

Just one touch

I am sitting in a chair next to Momma's bed. I am watching her get ready for a party. She opens the beautiful jewelry box on her nightstand.

It is the size of a shoebox. It is wooden. It has colorful stones on top. They are red, green, yellow, and blue. To me, the box looks magical. It looks like it has special powers.

"Now, you know you must never touch this box, right?" Momma says. I feel like she knows exactly what I am thinking.

I just want to touch it. I just want to open it. I just want to try on all the jewelry inside and dance around the room!

"Yes, Momma," I say. "I know." What do I know?

I know Momma has always told me not to touch the box. She has said it since I was a little girl.

"You are not old enough to wear my jewelry," Momma says. I am almost eleven years old! What is the big deal?

I know that when Momma puts on the rings and bracelets from the box, she looks different. She seems to glow.

There is one necklace with a yellow stone like a tiger's eye. When Momma puts this on, she seems to float instead of walk. Her feet do not seem to touch the ground. She moves lightly and gracefully. She moves without effort.

Momma kisses me goodnight. She leaves for the party. I run to the window to wave to her, but she is already gone.

Tonight I am very curious. Just one touch.

I sit on the edge of Momma's bed. I place my hand on the nightstand. I pause. I think.

My hand moves up and rests on the jewelry box. The box quickly flips open by itself! Jewels fly into the air. They dance around my head. I feel strange. I fall down to the floor.

I wake up in a place I have never seen before.

1) Where does most of this story take place?

- A. at a party
- B. in a pretend place
- C. outside a window
- D. in Momma's bedroom

2) Who is telling the story?

- A. Momma
- B. a young girl
- C. Momma's friend
- D. a pretend person

3) At the beginning of the story, where is the girl sitting?

- A. in a chair
- B. on the bed
- C. on the floor
- D. next to the window

4) The jewelry box looks magical. What does this mean?

- A. It looks simple.
- B. It looks expensive.
- C. It looks like it has special powers.
- D. It looks like it was made a long time ago.

5) What does Momma tell her daughter about the box?

- A. that it is magical
- B. that she must never touch it
- C. that the jewels are expensive
- D. that she can touch it when she is older

6) Where is Momma going?

- A. to a play
- B. to a party
- C. to a concert
- D. to a magic show

7) What does the jewelry box look like?

- I. It is brown.
- II. It is wooden.
- III. It is the size of a shoebox.
- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

8) Which word best describes how the girl feels about the jewelry box?

- A. angry
- B. curious
- C. in love
- D. scared

9) Momma seems to glow when she puts on

- A. make up
- B. a necklace
- C. the rings and bracelets
- D. nice shoes and a fancy dress

10) What does the girl seem to be thinking about when she sits on the edge of the bed?

- A. going to a party
- B. how to open the box
- C. dancing around the room
- D. if she should touch the box

11) How old is the girl?

- A. 11
- B. 12
- C. 10
- D. 15

12) What does the reader learn about the box?

- A. It is evil.
- B. It can fly.
- C. It is very heavy.
- D. It has special powers.

13) What does it mean if something is a big deal?

- A. It is a heavy thing.
- B. It is very important.
- C. It cannot be forgotten.
- D. It can make a lot of money.

14) At the end of the story, what does the girl mean when she says that Momma seems to float?

- A. that Momma is swimming
- B. that Momma looks like a boat
- C. that it is difficult for Momma to move
- D. that Momma moves without much effort

Complete the following essay with your own words and ideas.

Life in a high-rise flat

Man is the only home making animal. He alone can enjoy the warmth of his hearth and family circle. Man has evolved from tree dwelling to the modern flat. Primitive man was the master of his hut and it was his castle. Till recently the house had been a complex affair. There were the gardens, barn, poultry, cattle shed and so on.

There was good neighborliness. In sorrow and joy the neighbor shared. They were helping each other in many of life's needs and operations. They had enough leisure. They had time to sit over a pipe or glass of drink and gossip. In short

But those days are gone though there may be vestiges in remote places. The onslaught of Industrial Revolution and the growth of industries as a result have caused

In an industrial area space becomes scarce and as more and more families pour in they cannot find space for houses. Not only the space but also the cost becomes prohibitive. So an average office goer or a worker cannot have the luxury of owning a house. Still they want some shelter to lay

These flats are provided with all facilities like water, electricity,

But there are more disadvantages in living in a high flat. The movement will be restricted and conditioned according to the circumstances. One may have to live with all sorts of people,

Since all facilities are artificially controlled any breakdown in them would paralyze life. For instance, if there is any defect in the water system, life will be upset. For want of space, one must plan carefully what one must own. Whereas in olden days people had enough space

Further if there were to be accidents like fire or the breakout of epidemics, the high rise flats will suffer most. From aesthetic point of view also the flats do not add to the beauty of the city. In short one may conclude that life in a high rise flat is necessary evil in a big city.

