



Reading

Comprehension

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Time:

Marks: **39 marks**

Comments:

Q1.

The Story of King Midas



Q2.

1. How does Silenus warn Midas about his wish?

1 mark

2. ...*King Midas and his precious daughter Philomena.*

What is the meaning of the word *precious* in this sentence?

1 mark

3. **Find** and **copy** what Midas says when his wish is granted.

1 mark

4. Look at the picture below.
Write down what Midas might be thinking at this point in the story.



2 marks

Q3.

Length after length

This is an extract from a novel about a teenage girl called Jess. The story begins when Jess is at her local swimming pool.

Half-past nine in the morning and the pool was crowded already. That was the down-side to summer holidays, especially hot ones like this, but she knew she shouldn't grumble: she'd been here since six thirty, together with the usual hard-core of serious swimmers, and she'd managed a leisurely four miles without interruption.

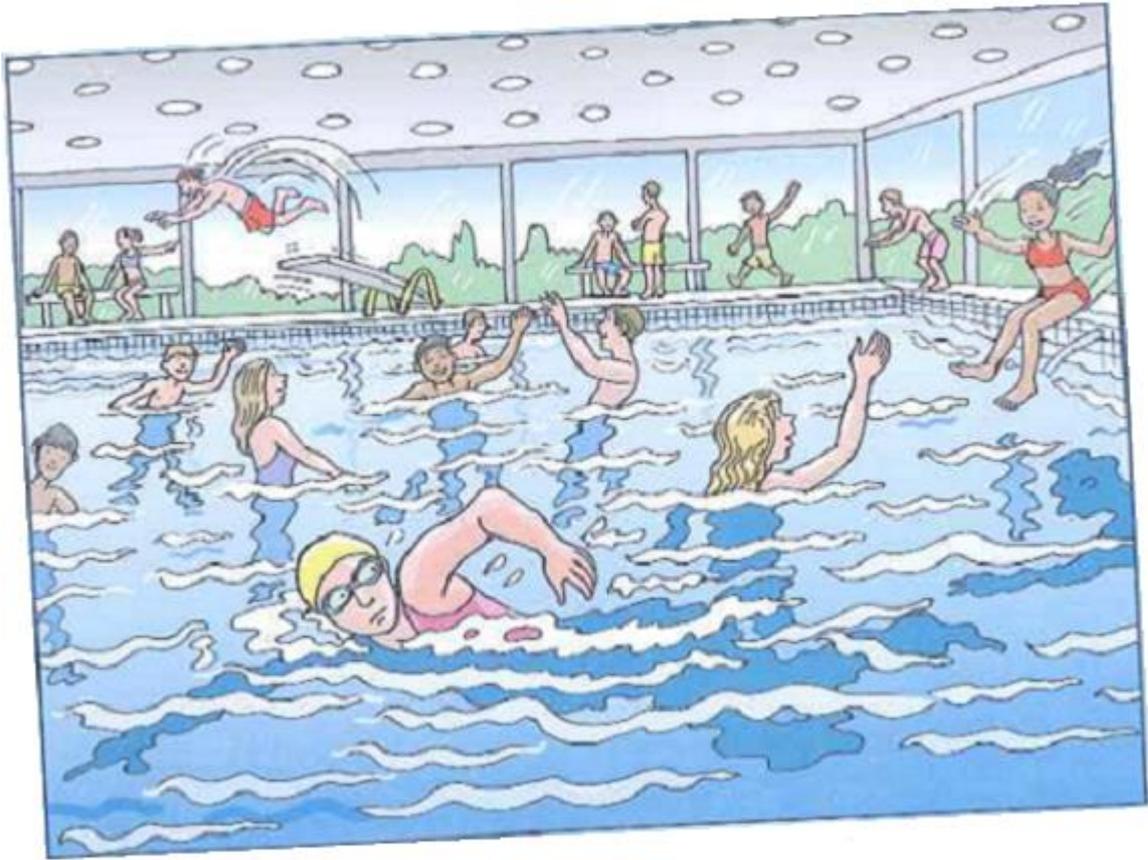
But she did grumble; the mere sight of all these people flopping in like lemmings made her want to shout with frustration. She wasn't ready to stop yet, not by a long way. She had energy left and she wanted to use it.

