

## OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/ENGLISH IB/TOPS/MACS/CLASS 2 HANDOUT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

The following selection is the first half of Chapter 1 about the adventures of Bridget, Barnaby, and Babette, and their feline friend Beauregard. They travel with great velocity from the streets of Paris to destinations around the world...

## CHAPTER 1: THE FATEFUL MEETING

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Beauregard, a gentleman cat from a long line of South Carolina aristocrats. My **ancestors**, from my father way on back to my great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather Lucius, have resided in the homes of the finest families of the South. We are known as much for our perfect manners and grace, as we are for our size (I, myself, stand nearly four and a half feet tall when I walk on my rear **limbs**). Our good breeding is also obvious from our beautifully kept, glossy coats. Mine is completely black, and I spend a good deal of time each morning grooming and smoothing it to perfection (one never knows whom one might meet).

That afternoon, I was as happy and **content** as can be, taking a well-earned nap on the softest, sunniest patch of grass in the Bois de Boulogne, a large and beautiful park in Paris. As for what I was doing in France, well, I am forced to admit that I was a bit wild in my youth, and my family thought it best that I take a long trip until some of the scandals died down. Yes, it's true, I've always been one to go out until all hours, eating catnip and singing loudly with my tomcat friends, and chasing young lady cats around. Those were the days! I remember one beautiful cat named Felinia. She and I used to...well, that's a story for another time. Let's just say my folks thought it best that I do my **gallivanting** on foreign soil.

But I **digress**. As I said, I was taking my afternoon **siesta**, which ordinarily I wouldn't have interrupted for anyone or anything. But I knew that little girl was in trouble from the minute I laid eyes on her. She was trying to act calm and **nonchalant**, just smacking on her bubble gum and strolling through the Bois as though she didn't give a hoot about anything in the world, but she wasn't fooling anyone but herself. She wasn't from Paris, you could tell that from the New York Yankees cap she wore backwards on her braided head. I couldn't see anyone that looked like her parents around, so I just put two and two together and figured she was lost.

Well, this little girl was so full of **anxiety** you could practically see the worry coming out her ears, so, today, I decided to make an exception, and interrupt my siesta. She had plopped herself down on a bench and was sort of kicking her feet around in the dirt. I was just about to go up to her to see if I could do anything to help, when Babette came along and the two struck up a conversation. I was somewhat curious, as cats can be, and a little worried, so I decided to stick around to make sure they were all right. Of course, I hadn't the slightest suspicion that later that day I would be involved in a plot to overthrow the Elephant Empire...

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"You're an American," said Babette, matter-of-factly.

Bridget jumped a little. She wasn't expecting to hear someone talk to her in English, and she definitely wasn't expecting to run into someone like Babette—black hair, black clothes, black sunglasses that concealed most of her face. In fact, the bright red lipstick she wore was the only thing that added any colour to her outfit. Bridget usually thought lipstick and all that "girlie" stuff

was silly—she was a tomboy, herself—but this girl didn't seem silly at all. Actually, she was very grown-up and **sophisticated**.

"Yep, I'm American," replied Bridget, trying to look casual. "So what?"

"What are you doing here?" asked Babette.

"I'm just sitting on a bench minding my own business. You got a problem with that?" growled Bridget. She didn't mean to seem **gruff** or unfriendly, but for some reason she didn't want this strange, older girl to know she was afraid.

"I have no problem," said the French girl. "I am simply curious. Where is your family?"

Bridget heaved a sigh and stared down into the dirt. "I lost them," she mumbled.

"Oh, I see. You are an orphan. You lost them in an accident?"

"No, not in an accident. In the Louvre. Accidentally in the Louvre. I mean, we went to that stupid art museum, and I lost them. I mean, they lost me. Or we lost each other. Anyway, they're not here," said Bridget. She bit her lower lip. She knew she was babbling a bunch of nonsense, and she didn't want to blow her cool.

"Ah," said Babette, her eyebrows appearing above her sunglasses.

"Who is this girl?" thought Bridget. "What's all this 'ah' stuff?" She had about enough of this conversation.

"Hey, just who are you and what do you want?" demanded Bridget. "Can't you see I'm busy **loafing**? Talking with you is messing up my plans to sit around doing nothing all day."

"Why don't I help you find them?" Babette replied. She had an odd way of not responding to what people said.

Bridget was **baffled**. She just couldn't figure this out. Why would this girl, who wasn't even an **acquaintance** of hers, much less a friend, want to help her? Besides, Bridget didn't like owing people favors. She especially didn't want to be  **beholden** to some mysterious French girl she'd only just met. On the other hand, she probably knew Paris well, and Bridget had to admit that finding her parents wasn't a bad idea.

While Bridget was puzzling over this **quandary**, Babette repeated her offer, "Come, let us go find your family."

