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English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Superior – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

6 November 2023 / 6 novembre 2023 / 6 de noviembre de 2023

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

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- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

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Text A

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Text B

Young creatives travel to Melbourne for Australian Youth Dance Festival

29 Jun 2022
Stephen A Russell

Growing up in Delhi, India, Abhishree was surrounded by dance from an early age. ‘There’s a lot of dancing in my culture and any time there was music, I was boogying around,’ she recalls.

Non-essential image removed

5 When her family moved to Australia in 2019, the now 15-year-old found her place as part of Canberra’s youth-driven QL2 Dance company. ‘I’ve made so many friends here, family really,’ she said. ‘I absolutely love the collaborative nature of the company, the chance to perform together and the freedom to create pieces of my own.’

10 Emphasising the word ‘together’, Abhishree notes that the focus on collaboration at QL2 isn’t necessarily universal at other companies. ‘I have a lot of friends who are very competitive, so it’s so nice to see our company grow together, rather than individually.’

In the spirit of collaboration, Abhishree will travel to Melbourne with fellow QL2 ensemble member Julia Villaflor to be the company’s youth ambassadors at this year’s Australian Youth Dance Festival (AYDF) alongside other young dancers from across the country.

15 Run by Ausdance Victoria, the week-long AYDF program aims to bring together 70 emerging dancers and have them work with professionals. The dancers, aged 16–24, will participate in workshops and industry forums, and come together to present new work in a performance that will champion youth dancers representing five states.

20 Abhishree relishes the opportunity to forge new and mutually beneficial alliances. She’s presently performing *Connecting Stories: Generations* at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. The work highlights dancers from QL2 with their Canberra neighbours Australian Dance Party as well as others from Newcastle-based company Catapult Dance.

25 ‘It incorporates performers as young as eight and as old as 40,’ she said. ‘So we are collaborating with different ages, different stages, different dances and different companies, including dancers from Thailand. We’re seeing how different people move and sharing our experiences, then using them to grow together.’

30 The young dancer is looking forward to meeting other performers from across the country at AYDF. ‘Canberra is a pretty small place, and Melbourne is a cultural hub for the arts community,’ she said. Abhishree also hopes to make many new friends and to dance with a lot more different people. She also thinks that the AYDF may support her professional ambitions by giving her a chance to network and thus open more opportunities.

Text C

An extract from *The Nickel Boys*

Elwood was twelve when the encyclopedias appeared. One of the busboys¹ dragged a stack of boxes into the kitchen and called for a powwow². Elwood squeezed in – it was a set of encyclopedias that a travelling salesman had left behind in one of the rooms upstairs. There were legends about the valuables that rich white people left in their rooms, but it was rare that
 5 this kind of plunder made it down to their domain. Barney the cook opened the top box and held up the leather-bound volume of *Fisher’s Universal Encyclopedia, Aa – Be*. He handed it to Elwood, who was surprised how heavy it was, a brick with pages edged in red. The boy flipped through, squinting at the tiny words – *Aegean, Archimedes, Argonaut* – and had a picture of himself on the front-room couch copying words he liked. Words that looked interesting on the
 10 page or that sounded interesting in his imagined pronunciations.

Cory the busboy offered up his find – he didn’t know how to read and had no immediate plans to learn. Elwood made his bid. Given the personality of the kitchen, it was hard to think of anyone else who would want the encyclopedias. Then Pete, one of the new dishwashers, said he’d race him for it.

15 Pete was a gawky Texan who’d started working two months prior. He was hired to bus tables, but after a few incidents they moved him to the kitchen. He looked over his shoulder when he worked, as if worried about being watched, and didn’t talk much, although his gravelly laughter made the other men in the kitchen direct their jokes toward him over time. Pete wiped his hands on his pants and said, “we’ve got time before the dinner service, if you’re up for it.”

20 The kitchen made a proper contest of it. The biggest yet. A stopwatch was produced and handed to Len, the gray-haired waiter who had worked in the hotel for more than twenty years. He was meticulous about his black serving uniform, and maintained that he was always the best dressed man in the dining room, putting the white patrons to shame. With his attention to detail, he’d make a dedicated referee. Two fifty-plate stacks were arranged, after a proper
 25 soaking supervised by Elwood and Pete. Two busboys acted as seconds for this duel, ready to hand over dry replacement rags when requested. A lookout stood by the kitchen door in case a manager happened by.

While not prone to bravado, Elwood had never lost a dish drying contest in four years, and wore his confidence on his face. Pete had a concentrated air. Elwood didn’t perceive the Texan as a
 30 threat, having out-dried the man in prior competitions. Pete was, in general, a good loser.

¹ busboys: people who remove dirty dishes from restaurant tables

² powwow: a discussion

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References/Références/Referencias:

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