She stuck to her lane, doggedly ploughing length after length, trying to ignore the splash of other swimmers. Sometimes she'd found that if she just forced herself to keep swimming up and down her lane without stopping or swerving, the other users of the pool seemed by some collective telepathy to accept the space as hers, and leave it to her. But that wouldn't work today: they seemed to be jumping in by the score. Another quarter of an hour and it would be unbearable.

She locked into her stroke and drove herself on, her breath beating its practised rhythm in time with the strokes, as even as the chime of a clock. In for a gulp of oxygen, her mouth twisted upwards to snap its life from the air, then face down again and the long exhalation to a slow, steady count, bubbles teasing her lips like tiny fish.

She loved this rhythm; she needed it. It kept her thoughts on track when they started to wander. Sometimes, when things were going well and she was feeling secure in herself and had something pleasant to think about, she was happy to let them wander; but if she was tiring or feeling vulnerable or worrying, she focused on that rhythm and it settled her, sometimes even when she wasn't swimming.

But she was always swimming. She needed to swim. To be deprived of swimming would be like a perverse kind of drowning. She loved the sensation of power and speed, the feeling of glistening in a bed of foam, even the strange isolation of mind in this watery cocoon. Distance swimming was as much about will as about technique; and she knew she was strong in both. All she needed now, to set that will alight, was a big swimming challenge; something to test herself against. Something she could one day be proud of.



Q4.

1. Look at the paragraph beginning: *She stuck to her lane...*

Find and **copy two** words that suggest everyone understood that the space belonged to Jess.

1 mark

2. *To be deprived of swimming would be like a perverse kind of drowning.*

What does this show about Jess' feelings towards swimming?

1 mark

3. Describe the character of Jess based on what you have read.

Explain your answer, using evidence from the whole text.

3 marks

Q5.

THE RUSH FOR GOLD

Gold is a very beautiful and valuable metal and has been used for centuries in the exchange of goods. From the earliest times, men and women have searched for gold, willing to travel for hundreds of miles and live in poverty, hoping to find gold and 'get rich quick'.

A 'gold rush' is when hundreds of people travel to the same place after gold has been discovered there. It starts very suddenly when news of the discovery of gold spreads. There have been gold rushes in different places all over the world.

A famous gold rush occurred in 1897 in a remote part of Canada called the Yukon. The Yukon is a very cold region where the average winter temperature is -28°C but it can sometimes drop to a dangerously cold -50°C . (Compare this to an average English winter temperature of 3°C .)

On 16th August 1896 a group of prospectors* located gold in the Yukon, near a town called Dawson. They immediately claimed the area as their own. Local people then started looking for gold and were equally lucky. These early prospectors and the local people owned all the gold they found and became very wealthy.

Because the Yukon is very isolated and difficult to reach, it took nearly a year for news about the discovery of gold to leak out to people in the rest of the world. When people heard, a race to reach the Yukon began. These gold-seekers were so desperate for wealth that they travelled through harrowing and dangerous conditions to get it.

**People who search for gold are called prospectors.*





The journey was very long and very cold. The cheapest way of travelling was on foot or by horse. However, horses could not travel up the steep and icy mountains so the gold-seekers were forced to carry the food and supplies themselves. Mountains were not the only difficulty they had to face. There were wild animals and raging rivers as well as extreme weather conditions. Many gold-seekers died, fell ill or lost enthusiasm and either stopped where they were or turned back.

Approximately 100,000 gold-seekers set off to the Yukon. Only 30,000 completed the journey.

Unfortunately, of those who actually made it to Dawson, few found the riches they had hoped for. By the time most arrived, all the land and the gold in it had been claimed. The gold-seekers' dreams were shattered.

