

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

*You have come across a short story about Greyfriars Bobby. Read the short story.***Text 2 Short story**

A faithful friend

① In the 1850s, John Gray and his dog Bobby were a familiar sight on the streets of Edinburgh in Scotland. John was a nightwatchman with the Edinburgh police. He brought his little terrier with him to work so that he wouldn't be too lonely.

② From dusk to dawn, through the rain, snow and summer heat, these two were always together. Bobby never needed a lead, as he never desired to leave his master's side. At mealtimes, they frequently went to a local coffee house to share a bite to eat.

③ Sadly, John became ill with tuberculosis, a common disease at the time. Bobby whined as he heard John cough. The lung disease eventually ended John's life. However, this didn't end the strong bond between the dog and his master.

④ John was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard. Bobby was at the funeral, and watched his best friend lay to rest. The distressed dog refused to leave Greyfriars Kirkyard afterwards. He stood faithfully on his four paws by John's grave. The gardener and the keeper often tried to chase the small dog away. However, they soon realized that was pointless. Bobby was never discouraged. He always returned.

Oxford English (Second Edition) 1A

Simplified reading and comprehension

2 of 4

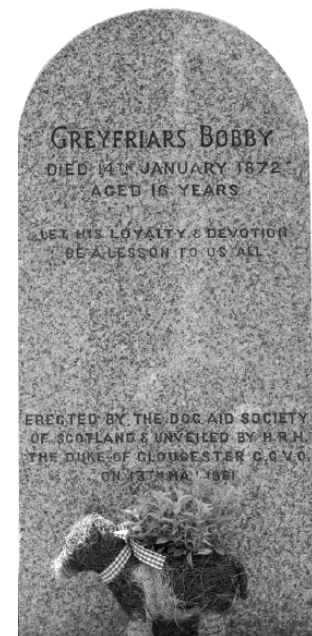
Unit 4

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____



25 ⑤ People began to hear about Bobby's unending loyalty, and the story warmed the townspeople's hearts. Every day at lunchtime, a local carpenter named William Dow took Bobby for treats at the old coffee shop. The gardener and keeper, realizing the dog was there to stay, built Bobby a shelter beside John's grave. Even the town's mayor became involved, giving Bobby a special dog's licence.

30 ⑥ Between 1858 and 1872, Bobby watched over his old friend. Today, visitors to Edinburgh can visit a statue dedicated to this inspiring animal. Bobby's tombstone reads 'Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all'.



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Comprehension 2 *Your parents want to know more about Greyfriars Bobby. Answer their questions using information from the short story. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 Why did John bring Bobby to work with him?

2 Fill in the blanks based on the information given in paragraph 2. Write ONE word in each blank.

John and Bobby started to work at (i) _____ and finished at (ii) _____. The two always stayed together, so John did not need to attach a (iii) _____ to his dog.

3 i) Which part of the body does tuberculosis usually affect?

ii) Were many people infected with tuberculosis in the 1850s? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.

4 What does 'this' (line 15) refer to?

A John's death

B John's work

C John's dog

D John's lung

A B C D

○ ○ ○ ○

5 Find a word in paragraph 4 that shows Bobby is 'upset'. _____

6 According to paragraphs 4 and 5, are the following statements **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Given (NG)**?

Statements	T	F	NG
i) John had taken Bobby to Greyfriars Kirkyard when he was alive.	○	○	○
ii) The gardener and keeper were used to seeing Bobby in the graveyard.	○	○	○
iii) The gardener and keeper adopted Bobby after John's death.	○	○	○

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7 Bobby's story 'warmed the townspeople's heart' (lines 25 & 26). That means it _____.

- A made them feel relaxed
- B broke their hearts
- C gave them feelings of happiness and pleasure
- D changed a sad event into a happy one

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

8 Which of the following did the townspeople NOT do to help Bobby?

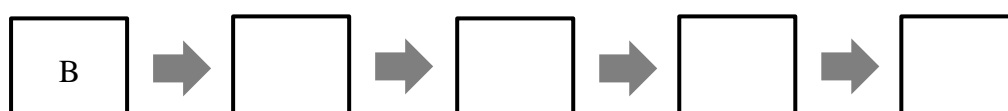
- A build him a shelter
- B build him a statue to look at
- C give him a special dog's licence
- D take him to the old coffee shop

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

9 How many years did Bobby stay around John's grave? _____

10 Complete the diagram below. Write (A–E) in the boxes provided. The first one has been done for you.

- A A statue was made for Greyfriars Bobby.
- B John started bringing Bobby with him to work.
- C The gardener and keeper at the church built a shelter for Bobby.
- D John became ill with tuberculosis.
- E Bobby began sitting by John's grave.



11 Complete the following description of Greyfriars Bobby using information from the short story.

Greyfriars Bobby was a (i) _____. He spent a lot of time with his owner John. Even after John's death, Bobby stayed by his (ii) _____. The dog died in 1872, but people are still moved by his (iii) _____ to his master.

12 Find words from Text 2 with these meanings.

- i) something that connects people or groups (n., paragraph 3) _____
- ii) not worth doing (adj., paragraph 4) _____
- iii) seeming to last forever (adj., paragraph 5) _____