



**ROSYTH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2
PRIMARY 6**

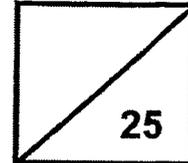
Name: _____

Class: Pr 6- _____

Register No. _____

Date: 25 August 2025

Parent's Signature: _____



TOTAL TIME FOR BOOKLETS A & B: 1 h 50 min

BOOKLET A

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS:

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all instructions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Use a 2B pencil to shade your answers on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).

This booklet consists of 10 printed pages (including cover page) and 1 blank page.

For each question from 1 to 10, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet. (10 marks)

- 1 I asked my mother to pass me _____ stack of books on the shelf over there.
- (1) this
 - (2) that
 - (3) those
 - (4) these
- 2 My teacher has asked Sally and _____ to help out with the class decoration.
- (1) I
 - (2) me
 - (3) mine
 - (4) myself
- 3 "She never listens to our advice, _____ she?" asked Ali.
- (1) has
 - (2) does
 - (3) hasn't
 - (4) doesn't
- 4 Although Mindy _____ some hesitation at first, she has agreed to help us complete the project.
- (1) had
 - (2) has
 - (3) have
 - (4) having
- 5 Jamie, _____ father works as a banker, is very helpful and considerate.
- (1) who
 - (2) which
 - (3) whom
 - (4) whose

- 6 The rays of the sun streamed _____ the windows, instantly brightening up the room.
- (1) at
 - (2) into
 - (3) over
 - (4) through
- 7 _____ you have proof, I will not believe that Mingxuan has stolen your money.
- (1) Unless
 - (2) Since
 - (3) As
 - (4) If
8. "Please hurry! I do not have _____ time to spare," Laura told her friend.
- (1) few
 - (2) little
 - (3) much
 - (4) some
- 9 Yanti saw her friend _____ the classroom during recess.
- (1) enter
 - (2) enters
 - (3) entered
 - (4) had entered
- 10 "It was Celine, not her friends, who drank the soda all by _____," I said.
- (1) herself
 - (2) himself
 - (3) ourselves
 - (4) themselves

For each question from 11 to 15, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

11. Tim _____ weaved through the maze of the playground, dodging his classmates who were determined to catch him in a game of 'Tag'.
- (1) nimbly
 - (2) forcefully
 - (3) vigorously
 - (4) energetically
12. Mandy admires her older sister very much and _____ her for emotional support and advice.
- (1) looks to
 - (2) looks at
 - (3) looks into
 - (4) looks over
13. During an emergency drill, moving all students and staff quickly to a safe place is of _____ concern.
- (1) practical
 - (2) prevailing
 - (3) precarious
 - (4) paramount
14. My mother furrowed her brows in _____ when she realised that my sister had gone to bed without taking a bath after a game of basketball.
- (1) disgrace
 - (2) disconnect
 - (3) disapproval
 - (4) disagreement
15. When Tim shouted that his pet mouse had escaped its cage, a great _____ of activity erupted in class as everyone ran around in fear.
- (1) swirl
 - (2) flurry
 - (3) surge
 - (4) bustle

For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word. Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

(5 marks)

A gentle breeze ruffled the curtains in Sheila's room. Her brown eyes fluttered open almost instinctively as the chill crept over her. Moonlight cast eerie shadows across her room. Something felt unsettling. She got out from under her blanket and ran across the cold wood floor to close the window.

Sheila peered intently at the garden. Even the pale glow from the moon was not enough to keep the darkness from enveloping her. The silence was simply too much for her.

Suddenly, Sheila's heart raced when she saw something flicker strangely in the dark like a flame struggling against the wind. She ran back to bed, pulling her blanket over her head immediately. Sheila knew from all the horror movies which she had watched that investigating never ended well.

Source: Adapted from 'Midnight Snack' by Megan Cianfaglione

16. (1) indirectly
 (2) inactively
 (3) involuntarily
 (4) inadequately
17. (1) baffling
 (2) appalling
 (3) menacing
 (4) disturbing

18. (1) scanned
(2) squinted
(3) surveyed
(4) searched

19. (1) serenity
(2) stillness
(3) isolation
(4) disturbance

20. (1) sway
(2) ripple
(3) waver
(4) vibrate

BLANK PAGE

Study the poster (Text 1) and the extract from an article (Text 2) and answer questions 21 to 25.

