

Part 4: Language Arts: Reading

Bonus
Chapter

Chapter 22: So Many Kinds of Reading, So Little Time

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

What painful memory does the bird revive in the speaker?

“The Raven”

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.

“’Tis some visitor,” I muttered, “tapping at my chamber door—

Only this, and nothing more.”

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had tried to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore—

Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating

“’Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door—

Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door;—

This it is, and nothing more.”

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
“Sir,” said I, “or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,
That I scarce was sure I heard you”—here I opened wide the door;—

Darkness there, and nothing more.

Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken, and the darkness gave no token,
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, “Lenore!”
This *I* whispered, and an echo murmured back the word, “Lenore!”

Merely this, and nothing more.

—From “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe

1. The poet chose vocabulary such as “midnight dreary,” “bleak December,” “darkness broken,” and “dying ember” to set a tone that could be described as
 - (1) joyous.
 - (2) somber.
 - (3) unforgiving.
 - (4) contented.
 - (5) jubilant.

Answer

1. (2) This question uses vocabulary as a clue to the tone (atmosphere) of the poem. Which answer most closely matches the tone of the words? Choice (2) is correct since it means sad or serious.

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

Which Speed Reading Tips Work?

To increase your reading speed, you first have to analyze your problem. Slow reading happens for different reasons, depending upon your particular habits. For example, do you form every word with your lips as you read silently? If you do, you’re losing considerable reading speed. Experts will advise you to choose from these solutions:

- Place one or more fingers on your lips—a subtle reminder not to form the words. If you feel your lips forming the words, stop doing it.
- Put a small piece of tape on your lips—not so subtle—and when you remove it, it hurts!

What if your lips don’t move? Instead, you subvocalize—you hear each word in your head as you read silently. Solutions to resolve this bad habit are very creative:

- Count from 1 to 100 out loud as you read silently.
- Play music—preferably loudly.
- Surround yourself with white noise.

All of this is meant to drown out the words in your head, thereby discouraging subvocalization.

These tips may help you, and that's great. What if they don't? Then you can do what really works, but you'll find that this way requires patience and adherence to the rules. It's very simple: you just decide to read faster. Don't close this book and run away! Believe it or not, there's logic in those words. This is what you do:

- Choose something to read. Be sure the reading is something that really interests you.
- Make sure it is easy reading material. You do not want to be challenged by difficult subject matter as you improve your reading speed. The words should be easy for you; the subject matter should be easy to grasp.
- As you read down the page, force your eyes to read phrases, not single words. When you start this process, you will miss some words along the way, but you'll still understand the text. Just keep practicing in this way.
- Move your fingers down the center of the page. Don't let them go back over anything. In fact, if you are a hard-core repeater, place a 3x5 card above the line you're reading so you can't see the earlier text. Again, move the card down the center of the page.

If you follow these tips, you can't help but increase your reading speed.

1. How do you think the author would feel about your using newspaper columns to practice speedier reading?
 - (1) The author would say you were wasting your time on nonsense.
 - (2) The author would approve as long as you are interested in the subject.
 - (3) The author would approve only if the reading is difficult for you.
 - (4) The author would disapprove if the subject is politics.
 - (5) The author would not want the reader to choose anything without a teacher's advice.

Answer

1. (2) Based on what you read, you're asked to decide how the author would feel about using newspaper columns for practice. The columns will do all that the writer instructs you to do to increase speed: Use easy material, read what you are interested in, run your fingers down a column of words, seeing phrases instead of single words. Choice (2) is the only answer to state any of these instructions.

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

There are many versions of nonsmoking rules and policies. The one that follows is a small portion of the U.K. version, but you can find one as well for every state—and even town—in the United States. Skim through the document to find out why the policy is widely implemented and whom it affects. Look for a section on how smokers are given consideration and help.

What Is Our Workplace Smoking Policy?

Draft Workplace Smoking Policy

Smoking Policy for: (company name)

Effective from: (date)

Introduction

Secondhand smoke—breathing in other people’s tobacco smoke—has now been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease, and many other illnesses in nonsmokers.

Section 2 (2) (e) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 places a duty on employers to provide a working environment for employees that is “safe, without risk to health, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.”

The Health Act 2006 requires workplaces to be smoke free by the end of May 2007. Smoking rooms will no longer be allowed.

The employer acknowledges that breathing other people’s tobacco smoke is both a public hazard and a welfare issue. Therefore, the following policy has been adopted concerning smoking in (name of organization).

General Principles

This smoking policy seeks to guarantee nonsmokers the right to work in air free of tobacco smoke, while taking account of the health needs of those who smoke.

All premises will be designated smoke free from (date).

Smoking will only be permitted at designated smoking area outside the buildings.

Smoking while on duty will only be allowed during official break periods.

Common Areas

Smoking is not permitted in the following areas:

Lifts

Corridors

Stairways

Canteen

Restrooms

Meeting rooms

Toilets

Reception areas

Entrances

Car parks

Other areas

Work areas

Smoking is not permitted in any work area. This applies to all offices and work areas, whether occupied by one person, or shared by two or more. Anyone who wishes to smoke must do so during official break periods and only in designated areas.

Smoking Areas

Designated smoking areas are provided at (location).

Unions/Health and Safety Representative

This policy has been devised in full consultation with all of those employees who are concerned with health and safety in this workplace. It enjoys the support of the relevant representatives.

Informing Staff of the Policy

The employer has informed staff 90 days in advance and will provide all members of staff with a copy of this policy upon their request.

Visitors and Temporary Staff

Visitors and temporary staff are expected to abide by the terms of this policy.

The following arrangements have been made for informing them of its existence:

Adequate signage

Receptionist/person greeting will inform the person of the policy

To be reinforced via the invitation letter or email if required

Recruitment Procedures

Job advertisements, job descriptions, and interviews will include reference to this policy. On their appointment, all new staff members will be given a copy of this policy.

Help for Those Who Smoke

This policy recognizes that secondhand smoke adversely affects the health of all employees. It is not concerned with whether anyone smokes, but where they smoke, and the effect this will have on nonsmoking colleagues.

However, it is recognized that the smoking policy will impact on smokers' working lives.

In an effort to help individuals adjust to this change, the following help is being provided:

Time off (up to x number of hours) to attend any courses that will help smokers to quit.

Smoking cessation support provided by Surrey Stop Smoking Service, which runs regular stop smoking groups and can offer one-to-one support. For more information, call (phone number).

Enforcement of This Policy

Breaches of this policy will be subject to normal disciplinary procedures.

Implementation, Monitoring, and Review

Responsibility for implementing and monitoring this policy rests with senior managers.

Twelve weeks' notice will be given of the introduction of this policy.

Monitoring this policy will be carried out at 3, 6, and 12 months.

Trade unions and health and safety representatives will be consulted over the results of the monitoring and review.

Changes to the Policy

Twelve weeks' notice will be given of any changes made to the policy. Trade unions and health and safety representatives will be consulted in good time about any proposed changes.

Policy dated _____.

1. You can tell that this document takes all employees into consideration by this statement:
 - (1) Under no conditions will anyone in a building smoke anywhere or at any time.
 - (2) It is recognized that the smoking policy will not impact on smokers' working lives.
 - (3) In an effort to help individuals adjust to this change, help is being provided.
 - (4) The policy has not been shared with workers' representatives.
 - (5) Smoking rooms will never be allowed.

Answer

1. (3) Taking others into consideration means helping them to adjust to the change. None of the other answers take all employees into consideration.

Chapter 23: Nonfiction: Reading That's All Around Us

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

Bill Gates and the History of Great Inventions

Many times in history, there have been men and women who profited from new inventions. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, new inventions turned up regularly. The typewriter, the telephone, and the internal combustion engine gave forward thinking businessmen reasons to cheer. Alexander Graham Bell (telephone), Thomas Edison (the incandescent light bulb), Andrew Carnegie (innovations in the steel industry), to name just a few, saw the opportunities that important discoveries provided. These people were made enormously wealthy by the discoveries of the industrial age.

Bill Gates, chairman and CEO of Microsoft, along with a few good friends, followed that model. Just remember, though, that when Bill Gates was born in 1955, no one owned a personal computer. Yet, after being introduced to computers, he understood that everyone would want and need a personal computer. Yes, there were the massive computers in government offices and huge computers owned by businesses. However, you could not buy and carry one of these home.

As a youngster, Bill Gates was fun loving and attention seeking, so much so that his parents transferred him to a very demanding school. Here he excelled in reading, math, and science. Doing well in this difficult school got him positive attention. While Gates was at Lakeside School, a Seattle computer company offered to provide computer time for the students. The school purchased a teletype terminal for students to use. Bill Gates became totally absorbed with what a computer could do. At 13 years old, Gates began programming computers. He spent much of his free time working on the terminal. Some of that time was spent writing a tic-tac-toe program in BASIC computer language. The program allowed users to play against the computer.

