



Rosary School / Marj El Hamam
Comprehension Practice 3/ Model Answer



Name: _____

Grade 4 ()

Date: _____

Section A: Reading

Spend 30 minutes on this section.

Read the **Text** in the insert, and answer questions 1–9.

1 Look at the first line of the text.

Why does Billy speak to Sam? Tick (✓) **one** box.

to encourage him

☒

to distract him

☐

to criticise him

☐

to humour him

☐

[1]

2 Look at lines 1–6.

(a) What is *cheers and jeers* an example of? Tick (✓) **one** box.

alliteration

☐

metaphor

☐

rhyme

☒

simile

☐

[1]

(b) Give **one** quotation from the text that tells us Sam is feeling nervous.

“(the) frantic beat of his heart (slamming
against his ribs).”

(c) The writer says the noise is *deafening*. What does this tell us

about the noise?

[1]

- It is very loud.
 - It makes him feel he can't hear anything.
-

[1]

(d) What does the writer mean when she says Sam's arms *felt like they'd locked solid and caught fire*? Tick (✓) **one** box.

His arms are burnt. ☐

His arms are sore. ☒

His arms are strong. ☐

His arms are trapped. ☐

[1]

3 Look at lines 7–14.

(a) Sam and Brandon are **not** good friends.

Give **two** examples of their behaviour which show us this.

1. They are rude about each other. They call each other names. e.g. 'What a wimp!' / 'I'll show you maggot-face!'

2. Brandon does not support Sam while he's doing his press-ups. e.g. 'Look at the sweat dropping off his forehead. / He's only done four press-ups and he's ready to pass out

[2]

(b) The writer emphasises the word *Push* by writing it in *italics* and putting it on a separate line.

Why does the writer want to emphasise the word?

to emphasise/show that Sam was trying really hard (after Brandon's comment)

to emphasise/show what Sam was telling himself

to emphasise/show that it was Sam (not another character) talking to himself / thinking to himself.

[1]

4 Look at lines 15–23.

(a) Which word means 'break'?

[1]

Shatter / burst.

(b) What literary technique does the writer use in line 17?

simile.

[1]

- (c) The writer wants to show the reader that Sam really believes he can carry on doing press-ups.
How does the writer show this? Give **two** ways.

He repeats the words, 'He could do it'.

He uses italics (for emphasis / to repeat, 'He could do it').

[2]

- (d) Why is an exclamation mark used in line 23? Tick (✓) **one** box.
To show:

fear

☐

uncertainty

☐

confusion

☐

disappointment

☒

[1]

5 Look at lines 24–29.

- (a) Explain in your own words why Sam feels *awful*. Give **two** reasons. [2]

- (Because) Sam/he is unable to carry on doing press-ups.
- (Because) Sam/he feels like a failure. / (Because) Sam/he let himself/Billy/other people down.

- (b) Which word does *them* replace?

- (the) crowd.

[1]

- (c) Give **one** two-word phrase that means 'leaving slowly'.

- drifting away.

[1]

6 Brandon compares himself to Sam.

Explain in your own words what Brandon is comparing. Give **one** quotation from the text to support your answer.

Explanation:

- He is comparing the number of press-ups he and Sam can do.
- He implies that he is much better at doing press-ups than Sam / can do more press ups than Sam.

Quotation:

- 'I told you he wouldn't be able to do five press-ups,' Brandon sneered. 'I'm surprised he could manage four.'
- 'His best is less than my worst!'

[2]

7 Look at lines 30–36.

(a) Which phrase tells us that Sam has been unwell recently?

- 'He's only just got over being ill...'

[1]

(b) Give **one** example of a word that has a negative prefix.

- unimpressed

[1]

8 Look at lines 37–40.

(a) Find **one** example of a pronoun.

[1]

- he • him.

b) Find **one** phrase that means 'stood up'.

- scrambled to his feet.

9 Read the whole text again. Would you like Billy as a friend? Tick (✓) **one** box.

Yes

☒

No

☐

Give **two** reasons why, using evidence from the text.

[2]

Yes (I'd like to be friends with someone like Billy) because:

- he's very loyal/supportive
- he would stand up for me
- he's not afraid to say what he thinks
- he's brave / he's not afraid of Brandon.

No (I would not like to be friends with someone like Billy) because:

- he's embarrassing (He never shuts up, even though he's embarrassing me.)
- he doesn't stop talking
- he shouts loudly
- I'd rather be friends with someone like Brandon because he seems really cool / like a leader. He's also seems strong and fit.

