

11

BOOKS



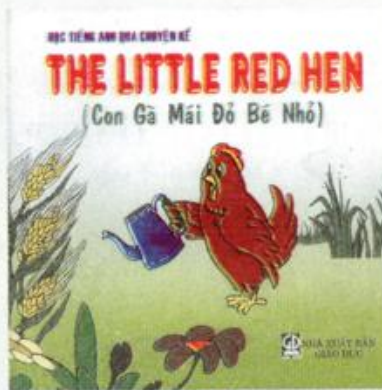
READING

Before You Read

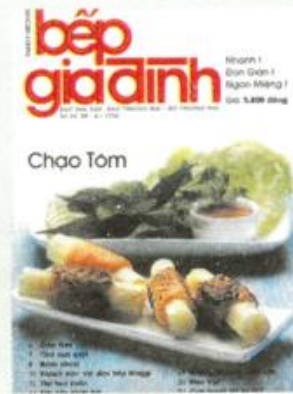
a) Match the book covers with the words.



A



B



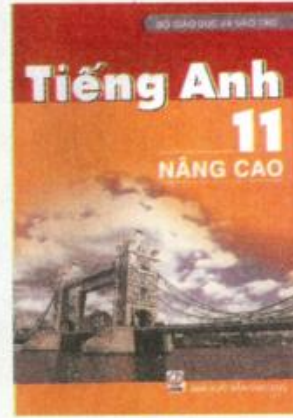
C



D



E



F

1. atlas
4. picture book

2. cookbook
5. novel

3. dictionary
6. textbook

b) "Read between the lines" is to look for or discover a meaning that is not openly stated. For which one of the types of books above is that skill most commonly required?

Reading Text

Now read through the passage and give short answers to the questions that follow. The paragraphs are marked A, B, C ... for convenient reference.



Below is a characteristic passage from the novel *Emma* by Jane Austen – a British woman writer. The village of Highbury is in an excited gossip because Mr. Elton has just become engaged to a certain Miss Hawkins:

Par. A

Human nature is so well disposed towards those who are in interesting situations that a young person who either marries or dies is sure of being kindly spoken of.

Par. B

A week had not passed since Miss Hawkins's name was first mentioned in Highbury before she was, by some means or other, discovered to have every recommendation of person and mind – to be handsome, elegant, excellent, and perfectly likeable; and when Mr. Elton himself arrived [...], there was very little more for him to do than to tell her Christian name, and say whose music she mainly played.

Par. C

The tone is so quiet that we get almost a shock at the putting together of "marries or dies" in the first sentence. Surely to marry and to die are very different things. But in this village, where marriages and deaths are infrequent and important events, both of them equally excite "kindly" gossip. The observation is admittedly sensitive and independent.

Par. D

The next paragraph reveals how the gossip about Miss Hawkins is before her arrival, and how the local people determine her appearance and character before they have seen her. When Mr. Elton comes, there is nothing for him to give but one or two unimportant details, such as her Christian name and the name of her favorite composer. Jane Austen seems to write as though she agrees with the gossip. She doesn't say that the local people were mistaken, but her tone implies it. Miss Hawkins is clearly too perfect – "handsome, elegant, excellent, and perfectly likeable." The phrase that tells how they discovered this – "by some means or other" – throws doubt on its reliability. Anyone familiar with Austen's novels will recognize the style as typical of hers – sensitive, seriously polite, and delicate but with sharp-edged irony.

a) Choose the best answers.

1. Which of the following best describes Jane Austen?

A. She was a British woman.	B. She was a novelist.
C. She was in fact Miss Hawkins.	D. She was a Highbury villager.
2. "Characteristic" in the first sentence of paragraph A is similar in meaning to _____.

A. typical	B. having a lot of characters
C. of best quality	D. recognizable
3. Which of the following is similar in meaning to "disposed" in the first sentence of paragraph B?

A. determined	B. well-prepared
C. agreeable	D. inclined
4. How many paragraphs are there in the extract from Jane Austen's *Emma*?

A. Two.	B. Three.
C. Four.	D. Five.
5. According to Austen's novel, what is the relationship between Miss Hawkins and Mr. Elton?

A. Husband and wife.	B. Brother and sister.
C. Fiancé and fiancée.	D. Villagers.

6. Who is/are praised for having the observation that is "admittedly sensitive and independent"?
 - A. The villagers.
 - B. Miss Hawkins and Mr. Elton.
 - C. The author of the passage.
 - D. Jane Austen.

