

## READING COMPREHENSION

**Task 1: Read the text carefully. Complete two tasks on the next page.**

**Why We Still Need a Book Prize for Women**

*Author and playwright Kate Mosse shares how she came to found Women's Prize for Fiction (WPF).*

In the dreary January of 1992, a group of publishing colleagues, literary agents, booksellers, and journalists gathered at a flat in London. We were there to discuss if it mattered that novels by women were routinely overlooked by major literary prizes and, if we thought it did matter, what we were going to do about it. The catalyst had been an all-male Booker Prize shortlist the previous October. Not a cause for complaint in itself – any judging panel has the right to choose the books that they collectively most value, admire – but the red flag had been that no one seemed to have noticed the absence of female writers.

What, we wondered, might have been the media reaction if an all-female shortlist had been announced? All of us there that night, men and women alike, were sure that it would have been seen as deliberate or political. It was a joyous, ideas-filled evening and we left with the spark of an idea. Perhaps a prize designed for women – from anywhere in the world writing in English, of any age, any nationality, in any genre – was the way to level the playing field.

Some tough years followed: finding a sponsor and losing a sponsor. We learned that although some 60% of novels published were authored by women, fewer than 9% shortlisted for literary prizes were by women. There was, and still is, a great deal of bias and fear about women doing things for other women. We had false starts and setbacks; then a gift from an anonymous donor helped to secure a major new sponsor, telecommunications company Orange. Finally, in May 1996, at the National Liberal Club in London, beneath portraits of whiskered MPs, I watched Juliet Stevenson award the very first Women's Prize for Fiction (WPF) to Helen Dunmore for her exquisite novel *A Spell of Winter*.

The rest is history. After 26 years, the WPF is now acknowledged to be the world's largest annual celebration of women's writing. We've put thousands of novels into the hands of millions of readers and after a couple of initial years, we've become a charity. We've stayed true to our founding principles, namely, to celebrate, honour and amplify women's creative voices and to use the publicity of the prize to fund a range of educational initiatives, from reading groups to our new writing programme, Discoveries.

And to those who ask if we still “need” a prize for women, I say: the prize has not only been successful in promoting writing by women from all over the world, but also in providing a focal point for discussions about women's lack of visibility, the bias in reviewing and media coverage. This is a fight that is far from being over. Novels longlisted and shortlisted for the Women's Prize are now on university and school reading lists, on sale in many languages all over the world, sitting on library shelves, in bookshops. It's essential to ensure that women's stories are heard, to keep amplifying their voices and the power of great fiction. After all, as the mighty Margaret Atwood says: “A word after a word after a word is power.”

**READING COMPREHENSION – TASKS**

**Task 1: Based on what you have read in the article, complete the statements below. You must fill in from 1 word to 3 words (the number of missing words is indicated). The statements do not follow in the same order as the information appears in the article.**

1. Finding the main sponsor was preceded by a contribution from a/an .....  
..... (2 words)
2. The prize initiators concluded that if only female writers had been chosen for the literary prize, it would have been considered as ..... or ..... by the media.  
..... (2 words)
3. In the '90s, a group of literary professionals discussed the fact that women's novels were ..... by literary prizes. (1 word)
4. The WFFF has initiated discussions about the unjust treatment of female writers in such areas as ..... and ..... (3 words)
5. One of the suggestions was to design a prize for women regardless of their nationality, age, or the ..... they represented. (1 word)
6. The greatest impulse for establishing the WFFF was an all-male ..... of nominees in the previous year. (1 word)

**Task 2: Decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or the information was not given (NG).**

7. The WFFF has worked as a charity from its beginning. ....
8. Kate Mosse experienced unfair treatment when publishing her plays. ....
9. Prize acknowledgement has led to the development of various educational activities. ....
10. The award ceremony of the WFFF takes place twice a year. ....

