



# YEAR 5 ENGLISH HOMEWORK

Use a dictionary to assist you



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# ALFRED THE GREAT

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More than a thousand years ago, (in the year 849), a prince was born in England, who afterwards became one of the most celebrated and best loved kings in the world. His name was Alfred—afterwards called Alfred the Great—and he was the favourite son both of the king and queen.

In those days the common people were very ignorant; few of them could even read and write. There were no schools, and the monasteries, where almost the only teaching had been done, were nearly all destroyed in the wars which were continually going on. Only the higher classes had any chance to study, and even they paid much more attention to fighting than to studying.



But Alfred was different from most persons of his time. Even when a little boy, he delighted in listening to poems and to the ballads which harpers used to sing, and he learned many of them by heart. When he was twelve years old, his mother, the queen, offered to give a volume of poems to that one of her four sons who would first learn to read it. Alfred was the youngest of them all, yet he easily won the prize of which his brothers thought so little.

But, as has been said, these were stirring times, and Alfred was soon called on to show his great abilities as a soldier. The Danes, a warlike people, were continually swooping down in their vessels upon the coast of England. Often they spread over the entire country, plundering and burning the towns, and killing the people.

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In the midst of these invasions Alfred became king, when he was only twenty-two years old. He proved as good a warrior as he was a student. He thought that whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well. He was generally successful against the Danes, but at one time they seemed to have the country entirely in their power, and Alfred was compelled to hide for his life.



For some time, he dressed as a peasant, and lived in the cottage of a cowherd, who was so careful of his king's safety that he did not even tell his wife who he was. So she treated the king as a common peasant, and one day gave him a sharp scolding because he allowed some cakes to burn on the griddle, after she had left him to watch them. She told him he was clever enough at eating cakes though he managed so badly at baking them.

When the search for him grew less active, Alfred gradually collected some of his followers, with whom he encamped on a small spot of firm ground in the centre of a bog. It was surrounded by almost impassable forests, and Alfred fortified the place so that it could not well be taken. Then he made frequent sudden and successful attacks on the enemy until his troops and the people became encouraged.

One victory in particular, when they captured a banner which the Danes thought enchanted, led Alfred to take bolder steps. He wished to find out the exact condition of the enemy, and, for this purpose, disguised himself as a harper and entered their camp. He was so successful in his disguise that he remained there some days, even being admitted to the tent of the Danish leader Guthrum.

He found their entire army living in careless security, and so he determined to make a sudden and bold attack on them, to try and rid his country once more of these cruel invaders. He summoned his people about him from far and wide. Many of them had long thought their beloved king dead, but now all eagerly obeyed his call.

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He at once led them against that part of the camp which he had seen to be most unguarded. The attack was entirely unexpected; and, although the Danes were greater in numbers, they were defeated with great slaughter. Some of them, with their leader, fled to a fortified place, but were soon obliged to surrender, in the year 873.

Alfred granted them their lives, and settled them in a part of his kingdom where nearly all his own people had been destroyed. He hoped by this to change **obstinate** enemies into useful friends who would protect England from further attacks of their own countrymen. However, some years later, when the Danes made another invasion, these people joined them in fighting against Alfred, but he soon succeeded in driving them all out of the country.



Much as Alfred did for his people in war, he did more in time of peace. Above all else he gave careful attention to their education. He rebuilt the monasteries and aided the young University of Oxford. He also founded many schools, to which every owner of a certain portion

of land was compelled to send his children.

But he did as much good by the example that he set as by these acts. His time was divided into three parts. One was given to business, one to refreshment by sleep and food, and the third to study and devotion. Clocks and watches, and probably even sundials, were then unknown, so these divisions were marked by burning candles of equal lengths.

Alfred did not study for his own pleasure merely, but translated and wrote many works for the good of his people, using the simple language which they could easily understand and enjoy. His person was handsome and dignified, full of grace and activity. But the more noble beauty was within, in the enlightened mind and virtuous heart of the king. After his name, which has its place on an ancient record of English kings, is written the noble title of "Truth Teller."

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- 1) Which are not reasons that contributed to the ignorance of common people
  - a. Monasteries had been destroyed during the wars
  - b. Common people paid more attention to fighting
  - c. Schools did not exist
  - d. Only the higher classes had opportunities to study
  
- 2) If King Alfred was growing up as a boy in today's times, what would you most likely find him doing
  - a. Doing martial arts as he was interested in being a soldier when he grew up
  - b. Playing video games as this is what most kids do today
  - c. Being an active member of school's poetry club
  - d. Studying in the library as he was good student
  
- 3) How did the Danes arrive in England?
  - a. By foot
  - b. By horseback
  - c. By boats
  - d. There is no mention of how the Danes arrived in England
  
- 4) Why did Alfred's wife not recognise that that Alfred was the King?
  - a. Alfred renounced the throne to the Danes
  - b. He was hiding from the Danes and therefore in disguise
  - c. He wanted live life as a cowherd

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d. He wanted to learn how to bake cakes

5) Why did King Alfred live in the midst of forests?

- a. It was good hiding place from the Danes
- b. It would be difficult for the Danes to Attack him
- c. He could make frequent and sudden attacks on Danes
- d. He no longer wanted to live in a cowherd cottage

6) How did King Alfred defeat the Danes?

- a. He led a surprise attack
- b. He disguised himself as a harper and secretly entered the camp of the Danish leader Guthrum.
- c. He made frequent and sudden attacks from the forest
- d. He captured a banner which the Danes thought enchanted

7) What does the word obstinate mean in the sentence “He hoped by this to change **obstinate** enemies into useful friends who would protect England from further attacks of their own countrymen”?

- a. Stubborn
- b. Sworn
- c. Cowardly
- d. Deadly

8) “His name was Alfred—afterwards called Alfred the Great”.  
What part of speech is the word ‘Great’?

