

BILLY ELLIOT, a movie directed by Stephen Daldry**QUIZ: choose the correct answers:**

1. What is the background scene during the credits? (1 pt)
[A] Billy is drinking milk [B] Billy is jumping on a trampoline [C] Billy is dancing
2. What does the first scene of the film show? (1 pt)
[A] A CD playing [B] An LP playing [C] A cassette playing
3. The next scene shows: (1 pt)
[A] Billy preparing breakfast [B] Billy preparing tea [C] Billy preparing dinner
4. What did Billy call his grandmother? (1 pt)
[A] Gran [B] Grandma [C] Nana
5. Billy's brother is called: (1 pt)
[A] Johnny [B] Tim [C] Tony
6. Billy and his brother, (1 pt)
[A] get on well [B] don't get on well [C] have fun together
7. When do we see Billy's mum for the first time ? (1 pt)
[A] On a photo on the piano [B] In Billy's bedroom [C] In a photo album
8. What was the 1984 miners' strike for? Did they want: (1 pt)
[A] Fewer working hours [B] More money [C] To prevent the closure* of the pits
9. What did the boxing coach tell Billy when he was knocked down? (1 pt)
[A] You are a disgrace to the clothes you are wearing, your father and the tradition of the art of boxing!
[B] You are a disgrace to your teachers and to your family!
[C] You will never make a good boxer
10. Whose boxing clothes does Billy wear? (1 pt)
[A] His brother's [B] His friend's [C] His dad's
11. Why does Billy meet the ballet teacher? (1 pt)
[A] Because he wants to help her [B] Because he must give her the gymnasium keys
[C] Because he wants to speak to Debbie
12. What is the price of the boxing classes? (1 pt)
[A] 60p [B] 40p [C] 50p
13. Where were Billy's boxing gloves when he went for his lessons? (1 pt)
[A] Around his waist [B] In his bag [C] Around his neck

14. What happens after his first ballet lesson? (1 pt)

- [A] He tells his coach he does not want to box any longer
- [B] He pretends he is going to boxing lessons, but he goes to ballet lessons instead
- [C] He tells Mrs Wilkinson he will stop ballet lessons

15. How does Mr Elliot hear that his son has stopped boxing? (1 pt)

- [A] Mrs Wilkinson tells him
- [B] Billy tells him
- [C] The boxing coach tells him

16. Why doesn't Billy's dad want his son to do ballet? (1 pt)

- [A] Because he thinks it is too expensive
- [B] Because he thinks it isn't a hobby for lads
- [C] Because he thinks Billy has no talent

17. What is the general stereotype about male ballet dancers? (a "cliché"*) (1 pt)

- [A] Ballet dancers are athletes
- [B] Ballet dancers are effeminate
- [C] Ballet dancers are funny

18. How does Billy face his father's anger? (1 pt)

- [A] He accepts what his dad say
- [B] He argues with him
- [C] He leaves the room

19. What about Billy's grandmother? (1 pt)

- [A] She supports Billy
- [B] She agrees with Billy's father
- [C] She is indifferent, she does not care

20. She likes ballet because: (1 pt)

- [A] She was a professional ballet dancer
- [B] She could have been a professional ballet dancer
- [C] She was a ballet teacher

II. TO SUM UP THE STORY...

1. FIRST FILL IN THE BLANKS

The story takes place in 19....., in the city of

The Prime Minister is.....

B. Choose from the list

mining / dead / ballet shoes / lives / strike / boy / picket line / unconventional / father / boxing gloves

It's a story about a young..... who in a town in England. His father and brother are both miners on and they spend most of the day on the

Billy's mother is

Billy discovers he prefers to

....., to the horror of his The tension is great between all the characters: the family is very poor and stressed, and Billy's desire is so

BILLY ELLIOT, a movie by Stephen Daldry / 3 PASSAGES

The setting.

- 1) The town where most of the action takes place is called Durham: where is it? Locate it.

- 2) How would you qualify the environment in which Billy's family lives? Describe it briefly.

PASSAGE N° 1 (chapter 4, 24'45)
--

I) GLOBAL COMPREHENSION

- a) Where does the scene take place ?

- b) What are the various characters' reactions in the first part of the passage? Use the appropriate adjectives + appearance.
 - ❖ Billy's father:

 - ❖ Billy:

 - ❖ Mrs Wilkinson:

II) ORAL COMPREHENSION

Fill in the blanks: "Lads play football"

DAD Ballet.

BILLY with ballet?

DAD What's wrong with ballet?

BILLY

DAD Perfectly normal!

GRANDMA I used to go to ballet.

BILLY See.

DAD Aye, for your Nana. Not for lads, Billy. Lads do
or..... or ... wrestling. Not friggin' ballet.

BILLY Why lads do

DAD Don't start, Billy.

BILLY I don't see what's wrong with it.

DAD You know what's wrong with it.

BILLY No, I don't

DAD Yes, you do

BILLY: No, I don't!

DAD Yes, you bloody well do. Who do you think I am? You know quite nicely.

BILLY

What?..... ?

DAD You're asking for a hiding son.

BILLY No, I'm not. Honest.

DAD You are, Billy, Billy!

BILLY It's not just for poofs, Dad. Some ballet dancers are
..... What about Wayne Sleep? He was a

DAD Wayne Sleep?

BILLY Aye.

DAD Listen, son, from now on you can forget about the fucking ballet. You can
..... the fucking boxing as well. I've been busting my arse for
those fifty pences. From now on you'll stay here and look after your Nana. Got it?

III) DETAILED COMPREHENSION / QUESTIONS

- a) Try to find the meaning of the underlined words.
- b) What do you notice about the accent?
- c) What is the language standard in the scene? Justify your answer with quotes.
- d) Why does the father disapprove of Billy's learning ballet dancing?
- e) What other sports does he suggest? Why?
- f) Do you understand the father's anger? Justify your answer.