"Back off, Frenchie," snapped Bridget, "Who says I need your help?"

"My name is Babette, and you are obviously in need of assistance. We can go search for your family now, if you will get up and come with me." She didn't seem to mind Bridget's **hostile** tone of voice. In fact, she seemed completely **oblivious** to it.

Bridget could tell there was no way to change Babette's mind. She was obviously **adamant**, and **circumstances** being as they were, it seemed the best thing she could do was to take her up on the offer. But Bridget, being a New Yorker and naturally **reluctant** to trust people, still wondered if Babette had some **ulterior** motive for wanting to help her. Was she a space alien disguised as a

human looking for someone to do weird experiments on? Was she one of those people who kidnap children and sell them to the gypsies? Bridget decided to ask her straight out.

"Why do you want to help me?"

"Frankly, I am quite bored and have nothing better to do," sighed Babette.

Bridget grinned. Now *that* was an answer she could believe. This Babette might be as cool as she looked after all. She got up and offered her hand to Babette.

"My name's Bridget," she said. "Let's get going."

Babette shook her hand and they started walking away.

"How did you know I was American, anyway?" asked Bridget, as they rounded a curve in the path and headed for the street.

"You are, well, **conspicuous**. You stick out, you see? Your hat, your blue jeans—these are very American clothes. Your hat is very nice, especially. Very **chic**. All the most stylish Parisians want to wear these hats."

"Thanks. You're pretty chic yourself," said Bridget. "I'll tell you what. If you find my parents, you can have the hat. Deal?"

"Deal," said Babette. It seemed like she was smiling, but it was hard to tell what was going on behind those dark sunglasses.

The two new friends walked out onto the busy sidewalk to begin their mission. And if they had paused to look over their shoulders, they would have seen that they were not alone. A gigantic, elegant black cat was following right behind them.

Bridget and Babette had been walking along in silence for a while when suddenly, Babette came to an **abrupt** stop in front of what looked like an apartment building. In fact, it was such a run-down, ugly apartment building, it might have been safe to call it a **tenement**.

"We must go in here," she said.

"Well... um, okay, I guess," said Bridget, **hesitantly**. She didn't like the look of the place at all. "What is this building, anyway?"

"It is a **dormitory** for all the science students at the university," Babette replied as she opened the door. "It is where all the young geniuses live—when they are not in their laboratories, that is. We are here to see my friend Barnaby. He is American, like you. It is my belief he may be able to help us find your parents."

"Great," chirped Bridget as they walked into the building, followed by Beauregard the cat. "Let's find him."

"I must warn you, Barnaby has his **quirks**. Just odd little habits, of course, but some people are put off by them," Babette calmly explained as they walked up the stairs.

"What kind of quirks?" asked Bridget, who was becoming more nervous and **uneasy** about this whole thing with each step they took.

"Nothing to worry about, really. His most noticeable **idiosyncrasy** is his hair. He has hair unlike any other person's—it is his trademark. He is also the most brilliant person I know. He entered the university when he was only ten years old. A 'boy wonder,' I believe they called him. But he is still so young, and he is excitable. Ah," she said, stopping in front of a plain wooden door. "Here is his room. Knock, please."

Bridget gave the door a couple of **tentative** taps with her right hand. She was almost grateful there was no response.

"He's not in. Let's go," she said.

Babette smiled and started beating the door with both her fists. "Don't be so **timid** about it. Barnaby! Barnaby!" she yelled. "Open this door at once!"

Just then the door jerked open and a strange looking boy poked his head out. His hair was bushy, long, and pale, and stuck a couple of feet off his head in every direction like a crazy lion's mane. Beneath that wild mop, his face was that of any ordinary boy. To call him **unkempt** would be putting it mildly. It looked like birds had nested in his hair, and his lab coat looked as though it had never been anywhere near a washing machine. The "boy wonder" seemed **bewildered** at first, as if two girls and a giant cat had never paid him a visit before, but after a few seconds, he smiled widely and flung the door open.

"Hey, Babette!" he cried, **beckoning** her into the room with a wave of his hand. "Come in here, quick. You have to see my latest experiment."

The place was filled with bubbling test tubes, strangely coloured liquids, a bunch of dead insects, and a huge **array** of vegetable plants – everything from alfalfa to yams.

"As you can see from my little green friends here, my experiment is **botanical** in nature. Yes, Babette, I have long been tortured by the **plight** of plants, the innocent vegetable in particular," he **lamented**. "Oh, how the poor plants suffer! They have such beauty but, unfortunately, no legs or arms, so they can't fight off these cruel and **despicable** bugs!" He smashed his hand down on a pile of dead mealy bugs. "Until now, there was no choice but to spray these lovely vegetables with poisons so **toxic** they polluted the soil and **contaminated** the waters. But no more! My invention will do away with these poisons. They simply won't be needed anymore—they will be completely **obsolete**! At last we will... hey," he paused suddenly, "who let that cat in here?"

