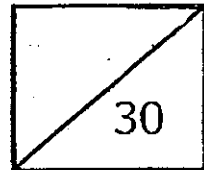




Rosyth School  
Continual Assessment 1  
2008  
English Language Paper 2  
Primary 6

Total Marks:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: Pr 6 - \_\_\_\_\_ Register No. \_\_\_\_\_

Total Duration for Booklets A & B: 1 h 50 min

Date: 18 February 2008 Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Booklet A

### Instructions to Pupils:

1. Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.
2. Read the questions and follow all the instructions carefully.
3. This booklet consists of 30 questions (Questions 1 to 30).
4. Answer ALL the questions and shade them in the correct ovals on the OAS provided

\* This booklet consists of 8 pages altogether.

Study the advertisement and answer Q 1 to Q 5. (5 marks)



## THE ESPLANADE PRESENTS A MONTH OF CHINESE FESTIVAL OF ARTS!

Enjoy a diverse spread of music, theatre, dance and a host of free outdoor performances by local and foreign artistes.



### THE WEDDING OF THE MICE

(6-8 Feb)

directed by our very own famous  
Taiyuan Puppet Theatre Company

In this charming tale of love and courage, the mice take centre stage to overcome the odds. It is based on a Taiwanese folklore. A sure delight for the family.

### MAHJONG ECLIPSE

(17- 21 Feb).

by Chen Li Drama Studio

A play filled with intrigue and suspense about a mahjong game that leads to the mysterious disappearance of the fourth player. It will keep you on the edge of your seat. (A special appearance by our very own artiste, Fann Wong and Taiwanese actress)

### THE LAST NIGHT OF TAIPIN JIN

(12-15 Feb)

by Xie Jin Culture

Relive the sights and sounds of old Shanghai through the life of Taipin Jin as she relates her glory days as a dance hostess. Special Appearance by China Golden Horse Actress: Gong Li

### Longhouse

(23-25 Feb)

by Theatre Ensemble

How do family lies stand the test of time in this age of complex human relationships? A play that explores the meaning of family values.

### Special Promotion for NTUC Card Members!

Present your NTUC  
Card to enjoy 30%  
savings on your  
ticket purchase.  
(\*Limited to only 2  
tickets per member)

### Book Now!

Sistic Hotline: 1800 745 7789

Tickets from SISTIC authorized agents.

Bookings of 20 or more, call 6828 7756

A Sistic booking fee applies for all tickets.

Email to:

[liping@hotmail.com.sg](mailto:liping@hotmail.com.sg), for further enquiries.

Sponsored by NTUC, OCBC, Chinese Chamber of Commerces  
Official Mediation: ArtsCentral)

For each question from 1 to 5, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

1. The advertisement is promoting the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) Esplanade
  - (2) NTUC Card
  - (3) foreign talents
  - (4) Chinese Festival of Arts
  
2. Which one of the performances is based on folklore?
  - (1) Longhouse
  - (2) Mahjong Eclipse
  - (3) The Wedding of the Mice
  - (4) The Last Night of Taipan Jin
  
3. The performances from the 6 February to 25 February will feature \_\_\_\_\_ foreign artiste(s).
  - (1) one
  - (2) two
  - (3) three
  - (4) four
  
4. Which one of the following statements is **NOT** true about the advertisement?
  - (1) The Wedding of the Mice is a puppet show.
  - (2) This event is sponsored by three organizations.
  - (3) Longhouse is a very touching play about family values.
  - (4) NTUC members enjoy a 30% discount on all their ticket purchases.
  
5. Mrs Tan wants to take a class of 40 students to watch 'The Wedding of the Mice'. She should go about getting the tickets by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) calling 68287756
  - (2) calling SISTiC hotline
  - (3) purchasing the tickets online
  - (4) purchasing them from SISTIC authorised agents.