- a. Noun
- b. Adjective

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- c. Adverb
- d. Verb

- 9) In what year did Alfred win his prize ‘volume of poems’?
- a. He won this in the year 841
  - b. He won this prize but the text does not mention the year
  - c. He won this in the year 861
  - d. He won this in the year 873

- 10) Which profession of Alfred the Great has been demonstrated in this passage:

- i. Poet
  - ii. Warrior
  - iii. Author
- a) (i) only
  - b) (ii) only
  - c) (i) and (ii) only
  - d) (i), (ii) and (iii)

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# VOCABULARY

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Match the antonyms of the words below:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Word</u>		<u>Antonym</u>
1	BOX	A	Abolish
2	CONSENT	B	Agreement
3	DISPUTE	C	Boastful
4	FUND	D	Celebrate
5	GRIEVE	E	Close
6	MODEST	F	Common
7	MORTAL	G	Dissent
8	PIONEER	H	Expenditure
9	RARE	I	Often
10	REPENT	J	Immortal
11	RESTORE	K	Reject
12	RURAL	L	Gladden
13	SELDOM	M	Unbox
14	ACCEPT	N	Urban

Write your answers below

1)	2)	3)	4)	5)	6)	7)
8)	9)	10)	11)	12)	13)	14)

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# CLOZE

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Fill in the missing blanks with the word bank below:

deposits	ball	young	banquet	spectacles	encourages	courage
approaching	embarks	personal	repel	swarm	magical	evil

Dorothy is a **1)**\_\_\_\_\_ girl who lives with her Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, and dog, Toto, on a farm on the Kansas prairie. One day, she and Toto are caught up in a cyclone that **2)**\_\_\_\_\_ them and the farmhouse into Munchkin Country in the magical Land of Oz. The falling house has killed the Wicked Witch of the East, the **3)**\_\_\_\_\_ ruler of the Munchkins.

The Good Witch of the North arrives with three grateful Munchkins and gives Dorothy the **4)**\_\_\_\_\_ silver



shoes that once belonged to the Wicked Witch. The Good Witch tells Dorothy that the only way she can return home is to follow the yellow brick road to the Emerald City and ask the great and powerful Wizard of Oz to help her. As Dorothy **5)**\_\_\_\_\_ on her journey, the Good Witch of the North kisses her on the forehead, giving her magical protection from harm.

On her way down the yellow brick road, Dorothy attends a **6)**\_\_\_\_\_ held by a Munchkin named Boq. The next day, she frees a Scarecrow from the pole on which he is hanging, applies oil from a can to the rusted joints of a Tin Woodman, and meets a Cowardly Lion. The Scarecrow wants a brain, the Tin Woodman

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wants a heart, and the Lion wants **7)** \_\_\_\_\_, so Dorothy **8)** \_\_\_\_\_ them to journey with her and Toto to the Emerald City to ask for help from the Wizard.

After several adventures, the travellers arrive at the Emerald City and meet the Guardian of the Gates, who asks them to wear green tinted **9)** \_\_\_\_\_ to keep their eyes from being blinded by the city's brilliance. Each one is called to see the Wizard. He appears to Dorothy as a giant head, to the Scarecrow as a lovely lady, to the Tin Woodman as a terrible beast, and to the Lion as a



**10)** \_\_\_\_\_ of fire. He agrees to help them all if they kill the Wicked Witch of the West, who rules over Winkie Country. The Guardian warns them that no one has ever managed to defeat the witch.

The Wicked Witch of the West sees the travellers **11)** \_\_\_\_\_ with her one telescopic eye. She sends a pack of wolves to tear them to pieces, but the Tin Woodman kills them with his axe. She sends a flock of wild crows to peck their eyes out, but the Scarecrow kills them by twisting their necks. She summons a **12)** \_\_\_\_\_ of black bees to sting them, but they are killed while trying to sting the Tin Woodman while the Scarecrow's straw hides the others. She sends a dozen of her Winkie slaves to attack them, but the Lion stands firm to **13)** \_\_\_\_\_ them. Finally, she uses the power of her Golden Cap to send the Winged Monkeys to capture Dorothy, Toto, and the Lion, unstuff the Scarecrow, and dent the Tin Woodman. Dorothy is forced to become the witch's **14)** \_\_\_\_\_ slave, while the witch schemes to steal her silver shoes.

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# PROOF READING

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## Identify the 10 Spelling Mistakes:

Mr Fox is a tricky, and clever fox who lives underground besyde a tree with his wife and for children. To feed his family, he makes nighty visits to local farms owned by three cruel, rude, wicked and dim-witted farmers named Boggis, Bunce and Bean. He siezes the livestock availabel on each man's farm; chickens from Boggis, ducks or gesse from Bunce, and turkeys from Bean. Tried of been outsmarted by Mr Fox, the they device a plan to apbush him.



## Identify the 5 Punctuation or Grammar mistakes

The three farmers then dig up the Foxes burrow using spades and then excavators,The Foxes manage to escape by burrowing further beneath the ground to safety. The farmers are ridiculed for their persistence. but they refuse to give up and vow not to return to their farms until they have caught Mr Fox. they then choose to lay siege to the fox, surrounding Mr Foxs' hole and waiting until he is hungry enough to come out.

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# SHUFFLED SENTENCES

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Unjumble the sentences below and identify the word that is superfluous (not needed)

1) is will must it snow today it unlikely that

2) an respect for a her as teacher service her

3) invited fancy were to Jenny was a dress party

4) house our room nicest has wallpaper the

5) excellent an Paul are chef is

6) crossed brain clever thought mind suddenly a her

7) tests very have I had far so five

8) to very quickly is able swim with Paul