



I - READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

1. Anna Sheppard can't stop a proud smile creeping across her face. After seven months of dedication, her efforts have paid off. Mary, 10, the little girl Anna has been mentoring, has just received glowing praise from her school. It is a testament to the success both of Anna and the mentoring programme organised by Chance UK. Established 11 years ago, the organisation has transformed the lives of vulnerable or disruptive children ever since. "They pair a volunteer like me with a child who's having trouble at home or school," explains Anna.

"Then, for a year, you meet for a few hours to go swimming or have days out."

2. The main focus of the programme is having fun, rather than doing homework. Chance wants to let children escape their routine to see beyond their usual boundaries. "I approached it wanting to share my world with Mary. I'm into art and visiting places, so I wanted her to realise what else was out there, too," says Anna, who is an archivist for an art college. "Instead of sitting around bored and getting into trouble, I've tried to show her other things to do."

3. They've come a long way since their first meeting in wintry London Park last November. Mary was wary," remembers Anna. "It's not surprising. I was a stranger, and she had just joined her foster family." And it wasn't only Mary finding her way; although Anna, who has no children of her own, was committed to mentoring, she was unsure what the programme would bring. "I was positive about the difference it made, but even so, I worried. It meant giving up every Saturday for a year." But after a few tentative meetings, their Saturday afternoon slot became a date she looked forward to. "I'm really glad I met Anna," says Mary.

4. But this November, when the year of mentoring is up, Anna and Mary will part company. It's policy that mentoring only lasts 12 months, before the child becomes attached or dependent. "I'll miss Mary. I never realised I'd feel so proud of her now. I began the programme wanting to teach Mary new things. But seeing how positive she's become and how well she's adapted, I think it's been her teaching me," says Anna.

Adapted from Woman's Own, August 21 st, 2006



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Read the text and tick the correct alternative. (2 marks)

- a – The text is : ☐ descriptive ☐ argumentative ☐ expository
- b – The text is mainly about :
☐ school life ☐ supporting children in need ☐ providing food and shelter for orphans.

2) Complete the table with information about the organisation. (5 marks)

Name	Objectives of the programme	Duration of the programme	Children who benefit from the programme
Chance UK	a – b –	c –	d – e –

3) Correct the following false statements with details from the text. (3 marks)

- a – Mary lives with her real parents. (paragraph 3)

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- b – Anna works full-time with the organisation. (paragraph 2)

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- c – Mary and Anna meet daily. (paragraph 3)

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4) What does the underlined word in paragraph 3 refer to ? (1 mark)

it (paragraph 3) refers to

5) Find in the text words that approximately mean (3 marks)

- a – rewarding (paragraph 1) :

- b – prudent (paragraph 3) :

- c – separate (paragraph 4) :

6) What would happen if the mentoring period were longer ? (1 mark)

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