For each question from 6 to 12, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

6. Jane explained that her teacher \_\_\_\_\_ to her mother that morning.
- (1) speaks
  - (2) will speak
  - (3) has spoken
  - (4) had spoken
7. Neither the twins nor Amanda \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the meeting tomorrow.
- (1) want
  - (2) wants
  - (3) is wanting
  - (4) have wanted
8. The little girl, \_\_\_\_\_ my mother was talking to, is my neighbours' child.
- (1) who
  - (2) which
  - (3) whom
  - (4) whose
9. John \_\_\_\_\_ from school by his father every day.
- (1) fetch
  - (2) fetches
  - (3) is fetched
  - (4) has fetched
10. Father made Sherry and \_\_\_\_\_ wash the car.
- (1) I
  - (2) me
  - (3) mine
  - (4) myself
11. Some money was stolen in the class yesterday and the teacher is looking \_\_\_\_\_ the matter.
- (1) into
  - (2) about
  - (3) against
  - (4) through

12. She tidies up the room \_\_\_\_\_ her mother did not tell her to do so.

- (1) if
- (2) since
- (3) unless
- (4) although

For each question from 13 to 15, choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (3 marks)

It had not rained for several weeks. The river became dry. Two sparrows told Baba, the tortoise, to move over to the river at the next mountain.

"How am I able to travel so far?" asked Baba (13) "You can fly but I do not have wings."

The two sparrows took pity on the tortoise and decided to take him with them.

"I wonder how you can do that (14) said the tortoise. The sparrows weaved a net out of weeds for him to sit in. They would carry the net while they flew. What good ideas they had

(15) Baba was very touched by their kind gesture.

13. (1) [ : ] colon  
(2) [ , ] comma  
(3) [ . ] full stop  
(4) [ ! ] exclamation mark
14. (1) [ : " ] colon and inverted commas  
(2) [ , " ] comma and inverted commas  
(3) [ . " ] full stop and inverted commas  
(4) [ ? " ] question mark and inverted commas
15. (1) [ : ] colon  
(2) [ , ] comma  
(3) [ ? ] question mark  
(4) [ ! ] exclamation mark

For each question from 16 to 20, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

16. She \_\_\_\_\_ through the drawers to find the ring she had lost but it could not be found.

- (1) scoured
- (2) scrambled
- (3) ransacked
- (4) rummaged

17. Many commuters were late for work this evening when train services were \_\_\_\_\_ by an accident.

- (1) disturbed
- (2) interfered
- (3) disrupted
- (4) interrupted

18. The old woman lost all her life savings by falling for the \_\_\_\_\_ tricks of her wayward son.

- (1) gullible
- (2) deceitful
- (3) dishonest
- (4) fraudulent

19. The black rhino, which is an endangered species, is \_\_\_\_\_ to Africa.

- (1) remote
- (2) ingenious
- (3) dangerous
- (4) indigenous

20. The suggestion raised by the team member was promptly \_\_\_\_\_ by the leader.

- (1) overruled
- (2) overthrown
- (3) overwhelmed
- (4) overshadowed

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined words. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

Some Cambodian monks were shocked by the strange present- a cow with two  
(21)  
extra legs. The farmer who donated the animal feared that her extra set of legs would  
(22)  
bring him bad luck.

The two month old calf, which has a name that means "Strange" in the Khmer  
Language, is being cared for by monks at the pagoda near the Cambodian capital, Phnom  
Penh. In addition, it has another two legs hanging from its neck.  
(23)

Some locals in this heavily superstitious country have been treating the calf with  
(24)  
some caution. They fear the presence of the extra legs could mean that the animal is  
cursed and are afraid to get too close to it.  
(25)

21. (1) funny  
(2) awkward  
(3) unusual  
(4) excellent
22. (1) spare  
(2) duplicate  
(3) additional  
(4) supplementary
23. (1) However  
(2) Moreover  
(3) Therefore  
(4) Nevertheless
24. (1) natives  
(2) citizens  
(3) residents  
(4) inhabitants
25. (1) unlucky  
(2) disastrous  
(3) unfortunate  
(4) inauspicious