IV) GRAMMAR: PREPOSITIONS + INFINITIVE STRUCTURES

1) PREPOSITIONS / Fill in the blanks with the right prepositions, among the following list: TO – ABOUT- WITH – AT – ON – AGAINST – O – IN – FOR

Billy is interestedballet dancing but his father disapprovesit. The boy wantsunderstand his father's opinion and tries.....explain his point of viewhim. However, the middle-aged man refuses.....listen.....his son's ideas because he's angryhim. The end of the scene shows that Billy thinksrebellng.....his father's authority but we still don't know if he's goingobeyhim or not. It will dependhis determination to study ballet. His brother agreeshis father and even laughsBilly. The boy must be fed upall these tensionshome. Only his grandma seemsunderstand him! His ballet teacher also knows that this is essentialBillydance.

BILAN: /20

2) INFINITIVE STRUCTURES: PRESSURE ON THE OTHERS. Translate the following sentences, keeping in mind you need to use infinitive structures.

- 1) Le père de Billy refuse que son fils étudie la danse classique.
- 2) Billy veut que son père comprenne sa passion.
- 3) Mme Wilkinson voudrait que Billy travaille dur pour progresser.
- 4) Debbie voudrait que Billy devienne son petit ami.
- 5) Son frère ne veut pas que Billy devienne danseur.

V) WRITING

A) For girls : if your best male friend or your brother **told** you about his decision to study ballet dancing, **would** you encourage him to do so or would you dissuade him from doing it? Justify your answer (use “opinion” and the conditional) – 40/50 WORDS.

B) For boys: if you wanted to become a ballet dancer, how do you think your schoolmates **would** react? Would you have the courage to tell your friends at school about your passion? Justify your answer (use “opinion” and the conditional) – 40/50 WORDS.

C) If Billy's mother **was** still alive, how **would** she react in this particular situation? What would she tell her son? Justify your answer (use “opinion” and the conditional) – 40/50 WORDS.

BILLY ELLIOT, a movie by Stephen Daldry / 3 PASSAGES**PASSAGE N°2: THE AUDITION PANEL (chapter 10, 1'22)****1. Pre-viewing questions.**

a. Where are Billy and his father? What has Billy just done?

b. What has just happened in the lockers' room?

c. What are Billy's feelings after the audition?

d. What is going to happen now?

2. ORAL COMPREHENSION

Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

Father: "How did it?" (silence) "Shit!"

Teacher: "Mr. Elliot, I'm afraid that mutualand self-discipline are absolute pre-requisites for any pupil in the school. Such displays ofcannot beunder any circumstances. Do you understand? I realize that we should have to consider this very seriously and this ought to affect our final Yes, well, just a few questions then. Billy, can you tell us why you first becamein the ballet?"

Billy: "Dunno. Just was."

Teacher: "Well, was there any particular aspect in the ballet which caught your?"

Billy: "....."

Father: "He dances all the time, every night after school."

Teacher: “Yes, we have a reallyletter from Mrs. Wilkinson and she has told us about your personal circumstances. Mr. Elliot, are you a fan of the ballet?”

Father: “I wouldn’t exactly say I was an”

Teacher: “You do realize that all pupils must attain the highestnot just in ballet but in theiracademic work. No child canwithout the one hundred percentof a family. You are completely behind Billy? Are you not?”

Father: “Yes...yes, of course”.

Teacher: “Have you got any?”

Father: “No, not really, no”.

Teacher: “Well, in that case, we shall let youin due course”.

Teacher: “Just one last question. Can I just ask you, Billy, what does itlike when you’re ?

- IMAGINE BILLY’S ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION OF THE JURY-

Expressing emotions: feel + adj / feel like I.... / experience + noun

Likes: be fond of / be mad about / be keen on / enjoy + noun or V-ing.

Capacity: allow sby to / enable sby to / Thanks to....., I can / am able to

Exclamation: What a + GN ! / how + adj ! /is so + adj ! / ...is such a + GN!

Check your supposition, fill in the blanks with what Billy actually answered:

Billy: “Dunno. Sort of It’s sort of stiff and that ,but once I get going then I like, and, and sort of, sort of – like I feel in me whole body – like there’s in me body. I’m just there,, , like yeah, like

Teacher: “Have a safe journey Mr Elliot? Good luck for the”

3. QUESTIONS

1. In what state of mind does Billy find himself during the audition? Why?
2. How would you qualify Billy and his father’s attitude during the audition?
3. In your opinion, is Billy going to be selected or not? Justify your point of view (use “opinion” and “probability in the future”.)

4. WRITING.

a) The teacher mentions an “enthusiastic” letter of support written by Mrs. Wilkinson in which she describes the Elliots’s background. Write down this letter. (**see page 143 of your books to know how to write a letter**). Don’t forget to mention the family’s social situation, Billy’s personality and assets. **MIND THE TENSES!**

WRITE ABOUT 100 WORDS.

b) Imagine the report that the jury writes about Billy after the audition. (use “opinion”, “cause”) **WRITE ABOUT 100 WORDS.**

GRAMMAR / COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE STRUCTURES

Look at these sentences inspired from the scene you've just watched.

Teacher 1 "Well, I don't know what you think but this Billy is surely **the most talented** boy *that we have ever auditioned*".

Teacher 2 "No, I disagree. The boy before him was just **as good as** Billy. I 'd even say he was **more enthusiastic**."

Teacher 1 "Oh, really? I've found him **less convincing than** Billy."

Teacher 2 "The interview after dancing was **the worst** that I've *ever had* to do in my whole career! Billy had nothing to say!"

Teacher 1: "Well, it's true that Billy's answers were **shorter than** the other candidate but they were **more interesting**".

Teacher 2: "Don't tell me that he is **the best** dancer! You can't say that! He **is the least** gifted of all!

