



**ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
HALF YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS**

**February 2015**

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**YEAR 6**

**ENGLISH**  
**(Reading Comprehension)**

**TIME: 50 minutes**

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Total:

\_\_\_\_\_

30

Name & Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_



## Australia's Wildlife Park



### Platypus Facts:

It has webbed feet with five claws for digging. The bill and feet are black. Its fur is usually a dark brown colour.

The platypus stores food it finds in its cheeks.

The platypus has a flat body. It has a bill or beak like a duck's and a flat, short tail.



It is a poisonous mammal. Its poison can cause pain to man but it can kill smaller animals.

Its fur is one of the most waterproof in the animal kingdom. It is now a protected species.

The platypus swims well but not very fast. While swimming, it keeps its eyes and ears shut. It finds its way with its bill, which also helps it to find food.

**A. Tick (✓) the correct answer.**

**(2 marks)**

1. This article states that the platypus is a

a.	duck.	
b.	fish.	
c.	mammal.	

2. Its claws are used for

a.	digging.	
b.	fighting.	
c.	climbing.	

**B. Read the sentences. Write T if it is True, F if it is False and N if there is no information given in the passage.**

**(2 marks)**

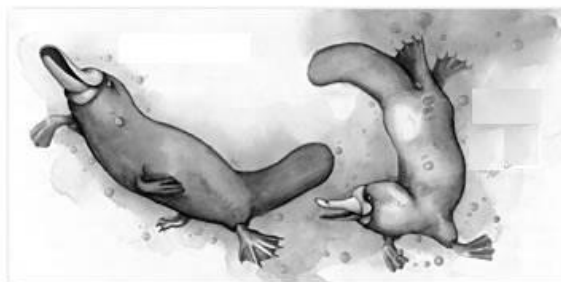
a)	The platypus finds its food in the water.	
b)	The platypus sleeps 20 hours a day.	
c)	Its poison can kill a person.	
d)	It swims very fast.	

**C. Fill in with one word.**

**(2 marks)**

1. The platypus has a \_\_\_\_\_ body.

2. While swimming it has its ears and eyes \_\_\_\_\_.



Read the following passage and then answer the questions below.

### Lynn's Story

My family and I live in an old house that Dad and Mum are doing up. Dad is always busy working on the house. He says he should get it nearly finished this year. It's in a bit of a mess at the moment. Mum says that is because it's hard to keep things clean and tidy when Dad keeps knocking down walls, sawing up wood and making the place look like a war zone. (par. 1)



There are five people in our family: Dad, Mum, Lynn, my little brother Steven and me. My eldest sister Lynn no longer lives at home. Lynn is pretty, with long brown hair that comes down to her waist. Her eyes are blue and she is quite tall. (par. 2)

As a child she was very lively with lots of interests, like clothes, make-up, Girl Guides and bands but her greatest passion was animals. She was very interested in killer whales, also called orcas, and used to spend hours looking up information about **them**. Mum was very pleased when, one day, Lynn's work about orcas was voted 'Best Project in Class.' My sister must have seen the film about the boy and the orca, "Free Willy", a dozen times and cried every time. (par. 3)



Lynn still likes all living creatures. She can never understand why people kill animals or treat them badly. It upset her a lot when she found out about tigers being killed to make old Chinese medicine. When she learnt that elephants and rhinos are being killed for their ivory, she was horrified. She felt even worse when she discovered that whales and dolphins are being mercilessly killed every day. She also discovered that shellfish are being killed for their shells, so that people can have something pretty to look at in their show case at home. Some people do

this sort of thing because they are either greedy for money, or **they** don't care about the world like Lynn does. (par. 4)

Lynn came home one day and told my parents that she was going abroad. She decided she wanted to work for the Pacific Whale Foundation. This is an international organisation, carrying out research in Hawaii, Australia and Ecuador. She said she will be working hard to save and protect whales and other marine life. Mum and Dad were shocked because that would mean Lynn would have to stay away from home for very long periods of time and live on an ocean vessel. (par. 5)

