To Tell a Story  By Andy Foose

Old man Schoeman sat in his old Postmaster's house in front of a large window, dragging on his pipe and spitting tobacco into the smouldering left-overs of his fire. He sat, most quietly, thinking of his life. A life which, according to the Bible's three score and ten years' limit, was, like the fire, at its end.

He thought of his story-telling. Old man Schoeman was a very good story-teller, mainly for two reasons. One was that he was naturally good at telling stories, and the other was that he had seen and loved so much of life. Wherever he went, things would happen, and he would watch, taking in all that happened.

Just as he finished this chain of thought, a knock at his door ended the day's deep thinking session, and awakened the old man to the real world, of which he was still a part. As he moved to the door, a small spark popped from the fire, causing a cloud of ash to form - there was still a little fire left.

At the door was Michael Davidson, one of the few teenage boys left in the Kloof. All the others had gone to boarding school near Durban. Michael was different, though, and content to stay in the still wild Kloof area.

"Come in, my son, come in," gruffed old man Schoeman. He was not used to having visitors, especially young ones, unless they came for a story-tell. "What do you want then, Michael m'boy? Do you need me for anything, or are you here just to give me a message?" asked the old man.

Michael was tempted to lie and say that yes, he'd been sent to give a message, but that, somehow, he'd forgotten it. He hardly knew the old man, and was feeling very uneasy, especially because of the purpose of his visit. He felt anxious, but decided to carry out his plan.

"Yes, sir... sir, there is something I need you for, but, I, I..." he tried to slow down - "I don't know if you'll want to... to at all," he finally said.

The old man saw the boy's fear and apprehension, and beckoned him to come in, sit down and feel at home. "Sorry the fire's nearly out," he said. "I know it's not very polite to have a guest in a cold house."

"Well, what is it, then?" he said, sitting himself down. "Do you need something that I have?"

"In... in a way, yes, sir... sir, I do." He stopped; he still felt very uneasy. He saw the old man looking, and decided that he'd better hurry, so as not to annoy him. But he still stumbled over his words.

"Well, sir, what I'd like you... you to do, is... is to teach me how to tell stories like you do."

The old man felt a glow inside. People had always loved his stories, he knew, but no one had ever asked to become an apprentice.

The Kloof near Durban
Section A: Answer these questions in full sentences and in your own words as far as possible.

1. If one score is twenty, how old is old man Schoeman if he is threescore and ten? (1)
2. What job did Old man Schoeman do when he was younger? (1)
3. How does the fire become a symbol of the old man and his age? (1)
4. Give the two reasons (in your own words) why Old man Schoeman is regarded as a good story-teller. (2)
5. What made Michael different to the other boys? (1)
6. Give two reasons why Michael was so uneasy about visiting Old man Schoeman. (2)
7. Why is it ironic that Michael stutters, if you take the purpose of his visit into consideration? (2)
8. Write “m’boy” out in full. (Just the words) (1)
9. Quote part of a sentence from the passage that indicates that Old man Schoeman could sense how Michael was feeling. (1)
10. Why did Old man Schoeman “feel a glow inside” and give a reason for your answer? (2)
11. What is an “apprentice”? (1)

Section B: Poetry (8 marks)

**busstop** (Michele Freind)

i saw a nice boy
with long sideburns
and short hair and a blue suit.
he stood in front of me in the bus queue.

when the bus came
he stood back
to let me climb into the bus in front of him.

i turned to thank him
he gave me a radiant smile
it warmed my heart and made my day beautiful.

and then (wrapped in a haze of rosy dreams)
i tripped
and fell into the bus
flat on my stupid face.

Questions: Write just the answers.

1. Give a reason as to how you know that the girl in the poem found the boy attractive. (1)
2. The boy was very polite. Quote briefly to prove this statement. (1)
3. Choose a synonym for “radiant”:
   a) brilliant
   b) dull
   c) cheeky
   d) depressed (1)
4. Why did the girl fall? (1)
5. Quote a word to prove her disgust after her mishap. (1)
6. Why does the poet not give us the name of the boy? (1)
7. Give two ways in which this poem does not follow “normal” poetry or language rules. (2)
Disadvantages in raising a spider

Nearly all species of spiders are venomous to some degree. As with venomous snakes, the seriousness of a spider bite depends on the potency of the venom, how it acts on the body, the quantity delivered, the site of the wound on the body, and the allergic reaction of the victim. Some species of spider with potent venom may not be able to inflict significant injury to humans because their fangs cannot penetrate the skin.

- Many spiders have very precise needs for temperature, humidity, lighting, habitat or nutrition. Many are excellent climbers and can escape through small cracks. It is necessary to keep their enclosure properly sealed to prevent escape but not to prevent airflow.
- Most spiders cannot be handled and do not interact well with humans. Dropping a tarantula may cause its abdomen to burst, resulting in almost certain death. If a cat is allowed near a spider, you will either have a dead spider or an ill or dying cat if the cat is bitten and the spider is venomous. Spiders also don’t interact well with other spiders, as they are all predatory.
- Depending on species, mating your pet spider may prove difficult.

Questions:

1. Summarize in bullet-point form and your own words, the disadvantages of having a pet spider. (5)
2. Change the adjective “predatory” into a common noun. (1)

3. Look at this sentence and answer the questions that follow: “Some species of spider with potent venom may not be able to inflict significant injury to humans because their fangs cannot penetrate the skin.”

3.1 What type of subordinate clause is “because their fangs cannot penetrate the skin”? (1)

3.2 Write down the specific parts of speech for the words in the bolded sentence that are underlined.
   a) potent  b) to inflict  c) humans  d) because  e) cannot penetrate  f) the (6)

3.3 Write a contraction for the word “cannot”. (1)

3.4 Complete this sentence by adding an adjectival phrase: The spider, ______________, is poisonous. (1)

Section D: Advertisements (10 marks)

Refer to the advert on the right.

1. List the two caged animals that you could see if you visit Cenderville Zoo. (2)
2. Write a sentence stating why this advert is so effective. (1)
Refer to the advert on the right and answer the questions that follow. (Write just the answers.)

3. Who is this advert directed at? (1)
4. What does the advertiser want the reader to do? (1)
5. How does the advert persuade the reader to do this? (2)
6. How does the design of the advert help to fulfil its purpose? (1)
7. Do you think "Shapes for Lunch" will be successful with its target market? Give a reason for your answer. (1)
8. Would this advert make you want to have "Shapes for Lunch" in your lunchbox? Give a reason for your answer. (1)

Section E: Language (12 marks)

1. Spot the errors:

While investigating the motive for the murder the detective unearthed a eye witness to the event—a young boy the son of the murdered women's friend.

Rewrite the bolded words above but make sure that you have corrected the following errors:

- the missing comma
- the missing hyphen
- a plural error
- the incorrect indefinite article
- another missing comma
- a missing apostrophe sign

2. Rewrite the following sentences, having corrected the necessary direct speech punctuation:
   Were you here this morning he asked
   Yes answered the boy but I ran and hid under my bed (2)

3. Change this sentence into indirect speech:
   Detective Sally exclaimed, "Yippee! I have caught the thief and he can't get away this time!" (3)

4. Correct the concord error in this sentence: The gang of thieves are sitting in jail. (1)

5. What figures of speech are found in the following sentences?

5.1 Tons of money went into solving the crime.
5.2 The honest politician hid his corruption well.
5.3 The police station got robbed yet again! (3)