

Paragraph 1

Canopy of Nature

Dad decided last Sunday that we should all go on a camping trip.

He read an article in the Sunday paper about camping and how it “brings families together under the canopy of nature.”

“Overrated,” I joked. “What about the canopy of television or the canopy of restaurant food?”

“This will be good for us,” Dad said, sliding the magazine across the coffee table. “Let’s go next weekend.”

I shot a quick look over at my little brother, Paul. He gave me a slow eyebrow raise which meant, “This will probably not go off completely as planned.”

My smile back said, “But it will surely be fun.”

I started to think back. Once Dad decided we should all learn how to canoe. We borrowed two canoes from our friends, hoisted them on the van and drove for three hours to a secluded lake in Virginia. Alone in the middle of nowhere, we discovered that we had forgotten the paddles.

Paul and I got in a canoe with Dad and our two younger sisters got in a canoe with Mom. We floated aimlessly around the lake for hours. Then we all jumped in with our life jackets on. We pushed the canoes back to shore. It was a fantastic trip.

Another time, Dad decided we should all learn how to ski. All of us hate the cold so we spent the weekend huddled by the fire, drinking hot cocoa in the ski lodge and playing board games. It was great. We had a blast.

When I stopped daydreaming, Mom was saying, “Sweetheart, we don’t have a tent.”

“We don’t need one!” Dad said happily. “We’ll take all the seats out the van when we get to the campsite and put in an air mattress.”

I don't know what the punch line will be on this excursion, but I am sure with Mom, Dad and the four of us kids scrunched in a van at some national park, we are bound to have a good time.

1. Which alternate title fits this passage best?
A. “No Paddles” B. “Never as Planned”
C. “Hot Cocoa by the Fire”
D. “Forest Camping for Beginners”

1. (b)

The story begins with the narrator’s dad telling the family that they are going camping the next weekend. This makes the narrator remember other family outings. On every outing, things do not go as planned, but the family has a great

time anyway. The story ends with the narrator wondering “what the punch line will be” on the camping trip. Since the story is about how the narrator’s family trips never go as planned, the title Never as Planned fits this passage well. Therefore (B) is correct.

The narrator remembers a family vacation when they packed up canoes and drove hours to a lake only to find that they forgot the paddles, but this is just one of a couple of funny vacation memories the narrator recalls in the story. Since the title No Paddles refers to just one specific part of the story, (A) is incorrect. Hot Cocoa by the Fire also refers to one of the narrator’s family vacation memories. Since it is just another specific part of the story, it does not sum up the story. Therefore (C) is incorrect. Nothing has been mentioned about forests in the paragraph. Therefore (D) is incorrect.

2. As used at the end of the story, which is the best synonym for excursion?

- A. evolution
- B. exodus
- C. expedition
- D. hiatus

2. (c)

excursion (noun): a short trip, usually for pleasure.

At the end of the story, the family is discussing their plans for the camping trip. The narrator says, “I don’t know what the punch line will be on this excursion, but I am sure with Mom, Dad and the four of us kids scrunched in a van at some national park, we are bound to have a good time.” An expedition is a group journey that has a specific purpose. The excursion the narrator talks about is a family camping trip to experience nature. That makes expedition a good synonym for excursion here. Therefore (C) is correct.

Evolution is the change that something has made over time. The narrator is talking about a trip, not about change over time. Therefore (A) is incorrect. An exodus is many people leaving. The family is taking a trip, but they are not really leaving because they will return home afterwards. Therefore (B) is incorrect. A hiatus is a short break between two things. Since the focus is on the trip, and not on the trip being a break from something, (D) is incorrect.