While in Seattle schools, using an existing computer, Gates honed his programming skills and developed his new ideas. Years later, the eventual result was Microsoft, the most successful software company in the world.

At Lakeside School, Bill met Paul Allen, who was 2 years older. Both boys had such enthusiasm for the computer that they became great friends. However, they were two very different people. Allen was more reserved and shy. Bill was energetic and at times aggressive. Nonetheless, the two spent much of their free time together working on programs. Later, Gates left Harvard University to form Microsoft with Paul Allen.

1. You know that the author views Gates as an early achiever when he writes,
 - (1) ... no one owned a personal computer. Yet, after being introduced to computers, he [Gates] understood that everyone would want and need a personal computer.
 - (2) As a youngster, Bill Gates was fun loving and attention seeking.
 - (3) At Lakeside School, Bill met Paul Allen, who was 2 years older.
 - (4) Both Gates and Allen had such enthusiasm for the computer that they became great friends.
 - (5) ... his parents transferred him to a very demanding school.

Answer

1. (1) This is the only answer that introduces Gates' vision at a very young age. Answers (2), (3), and (5) are not about achievement. Answer (4) is more about what the two had in common than about Gates' future achievements.

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

What Is a Parent to Do?

Strategies to Maintain a Healthy Electronic Household for Your 0- to 3-Year-Old

Do you need help? I can answer that in two simple questions. Does your child have a television in his or her room? Does he or she watch it more than one hour a day? If the answer is yes to either of these, you ought to reconsider your child's media habits.

It's not easy. Why do people fail to reduce their child's television time, despite best intentions? In short, because they do not have a replacement. If one abruptly turns off the television on a child, what's going to happen? Likely, a lot of screaming. That is because when it comes to children, the most important lesson is distraction! If you have something other than the television at the ready, you will find the transition away from television easier.

So here is your homework for the weekend. When your child is napping or you find some other free time, spend an hour setting up fast "distraction attractions" for your child. These are objects and activities that are likely to divert your child's attention for a half hour or more. Then, when you find yourself putting your child in front of a TV, try one of these alternative approaches.

Distraction Attractions

Ye old kitchen. Take old kitchen objects and place them somewhere easily accessible. As is often the case, such objects are novel and interesting to a child under the age of 3. When needed, pull one out. You'll be amazed how much they will spend with just an old plastic spatula and an empty cereal box!

The old toy bin. Many families have too many toys. Between hand-me-downs and holiday gifts, many households have literally hundreds of toys, big and small. When you find your child intensely interested in a toy, allow him to play with it for a few days, then put it away for a month just as his interest starts to wane. Then, at that critical moment, say when you are trying to make dinner and your child is hugging your leg and you are ready to turn on the TV, bring out that long-lost toy ... The activity center. Do you have an activity center for your children? That is, a place where they can color, paint, use chalk, and the like? Every household needs one. Use this center strategically to minimize television use. For example, say your child starts each day watching television and you want to break the habit. Simply set up a craft for the following morning before you go to bed. For example, cover the activity center with paper and leave out crayons or markers.

... When your child is screaming for something and you are busy doing 10 other things—well, that is the worst moment for you to try to think of something for your child to do and then find the time to set it up. Get in the habit of preplanning these things. Look, your child is going to cry and scream tomorrow ... most kids 0 to 3 seem to with pretty regular frequency ... get ready before you are in need.

... The key here is to keep it basic. ... You need help when you have things to do. Pay bills. Make dinner. Have a conversation with your best friend. ... Dress for work. These are the times of the day when interaction is simply impossible. We tend to allow our children to use television when we have no time. The trick is to have these readymade activities that a) take little of your time to set up and b) are quite likely to hold a toddler's attention for a good 15 minutes to a half hour.

So get to it. Get that television out of the [child's] bedroom. Turn off the television when no one is watching, and turn off the adult programming ... (news, sitcoms ...) when the child is in the room And prepare a few simple activities and "toys" for easy access in times of need. The research does not indicate that being a good parent requires you to totally remove television from your child's life. You are just trying to minimize it to a half hour a day—occasionally, an hour. Less is probably better

—From *Unplug Your Kids* by David Dutwin, PhD © 2009 by David Dutwin, PhD. Used by permission of Adams Media, an F&W Media, Inc. Co. All rights reserved.

