

Plot

Question 1 .

The Village Boy

Simon was a young man of 20 years, who was orphaned at a young age, and now made ends meet by running errands for people in the village. On weekends, he would mow the neighbors' garden, paint their fences, and walk their dogs, but despite this, he didn't earn much money. He had heard that people in cities made a lot of money, and so one fine day, he embarked on a journey to the city, hoping to find a job that would make him rich. He found a job as a waiter in a restaurant, where he worked diligently and efficiently. The manager of the restaurant, Ronny, was a kind man. He was pleased to see Simon working so hard, and gave him a raise within a few weeks. He also allowed Simon to live in his apartment without any rent. Soon, Simon was able to save a considerable amount of money.

Simon was practical, so he decided to spend his money intelligently. He had saved enough money to buy a small shop in the village where he was born. Soon, the business flourished and he was able to open another one in the neighboring town. Ronny heard about Simon's success and was happy for him. He advised him to open a motel, as the village had none. Simon sold one shop, took a loan, and was soon the proud owner of a motel. Everyone in the village was very proud of him.

Simon then appointed a manager for the motel, because now the city lights beckoned him again. He met with Ronny, and together they bought a beach resort, which became very popular in a few months. Ronny realized that Simon had a flair for business and so he decided to make Simon his business partner. Ronny and Simon started several successful ventures over the next few years.

In less than a decade, Simon became a millionaire, but he never forgot his humble roots. The people of his village spoke of him with love and pride, and his story inspired everyone to follow their dreams.

Which of these archetypes does Simon's journey represent?

- ☐ A. the journey for love
- ☐ B. the journey for knowledge
- ☐ C. the journey for fame and fortune
- ☐ D. the journey to save the people

Question 2 .

"Are you ready to get started, Sydney?" Mr. Zaretsky asked as he handed her a stack of brightly colored fabric. Sydney gulped and nodded. It was her first day as a summer intern at Onegin Fashion Creations, and she was desperate to make a good impression.

"Absolutely, Mr. Zaretsky," she said with a confidence she didn't truly feel. Her new supervisor had briefly explained the procedure for operating the industrial sewing machine, but she was still fuzzy on the details. The machine looked similar to the one she used at home, so she decided to just do her best and forego asking Mr. Zaretsky to explain the steps to her again.

"Get busy, then," said Mr. Zaretsky with a smile. "I'll check on your progress in an hour."

"Yes, sir," Sydney replied as her supervisor left the room. She slid the first piece of fabric beneath the sewing machine's presser foot and stepped on the foot pedal to start the motor. Suddenly, the machine gave out a fierce shriek, and thread began spinning wildly across Sydney's workstation.

"What's going on?" cried Tatyana Rubenstein, head of marketing for OFC, as she raced out of her office.

"I have no idea," said Sydney as she looked at the smoking sewing machine in dismay. "I must have done something wrong."

"Did I hear some kind of crash in here?" asked Rolfe Stamey, another intern, as he stuck his head through the doorway. Sydney felt like crying as the room began to fill with worried employees and interns. She expected them to call Mr. Zaretsky and tell him that the new girl had ruined an expensive piece of equipment. *I can't lose this internship! she panicked silently. I'll never get a scholarship from OFC if I get fired on my first day.*

"Don't worry, Sydney," Rolfe comforted her as he unplugged the still-smoking machine. "We can fix this."

"Yeah, this machine has been on the fritz for weeks," said another employee. "It shouldn't even be in the workroom to begin with."

"We'll just move you over to this workstation," Tatyana told Sydney. "You can finish your project on a new machine. Just be sure to adjust the stitch length by pressing this button before you start the motor."

"Thank you so much," Sydney called out to her rescuers. Rolfe gave her a friendly wink as he carried the ruined heap of metal out of the room. She quickly grabbed her pile of fabric and got back to work.

"How are you doing?" asked Mr. Zaretsky as he returned to the workroom an hour later.

"Everything is great," Sydney replied happily. She planned to bring a cake to the office to thank the people who had saved her from an embarrassing situation.

Which statement **best** describes the main conflict in the story?

- ☐ A. Sydney's fellow workers discover that she lied in order to get an internship.
- ☐ B. Sydney's supervisor is determined to embarrass her in front of the other interns.
- ☐ C. Sydney worries that she will not be well liked by the employees at OFC.
- ☐ D. Sydney is afraid that a mistake made on the job will cost her a scholarship.

Question 3 .**Cinder Creek Cousin**

by c.safos

Margaret walked around the house as if she had just learned to walk. Each step let out a squeak and a grunt from the house's floorboards. The house itself was not foreign land. Margaret had lived in this house as a child. The once golden walls now barely held any of the sheen they once did. They looked as if they had spoiled and rotted. The nails seemed to reach out and grab at her each time she moved.

The smell was just bearable enough to get used to. Margaret searched the kitchen for even the trace scent of freshly-baked banana bread, but all she could smell was the leftover scent of a wet stray that must have used the house as shelter from the rain.

As a child, she loved this home. It had been years since Margaret had lived in this home. After her parents had passed away, she had moved from foster home to foster home trying to forget this place. Every time she thought of her mother and father, she thought of this place. It was too painful to remember, and if she couldn't remember one without the other, she didn't want to remember any of it.

After Margaret had made her first million, she had vowed to go back and buy the house just to keep it in her family—even though she was all that was left of her real family. Then, life got in the way. Money was being made. Success needed to be maintained. She had worked hard to become the CEO of The Dinoso Group, a mixed-media firm. The house became an afterthought.

It wasn't until she read in the paper that a private company was planning on buying most of the land in her old neighborhood to make a parking lot that Margaret finally made time. She bought all the land to stop them, but now, she was left with a neighborhood of run-down houses and a slew of ghosts from her past. She wanted to be rid of it all, but she thought it at least deserved a better fate than a parking lot.

As she made her way outside, she looked to the yard and remembered how green the Bermuda grass used to look when she and her father would chase each other.

Just as she was leaving, she heard the sounds of children playing stickball in the yard of the abandoned house next door. They did their best to dodge the craters, nails, and broken glass in the yard. That's when Margaret decided to turn the abandoned block into a park for the neighborhood.