3. What literary term best describes the narrator's daydreams?

- A. foreshadowing, meaning the use of hints to suggest what is to come
- B. irony, meaning a contrast between what is stated and what is really meant
- C. flashback, meaning a scene that interrupts the action to show what happened at an earlier time
- D. metaphor, meaning the direct comparison of two unlike things

3. (c)

The story begins with the narrator’s dad talking about an upcoming camping trip. Then, in the middle of the story, the narrator says, “I started to think back,” and the narrator daydreams about two previous family trips. After the narrator finishes remembering the trips, the story returns to the present. Since the narrator has stopped in the middle of the story to remember trips that happened in the past, the narrator has interrupted the action to show what



happened at an earlier time, or to flash back. Therefore (C) is correct. Although the memories of the previous trips make the narrator wonder what the upcoming camping trip will be like, the action in the daydreams does not suggest what comes next in the story here. Therefore (A) is incorrect. There is no contrast between what the narrator says and what is really meant in the daydreams. Therefore (B) is incorrect. The narrator describes two previous family trips, but does not directly compare two unlike things. Therefore (D) is incorrect.

4. As used in the middle of the story, which of the following could accurately be described as secluded?
- I. a hiking trail known only to a few
 - II. a crowded movie theatre
 - III. a popular beach on the California coast
- A. I only B. I and II
C. II and III D. I, II, and III

4. (a)

secluded (adjective): kept separate from others.

In paragraph 7, the narrator says, “We borrowed two canoes from our friends, hoisted them on the van and drove for three hours to a secluded lake in Virginia. Alone in the middle of nowhere, we discovered that we had forgotten the paddles.” We can understand from this information that the lake was secluded because there weren’t other people around. Since a hiking trail known only to a few doesn’t have many people around, it is secluded. This supports option (I). A crowded movie theater is full of people, so it is not secluded. This eliminates option (II). If something is popular, it means that a lot of people like to use it, so it is not secluded. This eliminates option (III). Therefore (A) is correct.

5. What lesson does the narrator's family seem to live by?

- A. Camping is sure to be an adventure.
- B. Danger is only in the imagination.
- C. Things don't need to go as planned to have fun.
- D. Reading the newspaper is a recipe for trouble.

5. (c)

In this story, the narrator describes two different trips that both went totally differently than planned. Still, the family had a great time. At the end of the story, the narrator is not sure what will happen on the upcoming trip, but is sure that the family is “bound to have a good time.” We can understand from this information that the narrator’s family always has fun even when things don’t go as planned. Therefore (C) is correct. Although camping may well be an adventure for the family, the story is about more than just the camping trip. Therefore (A) is incorrect. The family trips don’t involve much danger. Therefore (B) is incorrect. The narrator’s dad decided to go camping after reading the newspaper, but the story does not suggest that all of the family trips begin this way. Therefore, (D) is incorrect.

6. "Then we all jumped in with our life jackets on. We pushed the canoes back to shore."

Which of the following is the best way to combine the above sentences while keeping their original meaning as used in the story?

A. We all jumped in with our life jackets on as we pushed the canoes back to shore.

B. Then we all jumped in with our life jackets on, while pushing the canoes back to shore.

C. We pushed the canoes back to shore while we all jumped in with our life jackets on.

D. After we all jumped in with our life jackets on, we pushed the canoes back to shore.

6. (d)

In these two sentences, the family first jumps into the lake with their life jackets on and then they push the canoes back to the shore. The sentence, After we all jumped in with our life jackets on, we pushed the canoes back to shore, properly describes the action as stated in the story. Therefore (D) is correct. All of the rest of the answer choices have the family jumping in and pushing the canoes at the same time. Since this is both inaccurate and impossible, (A), (B), and (C) are incorrect.