Mum talks about Lynn all the time, but dad doesn't. He just works hard at his job and at fixing the house up. I think he gets so tired that he doesn't have time to think about Lynn. He just falls asleep really fast. I think that it is easier for him than having time to think about her. (par. 6)

I feel awkward being the eldest child at home now. It seems strange that I can walk past her bedroom and not tease her. She was the only girl in the family and I miss her a lot. There was not much we could do to stop her going. However, we can remember all the good times we had together, like when she wanted an orca for her birthday but instead Mum bought her a goldfish. She was so thrilled to have it you'd have thought it really was an orca. (par. 7)



It feels lonely not having her at home, but she keeps contact through emails, messaging and Skype. She lets us know all about her adventures. Although she is very far away, we are still a close-knit family. (par. 8)

Read Lynn's Story on pages 4 and 5, then answer the following questions.

Tick the correct answer.

(5 marks)

1. How many people lived at home before Lynn went abroad?

a)	three	
b)	four	
c)	six	
d)	five	

2. Lynn was

a)	tall, with long black hair and blue eyes.	
b)	quite tall, with long brown hair and blue eyes.	
c)	short, with long brown hair and brown eyes.	
d)	quite tall, with short brown hair and blue eyes.	

3. Lynn was interested in

a)	killer whales and marine life.	
b)	arts and crafts.	
c)	going on a safari.	
d)	Boy Scouts and their activities.	

4. Lynn went abroad to

a)	have fun.	
b)	study at a University.	
c)	catch elephant hunters.	
d)	help protect wildlife.	

5. Dad missed Lynn a lot but worked all the time

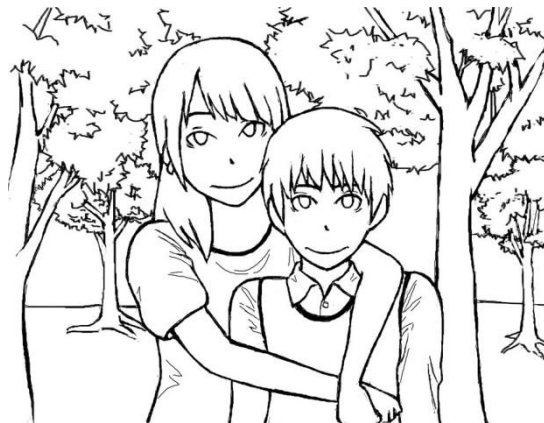
a)	so he could get the house finished quickly.	
b)	so that he wouldn't think about her so much.	
c)	to help the rest of the family by saving money.	
d)	because he enjoyed manual work.	

6. Complete these sentences.

(2 marks)

a) Lynn and the narrator are \_\_\_\_\_.

b) Lynn keeps contact with her family through \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.



7. True (T), False (F), No information given (NIG).

Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box.

(6 marks)

		T	F	NIG
a)	The narrator liked Boy Scouts.			
b)	Lynn enjoyed taking photos of orcas.			
c)	Lynn went to work abroad.			
d)	Mum and Dad were happy to hear Lynn's news.			
e)	The narrator felt strange about becoming the eldest child at home.			
f)	Lynn was disappointed with the goldfish.			

8. From the passage, find a word or phrase which has a similar meaning to the following:

(3 marks)

a) almost (par. 1) \_\_\_\_\_

b) discovered (par. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

c) very pleased (par. 7) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Give **two** facts which show that Lynn was a very sensitive girl.

(2 marks)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_



10. Why do people kill animals? Give **two** reasons. (2 marks)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. In paragraph 3, '**them**' is referring to \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

12. From paragraph 6, find a word that means '**repairing**'. (1 mark)

\_\_\_\_\_

13. In not more than **six** words, write a slogan against animal cruelty. (2 marks)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**END OF PAPER**