She got into her car and drove away eager to get started. She watched as the house and neighborhood grew smaller in her rearview mirror.

Which of the following describes the main conflict in the story?

- ☐ A. A woman deals with the ghosts of her past after buying her childhood home.
- ☐ B. A woman tries to stop the neighborhood children from playing in her yard.
- ☐ C. A woman tries to become the CEO of a major advertising and media company.
- ☐ D. A woman deals with the death of her parents who have left her a house.

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How does Margaret resolve her main conflict in the story?

- ☐ A. She decides to tear down the house and build a park for the neighborhood children.
- ☐ B. She decides to rebuild the house and make it look like the house she grew up in.
- ☐ C. She decides to quit her job as CEO of a major media and advertising company.
- ☐ D. She decides to sell her house to a company who will turn the area into a parking lot.

Question 5 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

The passage describes a peculiar system of justice imposed by a king upon his subjects. Which sentence creates an element of suspense and mystery before the king's method is revealed?

from "The Lady, or the Tiger?"

by Frank R. Stockton

In the very olden time there lived a semi-barbaric king, whose ideas, though somewhat polished and sharpened by the progressiveness of distant Latin neighbors, were still large, florid, and untrammelled, as became the half of him which was barbaric. **He was a man of exuberant fancy, and, withal, of an authority so irresistible that, at his will, he turned his varied fancies into**

facts. He was greatly given to self-communing, and, when he and himself agreed upon anything, the thing was done. When every member of his domestic and political systems moved smoothly in its appointed course, his nature was bland and genial; but, whenever there was a little hitch, and some of his orbs got out of their orbits, he was blander and more genial still, for nothing pleased him so much as to make the crooked straight and crush down uneven places.

Among the borrowed notions by which his barbarism had become semified was that of the public arena, in which, by exhibitions of manly and beastly valor, the minds of his subjects were refined and cultured.

But even here the exuberant and barbaric fancy asserted itself. **The arena of the king was built, not to give the people an opportunity of hearing the rhapsodies of dying gladiators, nor to enable them to view the inevitable conclusion of a conflict between religious opinions and hungry jaws, but for purposes far better adapted to widen and develop the mental energies of the people.** This vast amphitheater, with its encircling galleries, its mysterious vaults, and its unseen passages, was an agent of poetic justice, in which crime was punished, or virtue rewarded, by the decrees of an impartial and incorruptible chance.

When a subject was accused of a crime of sufficient importance to interest the king, public notice was given that on an appointed day the fate of the accused person would be decided in the king's arena, a structure which well deserved its name, for, although its form and plan were borrowed from afar, its purpose emanated solely from the brain of this man, who, every barleycorn a king, knew no tradition to which he owed more allegiance than pleased his fancy, and who ingrafted on every adopted form of human thought and action the rich growth of his barbaric idealism.

When all the people had assembled in the galleries, and the king, surrounded by his court, sat high up on his throne of royal state on one side of the arena, he gave a signal, a door beneath him opened, and the accused subject stepped out into the amphitheater. Directly opposite him, on the other side of the inclosed space, were two doors, exactly alike and side by side. **It was the duty and the privilege of the person on trial to walk directly to these doors and open one of them.** He could open either door he pleased; he was subject to no guidance or influence but that of the aforementioned impartial and incorruptible chance. If he opened the one, there came out of it a hungry tiger, the fiercest and most cruel that could be procured, which immediately sprang upon him and tore him to pieces as a punishment for his guilt. The moment that the case of the criminal was thus decided, doleful iron bells were clanged, great wails went up from the hired mourners posted on the outer rim of the arena, and the vast audience, with bowed heads and downcast hearts, wended slowly their homeward way, mourning greatly that one so young and fair, or so old and respected, should have merited so dire a fate.

But, if the accused person opened the other door, there came forth from it a lady, the most suitable to his years and station that his majesty could select among his fair subjects, and to this lady he was immediately married, as a reward of his innocence. It mattered not that he might already possess a wife and family, or that his affections might be engaged upon an object of his own selection; the king allowed no such subordinate arrangements to interfere with his great scheme of retribution and reward. The exercises, as in the other instance, took place immediately, and in the arena. Another door opened beneath the king, and a priest, followed by a band of choristers, and dancing maidens blowing joyous airs on golden horns and treading an epithalamic measure, advanced to where the pair stood, side by side, and the wedding was promptly and cheerily solemnized. Then the gay brass bells rang forth their merry peals, the people shouted glad hurrahs, and the innocent man, preceded by children strewing flowers on his path, led his bride to his home.

Question 6 .**The Race**

by J. Robbins

"Runners, get ready!" called the track coach. Serena Rosales checked the laces on her tennis shoes one last time and walked over to her lane. She could hear the crowd murmuring in anticipation. Her friends and family were waving excitedly to her from their seats on the bleachers, but Serena calmly ignored everything but the track in front of her. Alice, the runner beside her, shifted from foot to foot and cleared her throat.

"I am so nervous!" Alice said to Serena. "How can you stay so calm?" Serena smiled to herself. She knew exactly when and where she had learned to be at peace even during the biggest race of the school year. The track in front of her disappeared, and in her mind's eye she could see a dirt road filled with ruts and holes.

"I want you to run from here to that old oak tree as fast as you can," Grandma Rosales told her eight-year-old granddaughter. Serena looked up at her grandmother in bewilderment.

"But why, Grandma? I can walk just as easily," Serena whined. Her grandmother shook her head fiercely.

"No, ma'am!" said Grandma. "You have a gift for running, and I'm going to make sure you use it. Do you think gifts like yours just drop off trees? As long as I live, you will never walk when you can run, and every time you race, you just picture me running right along with you. Do you hear me?" Serena raced to the tree and back to her grandmother before she fell to the ground in exhaustion.

"On your mark!" yelled the track coach, interrupting Serena's thoughts. She closed her eyes and pictured her grandmother's loving face. There was no question in her mind that she would win this race.

In the story, how does Serena handle the stress of participating in a big race?

- ☐ A. by deliberately sabotaging other runners
- ☐ B. by focusing on a beloved family member
- ☐ C. by wearing a pair of lucky tennis shoes
- ☐ D. by following her track coach's advice

Question 7 .