7. Which best describes the narrator's tone?

A. condescending B. sarcastic

C. jovial D. annoyed

7. (c)

Near the beginning of the story, the narrator cracks jokes when the narrator's dad suggests the family go camping. Then, in the middle of the story, the narrator's brother gave the narrator "a slow eyebrow raise which meant, 'This will probably not go off completely as planned.'" The narrator smiled back to say, "But it will surely be fun." In the middle of the story, the narrator says how great the past family trips were. At the end of the story, the narrator says that the family is "bound to have a good time" on the next trip. All of this information portrays the narrator as positive, fun and even silly. Jovial means cheerful and good-humored. Therefore (C) is correct. To be condescending is to act as if other people are not as good as you are. The narrator is good-humored and seems to enjoy other people, so the narrator is not condescending. Therefore (A) is incorrect. To be sarcastic is to have a critical attitude. The narrator seems to see the bright side of everything, so his attitude is the opposite of critical. Therefore (B) is incorrect. To be annoyed means to be bothered. The narrator never gets bothered, even when things go wrong. Therefore (D) is incorrect.

8. The narrator probably says the camping trip will have a punch line because he or she feels it will

A. be expensive B. have difficulties



- C. have a funny ending
- D. involve fighting and turmoil

8. (c)

In the middle of the story, the narrator describes two previous family trips that ended humorously. Near the end of the story, the narrator says, “I don’t know what the punch line will be on this excursion, but I am sure with Mom, Dad and the four of us kids scrunched in a van at some national park, we are bound to have a good time.” The term punch line means the funny part of a joke. Since the other family vacations ended humorously, the narrator wonders what the funny ending of the upcoming camping trip will be. Therefore (C) is correct. Since the punch line is the funny end of a joke, this line does not have anything to do with expense. Therefore (A) is incorrect. If the camping trip is anything like the family’s other trips, it is sure to have difficulties. However, the narrator wonders what the punch line will be because the narrator thinks that the trip will end in a funny way like the others. Therefore (B) is incorrect. The family trips never seem to involve fighting and turmoil. Therefore (D) is incorrect.

Paragraph2

The first of the Great Debates, between Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts and the incumbent Vice President Richard Nixon on September 26, 1960, centered around domestic issues. The topic of the next debate, on October 7, was a clash over U.S. policy regarding two small islands off the Chinese coast, and on October 13, this controversy continued. On October 21, the final debate, the candidates focused on American/Cuban relations.

Few of the 70 million viewers could have fathomed what this first–ever televised presidential debate augured, not only for this specific series of debates, but more importantly for the preeminent role the fledgling medium would play in the future of the political arena.

A pallid Nixon arrived at the Chicago CBS studios after a grueling day of campaigning. The previous August a knee infection had sidelined him. He was still twenty pounds underweight, and he perspired profusely in an ill–fitting shirt. Moreover, he declined makeup to burnish his hospital pallor. The freshly–painted studio backdrop had dried to an ashen hue that obscured his matching suit.

The Democratic contender by contrast exuded a robust glow after a month of campaigning in California. He had spent his day rehearsing potential questions and relaxing. An aide later admitted that he supplemented his natural glow with a smidge of makeup. He was fit, trim, and confident.

Despite the remarkably similar agendas and arguments of the Republican and the Democrat, TV viewers unequivocally believed Kennedy to be the victor – whereas people who had followed the debates on the radio held the opposite opinion. The age of TV had arrived, and the subsequent party shuffle proved the undeniable potency of television.

9. The author is mainly concerned about

- A. the debating styles of John Kennedy and Richard Nixon during the 1960 Great Debates
- B. the domestic issues which affected the result of 1960 Great Debates
- C. the health of Richard Nixon at the time of the 1960 Great Debates
- D. the effect of television on the results of the 1960 Great Debates

9. (d)

- (A) The debating styles of John Kennedy and Richard Nixon during the 1960 Great Debates were similar, since TV viewers and radio listeners ended up with different opinions of who won the debates.
- (B) The candidates had similar agendas and arguments, so domestic issues were not pivotal.
- (C) Richard Nixon was not sick at the time of the 1960 Great Debates. He was thin and pale, but there is no mention that he was sick.
- (D) The effect of television on the results of the 1960 Great Debates was the main concern of the author. Hence, this is the correct answer.

10. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A. Kennedy was a better debater than Nixon
- B. Nixon was the unequivocal winner of the 1960 debates
- C. The Democrat beat the Republican in the 1960 election
- D. Nixon was more prepared for the first debate than Kennedy

10. (c)

- (A) Kennedy was not a better debater than Nixon: people who followed the debates on radio thought Nixon had won the debates.
- (B) Nixon was not the unequivocal winner of the 1960 debates; people who watched the debates on TV thought Kennedy was the winner.
- (C) The Democrat beat the Republican in the 1960 election; there was a party shuffle. This is mentioned in the last line of the passage. Since Nixon, the Republican, was the incumbent, the shuffle resulted in Democrats taking office. This is the correct option.
- (D) There is no mention of whether Nixon was more prepared for the first debate than Kennedy. Kennedy rehearsed the day of the debate.

11. According to the passage, which of the following was true of Richard Nixon?

- A. He had a five o'clock shadow during the first debate.
- B. He wore a brown suit during the first debate.
- C. He warned of the impending Cuban crisis.
- D. He lost his job after the election.

11. (d)

- (A) He had a five o'clock shadow during the first debate. While this fact is widely known, it is not mentioned in the passage.
- (B) He did not wear a brown suit during the first debate. His suit was obscured by the ashen-colored – gray – paint.
- (C) Whether Nixon warned of the impending Cuban crisis was not mentioned in the passage.



(D) Nixon lost his job after the election. Since there was a party shuffle, the incumbent lost his job. The incumbent Vice President was Richard Nixon. Hence, this is the correct option.

Paragraph 3

Lida sat outside her great aunt's hotel watching the steam engines go by and listening to the clop-clop of horses as they pulled wagons down the cobbled road. She was taking a short break from her chores at the inn: mopping the ballroom, fixing cornbread for the guests, and tending the fire in the wood-burning stove. She enjoyed working there and was happy to help her illustrious aunt bolster her growing business and notoriety around the city.

Lida had always had an assiduous nature and applied herself to almost any task unremittingly. Today, however, she took this quick respite to daydream about the dance she would be attending that evening.

At 17, it would be her first. Her friends had all purchased brightly colored, ornate dresses to wear. Lida, as a reflection of her demure personality, had chosen a modest, yet elegant dress in a charcoal gray.

"Are you ready, Miss Lida?" Hattie asked as she burst through the parlor doors and into the kitchen. Mary and Florence were in step right behind her.

"Hattie, I done told you never to come in that way. You disturb the guests having cocktails in the parlor!"

"Oh, hush, Lida. You worry too much. Let's go."

"I need to put a few more logs in the stove so Auntie can boil water for the dishes," Lida said. "Then we can go."

Hattie gave a sigh, but did not bother to argue. She knew that when Lida had something to do, she didn't rest until it was done.

"Let's take the tracks," Hattie said when they finally headed out to the party. Daylight was turning into dusk.

"Naw, Hattie," Lida said. "You know that's too dangerous in the night."

"Look, Lida," Hattie said impatiently. "We're runnin' late 'cause of you. The tracks will take 15 minutes off our walk." Mary and Florence both mumbled in agreement. "We can take the carriage back."

Against her better judgment, Lida agreed to take the train tracks. After all, it was her first real dance ever. Why adulterate it with acrimony?

The girls clumsily navigated the moonlit tracks and talked excitedly about the dance: who would be there, who was the best-looking, who was the smartest, and if anyone had remembered money for a carriage ride home. Then Lida heard a whistle in the distance. It seemed to get louder as it persisted and then cut out in a shock of tender silence. "We've gotta get off the tracks. Train's coming," said Lida.

The girls scurried to the side but found the decline too precipitous. They made their way forward along the tracks and finally found a suitable place to descend. Lida tiptoed nimbly from the precipice. Finding herself safely below, she heard a sudden thud. She gasped and turned about.