Now, many people travel to the Yukon in search not of gold, but of a unique holiday experience. Instead of inns where the lucky few could celebrate their success, there are jewellery shops, whose owners are hoping to get a share of the tourists' spending money.

These are quotations from people who took part in the Yukon Gold Rush.

We got up at five this morning ... There are hundreds of people here dragging or carrying their supplies, all striving to reach the Yukon. Some have horses and still others have dog teams, but most of them act as their own horses.

Inga Kolloen's diary, March 21, 1898,
on the Dyea Trail

This may have begun as an exciting adventure, and seemed exceedingly romantic, but digging for gold is downright hard labour. I don't know anymore if it's really worth it.

Letter written by Alfred Green

*Ice cream would be a hot drink here.
Oil is frozen in the cans.*

Diary of Edward C. Adams,
January 16, 1901, Yukon Territory

Q6.

1. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	true	false
The Yukon is part of the United States of America		
The average winter temperature in the Yukon is -28°C .		
Gold was found in the Yukon in 1896.		
People from Dawson also found gold in the area.		
100,000 gold-seekers arrived in the Yukon.		

2 marks

2. Why is the information about the average English winter temperature included on the first page of the text?

1 mark

3. Look at the paragraph beginning: *Because the Yukon is very isolated...*

What does the word *leak* suggest about the way the news spread?

2 marks

4. What hardships did people face on the journey to the Yukon?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3 marks

5. *Many gold seekers died, fell ill or lost **enthusiasm**...*

Give the meaning of the word *enthusiasm* in this sentence.

1 mark

6. Number these events 1 - 5 to show the order in which they appear in the text. One has been done for you.

seekers started the journey

prospectors located gold

30,000 people completed the journey

people died

news leaked out

1 mark

7. If you went to the Yukon today, where would it be easiest to find gold?

Tick **one**.

in the streams

in the ground

in the jewellery shops

in the mountains

1 mark

Q7.

the home of the future – built from waste – dirt cheap to run

The Earthship



The Earthship is the home of the future and it can help save the future of our planet. How? Earthships are built using recycled materials, especially old car tyres. Every year, there are 48 million used tyres in Britain that have to be thrown away. They are either buried in tips or burnt, creating greenhouse gases. The growing mountain of car tyres is a huge environmental concern, but now, in the building of Earthship homes, one problem can be used to solve another. The mountain of old tyres can provide homes for people who need them.

Old bottles, reclaimed wood and other waste materials are also used in the construction of these homes. And that's not all – another important advantage of Earthships is that they cost almost nothing to run.

The Earthship is a house that:

- takes heat from the sun so your heating bills are very small
- maintains a comfortable living temperature: neither too hot, nor too cold
- makes electricity from sun and wind
- collects its own water from rain so you never have to pay water bills
- disposes of all waste.

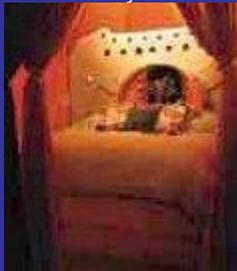
A happy customer of a two-bedroom Earthship wrote:

“The lowest temperature in my house was 21°C and the highest 24°C. The total energy bill for the year was only £25.”

A builder said:

“These walls will still be here in 800 years’ time – that’s how long rubber tyres last. My daughter’s children will be able to come and see what I’ve done long after I’m gone.”

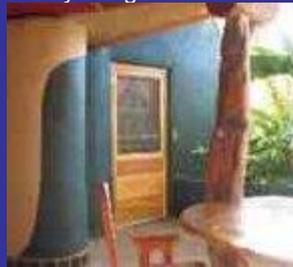
Cosy bedroom



Mike Reynolds, the man who first thought up this new eco-house, called it ‘The Earthship’ because it is designed to be a home that will ‘sail’ into the future.

For more information and how to contact us, go to www.lowcarbon.co.uk

Sunny living room



Tyres make the perfect building material. They are packed with earth, stacked like bricks and plastered.



A plan of a simple Earthship

Solar panels are set above the building to make electricity from sunlight. Solar power provides enough energy to run lights and electrical equipment and to heat up water. Batteries can store sunlight energy for several days.