Text 1: The text below shows a poster for a smartphone.

THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Introducing Nova's Sunburst X10, the most advanced compact smartphone in 2025. Experience lightning-fast performance with our upgraded processor, an ultra-clear camera, and enhanced battery optimisation for all-day use.

Enjoy this smartphone now at an affordable price.



Key Features of Sunburst X10

1. Enhanced camera clarity
 - Take shots like a professional
2. Improved speed
 - Win games easily
3. Higher water resistance
 - Capture underwater shots
4. Better battery management
 - Reduce charging time

Colours available

Introducing Sunset Gold – Only available in this model.

Also available in black and pearl silver.

Purchase our new model at any Nova retail store before 1 December 2025 to stand a chance to win a pair of air tickets to France!

Text 2: The extract below is taken from an article about smartphones.

Every year, phone companies release new smartphones with promises of faster speeds and better features. Advertisements often show exciting new models with clearer cameras, faster performance and longer battery life.

However, such advertising can cause many problems. In many situations, people may feel pressured to upgrade, even if their current phones still work well. This can create a 'throw-away' habit where people change their phones frequently and unnecessarily, thereby contributing to environmental problems.

Moreover, as the advertisements make the latest smartphones seem very attractive, many consumers like teenagers may feel pressured to own one. This increases peer pressure, causing those without such devices to feel left out.

Advertising companies often promote new phone models by highlighting faster processing speeds and higher camera megapixels. Longer battery life is another frequently advertised feature. While new models may have larger batteries or new hardware, these changes are not always necessary.

In many cases, the actual improvements between old and new models are small, while the price increase is large. It is worth considering whether the improvements in new models truly offer good value for money.

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the best answer. Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

21. The title of the poster, "The Future is in Your Hands", in Text 1 is used to emphasise that the phone is _____.
- (1) guaranteed to improve in the future
 - (2) small enough to fit in anyone's hands
 - (3) suitable for professional photographers
 - (4) more advanced than current phone models
22. "Take shots like a professional!" The picture in Text 1 supports this by giving the impression that the camera _____.
- (1) can last all day
 - (2) takes high quality photographs
 - (3) helps gamers to win more easily
 - (4) captures photographs underwater
23. Based on the poster in Text 1, which of the following best describes the phone you expect to purchase?
- (1) popular
 - (2) durable
 - (3) luxurious
 - (4) worthwhile
24. According to the article in Text 2, what is the main concern about smartphone advertisements?
- (1) They contribute to unnecessary phone purchases.
 - (2) They discourage consumers from trying out new technology.
 - (3) They reflect the improvements in new smartphone models only to teenagers.
 - (4) They focus too much on technical specifications like camera megapixels and battery life.
25. We cannot trust the way Text 1 promotes Nova's new phone because Text 2 says _____.
- (1) consumers are well-informed and make rational decisions
 - (2) phone advertisements are not always truthful about performance
 - (3) smartphones with higher processing speed are always worth upgrading to
 - (4) promoting new features causes non-essential upgrades and environmental harm

End of Booklet A

Please note that the passage for Comprehension questions 66 to 75 is on the next page. You may now go on to Booklet B.

Refer to the passage below when you answer questions 66 to 75 in Booklet B.

Sam had a smile that lit up the gloomiest of days. Even though his classmates told him that he had a cheerful personality, he sometimes felt like he blended into the busy school crowd. He was surrounded by friends who excelled at everything from academics to sports. Sam was envious of his peers who received awards for their achievements. He thought that recognition had to be loud or obvious. "Remember, Sam, you're special in your own way," his parents would remind him when he expressed his frustration. However, his classmates' accomplishments often drowned out those words. 5

One day, at recess, he noticed his classmate, Dan, sitting alone. Sam recognised that look – shoulders hunched, gaze fixed on untouched food, as if eating alone made the meal taste worse. Intuitively, Sam sat next to Dan and then asked him to join his group of friends. Dan hesitated but Sam gave him an inviting smile. That was all it took. Dan's shoulders slowly relaxed as the conversation among the boys flowed. 10