“Help!” she heard a voice cry, “Help...down here!” Hattie had fallen in the ash pit, an 8 foot trench between the rails, about 20 feet long, where trains stopped to empty ashes from the engine’s fire box when they pulled through town.

Hattie screamed and tried frantically to climb out, but the pit was too deep. Lida scrambled to the edge, grabbing for her hand, the train getting closer, the whistle growing evermore piercing.

Not wanting to appear scared herself, Lida’s calm voice belied the panic-stricken beating of her heart.

“Just give me your hand, Hattie, and I’ll pull ya right out.”

They fumbled for each other’s hands in the dark. Lida lay down on the rails and hooked her feet under the track to give herself more leverage. She had Hattie in her fingertips. Then she lost her. Then she had her again. Lida pulled and she could feel the joints in Hattie’s hands popping. In this instant, Hattie found better purchase—on what, no one could be sure—and her hands came into view. Wearing a mask of anguish, her teeth clenched and reflecting the pale moonlight, Lida pulled and pulled. Hattie’s amorphous form appeared from below the surface like some stygian phantom. Mary and Florence’s screams could be heard intermittently in the night, watching helplessly as the train lights grew brighter.

Hattie’s torso finally eclipsed the edge of the pit and there she lay, catching her breath. The girls hoisted her to her feet and hobbled away from the tracks like a collection of frenzied grave robbers, their treasure in tow. It was there that they stood, caked in ash, watching as the train screeched to a stop and dropped its load of glowing cinders.

12. Using the story as a guide, it can be inferred that

- A. Lida lives in a hotel
- B. Lida and her family are poor
- C. Hattie and Lida are best friends
- D. the story is not set in contemporary times

12.(d)

In the story, there are a variety of references to things that are not common in contemporary times. In paragraph 1, for example, Lida watches “steam engines” and listens “to the clop-clop of horses as they pulled wagons down the cobbled road.” Using this information, the reader can infer that the story is not set in contemporary times. Therefore (D) is correct. In paragraph 1, Lida “sat outside her great Aunt’s hotel.” Lida “enjoyed working there.” The reader can infer from these statements that Lida works in her great aunt’s hotel, but that does not imply that Lida lives at the hotel. Therefore (A) is incorrect. Other than Lida’s great aunt, who owns a hotel, the story does not discuss Lida’s family. Therefore (B) is incorrect. Hattie is a key character in the story. She talks with Lida a lot and Lida saves Hattie at the end of the story. However, there is nothing in the story to suggest that Lida and Hattie were best friends. Therefore (C) is incorrect.



13. As used in the beginning of the story, which is the best definition for assiduous?
- A. cautious
 - B. efficient
 - C. energetic
 - D. diligent

13.(d)

assiduous (adjective): hard working; persevering.

Near the beginning of the story, we learn that “Lida had always had an assiduous nature and applied herself to almost any task unremittingly.” Since Lida’s assiduous nature made her work persistently, the reader can infer that assiduous means diligent. Therefore (D) is correct.

Cautious means attentive to potential dangers. One can be persistent without being cautious. Therefore (A) is incorrect. Efficient is working effectively with minimal wasted time. One can work diligently without being efficient. Therefore (B) is incorrect. Energetic means having a lot of force or energy. An energetic nature does not necessarily lead to persistent, unremitting work. Therefore (C) is incorrect.

14. As used in the beginning of the story, which is the best synonym for respite?
- A. continuation
 - B. stop
 - C. pause
 - D. shelter

14.(c)

respite (noun): a short period of rest or relief; pause.

At the beginning, we learn that “Lida always had an assiduous nature and applied herself to almost any task unremittingly. Today, however, she took this quick respite to daydream about the dance she would be attending that evening.” Since Lida was a persistent, diligent worker, we can understand that her “respite to daydream” was a pause in her work. Therefore (C) is correct.