Find the words in the word bank that you need to complete the sentences below. You can use a word more than once or not at all. (Use the verb tables for to be, to do and to have, if you need to.)

were are was is
has have am comes come

1. We _____ going out tonight.
2. The sisters _____ the goal-scorers in the last match.
3. These _____ my parents.
4. Mr Jenkins _____ been teaching RE for more than a year now.
5. This is our favourite café and we _____ here often.
6. The boys _____ finished their writing already.
7. I know you _____ wrong about this.
8. There _____ two gym machines working.
9. There _____ three glue sticks left.
10. 'We _____ robbed,' said the bank manager.
11. 'I _____ sorry but the experiments _____ failed,' said the teacher.
12. He _____ very angry that he lost the contest.

Are you GOOD at Connectives ?

Complete the following sentences using the correct connective.

Although But So and Then Until

1. _____ travelling by plane is fast, its expensive _____ bad for the environment.
2. Car-racing is exciting, _____ it's very dangerous.
3. I love exciting places, _____ I want to go to a city.
4. It's usually very hot in Australia _____ the end of April.
5. I would like to go to the beach first, _____ we can go to the restaurant.
6. I like to eat beef, _____ I do like to eat chicken.
7. _____ you're saying you want to go diving?
8. I want to go snorkeling, diving _____ to the opera.
9. _____ you finish your homework you can't watch T.V.
10. It's foggy and stormy outside, _____ you should wear a coat _____ boots.
11. You're not 17 years old, _____ you'll have to wait till you can drive a car.
12. I love my pet dog, _____ I prefer music.
13. Its windy today, _____ take your umbrella _____ be careful.
14. Snorkeling in the sea is exciting _____ fun, _____ I prefer to climb mountains.
15. England is colder than Spain, _____ Spain is hotter than England.

Choose the right preposition in the gaps :

1. He's never _____ time.
a) at b) on c) in
2. Will you be _____ home later?
a) at b) on c) in
3. Which street did you park your car _____?
a) at b) on c) in
4. I'll see you _____ Friday.
a) at b) on c) in
5. I'll see you _____ May.
a) at b) on c) in
6. I met her _____ the party last week.
a) at b) on c) in
7. Can you come by _____ ?
a) at b) on c) in
8. My brother doesn't live _____ the same neighborhood as me.
a) at b) on c) in
9. I haven't seen my cousin _____ three months.
a) at b) on c) in
10. I just heard that song _____ the radio.
a) at b) on c) in

Fill in the blanks using AM, IS, ARE, AM NOT, ISN'T, AREN'T:

1. It an onion.
2. Jasmine a student.
3. We friends.
4. I hungry.
5. Mark 20 years old.
6. A bee a big insect
7. Newsweek a magazine.
8. I a professional football player.
9. I know you. You in my class.
10. Cows insects. They mammals.
11. Dżmir a city.
12. He a postman.
13. It nine o'clock.
14. Manhattan an island.
15. Mr. Richards a lawyer.
16. I ill. I happy.
17. London a big city.
18. Dave and Adrian sisters. They brothers.
19. New York near to New Jersey.
20. Susan and I teachers. We students.

KEY :

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- 1A, 2B, 3A, 4C, 5B, 6B, 7C, 8B, 9C, 10D, 11C, 12D, 13B, 14D

Essay completion

Life in a high-rise flat

KEY :

The house itself was having different portions spacious enough for all the family members to move about. These villas till recently were popular. Even today we may come across these villas in the countryside.

In short everybody was known to everybody and the society was in one sense self contained.

..... the birth and growth of towns and cities. Though even in ancient days there were cities, they were the capitals of kings and emperors, otherwise there were not many cities. Any student of history could appreciate this point. So the growth of cities is a modern phenomenon, concomitant to the growth and concentration of industries.

..... their heads down when they have returned from their office or factory. The answer has been the high rise flats of several floors. They are either built by building societies or by the Housing Boards of government.

..... good drainage, airy rooms and so on. In every high rise flat there may be even lifts to take people up and down. In the flats the tenants may be independent. to entertain guests and relatives. It is the children who would suffer most for there won't be enough space for them to run and play about. Unless one has the facility to take them out, they will develop complexes of closed space. Since they cannot easily mingle with other children, there may be blind spots in their character. Living such artificial surroundings may even tell on their health and growth. In short they will feel like caged birds. This may be true of even grown ups.

KEY : Find the words in the word that you need to complete the sentences below :

- (1) are (2) were (3) are (4) has (5) come (6) have (7) are (8) are (9) are (10) have been (11) am, have (12) was

KEY : Connectives

- (1) although, so (2) but (3) so (4) until (5) then (6) although (7) So (8) then (9) until (10) so, and (11) so (12) but (13) so, and (14) and, but (15) but

KEY : Choose the right preposition

- (1) on (2) at (3) on (4) on (5) in (6) at (7) at (8) in (9) in (10) on

