

Reading Comprehension Task on the opening of the short story

“The Black Madonna” by Muriel Spark

(From the very beginning to “[...] it will be the thing to live in a council flat.”)

Tick the correct box and, for the ‘true’ and ‘false’ options, give the page and line number of the respective reference plus the first and last word of the quote in question. Rely on this passage only.

	True	False	Not in the text	Pages / lines
01. The procession looked very festive.				
02. The Roman Catholics of Witney Clay had been there for centuries.				
03. There were religious conflicts between Roman Catholics and others.				
04. A new Roman Catholic donated the statue of the Black Madonna.				
05. In Ireland, the sculptor had been looking for suitable material for a Black Madonna.				
06. The sculptor wanted the statue to look modern.				
07. One person liked the statue of the Immaculate Conception at Lourdes more.				
08. The statue became a bit of a tourist attraction.				
09. The new town had already wholly destroyed the old town.				
10. The Town Planning Committee was completely free to do what it intended.				
11. Much of the new town’s layout was pretty geometrical.				
12. Sir Stafford Cripps was the architect of the house Raymond and Lou lived in.				
13. Raymond and Lou married when she was 37.				
14. The Town Council wanted at least five Catholic families to live in the house.				
15. Raymond and Lou were thought to be happy.				
16. The Parkers liked going to galleries.				
17. Lou supported one of her sisters.				
18. The word ‘rocket’ is here a metaphor for great plans.				

Solutions:

	True	False	Not in the text	Pages / lines
01. The procession looked very festive.	✓			
02. The Roman Catholics of Witney Clay had been there for centuries.		✓		
03. There were religious conflicts between Roman Catholics and others.			✓	
04. A new Roman Catholic donated the statue of the Black Madonna.	✓			
05. In Ireland, the sculptor had been looking for suitable material for a Black Madonna.		✓		
06. The sculptor wanted the statue to look modern.			✓	
07. One person liked the statue of the Immaculate Conception at Lourdes more.	✓			
08. The statue became a bit of a tourist attraction.	✓			
09. The new town had already wholly destroyed the old town.		✓		
10. The Town Planning Committee was completely free to do what it intended.		✓		
11. Much of the new town's layout was pretty geometrical.	✓			
12. Sir Stafford Cripps was the architect of the house Raymond and Lou lived in.		✓		
13. Raymond and Lou married when she was 37.		✓		
14. The Town Council wanted at least five Catholic families to live in the house.			✓	
15. Raymond and Lou were thought to be happy.			✓	
16. The Parkers liked going to galleries.			✓	
17. Lou supported one of her sisters.	✓			
18. The word 'rocket' is here a metaphor for great plans.	✓			