Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

A Very Tall Man from Turkey

September 16, 2009 by Raphael G. Satter, Associated Press Writer

1 A towering Turk was officially crowned the world's tallest man last week after his Ukrainian rival dropped out of the running by refusing to be measured. Guinness World Records said that 2.47-meter Sultan Kösen, from the town of Mardin in eastern Turkey, is now officially the tallest man walking the planet. According to Guinness, Kösen is one of only 10 confirmed or reliably reported cases in which humans have grown past the 2.44-meter mark.

2 Although the previous record holder, Ukrainian Leonid Stadnyk, reportedly measured 2.57 meters, Guinness said he was stripped of his title – the world's tallest man – when he refused to let anyone confirm his height. Stadnyk, 39, told The Associated Press that he didn’t want to be measured a second time by Guinness officials because he was tired of being in the public eye. "If this title had given me more health or a few extra years, I would have taken it. However, the opposite happened and I only wasted my nerve cells," he said. "If I have to choose between prosperity and calm, I choose the latter."

3 Sultan Kösen, who is 27 years old, told reporters in London that he was looking forward to transforming his newfound status into a chance at love. "Up until now, I haven’t had much luck with girls and it's been really tough to find a girlfriend," Kösen said through an interpreter. "I've never had one. They are usually afraid of me. Hopefully now that I'm famous, I'll be able to meet lots of girls. I'd like to get married and she doesn't have to be as tall as me."

4 Kösen grew normally until he was 10, but then a tumour caused him to develop a medical condition called pituitary gigantism. Pituitary gigantism is an illness where there is a problem with the pituitary gland — a small organ at the base of the brain. Kösen’s pituitary gland was producing too much growth hormone. In other words, Kösen grew into his giant stature because of an overproduction of growth hormone. This illness also explains Kösen's enormous hands and feet, which measure 27.5 centimeters and 36.5 centimeters respectively. The tumour was removed last year, so Kösen isn't expected to grow any further.

5 A part-time farmer, Kösen, who uses crutches to stand, said there were disadvantages to being so tall. "I can't fit into a normal car. When I get into a car, it's a really tight fit," he said. "I can't go shopping like normal people and finding clothes has always been a challenge. Most of the time, special clothes are made for me but they aren't always as fashionable. I also have to have a three-meter-long bed made especially for me. The other thing is that ceilings are low and I have to bend down through doorways." But Kösen’s height does have its upsides, too. He said: "The good thing about being so tall is that I can see people from a long distance. The other thing is I can help my mother hang curtains and don’t need a ladder to change light bulbs."

6 Kösen's trip to the U.K. — his first outside Turkey — was organized by Guinness to publicize the release of its 2010 Guinness World Records book, this year's repertoire of weird and wonderful records. The 27-year-old gentle giant seemed to take his newfound fame in his very big stride. "I used to hide away but now I accept my height and accept that people are really interested. I'm very proud because I have been able to take this title — not only for myself but also for Turkey," Kösen said.
A. What do the following refer to in the text?
1. this title (para. 2):________________________________________________________
2. the latter (para. 2):________________________________________________________
3. They (para. 3):____________________________________________________________

B. Find words in the text which mean the following. **DO NOT** change the form of the words and write **ONE WORD ONLY**.
1. difficult (para. 3) (adj):________________________
2. size (para. 4) (n):________________________
3. advantages (para. 5) (n):________________________

C. Answer the following questions according to the information in the text. Give **SHORT answers** where possible.
1. Why did Leonid Stadnyk lose his title?
   ________________________________________________________________
2. When someone has pituitary gigantism, what is the problem with their pituitary gland?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
4. What is the problem with the clothes that are made for Kösen?
   ________________________________________________________________
5. Write two things Kösen does at home to help.
   a) _______________________________________________________________
   b) _______________________________________________________________

D. Answer the following question using **YOUR OWN WORDS**.

Do you think that it is an advantage or a disadvantage for a person to have qualities to get into the Guinness Book of World Records? Explain in 3-4 sentences.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
INTERMEDIATE GROUP

ANSWER KEY

PART A

1. the world’s tallest man
2. calm
3. Girls

PART B

1. tough
2. stature
3. upsides

PART C

1. he refused to let anyone confirm his height / he didn’t want to be measured a second time (by Guinness officials).
2. it produces too much growth hormone / there is an overproduction of growth hormone
3. No (Kösen isn't expected to grow any further) because the tumor (causing the growth) was removed last year
4. they aren’t (always) (as) fashionable
5. a. he helps his mother hang curtains / he hangs curtains
   b. he changes light bulbs (without a ladder)