THE LIFE OF WILLIAM SHARP

William Sharp was a Scottish poet, novelist and autobiographer who was born in Paisley in 1855. The oldest of eight children, his father was a successful merchant and his mother was the daughter of the Swedish Vice Consul in Glasgow. He was a talented boy who read voraciously. During his teenage years, he became attracted to his cousin Elisabeth, a girl who shared many of his enthusiasms. They formed a bond friendship which led eventually to their engagement and marriage.

Educated at Glasgow Academy, he attended Glasgow University but left without a degree, travelling to Australia instead. After his arrival in London in 1878 he soon became a member of the circle of writers centred on Dante Rosetti. In London he was also a regular contributor to literary journals. He published biographies of Shelley and Browning and introduced popular editions of poetry.

He was the author of novels and several volumes of poetry. His novels included The Sport of Chance (1888) and The Children of Tomorrow (1889) and his volumes of poetry The Human Inheritance (1882) and Earth’s Voices (1884), among others. In later years he also wrote prose romances on Celtic themes, represented as being written by Fiona MacLeod. They include Pharais (1894) and The Mountain Lovers (1904), written just before his death.

More than a pen-name, Fiona MacLeod was his second literary personality. Sharp kept his identity with MacLeod a closely guarded secret. Almost nobody knew MacLeod’s real identity.

Sharp passed away in Sicily in 1905. Though he was a prolific and remarkable writer, much is still uncertain and undiscovered about William Sharp’s life.

Adapted from The Wordsworth Companion to Literature in English and <www.paisley.org.uk>

QUESTIONS

1. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer) Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer. NO marks are given for only true or false. NO marks are given for “V”.

1. Sharp used to read a lot when he was a boy.
   Evidence: “He was a talented boy who read voraciously.”

2. Elisabeth had much in common with Sharp.
   Evidence: “They formed a bond friendship which led eventually to their engagement and marriage.”

3. Sharp finished his studies at Glasgow University.
   Evidence: “Educated at Glasgow Academy, he attended Glasgow University but left without a degree, travelling to Australia instead.”

4. Many people knew MacLeod’s real identity.
   Evidence: “Almost nobody knew MacLeod’s real identity.”
II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS):
A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.
1. gifted.
2. ultimately.
3. topics.
4. died.

B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
1. Write a word from the text that includes the same sound as “years” /z/. (0.25)
2. How is the “th” pronounced in “enthusiasms”, /θ/ or /ð/? (0.25)
3. Is the “‐ed” pronounced /t/, /d/ or /ɪd/ in “formed”? (0.25)
4. Write a word from the text that includes the same sound as “just” /ʌ/. (0.25)

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:
1. “How long have you been working abroad?” she asked him.
   She asked him ……………………………………………………………………………………………………
2. My son is not tall enough to be a goalkeeper.
   My son ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………
3. If your son doesn’t study harder, he will fail.
   Unless …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
4. My girlfriend would rather stay at home than go to the movies.
   My girlfriend prefers ……………………………………………………………………………………………
5. Smoking is prohibited in the airport.
   People …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
6. Write the correct question for the underlined words.
   …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..?
   He’s living with his aunt at the moment.

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)
Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on the following topic:
Write about the best journey you have ever made (where you went to, who you went with, places you visited, etc.)
GOOD GRAMMAR MEANS MORE MONEY

Most people think big companies use grammar very well. Many people wondered about Apple’s use of grammar with its “Think Different” advertising campaign in the late 1990s. A new study shows that big companies make grammar mistakes. The proofreading website “Grammarly.com” looked at the writing of six of the world’s most famous companies. It found that they all made mistakes. Grammarly.com also found that the companies who made the fewest mistakes made the most money. It compared the comments made by the companies on the social network site LinkedIn.com. It looked at the spelling, grammar and punctuation errors in 400 words of text from each company.

Grammarly.com compared the mistakes made by Coke and Pepsi, Facebook and Google, and Ford and General Motors (GM). Grammarly.com found that Coke made four times fewer writing mistakes than Pepsi. Coke has a bigger share of the cola market than Pepsi. Google made nearly four times fewer mistakes than Facebook. It also makes a lot of money. Finally, GM made more mistakes than Ford, which is a more profitable company. It is likely that occasional grammar mistakes will make you not to buy a product. Brad Hoover, from Grammarly.com, said: “Accurate writing demonstrates professionalism, which is important for a company.”

Have you ever gone to a website to browse their products, only to find serious misspellings or an overuse of commas, or exclamation points? If advertisers working for a brand or company don’t even want to take the time to make sure the product is advertised correctly, then what faith should I have that the product is worth buying?

Adapted from <www.breakingnewsenglish>.com and <www.qualitylogoproducts.com>

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.
NO marks are given for only true or false. NO marks are given for “V”.

1. Grammarly.com found that the more mistakes the companies made, the more money they earned.

2. Ford is worse at making money than GM.

3. It is probable that customers buy from companies that make no grammar mistakes.

4. According to Hoover, correct writing is a characteristic of a true professional.
II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS):

A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.
1. research.
2. discovered.
3. almost.
4. excess.

B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
1. Write a word from the text that includes the same sound as “people” /i:/ (0.25)
2. How is the “sh” pronounced in “share”, /ʃ/ or /tʃ/? (0.25)
3. Write two words from the text that include the same sound as “times” /əɪ/ (0.5)

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:
1. They will publish her book next month.
   Her book ..............................................................
2. They live in an old house. It needs repairing.
   The old house ...........................................................
3. Sara was such a young girl that her brother didn’t leave her alone.
   Sara was .................................................................
4. He didn’t take his exam because he was ill.
   If .................................................................
5. The last time I was punished was two months ago.
   I have not ..............................................................
6. Write the correct question for the underlined words.
   .................................................................
   The new manager stayed three months in England.

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)
Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on the following topic:

Do you like going shopping? Why? Why not? What do you love and hate about going shopping?