

Reading

Read the following passage and then answer questions 1-6.

The splintered steps leading to the tenement's entrance were rotted and uneven. They led to an unlocked door which wobbled on its hinges and shrank from its frame. It creaked opened to a dank, dark hall which smelled of urine and sweat. The paint was peeling off cracked walls. The faint yellow light hung low in the night.

Mr. and Mrs. Gomes lived on the second floor with their three young children. Their four-room apartment was immaculate and tidy. The kitchen floor glistened, and the flowered plates and glasses were neatly stacked in the drainer.

In the living room, the sheer curtains were always drawn back, filtering sunlight throughout the room, passing over a color television and several porcelain icons. Besides the freestanding gas heater was a brand name stereo system recently purchased on an "easy pay" credit plan.

The soft pine floors were all warped but recently painted. The wide floorboards, once loose in many places, were now nailed down securely. Clear plastic sheets were tacked over the windows to prevent heat loss.

The children, two girls and a boy, shared a large room with one small window that was separated from the kitchen by a curtain. The gas stove "warmed" them at night. Their toys were piled high in wooden crates. The children did not dare turn on the kitchen light for fear that the six-legged, brown-bodied pests would dart out in front of them.

The Gomes family had rented this apartment for ten years, ever since they came to this country. They had known no other home, although they had dreamed of many. Some day they hoped to live in a quiet neighborhood with open yards and spotless sidewalks, where people get into cars each weekday morning and commute to work.

1. You can infer that the story takes place in the
 - a. summer
 - b. spring
 - c. fall
 - d. winter
 - e. none of the above
2. In the third paragraph the word icons means
 - a. fine china plates
 - b. ornate lamps
 - c. religious figures
 - d. ashtrays
 - e. none of the above
3. You can conclude that the Gomes family members are
 - a. Native Americans
 - b. United States citizens
 - c. Chinese
 - d. Immigrants
 - e. Second generation Americans
4. What would be the opposite meaning of the word immaculate in the second paragraph?
 - a. filthy
 - b. girlish
 - c. clean
 - d. horrible
 - e. modern
5. What can you infer about the children's bedroom?
 - a. It is well furnished.
 - b. It is crowded.
 - c. It has its own bathroom.
 - d. It is well lighted.
 - e. It is pest-free.
6. The pests mentioned at the end of the passage are probably
 - a. ants
 - b. mice
 - c. rats
 - d. moths
 - e. cockroaches

Read the following passages and choose the best answer for items 7 – 12.

What was Grandpa Tweedy Like?

Then there was Grandpa Tweedy, my daddy's daddy out in Banks County. He talked hard times morning, noon, and night. Called himself a farmer; but you never saw him behind a plow or driving a team. Like the lilies of the field in the Bible, he toiled not, neither did he spend his own money. He was always asking Papa to help him out. All he ever did was sit on the porch and swat flies, and like I said, even had him a pet hen to peck them up.

When Papa left the farm at sixteen to go work for Grandpa Blakeslee, he made twenty dollars a month and had to send half of it home to pay the field hand who took his place. That was the custom. But even after Papa married at nineteen, making forty dollars a month, he still had to send Grandpa Tweedy ten of it, till the day he was twenty-one. My mother never said she didn't like her father-in-law, but I could tell she didn't, and that may have been why.

What started me hating him? He wouldn't let me fish on Sunday. Said it was a sin. I remember I put out some set hooks late one Saturday, thinking if I caught a fish, it wouldn't be a sin to take him off the hook the next morning. End his suffering, you know. Early Sunday I ran down to the river and one of the lines was just jiggling! But when I ran up the hill and asked Grandpa's permission to get my fish off the hook he said, "Hit'll still be thar t'morrer, Lord willin'. The Lord ain't willin', it'll be gone. Now git in the house and study your catechism till time to leave for preachin'."

Of course the fish was gone Monday morning. But I got back at Grandpa Tweedy. I'd noticed a big hornet's nest in the privy, just under the tin roof, so I bided my time behind a tree till I saw him go in there. Giving him just long enough to get settled good, I let fly with a rock and hit that tin roof like a gunshot...