Helping Hands

by J. Robbins

Ainslee pulled on her tennis shoes and began to gather up the old soda cans, newspapers, and milk cartons from her house. She tossed them into a large garbage bag and headed out the door.

"I'll be back in an hour, Mom!" she called over her shoulder. The sunny day lifted her spirits as she walked across her front lawn. The recycling center was only a mile away from her house, and she enjoyed the walk—especially on a day like this. As she waited at the crosswalk, she lowered the unwieldy bag of recycling to rest on the ground. *I really should have made two trips*, she thought.

"Good morning, Mrs. Moss," Ainslee called as she walked past her elderly neighbor's house. Mrs. Moss waved and smiled, but Ainslee could see that she was struggling to move a large tray of plants from her greenhouse to her flower bed. *I really should help her*, Ainslee thought. *But on the other hand, I need to get this recycling to the center this morning*. The light changed from green to red as Ainslee hesitated.

"Is everything all right, dear?" asked Mrs. Moss, her voice full of concern. Ainslee dropped her bag of recycling on the curb and jogged across Mrs. Moss' lawn.

"Can I help you with that?" she asked. Mrs. Moss dropped the heavy tray and stood back.

"That would be wonderful, dear," Mrs. Moss told her gratefully. "I usually try to do these things myself, but I'm not as young as I used to be. I want to get these plants in the ground as soon as possible. They help purify the air, you know. It's just my little way of helping the planet." Ainslee easily moved the tray of plants into place and turned to leave.

"You are a treasure!" said Mrs. Moss as she hugged Ainslee goodbye. As Ainslee retrieved her bag of recycling and crossed the street, she felt terrific. *Good thing I stopped!* she thought. *It feels great to help the planet and another person at the same time.*

What is Mrs. Moss' problem in this story?

- ☐ A. She has no room on her lawn for her new plants.
- ☐ B. She needs help moving a heavy tray of plants.
- ☐ C. She is worried that Ainslee is acting recklessly.
- ☐ D. She needs ideas for ways to help the planet.

Question 8 .

Sympathy Pains

by J. Robbins

"What's the matter, Betty?" asked Mycroft as he sat down next to his best friend. The library was almost deserted, and his voice echoed eerily through the stacks of books.

"It's my brother again," Betty replied. "He reviewed my English paper and tore it to shreds. He didn't even like the title! I think he enjoys making me feel stupid. If I'm as stupid as he thinks I am, I'll probably fail this class." She felt tears well up in her eyes again and angrily blinked them away.

"Don't let him get to you, Betty," said Mycroft as he patted her hand sympathetically. Betty's brother Thedrick was a straight-A student, but he had no clue when it came to treating people with respect. "Why don't we work on your paper together?"

"That would be great if it weren't due today," Betty told him. "I feel like I should start over from scratch, but how can I get it finished in time?"

"You worked on that paper for weeks!" Mycroft exclaimed. "There is no way you're going to throw it out."

"Hello, sis," called Thedrick as he approached the two friends. Betty averted her eyes, and Mycroft scowled at the intruder. "If you needed more help with that mess of a paper, you should have called me. I can run intellectual circles around this guy."

"Please leave, Thed," Betty replied firmly. "We may be idiots compared to you, but at least we're nice idiots. Your kind of 'help' isn't welcome here." Her brother smirked as he walked away. Mycroft grabbed Betty's paper and started reading the angry red comments scribbled on every page.

"These comments don't make any sense," he said in frustration. "Your paper was fine the way it was. I don't think you should make a single change." Betty suddenly sat upright.

"I know!" she exclaimed. "We can take it to Adirondack Jones. She's never gotten a bad grade on a paper. She can help us figure out what to do." Mycroft and Betty rushed out of the library to find the star pupil of Hanover High. When Adirondack heard the situation, she got a fierce glint in her eyes.

"I would love to see Thedrick taken down a few notches," Adirondack told Betty. "You have a great paper here, and you should turn it in as it is. I think once you have a few A-pluses under your belt, you'll have the self-confidence to stand up to Thed's bullying." Betty sighed in relief as she and Mycroft walked to class.

"Thank goodness," she told her friend. "I didn't think I could face writing another word. I forgot to ask what topic you chose for your paper, Mycroft."

"Oh, no," groaned Mycroft as his face paled. "I think I left my notebook on the table in the library. My paper was inside that notebook!" The two of them rushed into the library to find that the notebook and the paper had vanished without a trace.

"Well, it looks like one of us will be writing a paper from scratch after all," sighed Betty. Mycroft was too busy pulling blank paper and a pen out of his backpack to reply. He began scribbling furiously as Betty patted his shoulder in sympathy.

How is the main conflict in this story resolved?

- ☐ A. Betty gets a second opinion about the quality of her paper.
- ☐ B. Betty and Adirondack plan to frame Thedrick for cheating.
- ☐ C. Mycroft discovers that Thedrick stole his paper from the library.
- ☐ D. Thedrick's bullying causes Mycroft to doubt his writing ability.

Question 9 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which sentence **best** shows how Higgins' attitude contributes to the conflict in the play?

from Pygmalion

by Bernard Shaw

CHARACTERS:

HIGGINS

PICKERING

MRS. PEARCE

THE FLOWER GIRL

HIGGINS: Well, I think that's the whole show.

PICKERING: It's really amazing. I haven't taken half of it in, you know.

HIGGINS: Would you like to go over any of it again?

PICKERING: No, thank you; not now. I'm quite done up for this morning.

HIGGINS: Tired of listening to sounds?

PICKERING: Yes. It's a fearful strain and I rather fancied myself because I can pronounce twenty-four distinct vowel sounds; but your hundred and thirty beat me. I can't hear a bit of difference between most of them.

HIGGINS: *Oh, that comes with practice and you will hear no difference at first*; but you keep on listening, and presently you find they're all as different as A from B. [MRS. PEARCE looks in: she is Higgins's housekeeper] What's the matter?

MRS. PEARCE: A young woman wants to see you, sir.

HIGGINS: A young woman! What does she want?

MRS. PEARCE: Well, sir, she says you'll be glad to see her when you know what she's come about. She's quite a common girl, sir, very common indeed. I should have sent her away, only I thought perhaps you wanted her to talk into your machines and I hope I've not done wrong; but really you see such queer people sometimes—you'll excuse me, I'm sure, sir—

HIGGINS: Oh, that's all right, MRS. PEARCE. Has she an interesting accent?

