

# Comprehension Open-ended Worksheets

## P5 English Language SA2 2014

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### Instruction

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

## P5 Comprehension Open-ended – SA2 – Nanyang

Aaron beamed as he opened his front door. It was the last day of school and Aaron was looking forward to four weeks of freedom. "Aaron, do you have your inhaler?" his mother called out from the kitchen. His grin vanished as he fingered the inhaler in his jacket pocket. Every day, he was reminded of his condition. If it were not for the fact that he suffered from asthma, he would be the most popular person in school. Nodding, he left the house, ignoring his mother's pleas to take the bus. 5

The five-kilometre walk was laborious and Aaron experienced breathing difficulties within minutes. The cold wind blowing against him only aggravated his condition. He was nearly at the school gates when his chest felt tight. He fumbled in his pocket for the inhaler and shook it. He was just about to take two puffs when he spotted Scott walking in his direction. 10

Scott stared pointedly at the inhaler in his hand, and Aaron felt himself flushing. Under pressure to hide his condition, Aaron laughed nervously and threw the inhaler as far as he could, rambling on about how he had happened to find it on his way to school. When Scott was not looking, he quickly studied the place where his inhaler had fallen, intending to retrieve it after school that day. 15

Later on, Aaron felt his chest getting tighter. He felt in his pocket for his trusty inhaler but was annoyed to find it missing. He decided to go to the sick bay for his extra inhaler. He wanted to run out of the classroom but had to be careful not to attract the attention of his classmates. As much as possible, he had to conceal his secret. He forced himself to participate in a discussion on the latest computer game. However, it was almost impossible to focus on what his friends were saying. His chest was constricting by the minute. That was how an attack hit him sometimes, quick and without warning. 20

Alarmed, he skulked away from the conversation and dashed towards the sick bay, signalling to Britney, the school nurse, for help. She recognised Aaron, immediately and rummaged through the box of medications: .Finally, she fished out his inhaler. Aaron put it to his mouth and squeezed. Nothing came out. He tried again. Still, there was nothing. Shaking his inhaler desperately, he was filled with dread as he learnt that it was empty. His coughs became more violent as he watched Britney race for the telephone. 25 30

Defeated, Aaron was filled with regret. If only he had not tried so hard to conceal his health condition in front of Scott and his friends. Suddenly, **he realised what he had to do**. He bolted towards the school gates and ran outside. His eyes darted around, searching. Fallen leaves peppered the sidewalk, prolonging his search. Then, under a clump of leaves, he glimpsed a shred of familiar grey plastic. He grabbed his lifesaver and examined it briefly before he shook it and took one puff, then another. Instantly, his lungs began to soak up the air. 35

Aaron collapsed to the ground in relief, looking up only when he heard Britney's footsteps racing towards him. Giving her a feeble smile, he allowed her to help him up and to the kerb like a stray animal. Minutes later, the paramedics arrived, eager to know why they had been summoned. 40

In front of the medical professionals, Aaron acknowledged his malady. "I had an asthma attack," he whispered as he held up his inhaler, "but I'm totally fine now."

Skeptical, the paramedics led Aaron to the back of the ambulance, where they performed more checks. After the examination, they informed Aaron that his chest was still a little tight and gave him a breathing treatment. 45

After the ordeal, Britney admonished Aaron for taking his condition lightly, reminding him that people have, in fact, died from asthma attacks. Aaron nodded solemnly.

Source: Way Too Cool by Brenda Woods

71. What two factors could have caused Aaron to experience breathing difficulties on his way to school?

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

72. Why did Aaron lie to Scott about finding an inhaler on his way to school?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

73. In paragraph 4, what did Aaron do to conceal the fact that he was experiencing signs of an asthma attack from his classmates?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

74. Based on the passage, state whether each statement below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so.

	True / False	Reason
Aaron threw his inhaler away to get rid of it for good.		
Aaron went to the sick bay often.		

75. Why did Nurse Britney race to the telephone?

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76. Which three-word phrase in paragraph 6 tells us that Aaron realised he had made a mistake?

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77. In line 30, Aaron "realised what he had to do." What did he need to do?

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78. Why did Aaron find it hard to locate his inhaler?

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79. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events happened in the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Paramedics gave Aaron a breathing treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Aaron tried to use an empty inhaler.

\_\_\_\_\_ Aaron searched for his inhaler outside the school.

80. From the last three paragraphs, find a word with similar meaning, as each of the following words in the boxes.

illness	
disbelieving	
weak	

## P5 Comprehension Open-ended – SA2 – Raffles

I knew it was a risk, but a risk I had to take. The journey across the turbulent sea could very well cost me my life, but I had to deliver the shipment of illegal goods. I would deliver the shipment with Brandon to Tiku Island and that would be my last involvement with the underworld. Big Boss has promised to let me go and I desperately held on to his words. I had to.