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

Man unintentionally endangers the lives of animals because of his intentions to improve his environment. (By clearing forests to build dams, power plants, bridges and roads, Man drives away many wild animals from their natural habitats, thus destroying the lives of many of these animals.) Man also deliberately kills animals for their fur and skin to make coats, jackets, bags and suitcases. Animals are killed for their horns or tusks either for souvenirs or decorative purposes. These rare products are also being sold illegally at a high value in the black market. 5

There are people who are concerned about Man's irresponsible actions and are doing something about it. One such man is John Walsh, who works with the World Society for the Protection of Animals. (WSPA). For over 25 years, the organisation has become known as being often the first and sometimes the only organization that will go to the heart of disaster to save the lives of animals. Mr Walsh and his crews hike for days over mountains and sleep in tents deep in the jungles. He even stays on top of floating ice blocks in the Arctic. 10

This aspect of WSPA's work can be traced back in a landmark project undertaken almost 30 years ago. In 1964, an area of 600 square miles of rain forest was flooded during the construction of hydroelectric dam in Suriname, South America. The government asked Mr Walsh to save the jungle animals from drowning. The project 'Operation Gwanba' marked the first of countless disaster relief missions for WSPA. Mr Walsh and his crew of thirty men directed the successful rescue of almost 10,000 animals from the rising waters. Many of these animals were already on the list of endangered animals. If killed in great numbers, their kind would face extinction. It is one of the biggest animal relocations ever undertaken by WSPA. 15

WSPA's trained and experienced rescue teams often act as a catalyst to establish an organised and local response. In situations where animals are in desperate need of help, WSPA works with the aid of international network. This can range from working alongside local vets to provide badly needed medicines and supplies for treating injured animals, to distributing food and water to desperately starving and dehydrated animals. Hence, his work is indeed exciting but dangerous. Some of the adventures include having the tip of his finger almost bitten off by a three-inch long piranha. Poisonous snakes crept into the tents of his crew almost causing their lives. However, he was still full of determination to complete his tasks. He travels everywhere to help wild animals. As such mankind benefits because there are people like John Walsh around who spends his life with a pure intention of saving the endangered animals. 25

Adapted from:  
Disaster Relief-World Society

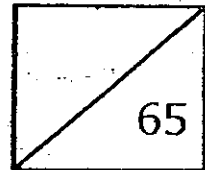


26. The building of dams, bridges and roads, \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) eliminated food sources
  - (2) ruined living environment
  - (3) changed breeding habits
  - (4) minimised movements of animals
27. "it" in line 8 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) the responsible actions of humans
  - (2) the endangerment of the environment
  - (3) people's concern for the environment
  - (4) the World Society for the Protection of Animals
28. 'Operation Gwanba' was a successful mission as \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) it was WSPA landmark project
  - (2) it resulted in the construction of the hydroelectric dam
  - (3) 10,000 animals were reallocated to a new environment
  - (4) it ensures the continuity of survival of threatened species
29. The word 'catalyst' in line 24 refers to WSPA \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) actions in project "Operation Gwanba."
  - (2) crew going to far off places to rescue animals.
  - (3) efforts to stop Man from destroying the environment.
  - (4) working together with local and international organisation.
30. A suitable title for the passage is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) Man's Selfish Act
  - (2) The work of WSPA
  - (3) Endangered Species
  - (4) Autobiography of John Walsh

-----End of Booklet A-----



Rosyth School  
Continual Assessment 1  
2008  
English Language Paper 2  
Primary 6



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Marks:

Class: Pr 6 – \_\_\_\_\_ Register No. \_\_\_\_\_

Total Duration for Booklets A & B: 1 h 50 min

Date: 18 February 2008 Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Booklet B

### Instructions to Pupils:

1. Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.
2. Read the questions and follow all the instructions carefully.
3. This booklet consists of 50 questions (Questions 31 to 80).
4. **Answer ALL the questions and write all the answers in this booklet.**

\* This booklet consists of 8 pages altogether.

