



Because this is the language which is spoken all over the world. If you speak English you can keep in contact with the friends you met during the summer; you are able to use a computer; you can understand the texts of your favourite songs and read the English article about the Take That. In other words, you feel a citizen of the world. Welcome.

Where is Mary Poppins

A COCKTAIL OF MAGIC

You all know the seven fairy tales I used to build this funny story. Could you name them?

There was once a prince who wished to marry a princess, but a real princess she had to be. So he travelled all the world over to find one; yet, in every case something was wrong.

First he met a little tiny girl, who slept in a walnut shell; she lay on a mattress of deep-blue violet petals, and a rose petal was her eiderdown. She was graceful and delicate as a fairy but she was no more than a thumb-joint high, too small for him.

The prince travelled on to a delightful country and stopped at an old manor house surrounded by a moat. There he saw a duck; she sat on her nest and waited for her ducklings to hatch out. At last, the eggs began to crack, one after another. But one egg was taking a dreadfully long time and eventually, when the young one tumbled out, how

big and ugly he was!

Then the prince passed through a forest and met seven little men called Doc, Happy, Sneezzy, Dopey, Grumpy, Bashful

and Sleepy: they lived in a tiny cottage, just like a doll's house, and worked in a mine full of precious stones.

When he left the dwarfs, the prince travelled until he reached a castle, in a faraway land. The castle seemed deserted and he stumbled inside.

There the prince was greeted by Mrs. Potts the teapot, Cogsworth the mantelclock, and Lumiere the candelabra. But before he had time to marvel over these strange creatures, an even stranger one appeared, the Beast.

One night, the prince was resting on a shore and during a terrible storm, when lightning flashed, he saw a little mermaid save a young man, who would certainly have drowned, if she had not helped him. She held his head above the water and let the waves carry the two of them where they would.

One day, the prince paid a visit to a king and he was invited to the ball, the king gave for his son, another prince, in order to find him a wife.

A beautiful princess danced with the king's son all the evening and they had a



wonderful time but, at midnight, without a word she ran from the ballroom, down the long palace hall, and out the door. One of her little glass slippers flew off, but she did not stop.

Next morning, when our prince left the palace, the other prince was very sad.

At last, the prince decided to go back home, though he had not found a real princess he could marry.

One evening, there was a fearful storm and in the midst of it all someone knocked at the palace door: standing there was a princess. The water ran down her hair and her clothes, through the tips of her shoes and out at the heels. Still, she said she was a real princess. The old Queen knew that if she could feel a pea through twenty eiderdowns and twenty mattresses, then, she was a real princess.

And indeed she was, as she could not sleep the whole night long. So, the prince and the princess got married and lived happily ever after.

Antonella Ferri



«BARREL CHILDREN»

Jamaica is a beautiful isle in the Caribbean Sea: those who can, go there to spend their holidays. To swim in warm, blue water, among multicoloured fish, or to sunbathe on splendid beaches, drinking fresh and exotic cocktails. It certainly looks like paradise.

But nearly 30 percent of all Jamaicans now live in the United States. Unfortunately, a great number of the Jamaican mothers and fathers who live in America had to leave their children in Jamaica. They're forced to make such a choice, because they simply can't keep themselves and their children there. Very often, these people are illegal immigrants, which means they have to hide and accept any kind of work they can find, living in miserable places.

In the last few years, women too have left Jamaica in order to try and provide for their children. So the children are sent to live with relatives or friends but, of course, they suffer and miss their families very much.

There is only one compensation for this long absence and that is a barrel filled with food, clothes, photographs or cash. Children spend their lives waiting for the barrel and dreaming of the day they'll be able to join their parents in the USA.

A pair of Nike Air athletic shoes or a pair of fashionable jeans, which are not so expensive in America, cost about half the average monthly salary in Jamaica. For this reason Jamaican children adore them. To possess these things makes them feel important, rich. So, after they've emptied the «barrel of wishes», they may hang on it for months, as if the barrel was Aladdin's lamp; a sort of flying carpet on which to fly away.

But, what happens to these children, apart from the barrels, in everyday life? 60 percent of them become delinquent teenagers; they turn to drugs, gangs and premature sexual relationships, ending up with teenage pregnancy.

Sometimes, they are neglected, beaten, abused by their own guardians, who are only interested in the money sent from the parents.

