

A Gardening Surprise.

"Stephen," his mother said, "you really will have to dig over the garden." Reluctantly he rose from his chair. The rugby on Channel 4 would have to wait. Slowly he walked to the disorganised garage. It took him ten minutes to find a spade. He turned on a tap, washed and scraped the caked clay from the spade.

Slowly he dug at the wet and heavy clay. Ten minutes passed and the fruits of his labours showed little reward. The work was hard and laborious. He pressed hard on the spade with his foot and "clunk," it came to an abrupt halt.

Slowly, meticulously he prised up the large stone and lifted it to the edge of the garden and returned to his digging. Ten more minutes passed and the spade stopped with a hollow thud. "Oh no, not another stone!" he said to himself. He knelt down and removed the soil with his bare hands to expose a rusting box. "Mum," he screamed, "I've found a box! Come out here now!" Quickly he scraped the soil away to reveal an engraved top. He dug deeper and eventually lifted the box on to the surface.

"Look," he said, "it's padlocked." Lifting his spade, he struck the padlock one short, sharp blow - the box sprang open to reveal.....

Choose the **best word or phrase** each time. Underline your answers.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Reluctantly means - | quickly | happily | unwillingly | slowly |
| 2 | Abrupt means - | sudden | slow | long | early |
| 3 | Caked clay means - | baked clay | dried clay | boiled clay | heavy clay |
| 4 | Fruits of his labours means - | nuts and raisins | member of the Labour Party | the outcome of working | apples on a tree |

Write **one word**, from the passage, that proves that each of the following is true.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|
| 5 | The box was made of metal - | _____ |
| 6 | The garage was untidy - | _____ |
| 7 | The box had writing on it - | _____ |

Read the passage carefully and decide if the following statements are **true**, **false** or **you cannot tell**. Underline your answer.

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 8 | The man is married. | True | false | I cannot tell |
| 9 | The man plays rugby. | True | false | I cannot tell |
| 10 | The garden was dry. | True | false | I cannot tell |