A continuation is a restarting of an earlier undertaking. Since Lida is taking a respite to daydream, she is not taking that time to continue her work. Therefore (A) is incorrect. A stop is the cessation of something. Here, Lida does not cease to work entirely, she just pauses briefly to think of something else. Therefore (B) is incorrect. A shelter is a form of protection. Lida does not use protection from work to think about the dance. Therefore (D) is incorrect.

15. Using the story as a guide, how do Hattie and Lida differ?
- A. Hattie is good-natured; Lida is stoic.
 - B. Hattie is trusting; Lida is circumspect.
 - C. Hattie is carefree; Lida is responsible.
 - D. Hattie is respectful; Lida is judgmental.

15.(c)

At the beginning of the story, we learn that Lida is a persistent hard worker. We also learn that “when Lida had something to do, she didn’t rest until it was done.” The reader can infer from this that Lida is responsible. Hattie, in contrast, walks into the hotel through the parlor doors, even though she had been told not to. When scolded, Hattie tells Lida, “You worry too much.” The reader can infer from this that Hattie does not worry as much as Lida. Later,

Hattie is determined to take the train tracks to save time, while Lida worries that this way is too dangerous. The reader can infer from this that Hattie is carefree—even careless. Therefore (C) is correct. Someone who is stoic is so reserved as to be cold. While Lida is a hard worker, the story also shows that Lida is caring and brave. These traits are not cold. Therefore (A) is incorrect. Circumspect means prudent or aware of potential consequences. Lida demonstrates that she is circumspect when she tells the girls that it isn't a good idea to take the tracks. However, the story does not give any information that leads the reader to believe that Hattie is trusting. Therefore (B) is incorrect. Hattie is not respectful—Hattie deliberately walks through the parlor doors even though she knows it will disturb the guests. Therefore (D) is incorrect.

16. What type of characters are Mary and Florence?

- A. round, characterized by being well developed in the story
- B. foils, characterized by eliciting each other's traits through contrast
- C. confidantes, characterized by being people whom the main character confides in
- D. flat, characterized as doing very little to advance plot

16.(d)

Mary and Florence figure into the story very little. They go along with Hattie and Lida to the dance, but they do not even speak, other than to mumble in agreement with Hattie when Hattie wants to take the tracks. Mary and Florence do little to advance the plot. Therefore (D) is correct. The story does not provide information to support answer choices (A), (B) and (C). Therefore, they are incorrect.

17. As used in the beginning of the story, which is the best antonym for demure?

- A. reckless
- B. aggressive
- C. harmful
- D. outgoing

17.(d)

demure (adjective): modest and reserved.

Near the beginning of the story, it says, "Her friends had all purchased brightly colored, ornate dresses to wear. Lida, as a reflection of her demure personality, had chosen a modest, yet elegant dress in a charcoal gray." Lida differs from her friends by wearing something that does not call attention to herself. The reader can infer from this that demure means shy or reserved. An antonym for demure, then, is outgoing. Therefore (D) is correct. Being reckless means acting with disregard for possible harm. The opposite of shy is not acting with a disregard for harm. Therefore (A) is incorrect. Someone who is aggressive is physically or socially forceful. Someone who is shy is probably not aggressive, but aggressive is not the opposite of shy. Therefore (B) is incorrect. Harmful means causing harm, which is not the opposite of shy or reserved. Therefore (C) is incorrect.

18. As used at the end of the story, which is the best definition for belied?

- A. revealed
- B. disguised
- C. protected
- D. calmed



18.(b)

belie (verb): to misrepresent or give a false representation.

Near the end of the story, Lida wants to pull Hattie out of the ash pit. Lida calls out to Hattie, urging Hattie to give Lida her hand so Lida can pull her out. “Not wanting to appear scared herself, Lida’s calm voice belied the panic stricken beating of her heart.” The reader can understand from this that Lida was terrified, but did not want Hattie to know it. Lida spoke to Hattie with a calm voice in order to hide the fear that Lida felt. Lida’s voice disguised her fear. Therefore (B) is correct. Something revealed is shown or disclosed. The calm of Lida’s voice hid her panic, instead of revealing it. Therefore (A) is incorrect. To protect is to preserve something from harm. Lida’s calm voice did not preserve the panicked beating of Lida’s heart. Therefore (C) is incorrect. Lida’s calm voice hid her panic, but Lida was still terrified, not calm. Therefore (D) is incorrect.