MRS. PEARCE : Oh, something dreadful, sir, really. I don't know how you can take an interest in it.

HIGGINS: [to Pickering] Let's have her up. Show her up, MRS. PEARCE [he rushes across to his working table and picks out a cylinder to use on the phonograph].

MRS. PEARCE: Very well, sir. It's for you to say.

HIGGINS: *This is rather a bit of luck and I'll show you how I make records*. We'll set her talking; and I'll take it down first in Bell's visible Speech; then in broad Romic; and then we'll get her on the phonograph so that you can turn her on as often as you like with the written transcript before you.

MRS. PEARCE: [returning] This is the young woman, sir.

THE FLOWER GIRL enters in state. She has a hat with three ostrich feathers, orange, sky-blue, and red.

HIGGINS: [brusquely, recognizing her with unconcealed disappointment, and at once, baby-like, making an intolerable grievance of it] *Why, this is the girl I jotted down last night, she's no use*: I've got all the records I want of the Lisson Grove lingo; and I'm not going to waste another cylinder on it. [To the girl] Be off with you: I don't want you.

THE FLOWER GIRL: Don't you be so saucy. You ain't heard what I come for yet. [To MRS. PEARCE, who is waiting at the door for further instruction] Did you tell him I come in a taxi?

MRS. PEARCE: Nonsense, girl! What do you think a gentleman like Mr. Higgins cares what you came in?

THE FLOWER GIRL: Oh, we are proud! He ain't above giving lessons, not him: I heard him say so. Well, I ain't come here to ask for any compliment; and if my money's not good

enough I can go elsewhere.

HIGGINS : Good enough for what?

THE FLOWER GIRL: Good enough for ye—oo. Now you know, don't you? I'm come to have lessons, I am. And to pay for em too: make no mistake.

HIGGINS: [stupent] WELL!!! [Recovering his breath with a gasp] *What do you expect me to say to you?*

THE FLOWER GIRL: Well, if you was a gentleman, you might ask me to sit down, I think. Don't I tell you I'm bringing you business?

HIGGINS: Pickering: shall we ask this baggage to sit down or shall we throw her out of the window?

THE FLOWER GIRL: [running away in terror to the piano, where she turns at bay] Ah—ah—ah—ow—ow—ow—oo! [Wounded and whimpering] I won't be called a baggage when I've offered to pay like any lady. [Motionless, the two men stare at her from the other side of the room, amazed.]

PICKERING: [gently] What is it you want, my girl?

THE FLOWER GIRL: I want to be a lady in a flower shop stead of selling at the corner of Tottenham Court Road. But they won't take me unless I can talk more genteel. He said he could teach me. Well, here I am ready to pay him—not asking any favor—and he treats me as if I was dirt.

Question 10 .

Birthday Dilemma

Jack nervously looked at the gray, gloomy sky that was warning him of the impending downpour. He did not want to disappoint Jenny by showing up late for her birthday party, but how could he show up at a birthday party without a present? He had been busy completing assignments, which left him with no time to buy a gift for his best friend. He bitterly thought to himself, "I will be the only one without a birthday present. Jenny is going to be so disappointed with me."

To add to his misery, the weather forecast had predicted torrential downpour for the next few hours. Even if he managed to make it to the gift shop, he would never be able to reach Jenny's party on time. Jack considered calling Jenny and pretending to be sick so that he could avoid the embarrassment of going to her party without a present. But the thought of Jenny's disappointed face stopped him. He decided to meet Jenny and wish her a happy birthday despite not having a gift. *It might be embarrassing, but I will apologize to Jenny in person for not getting her a birthday gift. I hope she will forgive me*, he thought to himself. By the time Jack decided to walk to Jenny's place, which was only a few blocks away, it started pouring heavily. Making certain that his books were safe and dry, Jack tightly wrapped his raincoat around himself and set off toward Jenny's house. His shoes became heavy and dirty because of the rain and mud. It was as if nature did not want to him to reach Jenny's party on time! But the bad weather and the difficult journey did not deter Jack's determination.

The usually short journey to Jenny's home took much longer due to the rain. After a fifteen-minute walk, Jack reached Jenny's house with his clothes drenched and hair plastered over his face. On seeing him at the doorstep, Jenny squealed with delight and said, "None of the others came because of the bad weather! Thank you so much for coming and making my day special!" Jack then realized that true friendship did not depend on gifts or presents but on just being there for each other.

Which statement **best** describes the internal conflict Jack has in the story?

- ☐ A. Jack decides to complete his assignments instead of buying Jenny a present.
- ☐ B. Jack wonders whether he should go to Jenny's party without a gift.
- ☐ C. Jack realizes that true friendship does not depend on gifts or presents.
- ☐ D. Jack is not deterred by the difficult journey and the bad weather.

Question 11 .**The Dream Fulfilled**

Alex couldn't believe that he had finally become a doctor, and not just any doctor, but a cardiologist! He still remembered the day when his grandmother was writhing in pain after a snake bit her, and they weren't able to save her because the only hospital was several miles away from their remote village. It was then that he had felt a strong desire to do something to help the people of his village in times of need. At that time, he was very young and did not know how he could bring about any change. Now, after more than a decade, he knew what must be done.

He had been fortunate to receive an opportunity to perform complicated bypass surgeries under Dr. Adrian D'costa, one of the best cardiologists in the world. Soon, he had performed several surgeries on patients all over the world. One day, after one such case, while relaxing over a cup of coffee, he confided in Dr. D'costa about his dream to build a world-class hospital in his village. The good old doctor promised that he would talk to some of his colleagues and see how they could go about turning Alex's dream into a reality.

With the help of his colleagues and after acquiring a loan from the bank, the construction of the hospital began. After two years, the hospital was finally opened. Alex's parents were proud of him, and the villagers too showered their blessings on him. However, Alex could not help but feel a little sad. He told Dr. D'costa that he wished this hospital had been there earlier, because then his grandmother could have been alive. Dr. D'costa patted him on his back, and said, "Your granny is up there somewhere, feeling proud that you have done such a noble deed. So, smile and continue the good work." Alex nodded, finally feeling happy and content.

