

*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 **What kind of text is *Ally's big break*?**
  - a poem
  - a recipe
  - a short story
  - a letter to the editor
- 2 **What was Ally upset about before the party?**
  - She was wet from the rain.
  - She had lost her best friend.
  - She had to dress up as a fairy.
  - She had missed her chance to be on *Young Talent Time*.
- 3 **What does Ally's mother advise her to do?**
  - Take off her fairy costume.
  - Sing from her heart.
  - Keep believing in herself.
  - Sign a contract with a record company.
- 4 **What is described in the story as being *dry* and *yellowing*?**
  - the leaves in the garden
  - Ally's fairy costume
  - the path to the house
  - the carpet on the floor
- 5 **Who is the 'birthday girl' in this story?**
  - Ally
  - Tilly
  - Donna
  - Melody
- 6 **What were two of the things that Fairy Ally did to entertain the young party guests?**
  - She made animal balloons and sang.
  - She danced and did face-painting.
  - She sang and played 'musical chairs'.
  - She ran a talent quest and made animal balloons.
- 7 **Which of the following statements best describes the main character in this story?**
  - She wants to own a fairy party agency.
  - She likes going to birthday parties.
  - She doesn't have any friends.
  - She wants to be a professional singer.
- 8 **What was so important about the card from Melody Records?**
  - It was a birthday card for Ally.
  - It was a second chance to perform on *Young Talent time*.
  - It might lead to a recording contract for Ally.
  - It contained the address of a professional singing teacher.
- 9 **What does Ally mean when she says *I believed again*?**
  - She knew she was going to achieve her dreams.
  - She felt better after singing a song well.
  - She had decided to give up her dreams.
  - She was going to be on *Young Talent Time* next week.
- 10 **What is the deep meaning or implied message in this text?**
  - All little girls love fairy parties.
  - Life is full of unexpected opportunities.
  - Only music matters.
  - All teenagers should have the chance to be famous.

Text type: Narrative

## **NAPLAN\*-style questions: Reading**

- 1 a short story
- 2 She had missed her chance to be on *Young Talent Time*.
- 3 Keep believing in herself.
- 4 the leaves in the garden
- 5 Tilly
- 6 She made animal balloons and sang.
- 7 She wants to be a professional singer.
- 8 It might lead to a recording contract for Ally.
- 9 She knew she was going to achieve her dreams.
- 10 Life is full of unexpected opportunities.