unsuccessfully every few days. A month later, he made a police report. He was saddened he had been tricked again.

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

1. Where was Mr. Lim when he was tricked the first time?

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2. Why do you think Dan chose to visit Mr. Lim at home in the afternoon?

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3. Why was Mr. Lim not suspicious about Dan's intention to sell him the handphone? Give 3 reasons.

i) \_\_\_\_\_  
ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
iii) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Mr. Lim's daughter do after she found out about the incident with Dan? Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the blank below to indicate the order in which the actions occurred in the passage.

Order	Actions
	She complained to Dan's father.
	She questioned Mr. Lim.
	She demanded payment from Dan.
	She wanted to make a police report.

5. Why didn't Mr. Lim's daughter make a police report against Dan?

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6. What did Mr. Lim lose when he was tricked on two separate occasions? Tick the correct answers. You may tick more than one box.

First Time	Tick	Second Time	Tick
Money		Money	
Handphone		Handphone	

7. How did Nina convince Mr. Lim that her apps was good? Give two descriptions.

i) \_\_\_\_\_  
ii) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Why did Nina feel "a little guilty" in second last paragraph?

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9. Why did Mr. Lim want to tip Nina? Give two possible reasons.

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Find words from paragraphs 1 and 2 which have similar meanings to the words below.

Words to replaced	Answer
Con artist	
excuse	
check	

## Answer Key

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Subject: Primary 5 English – Comprehension Open-Ended

Paper: CA1 2014

School: St Nicholas

1. Gully was a dog.
2. He did not want to make any noise that would attract Gully's attention.
3. calm – pacify, weak – feeble
4. False – The storm sounded like it was in the room with them.  
False – They were both afraid of thunderstorms.  
True – Ben tried to pacify Gully by assuring him that everything was alright.
5. Beginning – Ben was afraid of Gully and wanted to get away.  
End – Gully's eyes met Ben's and he felt comforted.

School: MGS

1. They stopped nagging about it long ago.
2. The word "they" refers to people who were drowning.
3. The brick wrapped with white cloth would be more visible underwater.
4. The author had to take his glasses off and he could not see well without them.
5. He needed to do so because if it reached the bottom of the pond and settled in the mud, it would be hard for him to get it.
6. True – The author did not mind that his friends used to say it was because of fat float that he was able to swim and that they called him Sausage.  
True – He made everyone come out of the water to give sausage a chance.  
False – The instructor asked him what he was holding in his hand.
7. upended, gradually, trickling, bellowing.

School: Nan Hua

1. He wanted to get back home before it rained.
2. throbbing pain forgotten
3. gazed, excruciating, reluctantly
4. The creature followed Henry.
5. He had to find the creature before his mother returned home.
6. It refers to Henry dangling the bait in front of him and calling out to the creature.
7. The creature was a dog. The sound it makes is a yelp.
8. False – Henry sustained a wound on his right elbow and blood dripped slowly down his wound.  
True – Henry heard a yelp when he was unlocking the front door of his house.  
False – The creature dashed into Henry's house when he opened the door without Henry allowing it to enter the house.
9. 1, 3, 2



10. No. His mother was allergic to animal fur and was worried about humans catching fleas from stray animals.

School: Nanyang

1. He sat down on a deserted bench.
2. The writer did not win the trophy for the competition and did not want to disappoint his mother.
3. winkly, weak, retreating
4. True – John, the writer’s opponent, walked away with the trophy wearing a smug look on his face.  
False – The writer faked a weak smile and turned away the moment the boy approached him. The writer never asked the boy to go away.  
True – The writer had won many violin competition.
5. The writer had to accept the flower.
6. It refers to the flower.
7. The writer had decided to tell his mother that he did not win the competition and wanted to act.
8. The door swung open almost immediately.
9. 2, 1, 3
10. The writer felt that the defeat should not make him sad. He saw a beautiful rose.

School: