



READING

Matching

I can understand specific details in an article.

- 1 **SPEAKING** Read the results from a survey into male and female attitudes about friendship. Do you agree with the statements below? Why?/Why not? Discuss with a partner.



MALES are likely:

- to say they have a lot of close friends or no close friends.
- to be part of a group of close friends.
- to avoid confiding their problems to their friends.
- to have weaker relationships with friends.



FEMALES are likely:

- to have fewer close friends.
- to make close connections with individuals rather than groups.
- to confide in their friends.
- to take friendships very seriously and invest a lot in them.

- 2 **SPEAKING** Look quickly through the article on friendships in literature. Discuss which of the stories you would most like to read.

READING FOCUS Matching

- 3  Read the article. In your notebook, match questions 1–10 with sections A–F. The sections may be chosen more than once.

Which section of the article mentions ...

- 1 a desire to act to correct an injustice?
- 2 one person's resistance to change?
- 3 a character's trait which positively influences their companions?
- 4 an opinion on the function of a true friend when faced with a friend's bad behaviour?
- 5 friendship within the family?
- 6 a difference in social status between two people who are closely connected?
- 7 a story related by one friend about the other?
- 8 a friendship which endures despite contradictory feelings among the individuals concerned?
- 9 a friendship that develops despite parents' wishes?
- 10 the writer's view on the type of friendships that last longest?

1.6

Being Friends

Friendships provide some of the most captivating narratives in literature. Each of the stories on this list points to a different facet of friendship and offers insight into what it means to be a good and loyal friend.

A **Huck and Tom** in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

It is only in chapter six of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* that we are introduced to Huckleberry Finn. Homeless and carefree, his father a vagabond, the teenage boy is idolised by the local children and detested by their parents. Bad influence or not, Huck strikes up a friendship with Tom and the boys become inseparable. That's the beauty of a firm and long-lasting friendship – you associate with someone and sing their praises in spite of their shortcomings.

B **Sheila and Margaux** in *How Should a Person Be?* by Sheila Heti

The protagonist, Sheila, is a divorcee in her twenties writing a play. When she realises she is stuck in a rut, she meets a gifted painter, Margaux. The woman turns out to be a godsend as she becomes a source of inspiration for Sheila. Both characters in the novel are based on real people: the writer herself and her friend, whose relationship shifts and evolves as deep friendships do. It sustains itself although it has its ups and downs. On the one hand, the women sometimes quarrel about insignificant things like a dress. On the other hand, however, as she underlines in the prologue, the author appreciates that Margaux is such a laid-back person and that her easy-going attitude to life infects her circle of friends.

C **Amir and Hassan** in *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

True friends never part and the friends we make when we're very young stay with us forever. Two boys grow up together in Afghanistan. One, Amir, comes from a wealthy, privileged background, the other, Hassan, is poverty-stricken, his caste shunned by all others. But this division can't prevent the bonds of friendship from developing and the boys are inseparable. When he's needed, Amir returns to his homeland to redress past wrongs done to his truest companion.