Teacher 1: "I'm afraid we disagree. This boy is **the brightest** of today's auditions. Let's vote to decide if we enrol him or not. If Billy gets **fewer** votes **than** the others, we won't keep him...."

a- Classez les formes en caractères gras dans le tableau ci-dessous:

COMPARATIFS	SUPERLATIFS

b- Quelle différence de sens existe-t-il entre comparatifs et superlatifs ?

c- Quel marqueur grammatical trouve-t-on toujours avec les superlatifs ? Pourquoi ?

d- Classez maintenant les formes relevées avec plus de précision dans le tableau ci-dessous :

	<u>COMPARATIFS</u>	<u>SUPERLATIFS</u>
<u>SUPERIORITE</u>	<u>Adj courts :</u>	<u>Adj courts:</u>
	<u>Adj longs :</u>	<u>Adj longs:</u>
	<u>Irréguliers :</u>	<u>Irréguliers :</u>
<u>EGALITE</u>		
<u>INFERIORITE</u>		

AUTRES IRREGULIERS : Far (= loin) / comparatif de supériorité : **farther** ou **further than** / Superlatif de supériorité : **the fartherst** ou **the furthest**.

REMARQUES :

- ❖ Pour exprimer *une moins grande quantité*, on utilise *fewer* + *nom au pluriel* (voir ligne 13 « fewer votes than » et non « less votes than »)
- ❖ Le superlatif de supériorité est souvent lié à l'idée d'un bilan (ex : « This is the best film that I have ever seen » = de tous les films que j'ai vu jusqu'ici, celui-ci est le meilleur). Dans ce cas, il est donc accompagné du avec l'adverbeentre l'auxiliaire et le participe passé.

EXERCICE/ Translate into English :

- 1) Billy est le plus jeune des candidats.
- 2) Son frère est aussi têtu que son père mais il est moins tolérant.
- 3) Les filles sont plus sensibles que les garçons.
- 4) C'est le plus beau jour de sa vie.
- 5) Cette grève fut la plus longue et la plus violente des années 80 en Angleterre.
- 6) Casser le piano est la pire décision qu'il ait jamais prise.
- 7) La pauvreté est pire au nord de l'Angleterre qu'au sud du pays.
- 8) Michael, le meilleur ami de Billy, a moins de problèmes avec sa famille.
- 9) S'ils étaient moins pauvres, ils seraient plus heureux.
- 10) Son père n'a jamais voyagé plus loin que Durham.

GRAMMAR/ « IF » CLAUSES

Look at these sentences inspired from the scene you've just watched:

1. “ If my father **earned** more money, I **would** buy a new piano”.
2. “ If my mother **had not died**, she **would have supported** me”.
3. “ If my grandmother **had met** a good teacher, she **would have become** a great ballet dancer”.
4. “ If my brother **were** more tolerant, he **would understand** my passion”.
5. “If Margaret Thatcher **had given** a raise to the minors, the strikes **would have stopped**”
6. “If Billy **stayed** in Durham, he **would be** very disappointed.”
 - a) Quel est le point de commun de ces 5 phrases?
 - b) Comment pourrait-on classer les groupes verbaux en caractères gras en deux catégories ? Observez attentivement les phrases et classez les dans le tableau ci-dessous :

	Propositions subordonnées (introduites par « if »)	Propositions principales
Phrases 1, 4 et 6		
Phrases 2, 3 et 5		

- c) Qu'expriment les phrases 1, 4 et 6 ? Expliquez.
- d) Qu'expriment les phrases 2, 3 et 5 ? Expliquez.
- e) Traduisez ces phrases et comparez les temps anglais aux temps français.

EXERCICES

1. Traduisez ces phrases en anglais après avoir déterminé de quel type d'hypothèse il s'agit.

- 1) Si la grève avait continué, la famille aurait perdu beaucoup d'argent.

- 2) Si Mme Wilkinson n'avait pas remarqué Billy, il n'aurait jamais étudié la danse.

- 3) S'il habitait à Londres, Billy aurait plus d'opportunités.

- 4) Si le jury était compréhensif (= *understanding*), ils garderaient Billy.

- 5) Si Billy ratait son audition, il arrêterait la danse.

- 6) S'il avait obéi à son père, il aurait pratiqué la boxe.

2. What would you do if...

- a) you discovered your best friend had a very special acting talent.
- b) you were offered three wishes.
- c) you won the lottery.
- d) you could change something in yourself.

BILLY ELLIOT, a movie by Stephen Daldry / 3 PASSAGES**PASSAGE N°3: THE END OF THE MOVIE (chapter 12, 1'36)**

1. Sum up what happened between passage 2 and now. Use the simple past and link words.

2. After all that happened, have Billy's relationships with his family changed? Explain. You may need to use CONTRAST (while, whereas), the simple past and the present perfect.

3. Watch the scene and fill in the blanks.

Tony: "Dad, come on! We're gonna be!" "Dad!" "The show is starting!"

Father, *inside the opera house*: "Can you tell Billy Elliot that hisis?"

Tony: "Sorry, man"

Mickael: "It's all right, Tony. It's me, Mickael,?"

Tony, *whispering to his father*: "It's Mickael" (*to Mickael*): "What the hell are you doing"?

Mickael: "I would've never missed that in the world!"

Assistant *to Billy*: "Billy, your 's here."

The end.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where does the scene take place? Justify your answer.

- 2) When does the scene take place? Justify your answer (you may need the present perfect tense).

- 3) Which characters do we meet again? Which ones are missing? Try to guess why. (use past probability)

- 4) What has happened to Michael since Billy left Durham? (use past probability)

- 5) What special event is happening tonight?

- 6) Using probability, comment upon:
 - ❖ Billy's father 's feelings:

 - ❖ Billy's feelings:

- 7) How would you qualify the end of the movie? Use opinion and justify your viewpoint.

