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Creative, Innovative, Professional

Maria Regina College

Half Yearly Examinations
Scholastic Year 2014/2015
Year 6

English Reading Comprehension

Total: 30 marks

Time: 50 minutes

Name:

Class:

School:

Total mark

Robin Williams – A Biography



Actor and comedian Robin McLaurin Williams, who is better known as Robin Williams, was born on July 21, 1951. He was known for his high-energy, improvisational performance style. His mother, Laurie McLaurin was a former model and his father, Robert Fitzgerald Williams was a senior executive at *Ford Motor*. Williams described himself as a quiet child whose first imitation was of his grandmother to his mother. He did not overcome his shyness until he became involved with his high school drama department.

After his film debut in *Popeye* (1980), he starred in widely acclaimed films including *Aladdin* (1992), *Mrs Doubtfire* (1993), *Jumanji* (1995) and *Night at the Museum* (2006). Robin Williams improvised most of the Genie part for the film *Aladdin*. Apart from the film *Aladdin*, Williams is very well-known for playing the part of Peter Pan in the film *Hook* (1991).

Robin Williams was a huge rugby fan and was good friends with *New Zealand* rugby player *Jonah Lomu*. Williams was a supporter of eco-friendly vehicles and he drove a Toyota Prius. He was also a cycling enthusiast. On August 11, 2014, the 63-year-old comedian was found dead in his California home. Although he died, the comedian will forever be remembered for all the laughter he brought to millions around the world.

Read carefully the biography on the opposite page. Now answer the questions below.

1. Underline the correct answer. (2½ marks)

- (a) Robin Williams was born on the 21st of (June, July, August) 1951.
- (b) Robin's father used to work in a (car, boat, clothing) company.
- (c) When he was a child, Williams was very (energetic, timid, loud).
- (d) Robin Williams' friend was a (baseball, rugby, squash) player.
- (e) The film Jumanji was released in (1992, 1995, 1997).

2. Read the following sentences. Write a T if the sentence is True, an F if it is False and an N if there is No Information Given. (1½ marks)

(a) Robin Williams used to study all his acting parts and the acting scripts by heart, so he never improvised.	
(b) During High School, Williams was an active member of a chess club.	
(c) Robin Williams passed away less than one month after his birthday.	

3. What do you understand by '*eco-friendly vehicles*'? (1 mark)

Read the passage below, which is divided into two sections. Then, answer the questions that follow each section.

Peter Pan

Peter Pan, also known as The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up is a play and novel written by Scottish author J. M. Barrie. Here is a summary of the story.

Section 1

Peter Pan opens in London, in the home of the slightly eccentric, but typical, Darling family. Mr and Mrs Darling worry about paying the bills, and cut corners to make ends meet. The childrens' nurse, Nana is a Newfoundland dog who cares for Wendy, John and little Michael as they sleep. She watches them protectively from her kennel in the nursery.

But who is this Peter Pan of whom the children speak? Surely he must be a figment of their imagination, appearing only in dreams? Yet, to Mrs Darling, the name brings with it a nagging sensation of childhood memories, long since forgotten at adulthood.

One evening, Mrs Darling dreams of a place called Neverland and a strange boy who never grows up. Astonished, she awakes to find him before her. Mrs Darling's cry alerts Nana, who barges into the room and slams shut the window; the boy narrowly escapes through it, leaving behind his trapped shadow. Peter returns for his shadow and this time meets Wendy, who sews it back on for him.



Questions on Section 1

11 marks

1. Read the following sentences. Put a T if the sentence is True, an F if it is False and an N if there is No Information Given in Section 1. (3 marks)

(a) The story is set in England.	
(b) The Darling family have a lot of expenses.	
(c) Nana is an old dog.	
(d) Wendy has two brothers.	
(e) Mrs Darling dreams of a place called Neverplace.	
(f) Peter returns for his hat.	

2. Find *two adjectives* which describe the Darling Family. (1 mark)

3. What are the names of Wendy's siblings? (1 mark)

4. Describe Mrs Darling's dream. (1 mark)

5. Explain these words from the text:

(4 x ½ mark= 2 marks)

typical - _____

appearing - _____

astonished - _____

trapped - _____

6. ... “and cut corners ***to make ends meet.***” What do you understand by the words in bold? (1 mark)

7. Explain in your own words, the phrase “***childhood memories, long since forgotten at adulthood.***” (2 marks)

Section 2

The cocky but lovable Peter invites Wendy, John and Michael to Neverland, teaching them to fly and guiding them over the oceans to this fantastical realm of fairies, mermaids and redskins. There, Wendy enthusiastically takes up the role of a mother, to Peter and his young companions, the lost boys, in their underground home.



But not everything is perfect in Neverland. Captain James Hook, an educated but shameful pirate, is Peter Pan's archenemy* and is set on his destruction. He is just and only afraid of a crocodile that once ate one of his arms and now wants the rest of him. While Wendy struggles with the jealousy of the Peter Pan - possessive fairy Tinker Bell, Peter and the boys have plenty of blood-soaked adventures, and even bravely rescue the redskin princess, Tiger Lily, from Hook's men. But eventually Hook succeeds in capturing all the children except their ever young leader. It is up to Peter Pan to rescue his friends, dispatch the pirates and settle things once and for all with Captain James Hook.

While Mr and Mrs Darling remain heartbroken, their children become so hidden in their adventures that they begin to forget their family. But it is only Peter Pan who never grows up. In the end, Wendy, John, Michael and the lost boys find their way home. It will be for future generations of lucky children to keep Peter company in Neverland.



**archenemy* - a friend from a long time ago who has equivalent powers but also has opposing beliefs.

Questions on Section 2

14 marks

1. Underline the correct word

(3 marks)

- (a) The three children learn how to (swim, fly, dive) in Neverland.
- (b) In Neverland one can find redskins, fairies and (mermaids, seals, penguins).
- (c) Some things in Neverland are (incomplete, imperfect, unresolved).
- (d) Peter and the (girls, boys) rescued (Tinker Bell, Wendy, Tiger Lily).
- (e) Peter Pan is the one who never (slows down, grows up, backs off).

2. Read the following sentences. Put a T if the sentence is True, an F if it is False and an N if there is No Information Given in Section 2

(3 marks)

a) Neverland is full of palm trees.	
b) Captain Hook wants to destroy Peter Pan.	
c) The crocodile ate Captain Hook's left arm.	
d) Captain Hook captures all the children except for Peter.	
e) The three siblings stay forever in Neverland.	
f) In the future no one will be able to go to Neverland.	

3. How do you think Wendy *“takes up the role of a mother”*? (1 mark)

4. Do you think Wendy wanted to take up this role? How do you know this from the passage? (1 mark)

5. Why were Mr and Mrs Darling feeling *“heartbroken”*? (1 mark)

6. Mention **one positive** and **one negative** aspect of Neverland. (2 marks)

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Questions on both passages

1. Write two facts, one from each section, which show that this fantastical story can never happen in the real world. (2 marks)

a)

b)

2. Would you like to visit Neverland? Why / why not? (1 mark)



END OF READING COMPREHENSION PAPER