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THERESA NUZZO SCHOOL MARSA  
Half-Yearly Exams 2017-2018

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**GRADE 6 ENGLISH**  
**READING COMPREHENSION**

Wednesday, 7th February, 2018

Time: 50 minutes

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Register Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Marks

TOTAL

(max. 30 marks)



## GRADE 6 ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION 1

Look at this information about IRELAND

(6 marks)

- ⇒ Ireland is an **island** in the north of Europe. It is closest to the **United Kingdom**.
- ⇒ The patron saint of Ireland is **St Patrick**. It is celebrated on **17th March** which is a national holiday in Ireland.
- ⇒ The Irish traditional colour is **green**. On **St Patrick's day**, most Irish people wear green to celebrate.
- ⇒ A **Leprechaun** is a type of fairy in Irish tradition. They are usually shown as a little bearded man, wearing a green coat and hat. They also usually use their magical power to do tricks on people.
- ⇒ **Hurling** is an outdoor Irish game. 15 players are on each team and they use a stick called a **hurley** to try to hit a small ball into the opponents' goal. Goals are scored like it is shown in the diagram (3 points in the net, 1 point above the crossbar but between the posts).



1 point
3 points

**A. In the last column write a short answer.**

(½ mark each)

	Write ...	Write the answer here:
1	... the country that Ireland is closest to.	United Kingdom
2	... which part of Europe is Ireland in.	north
3	... what is Ireland's traditional colour.	green
4	... the patron saint of Ireland.	St Patrick
5	... the day St Patrick's day is celebrated.	17th March
6	... what is a leprechaun.	(a type of) fairy
7	... what powers do leprechauns have.	magical
8	... an item of clothing that leprechauns wear.	hat / coat
9	... where is Hurling played (indoors or outdoors).	outdoors
10	... how many players on each Hurling team.	15 players
11	... the stick that each player use.	hurley
12	... how many points scored if the ball enters the net.	3 points

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**GRADE 6 ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION 2**

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**SECTION 1**

(10 marks)

**A FAMILY TRADITION**

Sammy hated his red hair, his freckles and the fact that he was short. He was half the size of the other boys in the second grade. **(paragraph 1)**

“Everyone in our family is short,” his mother said. “Short people can do things tall people can’t.” **(paragraph 2)**

“Like what?” From what Sammy could tell, being short wasn’t an advantage. He couldn’t see around crowds, he couldn’t reach things on tall shelves and the other kids made fun of him, calling him shrimp and pipsqueak. **(paragraph 3)**

His mother just smiled and never answered him when he asked her what short people could do. **(paragraph 4)**

It was a chilly March day when Sammy finally figured out what his mother meant. The school day started like any other day. The bell rang, kids shuffled to their desks, the teacher passed out papers, and they said the Pledge of Allegiance. **(paragraph 5)**

“Did everyone wear green today?” the teacher asked.

It was St. Patrick’s Day and the tradition was that you wore green or someone might pinch you. Sammy intentionally had not worn green. Instead, he had on blue jeans, white athletic shoes and a blue tee shirt. He knew if he wore green, with his short stature and his red hair that the other kids would have made jokes about him being a leprechaun. **(paragraph 6)**

It didn’t matter, though. The jokes started at lunch and continued onto the playground. **(paragraph 7)**

“Can I have a wish, Sammy?” Lucy Night skipped around him, laughing at what she thought was a funny joke. Sammy didn’t think it was funny. **(paragraph 8)**

“Sammy the leprechaun,” Marc Catz taunted.

This time, Sammy didn’t cry and he didn’t go back inside to hide from the other kids. He got angry at how unfair they were being. He couldn’t help being short. It wasn’t as if he had chosen his looks. The anger simmered and simmered, growing hotter and brighter inside him until Lucy reached out and pinched him on the arm for not wearing green. **(paragraph 9)**

*(to be continued...)*

**A. Underline the correct answer.** (½ mark each)

- Sammy (liked, did not like, was proud of) his red hair.
- Sammy was (shorter, taller, darker) than all children in his grade.
- (Some, Everyone, A few) in Sammy’s family was short.
- On St Patrick’s day, the teacher asked if everyone wore (jeans, tee shirt, green).

**B. Answer these questions** (1 mark each)

- What problems did Sammy face because he was short?

he couldn’t see around crowds, he couldn’t reach things on tall shelves and other kids made fun of him. *(If one is mentioned give half a mark.)*

- What might the others do to you if you didn’t wear green on St Patrick’s day?

pinch you.

- What did Sammy wear on that day?

blue jeans, white athletic shoes and a blue tee shirt.