All eyes turned to the cat who was, it appeared, sleeping in the doorway.

"I have seen this cat before," said Babette.

"He chases pigeons in the Bois de Boulogne and makes **amorous** advances toward every female cat he sees. Oh, he is so ridiculous, yet so harmless."

They all giggled, and the cat seemed to grumble in his sleep.

**VOCABULARY****A) Fill in the blanks by matching the words in the box below with their definitions.**

<b>hostile</b>	<b>conspicuous</b>	<b>tenement</b>	<b>tentative</b>	<b>obsolete</b>
<b>array</b>	<b>contaminated</b>	<b>bewildered</b>	<b>oblivious</b>	<b>beckoning</b>

1. \_\_\_\_\_: showing ill will toward, as an enemy would.
2. \_\_\_\_\_: completely puzzled or confused.
3. \_\_\_\_\_: made impure and harmful.
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Signaling someone with your arm or hand to tell that person to come closer or follow.
5. \_\_\_\_\_: standing out so as to become clearly visible.
6. \_\_\_\_\_: a large building that has apartments or rooms for rent and that is usually in a poorer part of a city.
7. \_\_\_\_\_: large group or number of things.
8. \_\_\_\_\_: no longer used by anyone.
9. \_\_\_\_\_: not done with confidence or certainty; hesitant.
10. \_\_\_\_\_: not conscious or aware of someone or something.

**B) Write down the definitions of the following words.**

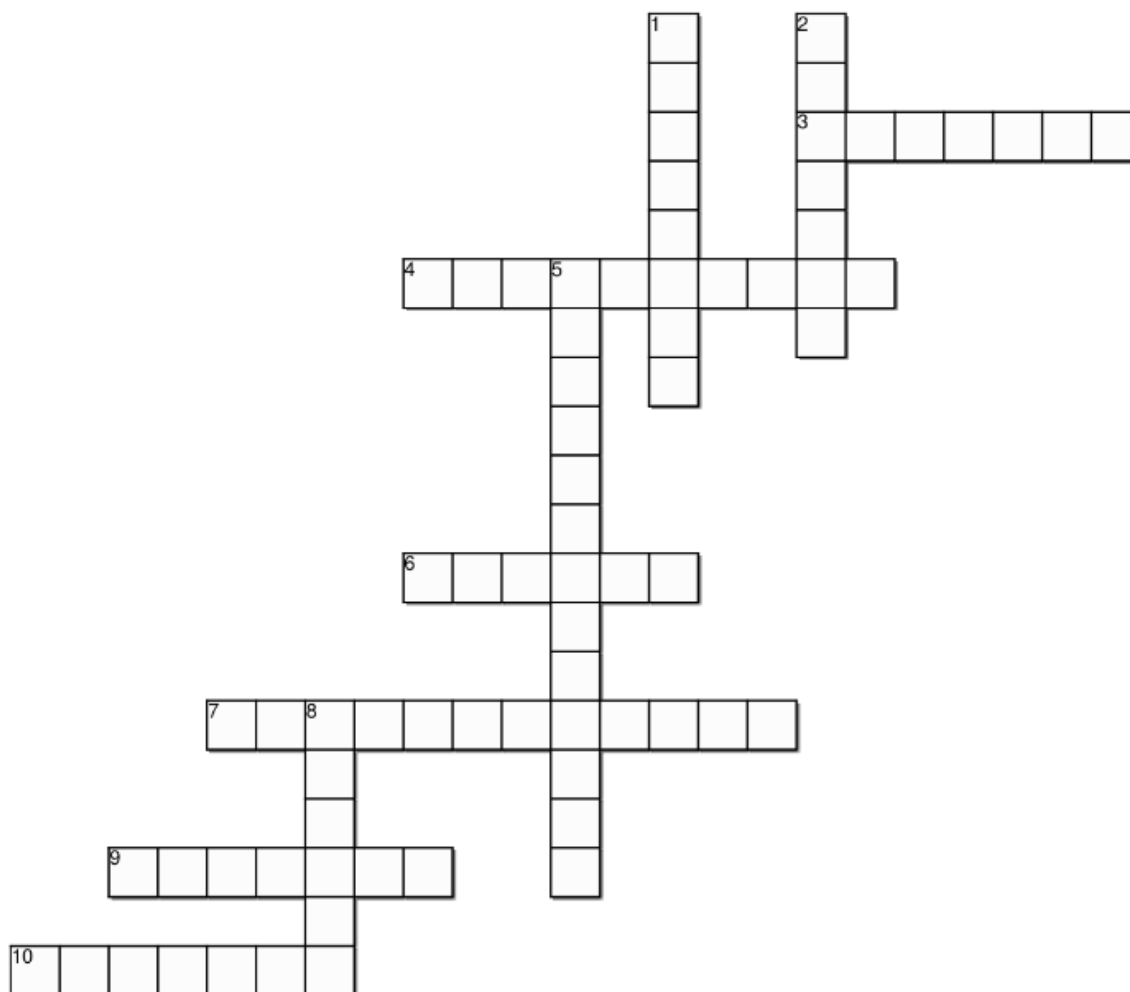
1. Hesitant: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Chic: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Gallivanting: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sophisticated: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Quirk: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Idiosyncrasy: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tardy: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Amateur: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Acquaintance: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Gruff: \_\_\_\_\_