Each day, Sam passed by a neighbourhood shop on his way to school. Mrs Raju, the owner, often struggled to carry the heavy boxes of groceries inside because of her weak knees. Rain or shine, Sam never hesitated to help lift them into the shop and sort the items out. "Such a kind boy," Mrs Raju would say, her eyes crinkling as she patted his back approvingly. 15

One afternoon, while Sam was rushing to his enrichment class, he noticed a little girl crying inconsolably at the playground. Her balloon had floated away. Despite knowing that he could be late for class, Sam walked quickly to a nearby shop. He used the last of his allowance to buy a new balloon. As Sam handed it to the little girl, she squealed in delight and ran back to her mother. Sam simply grinned. He thought such actions were what anyone would do. 20

On the last day of school, Sam's form teacher asked the class to reflect on the most significant thing that had happened to them that year. He sat in deep thoughts when his friend, Jen, nudged him with a quizzed look. "You look stumped," she commented. 25

Sam sighed, "I am clueless. It's just that nothing special ever happens to me."

Jen shook her head. In all seriousness, Jen said softly but firmly, "I don't think so. You are the good that happens to others." Sam stared blankly at her. 30

"All those **little things** you do. You have changed people's lives, even if you don't see it. You make people's day better. Maybe that's better than random good things happening to you. It means so much more when they show you gratitude," Jen continued. 35

For the first time, Sam looked back – not through his own eyes, but through the eyes of those he had helped. He remembered Mrs Raju smiling as she greeted her customers, her knees now aching less because of his help. He recalled Dan texting him a funny joke because he had a friend to talk to. It dawned on him that Jen was right and he was appreciative. 40

Sam finally realised that good things were indeed happening to him, just not in the way he had expected. Mrs Raju had once made his day by giving him some snacks after he helped her. The little girl would run to greet him joyfully each time they met at the playground. Dan's family also invited him to their family events. 45

It dawned on Sam that the acts of recognition could come in small ways. They were quiet in the warmth of a 'Thank you', a grateful smile, or the unnoticed but undeniable impact on someone. 50

Adapted from 'The Good That Happens to Others' by McKenlea Clements



**ROSYTH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2
PRIMARY 6**

Name: _____

Class: Pr 6-

Register No. _____

Date: 25 August 2025

Parent's Signature: _____

Total Time for Booklets A and B : 1 h 50 min

BOOKLET B

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS:

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all the instructions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Use a dark blue or black ballpoint pen to write your answers in the space provided for each question.
5. Do not use correction liquid/tape or highlighters.

	Maximum	Marks Obtained
Booklet A	25	
Booklet B	65	
Total	90	

Component	Question Numbers	Marks Obtained
Grammar & Vocabulary	26 – 45 61 – 65	
Comprehension Cloze	46 – 60	
Comprehension Open-ended	66 – 75	

This booklet consists of 8 printed pages (including cover page).

There are 10 blanks, numbered 26 to 35, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

(A) a	(D) are	(G) but	(K) like	(N) when
(B) against	(E) at	(H) for	(L) that	(P) which
(C) and	(F) because	(J) is	(M) the	(Q) with

Research has proven that nature is food for the soul. Spending time outdoors lowers your stress levels and blood pressure. Simply gazing _____ the greenery outdoors improves your mood. It makes the problems you face feel small _____ the vast nature.

(26)

(27)

When outdoors, birds and their melodic songs _____ impossible to drown out too. It has been scientifically proven that birdsong bolsters our mental health. Research has shown _____ when people listen to birdsong, they have a significantly better sense of mental well-being that lingers _____ hours. Birdsong refreshes your mind; some studies have indicated that exposure to nature on a whole reduces activity in parts of the brain associated _____ stress and anxiety. Being out in nature helps us to relax _____ peaceful surroundings calm our minds.

(28)

(29)

(30)

(31)

(32)

Listening to birdsong is also a form of relaxation as it immerses us in _____ present moment. Being in nature not only delights your senses _____ also captures your attention. The sights, smells and sounds of the outdoors are starkly delicate _____ compared to flashing lights and blaring horns. Watching tree buds unravel, soaking in the smell after rain and hearing the gentle sounds of animals in nature make us feel alive.

(33)

(34)

(35)

Adapted from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/health/article/birds-sing-brain-mental-health>

Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes. (10 marks)

(36)

About two weeks before my birthday, I fell and broke my wrist. I had choose to hold my birthday party at a skating rink but I was dissapointed when I realised that I was unable to skate at my own party. We could not cancel the party at the rink as everything had been planned.