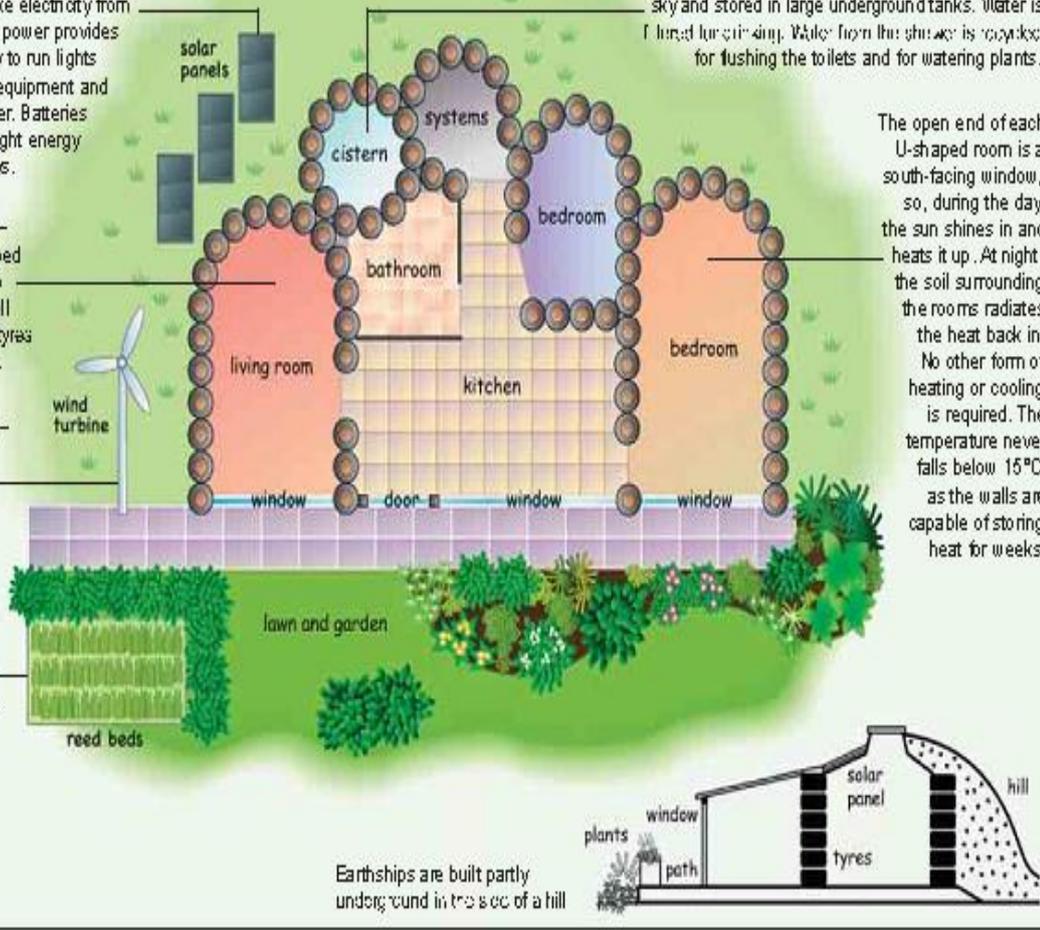
Living spaces – usually U-shaped rooms dug into the side of a hill and lined with tyres on three sides.

Wind turbines – electricity is also made from wind energy.

Reed beds – human waste recycled here.

Underground water tanks – rain is caught from the sky and stored in large underground tanks. Water is filtered for drinking. Water from the shower is recycled for flushing the toilets and for watering plants.

The open end of each U-shaped room is a south-facing window, so, during the day the sun shines in and heats it up. At night, the soil surrounding the rooms radiates the heat back in. No other form of heating or cooling is required. The temperature never falls below 15°C, as the walls are capable of storing heat for weeks.



Earthships are built partly underground in the side of a hill

Q8.

