

Comprehension passage

I. Read the following passage from the extract “The Adventures in a Banyan Tree” and answer the following questions:

It was to be a battle of champions.

Hissing defiance, his forked tongue darting in and out, the cobra raised three of his six feet off the ground, and spread his broad, spectacled hood. The mongoose bushed his tail. The long hair on his spine stood up (in the past, the very thickness of his hair had saved him from bites that would have been fatal to others).

Though the combatants were unaware of my presence in the banyan tree, they soon became aware of the arrival of two other spectators. One was a myna, and the other a jungle crow (not the wily urban crow). They had seen these preparations for battle, and had settled on the cactus to watch the outcome. Had they been content only to watch, all would have been well with both of them..

The cobra stood on the defensive, swaying slowly from side to side, trying to mesmerize the mongoose into making a false move. But the mongoose knew the power of his opponent's glassy unwinking eyes, and refused to meet them.

1. Who are the champions mentioned in the passage? (1)
2. How did the cobra get ready for the fight? (2)
3. How is the thick hair helpful to the mongoose? (1)
4. For what purpose did the crow and the myna settle on the cactus? (1)
5. How did the cobra stand on the defensive? (1)
6. Pick out a word from the passage which means 'fighters'. (1)

ANSWERS

1. The cobra and the mongoose are the champions.
2. Hissing defiance, the cobra darted his forked tongue in and out. He raised three of his six feet off the ground, and spread his broad, spectacled hood.
3. The thickness of his hair helps the mongoose escape from the cobra bites.
4. They settled on the cactus to watch the battle between the champions.
5. The cobra stood on the defensive, swaying slowly from side to side, trying to mesmerize the mongoose into marking a false move.
6. combatants.

II . Read the extract taken from “The Snake and the Mirror” and write the answers of the questions given below:

There was some pain in my left arm. It was as if a thick leaden rod-no, a rod made of molten fire-was slowly but powerfully crushing my arm. The arm was beginning to be drained of all strength. What could I do?

At my slightest movement the snake would strike me! Death lurked four inches away. Suppose it struck, what was the medicine I had to take? There were no medicines in the room. I was but a poor , stupid doctor. I forgot my danger and smiled feebly at myself.

Questions

1. How did the doctor feel when the cobra coiled on his body? (2)
2. What is the snake compared to? (1)
3. Why did the doctor consider himself as a foolish doctor? (1)
4. What would have happened if the doctor had made a slightest movement? (1)
5. Pick out a word from the passage which means ‘ to wait somewhere secretly’ (1)
6. Complete the sentence suitably:
If the doctor made a slightest movement, the snake him. (1)

Answers:

1. The doctor felt some pain on his left arm. The arm was beginning to be drained of all strength.
2. The snake is compared to a thick leaden rod.
3. There were no medicines in his room if the snake truck him. So he felt himself as a stupid and foolish doctor.
4. If the doctor had made a slightest movement the snake would have stricken him.
5. lurk
6. would strike.

III. Read the extract taken from “Project Tiger” and write the answers of the questions given below:

He opened the door of the cage. The instant the door opened with a clang , our tiger emerged with a loud roar, and charged straight at the villagers gathered behind the camera. The crowd, consisting about a hundred and fifty people, melted away as if magic. After that great burst of energy, the tiger calmed down very quickly. Like an obedient child, it walked over to the spot we had chosen, paced about quietly as it was required to, and then ambled back to its trainer. Even camera behaved this time, which we realised two days later, when we returned to Calcutta and saw the scenes we had shot.