1. According to the passage, one of the parent's most important jobs is to
 - (1) give away all television sets.
 - (2) prepare simple toys or activities for easy access in times of need.
 - (3) teach their toddlers to read before they start school.
 - (4) make all their children's toys by hand.
 - (5) remove old toys and never give them back to the children.

Answer

1. (2) Answer (1) is incorrect. The author does not suggest this. Answers (3), (4), and (5) are all incorrect details.

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

Contract for Purchase of a Car

Buyer's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Seller's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

The Seller hereby conveys to the Buyer full ownership and title to the motor vehicle described below:

Description of Motor Vehicle Sold:

Year: _____ Make: _____

Model: _____

VIN: _____

The Buyer hereby agrees to pay the Seller \$X on MM/DD/YY, and \$Y on the Nth day of each month beginning MM/DD/YY, until all payments made to the Seller total \$X.

If Buyer fails to make a payment on or before its due date, a late fee of \$X shall be added to the balance due and shall be payable immediately.

Both parties hereby agree that this is an "as-is" sale, with no warranties of any kind expressed or implied.

This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of _____ and the County of _____ and any applicable U.S. laws.

The parties hereby signify their agreement to the terms above by their signatures affixed below:

Buyer's signature, date _____

Seller's signature, date _____

1. In the context of the contract, what does *conveys* (first sentence) mean?
 - (1) Withholds
 - (2) Gives ownership
 - (3) Tells
 - (4) Asks
 - (5) Denies

Answer

1. (2) The other answers are incorrect details.

Questions

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following passage.

Bright Mornings Coffeemaker

1-Year Limited Warranty

(Applies only in the United States and Canada)

What does it cover?

This warranty covers any defect in material or workmanship provided; however, Bright Mornings, Inc.'s liability will not exceed the price of the coffeemaker.

For how long?

The coffeemaker is covered for 1 year after the date of purchase.

How will we help you?

We will provide you with a reasonably similar product as a replacement. The replacement will be either new or factory refurbished.

How do you get service?

Save your receipt as proof of date of sale.

Check our online service site for general warranty service and information (www.brightmorningsproductprotect.com), or call our toll-free number, 1-555-555-5555, for general warranty service.

If you want to order parts or accessories, call 1-555-555-5555.

What does your warranty not cover?

Damage from misuse, abuse, or neglect.

Damage incurred through commercial use.

Products that have been changed in any way.

Products used or serviced outside the country of service.

Glass parts and other accessories packed with the coffeemaker.

Shipping and handling costs associated with the replacement.

How does state law apply to this warranty?

You have specific legal rights under this warranty. You may also have other rights that vary from state to state or province to province.

1. You can infer from the context that *refurbished* means
 - (1) restored to good condition.
 - (2) broken.
 - (3) restocked on your shelves.
 - (4) sent back to the store at which you bought it.
 - (5) furnished again.
2. Which words describe the tone and style of the warranty?
 - (1) indistinct and unlawful
 - (2) formal and legal
 - (3) severe and hostile
 - (4) conversational and amusing
 - (5) dull and illegal

Answers

1. (1) None of the other answers provides you with a useable coffeemaker.
2. (2) None of the other answers describes a warranty, which is a legal document.

Questions

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following passage.

What Does the FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) Entitle Employees To?

The XYZ Clothing Company follows FMLA provisions with its employees. Please read this document carefully and refer to it whenever you face a family medical emergency. If you have questions related to this policy, please visit the personnel department and we will make every effort to clarify the following.

Basic Provisions/Requirements

The FMLA, a federal law passed in 1993, entitles eligible employees of covered employers to take job-protected, unpaid leave for specified family and medical reasons. Eligible employees are entitled to the following.

Twelve workweeks of leave in any 12-month period for:

Birth and care of the employee's child, within 1 year of birth

Placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care, within 1 year of the placement

Care of an immediate family member (spouse, child, parent) who has a serious health condition

For the employee's own serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of his or her job

Any qualifying *exigency* [a need or emergency] arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty in the U.S. National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation

Twenty-six workweeks of leave during a single 12-month period to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness if the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of the service member (Military Caregiver Leave)

If an employee was receiving group health benefits when leave began, an employer must maintain them at the same level and in the same manner during periods of FMLA leave as if the employee had continued to work. An employee may elect (or the employer may require) the substitution of any accrued paid leave (vacation, sick, personal, etc.) for periods of unpaid FMLA leave

