

Reading

A Read the text.

Far From Home

Tamara stepped out of **the** chauffeur-driven car and stood, motionless, on the gravel driveway. In front of her was the most imposing building she had ever seen. It rose up majestically, a grey giant surrounded by tended gardens and lush green countryside. Feeling a little intimidated, she clutched her bag closer to her. This was to be her home for **the** next several years. St Mildred's School for Ladies.

As the driver was removing Tamara's luggage from the car, a large elderly lady who reminded her of her grandmother, walked gracefully down the steps and approached her. 'You must be Tamara Everette,' she said. 'My name is Mrs Cartwright and I am **the** head mistress of..... St Mildred's.' She extended her hand and Tamara shook it. It was soft and warm, and Tamara immediately felt a sense of relief. She had dreaded coming to boarding school, worried that she would miss her family and perhaps be unable to make friends. Locking on to negative thoughts, **the** three-hour drive to the school had been torture for her. But now, meeting the head mistress, her situation seemed a little less catastrophic.

'Come this way, Tamara,' said Mrs Cartwright. 'Let me show you to your dormitory. The other girls have already arrived.' This was bad news for Tamara. 'Oh, no,' she thought. 'I bet they all know each other and won't be friendly. I bet they hate me!' With a lump in her throat, the young girl followed the older woman.

As they walked down a long corridor lined with open doors, Tamara shyly looked into the rooms and saw girls of varying ages busily putting their things away or sitting on beds, chatting and laughing. **A** wave of loneliness engulfed her. How she wished she were back at home with her parents and brothers. Who were these strangers that she would have to share her life with? Why couldn't she have gone to day school like her other friends? At that point, Tamara was on the verge of tears, but she knew that if she burst out crying, she'd be labelled **a** baby and teased mercilessly.

'Here we are!' announced Mrs Cartwright as she walked into a bright, yellow room. It was nicely furnished, thought Tamara. There were six neat beds, each with its own bedside table and wardrobe. There were beautiful paintings on the walls and flowers in vases. Then Tamara noticed a group of girls standing by **the** large window. 'And these are your roommates - Lucy, Phoebe, Felicity, Holly and Emma.' The other girls looked at her with a mixture of curiosity and pity. 'Make sure you take care of Tamara,' said Mrs Cartwright, whereupon she turned and left the room.

'Er...hi,' said Tamara timidly. 'Um...which one is my bed?' **A** tall thin girl broke from the group and approached her. 'Hi. I'm Holly. Well, we're just trying to figure out who'll take which bed. We're all new here too.' At this news, Tamara nearly jumped for joy. She wasn't the only new girl at **the** school! She wouldn't feel lonely and ignored! 'So, what do you think of Mrs Cartwright?' asked another of the girls who introduced herself as Phoebe. 'She seems nice,' answered Tamara, 'but I bet she's strict!' 'I think she's a bit of **a** dragon,' giggled Holly. All the girls laughed at this and then looked nervously at the door, concerned that the head mistress may have lingered and overheard them. But all was safe. Tamara began to relax and realised that she just might enjoy boarding school after all.

Read the text, the questions and the alternatives and explain the use of the articles in **red**.

- **Example: The (line 1): It refers to that specific chauffeur, the one that was driving her.**
- The (line 4): _____
- The (line _____): _____
-(line 8): _____
- The (line 12): _____
-(line 18): _____
- A (line 20): _____
- a (line 23): _____
- The (line 28): _____
- A (line 32): _____
- The (line 35): _____
- a (line 37): _____
- an (question 2 alternative b): _____
- a (question 2 alternative d): _____

After you finish the previous exercise complete the **Exam Task**.

For questions 1–5, choose the answer (a, b, c or d).

1 How did Tamara feel when she met Mrs Cartwright?

- a scared c relieved
- b worried d sad

2 How did Tamara expect to be treated?

- a as a baby c as another one of the girls
- b as **an** outsider d as a member of **a** family

3 Why didn't Tamara cry?

- a The girls told her not to.
- b She was too happy.
- c There was no reason to cry.
- d She didn't want to look weak.

4 What did Tamara think of the dormitory?

- a It made a favourable impression.
- b There were too many bright colours.
- c She didn't like the decor at all.
- d The room was too crowded.

5 How did the girls become friends?

- a by choosing their beds
- b by gossiping about the head mistress
- c by introducing each other
- d by showing concern