

*Tiffany Wright*

"You look lovely," said Mum, as I climbed into the passenger seat. I sighed and leaned back and her compliment slid off my itchy fairy costume like drops of rain off an umbrella.

Today I was missing a chance to realise my dream. The agent had called my mum this morning while I was getting ready for a six-year-old's fairy party. Donna, my absolute bestie, had already begged me to fill in for her. I had said yes, but that was before I knew it would mean missing the opportunity to try for a spot on *Young Talent Time*.

We arrived at the address Donna had given me. Mum squeezed my hand. "Your time will come, Ally. Don't stop believing." I looked at her face, full of certainty, and I wanted to believe her words. "Thanks, Mum," I said as I hugged her goodbye.

The house was huge, old and crumbling, like pictures our art teacher had shown us of buildings in Venice. The garden was overgrown, with a thick carpet of dry, yellowing leaves resting on the grass. Strong branches intertwined and formed an arch, marking the path towards the door. I followed the path, rang the doorbell and took a deep breath. Time to twinkle.

Tilly squealed with delight as I made yet another animal out of a balloon that defied her expectations. Her six-year-old guests clapped in appreciation as did the small group of parents who had stayed with their children. "Sing, Fairy Ally, sing!" they chanted. This was the part of the party I loved the most.

I sang from the place deep inside me where only music makes me happy. I forgot all about *Young Talent Time* and glowed in the moment.

One of the parents approached me with a business card in her hand, as I was packing up. It said 'Melody Records'. I believed again.

Read each question carefully and circle one answer.

- 1 Which spelling is correct?
  - passanger
  - pasenger
  - passenger
  - passengar
- 2 Which word is misspelled?
  - expecting
  - expetation
  - expected
  - exceptions
- 3 What part of speech is the word *compliment* in this sentence?  
*Mum's compliment slid off my itchy fairy costume like drops of rain off an umbrella.*
  - a noun
  - a verb
  - an adjective
  - an adverb
- 4 Which of the following is the base word of *certainty*?
  - certainly
  - certain
  - cert
  - curtain
- 5 What does the word *Venice* relate to in this sentence?  
*The house was like pictures our art teacher had shown us of Venice.*
  - a person
  - a party
  - a place
  - a fairy
- 6 What does the word *intertwined* mean?
  - curling around one another
  - joined at one end
  - always together
  - in separate ways
- 7 What does the expression *glowed in the moment* mean in this sentence?  
*I forgot all about Young Talent Time and glowed in the moment.*
  - tried to forget my disappointment
  - pretended I was happy
  - radiated light
  - just let myself enjoy what I was doing
- 8 Which word is a synonym for *delight*?
  - sadness
  - envy
  - joy
  - hope
- 9 Which word is a past-tense form of the verb *to sing*?
  - sang
  - singed
  - sings
  - sing
- 10 What part of speech is the word *intertwined* in this sentence?  
*Strong branches intertwined and formed an arch.*
  - an adjective
  - a verb
  - a noun
  - an adverb
- 11 Which words are adjectives in the following sentence?  
*There was a thick carpet of dry, yellowing leaves in the garden.*
  - thick, carpet* and *yellowing*
  - thick, dry* and *leaves*
  - dry, yellowing* and *garden*
  - thick, dry* and *yellowing*

- 12** What part of speech is the word *appreciation*?
- a verb
  - a noun
  - an adjective
  - an adverb
- 13** Which of the following lists is made of words that are all prepositions?
- but, and, although, yet
  - what, when, where, why
  - our, your, my, their
  - of, to, at, in
- 14** Which of the following words is a synonym for *squealed*?
- shrieked
  - whispered
  - slipped
  - squelched
- 15** What part of speech is the word *they*?
- a noun
  - a conjunction
  - a pronoun
  - a preposition
- 16** What does the expression *defied Tilly's expectations* mean in this sentence?  
*Fairy Ally made yet another balloon animal balloon that defied Tilly's expectations.*
- The balloon animal was even better than Fairy Ally expected.
  - The balloon animal was even better than Tilly expected.
  - The balloon animal wouldn't do what Tilly expected.
  - The balloon animal wasn't as good as Tilly expected.
- 17** Why are the words *Fairy Ally* written with a capital letter in this sentence?  
*"Sing, Fairy Ally, sing!" the children at the party chanted.*
- They are the first words in the sentence.
  - They are the most important words in the sentence.
  - The words look better written this way.
  - They are the name of the party performer.
- 18** What type of noun is *Melody Records* in this sentence?  
*It was a business card from Melody Records.*
- a proper noun
  - a common noun
  - a collective noun
  - an abstract noun
- 19** What is the name of the punctuation mark used in the word *don't* in this sentence?  
*Whatever you do, Ally, don't stop believing.*
- comma
  - full stop
  - apostrophe
  - quotation mark
- 20** Why are quotation marks used in this sentence?  
*"You look lovely," said Mum.*
- They are used to show a quotation.
  - They are used to show direct speech.
  - They are used to show a question.
  - They are used to show a statement.

Text type: Narrative

## **NAPLAN\*-style questions: Language conventions**

- 1 passenger
- 2 expectation
- 3 a noun
- 4 certain
- 5 a place
- 6 curling around one another
- 7 just let myself enjoy what I was doing
- 8 joy
- 9 sang
- 10 a verb
- 11 *thick, dry and yellowing*
- 12 a noun
- 13 of, to, at, in
- 14 shrieked
- 15 a pronoun
- 16 The balloon animal was even better than Tilly expected.
- 17 They are the name of the party performer.
- 18 a proper noun
- 19 apostrophe
- 20 They are used to show direct speech.