Employees may take FMLA leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule (that is, in blocks of time less than the full amount of the entitlement) when medically necessary or when the leave is due to a qualifying exigency

When the need for leave is foreseeable, an employee must give the employer at least 30 days' notice, or as much notice as is practicable. When the leave is not foreseeable, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable in the particular circumstances. An employee must comply with the employer's usual and customary notice and procedural requirements

An employee who returns from FMLA leave is entitled to be restored to the same or an equivalent job with equivalent pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment

1. The document mentions *accrued* pay leave. A synonym for this is
 - (1) accurate.
 - (2) accumulated.
 - (3) dwindled.
 - (4) enforced.
 - (5) decreased.

2. In the document, which words explain *intermittently*?

- (1) in blocks of time
- (2) the full amount of time
- (3) due to a qualifying exigency
- (4) of the entitlement
- (5) when medically necessary

Answers

- 1. (2) All other answers are not correct synonyms.
- 2. (1) No other answer means the same—that is, occasionally or irregularly.

Chapter 24: Fiction Reveals the Story

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

THE thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge. You, who so well know the nature of my soul, will not suppose, however, that I gave utterance to a threat. AT LENGTH I would be avenged; this was a point definitely settled—but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved precluded the idea of risk. I must not only punish, but punish with impunity. A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.

It must be understood that neither by word nor deed had I given Fortunato cause to doubt my good will. I continued as was my wont, to smile in his face, and he did not perceive that my smile NOW was at the thought of his immolation.

He had a weak point—this Fortunato—although in other regards he was a man to be respected and even feared. He prided himself on his connoisseurship in wine. Few Italians have the true virtuoso spirit. For the most part their enthusiasm is adopted to suit the time and opportunity to practise imposture upon the British and Austrian MILLIONAIRES. In painting and gemmary, Fortunato, like his countrymen, was a quack, but in the matter of old wines he was sincere. In this respect I did not differ from him materially; I was skillful in the Italian vintages myself, and bought largely whenever I could.

It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered my friend. He accosted me with excessive warmth, for he had been drinking much. The man wore motley. He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells. I was so pleased to see him that I thought I should never have done wringing his hand.

I said to him—“My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met. How remarkably well you are looking to-day! But I have received a pipe of what passes for Amontillado, and I have my doubts.”

“How?” said he, “Amontillado? A pipe? Impossible? And in the middle of the carnival?”

“I have my doubts,” I replied; “and I was silly enough to pay the full Amontillado price without consulting you in the matter. You were not to be found, and I was fearful of losing a bargain.”

“Amontillado!”

“I have my doubts.”

“Amontillado!”

“And I must satisfy them.”

“Amontillado!”

“As you are engaged, I am on my way to Luchesi. If any one has a critical turn, it is he. He will tell me”—

“Luchesi cannot tell Amontillado from Sherry.”

“And yet some fools will have it that his taste is a match for your own.”

“Come let us go.”

“Whither?”

“To your vaults.”

—From “The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe

1. The plot begins to heat up when the narrator taunts Fortunato by trying to deny him the right to
 - (1) be at the carnival.
 - (2) test the pipe of Amontillado.
 - (3) have a good time.
 - (4) have anything to drink.
 - (5) talk about wine.

Answer

1. (2) None of the other answers is correct. The narrator never encourages Fortunato to come away from the fun of the carnival.

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing left to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the look-out for the mendicancy squad.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking a grey fence in a grey backyard. To-morrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling—something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its colour within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out of the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she cluttered out of the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: "Mme Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." Della ran up the steps to the shop and collected herself, panting.

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

—From "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry

1. What word or words best describe the setting of Della and Jim's home?
 - (1) luxurious
 - (2) well decorated
 - (3) too warm for comfort
 - (4) very dirty
 - (5) plain and inexpensive

Answer

1. (5) We know that Della and James are poor. They live in a furnished flat, she sits on a shabby couch, and she looks out on a gray fence in a gray backyard. Answer (1) states the opposite of the facts. (2) is incorrect since we know that the furniture is shabby. (3) doesn't apply since the temperature inside is never mentioned. There is nothing that says the flat is dirty, so (4) is incorrect.

Chapter 25: Poetry Is Meant to Be Read

Questions

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following poem.

