

6

Picture yourself

Grammar

Avoiding repetition

Read this book review of *The Thirteenth Tale* and then complete the gaps, using the reference words from the box.

all both during which ~~first~~ following what for herself her own
herself including it is through living there neither none
of her own one of these this which whose

REVIEW

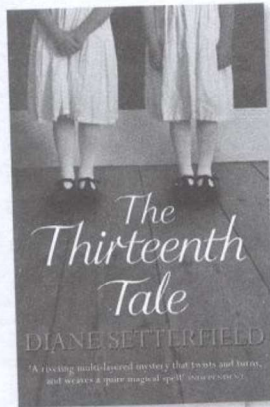
The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

This gripping novel, Diane Setterfield's (1) ~~first~~....., could best be described as a mystery story. Margaret Lee, a young biographer, is summoned by Vida Winter, a novelist of considerable renown, to write her biography. It is (2)..... sets Margaret on a voyage of discovery, not only about Vida's life, but about (3)..... life too.

Vida has led a secretive and reclusive life, (4)..... she has created many outlandish life histories (5)....., all of them pure fantasy. It is only as she comes to the end of her life that she feels able to expose the secrets of her past. Margaret travels to Vida's home in Yorkshire, (6)..... with Vida while she writes the biography. As a biographer, Margaret deals in fact not fiction, so as Vida tells her story, Margaret embarks on research (7)..... to establish the truth. (8)..... the coming together of (9)..... two accounts that the reader gradually discovers how the eminent author has kept the family secrets and made a success of her life (10)..... can only be described as a very disturbed childhood.

Vida's tale is (11)..... gothic strangeness featuring the Angelfield family, headed by the beautiful but unstable Isabelle. Her twin daughters, (12)..... bizarre behaviour brings havoc to those around them, are called Adeline and Emmeline. It soon becomes apparent from the twins' behaviour that (13)..... is capable of leading a normal life, and when the house they live in is deliberately set alight one night, it seems at first that (14)..... the girls have perished in the fire.

As Margaret gradually unravels the truth about Vida, it becomes apparent that (15)..... of the people involved with the twins, (16)..... the housekeeper and the gardener, escaped unscathed, so the story is to a large extent one of tragedy. But by the end of the novel, (17)..... is resolved and even the smallest of details in Vida's story has its place. Meanwhile, there is a hint that Margaret (18)..... is about to find a happy ending.



Vocabulary

Adjective–noun collocations

1a Match an adjective in column A to a noun in column B. Use each adjective only once.

A

deafening
fashionable
gripping
harsh
hazardous
innate
~~instant~~
sheer
total
wide

B

clothing
criticism
exuberance
experience
~~feedback~~
honesty
journey
noise
story
talent

b Complete the gaps, using the collocations above.

- Most teachers think it is important to give students ~~instant feedback~~ when they have done a presentation.
- I was unable to sleep last night due to the coming out of the club down the road.
- The dancers were young and enthusiastic and the of their performance thrilled the audience.
- I've never seen my sister wearing; the way she dresses is often bizarre.
- The minister had to deal with when he introduced the new pension rules.
- As soon as Peter painted his first picture, his as an artist became obvious.
- We had an unexpectedly across the States last year as there were flash floods.
- We all loved the book; it was such a that none of us could put it down.
- Lucy always spoke her mind and I always found her rather refreshing.
- Jane has very of administrative work and should have no difficulty obtaining work in London.

Synonyms for common adjectives

2 Match the adjectives in the box with the adjectives below which have a similar meaning.

absorbing	appalling	awesome	chaotic
complex	convincing	disastrous	gorgeous
gripping	hilarious	humorous	muddled
plausible	sophisticated	splendid	
staggering	stunning	unpredictable	

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1 beautiful | ..... | gorgeous | ..... |
| 2 believable | ..... |  | ..... |
| 3 complicated | ..... |  | ..... |
| 4 confused | ..... |  | ..... |
| 5 funny | ..... |  | ..... |
| 6 interesting | ..... |  | ..... |
| 7 surprising | ..... |  | ..... |
| 8 terrible | ..... |  | ..... |
| 9 wonderful | ..... |  | ..... |

Writing | Part 2

A review

1a Here are some expressions an exam candidate used in a film review. Mark each one according to whether you think they are most likely to be positive (✓) or negative (X).