Which of these archetypes does Alex's journey represent?

- ☐ A. the journey for love
- ☐ B. the journey to find oneself
- ☐ C. the journey to save the people
- ☐ D. the journey for spiritual perfection

Question 12 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

A flashback takes the narrative back in time from the current point in the story. Which sentence best shows that the narrative is transitioning to a flashback?

from "The Tell-Tale Heart"

by Edgar Allan Poe

TRUE!—nervous—very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses—not destroyed—not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? **Hearken! and observe how healthily—how calmly I can tell you the whole story.**

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. **I loved the old man.** He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees—very gradually—I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

Now this is the point. You fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. But you should have seen me. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded—with what caution—with what foresight—with what dissimulation I went to work! I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before I killed him. **And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it—oh so gently!** And then, when I had made an opening sufficient for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, that no light shone out, and then I thrust in my head. Oh, you would have laughed to see how cunningly I thrust it in! I moved it slowly—very, very slowly, so that I might not disturb the old man's sleep. It took me an hour to place my whole head within the opening so far that I could see him as he lay upon his bed. Ha! would a madman have been so wise as this? And then, when my head was well in the room, I undid the lantern cautiously—oh, so cautiously—cautiously (for the hinges creaked)—I undid it just so much that a single thin ray fell upon the vulture eye. And this I did for seven long nights—every night just at midnight—but I found the eye always closed; and so it was impossible to do the work; for it was not the old man who vexed me, but his Evil Eye. And every morning, when the day broke, I went boldly into the chamber, and spoke courageously to him, calling him by name in a hearty tone, and inquiring how he has passed the night. **So you see he would have been a very profound old man, indeed, to suspect that every night, just at twelve, I looked in upon him while he slept.**

Upon the eighth night I was more than usually cautious in opening the door. A watch's minute hand moves more quickly than did mine. Never before that night had I felt the extent of my own powers—of my sagacity. I could scarcely contain my feelings of triumph. To think that there I was, opening the door, little by little, and he not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts. I fairly chuckled at the idea; and perhaps he heard me; for he moved on the bed suddenly, as if startled. Now you may think that I drew back—but no. His room was as black as pitch with the thick darkness, (for the shutters were close fastened, through fear of robbers,) and so I knew that he could not see the opening of the door, and I kept pushing it on steadily, steadily.

Question 13 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which sentence **most** clearly states the central conflict in the play?

from Pygmalion

by Bernard Shaw

CHARACTERS:

HIGGINS

PICKERING

MRS. PEARCE

THE FLOWER GIRL

HIGGINS: Well, I think that's the whole show.

PICKERING: It's really amazing. I haven't taken half of it in, you know.

HIGGINS: Would you like to go over any of it again?

PICKERING: No, thank you; not now. I'm quite done up for this morning.

HIGGINS: Tired of listening to sounds?

PICKERING: Yes. It's a fearful strain and I rather fancied myself because I can pronounce twenty-four distinct vowel sounds; but your hundred and thirty beat me. I can't hear a bit of difference between most of them.

HIGGINS: Oh, that comes with practice and you will hear no difference at first; but you keep on listening, and presently you find they're all as different as A from B. [MRS. PEARCE looks in: she is Higgins's housekeeper] What's the matter?

MRS. PEARCE: A young woman wants to see you, sir.

HIGGINS: A young woman! What does she want?

MRS. PEARCE: Well, sir, she says you'll be glad to see her when you know what she's come about. She's quite a common girl, sir, very common indeed. I should have sent her away, only I thought perhaps you wanted her to talk into your machines and I hope I've not done wrong; but really you see such queer people sometimes—you'll excuse me, I'm sure, sir—

HIGGINS: Oh, that's all right, MRS. PEARCE. Has she an interesting accent?

MRS. PEARCE : Oh, something dreadful, sir, really. I don't know how you can take an interest in it.

HIGGINS: [to Pickering] Let's have her up. Show her up, MRS. PEARCE [he rushes across to his working table and picks out a cylinder to use on the phonograph].

MRS. PEARCE: Very well, sir. It's for you to say.

HIGGINS: This is rather a bit of luck and I'll show you how I make records. We'll set her talking; and I'll take it down first in Bell's visible Speech; then in broad Romic; and then we'll get her on the phonograph so that you can turn her on as often as you like with the written transcript before you.

MRS. PEARCE: [returning] This is the young woman, sir.

THE FLOWER GIRL enters in state. She has a hat with three ostrich feathers, orange, sky-blue, and red.

HIGGINS: [brusquely, recognizing her with unconcealed disappointment, and at once, baby-like, making an intolerable grievance of it] Why, this is the girl I jotted down last night, she's no use: I've got all the records I want of the Lisson Grove lingo; and I'm not going to waste another cylinder on it. [To the girl] Be off with you: I don't want you.

THE FLOWER GIRL: Don't you be so saucy. You ain't heard what I come for yet. [To MRS. PEARCE, who is waiting at the door for further instruction] Did you tell

him I come in a taxi?

MRS. PEARCE: Nonsense, girl! What do you think a gentleman like Mr. Higgins cares what you came in?

THE FLOWER GIRL: Oh, we are proud! He ain't above giving lessons, not him: I heard him say so. Well, I ain't come here to ask for any compliment; and **if my money's not good enough I can go elsewhere.**

HIGGINS : Good enough for what?

THE FLOWER GIRL: Good enough for ye—oo. Now you know, don't you? I'm come to have lessons, I am. And to pay for em too: make no mistake.

HIGGINS: [stupent] WELL!!! [Recovering his breath with a gasp] What do you expect me to say to you?

THE FLOWER GIRL: Well, if you was a gentleman, you might ask me to sit down, I think. **Don't I tell you I'm bringing you business?**

HIGGINS: Pickering: shall we ask this baggage to sit down or shall we throw her out of the window?

THE FLOWER GIRL: [running away in terror to the piano, where she turns at bay] Ah—ah—ah—ow—ow—ow—oo! [Wounded and whimpering] I won't be called a baggage when I've offered to pay like any lady. [Motionless, the two men stare at her from the other side of the room, amazed].

PICKERING: [gently] What is it you want, my girl?

