YEAR 7 · READING COMPREHENSION

Fiction Extract with Multiple Choice Questions

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read the extract carefully. Then circle the best answer for each question.

The Greenhouse at the End of the Garden

The greenhouse had been locked since Gran died in October. Dad said they would clear it "when the weather improves", which, Asha suspected, meant never. On the first bright Saturday in March, he placed the brass key in her palm.

"Just sort the pots," he said. "I'll stay here and mend the gate." He remained at the back door, still wearing his gardening gloves.

Inside, the air smelled of wet earth and old leaves. A cracked pane let in a thin whistle of wind. Asha began stacking empty pots. Beneath a folded newspaper, she found a seed tray. Several pale-green shoots stood in the soil, each no taller than her thumb. A wooden label beside them read: *Sweet peas — for Asha*, in Gran's unmistakable sloping handwriting.

Asha smiled, then noticed the draught bending the delicate stems. She found a clean glass jar on a shelf and set it carefully over the tray. It would keep the wind off until the broken pane was fixed.

"Still growing, then," Dad said from the doorway. He had taken off one glove.

"I think Gran planted them before winter."

Dad looked at the label for a long moment. "She always said you had patient hands." His voice was quiet. Asha had never heard him say that before.

She expected him to turn away again. Instead, he stepped inside and held the door closed against the wind. Together they gathered the scattered pots. Dad found a piece of clear plastic to cover the cracked pane; Asha tied it in place with string.

When the work was done, a stripe of sunlight crossed the seed tray. Dad rolled up his sleeves.

"Where shall we start next?" he asked.

Asha pointed to the empty patch beneath the window. "Somewhere with room to grow."

Questions

Choose one answer for each question.

1. When had the greenhouse been locked?

A Since the first frost of winter
B Since Gran died in October
C Since the gate was mended
D Since the first Saturday in March

2. What did Dad ask Asha to do?

A Plant seeds beneath the window
B Mend the cracked pane
C Find a piece of clear plastic
D Sort the pots

3. Which detail best suggests that Dad is hesitant to enter the greenhouse at first?

A He stays at the back door, wearing his gloves
B He gives Asha the brass key
C He says he will mend the gate
D He notices the cracked pane

4. How does Asha protect the young shoots from the draught?

A She covers them with a newspaper
B She moves them outside
C She places a glass jar over the tray
D She closes the cracked window

5. What does the label "Sweet peas — for Asha" suggest?

A Gran wanted Asha to have the plants
B Asha had written the label herself
C The shoots had been bought that day
D Dad had asked Gran to grow sweet peas

6. Why might Dad speak quietly when he mentions what Gran said about Asha?

A He is worried the plants will hear him
B He is moved by remembering Gran