19. Which literary device is used in the following sentence from the final paragraph:

“The girls hoisted her to her feet and hobbled away from the tracks like a collection of frenzied grave robbers, their treasure in tow”?

A. personification, characterized by the attribution of human qualities to inanimate objects or abstract notions

B. flash forward, characterized by an interjected scene that temporarily jumps the narrative forward in time

C. irony, characterized by a discrepancy between expectation and reality

D. simile, characterized by the use of a comparison using “like” or “as”

19.(d)

The author uses the word like here to compare the girls, as they picked Hattie up and helped her away from the tracks, to “frenzied grave robbers.” This gives the reader a vivid picture of the action—we can at once imagine Hattie, limp and helpless, as the girls struggle to hoist her up and get her off the tracks. The use of the word like to compare two things is a simile. Therefore (D) is correct. Since the author is comparing people (the girls) to people (the grave robbers), the author is not giving human attributes to objects or notions. Therefore (A) is incorrect. The narrative does not jump forward in time. Therefore (B) is incorrect. There is no contrast between expectation and reality. Therefore (C) is incorrect.

Paragraph 4

Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States, yet he never went to college. In fact, Lincoln had nearly no formal education whatsoever, attending schools for less than a year throughout his childhood. Yet this should not be construed to mean that Lincoln was ignorant or unlearned; on the contrary, he was one of the most well-read leaders of the time. The fact is that Abraham Lincoln educated himself by studying books of religion,

philosophy, and literature, and he continued his voracious reading throughout his life.

A lack of public school education did not prevent Lincoln from becoming a great leader. He led the United States through four years of civil war, which threatened to divide the nation into two separate countries. He was a powerful opponent of slavery, and it was largely through his leadership that slavery was abolished in this country.

Lincoln's determination to educate himself through diligent reading also led to his reputation as a great orator—and even today his speeches are quoted and studied worldwide. He serves as an example of a great leader—and a great reader. His love of books and good literature enabled Abe Lincoln to rise to world renown.

20. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Abe Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States.
- B. Abe Lincoln demonstrated the value of reading.
- C. Abe Lincoln was a Republican.
- D. Abe Lincoln freed the slaves.

20.(b)

Although all choices are true statements, only (B) states the main idea.

21. Lincoln accomplished all of the following EXCEPT

- A. preventing the United States from being divided.
- B. ending slavery
- C. becoming a great leader
- D. establishing the Lincoln Memorial

21.(d)

22. A voracious reader is

- A. likely to become President.
- B. a person who makes reading a regular habit.
- C. someone who never went to school.
- D. probably poor

22.(b)

The passage only gives evidence that supports this answer.

23. The word construed, as used in first paragraph, most nearly means

- A. tormented B. taken apart
- C. unscrewed D. interpreted

23.(d)

To construe something is to interpret it in a specific way.

24. According to the passage, what lesson can be learned from the life of Abraham Lincoln?

- A. Education is not important.
- B. All books are worth reading.
- C. Good reading habits can help a person do great things.
- D. Politicians are always good role models.



24.(c)

The passage uses Abraham Lincoln to illustrate the importance of good reading habits. It does not state that all books are worth reading, nor does it imply that education is unimportant.