THE FLOWER GIRL: I want to be a lady in a flower shop stead of selling at the corner of Tottenham Court Road. **But they won't take me unless I can talk more genteel.** He said he could teach me. Well, here I am ready to pay him—not asking any favor—and he treats me as if I was dirt.

Question 14 .**The Test**
by J. Robbins

Peter Fox walked into Mr. Amend's American history class whistling a cheerful tune. Several students looked up from their books and gave him dirty looks. He smiled as he slid into his seat.

"What's up, Steve?" he asked his best friend. Steve had dark circles under his eyes, and he looked exhausted.

"Hey, man," Steve replied. "I've been up all night studying the Declaration of Independence, and I think my brain might explode." Peter laughed as he leaned over and patted his friend on his back.

"Don't worry, Steve," said Peter. "I'll ace this thing for both of us. In fact, I'll ace it for the whole class!" Steve looked at Peter suspiciously.

"Why are you so confident?" he asked. "You're not planning to cheat, are you?"

"No way!" Peter reassured him. "I just stayed up all night memorizing the book Mr. Amend assigned us. I need to score a perfect grade to make up for last month's test."

"Yeah, that was awful," Steve agreed. "I can't believe Mr. Amend wouldn't let you take the test again. Studying the wrong chapter was an honest mistake." Peter nodded sadly.

"Yeah, my dad was furious," he said. "But Mr. Amend never budes when it comes to taking tests only once. From then on, I swore to never study the wrong material again. So, how did you like the book? I thought the part with the werewolves was a little over the top." Steve gave his friend a blank look.

"What werewolves?" Steve asked.

"You know, the werewolves who were hiding in the cargo bay at the beginning of the book and eventually took over the spaceship," replied Peter.

"Peter," Steve said slowly. "I don't know what you read, but it wasn't the book Mr. Amend assigned us. The book we were supposed to read was about the signing of the Declaration of Independence. There were definitely no werewolves involved!" The smile vanished from Peter's face and was replaced by a look of panic.

"No! I must have accidentally picked up the wrong book. This can't have happened again!" exclaimed Peter as he buried his head in his hands.

How does Mr. Amend contribute to Peter's conflict in the story?

- ☐ A. He influences other students to dislike Peter.
- ☐ B. He provides the wrong book for Peter to study.
- ☐ C. He refuses to make peace with Peter's father.
- ☐ D. He refuses to allow students to retake tests.

Question 15 .**Goodbyes Are Never Easy!**

While the other classes unanimously hurrahed and celebrated at the sound of the last bell of the semester, the high school seniors did not seem to share the same enthusiasm as the rest of the school. Students all over the school had been eagerly waiting for their summer break, and some of them were now excitedly discussing their summer plans. The only bunch of students who did not seem to be looking forward to the long summer vacations was grade twelve students. The semester's final bell brought upon them the realization that this would probably be the last time that they would hear their school bell ring.

Among the grade twelve students who were casually chatting with the other students or talking to their teachers about their future plans, there was Tom, who quietly returned to his room. He couldn't believe four years had gone past so quickly! He could still recollect the day his father had brought him to St. Bartholomew's High School in Baltimore. Tom felt the same anxiety that had gripped him on the day he started at St. Bartholomew's. Four years on, he was again standing at a threshold in life where everything seemed forbidding and uncertain. A sense of darkness engulfed Tom at the thought of leaving St. Bartholomew's, which had become his home in the past four years.

Tom, lost in his thoughts, suddenly felt somebody touching him on his shoulder. Startled, he turned to look back and found his mentor, Mr. Robert, tenderly looking at him. Seeing the troubled expression on Tom's face, Mr Robert empathetically said to him, "I know you are anxious and uncertain about the future. But everybody has to get out of his comfort zone and get on in life. Besides, we're always going to be here for you. You can return to St. Bartholomew's whenever you feel like it." Like light filling a dark room, Tom felt an engulfing sense of relief. Eventually, he left St. Bartholomew's and returned home with a lot of beautiful memories, safe in the feeling that he is and will always be a part of St. Bartholomew's High School.

What does the word "threshold" symbolize in the context of the passage?

- ☐ A. It symbolizes the new journey that Tom has to embark on.
- ☐ B. It symbolizes Tom's decision to overcome his fears.
- ☐ C. It symbolizes the hope that Mr. Robert gives Tom.
- ☐ D. It symbolizes Tom's struggle to come to terms with reality.

Question 16 .**Aisha's Dilemma**

"Everyone is going to be there, you have to come!" Miranda said to Aisha, as they walked out of the classroom and headed toward the school gate. Their friend Sheldon was having a birthday party later that night, and everyone was invited, but Aisha did not think she would be able to convince her parents to let her attend Sheldon's birthday party. She had been getting poor grades in math, and she had promised her parents to work hard to improve her performance. That whole week she had rushed back home after school, and spent a few hours practicing math equations. She knew her parents would not be too happy if she asked to go to Sheldon's party.

"I can't, Miranda, because I know that my parents won't let me come," Aisha said to her friend, looking disappointed.

"So don't tell them you're going to a party, just say you have a debate club meeting in school!" Miranda said, before she left to go home and get ready for the party.

As Aisha walked back home, her friend's advice kept playing in her mind. "It does seem like a good idea. I've been working hard all week, and it's only fair that I get to have some fun," she thought to herself. But Aisha hated lying to her parents, and always believed in being open and honest with them. Torn between the two prospects, Aisha reached home and found her parents in the living room.

She mustered her courage and decided to tell her parents the truth. "Mom, Dad, my friend, Sheldon, is having a birthday party today and I really want to go. I know I'm supposed to be working on my math, but I promise I'll put in a few extra hours tomorrow to make up for today. Please let me go!"

Much to her surprise, Aisha's parents smiled at her, and her mother said, "Of course you can go, darling. You've been working so hard this week, you definitely deserve a break!" Elated, Aisha hugged her parents, and ran up to her room to get ready for the party.

Which of these describes Aisha's conflict?

- ☐ A. She wants to go to a party but does not want to lie to her parents.
- ☐ B. She wants to stay at home and study but does not want to disappoint her friends.
- ☐ C. She wants to attend the debate club meeting at school but her parents won't let her.
- ☐ D. She wants to get better grades in math but is not able to focus.

