AMEXURE



Text for Listening Tasks

F.1 How I Taught My Grandmother to Read, by Sudha Murthy

7. Now you are going to listen to the story of a young girl about a special day.

One day our teacher announced that there was a surprise awaiting us the next day. We were asked to get whatever little pocket money we could.

The next day our teacher said, 'Today is 'Grand Parents Day' and you all will be meeting many grandparents who have no family with them. Yes, we were going to an Old Age Home. On the way we bought a nice big Cake, Chart Paper and Balloons. We all entered an old, big building. Later we were taken into a Hall and were allowed to decorate it.

We blew balloons and hung them around the hall. We cut out Chart Papers, wrote quotes, drew pictures and stuck them on the wall. Then came in all the grey haired sweethearts, some alone some couples, some in groups. They all got themselves seated on the chairs.

Then it was our turn. Robert, who was a good speaker, greeted them and told them that we had come along to make their day a little special. We all gathered in front and started singing songs for them. Most of the people were Single Grandparents whose spouses had expired. The other few were couples; many of them were smiling and singing along too. But there were few, who sat without any expression. While some of us sang the others sat beside them and spoke to them.

Two of us cut the cake into several pieces to be distributed. But we were informed by the caretaker that there were diabetic people amongst them and they couldn't have sweet. But we coaxed him so much that he eventually agreed. We distributed the cakes to everybody. Most of them had sparkling eyes and were so excited on seeing the forbidden delicacy. Many of them almost missed their grand children. One of them told me that her son was in the U.S. and found it difficult to look after her, so left her at this Home.

While returning home we realized that our grandparents spend an old age of loneliness and insecurity. They spend their second childhood in their old age. Most of the ones in old age Homes do not complain. It is left to us to decide how happy their old age can be. We do not need any special day to make them feel their worth. If you have never told them how much you love them, say it before it's too late.

F.2 A Dog Named Duke, by William D. Ellis

8. Listen to an excerpt from a news telecast on a national channel carefully and complete the table given below.

Brave Hearts

Manish Bansal of Jind in Haryana, who along with his older brother helped nab armed miscreants who had broken into their home, and Kritika Jhanwar of Rajasthan who also fought off robbers are among the 20 who will be hosted by President Pratibha Patil at a reception in Rashtrapati Bhavan. As part of the awards, financial assistance under the Indira Gandhi Scholarship Scheme is provided to those undertaking professional courses. For others, this assistance is provided till they complete their graduation. The centre has reserved some seats for awardees in medical and engineering colleges and polytechnics.

A 12-year-old boy who played a vital role in identifying the terrorists who planted bombs in Delhi, a 13-year-old who saved lives by raising an alarm over a faulty railway track, and a 14-year-old who dodged marriage to a 40-year-old are among the 20 children chosen to receive the National Bravery Awards for 2008.

The names of these brave-hearts, who will be felicitated by the Prime Minister later this month, were announced by the Indian Council for Child Welfare's President, Gita Siddharth, here on Saturday.

The prestigious Sanjay Chopra and Geeta Chopra Awards have gone to young saumik Mishra from Uttar Pradesh, who foiled a theft attempt, and Prachi Santosh Sen of Madhya Pradesh, who saved four children from electrocution. Prachi, however, was grievously injured and had her fingers amputated.

Kavita Kanwar from Chhattisgarh gets the Bapu Gaidhani Award posthumously. Along with Seema Kanwar, Kavita had saved the lives of three inmates who were caught in a kitchen fire in the Adivasi Kanya Ashram.

Asu Kanwar of Jodhpur in Rajasthan was also selected for the Bapu Gaidhani Award. Asu put up a stiff fight against being married off to a 40-year-old farmer in exchange for money. The girl opposed the match for two years and was finally saved by the intervention of a self-help group that in turn approached the District Women Development Agency to get the wedding called off.

Balloon seller Rahul, who hit the headlines after he identified the men who planted bombs on Barakhamba Road in the national Capital on September 13 last year, was awarded for his exemplary courage. Rahul, a prime eyewitness to the blasts, provided vital information about the suspects to the police. His statement helped the police make sketches of the suspects.



M. Marudu Pandi of Dindigul in Tamil Nadu was chosen for the honour for showing presence of mind and alerting railway officials about a fracture in the rail track and averting an accident.

Six-year-old twins from Bangalore, Gagan and Bhoomika J. Murthy, were rewarded for saving the life of a baby caught in a bull fight. The children, unmindful of the threat to their own lives, rescued the baby even as the crowds watched the bull fight.

Silver Kharbani of Meghalaya, who saved the life of her young cousin trapped in a fire, will also be one of the 20 children who will get pride of place in the Republic Day Parade here on January 26 atop an elephant.

Yumkhaibam Addison Singh from Manipur was chosen for rescuing an eight-year-old from drowning in a pond, while Vishal Suryaji Patil from Maharashtra was awarded for rescuing a woman and her child from drowning. Shahanshah of Uttar Pradesh, Dinu K.G. of Kerala, Anita Kaura and Reena Kaura of West Bengal, Majjusha A of Kerala and Hina Quereshi of Rajasthan were also selected for saving people from drowning.



