MET Education Name: _____ Date: _____

The Day the Power Went Out

P6 Reading · 13 marks

Set 16 from MET Year 6 Reading Comprehension Book 1 · Questions 1–6

1 It happened on the hottest evening of the summer, right in the middle of dinner. The lights blinked once — and the whole neighbourhood went dark. Ling's family groaned together. The air conditioner sighed to a stop. The fridge fell silent. Upstairs, her older brother howled: his video game had frozen in the middle of a match. Their phones still worked, but everyone worried about wasting the remaining battery. For a while, they bumped around the dark flat, digging through drawers for candles and torches. Each person complained about the terrible timing.

2 But the house soon grew stuffy, and the family drifted outside to the front porch, carrying their chairs with them. The night air was surprisingly cool. Then something unexpected happened. One by one, the neighbours came out too. Someone brought a pack of cards. Someone else brought a tin of biscuits. Soon the whole street was gathered in the candlelight, playing games, laughing and swapping stories. Old Mr Yuen, who had lived there longer than anyone, told tales of the street from forty years ago — back when there were no buildings at all, only rice fields stretching into the dark.

3 The electricity came back a little after midnight, and the street lit up as if nothing had happened. The strange thing was this: nobody rushed back inside. The cards, stories and shared food suddenly seemed more interesting than the screens waiting indoors. Ling later admitted that the night of the blackout had somehow been the best night of her whole summer. Her family now switches everything off for one evening every month, on purpose, just to sit outside together — a small tradition born entirely by accident.

1 Find ONE word in the passage which matches each meaning below. Copy the word exactly. **(3 marks)**

(a) made unhappy sounds of complaint (paragraph 1) _____

(b) hot and without fresh air (paragraph 2) _____

(c) said that something is true, even if you did not expect it (paragraph 3) _____

2 Decide whether each statement is True (T) or False (F). Write T or F in the boxes. **(3 marks)**

(a) The power cut happened on a cold winter evening. ☐

(b) Mr Yuen had lived on the street longer than anyone else. ☐

(c) The family now switches off the power once a month on purpose. ☐

3 Name ONE thing that stopped working when the power went out. _____ **(1 mark)**

4 Why did the family move outside to the porch? **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

5 What can you infer about how well the neighbours knew each other before the blackout? Support your answer with evidence. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

6 What does 'a small tradition born entirely by accident' mean? Explain in your own words. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

Answers **A** 1 (a) groaned (also accept: complained) (b) stuffy (c) admitted · 2 (a) F (b) T (c) T · 3 Any ONE: air conditioner / fridge / video game / lights. · 4 The flat was hot and stuffy without the air conditioner, and the air outside was cooler. · 5 Probably not very well. The street gathering was 'unexpected', so it did not usually happen. · 6 It was never planned. It began because of the power cut, and now they do it on purpose.

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