MET Education

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Trip to the Night Market

P5 Reading · 20 marks

Free practice set in the style of MET Year 5 Reading Comprehension

1 Every Friday, as soon as the sun slipped behind the tower blocks, the quiet street below Grandma's flat changed completely. Rows of red lanterns flickered on, metal shutters rattled up, and the smell of curry fish balls drifted in through Grandma's open window. My cousin Ben and I would press our noses against the glass until Grandma finally sighed, picked up her purse and said, "All right, but only one snack each."

2 "Only one" was the hardest rule in the world. I always walked the whole street twice before I decided. The squid stall had skewers brushed with a sauce so spicy that it made my lips tingle for an hour. The egg waffle stall had a queue that never seemed to get shorter. Ben never bothered to compare. He ran straight to the candy floss man, who spun him a pink cloud bigger than his own head and then pretended to lose him behind **it**.

3 My favourite stop, though, did not sell food at all. At the very end of the street, under a single bare bulb, sat Mr Lam, an elderly man who carved tiny animals out of wood. He never shouted to customers like the other sellers. He simply kept working, and his little knife moved so quickly that a bird seemed to fly out of the wood while you watched. Whenever a child stopped, he put down his knife and explained exactly how he had made each creature, whether the child bought anything or not.

4 Last Friday, I finally had enough money for a wooden buffalo. I counted six five-dollar coins into Mr Lam's hand. He shook his head and pushed two of them back across the table. "You have visited me every week for a year," he said. "Regular customers pay less."

5 On the way home, Ben's face was sticky, Grandma's purse was lighter and my pocket was almost empty. Still, nobody complained. I held my buffalo carefully all the way up the stairs, as if it might run away.

NIGHT MARKET PRICES Squid skewer $18 · Egg waffle $22 · Candy floss $12 · Curry fish balls (6) $15 · Wooden animals $30 each

Answer in complete sentences unless the question asks for a short answer. For multiple-choice questions, write the letter.

1 In paragraph 1, why did the writer and Ben press their noses against the window? **(1 mark)**

A. They wanted to look at the lanterns.
B. They were feeling cold.
C. They wanted Grandma to take them to the market.
D. They were waiting for their parents.

Answer: _____

2 Find a word in paragraph 1 which means 'moved slowly through the air'. Give a short answer. **(1 mark)**

_____

3 In the last sentence of paragraph 2, what does **it** refer to? Give a short answer. **(1 mark)**

_____

4 Why was "only one" the hardest rule in the world for the writer? Give evidence from paragraph 2. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

5 Are these sentences true or false? Write T or F, then give a reason from the passage. **(4 marks)**

(a) Ben took a long time to choose his snack. ____ Reason: _____

(b) The queue at the egg waffle stall was usually long. ____ Reason: _____

(c) Mr Lam called out to people to come to his stall. ____ Reason: _____

(d) The writer visited Mr Lam only once. ____ Reason: _____

6 "A bird seemed to fly out of the wood while you watched" (paragraph 3). This tells us that **(1 mark)**

A. a real bird flew out of the stall.
B. Mr Lam threw a wooden bird to the children.
C. Mr Lam's carving looked real and appeared very quickly.
D. the wood was old and full of holes.

Answer: _____

7 How do we know Mr Lam was kind to children? Give TWO pieces of evidence from different paragraphs. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

8 Look at paragraph 4 and the price list. How much did the writer pay for the buffalo? Explain how you know. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

9 Why did Mr Lam ask the writer to pay less? Use your own words. **(1 mark)**

_____

10 "Grandma's purse was lighter" (paragraph 5) means that Grandma **(1 mark)**

A. had taken out her keys to carry them.
B. had bought a smaller purse.
C. had dropped some coins in the street.
D. had spent money at the market.

Answer: _____

11 Put these events in the order they happened. Write 1–4 on the lines. **(2 marks)**

____ Mr Lam pushes two coins back.
____ Grandma picks up her purse.
____ The red lanterns are lit.
____ The writer carries the buffalo up the stairs.

12 How did the writer feel about the wooden buffalo at the end? How do you know? **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

Answers 1 C · 2 drifted · 3 the (pink) candy floss · 4 She found it very hard to choose only one snack, so she walked the whole street twice before she decided. · 5a F — he ran straight to the candy floss man / never compared. 5b T — the queue never seemed to get shorter. 5c F — he never shouted to customers; he simply kept working. 5d F — she had visited him every week for a year. · 6 C · 7 Any two: he stopped working and explained how he made each animal to every child who stopped, even if they bought nothing (para 3); he gave the writer two coins back / let her pay less (para 4). · 8 $20. She gave him six $5 coins ($30, the price of a wooden animal) and he gave two coins ($10) back. · 9 She was a regular customer: she came to his stall every week for a year. · 10 D · 11 Lanterns 1 · purse 2 · coins 3 · stairs 4 · 12 She loved it / treasured it. She held it carefully all the way up the stairs, as if it might run away.

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