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|---|
| A are simply stunning | ..... | ✓ |
| B really bothered me | ..... |  |
| C this lack of | ..... |  |
| D simply do not move me | ..... |  |
| E manages very ably to | ..... |  |
| F is nothing but | ..... |  |
| G was really impressed | ..... |  |
| H pleasantly surprised me | ..... |  |
| I literally lose the plot | ..... |  |
| J with a depressing sense of | ..... |  |

b Read the film review written by an exam candidate and then complete the gaps, using the expressions A-J from exercise 1a.

I have been asked to write a review of the best and worst films I have seen, and for me personally selecting the two movies is not at all hard. Without doubt, the best film I have ever watched is *Alien*. Special effects without a gripping story (1) *simply do not move me* and I usually avoid Hollywood blockbusters, but *Alien* (2) It combines two of my favourite film genres, given that it is an awesome science fiction film that is also an absorbing thriller. Subsequently the director (3) create a convincing atmosphere of fear, while teaching us a valuable lesson about the beast we all hide inside. The actors' performances are splendid, especially that of Sigourney Weaver, who is the leading actress. The costumes are well designed and the special effects (4)

In complete contrast, the worst film I have ever watched is *200 Warriors*. This film (5) a disastrous combination of special effects with a chaotic story. Initially I (6) by the colourful explosions and the epic battles between the good and evil immortal warriors, but in the end too many events take place and too few plausible explanations are given. As a result, you (7) For me, (8) a strong storyline is a major fault. Another issue that (9) is that there is not a single complex character to identify with and no sophisticated ideas to think about and you therefore emerge from the cinema (10) dissatisfaction.

Reading and Use of English | Part 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

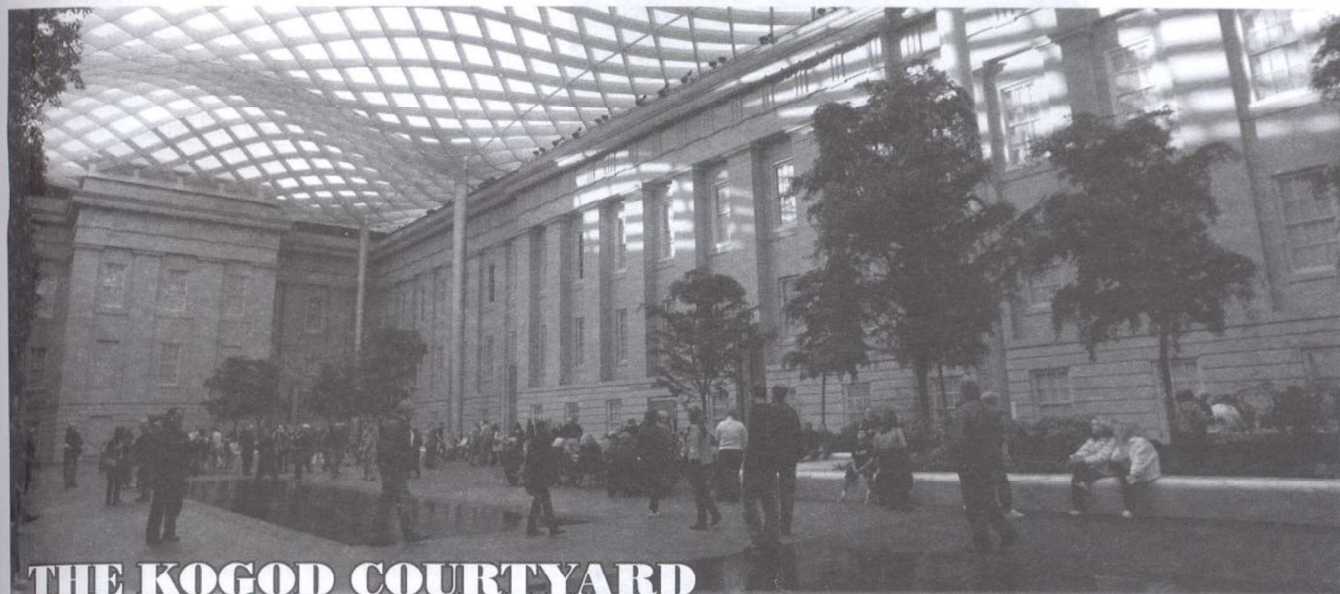
Example:

0 A angle

B appearance

C aspect

D air



THE KOGOD COURTYARD

At the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, the most striking (0) of the new Kogod courtyard is its canopy roof. This vast undulating glass canopy is (1) by eight aluminium columns, and carefully designed to (2) in with the original stonework. The wave-like structure, the first of its (3) in the world, is constructed of deep, diamond-shaped glass panes, packed around the sides with recycled cotton to act as sound insulation. This (4) near perfect conditions for musical performances in the courtyard.

From inside the courtyard, clouds and aircraft are clearly (5) through the canopy. But closer inspection reveals a milky surface covered in enamel dots, which (6) about two thirds of the light, (7) helping to keep the courtyard cool during the baking hot Washington summers.

Water is also a vital element of the design. When no event is being held, a wafer-thin 'river' flows through the courtyard, (8) the visiting children who splash in it. The whole space is designed to be free, accessible and multi-purpose.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 A carried | B supported | C sustained | D propped |
| 2 A blend | B merge | C combine | D mix |
| 3 A class | B kind | C brand | D set |
| 4 A causes | B leaves | C makes | D creates |
| 5 A visible | B evident | C apparent | D obvious |
| 6 A puts down | B cuts out | C cuts down | D puts out |
| 7 A until | B however | C even | D thus |
| 8 A diverting | B enjoying | C delighting | D rejoicing |

Reading and Use of English | Part 3

For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).



Performance Art

Performance Art began in the 1960s in the United States as a term used to describe a live event that often included poets, (0)musicians..... and film-makers, in addition to visual artists.

There were earlier (1) for this art form, including the Bauhaus in Germany, whose members used live theatre workshops to explore the (2) between space, sound and light. By 1970, Performance Art was a (3) term and its definition had become more specific. Performances had to be live and they had to be art, not theatre.

Performance artists saw their movement as a means of taking art directly to the public, thus eliminating the need for galleries, agents and (4) In effect, it became a social commentary on the need to maintain the absolute (5) of art.

One (6) recent form of Performance Art is 'mobbing', an email-driven experiment in organising groups of people who suddenly (7) in public places, interact briefly with others, and then disappear just as (8) as they appeared.

MUSIC

PRECEDE

RELATION

GLOBE

ACCOUNT

PURE

COMPARE

MATERIAL
EXPECT

Listening | Part 1

08 You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

You hear two friends talking about a book.

- What do the friends agree about?
 - They find the characters in the book very convincing.
 - They immediately found the storyline absorbing.
 - They would like to see the place where the book was set.
- According to the woman what is the author's reason for writing the book?
 - to explore a new aspect of human psychology
 - to show that people have different interpretations of the same event
 - to make an interesting point that no one has made before

Extract Two

You hear two people talking about a piece of jewellery.

- What does the man say about the origins of his bracelet?
 - It was chosen as a way to thank him for his hard work.
 - It shows that his uncle had a good opinion of him.
 - It shows he is a man of high rank.
- The woman understands that, for the man, the bracelet represents
 - the importance of having clear goals.
 - the role he will have in the future.
 - the need to help other people.

Extract Three

You hear two women talking about clothes for a special occasion.

- They both agree that
 - the dress Louise tries on is a rather unflattering colour.
 - trouser suits always look like office wear.
 - pashminas are a very adaptable clothing accessory.
- What do we learn about Jack's attitude to clothes?
 - He is not worried about his appearance.
 - He rarely buys expensive clothes.
 - He disapproves of designer clothing.