7. The statement "All he ever did was sit on the porch and swat flies" is a restatement of
- a. "he toiled not"
 - b. "he talked of hard times"
 - c. "called himself a farmer"
 - d. "neither did he spend his own money"
 - e. "even had him a pet hen to peck them up"

8. Which of the following actions would you expect Grandpa Tweedy to take?
- He would be the first man to fix anything that needed fixing.
 - He would tend his lilies night and day just like in the Bible.
 - He would talk for hours on end about his incredible good fortune.
 - He would be glad to lend a helping hand to his children.
 - He would let a fence fall down before he would repair it.
9. Which statement reflects the most likely reason that Papa sent money home to Grandpa Tweedy?
- Papa was paying back his father for money loaned to him for school.
 - Children have a moral obligation to support parents who cannot support themselves.
 - Papa felt guilty for having left the farm.
 - Papa felt guilty for not having brought his wife back to the farm.
 - Grandpa Tweedy did not like to spend his own money, so he asked Papa to help out.
10. What happened when the speaker told Grandpa Tweedy about the Fish?
- Grandpa said it was a gift from God.
 - Grandpa refused permission to take the fish off the hook.
 - Grandpa gave his permission to get the fish.
 - Grandpa said to wait until after preaching.
 - Grandpa got angry at the speaker.
11. Which of the following is the best summary of what happened in the last paragraph?
- The speaker started hating Grandpa Tweedy.
 - Grandpa threw a rock at the privy.
 - The fish got away from the hook.
 - The speaker stirred up the hornets while Grandpa was in the outhouse.
 - The speaker set a trap for Grandpa by hiding a hornet's nest in a tree.
12. How did the speaker justify taking the fish off the hook?
- The speaker planned to ask Grandpa's permission to get the fish off the hook.
 - The speaker said that if it were done on Saturday, it would not be a sin.
 - The speaker thought that it would be almost a good deed.
 - The speaker told Grandpa that it was less work that way.
 - The speaker planned to study the catechism as soon as the fish was off the hook.

Using the form provided and the conversation below, answer questions 13 - 18.

To: _____	
Date: _____	Time: _____
WHILE YOU WERE OUT	
M _____	
Of _____	
Phone Numbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephoned
Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Call
Voicemail	<input type="checkbox"/> Returned your call
Fax	<input type="checkbox"/> Called to see you
Pager	<input type="checkbox"/> Will call again
Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent!
E-mail	
Message	

Operator: _____	

Ms. Wilson: Peabody Incorporated, Purchasing, May I help you?

Mr. Richards: This is Ralph Richards, of Widget Industries. I need to speak to Sam Waters.

Ms. Wilson: I'm sorry Mr. Waters is in a meeting. I'm Sara Wilson, his assistant, is there anything I can do for you, or may I take a message?

Mr. Richards: Kyle Kirby, my line manager, and Sam spoke yesterday over lunch, and your boss was interested in the aluminum alloy coated widgets we produce for Cramer Manufacturing. Sam wanted a price on 5 gross of #6 stainless steel widgets. If you could tell him that the price would be \$365.82 tax and delivery included. There would be no extra charge for next day delivery either, since we're just down the road. If he has any questions he can call me at 555-6210, extension 1101.

Ms Wilson: Thank you, Mr. Richards. I'll see that he gets the message.

13. Whose name should be written on the top line of the form next to the word To?
 - a. Sara Wilson
 - b. Ralph Richards
 - c. Sam Waters
 - d. Kyle Kirby
14. Whose name should be written on the line next to the letter M?
 - a. Sara Wilson
 - b. Ralph Richards
 - c. Sam Waters
 - d. Kyle Kirby
15. What information need not be included in the message?
 - a. Kyle Kirby is a line manager.
 - b. 5 gross of widgets cost \$365.82.
 - c. No extra charge for next day delivery.
 - d. Extension 1101
16. Which box would most likely be checked for this phone message?
 - a. Urgent!
 - b. Wants to see you
 - c. Telephoned
 - d. Returned your call
17. The second time Mr. Richards speaks he uses the word "interested," which of the following words has the opposite meaning?
 - a. apathy
 - b. responsive
 - c. concerned
 - d. callous
18. The second time Mr. Richards speaks he uses the word "questions," which of the following words has the same meaning?
 - a. interrogation
 - b. inquiries
 - c. assumptions
 - d. ideas

Read the following poems and answer the corresponding questions.

