

### 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."

Вставьте пропущенное слово.

1. Nevertheless.
2. Nevermore.
3. Although.
4. Therefore.