This paper is not to be reproduced in part or whole without the permission of the Principal.

There are 10 blanks, numbered 31 to 40, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

**EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.**

---

- |                     |                     |                        |                      |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <del>(A)</del> to   | <del>(D)</del> of   | <del>(G)</del> had     | <del>(K)</del> by    | <del>(N)</del> as   |
| <del>(B)</del> in   | <del>(E)</del> but  | <del>(H)</del> has     | <del>(L)</del> at    | <del>(P)</del> the  |
| <del>(C)</del> some | <del>(F)</del> then | <del>(J)</del> however | <del>(M)</del> which | <del>(Q)</del> than |
- 

Many wildlife animals are now endangered. The panda population in China (31) \_\_\_\_\_ declined rapidly and it is now regarded (32) \_\_\_\_\_ one of the most endangered animals (33) \_\_\_\_\_ the world. Their existence is constantly threatened (34) \_\_\_\_\_ poachers and hunters. Their fur can be sold at a high price in the border towns of China and Tibet. Rapid development of (35) \_\_\_\_\_ countryside has also destroyed large areas of bamboo forests (36) \_\_\_\_\_ have long been the pandas' home.

The Chinese government is currently trying to protect the pandas by transferring them to zoos and wildlife reserves. (37) \_\_\_\_\_, these attempts are not so successful because pandas are extremely difficult (38) \_\_\_\_\_ breed in captivity. Many panda cubs are born (39) \_\_\_\_\_ few survive. At this rate, pandas are being wiped out faster (40) \_\_\_\_\_ they can be replaced and will face extinction.

Correct each word in **bold** for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box. (10 marks)

A long, long time ago, mosquitoes did not buzz, they talked. One day, Mosquito

(41)

was telling Iguana about his **vakashen**. Mosquito would not let Iguana say one word.

(42)

Iguana was so **iritated** that he walked away, leaving Mosquito still talking. Iguana

(43)

grumbled and waved her tail. She was still grumbling when she past her friend Snake

(44)

and forgot all about saying hello. Snake's feelings are hurt. He felt so sad that he

(45)

**sleathered** down a rabbit hole.

(46)

"Help," yelled Rabbit as she **scarried** out of the hole, terrified of Snake. "What's

(47)

wrong?" cawed Crow as he saw Rabbit raced across the field. Danger must be near. "Run for your lives!

(48)

cawed Crow. Monkey heard Crow's warning and took off, swinging towards branch

to branch. When Monkey landed on Owl's branch, Owl's nest tipped off the branch and

(49)

fallen to the ground, breaking Owl's eggs. Owl was so heartbroken that she did not

hoot for the sun to come up. The whole jungle was in darkness. Everyone was mad at

Mosquito. Finally Owl hooted for the sun to come up and when it did, Mosquito had lost

~~his~~

(50)

voice. All he should do was buzz in everyone's ears, "Zzzzzz! Is everyone still mad at

me?"

Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (15 marks)

According to the Chinese zodiac, we will (51) \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of the Rat very soon. But I would like to think of 2008 as the Year of the Frog. The frog will not be replacing the rat during Chinese New Year celebrations (52) \_\_\_\_\_ it has been singled out. Several international conservation groups have designated 2008 as the Year of the Frog. Their objectives are to (53) \_\_\_\_\_ public awareness and to breed selected frog species in (54) \_\_\_\_\_ so that they have a higher chance of survival in a protected environment.

In the last three decades, over one hundred (55) \_\_\_\_\_ of frogs have become extinct and about one-third of them are threatened. The most likely causes of the decline in the frog population can be traced to a combination of factors, (56) \_\_\_\_\_ as climatic change.

