**Year 8 ILT Spring Term**

**Reading Comprehension 1- ‘Surviving Elite High’**

Read the passage carefully and then complete the tasks below.

*This extract describes the character, Henry Ames, attempting to ice skate for the first time*.

Henry Ames kept falling down. He tried to stay upright, but he just couldn’t. He’d take a few steps, then wobble, **teeter**, and crash to the ground, windmilling his arms frantically the entire time.

It was Henry’s first ever time ice-skating. He’d been looking forward to this day for weeks now. His uncle Thomas had agreed to take him to the largest, fanciest outdoor rink in the entire city. Henry had imagined that as soon as he set foot on the ice, his talent would **manifest** itself, and he’d glide across the slippery surface gracefully, even regally, while the other skaters gazed in awe.

Unfortunately, things didn’t quite work out that way. After taking his eighth consecutive tumble, Henry was feeling increasingly reluctant to get back up again.

Just then Uncle Thomas skated over to lend a hand.

“Don’t get **discouraged**, Henry,” he said as he helped his nephew back to his feet. “I know it’s tough at first, and can be difficult with all these people around, but everybody falls in the beginning. If you want to get better, you need to keep practising. So what d’ya say we give this another shot?”

Henry nodded his head slowly, clutching his uncle’s hand before taking another few tottering steps forward on the ice.

1. Based on their use in the following quotations, what do you think each of these key vocabulary mean?
   1. “He’d take a few steps, then wobble, **teeter**, and crash to the ground”
      * Stagger
      * Tumble
      * Stride
   2. “his talent would **manifest** itself, and he’d glide across the slippery surface”
      * Hide
      * Present
      * See
   3. “Don’t get **discouraged**, Henry”
      * Excited
      * Upset
      * Disappointed
2. Who takes Henry ice skating?
3. Find two ADJECTIVES to describe the ice rink.
4. What did Henry think his first experience of ice skating would be like? Find a quotation.
5. How does Henry feel about his inability to stay upright on the ice?
6. Why does Henry keep falling?
7. How does Henry’s uncle try to encourage him to keep going?
8. Write a summary on the key details of his trip in no more than 100 words.