..... / 10 pts

**V O C A B U L A R Y**

**Task 1: Fill each blank space in the article below with the correct form of the word in capital letters.**

**ELDORADO CANYON**

The entrance to Eldorado Canyon on the eastern edge of Colorado's Rocky Mountains is (1) ..... (**AWE**) in every sense of the world. On either side of me are vast towers of red sandstone, folded and cracked by (2) ..... (**IMAGINATION**) force into characteristic "flat iron" formations. The (3) ..... (**FAMILIAR**) of this picture rushed to meet me with the warmth of fond memories and I found myself smiling. In the old days, we would often head to Eldorado Canyon after work. With a picnic, we'd (4) ..... (**LUXURY**) in the last of the day's sun.

Crossing the bridge, I stop to watch the spring snow melt. I occasionally trip on some of the steeper rises. Watching my step, it is (5) ..... (**NOTE**) that these rocks have withstood the passage of 20 years (6) ..... (**ALTER**), while I certainly show the ravages of time. I recall how we talked about the pioneers who first made their way through these mountains, hoping to find a way to the golden promise of California. Their toil and (7) ..... (**HARD**) was a source of constant fascination for the kids, who grew up in the English countryside. The children spent hours playing *The Oregon Trail*, a computer game involving a (8) ..... (**HAZARD**) journey: broken wagon wheels, flash floods, and sick children.

..... / 8 pts

**Task 2: Are the following definitions of the underlined words correct or incorrect? Write C or I in the spaces provided.**

9. If the information is invaluable, it is of no importance. ....

10. If somebody is resilient, he/she is able to recover quickly from difficult conditions. ....

..... / 2 pts

..... / 10 pts

**G R A M M A R**

**Task 1: Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with one suitable word.**

**COPING WITH CHANGE**

EXAMPLE: (0) *can*

If you lean into the discomfort of change, you **(0)** ..... stretch, strengthen, and discover adventure in the unknown. Change happens to us all throughout our lives, and **(1)** ..... it's something many of us find difficult and remain fearful of. Whether it's forced **(2)** ..... us or something we plan **(3)** ....., change is unsettling and requires a degree of strength, flexibility, and action if we're going to gain something positive **(4)** ..... of it. In the past two years, we've all experienced change in **(5)** ..... most dramatic form. The pandemic showed us how something can happen and, in an instant, change life **(6)** ..... we know it. **(7)** ..... importantly, it showed us that we can adapt **(8)** ..... the most challenging of circumstances. Remember **(9)** ..... wearing a mask once felt so weird – yet now it feels strange to walk into a shop without one? And we also wondered how we would **(10)** ..... manage without going into the office or classroom – but we were soon using Zoom to do yoga, meet with colleagues, and socialise with friends? It's great to be able to go back to many of the things we missed, but you've probably found some of your new habits **(11)** ..... already stuck, demonstrating how change can lead to different opportunities. **(12)** ..... when change is unwanted and painful, we can find ourselves strengthening in ways we didn't know **(13)** ..... possible.

..... / 13 pts

**Task 2: Choose the correct answer. Underline one of the possibilities.**

- 14.** If you have any questions, please write to me at the above address. I can't ***guarantee you to reply / guarantee you replying / guarantee to reply*** immediately, but I will certainly write back before the end of the month.
- 15.** A video recording from a security camera at the bank was used in Thomas's trial. It clearly ***showed pointing / showed him pointing / showed him to point*** a gun at the cashier.

..... /2 pts

..... /15 pts

## LISTENING

## THE ECO INNOVATOR

*You will hear Laura Harnett, who launched Seep – an eco-household essentials brand in 2020. Fill in the missing words in the sentences below. You should use words from the story. The number of missing words is given in brackets.*

1. Laura was motivated to start her new household brand after she hadn't seen any ecological products in the ..... aisle of the shop. (2 words)
2. After doing some research, Laura had to discover ..... who would be able to develop eco versions of the product. (1 word)
3. *Bower Collective*, a sustainable ....., became Laura's first dealer. (3 words)
4. At the beginning, Laura and her daughter had to solve various issues such as ..... (2 words)
5. The aim of Laura's eco innovation is to enable people to ..... their ..... (3 words)

..... / 5 pts

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