You may ask, "So what if a species of frog becomes extinct?" When any kind of indigenous frog disappears entirely, an important part of the ecosystem is removed, leaving a gap (57) \_\_\_\_\_ may not be filled by any other animal, resulting in an imbalance in nature. (58) \_\_\_\_\_, when a frog is declared extinct from any country, its name is "struck off the register" and this is an irreversible loss of a natural heritage.

Frogs, as well as salamanders, have another "magic trick" up their (59) \_\_\_\_\_. After a sustained injury resulting in the loss of arms or legs, some species have the amazing (60) \_\_\_\_\_ to regenerate an entire lost limb, complete with fingers or toes.

In our human-centred world, we often ask (61) \_\_\_\_\_, "What can we get from Nature that will benefit our society?" For a change, I believe we (62) \_\_\_\_\_ ask what we can do for Nature. The humble amphibians of Planet Earth have been (63) \_\_\_\_\_ far longer than we have and they have every right to continue their existence here. (64) \_\_\_\_\_ frogs cannot speak for themselves, I am glad to have been a small voice for some of my favourite friends.

Let's get our hands wet and do something to (65) \_\_\_\_\_ them from the brink of extinction. These animals should be preserved for the well-being of humans today, as well as for future generations.

*Adapted from Straits Times  
Written by Leong Tzi Ming  
Zoologist, NUS*

For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentences, using the words provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

66 The hijackers threatened to blow up the aircraft if their demands were not met.

\_\_\_\_\_ unless

\_\_\_\_\_

67 Marie said, "I donated some money to the World Wildlife Fund last month to save the Black Rhino."

Marie said \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

68 Peter is going to attend a conservation talk conducted by the park rangers. Peter's neighbours are also going to attend a conservation talk conducted by the park rangers.

Peter as well as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

69 Nobody told them about the fund-raising campaign for the tsunami victims.

They \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

70 Raymond has not returned the books to the library. He will be fined.

\_\_\_\_\_ if

\_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80. (20 marks)

Jeremy gripped the side of the passenger basket and looked straight up into the neck of the towering balloon.

"Ready?" asked the pilot. He squeezed the blast valve of the fuel tank with his gloved hand. A column of blue flame shot up into the balloon, heating the air inside. The basket lifted, then strained against two short ropes that held it firmly to the ground. A third rope which is the safety line lay coiled like a snake on the ground. One end was knotted securely to a metal stake driven deep into the ground and the other to the basket. From behind the safety fence, Jeremy's mother called to him, "Hold on to your sister's hand. She might be scared."

Jeremy slipped his hand over Kate's. His daredevil sister wouldn't be afraid and his mother knew it. Jeremy had always been the one who was afraid of thrill rides. Leon and Richie had wanted him to ride the roller-coaster with them, but the Crazy-8 was the scariest ride at the carnival. Just looking at it made his palms sweaty. "I can't. I have to take Kate on the balloon," he fibbed. But he knew he hadn't fooled anyone.

The pilot unhooked the two anchor ropes from the sides of the basket. Kate smiled happily and grabbed Jeremy's hand as the balloon began to rise into the air. As they rose, the knotted end of the safety line that connected them to the ground began to come undone.

"The safety line is loose!" exclaimed the pilot. He lunged for the end of the rope which was disappearing over the side of the basket. Suddenly a powerful gust of wind buffeted the balloon and almost knocked Jeremy and Kate off their feet. Jeremy steadied himself and glanced up just in time to see the pilot's legs flip over the edge of the basket and fall to the ground. The pilot lay on the ground, holding his arm and grimacing in pain.

"Just hold on," he told Kate, trying not to panic. The wind swept the balloon up and away. Jeremy watched the tallest loop of the Crazy-8 slipped beneath them as they drifted out toward the countryside. His stomach felt like a swooping kite.

Kate began to scream. Jeremy pulled her to the floor of the basket and tried to calm her but she shrieked, "Power lines! We're going to hit them!" Tall steel towers loomed ahead of them.

