Al-Mustaqbal Uni.

Department of English

1st year/ reading

*Lecture 1*

A Puma at Large

Pumas are large, cat-like animals which are found in America. When reports came into

London Zoo that a wild puma had been spotted forty-five miles south of London, they were

not taken seriously. However, as the evidence began to accumulate, experts from the Zoo

felt obliged to investigate, for the descriptions given by people who claimed to have seen

the puma were extraordinarily similar.

The hunt for the puma began in a small village where a woman picking blackberries

saw a large cat only five yards away from her. It immediately ran away when she saw it,

and experts confirmed that a puma will not attack a human being unless it is cornered. The

search proved difficult, for the puma was often observed at one place in the morning and

at another place twenty miles away in the evening. Wherever it went, it left behind it a trail

of dead deer and small animals like rabbits. Paw prints were seen in a number of places

and puma fur was found clinging to bushes. Several people complained of "cat-like noises

at night and a businessman on a fishing trip saw the puma up a tree. The experts were now

fully convinced that the animal was a puma, but where had it come from? As no pumas

had been reported missing from any zoo in the country, this one must have been in the

possession of a private collector and somehow managed to escape. The hunt went on for

several weeks, but the puma was not caught. It is disturbing to think that a dangerous wild

animal is still at large in the quiet countryside.

* ***Vocabulary***

Spotted = dotted =flecked

Accumulate = gather = collect = assembled

Obliged = require = bind =

Claimed = declare = argue

Extraordinarily = exceptionally = unusually

Similar = likewise = comparably = in parallel

Immediately = at once = straight way = right away

Convinced = satisfied = certain = persuaded

* ***Answer the following questions:***

1- What reports did London zoo receive?

2- Who did see the large cat first?

3- What did it leave behind?

4- What did some people complain of?

5- Where did a businessman see the puma?