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling leaves in glee;
A poet could not be but gay,
In such a jocund company!
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

—“Daffodils” by William Wordsworth

1. In the first stanza, which lines rhyme?
 - (1) None of the lines rhyme.
 - (2) Lines 3, 5, and 6 rhyme.
 - (3) Lines 1 and 3 rhyme; lines 2 and 4 rhyme; lines 5 and 6 rhyme.
 - (4) Lines 1, 2, and 3 rhyme.
 - (5) Lines 5 and 6 are the only rhyming lines.
2. You can conclude from the context clues that the word *jocund* (third stanza, line 4) means
 - (1) very heavy.
 - (2) laughing at a joke.
 - (3) crying.
 - (4) jinxed.
 - (5) happy or cheerful.

Answers

1. (3) Cloud and crowd rhyme, and hills and daffodils rhyme; trees and breeze rhyme. All other answers are incorrect details.
2. (5) All the descriptions of daffodils lead to this answer. No other answers describe daffodils accurately.

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

... bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,
From off the battlements of yonder tower;
Or walk in thievish ways; or bid me lurk
Where serpents are; chain me with roaring bears;
Or shut me nightly in a charnel-house,
O'er covered quite with dead men's rattling bones,

With reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls;
Or bid me go into a new-made grave,
And hide me with a dead man and his shroud ...

—From “Romeo and Juliet” by William Shakespeare

1. You can infer that Shakespeare used blank verse because, here, unlike the rhymed lines he used elsewhere,
 - (1) blank verse has a conversational quality.
 - (2) he never used anything but 10-syllable lines.
 - (3) he reserved blank verse for the women in his plays.
 - (4) he can use rhymes in every other line.
 - (5) he had a limited vocabulary.

Answer

1. **(1)** This is a conversation between Juliet and Romeo. Blank verse gives the passage the sound of a conversation. All other answers are incorrect details.

Questions

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following poem.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

—“In Flanders Fields” by Colonel John McCrae

1. The first stanza contains images that the reader understands through these senses:
 - (1) Taste
 - (2) Visual
 - (3) Kinesthetic
 - (4) Auditory
 - (5) Answers (2), (3), and (4)
2. In the first stanza, singing larks are
 - (1) a sign that all nature has come to a halt.
 - (2) a beautiful image that contrasts with deafening war.
 - (3) pets owned by the soldiers.
 - (4) a signal that the war has ended.
 - (5) the soldiers' morning call to duty.

Answers

1. (5) You hear sounds of war, see the larks, feel the movement of the poppies in the wind. Answer (1), taste, is not mentioned.
2. (2) Larks are a beautiful part of nature. They are opposite to the image of war. Answers (1), (3), (4), and (5) are all incorrect details.

Chapter 26: Drama

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

PROLOGUE

Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,

Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
The which if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

—From “Romeo and Juliet” by William Shakespeare

1. In line 8 of the verse, the word *strife* means
 - (1) love.
 - (2) cooperation.
 - (3) conflict.
 - (4) peacemaking.
 - (5) illness.

Answer

1. (3) Conflict is the only correct synonym for *strife*.

Question

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

LADY MONTAGUE

O, where is Romeo? saw you him to-day?
Right glad I am he was not at this fray.

BENVOLIO

Madam, an hour before the worshipp'd sun
Peer'd forth the golden window of the east,
A troubled mind drave me to walk abroad;
Where, underneath the grove of sycamore
That westward rooteth from the city's side,
So early walking did I see your son:
Towards him I made, but he was ware of me
And stole into the covert of the wood:
I, measuring his affections by my own,
That most are busied when they're most alone,
Pursued my humour not pursuing his,
And gladly shunn'd who gladly fled from me.

—From “Romeo and Juliet” by William Shakespeare

1. Why is Romeo's mother relieved when she does not see him in this scene?
 - (1) She's afraid he'll anger the Montagues.
 - (2) She thinks that if he fights no one will want to marry him.
 - (3) She thinks his father will be furious.
 - (4) The prince has threatened to have anyone who fights executed.
 - (5) She thinks Romeo is the only one the prince wants to punish.

Answer

1. **(4)** According to the plot summary, Prince Escalus is outraged by what he sees at the scene of the fighting. He threatens to execute anyone who gets involved in this sort of behavior. Answer (1) is incorrect. Romeo is a Montague and if anyone would understand it would be the Montagues. Answers (2) and (3) are incorrect. These hold much less importance to her than the threat of Romeo being executed. Answer (5) is an incorrect detail. The prince has threatened everyone about fighting, not just Romeo.