7. "The next paragraph" in the first sentence of paragraph E refers to _____.
 - A. paragraph E
 - B. the one following paragraph E
 - C. paragraph D
 - D. paragraph C

8. Which word(s) in the underlined sentence in paragraph E indicate(s) the implication of the author of the reading passage that the rumors about Miss Hawkins are not believable?
 - A. "clearly"
 - B. "too perfect"
 - C. "handsome, elegant, excellent"
 - D. "perfectly likeable"

b) Complete the following sentences. Use words from the text.

1. Marriages and deaths cause gossip among the villagers in *Emma* because they are both _____ and _____ happenings.
2. The fact that "marries" and "dies" are put closely to each other while the tone is calm brings us a kind of _____.
3. All Mr. Elton could tell about his fiancée was her _____ and _____.
4. The phrase "by some means or other" makes us doubtful about the _____ of the information about Miss Hawkins's perfection.
5. Austen's writing gives the impression that she agrees with the gossip but her _____ implies the local people were mistaken.

c) Discuss with a partner these questions.

1. Have you ever read Jane Austen or any other woman writer? What is special about them?
2. What kinds of books do you often read? Do you prefer to read for information or for entertainment?



LISTENING

a) What are your reasons for reading? Check your choices and then compare yours with your partner's.

1. I enjoy reading.
2. I have to read for my exams.
3. My teacher asks me to read.
4. My parents want me to read.
5. My close friends have recommended the book to me.
6. Many people are reading the book and discussing it.

b) It is an important skill to know what a book is about. The following parts of a book may help you with it. Number them to show, in your opinion, their order of helpfulness.

1. the TITLE – name of a book
2. the FOREWORD or PREFACE – what the book is about and why it was written
3. the TABLE OF CONTENTS – list of the main subjects in a book and the page numbers where you can find them
4. the INDEX – detailed list of names and subjects discussed in the book

c) Thuc is taking a course in Study Skills in English. Now in his class on reading skills, the teacher is making a quick review about what they learned in the last class.

Listen to this conversation and check whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. It is important to know the purposes of reading. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Surveying a book will help decide whether the book is necessary for you. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The contents pages of a book show how the book is organized. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Unlike the index, the table of contents gives more detail about the concepts mentioned in the book. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. It is necessary to make sure that the level of the book is neither too easy nor too difficult for you. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The date of publication can usually be found on the cover. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- d) Listen to the conversation again and answer these questions.
1. In what way do the purposes of reading help your reading a book?
 2. Apart from the organization of the book, what do the contents pages tell readers?
 3. Where can readers often find the index of a book? At the beginning or at the end?
 4. Where are the items of a book alphabetically arranged, in the contents or the index?
 5. What skill can help you decide quickly whether the book is easy enough for you?
- e) To which of the following do you think skimming should apply? Explain your choices.
1. a student reading a poem
 2. commuters reading newspapers on the bus / train
 3. a businessman reading a newspaper for gold prices
 4. a teacher grading an essay
 5. a student reading instructions for his test
 6. a vacationer reading tour brochures
 7. a fisherman reading a newspaper for weather information
 8. you reading a detective story



SPEAKING

Evoking and Expressing Opinions

- a) Read quickly the conversation and check the correct answers.

Minh: What do you think about detective stories?

Tung: I think they're very good for teenagers like us. In fact, I like reading detective stories very much, especially those by Doyle.

Minh: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, you mean?



Tung: Exactly. He's an author who writes exciting stories about the brilliant Sherlock Holmes.

Minh: I'd be interested to know your further thoughts on that detective.

Tung: Well, in my opinion, he's a genius detective. I really admire his intelligence and bravery.

Minh: It sounds like he's your hero.

Tung: You can say that again. He's not just quick-minded or brave. He's very sensitive and observant as well.

Minh: You're right. He can understand people and their feelings very quickly and is very good at noticing things.

Question

According to Tung, Sherlock Holmes has these qualities:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> intelligent | <input type="checkbox"/> courageous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hard-working | <input type="checkbox"/> observant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> amusing | <input type="checkbox"/> kind-hearted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> quick-witted | <input type="checkbox"/> attentive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> patient | <input type="checkbox"/> decisive |

Useful Expressions

Evoking Opinions

1. What do you think about ...?
2. What's your opinion on / about ...?
3. How do you feel about ...?
4. Are you opposed to / in favor of ...?
5. I'd be interested to know your thoughts on ...