F.4 Keeping it from Harold, by P.G. Wodehouse

7. IGN Interviews Kane

Chris: Do you spend any of your free time playing Xbox Live?

Kane: Not so much online anymore, because I live in an area where I don't get broadband, I

get satellite. I used to play Halo 2 and Ghost Recon online quite a bit.

Chris: What other games do you play?

Kane: Right now I'm playing THQ's Raw vs. Smackdown! 2006, our game on the PSP. I'm

not actually playing all that much console stuff because I've been on the road quite a

bit...

Chris: Do you always play as yourself?

Kane: Yeah.

Chris: Are you going to be at the Wrestlemania?

Kane: Oh yeah.

Chris: Do you know who you're going to face?

Kane: Not yet.

Chris: Seems to be back in the day, there used to be a lot of tag teams, especially back

in the Eighties. It seems like that's fallen off. Why do you think that is?

Kane: I don't know. You're right, I think. I was watching a videotape of I'm not sure what year

it was... I think it was Summer Slam. It was The Rock and Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty and stuff, The Quebecers. It was just different, because it was a tag team match and you don't see that much anymore. I don't know the reason for that. I just

don't know. I think you're right to some extent.

Chris: When you were in college, were you always aspiring to be a wrestler?

Kane: Yeah. I remember when I was a kid, I was a wrestling fan, and then actually my local

stations didn't broadcast it for awhile, and then when I got back into college that's when Hulk Hogan was at the height of his career, so I became a wrestling fan again. I was very active in college. I wanted to play athletics and then I looked at wrestling as

being a viable option to do that.

Chris: Was Hogan the person who inspired you, or were there others?

Kane: Oh no. You had Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Ricky Steamboat, Ric Flair and the Four

Horsemen, all those guys. Actually, when I was first getting into wrestling, the Undertaker was my favourite. Remember when he was building caskets for people

and things like that. That was just classic... just awesome.

Chris: Did that play any role in being cast as his half-brother?

Kane: No, that didn't. But I think it did play a role in the success that Kane has had, especially the way that I was introduced as the Undertaker's brother and all that, because I could relate to that. It was pretty natural for me.

Chris: How has the WWE changed in the past ten years?

Kane: In some ways, we've gone through an evolution. Actually, the biggest thing I see, from when I first started with the company is that our television product-we've become more and more television driven, and our television products have become stronger. When I first started with the company, the format of the show was a lot different than it is now. A lot of that was because of competition from formerly WCW. You know, we were able to overcome that... I think our television product's stronger. We've gone on to some of the best years the business has ever seen and it'll continue. I think the striking thing for me is that the television product has gone through such an evolution.

Chris: Are you happy with the way your character is shaping up?

Kane: Yeah, I've always been happy Infact, it's been tremendous; more than I can ever hope for.

Chris: Were you scarier with the mask?

Kane: I get that question all the time. Actually I prefer it without the mask because as a performer I'm unlimited in what I can do, whereas with the mask I rely a lot more on body language. But, by the same token, the mask had a certain aura about it, there was mystery and all that stuff. I like it without the mask, but like you said, a lot of people like the mask, so it just depends... Of course, there are days, too, where I like the mask better. [Laughter]

Chris: Bret Hart is being inducted into the Hall of Fame. What's your favourite Bret Hart memory?

Kane: Oh wow! I guess it would be the culmination when he beat Ric Flair for the World Championship, because that's the accumulation of someone's career. I'm glad to see Bret going into the Hall of Fame; I'm glad to see that happening.

Chris: With everything you've done in the world of wrestling, what more do you think you have left to accomplish?

Kane: I don't think I have anything left to accomplish, but the important thing for me is that I'm still having fun and that the people are entertained, and it's really gratifying for me now that our fans come up to me, and because I've stood the test of time, they have a respect for me. I may not be the hottest wrestler at the time, but I always know that people are going to be with me because they've sort of grown up with me. So, I don't necessarily know that I've got a whole lot left to accomplish, but I'm still enjoying myself and I'm still entertaining the people, which to me is something basically you need to accomplish every night.

F.5 Best Seller, by O. Henry

LISTENING TASK

4.	The teacher will read out a book review to you. Pay careful attention and answer
	the questions given below

a.	The name of the book.
b.	Number in book series
c.	Genre
d.	Main characters
	Plot
	Events
a	Language

I confess to not (yet) having read the first "Harry Potter" book, 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone', and so I can say with certainty that it is not necessary to read that book in order to fully enjoy the second one. This book has sturdy enough legs to more than ably stand on its own. It is a book filled with the writer's imagination, so much so that it cannot help but in turn spur the imagination of the young who read it. I enjoyed it as an adult but found myself wondering how much more I would enjoy it if I was as old as its "target" audience. Perhaps much more. I recall reading (and being enraptured by) the old "Wizard of Oz" books by L. Frank Baum(there are many, not just one), feeling that I was right there in Oz beside all the wonderful characters, sharing fully in their adventures. There's no doubt that the youngsters reading Harry Potter feel that they, too, are walking the halls of Hogwarts (Harry's school) beside him. I'm a bit jealous of that power of young imagination, much of which we shed as we get older.

