



**I. READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)**

1. Dana Lowrey has known she was adopted for as long as she can remember. And for almost as long – about 30 years – she had been looking for what she calls her “first family”. She combed through country records, searched the online adoption registries and enlisted the help of reunion experts. On Jan. 10, she set up a Facebook page and asked friends to help her search. Within 24 hours, she was in touch with her birth mother, Mary Stark. And by Jan. 15, she had made contact with her biological dad, Kenny Morse.
2. In retrospect, Lowrey, a 41-year-old nurse, is not sure why it took her so long to use social networking sites to trace her birth parents. In 2008, she used MySpace to connect with the son, Tim Daugherty, she'd given up for adoption 19 years earlier.
3. For older adoptees like Lowrey, social networks came in handy to put together the puzzle of their backgrounds. But the methods Lowrey used could just as easily be employed by a curious adopted teenager or a birth mother who regrets giving up her child. This is raising concern among some adoptive parents and agencies. “We have not yet begun to wrap our mind around what the implications are,” says Adam Pertman, executive director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. He adds “You want to do this thoughtfully and methodically. With Facebook, you don't have any of that.”
4. Mindful of what can go wrong, several adoption agencies have issued advisories on how to handle social networking. The worst thing to do, they say, is to try to keep kids off the Web. “A smarter strategy is to keep an eye on children's online activities and help them understand the ramifications of finding their birth parents,” says Martha Henry, of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. “Parents should figure out what steps they can take to join that journey and try to create an environment where their kids feel safe to talk about it.”

TIME, August 16, 2010



## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

### 1. Tick (✓) the best option (1 mark)

The main idea of the text is that using social networks to find one's relatives is:

- a) a blessing for some and a source of trouble for others. ☐
- b) not allowed by many adoption organizations. ☐
- c) the safest way to carry out the search. ☐

### 2. Complete the table with the appropriate information from the text (4 marks)

Date	Event
.....	Dana started looking for her birth parents
.....	Dana gave up her son for adoption
2008	.....
.....	Dana set up a Facebook page

### 3. Dana used social networks to search for her birth parents and child. Who else is likely to use the same means for the same purpose ? (2 marks)

- a) .....
- b) .....

### 4. Tick (✓) the two (2) pieces of advice given by the Adoption Agencies to adoptive parents. (2 marks)

- a) Adoptive parents shouldn't get involved in the way their children use social networks. ☐
- b) They should explain to their children the implications of finding their birth parents. ☐
- c) They should not allow their children to use social networks. ☐
- d) They should participate in the search. ☐

### 5. Say what the underlined word in the text refers to. (1 mark)

- it (paragraph 4) refers to .....

### 6. Find, in the text, words / expressions that mean nearly the same as : (2 marks)

- a) examined carefully : (paragraph 1) .....
- b) deal with something by doing what is necessary : (paragraph 4) .....