Question 17 .

To Ski or Not

On Monday morning, Fred woke up and looked out of the window to find the streets and sidewalks filled with layers of snow at least 4 to 5 feet high. However, it appeared to him that the blizzard was winding down as he observed some people braving the winds, shoveling their way through the snow. Fred was part of a team of five boys who were supposed to ski at the Classic Championship race held at Stuart Hill the next day. His mother warned him not to go for skiing practice in such weather. "No child of mine is stepping out of this house until the blizzard stops completely," she reiterated when Fred asked her about stepping out. However, this was not what Fred wanted to hear. He had to get to the skiing rink at any cost. *If I don't go, my team might lose, and it will be all because of me*, he thought to himself.

Therefore, Fred layered himself with the warmest of clothing and started moving out of the house through the back door. Just as he prepared to leave, he heard the voice of the meteorologist on TV detailing the conditions of the blizzard. She predicted that the conditions could intensify in the next few hours. *Let me call Coach Greg. I wonder whether the team will really be meeting under such harsh weather conditions*, thought Fred. Fred telephoned Coach Greg to hear the warm, friendly voice of his coach, who informed him about the postponement of the Classic Championship until the weather cleared. The coach also told him that there would be no skiing practices until further notice, and that he had tried calling Fred on his phone several times but was unable to reach him. "All's well that ends well," muttered Fred to himself and slowly wound his way back to the comfort of his room.

Which statement **best** describes the internal conflict experienced by Fred in the story?

- ☐ A. Fred woke up to find that the blizzard had covered the streets and sidewalks with snow.
- ☐ B. Despite the harsh weather conditions, Fred did not want to miss skiing practice because he felt he would be responsible if his team lost.
- ☐ C. Fred listened to the weather report on TV and learned that the blizzard might intensify.
- ☐ D. Fred was at peace when he realized that the Classic Championship had been postponed.

Question 18 .

Cherie searched through her backpack in a panic. *Please say I didn't lose my passport already!* she begged silently. Her backpack was littered with packs of gum, sunscreen, comic books, and all the little things she expected to need on her trip. Except her passport. The line in front of her moved forward, and her stomach did a flip-flop of fear. She had always dreamed about traveling to another country, and she didn't want to lose her chance because of her chronic forgetfulness.

"Hey, girl," said Marissa, her team leader. "Is everything okay?" Cherie fought back tears as she looked up at her team leader.

"I can't find my passport," Cherie admitted. Marissa frowned thoughtfully.

"Well, let's see," said Marissa. "I know you had it when we loaded up the van. Did you stick it in your suitcase?" Cherie put down her backpack and unzipped her suitcase. Her neatly-folded clothes tumbled to the ground as she searched. In the meantime, Marissa looked inside the backpack.

"What's the problem, Marissa?" asked Mr. Turner, the trip coordinator. As he walked up, Cherie groaned. The last thing she wanted to do was make a bad impression on Mr. Turner. He had made the final decision to allow her on the trip, despite the fact that she was the only teenager in the group. She wanted to repay his faith in her more than anything.

"Oh, there's no problem, Mr. Turner," Marissa told him. Cherie looked at her in surprise. "Cherie's passport just got wedged inside one of her comic books. I have it right here. Everything's great!" Mr. Turner looked relieved and went back to his seat in the airport lobby. Cherie sighed in relief when Marissa put the passport in her hands.

"Thank you, Marissa," she told her gratefully. "I thought I was a goner." Marissa grinned at Cherie.

"No problem!" said Marissa. "You should have seen me on my first overseas trip. I left my passport at home, and my mom had to bring it to me. I was so embarrassed." They shared a moment of relieved laughter before the security officer motioned Cherie forward.

How does the last paragraph contribute to the plot of the story?

- ☐ A. The reader discovers that Marissa tried to hide Cherie's passport in a book.
- ☐ B. The reader learns that Mr. Turner has turned Cherie in to the security office.
- ☐ C. The reader discovers that Cherie's situation will cause her to miss her plane.
- ☐ D. The reader finds out that Marissa experienced a similar problem to Cherie's.

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Question 19 .

Birthday Dilemma

Jack nervously looked at the gray, gloomy sky that was warning him of the impending downpour. He did not want to disappoint Jenny by showing up late for her birthday party, but how could he show up at a birthday party without a present? He had been busy completing assignments, which left him with no time to buy a gift for his best friend. He bitterly thought to himself, "I will be the only one without a birthday present. Jenny is going to be so disappointed with me."

To add to his misery, the weather forecast had predicted torrential downpour for the next few hours. Even if he managed to make it to the gift shop, he would never be able to reach Jenny's party on time. Jack considered calling Jenny and pretending to be sick so that he could avoid the embarrassment of going to her party without a present. But the thought of Jenny's disappointed face stopped him. He decided to meet Jenny and wish her a happy birthday despite not having a gift. *It might be embarrassing, but I will apologize to Jenny in person for not getting her a birthday gift. I hope she will forgive me*, he thought to himself. By the time Jack decided to walk to Jenny's place, which was only a few blocks away, it started pouring heavily. Making certain that his books were safe and dry, Jack tightly wrapped his raincoat around himself and set off toward Jenny's house. His shoes became heavy and dirty because of the rain and mud. It was as if nature did not want to him to reach Jenny's party on time! But the bad weather and the difficult journey did not deter Jack's determination.

The usually short journey to Jenny's home took much longer due to the rain. After a fifteen-minute walk, Jack reached Jenny's house with his clothes drenched and hair plastered over his face. On seeing him at the doorstep, Jenny squealed with delight and said, "None of the others came because of the bad weather! Thank you so much for coming and making my day special!" Jack then realized that true friendship did not depend on gifts or presents but on just being there for each other.

Which sentence from the passage **best** describes the external conflict?

- ☐ A. To add to his misery, the weather forecast had predicted torrential downpour for the next few hours.
- ☐ B. It was as if nature did not want to him to reach Jenny's party on time!
- ☐ C. He decided to meet Jenny and wish her despite not having a gift.
- ☐ D. He had been busy completing assignments, which left him with no time to buy a gift for his best friend.

Question 20 .