<u>CORRIGE</u>

BILLY ELLIOT, a movie directed by Stephen Daldry**QUIZ: choose the correct answers:**

1. What is the background scene during the credits? (1 pt)
[B] Billy is jumping on a trampoline
2. What does the first scene of the film show? (1 pt)
[B] An LP playing
3. The next scene shows: (1 pt)
[B] Billy preparing tea
4. What did Billy call his grandmother? (1 pt)
[C] Nana
5. Billy's brother is called: (1 pt)
[C] Tony
6. Billy and his brother, (1 pt)
[B] don't get on well
7. When do we see Billy's mum for the first time ? (1 pt)
[A] On a photo on the piano
8. What was the 1984 miners' strike for? Did they want: (1 pt)
[C] To prevent the closure* of the pits
9. What did the boxing coach tell Billy when he was knocked down? (1 pt)
[A] You are a disgrace to the clothes you are wearing, your father and the tradition of the art of boxing!
10. Whose boxing clothes does Billy wear? (1 pt)
[C] His dad's
11. Why does Billy meet the ballet teacher? (1 pt)
[B] Because he must give her the gymnasium keys
12. What is the price of the boxing classes? (1 pt)
[C] 50p
13. Where were Billy's boxing gloves when he went for his lessons? (1 pt)
[C] Around his neck

14. What happens after his first ballet lesson? (1 pt)
[B] He pretends he is going to boxing lessons, but he goes to ballet lessons instead
15. How does Mr Elliot hear that his son has stopped boxing? (1 pt)
[C] The boxing coach tells him
16. Why doesn't Billy's dad want his son to do ballet? (1 pt)
[B] Because he thinks it isn't a hobby for lads
17. What is the general stereotype about male ballet dancers? (a "cliché"*) (1 pt)
[B] Ballet dancers are effeminate
18. How does Billy face his father's anger? (1 pt)
[B] He argues with him
19. What about Billy's grandmother? (1 pt)
[A] She supports
20. She likes ballet because: (1 pt)
[B] She could have been a professional ballet dancer

II. TO SUM UP THE STORY...

1. FIRST FILL IN THE BLANKS

The story takes place in 1984, in the city of Durham .

The Prime Minister is Margaret Thatcher (Conservative Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990) .

B. Choose from the list

It's a story about a young **boy** who **lives** in a **mining** town in England. His father and brother are both miners on **strike** and they spend most of the day on **the picket line**. Billy's mother is **dead**.

Billy discovers he prefers **ballet shoes** to **boxing gloves** , to the horror of his **father**. The tension is great between all the characters: the family is very poor and stressed, and Billy's desire is so **unconventional**.

BILLY ELLIOT, a movie by Stephen Daldry / 3 PASSAGES

The setting.

1. The town where most of the action takes place is called Durham: where is it? Locate it.

The town of Durham is in the North East of England. It is a mining town which is quite poor (high unemployment rate)

2. How would you qualify the environment in which Billy's family lives? Describe it briefly. **They live in a poor area, with red-brick houses (probably council houses). Their environment is rather depressing and they are clearly underprivileged.**

PASSAGE N° 1 (chapter 4, 24'45)
--

GLOBAL COMPREHENSION

- a) Where does the scene take place ?

The beginning of the scene takes places in the town gymnasium. The rest of the action occurs at Billy's home.

- b) What are the various characters' reactions in the first part of the passage? Use the appropriate adjectives + appearance.
- ❖ father: **shocked, disbelieving first. Then angry, furious.**
 - ❖ Billy: **astonished, amazed first. Then, scared, fearful.**
 - ❖ Mrs Wilkinson: surprised first, then sorry for Billy.

ORAL COMPREHENSION

Fill in the blanks: "Lads play football"

DAD Ballet.

BILLY **What's wrong** with ballet?

DAD What's wrong with ballet?

BILLY **Perfectly normal.**

DAD Perfectly normal!

GRANDMA I used to go to ballet.

BILLY See.

DAD Aye, for your Nana. **For girls** . Not for lads, Billy. Lads do **football or boxing** or ... wrestling. Not friggin' ballet.

BILLY Why lads do **wrestling**?

DAD Don't start, Billy.

BILLY I don't see what's wrong with it.

DAD You know **perfectly well** what's wrong with it.

BILLY No, I don't

DAD: yes, you do

BILLY: No, I don't!

DAD Yes, you bloody well do. Who do you think I am? You know quite nicely.

BILLY What? **What are you trying to say dad?**

DAD You're asking for a hiding son.

BILLY No, I'm not. Honest.

DAD You are, Billy, Billy!

BILLY It's not just for poofs, Dad. Some ballet dancers are **as fit as athletes** . What about Wayne Sleep? He was a **ballet dancer**.

DAD Wayne Sleep?

BILLY Aye.

DAD Listen, son, from now on you can forget about the fucking ballet. You can **forget about** the fucking boxing as well. I've been busting my arse for those fifty pences. From now on you'll stay here and look after your Nana. Got it?

III) DETAILED COMPREHENSION / QUESTIONS

a) Try to find the meaning of the underlined words.

Lads: boys / Wrestling: la lutte / Hiding: une r acl ee / Look after: take care of / Got it?: have you understood?

b) What do you notice about the accent? *They don't speak standard English. They have a strong Northern accent.*

c) What is the language standard in the scene? Justify your answer with quotes.

It is colloquial and sometimes it sounds like slang. (frigging, bloody, fucking, bust my arse...

d) Why does the father disapprove of Billy's learning ballet dancing? *He*

disapproves of it because he thinks dancing is not manly enough for boys.

e) What other sports does he suggest? Why? *He suggests wrestling, boxing or*

football because these sports are male-dominated, manly. They are more appropriate for boys.

f) Do you understand the father's anger? Justify your answer.

