

A strange girl

Stephen pulled up the collar of his coat as he walked along the platform. Overhead a dim fog clouded the station. He was 30 _____ trains move slowly, throwing off clouds of steam into the cold air. Everything was dirty and smoke-grimed. Stephen thought with revulsion: "What a foul country — what a foul city!" He had to 31 _____ that his first excited reaction to London — its shops, its restaurants, its well-dressed attractive women — had faded. Supposing he were back in South Africa now... To 32 _____ the truth, he felt a quick pang of homesickness. Sunshine — blue skies — gardens of flowers. And here — dirt, grime and endless crowds — moving, hurrying, jostling.

He got on a train and passed along the corridor, looking for a place. The train was full. It was only three days before Christmas. He 33 _____ to go to his parents for Christmas... And then, suddenly, he caught his breath, looking into a carriage. This girl was different. Black hair, rich creamy pallor, the sad proud eyes of the South... It was all wrong that this girl should be sitting in this train 34 _____ these dull drab looking people. She should be somewhere splendid, not squeezed into the corner of a third class carriage.

He was an observant man. He did not fail to 35 _____ the shabbiness of her black coat and skirt, the cheap quality of her gloves. 36 _____, splendor was the quality he associated with her. He thought: "I've got to know who she is and what she's doing here."

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1. Say.
2. Talk.
3. Speak.
4. Tell.