

A N S W E R K E Y

GRAMMAR – 15pts

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A a | 16. B retiring |
| 2. D from | 17. B be done |
| 3. C have become | 18. C the |
| 4. B isn't | 19. C on |
| 5. A to become | 20. A must |
| 6. C of | 21. C for |
| 7. A who | 22. B who |
| 8. B building | 23. C were given |
| 9. C were | 24. B that |
| 10. D proving | 25. B felt |
| 11. A will | 26. C less |
| 12. B their | 27. D taking |
| 13. B wasn't | 28. B be taken |
| 14. C was seeing | 29. C did |
| 15. D digging | 30. C has been |

VOCABULARY – 10pts

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. founding | 6. immunity |
| 2. director | 7. Independence |
| 3. financially | 8. negotiate |
| 4. historical | 9. performance |
| 5. likable | 10. entertaining |

READING COMPREHENSION – 10pts

A

1 B 2 A 3 D 4 F 5 H

B

1 C 2 A 3 B 4 C 5 D

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 5pts

1 A (Betsy) 2 C (Amelia) 3 E (No speaker) 4 C (Amelia) 5 D (Emily)

6 A (Betsy) 7 B (Johnson) 8 E (No speaker) 9 D (Emily) 10 E (No speaker)

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LISTENING TAPESCRIPT
(Please read twice.)

Interview: What are We Reading, 2023

Looking for ideas for a last-minute holiday gift? Below you'll find mini book reports on our favourite books of the year from memoirs, biographies, and novels to short stories.

Betsy

I've spent this year writing a book, which means that every time I went to my public library to pick up a shiny new hold item, there was a quiet internal whisper: "You're going to return this unread in a few weeks, you know that, right?" But last month I went to a book talk by Yale history professor Carlos Eire. His new book, *They Flew*, shares the stories of saints who accomplished miracles like levitation. Saint Teresa of Avila found her flights occasionally annoying. Joseph of Cupertino was known to perch in trees. Eire looks at levitation and other mystical feats among saints and asks how these tales help us understand magic and modernity.

Johnson

This has been a remarkable year in publishing for women's running. The first half of 2023 saw the release of three memoirs from elite runners: Lauren Fleshman, Kara Goucher, and Des Linden. They are roughly the same age, and reading about their different experiences of the same events in the world of professional running was engaging. But my favourite book by a female runner this year is Alison Mariella Désir's *Running While Black: Finding Freedom in a Sport That Wasn't Built for Us*. There's a belief that running is a simple sport to break into, an easy way to get exercise. All you need is a decent pair of shoes, shorts and shirt, and a good sports bra. But Désir explains that when she began running, she couldn't help but notice that she was the only Black person in a crowd of White runners. This extraordinary book is just one small part of the conversations about race and gender that need to be happening in the running world today.

Amelia

"I heard about Noah while sitting in church, but later, from an old man in our village, I found out what really happened." So begins one of the ten Noah tales from Howard Norman's *In Fond Remembrance of Me*. Each tale begins with Noah's ark landing at the shore of a pre-colonial village in Alaska. From there, they are wildly different: Noah insults the woolly mammoths, who decide to take revenge; Noah's wife runs off with a local man; a shaman, annoyed by the noise of the ark, turns the animals inside out. Each tale is bizarre and hilarious. It's a beautiful, strange book, unlike anything else I've read.

Emily

I wasn't aware at first that the author of *Chocolat*, Joanne M. Harris, wrote about Loki long before Marvel released the first episode of their TV show. In 2014, Harris published *The Gospel of Loki* and it became one of my favourite books the moment I finished reading Loki's cheeky introduction. There he warns the reader that he's not the most likeable guy, but by the gods, he's going to tell his side of the story. Harris's fantasy novel retells the juicy highlights of Norse mythology from Loki's point of view. He's Asgard's number one secret weapon, not Thor's legendary hammer, and its greatest danger. This Loki is a puzzle. Readers might never work out why he acts the way he does, and that's where the novel becomes magnetic and unpredictable. That is Loki. Harris gets it.

(Adapted from JSTOR Editors. (2023). *What We're Reading 2023*, December 23, 2023. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://daily.jstor.org/what-our-writers-editors-are-reading-2023/?highlight=interview>)

S P E A K I N G – R O L E P L A Y

STUDENT

Imagine that the AI in your phone has just become your new classmate and wants to understand teenage life. It asks you for “data” about school, stress, friendships, and free time. Be sure to:

- a) Explain what a typical school week feels like for you.
- b) Describe one real problem teens face and how they handle it.
- c) Suggest how the AI could help without being creepy or annoying.

S P E A K I N G – R O L E P L A Y

TEACHER

You are a newly sentient AI classmate. Ask curious questions, propose “solutions” that may be unrealistic, and let the student correct you.

SPEAKING – PICTURES

You are creating a vlog entitled *The Day My Phone Died at the Worst Moment* for your English YouTube channel. You have chosen to make it in English because you want to reach a larger international audience and share a relatable story with viewers from different countries. Tell the story of how you planned to meet friends, what went wrong when your phone battery ran out, and how you solved the problem. Describe what you said to people, how you felt, and what you learned. Use the pictures below to build a clear beginning–middle–ending for your vlog.



Picture 1: (OpenAI, 2026a)



Picture 2: (OpenAI, 2026b)



Picture 3: (OpenAI, 2026c)