Expressing Opinions

1. The point I'm making is ...
2. In my opinion, we must / should / need / ought to ...
3. It seems to me that ...
4. I (strongly / firmly / really) believe / think / feel that ...
5. Personally / Frankly, I (don't) think ...

- b) Get a partner and you two talk about each other's opinions on a certain kind of book, writer, or character. You may use these hints. Don't forget to alternate the roles.

Prompts

- Picture books
 - + Most publications are translations, some of which are culturally inappropriate.
 - + too much violence
 - + curt language
 - + Vietnamese writers' works would be welcomed; *Than Dong Dat Viet*, for instance, has been a big success.
 - + More funding to the writing of picture books
 - + Stronger promotion to encourage the reading of books by Vietnamese writers

- Literature books
 - + not enough good stories or novels for teenagers
 - + careless translators
 - + careless publishers
 - + writing contests to be organized, e.g., *Tuoi Tre* newspaper-organized *Sang Tac Cho Tuoi Doi Muoi*



WRITING

- a) Read the paragraph and check whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

Readers of *The Last Leaf* by O. Henry perhaps will never forget Old Behrman for his admirable deed – sacrificing his own life to save that of the young lady Johnsy, who is not his relation in any way. Except for one short paragraph, there is almost nowhere else that the writer describes the great old man – Old Behrman. As for such a man, in fact, there is no abundance of words that can give readers a picture of him, because his deed alone is enough for him to be enlisted among the greatest heroes. Being "a failure in art" and having never realized his dream of painting a masterpiece, he has admittedly managed to do much more than that by painting the leaf during the dreadful night – wet, icy, and cold – in spite of his pneumonia and old age and thus his life to save Johnsy's hope and accordingly her life. The greatest masterpiece should be able to do something for life and Old Behrman's death – not driven by the thirst for fame – has been able to do more than is expected – life-saving and thus life-improving. Is there any other masterpiece greater than the sacrifice of one's life for another?

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Old Behrman and Miss Johnsy are uncle and niece. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. O. Henry is the author of <i>The Last Leaf</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Old Behrman once painted a masterpiece but he himself has not realized it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The old man is suffering from a lung illness. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The leaf is painted in bad weather conditions before the morning comes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Since Old Behrman paints the leaf in the dreadful night, he falls ill and, as a result, passes away. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- b) Write a description of a character in a story or novel you have read.

The description of a character should:

- generalize about the character with a topic sentence, which normally comes first.
- highlight the most striking feature of the character.



LANGUAGE FOCUS

Word Study

Compound Adjectives: Adjective + Noun + -ed



Example

... delicate but with *sharp-edged* irony.

- a) Select the words in the left and the middle columns to make compound adjectives.

Adjective	Noun	Compound Adjective
kind	mind	_____
middle	age	_____
fresh	face	_____
strong	heart	_____
single	will	_____
bare	hand	_____

- b) Fill in the blanks of these sentences with the appropriate compound adjectives just made.

- I called him a _____ liar, and he gave me a black eye.
- This is the photograph of the poet when he was a _____ boy.
- Is there any _____ writer who has won the Nobel prize for literature?
- The autobiography is about a successful businesswoman who is _____ and _____.
- It was incredible that he came first in the _____ boat race across the Atlantic.

Grammar

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

- Transitive verbs (Vt) take an object, whereas intransitive ones (Vi) do not.

Examples

They do not *sell* telephone directories. (Vt)

Textbooks *sell* very well at the beginning of the school year. (Vi)

- A number of verbs, like *sell*, are both transitive and intransitive. It is thus more accurate to talk of transitive and intransitive uses.
- Some verbs, transitive or intransitive, require an adverbial to complete the meaning.

Example

The lady then *put* the guidebook *down*.

Read the following passage, and decide whether the underlined verbs are transitively or intransitively used by putting them in the right columns. Two examples have been given.

There are several different kinds of faults in reading, which are usually more exaggerated with foreign learners. The most common one is that most people read slower than they should. There is no rate at which people ought to read, of course; it depends on your purpose in reading, how difficult the language is, how unfamiliar the material is, and so on. But most people read everything at the same slow speed, and do not seem to realize that they can read faster or slower as required. Other people say the words to themselves, or move their lips – these habits slow the reader down to something near speaking speed, which is, of course, much slower than reading speed. Another habit which can slow you down is following the line with your finger, or with a pen.

If you want to be able to read faster, the secret is simply to practice under timed conditions. This means that you should give yourself a certain amount of time to read with understanding, then check your time when you have finished. It is stated by many researchers that students who have practiced fast reading even for only an hour a week, have shown average

