**Завдання I етапу Всеукраїнської учнівської олімпіади з англійської мови**

**Reading Comprehension Test for 10-11 Form Students**

Hobbits are an unobtrusive but very ancient people, more numerous formerly than they are today; for they love peace and quiet and good tilled earth: a well-ordered and well-farmed countryside was their favorite haunt. They do not and did not understand or like machines more complicated than a forge bellows, a water­mill, or a hand-loom, though they were skillful with tools. Even in ancient days they were, as a rule, shy of “the Big Folk”, as they call us, and now they avoid us with dismay and are becoming hard to find. They are quick of hearing and sharp- eyed, and though they are inclined to be fat and do not hurry unnecessarily, they are nonetheless nimble and deft in their movements. They possessed from the first the art of disappearing swiftly and silently, when large folk whom they do not wish to meet come blundering by; and this art they have developed until to Men it may seem magical. But Hobbits have never, in fact, studied magic of any kind, and their elusiveness is due solely to a professional skill that heredity and practice, and close friendship with the earth, have rendered inimitable by bigger and clumsier races. For they are a little people, smaller than Dwarves: less stout and stocky, that is, even when they are not actually much shorter. Their height is variable, ranging between two and four feet of our measure. They seldom now reach three feet; but they have dwindled, they say, and in ancient days they were taller.

As for the Hobbits of the Shire, with whom these tales are concerned, in the days of their peace and prosperity they were a merry folk. They dressed in bright colors, being notably fond of yellow and green; but they seldom wore shoes, since their feet had tough leathery soles and were clad in a thick curling hair, much like the hair of their heads, which was commonly brown. Thus, the only craft little practiced among them was shoe-making; but they had long and skilful fingers and could make many other useful and comely things: Their faces were as a rule good- natured rather than beautiful, broad, bright-eyed, red-cheeked, with mouths apt to laughter, and to eating and drinking. And laugh they did, and eat, and drink, often and heartily, being fond of simple jests at all times, and of six meals a day ( when they could get them).

They were hospitable and delighted in parties, and in presents, which they gave away freely and eagerly accepted. It is plain indeed that in spite of later estrangement Hobbits are relatives of ours: far nearer to us than Elves, or even than Dwarves. Of old they spoke the languages of Men, after their own fashion, and liked and disliked much the same things as Men did. But what exactly our relationship is can no longer be discovered. The beginning of Hobbits lies far back in the Elder Days that are now lost and forgotten. Only thé Elves still preserve any records of that vanished time, and their traditions are concerned almost entirely with their own history, in which Men appear seldom and Hobbits are not mentioned at all. Yet it is clear that Hobbits had, in fact, lived quietly in Middle-earth for many long years before other folk became even aware of them.

And the world being after all füli of strange creatures beyond count, these little people seemed of very little importance. But in the days of Bilbo, and of Frodo his heir, they suddenly became, by no wish of their own, both important and renowned, and troubled the counsels of the Wise and the Great.

Statements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Hobbits are an unobtrusive people who love: |
| a) | ancient dwarves; | b) their haunted houses; |
| c) | peace with rivals; | d) good tilled earth. |
| 2. | It may be concluded from the passage that the hobbits did not use: |
| a) | forge bellows; |  b)sophisticated equipment; |
| c) | forge fellows; | d) hunting equipment. |
| 3. | The word “dismay” in line 6 most probably means: |
| a) | shrewdness; | b) felicity; |
| C) | shock1 | d) mischief. • |
| 4. | It is stated in the text that in the ancient days hobbits were: |
| a) | timid; | b) cunning; |
| c) | trustworthy; | d) clumsy. |
| 5. | It is implied irr-the passage that the hobbits possessed the art of: |
| a) | arriving home tipsy; |  |
| b) | appearing swiftly and silently; |  |
| c) | disappearing quickly and quietly; |  |
| d) | blundering at night. |  |
| 6. | The hobbits have a tendency to be: |  |
| a) | less stout and stocky; |  |
| b) | overweight and tired of magic spells; |
| c) | nimble and deft cooks;, |  |
| d) | swift in their movements. |  |
| 7. | They say the hobbits used to be between: |
| a) | 105 and 150 centimeters; | b) 85 and 140 centimeters; |
| c)' | 50 and 145 centimeters; | d) 65 and 120 centimeters. |
| 8. | They were a merry folk: |  |
| a) | dressed in bright gowns; |  |
| b) | welcoming and elated in parties; |  |
| c) | elated at their present; |  |

d) readily giving and accepting orders.

9. Hobbits are relatives of:

a) elves; b) dwarves;

c) people; d) witches.

10. In the world being full of strange creatures, these little people seemed to be of:

a) great importance; b) very little value;

c) unknown significance; d) well-known price.

Ключі до тестових завдань

1. d, 2. b, 3. c, 4. a, 5. c, 6. d, 7. d, 8. b, 9. c, 10. b'.