(38)

During the day of my party, I stood by the front door of the skating rink, greeting my friends. As one of my friends, Sarah, arrived, I immediately noticed that she was limping.

(39)

Sarah told me that she had hurt her leg accident while going down the stairs.

(40)

I assumed that Sarah, just like me, be probably in pain. For the entire time at the party, she akompanied me. Because of Sarah, my party was serp more enjoyable than I had expected.

(41)

(42)

(43)

A few weeks later, I met Sarah's mother at a restrawnt. I asked if Sarah's leg was better. Her mother looked astonished and shake her head. She told me that she had never injured her leg. That was when I realised that Sarah had made a sehkrifise and stayed beside me just to make me feel better. My true friend, Sarah, had given me the best present of all.

(44)

(45)

Adapted from Chicken Soup for the souls – Think positive for kids

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

What is mindfulness? Mindfulness is the practice of focusing our attention on the present moment. It has been found to _____ stress, thus enhancing overall happiness. Mindfulness exercises include slowing down _____ breathing and being calm. _____ we practise mindfulness, we train our minds to focus and think more clearly. Although it sounds simple in theory, it can be _____ to switch off our thoughts even for a few seconds without thinking about either work _____ studies.

Mindfulness can _____ both mental and physical health. Research shows that _____ mindfulness regularly can bring down our stress level and strengthen immunity. For _____, a few years ago, twelve boys were stuck in a cave in northern Thailand with their football coach. They were finally rescued _____ spending more than two weeks in darkness. The coach had taught the boys _____ to breathe, redirect their thoughts and keep calm. This helped the boys stay mentally and physically strong _____ their ordeal.

In _____, mindfulness can boost our memory and concentration. As such, some schools have started teaching students to do a five-minute mindful breathing exercise during recess every day. At first, the students were not used _____ the exercise. However, constant encouragement by the teachers helped the students to stay with the routine, and amazingly, they began to enjoy it.

To cultivate mindfulness, we need to set aside both time and space. Rushing through it would defeat the purpose. _____, we need to anchor ourselves to the present moment. Next, we must _____ attention to our breathing and avoid being distracted by our surroundings. It is important to keep practising it until it becomes comfortable. Gradually, we will discover the numerous benefits of mindfulness.

Adapted from HelpGuide.org "Benefits of Mindfulness"

For each of the questions 61 to 65, rewrite the given sentence(s), using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in **one** sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

61. John drew a picture of his dog. Then he framed it up.

Having _____

62. Aziz told his teacher, "I wrote the composition yesterday."

Aziz told his teacher _____

63. My brother does not like to play computer games. He likes to go outdoors.

_____ would rather _____

64. Many people like speaking with him because he is sincere.

Due to his _____

65. Joyce can go cycling if her mother approves.

_____ only with the _____

Read the passage on page 11 of Booklet A and answer questions 66 to 75.
(20 marks)

66. a) Which two-word phrase in paragraph 1 shows the impression Sam's classmates had of him? [1m]

- b) Explain clearly why Sam did not feel that he was special when he compared himself to his friends? [2m]

67. Look at the table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage?
Write your answers in the column on the right. [3m]

Word(s) from the passage	What the word(s) refer(s) to
a) that (line 11)	
b) it (line 21)	
c) little things (line 30)	

68. What did Sam do that made Mrs Raju pat his back 'approvingly' (lines 16 - 17)? [2m]

69. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story [1m]

_____ Sam sat next to Dan.

_____ Dan texted Sam to share a funny joke.

_____ Sam asking Dan to join him for recess.

70. From lines 19 – 21, how can you tell that Sam was a selfless person? [2m]

71. Based on line 28, why did Jen shake her head? [1m]

72. Based on lines 33 – 41, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [2m]

	True/ False	Reason
a) Mrs Raju's knees were in severe pain despite Sam's help.		
b) Dan's family liked Sam tremendously.		

