



## A. READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

### THE TEXT

1. Since I started going there in 3rd grade, I was the only deaf child at Blue Creek Elementary School in the small and quiet town of Latham, New York. From almost the first day there, the other kids taunted me and called me names mainly because of my hearing aid and the way I talked. I remember thinking, 'What have I done wrong?' I experienced great anxiety throughout Elementary School because, in addition to the problems of 'fitting in' with the other students, I also struggled mightily with most of my school work.

2. My hearing disability required me to constantly ask everyone, 'What did he/she say?' I worried that everyone would soon grow tired of repeating everything back to me. Fitting in was so important to me that every time people around me laughed or smiled, I did the same even though I usually had no idea what was going on.

3. When the kids made fun of me, I internalized all of it. I was sure I was a bad person; I felt I deserved their sneer. Although on the surface, I was a sociable, outgoing and 'happy-go-lucky,' in reality, my self-esteem was quite low. Mrs. Jordan, my fifth grade teacher, changed all of that with a simple three-word phrase. One morning, she asked the class a question.

4. I read her lips from my front-row seat and immediately raised my hand. I couldn't believe it— for once I knew the answer. But, when she called on me, I was afraid. Here was an opportunity to impress the powerful teacher and show her I was worthy of her love. Maybe even impress my classmates a little. I didn't want to blow it. Despite my fears, I felt uncharacteristically confident because — for once— I was sure I had the right answer. I took a deep breath and nervously answered Mrs. Jordan's question. I will never forget what happened next.

5. Her response was explosive. It startled all of us. Mrs. Jordan enthusiastically slammed her right foot on the floor and moved her right finger quickly in a full circle until it pointed at me. With sparkling eyes and a wide smile she cried, 'THAT'S RIGHT STEPHEN!'

6. I decided right then and there that I would make a place for myself in this world. No matter how many obstacles I might encounter in life, I knew I could overcome them. A simple three-word phrase delivered with incredible enthusiasm had totally transformed my young life. 'THAT'S RIGHT STEPHEN!'

By Stephen J. Hopson

Abridged from: [WWW.MotivateUs.com](http://WWW.MotivateUs.com)



## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Complete the table with the appropriate details from par.1. (3 marks)

Name	Stephen
Nationality	American
Physical disability	a. ....
Problems at Elementary School	b. ....
	c. ....

2) The following statements are false. Correct them with details from the text. (2 marks)

a. Stephen reacted violently when other pupils made fun of him.(par.3)

.....

b. Stephen answered the teacher's question without permission .( par.4)

.....

3) Read the list below and complete the table with 4 (four) adjectives that best describe Stephen. ( 4 marks)

Faithful/ anxious/ irresponsible/ determined/ self-confident/ insecure/ stubborn

Before answering the teacher's question	After answering the teacher's question
a. ....	a. ....
b. ....	b. ....

4) Find words in the text meaning the same as.( 3 marks)

a. Upset/made angry (par.1).....

b. Unpleasant look, smile or comment (par.3).....

c. Hit with force (par.5).....

5) What do the following underlined words in the text refer to? (2 marks)

a. the same (par.2) refers to .....

b. them (par.6) refers to .....

6) Give a personal justified answer to the following question. (1 mark)

Do you think Stephen's parents were right when they sent him to an ordinary school?  
Why or why not?

In my opinion, Stephen's parents.....

..... because.....

.....