Reading Task: The Road to Lhasa

**Suggested Level:** S1 – 2

**Task Description**

Read the following story entitled “The Road to Lhasa*”* and answer the related questions.

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| **The Road to Lhasa**    There was an old woman who sat beside the road that led all the way to the holy city of Lhasa. One morning, a magnificently-dressed man rode on his horse and said rudely, “You, woman, how far is it to Lhasa?” She said “Oh! It’s very, very far. You won’t get there before the night time.” “What? Of course I will. Look at my marvellous horse.” And he dug in his heels and rode away.  The woman sat beside the road. A little later, a young girl came along, leading her yak. The yak was so big and hairy but the girl was so small and slim. When she saw the old woman, she said politely, “Excuse me.” The old woman said, “Yes?” “How far is it to Lhasa?” “Oh! It’s far, very far, but don’t worry. You will get there before the night comes.” “Will I?” said the girl uncertainly. “Yes,” said the old woman. “Go on.” And the girl gave her yak a gentle tug. They started walking.  They walked up the steep and winding path. Up, up, up into the mountains. As she walked, she was afraid that she might slip and fall down into the rushing river below. But then she found a bridge and she crossed over the bridge. She came to a forest, a BIG forest on the mountain. The wind was very strong. As she walked through, she struggled to go on. The wind was so strong that it knocked her down. CAK~DON~CAK~DON...  But the girl picked herself up and she kept on walking. One step at a time; one foot in front of the other. She went up beyond the trees and then she was in the land of snow. There was no path to follow. There were only stones that other people had piled up to guide the way. The girl was very scared. She thought she might get lost and that she wouldn’t reach Lhasa before the night came. But she kept on walking. One step at a time; one foot in front of the other.  In the afternoon, she walked past the man lying on the ground beside his horse. They were both asleep. They had ridden so hard. They could ride no more. The girl wished that she could also lie down and rest. She was so tired but she knew what she had to do. She gave her yak a gentle tug and kept on walking. One step at a time; one foot in front of the other.  And in the very late afternoon, as she came towards another ridge, suddenly, she heard some sound – the sound of drums, gongs and temple bells. When she got to the ridge and looked over into the next valley, there was Lhasa – the holy city of Lhasa with all its temples and its monks. She had made it all the way to the holy city of Lhasa, walking one step at a time; one foot in front of the other. | 5  10  15  20  25  30 |

**Refer to the text and answer the following questions.**

1. According to paragraph 1, was the man rich or poor? How do you know?

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1. What does “And he dug in his heels and rode away” in lines 5 to 6 mean? Choose the best answer.
   1. The man listened to the old woman and rode away.
   2. The man put on his shoes and rode away.
   3. The man refused to believe the old woman and rode away.
   4. The man dug a hole with his heels and rode away.
2. Why did the old woman answer the man and girl differently to the same question?

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1. What do the following refer to?

a) “They” (line 11)

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b) “it” (line 17)

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c) “its” (line 29)

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1. The sentence “One step at a time; one foot in front of the other” was repeatedly used in the story. What is the purpose of repeating the sentence?

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1. a) Describe how the girl reached Lhasa by writing the letters in the boxes in the correct order.

A. The girl crossed over a bridge and came to a forest.

B. The girl met an old woman and learnt that she could arrive Lhasa before the night came.

C. The girl got to a ridge and the next valley was Lhasa.

D. The girl walked up a steep and winding path.

E. The girl followed a path of stones in the land of snow.

F. The girl met the man with his horse lying on the ground.

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1. What do you think is the message of the story?   
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**Writing Task: The Road to Lhasa**

**Task Description**

Extend the story on “The Road to Lhasa”.

**Situation**

You are Chris, a secondary two student. Your English teacher has asked you to continue writing the story on “The Road to Lhasa” with a focus on the man. You may use the following guiding questions to brainstorm the ideas and/or your own ideas for your story.

1. What was the personality of the man (e.g. impolite, stubborn)? How did his personality influence his decisions and actions?
2. How was the weather? Was it one of the difficulties for the man? Did he overcome it?
3. Was there anyone to help the man (e.g. the old woman, the girl)? If so, how did they help?
4. Did the man make his way to Lhasa? Did he regret what he had done?
5. What is the intended message of your story? What can readers learn from your story?

Write 120 – 150 words.

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| **The Road to Lhasa (continued)**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Reading Task: The Road to Lhasa**

**Answer Key**

**Task 1**

1. The man was rich because he was magnificently-dressed and had a marvellous horse.
2. C
3. The old woman answered the man and girl differently because their attitudes were different.
4. i) the girl and her yak

ii) the wind

iii) Lhasa’s

1. To depict the repetitive action / To show the little progress made / To portray the girl’s persistence (Any other acceptable answers)
2. B 🡪 D 🡪 A 🡪 E 🡪 F 🡪 C
3. Persistence is the key to overcoming difficulties. (Any other acceptable answers)