Anyway, the children don't stop hoping: they think all their problems will be solved when they go to America. But five, six, seven years pass and still the papers aren't ready, they can't leave. If their parents are illegal immigrants, the chances of leaving are almost non-existent.

So, while waiting, «barrel children» become obsessed with status-symbols and one particular make of T-shirt is what they expect and what they think they deserve from their «American» parents.

While waiting because, in spite of everything, dreams die hard.

A. F.



THE VASE OF WORKS

In this vase there are 30 words. Can you arrange them into ten groups, with three words having something in common in the same group.

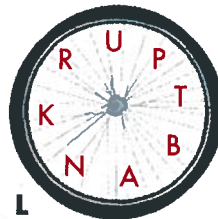
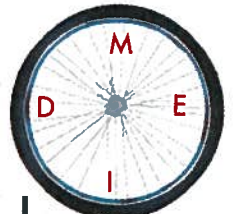
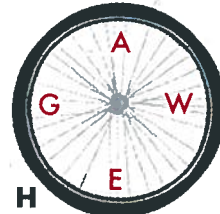
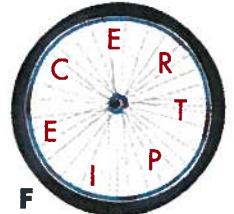
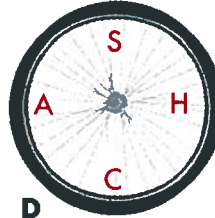
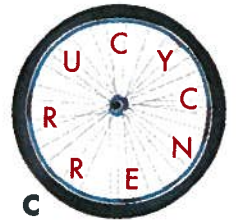
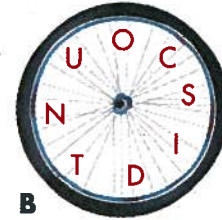
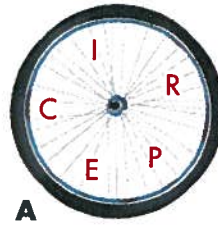


WATERING CAN NEW ZELAND
 SNOW HYENA STALK OVEN
 KETTLE DRUM TOM-TOM
 JACKAL WASHING MACHINE
 CAT GLACIER HYPOTENUSE
 CHINESE SEGMENT CHILE
 SEGMENT SEPALS WOLF
 LANGUAGE STAMENS DOG
 DISHWASHER SHEARS
 GOLDFISH POLYGLOT SQUARE
 TAMBOURINE TROWEL
 GOLDFISH MALAYSIA

KEY . 1) Watering can, shears, trowel. 2) Hyena, Zeland, Chile.
 Language, polyglot, chinese. 10) Malaysia, New
 sepals, stamens. 8) Square, segment, hypotenuse. 9)
 glacier, mountain. 6) Dog, cat, goldfish. 7) Stalk,
 Washing machine, dishwasher, oven. 5) Snow,
 jackal, wolf. 3) Kettle drum, tom-tom, tambourine. 4)

MONEY WHEELS

If you begin at the right letter in the bicycle wheel, you will find ten words all connected with money.



KEY - A (price), B (discount), C (currency), D (cash), E (coin), F (receipt), G (pound), H (wage), I (dime), L (bankrupt)

TRUE OR FALSE

TEST YOURSELF and see which level you can reach. Every right answer, mark 1. Yes, you can use the dictionary: it depends on how curious you are, of course.

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1) HOMAGE | it's an old man | True? • False? |
| 2) INSET | a small animal | True? • False? |
| 3) LEMUR | a monkey | True? • False? |
| 4) NET | a coin | True? • False? |
| 5) QUACK | a cheese | True? • False? |
| 6) RHUBARB | a garden plant | True? • False? |
| 7) SNAPDRAGON | another garden plant | True? • False? |
| 8) ORE | a rock | True? • False? |
| 9) NAIL | a fish | True? • False? |
| 10) DEW | a fruit | True? • False? |
| 11) CRAWL | a bird | True? • False? |
| 12) CATKIN | an animal | True? • False? |
| 13) CATGUT | a strong cord | True? • False? |
| 14) BUDDY | a cake | True? • False? |
| 15) ARCHERY | a sport | True? • False? |

KEY - 1) False. 2) False. 3) True. 4) False. 5) False. 6) True. 7) True. 8) True. 9) False. 10) False. 11) False. 12) False. 13) True. 14) False. 15) True.