IV) GRAMMAR: PREPOSITIONS + INFINITIVE STRUCTURES

PREPOSITIONS / Fill in the blanks with the right prepositions, among the following list: TO – ABOUT- WITH – AT – ON – AGAINST – O – IN – FOR

Billy is *interested* **IN** ballet dancing but his father *disapproves* **OF** it. The boy *wants* **TO** understand his father's opinion and *tries* **TO** explain his point of view **TO** him. However, the middle-aged man *refuses* **TO** listen **TO** his son's ideas because he's *angry* **AT** him. The end of the scene shows that Billy *thinks* **ABOUT** rebelling **AGAINST** his father's authority but we still don't know if he's *going* **TO** obey **O** him or not. It will *depend* **ON** his determination to study ballet. His brother *agrees* **WITH** his father and even *laughs* **AT** Billy. The boy must *be fed up* **WITH** all these tensions **AT** home. Only his grandma *seems* **TO** understand him! His ballet teacher also knows that *this is essential* **FOR** Billy **TO** dance.

BILAN: /20

2) INFINITIVE STRUCTURES: PRESSURE ON THE OTHERS. Translate the following sentences, keeping in mind you need to use infinitive structures.

Le père de Billy ne veut pas que son fils étudie la danse classique.

Billy's father doesn't want his son to study ballet dancing.

Billy veut que son père comprenne sa passion.

Billy wants his father to understand his passion.

Mme Wilkinson voudrait que Billy travaille dur pour progresser

Mrs. Wilkinson would like Billy to work hard to progress.

Debbie voudrait que Billy devienne son petit ami.

Debbie would like Billy to become her boyfriend.

Son frère ne veut pas que Billy devienne danseur.

His father doesn't want Billy to become a dancer.

V) WRITING

A) For girls : if your best male friend or your brother **told** you about his decision to study ballet dancing, **would** you encourage him to do so or would you dissuade him from doing it? Justify your answer (use “opinion” and the conditional) – 40/50 WORDS.

If my best male friend told me that he wanted to become a dancer, I would certainly encourage him to fulfill his dream. I would advise him not to listen to the other's criticisms or gossip. I wouldn't laugh at him but I would respect his choice since I am his best friend. I would really support him.

B) For boys: if you wanted to become a ballet dancer, how do you think your schoolmates **would** react? Would you have the courage to tell your friends at school about your passion? Justify your answer (use “opinion” and the conditional) – 40/50 WORDS.

If I wanted to become a ballet dancer, I think that some people would laugh at me. They would claim I'm not like the others and some people would call me a poof or a gay boy. But my real friends would surely understand my passion and if they are honest and reliable friends, they would support me. I would recognize who my real friends would be.

C) If Billy's mother **was** still alive, how **would** she react in this particular situation? What would she tell her son? Justify your answer (use “opinion” and the conditional) – 40/50 WORDS.

I think that she would be more understanding than her husband for several reasons. First, as a woman, she would understand her son's passion. Then, I truly believe that women are more sensitive and mature than boys and she would not forbid her son to fulfill his dream. Lastly, she is her mother and to my mind, parents must respect their sons' or daughters' choices. The situation would be easier for Billy if his mother was (*ou were*) alive.

<p style="text-align: center;">BILLY ELLIOT, a movie by Stephen Daldry / 3 PASSAGES <u>BETWEEN PASSAGE 1 AND 3: QUESTIONS</u></p>
--

How does Billy **manage to** convince his father of his talent and passion for dancing?

Billy manages to convince his father by showing him his talents for dancing. After watching his son, the father understands that his son is really gifted and he changes his mind. From that point, he will support him.

Michael, Billy's best friend, finds out that he's gay. What sort of life **may** he lead if he stays in Durham? Explain what problems he **is likely to** face.

Although Michael is only a kid, he feels different from the others. He likes making up, wearing girls' clothes and we understand that he falls in love with his best friend Billy. In this tough and manly environment, where men like showing that they are powerful, Michael is likely to be rejected, laughed at, humiliated if he comes out of the closet. If he keeps his secret, he may feel miserable and frustrated in Durham. He will certainly face homophobia and intolerance. That's why I think that as soon as he is 18, he should leave Durham for a bigger city like London or Manchester.

What sort of life does Mrs Wilkinson (the ballet teacher) lead? What part does Mrs Wilkinson play in Billy's life? Describe their relationship.

Debbie tells Billy that her mother, Mrs. Wilkinson has bad relationships with her husband. They often fight and don't share the same bedroom. They don't get along well. I think that she is fed up with her life and gets bored. When she meets Billy and helps him to become a dancer, she feels useful and hopeful. She plays the part of a mother for him by protecting him, encouraging him, telling him off. They are very close to each other.

What big sacrifice is Billy's father ready to do to collect money to help his son? How do they eventually find the money to send Billy to the audition?

First, they think about borrowing some money from Mrs. Wilkinson. But they are too much proud to do so. They also consider starting working again in spite of the strike to get money. But Billy's brother refuses because he still wants to fight. So, they decide to sell Billy's dead mother jewels. This is a real sacrifice but they are determined to help Billy by all means.

BILLY ELLIOT, a movie by Stephen Daldry / 3 PASSAGES**PASSAGE N°2: THE AUDITION PANEL (chapter 10, 1'22'50)****Pre-viewing questions.**

Where are Billy and his father? What has Billy just done?

They are in London for Billy's audition. If he is selected, Billy will study professional ballet dancing.

What has just happened in the lockers' room?

Billy has just fought against another candidate. He has lost his temper and self-control.

How does he feel after his audition?

He feels stressed, disappointed and angry at himself because he thinks that he failed his audition. He is even crying.

What is going to happen now?

He is going to be interviewed by the jury about his passion for dancing and his plans.

4. ORAL COMPREHENSION

Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

Father: "How did it **GO**?" (silence) "Shit!"

