III E

Reading Comprehension

Read the text. Parts of the text have been removed (1-14). Choose the correct part (A-Q) for each gap. There are two extra parts that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Robin Hood and the Silver Arrow

A long time ago, in the Middle Ages, when Richard the Lionheart, King of England, was away fighting in the Crusades, there was a man called Robin Hood, who (0) … with his band of Merry Men.

They were all outlaws who (Q1) … and hide in the forest to avoid being arrested by the Sheriff of Nottingham on the orders of Prince John. Robin and his men were true to King Richard but not to Prince John, who (Q2) … in Richard's absence and who exploited the poor peasants. Robin was the hero of the ordinary country people, not only because he was the most skilful archer in all England, but also because he (Q3) … . Robin knew the forest well and the people loved him. He was not afraid of the Sheriff and he and his friends enjoyed playing tricks on him. One of the 150 outlaws in the band was Friar Tuck, a fat, jolly friar who was always hungry but (Q4) … . Another was Little John, the tallest and strongest of Robin's men. Robin Hood was in love with Maid Marian, a fair young lady whom he had rescued when her father (Q5) … .

One day Robin heard that an archery competition was to be held at the Goose Fair. The prize for the best archer was an arrow of pure silver and a kiss from Maid Marian. Robin (Q6) … . When he told Maid Marian, however, she said he should stay away from the Goose Fair because the Sheriff had offered a reward for his capture and (Q7) … .

The Goose Fair was a great feast. The market place was decorated with silk banners and crowded with people. There were acrobats in colourful costumes and children (Q8) … . The smell of delicious food was in the air: roast ox and pastries and spicy gingerbread.

The archery contest was very exciting. Eventually, in the final round, there were only three archers left (Q9) … : a Frenchman, a man called Simon and an old man in ragged clothes and a wide-brimmed hat. The Frenchman and Simon fired at the target but both missed. Then the old man stepped forward. He raised his bow and arrow and fired. His arrow flew straight through the air and (Q10) …. It was a marvellous shot. The old man had won!

But suddenly the Sherriff noticed that (Q11) … . He shouted, "Seize him!" But Robin was smart; he cried out, "Long live King Richard!" and fighting broke out in the crowd. Some were trying to help Robin, (Q12) … and run off with it; others wanted the reward for catching him. Then, as from nowhere, the giant figure of Little John appeared, (Q13) … . Along with other members of the band, Robin and John managed to climb a wall and escape. On the other side of the wall, Maid Marian was waiting with horses. The outlaws galloped off (Q14) … . There they celebrated their victory over the Sherriff with a huge feast, eating, drinking, singing and dancing far into the night.

A	defending Robin from the Prince's guards
B	if he was caught he would be hanged
C	lived in Sherwood Forest
D	for the safety of Sherwood Forest
E	had had to run away from Nottingham
F	tried to make her marry a rich old man
G	the Prince did not like
H	who had snatched the silver arrow
I	fired the arrow into the crowd
J	had taken over as ruler of England
K	stole from the rich to give to the poor
L	competing for the prize
M	who was also an excellent swordsman
N	the old man was Robin Hood in disguise
O	was determined to take part in the competition
P	hit the bullseye, right in the centre of the target
Q	were dancing to the music of a pipe and drum

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14
C														