- Why didn’t he wear green?

because he was sure he would be called a leprechaun. *(do not accept—make fun of him)*

**C. Tick: True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG)** (½ mark each)

		T	F	NIG
1	Sammy’s mum was called Matilda.			✓
2	Sammy thought that being short wasn’t an advantage.	✓		
3	His mum never told him what short people could do better.	✓		
4	It was hot on the day the story happened.		✓	
5	Children started to make jokes at Sammy in the morning.		✓	
6	Sammy’s teacher was Mrs Green.			✓
7	Lucy and Marc made fun of Sammy.	✓		
8	This time Sammy started to cry.		✓	

## A FAMILY TRADITION *(continued)*

“I wish you were short, so you’d know how it feels,” Sammy said.

With a rush of air and a shimmer of movement, Lucy shrank three inches instantly. Her green dress that had sat just at her knees now hung to her calves and the sleeves covered her hands. **(paragraph 10)**

“What did you do to me?” Her voice was even smaller than it had been, coming out as a little screech instead of a shout. **(paragraph 11)**

“I don’t know.” What had just happened? Had he just wished someone into being shorter? Sammy felt terrible. He wouldn’t hurt anyone on purpose. They had been words - just words - and he hadn’t thought they’d come true. Still, if wishing her shorter had worked, perhaps wishing her tall again would work as well. **(paragraph 12)**

“I wish you were taller,” he whispered.

The rush of air was faster this time with an underlying roar. Lucy disappeared in a blur. Sammy closed his eyes and when he opened them, Lucy was six feet tall. Her dress was super short and the sleeves were so tight that they had started to rip at the seams. **(paragraph 13)**

“Oh! Sammy, stop. Make it stop!” Tears filled Lucy’s eyes.

“I wish Lucy was her normal size.”

Instantly, Lucy returned to the size she’d been before he’d made a wish.

“How did you do that?” Lucy put her hands on her hips.

“I don’t know.” He was going to ask his mother. Was this what she meant by short people being able to do more than others? **(paragraph 14)**

That evening, he asked his mother about what had happened on the playground. She laughed. “Finally. Your father and I wondered when you’d finally get your leprechaun powers.” **(paragraph 15)**

“Leprechaun?”

“Yes, we are short because we are leprechauns. Now that you can wish things into happening, though, you must be very careful with your words. What if you had wished something really bad on Lucy? That would have been horrible.” **(paragraph 16)**

Sammy agreed and knew after seeing how upset Lucy had been that he’d never use his words without thinking about them first. Now that he knew the family secret, being short didn’t seem like such a bad thing anymore. Especially since he could wish for that new video game he’d been wanting since January. **(paragraph 17)**

**D. Pick ONE word from the Section 2 as answer to these questions:** (1 mark each)

1. What colour was Lucy's dress? green
2. How did Sammy feel when Lucy became smaller? terrible
3. What covered Lucy's hands when she was made smaller? sleeves
4. How many feet tall was Lucy when she was made taller? six

**E. Underline the best answer from the brackets.** (½ mark each)

1. Sammy wished that Lucy were short to learn how she would (laugh, feel, think).
2. Lucy's dress hung down to her (knees, feet, calves) when she was made shorter.
3. When Sammy spoke his wishes there was a (rush of air, noise, whisper)
4. Lucy (told, begged, whispered) to Sammy to make the magic stop.
5. Sammy (wished, wanted, did not want) to harm Lucy.
6. Sammy used his magical powers (two, three, four) times.
7. Lucy (wanted, did not want, did not ask) to know how Sammy worked the magic.
8. At the end, Sammy (liked, did not like, wished) being a leprechaun.

**F. Answer these questions** (1 mark each question)

1. a) Why did Sammy wish that Lucy were taller?

to be the same size as before.

b) Did it work? Why?

No it didn't work because she became too tall.

2. Why was Lucy upset?

Because she was made smaller and then taller. / Because magic was used on her.

3. What good advice did Sammy's mum give him about being a leprechaun?

To be careful with his words.

**NOW, ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT BOTH SECTIONS**

**G. Find from the story:** (½ mark each)

1. A word from **paragraph 6** and a phrase from **paragraph 12** that mean the same:

word: **intentionally**                      two-word phrase: **on purpose**

2. A word that means **at once** that is in both **paragraph 10** and **paragraph 14**:

**instantly**

**H. Answer these questions** (1 mark each)

1. Why didn't Sammy's mum tell him the secret?

**Because he did not have the magical powers yet. / So that he can discover by himself / because he wouldn't have believed her if she told him he was a leprechaun.**

2. In your opinion, what was the first thing that Sammy asked for, using magic, after that day? What makes you think so?

**A new video game. Because that made him think that being short wasn't a bad thing anymore / He had been waiting for it since January and couldn't get it.**

**END OF THE READING COMPREHENSION PAPER**