Teacher: "Mr. Elliot, I'm afraid that mutual **RESPECT** and self-discipline are absolute pre-requisites for any pupil in the school. Such displays of **VIOLENCE** cannot be **TOLERATED** under any circumstances. Do you understand? I realize that we should have to consider this very seriously and this is bound to affect our final **DECISION**. Yes, well, just a few questions then. Billy, can you tell us why you first became **INTERESTED** in the ballet?"

Billy: "Dunno. Just was."

Teacher: “Well, was there any particular aspect in the ballet which caught your **IMAGINATION?**”

Billy: “**DANCING**”

Father: “He dances all the time, every night after school.”

Teacher: “Yes, we have a really **ENTHUSASTIC** letter from Mrs. Wilkinson and she has told us about your personal circumstances. Mr. Elliot, are you a fan of the ballet?”

Father: “I wouldn’t exactly say I was an **EXPERT.**”

Teacher: “You do realize that all pupils must attain the highest **STANDARDS** not just in ballet but in their **ORDINARY** academic work. No child can **SUCCEED** without the one hundred percent **SUPPORT** of a family. You are completely behind Billy? Are you not?”

Father: “Yes...yes, of course”.

Teacher: “Have you got any **QUESTIONS?**”

Father: “No, not really, no”.

Teacher: “Well, in that case, we shall let you **KNOW** in due course”.

Teacher: “Just one last question. Can I just ask you, Billy, what does it **FEEL** like when you’re **DANCING** ?”

- IMAGINE BILLY’S ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION OF THE JURY-

Expressing emotions: feel + adj / feel like I.... / experience + noun

Likes: be fond of / be mad about / be keen on / enjoy + noun or V-ing.

Capacity: allow sby to / enable sby to / Thanks to....., I can / am able to

Exclamation: What a + GN ! / how + adj ! /is so + adj ! / ...is such a + GN!

“Well, I’ve always been fond of dancing. How wonderful it is to move my body to the rhythm of music! Dancing allows me to forget all about my problems. It enables me to escape from reality. This is so enriching! I’m mad about it.”

Check your supposition, fill in the blanks with what Billy actually answered:

Billy: “Dunno. Sort of **FEEL GOOD**. It’s sort of stiff and that ,but once I get going then I like **FORGET EVERYTHING**, and, and sort of **DISAPPEAR**, sort of **DISAPPEAR**... – like I feel **A CHANGE** in me whole body – like there’s **FIRE** in me body. I’m just there, **FLYING, LIKE A BIRD** , like **ELECTRICITY**, yeah, like **ELECTRICITY** .

Teacher: “Have a safe journey **HOME**. Mr Elliot? Good luck for the **STRIKE**.”

QUESTIONS

In what state of mind does Billy find himself during the audition? Why?

He feels stressed, nervous. He only gives short answers at the beginning. He is convinced that he will fail.

How would you qualify Billy and his father’s attitude during the audition?

They look uncomfortable, ill-at-ease.

In your opinion, is Billy going to be selected or not? Justify your point of view (use “opinion” and “probability in the future”.)

I think Billy is going to be selected because he manages to move the jury with his last answer. The jury may feel compassion for this underprivileged boy and for his father. They are likely to be under Billy’s charm.

WRITING.

- a) The teacher mentions an “enthusiastic” letter of support written by Mrs. Wilkinson in which she describes the Elliots’s background. Write down this letter. **(see page 143 of your books to know how to write a letter)**. Don’t forget to mention the family’s social situation, Billy’s personality and assets. **MIND THE TENSES!**

Mrs WILKINSON

10, High Street

WR X87 V Durham

May, 13th 2001

Dear Sir or Madam,

I’m writing to give you a few details about one of the candidates, Mr Billy Elliot who will come for the audition on Tuesday, with his father.

I would like to give you some details about this family’s background so that you can better judge Billy’s performance. In Durham, minors are currently on strike because the government has decided to close the pits. This means that the family is short of money and is in debts. As a consequence, they couldn’t send Billy to a preparatory school because they couldn’t afford it.

Besides, it was really difficult to convince Billy’s family to let their son dance. First of all, they were really reluctant and disapproved of Billy’s passion. But, they finally decided to support him.

This young motherless boy is really gifted. He shows real talent for ballet dancing and he has made astonishing progress in a short period of time. He has worked hard to improve and I truly believe that he should be selected. He will not disappoint you. I am convinced that he will become a top dancer if you give the opportunity to show you his assets.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Wilkinson.

b) Imagine the report that the jury writes about Billy after the audition. (use “opinion”, “cause”) **WRITE ABOUT 100 WORDS.**

AUDITION’S REPORT FOR MR. ELLIOT

CANDIDATE N°126/ 20th MAY / JURY N° 12

Billy Elliot, 12, took an audition today to attend our school next year.

First of all, when he started dancing, we thought that he was not really convincing. He looked clumsy, not self-assured and his dancing was not conventional. But, in the end, we changed our mind and found him rather graceful and bald. In short, we found his surprising.

He surely has valuable assets: he is thin, tall and he has got a certain charisma. However, this boy needs training to progress.

The interview was, at the beginning, disappointing. We learnt that Billy had lost his temper and beat another boy in the locker’s room. This attitude cannot be tolerated in our school. Besides, he only gave short and unconvincing answers to our questions. But then, one member of the jury asked him one last question about his feelings when he danced. Billy’s answer was really moving and touched us. He talked about “flying”, “electricity”. His father seems to support him, in spite of very hard living conditions.

For all these reasons, we came to the conclusion that we should give a chance to this boy since he has got a strong determination, valuable assets and a beautiful conception of the art if dancing.

London, May 21st.

GRAMMAR / COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE STRUCTURES

Look at these sentences inspired from the scene you've just watched.

