Reading Comprehension Summer week 3 Year 5

The Train to Impossible Places

by P.G. Bell

It started with a flash.

A green flash, as bright and quick as lightning, there and then gone again. It happened so quickly that Suzy wasn't sure she had seen anything at all, although she raised her head from her homework and looked about.

"What was that?" she asked.

"What was what, darling?" said her mother from the sofa, where she and Suzy's father were both sprawled in a heap, still in their work clothes.

Suzy frowned. "Did you see it, Dad?"

"See what, sweetheart?" Her father was hunched over his

"That green flash. Didn't either of you see it?"

"Hmmmm," said her mother, shaking her braids loose whilst trying to stifle an enormous yawn.

Her father looked around the room in bleary-eyed confusion. "I didn't notice anything."

Suzy pressed her lips together. Perhaps it had been the TV? She peered over her mother's shoulder at the screen, but she was watching another costume drama – men with tall hats riding on horses in the countryside. No green flashes there.

"You've been overdoing the homework again," said her father, scratching at his unruly mop of ginger hair. "Give your eyes a rest and come and sit with us for a bit."

"I'm almost finished," Suzy said, and turned back to her workbook.

1. What does the word "sprawled" mean? **(V – 1 mark)**
2. What colour was the green flash? **(R – 1 mark)**
3. Select two phrases which show the parents are tired **(R – 2 marks)**
4. Find a synonym in the text for uncontrollable **(V/R – 1 mark)**
5. Do you think Suzy likes homework? Explain your answer **(I/E – 2 marks)**

Malala Yousafzai

by Lisa Williamson

Introduction

When: 9th October 2012
Where: Mingora, Swat Valley, Pakistan

Malala was in a good mood travelling home from school. She was pretty sure she'd aced the morning's exam and was looking forward to a chilled-out afternoon at home.

She was having a giggle with her best friend, Moniba, when **the school bus stopped suddenly**. A young man was standing in the road in front of it. He wore long white robes and a baseball cap. 'Is this the Khushal School bus?' he asked.

Another young man jumped onto the back of the bus and leaned in. A hush fell over the girls as both men glared at them. Her heart hammering in her chest, Malala found Moniba's hand and gave it a squeeze. Around twenty girls were crammed onto the hard plastic benches and they stared back, stunned, as the men scanned the bus.

'Who is Malala?' the second man asked gruffly. No one answered his question, but a few of the girls glanced in Malala's direction before they could stop themselves. Then the same man **raised a pistol** for all the girls to see.

Malala froze with fear.

1. Where is Malala from? (R – 1 mark)
2. "...she was pretty sure she'd aced the morning's exam". What does this mean? (E – 1 mark)
3. How was Malala feeling? Explain (I – 2 marks)
4. "A hush fell over the girls..." What does this mean? (E – 1 mark)
5. Find a synonym in the text for "searched" (V – 1 mark)