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**Education Bureau**  
**Territory-wide System Assessment 2008**  
**Secondary 3 English Language**  
**Reading**  
**Question Booklet**

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Instructions:

1. There are 6 pages in this Question Booklet.
2. Time allowed is 30 minutes.
3. Do not write anything in this Question Booklet.
4. **Answer all questions in the Answer Booklet provided.**

## Part 1

*Your English teacher has asked you to compare two book reviews.*

Read the reviews below.

Complete the note sheet in the Answer Booklet.

### ***The Way Home***

*By Richard Brown*

Review by Sam Green

Being lost in a huge forest can be a terrifying experience. That is exactly what happened to 12-year-old Jonathon Sands. He was at a campsite with his parents when, one day, he decided to go exploring on his own. On his first night, he lost his way back to the campsite and was chased by an angry bear. He was able to get away by hiding in a small cave. The next day, he ran	1 5 10	into more trouble. Late in the evening, he heard wolves howling close by. He was sure this was the end for him. Despite his fear, he was able to climb high enough up a tree to keep away from the hungry animals.	15
		Jonathon's story is about a brave young boy who survives two long nights in the wild.	20

### ***The Way Home***

*By Richard Brown*

Review by Holly Black

Richard Brown's story about a 12-year-old boy is just not believable. It is not a story of courage but one of pure luck. True, it is sad that he gets lost in a thick forest and is all alone for two nights. However, knowing that he was in the middle of a thick forest, he should not have wandered away from the campsite. The first night, he tells us that he saw a bear. But then he says that the bear was in	1 5 10	the distance. He was scared but still had time to find a small cave in which to hide. Also, I believe, he only imagines the wolves circling because he never tells us that he actually sees them but only hears them howling.	15
		This story is not one of courage. It is only a story of a silly 12-year-old boy who should have stayed at the campsite.	20

**Part 2**

*Your teacher has asked you to read a poem to your class.*

Read the poem and answer the questions.

A caterpillar on a leaf no longer. Free of its shell, it's ready and stronger. It flits and floats over grassy green, A lovelier creature I have not seen.	1
It flutters in the middle of the street. It dances away from happy children's feet. I stop to stare, it's almost eight. I don't care if I'm late.	5
Children dash to catch it, hands ready. Too bad - it's gone already. It flicks its wings and darts away. In one place it will not stay.	10
It flees and flies to fields of flowers, Hides in trees from birds for hours, Rests its wings in the warm sunlight, As it plans for a long, long flight.	15
And I stand here, Breathing dirty city air, Hoping to see brightly coloured wings, All the wondrous beauty nature brings.	20

*By: Mai Tai*

Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. This poem is about a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. shell  
B. flower  
C. butterfly  
D. city
2. In line 6, 'It dances away from happy children's feet' means it \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. wants to dance with the children  
B. is happy to see the children  
C. chases the children away  
D. flies away from the children

3. In line 9, the word 'dash' means to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. move quickly
  - B. get ready
  - C. pick up
  - D. jump up
  
4. In stanza 3, line 11, it 'darts away' because the children \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. are playing
  - B. have gone away
  - C. are bad
  - D. want to catch it
  
5. In line 13, 'It flees and flies to fields of flowers' is an example of alliteration. Find one example in stanza 1, lines 1-4.
  
6. In stanza 5, lines 17-20, what does the writer want to see?
  - A. more trees
  - B. a clean city
  - C. beautiful things
  - D. more people
  
7. In stanza 1, 'green and seen' is a pair of rhyming words. Find a pair of rhyming words in stanza 4, lines 13-16.
  
8. What is the best title for this poem?
  - A. Dancing in the Street
  - B. My Summer Travel Plans
  - C. The Joy of Nature
  - D. Hungry Birds: Good Hunters

### Part 3

*You are doing a project about Chinese customs. You have found an interesting passage about a traditional Chinese wedding.*

Read the passage. Answer the questions.

#### A Traditional Chinese Wedding

One interesting custom in a traditional Chinese wedding is the ‘hair combing’ ceremony. This ceremony is performed for both the bride and the groom, in their own homes, as they are not allowed to see each other before the wedding day. It is believed that by performing this ceremony the couple will have a happy and successful marriage.

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On the night before the wedding, the bride and the groom go through the same steps. Their parents pick a ‘lucky time’ to begin the ceremony. When the time is right the relatives light two red candles and three joss sticks.

First, the bride and the groom take a bath with pomelo leaves to drive away bad luck. Then they dress in new pyjamas to symbolise a brand new life.

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The next step is for the relatives to begin reciting blessings while combing the bride’s and groom’s hair three times. The first combing means they will have a happy life; the second combing, a close-knit family; the third combing, lots of children and grandchildren. Once the ceremony is over, the couple eats some sweet dumplings, to symbolise that the family will always stay together.

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There are hundreds of Chinese wedding customs and the hair dressing ceremony is only one of them. Yet these traditional customs are often not valued and have almost been forgotten these days.

Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. What is the ‘hair dressing ceremony’?
  - A. a wedding
  - B. a custom
  - C. a habit
  - D. a stage
2. What do the bride and groom do the night before the ceremony?

They \_\_\_\_\_.

  - A. light candles
  - B. see each other
  - C. stay in different places
  - D. comb each other’s hair

3. What happens after the relatives light the candles?  
The bride and groom \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. take a bath
  - B. light joss sticks
  - C. eat sweet dumplings
  - D. put on new pyjamas
4. According to the passage, which one of the following is true?
- A. The couple eats pomelo in the bath.
  - B. The bath washes away bad luck.
  - C. The bath symbolises new life.
  - D. Only the groom takes a bath.
5. How does the writer feel at the end of the passage?
- A. The hair dressing is unnecessary.
  - B. No one should practise the custom.
  - C. Most people don't think customs are important.
  - D. The custom is as popular as before.

**END OF PAPER**