Teacher 1 "Well, I don't know what you think but this Billy is surely **the most talented** boy *that we have ever auditioned*".

Teacher 2 "No, I disagree. The boy before him was just **as good as** Billy. I 'd even say he was **more enthusiastic**."

Teacher 1 "Oh, really? I've found him **less convincing than** Billy."

Teacher 2 "The interview after dancing was **the worst** that I've *ever had* to do in my whole career! Billy had nothing to say!"

Teacher 1: "Well, it's true that Billy's answers were **shorter than** the other candidate but they were **more interesting**".

Teacher 2: "Don't tell me that he is **the best** dancer! You can't say that! He is **the least** gifted of all!

Teacher 1: "I'm afraid we disagree. This boy is **the brightest** of today's auditions. Let's vote to decide if we enrol him or not. If Billy gets **fewer** votes **than** the others, we won't keep him...."

a- Classez les formes en caractères gras dans le tableau ci-dessous:

COMPARATIFS	SUPERLATIFS
As good as	The most talented
More enthusiastic	The worst
Less convincing	The best
Shorter than	The least gifted
More interesting	The brightest
Fewer than	

b- Quelle différence de sens existe-t-il entre comparatifs et superlatifs ?

COMPARATIFS : 2 éléments ou groupes d'éléments sont comparés.

SUPERLATIFS : 1 élément est isolé de tous les autres. (ex : le plus)

c- Quel marqueur grammatical trouve-t-on toujours avec les superlatifs ? Pourquoi ? **THE** : cet article désigne un élément déterminé, unique. C'est donc logique de le trouver devant un superlatif qui isole UN élément de tous les autres.

d. Classez maintenant les formes relevées avec plus de précision dans le tableau ci-dessous :

	<u>COMPARATIFS</u>	<u>SUPERLATIFS</u>
<u>SUPERIORITE</u>	<u>Adj courts :</u> 1 syllabe + -er (+than) ex : shorter adj en -y= -ier (+ than) ex : happier	<u>Adj courts:</u> 1 syllabe + -est / ex : the brightest adj en -y= iest / ex : the happiest
	<u>Adj longs :</u> More + adj (+ than) Ex : more interesting	<u>Adj longs:</u> The Most + adj Ex : The most talented.
	<u>Irréguliers :</u> Good : better (than) Bad: worse (than)	<u>Irréguliers :</u> Good : the best. Bad: the worst.
<u>EGALITE</u>	AS + ADJ + AS (ex : as good as)	
<u>INFERIORITE</u>	Less + adj (+ than) Ex: less convincing than	The least + adj Ex: the least gifted

AUTRES IRREGULIERS : Far (= loin) / comparatif de supériorité : farther ou further than / Superlatif de supériorité : the fartherst ou the furthest.

REMARQUES :

Pour exprimer *une moins grande quantité*, on utilise *fewer + nom au pluriel* (voir ligne 13 « fewer votes than » et non « less votes than »)

Le superlatif de supériorité est souvent lié à l'idée d'un bilan (ex : « This is the best film that I have ever seen » = de tous les films que j'ai vu jusqu'ici, celui-ci est le meilleur). Dans ce cas, il est donc accompagné du PRESENT PERFECT avec l'adverbe EVER entre l'auxiliaire et le participe passé.

EXERCICE/ Translate into English :

Billy est le plus jeune des candidats.

Billy is the youngest candidate.

Son frère est aussi têtu que son père mais il est moins tolérant.

His brother is as stubborn as his father but he's less tolerant.

Les filles sont plus sensibles que les garçons.

Girls are more sensitive than boys.

C'est le plus beau jour de sa vie.

This is the most beautiful day in his life.

Cette grève fut la plus longue et la plus violente des années 80 en Angleterre.

That strike was the longest and the most violent in the 80s in England.

Casser le piano est la pire décision qu'il ait jamais prise.

Breaking the piano was the worst decision that he has ever taken.

La pauvreté est pire au nord de l'Angleterre qu'au sud du pays.

Poverty is worse in Northern England than in the south of the country.

Michael, le meilleur ami de Billy, a moins de problèmes avec sa famille.

Michael, Billy's best friend, has got fewer problems with his family.

S'ils étaient moins pauvres, ils seraient plus heureux.

If they were less poor, they would be happier.

Son père n'a jamais voyagé plus loin que Durham.

His father has never travelled farther than Durham.

GRAMMAR/ « IF » CLAUSES

Look at these sentences inspired from the scene you've just watched:

1. " If my father **earned** more money, I **would** buy a new piano".
2. " If my mother **had not died**, she **would have supported** me".
3. " If my grandmother **had met** a good teacher, she **would have become** a great ballet dancer".
4. " If my brother **were** more tolerant, he **would understand** my passion".
5. "If Margaret Thatcher **had given** a raise to the minors, the strikes **would have stopped**"
6. "If Billy **stayed** in Durham, he **would be** very disappointed."

Quel est le point de commun de ces 5 phrases? **Elles expriment une hypothèse.**

Comment pourrait-on classer les groupes verbaux en caractères gras en deux catégories ? Observez attentivement les phrases et classez les dans le tableau ci-dessous :

	Propositions subordonnées (introduites par « if »)	Propositions principales
Phrases 1, 4 et 6	Accompagnées du prétérit modal	Accompagnées de WOULD + BV (=expression du conditionnel)
Phrases 2, 3 et 5	Accompagnées du past perfect (ou pluperfect) modal	Accompagnées de WOULD HAVE + PARTICIPE PASSE (=expression du conditionnel passé)

Qu'expriment les phrases 1, 4 et 6 ? Expliquez.

Une hypothèse iréelle, c'est à dire portant sur des faits non réalisés.

Qu'expriment les phrases 2, 3 et 5 ? Expliquez.

Une hypothèse portant sur des faits passés, c'est à dire un regret, quelque chose qui n'est plus envisageable, plus réalisable.

