

ΕΝΔΕΙΚΤΙΚΑ ΘΕΜΑΤΑ ΑΓΓΛΙΚΩΝ
για τις ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΙΚΕΣ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΕΙΣ
της Α' ΛΥΚΕΙΟΥ
ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟΥ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ – ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟΥ ΨΥΧΙΚΟΥ

READING COMPREHENSION AND LITERARY ANALYSIS

Read the following text carefully, and then answer the corresponding questions in complete sentences and in your own words on the lines provided.

One autumn I went to stay for the hunting season with some friends in a **chateau** in Picardy. My friends were fond of practical joking, as all my friends are. When I arrived, they gave me a generous reception, which at once aroused distrust in my breast.

I said to myself:

“Look out, old **ferret!** They have something in preparation for you.”

During the entire evening, everyone laughed in an exaggerated way. I smelled a practical joke in the air, as a dog smells **game**. But what was it? I was watchful, restless. I did not let a word or a meaning or a gesture escape me. Everyone seemed to me an object of suspicion.

When the hour came to go to bed, the whole household came to escort me to my room. I entered the apartment, shut the door, and remained standing, holding the wax candle in my hand. I glanced around the walls, the furniture, the ceiling, the hangings, the floor. I saw nothing to justify suspicion. I went over to the window. The large wooden **shutters** were open. I shut them with great care, and then drew the enormous velvet curtains, and placed a chair in front of them, so as to have nothing to fear from outside.

I cautiously sat down, coming to the conclusion that I was ridiculous. So I made up my mind to go to bed. But the bed was particularly suspicious-looking. I was going perhaps to receive a cold shower-bath from overhead, or perhaps find myself sinking under the floor with my mattress. I did not want to be caught. Ah! Certainly not! Certainly not!

Then I suddenly came up with a plan which I thought would be effective: I held the side of the mattress carefully, and very slowly drew it toward me. It came away, followed by the sheet and the rest of the bedclothes. I dragged all these objects into the middle of the room, facing the entrance door. I made my bed over again as best I could, keeping some distance from the suspected bedframe which had filled me with such anxiety. Then, I blew all the candles out and slipped under the bedclothes.

I must have been in a deep sleep for a long time when the thump of a heavy body crashing on mine awakened me. A burning liquid on my face, on my neck, and on my chest made me scream in pain. A dreadful noise, as if a tray full of plates and dishes had fallen down, penetrated my ears.

The noise brought my friends hurrying into the apartment, and we found, sprawling over my body, the **valet**, who, while bringing me my morning cup of tea, had tripped over this obstacle in the middle of the floor, and fallen on his stomach, spilling my breakfast over my face.

The precautions I had taken, closing the shutters and going to sleep in the middle of the room, caused exactly what I had been trying to avoid. Ah! How they all laughed that day!

Adapted from “An Uncomfortable Bed” by Guy de Maupassant

Glossary:

chateau: a large country house

ferret: a) a small animal used for hunting, b) an active and persistent searcher

game: wild animals or birds that are hunted for sport and sometimes cooked and eaten

shutters: wooden covers on the outside of a window that prevents light from going into a room

valet: male servant

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the narrator of the story expect to happen as soon as he arrives at the chateau?

2. Look at the two definitions of “ferret” in the glossary, and explain why the narrator describes himself that way.

3. What does the narrator find “uncomfortable” about his bed, and how does he solve this problem?

4. Identify and analyze a simile used in the text.

5. Discuss the main conflict presented in the text. Explain how it is resolved. Use evidence from the text to support your opinion.

2. George missed classes last week, and now he has trouble doing his Maths.

3. The weather is nice so we can have our picnic.

4. I didn't go to Jane's party on Saturday so I didn't meet her cousin from the US.

5. I can only come to the performance with you if you change the date.
Unless _____

Exercise C

Change the following statements from direct to indirect speech.

1. "The new disco is opening next week! I look forward to going there!" Susan said.

2. "I saw the doctor last week, but I still have a pain in my back," Dad complained.

3. "Do not touch this electric panel," the teacher warned his students.

4. "I haven't seen her answer to my email yet, but I'm afraid she's going to turn down the job offer again." the manager said.

5. "Students will be notified of exam results by email. This is our school policy." the Director announced.

Exercise D

Rewrite the sentences below using impersonal constructions in the passive voice or causative form. Begin as indicated.

1. The mechanic is fixing my car engine right now.

I _____

2. People believe Mr. Jones worked as a secret agent when he was young.
It _____

3. The workers replaced our air condition unit, but they haven't connected it to
the electrical supply yet.
We _____

4. People think that losing weight suddenly is dangerous for your health.
It _____

5. My dentist gave me a dental cleaning last week.
I _____