

## THE GIRL WHO SILENCED THE WORLD FOR SIX MINUTES

Severn Cullis-Suzuki is one of the world's most remarkable youth environmental activist, speaker, television host as well as author. With some schoolmates she raised money in 1992, when she was only 12 years of age, to attend the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, where Severn received a standing ovation for a speech to the delegates.

### I. LISTENING COMPREHENSION Listen to each paragraph and do the tasks.

#### 1. Part 1 Complete with the missing word.

"Hello, I am Severn Suzuki \_\_\_\_\_ for E.C.O - the Environmental Children's Organization. We are a group of 12 and 13 year-olds trying to make a \_\_\_\_\_, Vanessa Suttie, Morgan Geisler, Michelle Quigg and me. We've \_\_\_\_\_ all the money to come here ourselves, to come 5,000 miles to tell you \_\_\_\_\_ you must change your ways. Coming up here today, I have no hidden agenda. I am fighting for my future. Losing my future is not like losing an \_\_\_\_\_, or a few points on the stock market."



#### 2. Part 2 Some words aren't correct. Underline them and write the correct word. Refer to the line number, the incorrect word and the correct one.

1 "I am here to speak for all parents to come. I am here to speak on behalf of the starving children  
2 around the world whose cries go unheard. I am here to speak for the countless people dying  
3 across this planet, because they have nowhere left to go. I am afraid to go out in the sun now,  
4 because of the holes in our ozone. I am afraid to smell the air, because I don't know what  
5 chemicals are in it. I used to go fishing in Vancouver, my home, with my Dad until, just a few years  
6 ago, we found a duck full of cancers. And now we hear of animals and plants going extinct every  
7 day, vanishing forever. In my life, I have dreamt of seeing the great herds of wild animals, jungles  
8 and rainforests full of birds and butterflies, but now I wonder if they will even exist for my children  
9 to observe."

#### 3. Part 3 Are these statements True or False?

- a) The delegates know exactly what must be done to save the planet.
- b) Suzuki asks the delegates to stop harming the planet.
- c) Suzuki believes we all belong to the same family.
- d) The diversity in our world can disappear if politicians want.
- e) We must work together to accomplish a common goal.

### II. READING COMPREHENSION

#### Part 4 Now read the last two paragraphs of the speech and do the tasks below.



Fill in the gaps with the missing words from the list then listen and check

-CHALLENGE	-STARVING	-BEGGAR	-SHOCKED	-BLIND	-SHARE	-STREET
-GREEDY	-SHELTER	-ENVIRONMENTAL	-BEHAVE	-NEEDY	-PRIORITIES	-WASTE

"In my anger, I am not \_\_\_\_\_ and in my fear I am not afraid of telling the world how I feel. In my country we make so much \_\_\_\_\_, we buy and throw away, buy and throw away, buy and throw away and yet Northern countries will not share with the \_\_\_\_\_. Even when we have more than enough we are afraid to share, we are afraid to let go of some of our wealth. In Canada, we live the \_\_\_\_\_ life. We've plenty of food, water and shelter. We have

watches, bicycles, computers and television sets. The list could go on for 2 days. Two days ago here in Brazil, we were \_\_\_\_\_ when we spent time with some children living on the streets. This is what one child told us, 'I wish I was rich and if I were, I would give all the \_\_\_\_\_ children food, clothes, medicines, \_\_\_\_\_ and love and affection'. If a child on the street who has nothing is willing to share, why are we who have everything still so \_\_\_\_\_? I can't stop thinking that these are children my own age, that it makes a tremendous difference where you are born. And that I could be one of those children living in the favelas of Rio. I could be a child \_\_\_\_\_ in Somalia, or a victim of war in the Middle East or a \_\_\_\_\_ in India. I am only a child, yet I know if all the money spent on war was spent on finding \_\_\_\_\_ answers ending poverty and in finding treaties, what a wonderful place this earth would be."

"At school, even in kindergarten, you teach us how to \_\_\_\_\_ in the world. You teach us to not to fight with others, to work things out, to respect others and to clean up our mess, not to hurt other creatures, to share, not be greedy. Then, why do you go out and do the things you tell us not to do? Do not forget why you are attending these conferences, who you are doing this for. We are your own children. You are deciding what kind of a world we are growing up in. Parents should be able to comfort their children by saying 'Everything is going to be all right, it's not the end of the world, and we are doing the best we can'. But I don't think you can say that to us anymore. Are we even on your list of \_\_\_\_\_? My dad always says, 'you are what you do, not what you say'. Well, what you do makes me cry at night. You grown-ups say you love us. But I \_\_\_\_\_ you, please, make your actions reflect your words. Thank you."

**1. Find evidence in the text for the following:**

- a) Although people have more than they need, they find it difficult to give to others.
- b) It seems easier for the poor to share.
- c) Had your birthplace been in a different country and you could be a needy person.

**2. Complete WITH YOUR OWN WORDS (No quotation allowed)**

- a) Although adults teach children good values, \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) Actions are \_\_\_\_\_.



**III. USE OF ENGLISH**

**1. Complete the text with the words from the box. Refer only to the numbers.**

	serious	degrees	extinct	temperature	
	oxygen	climate	water	migrate	

A new report from the World Wild Fund (WWF) shows how fish populations are in \_\_\_\_ (1)\_\_\_\_ danger from Global Warming. The report "Are we putting our fish in hot \_\_\_\_ (2)\_\_\_\_?" describes how \_\_\_\_ (3)\_\_\_\_ change is increasing the water \_\_\_\_ (4)\_\_\_\_ in rivers, lakes and seas. This means there is less food and \_\_\_\_ (5)\_\_\_\_ available for fish. It also means the fish may not grow fully and may have fewer offspring. Some fish cannot reproduce if winter temperatures are not cold enough. Warmer water means fish could mass \_\_\_\_ (6)\_\_\_\_ to cooler areas. Some species will become \_\_\_\_ (7)\_\_\_\_ if temperatures rise even by one or two \_\_\_\_ (8)\_\_\_\_. WWF (adapted)

**2. Report the statements.**

- a) "In my anger, I am not blind and in my fear I am not afraid of telling the world how I feel."  
Severn Suzuki stated \_\_\_\_\_
- b) "Are we even on your list of priorities?"  
Severn Suzuki asked the delegates \_\_\_\_\_
- c) "Make your actions reflect your words."  
Severn Suzuki challenged \_\_\_\_\_