Cherie searched through her backpack in a panic. *Please say I didn't lose my passport already!* she begged silently. Her backpack was littered with packs of gum, sunscreen, comic books, and all the little things she expected to need on her trip. Except her passport. The line in front of her moved forward, and her stomach did a flip-flop of fear. She had always dreamed about traveling to another country, and she didn't want to lose her chance because of her chronic forgetfulness.

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"Thank you, Marissa," she told her gratefully. "I thought I was a goner." Marissa grinned at Cherie.

"No problem!" said Marissa. "You should have seen me on my first overseas trip. I left my passport at home, and my mom had to bring it to me. I was so embarrassed." They shared a moment of relieved laughter before the security officer motioned Cherie forward.

The main conflict in this story is resolved when

- ☐ A. Marissa finds Cherie's lost passport.
- ☐ B. Cherie's mom brings her lost passport.
- ☐ C. Marissa lies to the trip coordinator.
- ☐ D. Mr. Turner bribes the security officer.

Answers

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. A
5. --
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. --
10. B
11. C
12. --
13. --
14. D
15. A
16. A
17. B
18. D
19. B
20. A

Explanations

1. An archetype is a character, setting, or element that is a universal pattern of human life. Journey archetypes usually involve the protagonist undertaking some kind of journey for a specific purpose. In this story, Simon was hardworking and ambitious, and he wanted to become rich. This sets him off on a journey to the city, where he slowly climbs the ladder of success, and he eventually becomes rich and famous.
2. The main character of this story, Sydney, breaks an industrial sewing machine on her first day as an intern at Onegin Fashion Creations. After she breaks the machine, she thinks, *"I can't lose this internship . . . I'll never get a scholarship from OFC if I get fired on my first day."* Sydney's main conflict in the passage centers on a mistake that could cost her a scholarship.
3. The story is about a woman who buys her old childhood home, which brings about many things she's tried to forget. Throughout the passage, she deals with these memories. The story doesn't end until she comes to terms with her past.
4. The story is about a woman who buys her old childhood home, which brings about many memories that she's tried to forget. She wants to forget the memories and the house, but she still feels a connection to the house. To deal with these memories, she decides to tear down the house and build a park for the neighborhood. This way, she can finally get over the memories of her past, and she gets to help out her old neighborhood.
5. The sentence "It was the duty and the privilege of the person on trial to walk directly to these doors and open one of them" best creates an element of suspense and mystery before the king's method of justice is revealed. At this point in the story, readers do not yet know what is behind either of the doors, but the idea of chance being involved in a criminal's trial in the first place certainly creates suspense. Moreover, because the trial takes place in a public area, there is the suspicion that something less than favorable waits behind at least one of these doors. The mystery of what exactly is behind both doors is a tactic the author uses to draw readers into the story.
6. In "The Race," Serena handles the stress of participating in a big race by focusing on her beloved grandmother.
7. This story is about a young girl who helps her neighbor, Mrs. Moss, with a problem. The third paragraph of this story states that Mrs. Moss was "struggling to move a large tray of plants."
8. In this story, Betty worries that her paper will not receive a passing grade. After she talks to Adirondack, a student who earns good grades, Betty feels more confident in the quality of her paper.
9. The sentence "Why, this is the girl I jotted down last night, she's no use" best shows how Higgins' attitude contributes to the conflict in the drama. As soon as Higgins sees the flower girl, he dismisses her. He does not wait to hear what she has to say. This adds to the conflict in the play.
10. An internal conflict is a character's struggle within himself or herself. Internal conflicts often show up in stories as a decision that a character has to make or as negative feelings that the character has to come to terms with. In this story, Jack struggles to decide whether or not he should attend Jenny's birthday party without a gift. Hence, the sentence "Jack wonders whether he should go to Jenny's party without a gift" best describes the internal conflict Jack has in the story.
11. An archetype is a character, setting, or element that is a universal pattern of human life. Journey archetypes usually involve the protagonist undertaking some kind of journey for a specific purpose. In this story, Alex feels helpless when his grandmother dies due to lack of prompt medical aid. This sets him on a symbolic journey to become a doctor, build a hospital, and save the people of his village.

- 12.** The sentence "Hearken! and observe how healthily—how calmly I can tell you the whole story" best shows that the narrative is transitioning to a flashback. In the opening paragraph, the narrator prepares to tell the reader about an event that took place in the past.
- 13.** The sentence "But they won't take me unless I can talk more genteel" best indicates the central conflict in the play. The flower girl wants to work in a flower shop, and for that, she should know how to speak properly like a lady. However, Higgins is hesitant to teach her.
- 14.** In the story, Steve and Peter both mention Mr. Amend's refusal to allow students to retake tests. Mr. Amend's policy contributes to the conflict Peter experiences during the story.
- 15.** An archetype is a model that is used in various stories. In literature, there are several archetypes such as character archetypes, situational archetypes, setting archetypes, and symbol archetypes. Symbol archetypes are symbols that recur in many stories. In the given passage, the symbol of threshold, which represents a new beginning, is used. The archetype of "threshold" symbolizes the new journey that Tom has to embark on.
- 16.** In the story, Aisha wants to go to her friend's birthday party, but thinks that her parents would never let her go. Her conflict is that though she wants to attend the party, she does not want to lie to her parents about it.
- 17.** An internal conflict depicts a character's inner struggle. Internal conflicts often appear in stories as a decision that a character has to make or as a negative feeling that the character has to come to terms with. In this passage, Fred thought that if he did not go to the practice, his team would lose in the skiing championship. He knew he had to go for the championship even though it could be dangerous for him to leave his house during a blizzard. The writer depicts Fred's inner conflict in the statement, "If I don't go, my team might lose, and it will be all because of me."
- 18.** In the final paragraph, the reader learns that Marissa also misplaced her passport on her first overseas trip. Her experience is similar to Cherie's.
- 19.** A struggle between a character and an outside force is an external conflict. An outside force can be another character, the weather, or a troublesome situation. In this story, Jack is trying to reach Jenny's birthday party, but he is thwarted by the bad weather. Hence, the sentence "It was as if nature did not want to him to reach Jenny's party on time!" illustrates the external conflict.
- 20.** This story centers around Cherie's search for her missing passport. When Marissa finds the lost passport, Cherie's main conflict is resolved.