'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' opens with Harry pining for the end of summer recess so that he can return to Hogwarts. It is there where his friends are, and it is there that he is happy. There is no happiness in the home in which he lives with his uncle and aunt, the Dursleys, where he is in general looked down upon and mistreated. Harry's own parents are deceased and he has been taken in by his uncle and aunt, who treat him as a second-rate citizen, shades of Cinderella. They might even treat him worse than they do except that they fear his powers of magic.

There is as much humour in 'Chamber of Secrets' as there is imagination. Harry is told by his uncle (on Harry's birthday no less) to go to his room and there remain perfectly quiet while the Dursleys entertain some guests. While in his room, Harry is visited by Dobby, an elf-like creature who warns Harry not to return to Hogwarts as danger awaits everyone there.

Dobby, not the quiet type, begins to make a racket, much to Harry's profound dismay. Harry attempts (and fails) to keep him quiet. Needless to say, the Dursleys are ultimately not happy with Harry as much (humorous) destruction occurs.

With Dobby's warning to Harry that danger awaits him in Hogwarts, the book becomes as much a mystery as a fantasy. Once in school again, there are signs (literally scrawled messages on the wall) that the Chamber of secrets will again be opened and the evil contained therein again set loose. Children are later frozen (shades of Medusa) and very nearly killed by something unseen crawling the halls of the school. It is up to Harry and his friends, Ron and Hermione, to discover what it is and to stop it.

As with most good mysteries, the culprit is a surprise. The battle that occurs in the hidden chamber of secrets at the end is quite intense and might be extremely frightening to sensitive (and younger) children. It feels almost as though Stephen King donated a few lethal paragraphs to the book's ending. Still, the "classic" fairytales have children almost eaten by wolves or thrown into ovens to be cooked and so it could be said that J.K. Rowling is merely returning to the classic form of children's storytelling. But for those parents who might not want their children to read such intense scenes, be forewarned.

Along the way, there are enough surprises and imaginative details thrown in as would normally fill five lesser books. There is the magic way Harry is supposed to travel to school (on the subway platform) and then, when he fails to make his train, the adventure with the flying car, culminating with the Whomping Willow's distress. The subjects of portraits on the walls in Hogwarts now and then disappear to have their hair done or spruce themselves up in some other way. One ghost haunts nothing else but a girl's bathroom in the school, and a wonderful diary that can write back to you as you make entries - like having a friend in your pocket, as one character says. A broken wand creates (inadvertently) many incorrect (and funny) circumstances as magic spells backfire, and one egotistical teacher's lack of talent quite often does the same. There is the magic of "Floo powder," by which a wizard can travel anywhere through the fireplaces of buildings as long as one states the destination clearly (if not, who knows where you'll end up, what hearth you'll tumble out of?) and clocks that have no numbers but rather say things like: "time to make tea" or simply "you're late". It is all of the details (those mentioned here and many more) that truly make 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' a wonderful book, a book that is a pleasure for adults to read but which will for a child prove to be a true and memorable joy.

P.6 Oh, I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth, by Pam Ayres

6. Listen to the Conversation between Doki and his sister, Moki. As you listen, complete the idioms listed below.

Toothache

Doki: Oh! I'm in agony. I didn't sleep a wink last night!

Moki: Why don't you go to a dentist?

Doki: Even thinking about the dentist's waiting room gives me the willies.

Moki: It's because you haven't been to a dentist for ages.

Doki: What a reassuring person you are!

Moki: I'm now going to get mum. She'll only crack the whip and make you go to the

dentist.

Doki: No, No! I'd better go with you. At least you'd save me from going into the surgery.

Moki: I can only take the horse to the water but I can't make it drink! I'm sure, you're going

to turn tail and go home.

Doki: Don't worry, I shall be led quietly into the dentist like a lamb because my tooth is so

sore.

Moki: If that happens, I would believe that wonders will never cease!

Doki: I wish I had taken proper care of my teeth!

Moki: I wish you had paid attention to the discipline that mom had laid for all of us!

Doki: Yeah! But past can't be undone. I have to reap what I had sown.

P.7 Song of the Rain, by Kahlil Gibran

6. 'Ode to Autumn' is a beautiful poem written by the famous poet John Keats. Listen to an excerpt from the poem and pick phrases which personify autumn.

Ode to Autumn

John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'erbrimmed their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reaped furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep

D.1 Villa for Sale, by Sacha Guitry

8. Listen carefully to the description of a villa on sale. Based on the information, draw the sketch of the villa being described.

There's an island in the middle of a lake. In the middle of the island there's a two floor villa. The stark white color of the villa is toned by the rows of palm trees and shrubs in the front lawn. The red roof with a green chimney compliments the multi-colored flowers that greet a person as the big door and four windows on the ground floor open. In the corner of the lawn, there is an enclosed area for the birds. In the backyard there is a huge tree, beside the small pool, under which I have placed a relaxing chair.

There're a lot of big trees to the left of the house. On the lake, to the right of island there is a row of houseboats while to the left of the lake there's a hill with a lighthouse on the top. (About 150 words)