1. How many tyres have to be thrown away every year?

1 mark

2. Which of these materials are used to build Earthships?

Tick **three**.

- | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| bricks | <input type="checkbox"/> | concrete | <input type="checkbox"/> | old wood | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| tyres | <input type="checkbox"/> | cement | <input type="checkbox"/> | old bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1 mark

3. Complete in the table to show how the Earthship provides the following.

One has been done for you.

We need:	How the Earthship provides it:
light and electricity	
heat during day	
protection from cold at night	<i>The walls release heat into the rooms.</i>
water	
disposal of waste	

2 marks

4. ...***maintains*** a comfortable living temperature...

Give the meaning of the word *maintains* in this sentence.

2 marks

5. 'Earthship' is made up of two words: *earth* and *ship*.

Why are these two words used for this new type of house?

earth _____

2 marks

ship _____

6. How does the text prove that Earthships cost very little to run?

1 mark

7. This leaflet gives information about the Earthship.

2 marks

How does it also advertise the Earthship? Find **two** points.

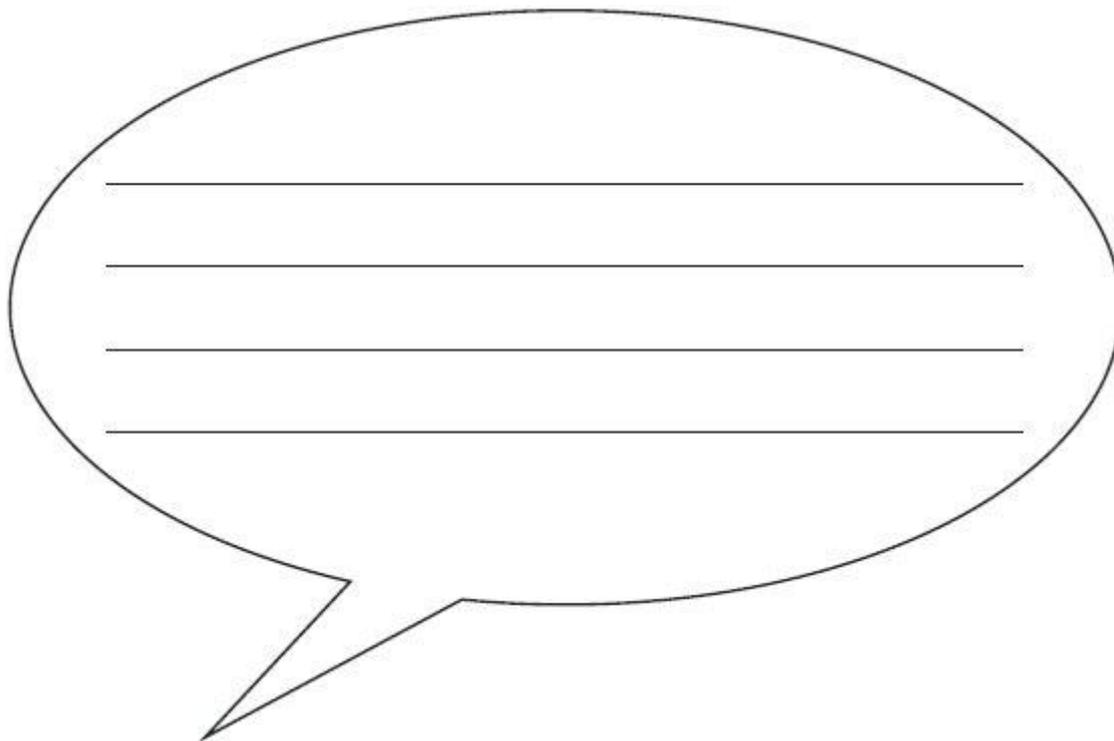
1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

8. On the front of the leaflet two quotations are included from people who like the Earthship.

Now use the information on the plan to write your own comment about the Earthship for use in the leaflet.



Your comment about the Earthship

2 marks

9. Explain fully how Earthship houses can solve different types of problems.

3 marks