73. Pick out two words from lines 27 – 37 which show how Sam felt during his reflection. Each word is found in a different sentence. [2m]

Before Jen spoke to Sam

After Jen spoke to Sam

74. From lines 38 – 41, how did Mrs Raju and the little girl show Sam their gratitude? [2m]

Mrs Raju	The little girl
a)	b)

75. Explain the change in how Sam felt about what recognition meant to him. [2m]

End of Paper 2

SCHOOL : ROSYTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEVEL : PRIMARY 6
SUBJECT : ENGLISH
TERM : PRELIM 2025

Booklet A

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
2	2	2	1	4	4	1	3	1	1
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
1	1	4	3	2	3	4	1	2	3
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28		
4	2	4	1	4	E	B	D		

Q29	Q30	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35			
L	H	Q	F	M	G	N			
Q36)	chosen	Q40)	was	Q44)	shook				
Q37)	disappointed	Q41)	accompanies	Q45)	sacrifice				
Q38)	On	Q42)	surprisingly	Q46)	release				
Q39)	accidentally	Q43)	restaurant	Q47)	our				

Q48)	when	Q53)	example	Q58)	to
Q49)	hard	Q54)	after	Q59)	Hence
Q50)	or	Q55)	how	Q60)	give
Q51)	enhance	Q56)	during		
Q52)	practicing	Q57)	fact		
Q61)	Having drawn a picture of his dog, John framed it up.				
Q62)	Aziz told his teacher that he had written the composition the previous day.				
Q63)	My brother would rather go outdoors than play computer games.				
Q64)	Due to his sincerity, many people like speaking with him.				
Q65)	Joyce can go cycling only with the approval of her mother.				

Q66)	<p>a) cheerful personality</p> <p>b) Sam felt that the friends surrounding him excelled at everything from a achievement to sports, he was of his peers who received awards for their achievements.</p>
Q67)	<p>a) Sam giving Dan an inviting look</p> <p>b) The new balloon Sam bought</p> <p>c) The things that Sam did to help other.</p>
Q68)	Sam never hesitated to help lift the heavy boxes for Mrs Raju whether it was rain or shine as he knew that Mrs Raju's knees were weak and sort the item out.
Q69)	1,3,2
Q70)	Even though same was about to be late for class, he still spent the last of his
Q71)	Jen disagreed to what Sam said allowance bought a new balloon for the little girl, when she saw that her balloon floated away.
Q72)	<p>a) False / Mrs Raju's knees were now aching less because of Sam's help</p> <p>b) True / Dan's family invited Sam to their family events.</p>
Q73)	<p>clueless</p> <p>appreciative</p>
Q74)	<p>a) Mrs Raju gave Sam some snacks after helping her.</p> <p>b) The girl would run to greet him joy fully each time met at the playground.</p>
Q75)	At first, Sam thought that recognition had to be loud and obvious but after he had spoken to Jen he realised that it could come in small things.

Prelim CW 2025 Rosyth School

Topic: Planning something successfully

Written by Kyra Tan (6 Int)

I was sitting at my table, humming to myself while doing my work, when my gaze fell on the calendar on my table. August was circled in bright red, with exclamation marks over the date, and "Mother's birthday" written below. Mother's birthday was next week, and my sister, Gabby, and I had planned to celebrate her birthday by organising a birthday party for her by ourselves since our father was overseas on a work trip. That day, Gabby and I were supposed to buy decorations for the party.

"Gabby, since mother's out for lunch with her friends, let's go to the store nearby and buy some decorations!" I exclaimed to my sister, who was sitting on the couch. She nodded her head in agreement, and off we went. After saving our pocket money over the past few months, we were finally able to pool our money towards the party. With a spring in our step, we took our wallets and made our way to the store.

Once we arrived at the store, I noticed something wrong, and my steps faltered. The windows were closed, and the shop was shrouded in darkness. Even the "Welcome!" sign that was usually hung on the door was missing. Closed? Why would the store be closed? I wondered, frowning. When we got closer, the sign on the door said "Sorry, we're closed, we will be back on 9 August" with no explanation given. My sister and I glanced at each other, and my heart hammered wildly in my chest. If this store were closed, where could we buy decorations? I thought.