Their balloon was losing altitude, just as Jeremy had expected. Unfortunately, they would reach the power lines before they hit the ground. He'd heard that the electricity from one of the cables was as powerful as a bolt of lightning. It looked as if he and Kate would find that out for themselves.

As they drifted closer, Kate began to sob. "The sparks might catch us on fire,



Jeremy. Make us go higher!"

35

"Fire! That's it, Kate!" he said. Ignoring his fear, Jeremy stood up on his toes. He reached high, grasped the blast valve with his bare hand and squeezed with all his strength, just as he had seen the pilot do. Blue flame shot up with a roar. Heat singed Jeremy's fingers and wavered around in the air around the burner. He kept squeezing until he could feel the balloon beginning to lift.

40

Within minutes, they reached the humming wires and skimmed just inches above them. Jeremy released the valve and leaned against the basket wall, too drained to do anything else.

When the balloon finally began to sink toward a field of cornstalks, he pulled Kate down onto the basket floor and waited with her until they had jolted to a stop. In seconds, a police car screeched to a halt nearby. Jeremy and Kate tumbled <sup>from</sup> ~~form~~ the basket as their mother raced towards them. "Hey, Mom!" Jeremy called out, rubbing his throbbing hand. "Wait till Leon and Richie hear about this."

45

**ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.**

71. Where were Jeremy and Kate?

---

---

72. Which word in paragraph 3 has the same meaning as 'lied'?

---

---

73. Do you think the safety line was a long or short rope? Explain your answer.

---

---

74. Why were Jeremy's palms sweaty when he looked at the Crazy-8?

---

---

75. "His stomach felt like a swooping kite." (Line 26) How did Jeremy feel at that moment.

---

---

76. Why did Jeremy and Kate panic when they saw the power lines?

---

---

77. What does "that" in line 33 refer to?

---

---

78. How did Jeremy save himself and Kate from colliding into the power lines?

---

---

79. Which phrase shows that Jeremy was exhausted?

---

---

80. Explain why Jeremy's fingers were singed by the heat.

---

---

81. What did Jeremy learn to overcome from this incident?

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# Rosyth Primary School

## Primary 6 English CA1 Exam (2008)

### *Answer Keys*

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
4	3	2	4	1	4	2	3	3	2
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
1	4	3	2	4	4	3	4	4	1
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
3	3	2	1	4	2	2	3	4	2
Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40
H	N	B	K	P	M	J	A	E	Q

41. vacation    42. irritated    43. passed    44. were    45. slithered  
 46. scurried    47. race    48. from    49. fell    50. could  
 51. usher    52. but    53. create    54. captivity    55. species  
 56. such    57. that    58. However    59. sleeves    60. ability  
 61. ourselves    62. should    63. around    64. Since/As    65. save/rescue

66. The hijackers threatened to blow up the aircraft unless their demands were met.
67. Marie said that she had donated some money to the World Wildlife Fund the previous month save the Black Rhino.
68. Peter as well as his neighbors is going to attend a conservation talk conducted by the park rangers.
69. They were not told about the fund-raising campaign for the tsunami victims.
70. Raymond will be fined he has not returned the books to the library.
71. Jeremy and Kate were at the carnival, going on the hot air balloon.
72. The word is "fibbed".
73. I think the safety line was a lorry rope. The safety line connected the hot-air balloon to a metal stick driven into the ground.
74. Jeremy was always afraid of thrill rides and in addition the Crazy-8 was the scariest ride at the carnival.
75. He was trembling. He felt very afraid scared and he felt like vomiting.
76. The balloon was heading straight for the power lines and they knew that they would be electrocuted on set on fire if they hit them.

77. It refers to what he had heard about the electricity from the power lines being as powerful as a bolt of lightning.
78. He squeezed the blast valve until he felt the balloon begin to lift above the cable.
79. The phrase is "too drained to do anything else".
80. He did not wear gloves and squeezed the blast valve with his bare hand so his fingers were singed.