### C) CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete the crossword below



#### **Across**

3. Determined; unwavering; immovable.
4. Acting cool.
6. A short nap taken in the early afternoon.
7. Going around from one place to another to seek entertainment.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_. Let me go back to the main topic.
10. having an untidy appearance.

#### **Down**

1. A state of uncertainty about what to do in a difficult situation.
2. Instead of studying for the test, he was \_\_\_\_\_ around all day.
5. The policeman wrote down all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the accident as the witnesses explained what they saw.
8. To express sorrow or unhappiness about something.

## ROOTS, PREFIXES, AND SUFFIXES

### A) UNDERSTANDING PREFIXES

Five words appear in the box. The italicized part of each word is called *the prefix*. Use the glossary to figure out the meaning of the prefix. Learn each prefix and its meaning or meanings, then complete the exercise that follows.

<i>Antidote</i>	<i>Disapprove</i>	<i>Complete</i>	<i>Intemational</i>	<i>Conjunction</i>
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### GLOSSARY

Prefix	Meaning
Anti	Against
Com	Together
Con	Together
Dis	Apart from, away
Inter	Between

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Each word below includes one of the prefixes you have been studying. Match each word with its meaning.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Antibody   | a. To join, link, or fasten together                       |
| _____ 2. Combine    | b. Chemical substance to act against acids                 |
| _____ 3. Connect    | c. To put off or away from consideration                   |
| _____ 4. Distort    | d. To insert between other things                          |
| _____ 5. Interject  | e. A group of people who reside together                   |
| _____ 6. Antacid    | f. Molecule that acts against foreign invaders             |
| _____ 7. Dismiss    | g. To talk informally with another                         |
| _____ 8. Community  | h. To twist out of shape                                   |
| _____ 9. Converse   | i. To break off or cause an end in the middle of something |
| _____ 10. Interrupt | j. To bring into or join in a close union or whole         |

## B) UNDERSTANDING SUFFIXES

Five *suffixes* appear in the box. The italicized part of each word is called the *suffix*. Use the glossary to figure out meaning of the *suffix*. Learn the meanings of each *suffix* then complete the exercise that follows.

Happen	Governess	Smallish	Capitalism	Realize
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### GLOSSARY

Suffix	Meaning
-en	Make of
-ess	Female
-ish	Origin
-ism	System
-ize	Make

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Each word below includes a suffix you have been studying. The suffix is italicized. Match each word with its meaning.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Lengthen   | a. To behave like a slave   |
| _____ 2. Sadden     | b. Great bravery  |
| _____ 3. Slavish    | c. The advocacy of women's rights                                       |
| _____ 4. Heroism    | d. To make longer   |
| _____ 5. Pulverize  | e. To make someone sad  |
| _____ 6. Recognize  | f. To make something sharp  |
| _____ 7. Sharpen    | g. To reduce to fine particles  |
| _____ 8. Bookish    | h. A woman whose occupation is sewing                                   |
| _____ 9. Seamstress | i. Given to literary or scholarly pursuits                              |
| _____ 10. Feminism  | j. Identify (someone or something) from having encountered them before. |



### C) RECOGNIZING ROOT WORDS

REPLACEMENT  
COMMONPLACE  
UNPLACEABLE  
PLACEMAT  
MISPLACE  
PLACELESSNESS  
DISPLACER

**Choose the word from those shown above that will best fit into each of the first four sentences below and write it in the blank.**

1. You won't \_\_\_\_\_ your keys so often if you put them down in the same spot each time.
2. Familiar and \_\_\_\_\_ household items can be used to make each of these inexpensive gifts.
3. Going in as a \_\_\_\_\_ for the pitcher, Marta walked one batter, but then struck out the next two.
4. Coby thought he would be \_\_\_\_\_ in any available job because he wasn't experienced in anything.
5. The same shorter word appears in each of the words listed above. Write it here: \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What are the parts that are added to the beginning of the root word?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What are the parts that are added to the end of the root word?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THE END**