Traduisez ces phrases et comparez les temps anglais aux temps français.

On retrouve une équivalence de temps entre français et anglais.

EXERCICES

1. Traduisez ces phrases en anglais après avoir déterminé de quel type d'hypothèse il s'agit.

7) Si la grève avait continué, la famille aurait perdu beaucoup d'argent.

If the strike had gone on, the family would have lost much money.

8) Si Mme Wilkinson n'avait pas remarqué Billy, il n'aurait jamais étudié la danse.

If Mrs Wilkinson had not noticed Billy, he would never have studied dancing.

9) S'il habitait à Londres, Billy aurait plus d'opportunités.

If he lived in London, Billy would have more opportunities.

10) Si le jury était compréhensif (= *understanding*), ils garderaient Billy.

If the jury was (*ou were*) more understanding, they would keep Billy.

11) Si Billy ratait son audition, il arrêterait la danse.

If Billy failed his audition, he would stop dancing.

12) S'il avait obéi à son père, il aurait pratiqué la boxe.

If he had obeyed his father, he would have practised dancing.

2. What would you do if...

you discovered your best friend had a very special acting talent.

you were offered three wishes.

you won the lottery.

you could change something in yourself.

BILLY ELLIOT, a movie by Stephen Daldry / 3 PASSAGES**PASSAGE N°3: THE END OF THE MOVIE (chapter 12, 1'36)**

1. Sum up what happened between passage 2 and now. Use the simple past and link words.

After coming back from London, the whole family looks forward to receiving an answer from the dancing school in London. The strike stopped and the minors started working again. Billy returned to school but he finds it hard to concentrate.

2. After all that happened, have Billy's relationships with his family changed? Explain. You may need to use CONTRAST (while, whereas), USED TO + BV and the SIMPLE PRESENT.

Billy used to argue with the rest of family whereas now they all look united and close.

Billy's brother used to be aggressive while now, he looks friendly.

Billy's father used to tell Billy off whereas now, he seems understanding.

Watch the scene and fill in the blanks.

Tony: "Dad, come on! We're gonna be **LATE!**" "Dad!" "The show is starting!"

Father, *inside the opera house*: "Can you tell Billy Elliot that his **FAMILY** is **HERE?**"

Tony: "Sorry, man"

Mickael: "It's all right, Tony. It's me, Mickael, **REMEMBER.?**"

Tony, *whispering to his father*: "It's Mickael" (*to Mickael*): What the hell are you doing **HERE?**

Mickael: "I would've never missed that in the world!"

Assistant *to Billy*: "Billy, your **FAMILY's** here."

The end.

QUESTIONS:

Where does the scene take place? Justify your answer.

The scene takes place in the Tube (the name of London's underground).

When does the scene take place? Justify your answer (you may need the present perfect tense).

The scene takes place a few years' later: the father's hair have whitened. Both characters have grown old.

Which characters do we meet again? Which ones are missing? Try to guess why. (use past probability)

Tony (Billy's brother), Mr. Elliot (Billy's father) and Michael (Billy's best friend) are present in the scene.

We don't see Mrs Wilkinson, Billy's former dancing teacher: she may have died / she may have moved to another town / she may have lost touch with Billy and his family / she may have refused to come to London...

We don't see Billy's grandmother (nicknamed Nana): she must have died because she was old when Billy left Durham.

What has happened to Michael since Billy left Durham? Use past probability.

Michael must have come out of the closet. We guess that the black man sitting next to him is his boyfriend. He must have left Durham a long time ago because Tony doesn't recognize him. He may have decided to leave Durham as soon as he could to lead his life without shame and without hiding.

What special event is happening tonight?

Billy is giving his first important performance in London as a hero of the Swans' Lake. Tonight must be his premiere.

Using probability, Comment upon:

- ❖ Billy's father 's feelings: **he is moved to tears. He must be proud of his son's success / achievement.**
- ❖ Billy's feelings: **he must have butterflies in his stomach / he must be very proud of himself / he must be thankful to his family.**

How would you qualify the end of the movie? Use opinion and justify your viewpoint. **MOVING / TOUCHING / HEART-BREAKING / OPTIMISTIC**

<i>Billy Elliot</i>, directed by Stephen Daldry / WRITING ACTIVITY / REVIEW
--

“HOLD ON TO YOUR DREAMS”

Billy Elliot, a movie by S.Daldry *****

Billy Elliot, English director Stephen Daldry's first film, was released in 2000 and stars Julie Walters, Gary Lewis and Jamie Bell. It tells the story of a 10 year-old boy called Billy Elliot who lives in Durham, a poor Northern English mining town. The action takes place in the 1980s when a terrible strike opposed Margaret Thatcher's government to the minors who didn't want their pits to close down. In this difficult context, Billy realizes, with the help of Mrs. Wilkinson, a middle-aged local dancing teacher, that he is keen on ballet dancing. The family doesn't approve of Billy's new passion because dancing is traditionally not for boys. After many clashes and arguments, Billy manages to convince his family and succeeds in becoming a prestigious dancer.

This movie is brilliant for several reasons. First, all the actors are really convincing and talented, especially Billy. Then, the film shows what life was like during the strikes in the 80s: poverty, hate and fights were terrible. Finally, the story is really touching and moving. The viewers soon become attached to the characters.

The film conveys a very powerful and optimistic message: in spite of obstacles such as intolerance and poverty, you need to hold on to your dreams, to work hard to fulfill them. You should never give up hope and faith. Finally, the movie shows that mentalities can and must evolve and that you should not be prejudiced or narrow-minded. You may be a little disappointed in the end because we don't know what happens to Mrs. Wilkinson, one of the most important character. We have to imagine it ourselves.

However, I strongly advise you to watch *Billy Elliot*. This is a movie you will not easily forget.