Questions

1. ‘He opened the door’ .Who is the he referred here ? (1)
2. What happened when the door opened? (1)
3. How much crowd gathered there to watch the shooting? (1)
4. What did the tiger do , when it calmed down? (1)
5. “Even the camera behaved this time”. What do you mean by this statment? (1)
6. How was the tiger compared to, when it calmed down? (1)
7. Find out a word from the passage which means ‘ to make a loud ringing sound like that of metal being hit.’ (1)

Answers

1. Mr.Thorat opened the door.
2. When the door opened the tiger emerged with a loud roar, charged straight at the villagers gathered behind the camera.
3. About a hundred and fifty people gathered there to watch the shooting.
4. When the tiger calmed down , it walked over to the spot they had chosen, paced about quietly as it was required to, and then ambled back to its trainer.
5. The shooting went smooth and even the camera worked properly at that time.
6. When the tiger calmed down, it was compared to an obedient child.
7. clang.

IV. Read the extract taken from “The Best Investment I Ever Made” and write the answers of the questions given below:

There was a pause. The three of us, the sergeant, the landlady and me, as the sole witnesses of the near tragedy, had the same unspoken thought in our minds. We decided to give the young man a fresh start.

The sergeant, at considerable risk to his job, resolved to make no report upon the case, so that no court proceedings would result. The land lady offered a month's free board until he should get upon his feet again. While, I making perhaps the least contribution , came forward with seven pounds ten shillings for him to put back in the office safe.

Questions:

1. Who were the witnesses of the near tragedy? (1)
2. What was the unspoken thought in the minds of the witnesses ? (1)
3. How did the sergeant resolve the problem by risking his job? (1)
4. What help did the landlady offer to the young man? (1)
5. What was the contribution made by the doctor to the young man ? (1)
6. Find out a word from the passage for 'find a solution.'

Answers:

1. The doctor, the sergeant and the landlady were the witnesses of the near tragedy.
2. To give the young man afresh start was the unspoken thought .
3. The sergeant resolved to make no report upon the case, so that no court proceedings would result.
4. The landlady offered a month's free board until he should get upon his feet again.
5. The doctor gave seven pounds ten shillings for him to put back in the office safe.
6. Resolve .

V. Read the extract taken from "The Danger of a Single Story" and write the answers of the questions given below:

Years later. I thought about this when I left Nigeria to go to university in the United States. I was 19. My American room-mate was shocked by me. She asked where I had learned to speak English so well, and was confused when I said that Nigeria happened to have English as its official language. She asked if she could listen to what she called my 'tribal music' and was consequently very disappointed when I produced my tape of Maria Carey.

Questions:

1. At what age did Adichie leave Nigeria? (1)
2. Why did she leave Nigeria? (1)
3. Why was her roommate shocked and confused? (2)
4. Which tape did Adichie produce when the room mate asked for tirbalmusic ? (1)
5. Find out a word from the passage which means ' as a result' (1)

Answers

1. Adichie was 19 when she left Nigeria.
2. She left Nigeria to go to university in the United States.
3. Her roommate was shocked when she heard Adichie speaking English so well and she was confused when heard that Nigeria happened to have English as its official language.
4. Adichie produced the tape of 'Mariah Carey'.
5. Consequently.

VI. Read the extract taken from "The Scholarship Jacket" and write the answers of the questions given below:

I went outside and looked out at the fields. There he was. I could see him walking between the rows, his body bent over the little plants, hoe in hand. I walked slowly out to him, trying to think how I could best ask him for the money. There was a cool breeze blowing and a sweet smell of mesquite fruit in the air, but I didn't appreciate it. I kicked at a dirt clod. I wanted that jacket so much. It was more than just being a valedictorian and giving a little thank you speech for the Jacket on graduation night. It represented eight years of hard work and expectation.

Questions

1. Why did Martha go out into the fields? (1)
2. What was her grandfather doing in the field? (1)
3. What did Martha want to ask her grandfather? (1)
4. How was the Scholarship Jacket important to Martha? (2)
5. Pick out a word from the passage which means 'a lump of earth or clay'.

