



ST. NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
RABAT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS  
FEBRUARY 2017

LEVEL  
5-6-7

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YEAR 7 ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION

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**SECTION B: Read the following text and then answer the questions on the main paper.**

**Prince Kong**

1 His name was John Dafte. He was a tall, hairy boy, with huge shoulders, long arms and a loud voice. Even the teachers were shorter than him! School boxing champion, captain of both the basketball and football teams – he was good at every sport. We called him Prince Kong. I **admired** him a lot. He was a smiling, kind hero. When he  
5 walked out onto the playground the bullies always used to hide. ‘Fight with someone your own size,’ he would say.

On the Monday morning after half term, he came to school with two black eyes and a broken nose. We talked to him kindly.

‘Did you fight with a bulldozer?’

10 ‘Your mum been beating you up?’

I was not surprised that he had lost a fight. I know that even if you have the strength of ten people, you will lose if you pick a **quarrel** with eleven. It would be normal for Prince Kong, I thought, to try to save someone from a gang of bullies, without stopping to count how many there were. He pushed us roughly out of his way, his head down, and said angrily, ‘Walked into a door.’ We watched him walk slowly into school. It  
15 was difficult for him to walk. We followed him, worried and sad.

Later, I was waiting for one of my friends when he came down the steps. He saw me and stopped to think. I felt **nervous** of him, and smiled uneasily. He walked slowly over and stood looking down at me. A long way down, because he was much taller  
20 than me.

‘You’re clever, aren’t you?’ he said. ‘I mean, you come top all the time. **Brainy**. Good at working problems out.’

I replied shyly, ‘Oh, I’m just lucky.’

‘No. You’re clever,’ he repeated. I realised suddenly that he wanted me to be clever.

25 ‘Well...’ I said – I didn’t like to **boast**, but I didn’t want to say no – ‘OK, I *am* a bit clever.’ I thought he looked a bit happier but he did not say anything. ‘If I can help you, just tell me,’ I said, feeling worried as he was looking at me **gloomily**.

‘Are you walking home with anybody?’ he asked.

30 ‘No,’ I lied. I could see Mark on the steps. I knew *he* would understand. Everybody wanted to spend time with Prince Kong. ‘Can I come with you, then?’ he asked. ‘I’ve got a problem.’

‘Yes,’ I said quickly. ‘Of course.’ I couldn’t imagine what problem it could be. Prince Kong never worried about his school work. Knowing that he was very strong, he was happy to stay at the bottom. ‘If you tell anybody, I’ll hurt you,’ he said.

35 ‘I won’t!’

‘You’d better not.’

*(Adapted from ‘The Champions’ by Vivien Alcock)*