5

Both of us loaded our cargo onto the old, unassuming speedboat and wasted no time in getting ready. The last rays of the day would soon be upon us and we had to reach our destination before nightfall. Nothing could deter us now -- except that looming, ominous cloud in the distance.

The engine coughed into life and we were off. I looked around, edgy and wary, for any sign of police patrol boats.

10

"You sure you want to get away from us?" Brandon asked, amidst the purring of the engine.

"I've never been surer of anything in my life," I replied, looking straight ahead into the horizon. By now, large drops of rain were pelting our faces and a strong wind was slicing at us.

15

"But why?" Brandon asked once more. "Don't you like it here? Big Boss gives us protection from the police. And you'll never receive that much money in your lifetime."

"Yes and you have been with me through all kinds of hardship," I said in a voice that was barely audible, "but I have my reasons. I do not want to live a life of crime. I cannot live with my conscience. Why don't you consider leaving as well?"

20

Brandon never got to answer that question, for at that moment, lightning streaked across the sky and a clash of thunder like a command from the heavens exploded in our ears. We were in the heart of the thunderstorm. However, the worst part was, the engine of our speedboat stopped abruptly and despite our best attempts, it refused to start.

25

Brandon got up from his seat once more to cover our goods, but no sooner was he up than he went down again except this time, he was in the water.

"Brandon! Grab my hand! Brandon! Where are you?" I shouted anxiously but I could barely see anything amidst the heavy rain. I strained my ears to pick up any possible call for help, but could not detect any.

30

Suddenly, panic, fear and anger took control of my body. Fearing for my life, I gave up searching for him. My vision was blurred and I acted blindly. I drove my fist down heavily onto the dashboard and miraculously, the engine came to life.

35

By then, my body was trembling violently but I managed to bring the speedboat safely to the shore of Tiku Island. I heaved myself out of the boat and collapsed heavily onto the sand. I kissed the sands and muttered a prayer of thanks.

Finally, I got onto my feet to get the shipment. Suddenly, light shone brightly around me. I was stunned.

40

Too late. I was caught. All my dreams of leading a normal life were now only shattered fragments like the sand beneath my feet. As I looked longingly at the sea, I saw a familiar outline of a man struggling in the waters.

71. What was the writer delivering to Tiku Island?

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72. Write 1,2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the passage.

\_\_\_\_\_ The speedboat engine stopped working.

\_\_\_\_\_ It started to rain.

\_\_\_\_\_ The writer scanned the area for any patrol boats.

73. Choose the word/words from lines 6 to 13 in the passage that have similar meaning to the words/phrases below.

stop	
dark	
careful	

74. What was the question Brandon never got to answer in line 23?

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75. Why was Brandon reluctant to leave the Big Boss?

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76. Why did the author want to stop his involvement with the underworld?

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77. Based on the passage, state whether each statement in the table below is True or False, then give one reason why you think so.

	True / False	Reason
It was night time when the author loaded the cargo onto the boat.		
Delivering the shipment was the authors first assignment.		
The author managed to deliver the goods successfully.		

78. How did the author feel when he landed on Tiku Island?

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79. Which sentence from lines 36 to 43 suggests that Brandon survived the journey?

80. Do you think the author was a loyal friend? Support your answer with information from the text.

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## Answer Key

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Subject: Primary 5 English – Comprehension Open-Ended

Paper: SA2 2014

School: Nanyang

71. (i) The walk to school was laborious.  
(ii) The cold wind was blowing against Aaron.
72. Aaron did not want to let Scott know that he had asthma.
73. Aaron forced himself to participate in a discussion on the latest computer game.
- 74.

False	Aaron wanted to retrieve it after school that day.
True	Aaron went to the sickbay for his extra inhaler. The school nurse recognized Aaron immediately and fished out his inhaler from the box of medication.

75. Nurse Britney wanted to call for the paramedics.
76. filled with regrets.
77. Aaron needed to look for his inhaler that he had thrown outside the school.
78. Fallen leaves had peppered the sidewalk where the inhaler was and the inhaler was covered by the leaves.
79. 3, 1, 2
- 80.

illness	malady
disbelieving	skeptical
weak	feeble



School: Raffles Girls'

71. The writer was delivering illegal goods to Tiku Island.

72. 3, 2, 1

73.

stop	deter
dark	ominous
careful	wary

74. The question was to ask Brandon to also consider leaving Big Boss.

75. Brandon liked it there as Big Boss would give him protection from the police and he would receive a huge sum of money from Big Boss.

76. He did not want to live a life of crime and he could not live with his conscience.

77.

False	The last rays of the day would soon be upon the author and he had to reach Tiku Island before night fall.
False	The author would deliver with Brandon to Tiku Island and that would be his last involvement with underworld.
False	The police caught him.

78. The author felt relieved.

79. As I looked longingly at the sea, I saw a familiar outline of a man struggling in the waters.

80. Yes, I think that the author was a loyal friend.

When Brandon fell into the water, the author searched for him and reached his hands out to allow Brandon to grab him even though he could barely see anything amidst the heavy rain.