Just then, my sister Gabby's eyes brightened, and she exclaimed, "I know! I noticed a shop near our school that also sells decorations. We could go there instead." I smiled in delight and nodded my head. We walked towards the shop, and a few minutes later, we were standing in front of the shop. Unlike the first store, this one had a large "Come on in!" sign plastered on the door. The bright and colourful lights were inviting us in. The bell jingled as we opened the door, and the shopkeeper smiled at us. Soon, we had everything we needed, including colourful banners, balloons and a large sign that said "Happy Birthday!" on it. As we walked towards the cashier, our arms full of decorations. The cashier scanned each item, then informed us, "The total amount you need to pay is fifty dollars."

My eyes widened in shock.

"Fifty dollars!" I exclaimed. "We don't have that much money!"

"I'm sorry, but that's what it is. Fifty dollars for the decorations," the cashier replied sympathetically. Sighing, Gabby and I shook our heads. Without any choice, we decided to take out some of the decorations, including the large "Happy Birthday!" sign. In the end, we paid thirty dollars and walked home, feeling dejected that we could not buy all of what we wanted to buy.

Seven days later, while our mother was out at work, Gabby and I put up the decorations. I wiped off the sweat on my forehead and smiled. Our decorations made the living room very bright and colourful, with balloons hanging around. "Click!" The sound of the door opening made my sister and me spring into action. We hurriedly turned off the lights and waited at the side of the door. As the door opened and light streamed into the dark house, my mother stepped in.

"Happy Birthday!" Gabby and I shouted, jumping up and hugging her.

"What - Oh, thank you!" my mother replied, giving us affectionate pats on our backs. We turned on the lights, and as we watched mother's eyes widen in surprise at the decorations, Gabby and I smiled at each other.

"Happy birthday to you..." We sang, clapping our hands. A wide grin stretched across our mother's faces. Seeing my mother's eyes twinkle and her delighted face. I realised that this was a successful celebration. Although we had encountered some problems in our journey, Gabby and I had planned something successfully, and my heart swelled with pride.

Prelim CW 2025 Rosyth School

Topic: Planning something successfully

Written by Lee Ern Yue (6 Resp)

Caitlin! Isn't it your birthday next week?" my best friend, Layla, asked. Layla, excitement shimmering in her eyes.

Caitlin and I were getting ready to go for recess, and Layla had just noticed the marking on the class birthday calendar.

"Yes, but it's no big deal. I'm not celebrating anyway, " Caitlin mumbled, picking up her wallet with an air of indifference, though I could hear a twinge of sadness in her voice. I was about to ask why when it hit me. Her beloved pet cat, Creamy, had gone missing on her birthday three years ago. Creamy had been her companion since the tender age of five, so she was heartbroken when the cat disappeared. She had never been the same since. I shared a look with Layla before leading the two of them to the canteen.

After school, I pulled Layla and Keefe, Caitlin's best friend and neighbour aside, dragging them to a corner near the school gate.

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Layla asked, ecstasy brimming in her voice. She barely gave us time to answer before she squealed, "A surprise party for Caitlin!" A smile tugged at my lips as the far-too-energetic Layla started rambling about her ideas to surprise Caitlin. We eventually agreed on the best idea. We would arrange something simple for her at Keefe's house after school on her birthday. It was not much, but it was the best we could do without being too obvious and ruining the surprise.

In the midst of planning, Layla, who was the expert at parties, took charge and helped with most of the planning. I had to order the cake and ensure that the party was perfect and Keefe would make sure that Caitlin did not find out. I had a hard time choosing the right decorations, rejecting some of Layla's wild ideas, and finally put together a party that Caitlin would definitely love. After all Caitlin had been through, maybe it was good that for once, she had a day to be happy and forget about Creamy. Layla and Keefe were clearly proud when we were done.

Well, not completely done. I had one last thing to do...

By the time the next week came, all three of us were bursting with anticipation. The days crept past us. Five more days, four... three... two.

However, with only two days left, something went wrong. Keefe was visibly guilty as he muttered sheepishly, "I'm really sorry, but I may or may not have hinted at the surprise and Caitlin heard it." Layla and I stood there, thunderstruck for a second. Our shock soon morphed into vexation.

"You had one job, Keefe. One!" I grumbled, glaring daggers at him.

"Rina, calm down. I've got an idea," Layla assured me, a smile creeping up her face. Thanks to Layla's perfect idea, Caitlin was deceived into thinking that Keefe was planning to play a prank on one of our classmates. Being the prankster he was, it was not hard at all for Keefe to make Caitlin believe that.