25. How does Lincoln still affect students today?

A. His face is on money.

B. His speeches are still quoted and studied today.

C. People grow beards to look like him.

D. Students quit school in hopes of becoming president.

25.(b)

Paragraph 5

A metaphor is a poetic device that deals with comparison. It compares similar qualities of two dissimilar objects. With a simple metaphor, one object becomes the other: Love is a rose. Although this does not sound like a particularly rich image, a metaphor can communicate so much about a particular image that poets use them more than any other type of figurative language. The reason for this is that poets compose their poetry to express what they are experiencing emotionally at that moment. Consequently, what the poet imagines love to be may or may not be our perception of love. Therefore, the poet's job is to enable us to experience it, to feel it the same way that the poet does. We should be able to nod in agreement and say, "Yes, that's it! I understand precisely where this person is coming from."

Let's analyze this remarkably unsophisticated metaphor concerning love and the rose to see what it offers. Because the poet uses a comparison with a rose, first we must examine the characteristics of that flower. A rose is spectacular in its beauty, its petals are velvety soft, and its aroma is soothing and pleasing. It's possible to say that a rose is actually a veritable feast to the senses: the visual, the tactile, and the aural [more commonly known as the senses of sight, touch, and sound]. The rose's appearance seems to border on perfection, each petal seemingly symmetrical in form. Isn't this the way one's love should be? A loved one should be a delight to one's senses and seem perfect. However, there is another dimension added to the comparison by using a rose. Roses have thorns. This is the comprehensive image the poet wants to communicate; otherwise, a daisy or a mum would have been presented to the audience as the ultimate representation of love—but the poet didn't, instead conveying the idea that roses can be treacherous. So can love, the metaphor tells us. When one reaches out with absolute trust to touch the object of his or her affection, ouch, a thorn can cause great harm! "Be careful," the metaphor admonishes: Love is a feast to the senses, but it can overwhelm us, and it can also hurt us. It can prick us and cause acute suffering. This is the poet's perception of love—an admonition. What is the point? Just this: It took almost 14 sentences to clarify what a simple metaphor communicates in only five words! That is the artistry and the joy of the simple metaphor.

26. The main idea of this passage is

- A. poetic devices are necessary for poets.
- B. poetry must never cater to the senses.
- C. always use words that create one specific image.
- D. the metaphor is a great poetic device.

26.(d)

The idea of the passage is to convince the reader that the metaphor is a wonderful poetic device. None of the other choices are approached in the passage.

27. It can be inferred that a metaphor is

- A. a type of figurative language.
- B. the only poetic device.
- C. not precise enough.
- D. a type of flower in a poem

27. (a)

The first paragraph clearly states that poets use metaphors more than any other type of figurative language, thereby inferring that a metaphor is a type of figurative language. Choice (B) is incorrect since the phrase other type of figurative language is clearly stated. Choice (C) is not supported in the passage. Choice (D) is incorrect; review the definition of a metaphor in the first and second lines of the passage.

28. According to the passage, thorns

- A. protect the rose from harm
- B. reduce the ability to love another.
- C. add a new element to the image of love.
- D. are just more images to compare to a rose

28.(c)

This detail is presented in the second paragraph. This links thorns with the idea of adding another dimension to the image of love. Choices (A) and (B) are not supported in the passage. Choice (D) is incorrect because thorns are not being compared to a rose.

29. It can be inferred that the true meaning of the love is a rose metaphor is that

- A. love is a true joy.
- B. love comes only once in a lifetime.
- C. love is never permanent.
- D. love is a combination of good and bad experiences.

29.(d)

The explanation of the line details how love can be wonderful and yet, with the introduction of the thorn imagery, it also presents the danger of love. Choices (B) and (C) are not mentioned in the passage. Choice (A) only deals with the idea of joy, disregarding the thorn/danger aspect.

30. According to the passage, the poet's intention is

- A. to release anger.



- B. to announce heartache
- C. to enable you to experience the poet's point of view
- D. to reward the senses

30.(c)

This specific detail can be found in paragraph 1: ".....poets compose their best poetry to express what they are experiencing emotionally at that moment." Choices (A) and (B) are incorrect because they each deal with only one reason for a poet to write. Choice (D) is incorrect since the only discussion of the senses dealt with the specific metaphor that was used as an example.

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