**Year 7 ILT Spring Term**

**Reading Comprehension 2- Extract from ‘The Snail Watcher’ by Patricia Highsmith**

Read the extract below and complete the comprehension questions that follow.

When Mr Peter Knoppert began to make a hobby of snail-watching he had no idea that his handful of specimens would become hundreds in no time. Only two months after the original snails carried up to the Knoppert study, some thirty glass tanks and bowls, all teeming with snails, lined the walls, rested on the desk and windowsills, and we're beginning even to cover the floor. Mrs Knoppert disapproved strongly, and would no longer enter the room. It smelled, she said and besides she had once stepped on a snail by accident, a horrible sensation she would never forget. But the more his wife and friends deplored his unusual and vaguely repellent pastime, the more pleasure Mr Knoppert seemed to find in it.

‘I never cared for nature before in my life’, Mr Knoppert often remarked- he was a partner in a brokerage firm\*, a man who had devoted all his life to the science of finance- ‘but snails have opened my eyes to the beauty of the animal world’.

If his friends commented that snails were not really animals, and their slimy habitats hardly the best example of the beauty of nature, Mr Knoppert would tell them with a superior smile that they simply didn't know all that he knew about snails.

\*Brokerage firm - a business that buys and sells stocks and shares

**Mr Knoppert- comprehension questions**

1. What is Peter Knoppert’s hobby?
2. How long has he had the snails?
3. Where are they kept?
4. What has happened to the snails?
5. Where can the snails be found?
6. Give two reasons why Mrs Knoppert does not approve of the hobby.
7. Rewrite the following sentence into your own words. ‘But the more his wife and friends deplored his unusual and vaguely repellent pastime, the more pleasure Mr Knoppert seemed to find in it’
8. What was Mr Knoppert’s previous job?
9. Describe Mr Knoppert’s personality.
10. What device has been used at the end? What is the effect?