Man on Wheels, by Karl Shapiro

Cars are wicked, poets think
Wrong as usual. Cars are part of man.
Cars are biological.
A man without a car is like a clam without a shell.
Granted, machinery is hell,
But carless man is careless and defenseless.
Ford is a skin of present animal.
Automobile is shell.
You get yourself a shell or else.

19. What is meant by the phrase, "Ford is skin of present Animal?"
- There is a new animal living today called a Ford.
 - Cars are as much a part of people's lives today as their own skin.
 - People should buy fords, not GM cars.
 - Modern life is too full of machinery.
 - If you cannot have a skin, you need a shell.
20. What is the poet's basic Attitude towards cars?
- Cars are wicked.
 - Cars and other machines are hell.
 - Cars are a necessary part of modern life.
 - Clams should drive cars.
 - A man without a car does not have a care in the world.

Where the Wind Went Crazy, By Joyce Carol Oates

the tops of the palm trees are smashed
palm leaves hang, down shredded
limp and light as threads
the trunks like concrete
that never lived

mammoth towers,
uninhabited

I feel the two of us grown to
mammoth towers
our heads dizzied by the height
time is piled beneath us
blocks pushing us up
there is motion of nerves between us
strung between us like wires

lovers, we need no hurricane
to make war upon each other
and each cell of our living tissue
is at peace

21. Why does the poet describe palm trees?
- She likes palm trees.
 - She is comparing palm trees and telephone poles.
 - She is comparing lovers to palm trees torn up by a hurricane.
 - She is comparing palm trees to a hurricane.
 - She is comparing palm trees to empty apartment buildings.
22. Which statement below best describes what the poet means by "there is motion of nerve between us strung between us like wires?"
- She feels like a palm tree
 - There is a sense of tension, like electricity, between the lovers.
 - The hurricane makes her nervous.
 - She feels like a tower.
 - She is insane.

Answers to Reading

1. **d.** Because "clear plastic sheets were tacked over the windows to keep the heat in." Another clue is that the gas stove "warmed" the children at night.
2. **c.** One definition of an icon is a religious figure.
3. **d.** Reread the first sentence of the last paragraph.
4. **a.** Immaculate means very clean.
5. **b.** Choice "a" is incorrect because wooden crates are used to store toys. No mention is made of a bathroom, and one small window does not light a large room.
6. **e.** "Six-legged, brown-bodied pests" describes cockroaches.
7. **a.** Grandpa never worked (toiled), answers "b" and "c" suggested he worked, d is a different idea, e is a detail that describes sitting on the porch.
8. **e.** He would let the fence fall down before he would repair it, refers to his laziness, "a" is unlikely, there is no support for "b", "c", and "d" are wrong they indicate the opposite.
9. **e.** This answer is suggested by the information in the first paragraph. A is wrong, there is no evidence grandpa Tweedy loaned money, there is no evidence that he could support himself so "b" is wrong, "c" and "d" might be right but "e" is the most likely answer.
10. **b.** Grandpa Tweedy refused permission, a and d are not what he said, c is contradictory and there is no evidence for e.
11. **d.** The rock was thrown by the speaker to stir up the hornets, "a" refers to the previous paragraph,

- “b” and “e” are misreadings, and “c” simply gives a reason for the speaker’s actions.
12. c. Preventing the suffering of an animal would be a good deed, “a” and “b” would not be an excuse but do form the basis of option “c”, and there is no evidence for “d” and “e.”
13. c. The message is for (To) Sam Waters.
14. b. The message is from Mr. Ralph Richards.
15. a. The information that Kyle Kirby is a line manager is not important to the message.
16. c. This message was the result of a telephone call, it was not urgent, Mr. Richards did not call for an appointment, nor was he returning a call from Mr. Waters.
17. a. Apathy is defined as lack of interest or feeling.
18. b. A synonym for question is inquiry.
19. b. This is supported by the previous lines. Ford here stands for all cars, and the “present animal” is man.
20. c. The last five lines of the poem explain what it is like to be without a car.
21. c. She is comparing lovers and palm trees. The first half of the poem describes the palms, and the second half the lovers; the last four lines draw the connection.
22. b. The wires suggest electricity, and the tension is suggested by nerves.