Answers

1. Martha went out at the fields to meet her grandfather.
2. Her grandfather was walking between the rows, his body bent over the little plants, hoe in hand.
3. Martha wanted to ask her grandfather money for the scholarship jacket.
4. The scholarship jacket was more than just being a valedictorian and giving a little thank you speech for the jacket on graduation night. It was a result of her eight years hard work and expectation.
5. Clod

VII. Read the extract taken from "VANKA" and write the answers of the questions given below:

Vanka sighed, dipped his pen in the ink, and went on writing: 'And yesterday I had such a hiding. The master took me by the hair and dragged me out into the yard and beat me with the stirrup-strap because by mistake I went to sleep while rocking their baby. And one day last week the mistress told me to gut a herring and I began from the tail and she picked up the herring and rubbed my face with the head. The other apprentices make fun of me, they send me to the tavern and make me steal the master's cucumbers and the master beats me with the first thing he finds.

Questions

1. What was Vanka doing? (1)
2. What was the hiding Vanka had the previous day? (1)
3. Why did his mistress rub Vanka's face with the fish? (1)
4. How did the other apprentices disturb Vanka? (2)
5. Find out a word from the passage which means 'physical punishment'. (1)

Answers

1. Vanka was writing a letter to his grandfather.
2. The master took Vanka by the hair and dragged him out into the yard and beat him with the stirrup-strap because by mistake he went to sleep while rocking their baby.
3. The mistress told Vanka to gut a herring and he began from the tail. So she picked up the herring and rubbed his face with its head.
4. The other apprentices made fun of Vanka. They sent him to the tavern and made him steal the master's cucumbers and hence he got punishment .
5. Hiding.

VIII..Read the extract taken from “THE CASTAWAY” and write the answers of the questions given below:

Sharat looked at her face. She still appeared to be very weak. His heart sank at the thought of how narrowly she had escaped death.

Kiran had enjoyed being with the villagers steaming with fun. But here in the riverside, she could not tolerate with the heavy burden of doing nothing. That was their point of discussion. He lost his spirit when she suddenly stopped responding and turned her head away.

He heard a call and went outside to see a young boy in the garden, a survivor from an upturned boat in the storm. Immediately Kiran showed her hospitality giving him dry clothes to change and milk to drink. After he had settled down, she asked his whereabouts. His name was Nilkanta, belonged to a theatrical group. Their boat perished in the storm while they were going to stage a play in a neighbouring villa. He said he had no idea about the others.

Questions

1. How did Sharat feel when Kiran appeared to be very weak? (1)
2. What was intolerable for Kiran ? (1)
3. When did Sharat loose his spirit? (1)
4. How did Kiran show hospitality to the young boy? (1)
5. Who was the visitor to Kiran and Sharat? How did he reach there? (2)

Answers

1. Sharat's heart sank at the thought of how narrowly Kiran had escaped death.
2. The heavy burden of doing nothing was intolerable for Kiran.
3. Sharat lost his spirit when Kiran suddenly stopped responding and turned her head away.
4. Kiran showed her hospitality giving the young boy dry clothes to change and milk to drink.
5. Nilkanta, who belonged to a theatrical group, was their visitor. He reached there as a survivor from an upturned boat in the storm.

Practising Questions

I. Read the following extract from 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' and write the answers of the given questions:

Though the house and grounds of our home in India were Grandfather's domain, the magnificent old banyan tree was mine-chiefly because Grandfather, at the age of sixty-five, could no longer climb it. Grandmother used to tease him about this, and would speak of a certain Countess of

Desmond, an English woman who lived to the age of 117, and would have lived longer if she hadn't fallen while climbing an apple tree. The spreading Branches of the banyan tree, which curved to the ground and took root again, forming a maze of arches, gave me endless pleasure. The tree was older than the house, older than Grandfather, as old as the town of Dehra, nestling in a valley at the foot of the Himalayas.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the boy feel that the magnificent old banyan tree was his own?
2. What made grandmother tease Grandfather?
3. Who is the English woman mentioned in the passage? What is her significance?
4. What gave the boy endless pleasure?
5. How did the speaker describe the banyan tree to show it's old age?
6. Which word in the passage means " a confusing path"?
7. Pick out the Noun phrase in the subject position of the given sentence. 'The magnificent old tree was mine'.