Finally, the day was upon us. Layla led Caitlin to Keefe's house on the pretext that he needed help with homework. The second she walked through the door, blue confetti flew everywhere, and we all yelled, "Happy birthday!" Caitlin was speechless. Then she saw the ice cream cake on the table and her face lit up with joy. Seeing Caitlin happy for once made some small part of me glad I was there. Watching Caitlin dance around in delight and laugh in pure happiness was unlocking a part that had been hidden for a long time. It was heart-warming to have my cheerful, optimistic friend back.

A few moments later, I set a large cardboard box in front of Caitlin. Upon opening it, Caitlin covered her mouth in surprise. Tears started trickling down her face. Lying in the box was a fluffy brown cat, its glowing yellow eyes staring at Caitlin's. She looked from the cat to me, then the cat again, before wrapping me in a hug.

"Thank you," she whispered, her voice full of gratitude, and her eyes glistening with tears. She scooped the cat up and named it Cookie. I smiled. Only the old Caitlin would name her cats after ice-cream flavours.

After a whole day of cake, presents, cheers and playing with Cookie, my heart felt warm and fuzzy inside. Sure, there had been ups and downs in planning for the party, but it was all worth it. When I saw the priceless look of gratitude and joy on Caitlin's face, I was so glad that the plan had been successful. I was even happier to have my best friend back.

Prelim CW 2025 Rosyth School

Topic: Planning something successfully

Written by Soh Cheng Xi (6 Teamwork)

As the warm afternoon sun shone into the living room, Kevin and Mother were busy decorating the house for Kevin's sister, Megan's, birthday celebration. Colourful streamers went from wall to wall, as the plain yellow wall was being decorated. Balloons, tied with different types of strings and filled with helium, rose to the roof, having nowhere else to escape. The birthday gifts that were hand-wrapped lay on the floor, awaiting Megan's arrival in the evening after a long day of play.

"Mother, can we bake a cake for Megan?" Kevin asked. Nodding her head in approval. Mother whipped out everything needed for cake-baking. As they started, Kevin knew that if everything went according to plan, Megan would be thrilled.

When the cake was in the process of baking, Mother instructed Kevin to go to the nearby mall to buy fast food for the celebration. Kevin held Mother's credit card firmly in hand as he sprinted to the mall, with a seemingly endless amount of money to spend.

"Should I buy fried chicken or pizza?" Kevin muttered to himself. "After all, Megan likes to eat both, right? How about I get both?" With a spring in his step, he ordered the food from two different stalls.

As Kevin held the crispy, juicy and tender fried chicken in one hand and the mouthwatering pizza loaded with cheese in the other hand, he scurried back home like a mouse who had spotted cheese in the distance. He thought, "This will make the celebration successful."

Stepping into the beautifully decorated house, Kevin put the food on the table. He opened the box containing the fries, as he rubbed both hands with glee.

"Kevin, those are for you and your sister to share when she comes back. Now, you'll have to help me bring the cake to the table, okay?" Mother pointed to the cake that was fresh out of the oven, as she shoved the gloves to Kevin. With great reluctance, Kevin balanced the cake to the table. He did not notice the multiple gifts that lay on the floor.

At that moment, everything seemed to go in slow-motion. Kevin tripped on the gifts, sending the cake flying in the air. He tried to shout, but no words came out of his mouth. If gravity had not interfered, the cake would not have gone splattering down, onto the piping hot French fries. It was then when the slow-motion effect stopped working. Kevin's stomach hit the flimsy plastic table, causing it to split in half and topple the food boxes. By some miracle, the cake on the fries did not move at all, but it got mixed with the fries.

Kevin thought that the plan would fall through, as he looked at the broken wrapping paper on the floor. Mother came to help. She gave Kevin an ice pack and told him to rest. She sampled the fries mixed with cake, and immediately, she fell in love with it. Although the original plan fell through, the incident made the fries taste even better with salty mixed with sweet.

When Megan got home with Father, they both sampled it and called it the best fries that they had ever eaten. It was a successful Plan B for the birthday celebration!

Even though Kevin thought the plan was going to fall through, the tables were turned, making the plan of having one of the best birthday celebrations come true! Having cake on fries? That was unplanned. Having Megan say that it was the best birthday of her life? It was out of this world.