II. Read the given passage and answer the following questions:

I got up and lit a beedi and paced up and down the room. Then another lovely thought struck me. I would marry. I would get married to a woman doctor who had plenty of money and a good medical practice. She had to be fat; for a valid reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch!

With such thoughts in my mind I resumed my seat in the chair in front of the table. There were no more sounds from the above. Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground..... surely nothing to worry about. Even so I thought I would turn around and take a look. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. The snake's landing on me and my turning were simultaneous.

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of a woman did the doctor want to marry?
2. For what reason did the doctor like to marry a fat lady?
3. What was the rubber tube which had fallen to the ground?
4. How did the doctor react when the snake landed on his shoulder?
5. What did the snake do after landing on the doctor,s shoulder?

III. Read the given passage and answer the following questions:

Having thought of the scene, I simply had to shoot it. But where were we going to get a tiger? The obvious thing to do was to look in a circus since they were likely to have trained animals. As a matter of fact, one called Bharat Circus was visiting Calcutta at the time, holding shows in Marcus Square. We sent someone to make an appointment with its Tamil manager and then went to meet him one morning. He greeted us warmly ordered and South Indian coffee for us. The manager heard the reason for our visit, then sent for one Mr.Thorat. He turned out to be the ringmaster. He,too, was a South Indian, very well built, with features somewhat like those of a Nepali. He was perhaps no more than forty. He showed us an old scar on his forearm, which had been caused by a tiger.

QUESTIONS

1. What made Ray think of visiting a circus?
2. Where was Bharat Circus holding the shows at that time?
3. Did Ray get a hearty welcome in the Bharat Circus? Pick out a sentence from the passage to support your answer.
4. Whom was Ray asked to meet? What was he?
5. What was the scar seen on Thorat's forearm?
6. Find out one word from the passage for 'easy to understand'

IV. Read the given passage and answer the following questions:

A moment later I was occupying the vacant chair beside them. Haltingly he told me that this had been their first visit to America. It was not entirely a holiday trip. They had been making a tour to the New England states, inspecting many of the summer recreational camps for young people there. Afterwards, they had visited settlement houses in New York and other cities to study the methods employed in dealing with case of backward, maladjusted and delinquent youth. There was in his voice and manner, indeed in his whole personality, a genuine enthusiasm that was disarming. I found myself liking him instinctively. Questioning him further, I learnt that he and his wife had been active for the past 15 years in the field of youth welfare. He was by profession, a solicitor, but in addition to his practice at the courts, found time to act as director of a chairtable organisation devoted to the care of boys and girls, mostly from city slums, who had fallen under the ban of law.

QUESTIONS

1. Who is the speaker of the passage?
2. Where were the couple going?
3. Why did they go there?
4. Why did they visit the settlement houses?
5. How long had the couple been active in the field of youth welfare?
6. What was the profession of the man whom the narrator was speaking to?
7. Pick out a word which means 'showing a tendency to do crimes'.

V. Read the given passage and answer the following questions:

I was almost back at my classroom door when I heard voices raised in anger as if in some sort of argument. I stopped. I didn't mean to eavesdrop, I just hesitated, not knowing what to do. I needed those shorts and I was going to be late, but I didn't want to interrupt an argument between my teachers. I recognised the voices: Mr.Schmidt, my history teacher and Mr.Boone, my math teacher. They seemed to be arguing about me. I couldn't believe it. I still remember the feeling of shock that rooted me flat against the wall as if I were trying to our only chance.'Why blend in with the graffiti written there.

QUESTIONS

1. When did Marta hear the argument?
2. Who were involved in the argument?
3. What was the argument about?
4. Who was supporting Marta?
5. Why didn't Marta interrupt in the arguement?
6. Find out one word from the passage for 'to listen secretly to a private conversation.