

Characters

Question 1 .

adapted from The Duplicity of Hargraves
by O. Henry

When Major Pendleton Talbot, of Mobile, sir, and his daughter, Miss Lydia Talbot, came to Washington to reside, they selected for a boarding place a house that stood fifty yards back from one of the quietest avenues. It was an old-fashioned brick building, with a portico upheld by tall white pillars. The yard was shaded by stately locusts and elms, and a catalpa tree in season rained its pink and white blossoms upon the grass. Rows of high box bushes lined the fence and walks. It was the Southern style and aspect of the place that pleased the eyes of the Talbots.

In this pleasant private boarding house they engaged rooms, including a study for Major Talbot, who was adding the finishing chapters to his book, *Anecdotes and Reminiscences of the Alabama Army, Bench, and Bar*.

Major Talbot was of the old, old South. The present day had little interest or excellence in his eyes. His mind lived in that period before the Civil War when the Talbots owned thousands of acres of fine cotton land. . . ; when the family mansion was the scene of princely hospitality, and drew its guests from the aristocracy of the South. Out of that period he had brought all its old pride and scruples of honor, an antiquated and punctilious politeness, and (you would think) its wardrobe.

Such clothes were surely never made within fifty years. The Major was tall, but whenever he made that wonderful, archaic genuflexion¹ he called a bow, the corners of his frock coat swept the floor. That garment was a surprise even to Washington, which has long ago ceased to shy at the frocks and broad-brimmed hats of Southern Congressmen. One of the boarders christened it a "Father Hubbard," and it certainly was high in the waist and full in the skirt.

But the Major, with all his odd clothes, his immense area of plaited, raveling shirt bosom, and the little black string tie with the bow always slipping on one side, both was smiled at and liked in Mrs. Vardeman's select boarding house. Some of the young department clerks would often "string him," as they called it, getting him started upon the subject dearest to him—the traditions and history of his beloved Southland. During his talks he would quote freely from the *Anecdotes and Reminiscences*. But they were very careful not to let him see their designs, for in spite of his sixty-eight years he could make the boldest of them uncomfortable under the steady regard of his piercing gray eyes.

Miss Lydia was a plump, little old maid of thirty-five, with smoothly drawn, tightly twisted hair that made her look still older. Old-fashioned, too, she was; but antebellum² glory did not radiate from her as it did from the Major. She possessed a thrifty common sense, and it was she who handled the finances of the family, and met all comers when there were bills to pay. The Major regarded board bills and wash bills as contemptible nuisances. They kept coming in so persistently and so often. Why, the Major wanted to know, could they not be filed and paid in a lump sum at some convenient period—say when the *Anecdotes and Reminiscences* had been published and paid for?

1. gesture of bending the knees
2. period before the Civil War

What is one reason the Talbots chose to live in the boarding house?

- ☐ A. The house was designed in the Southern style.
- ☐ B. The house was located in a quiet neighborhood.
- ☐ C. Major Talbot had to finish writing the last chapters of his book.
- ☐ D. Major Talbot was liked by the other guests in the boarding house.

Question 2 .

Georgiana Dearwell

Georgiana Dearwell had always been quite mature for her age. While most girls her age were content attending parties and picnics, Georgiana spent her time reading books. Georgiana was one of four sisters, and belonged to a large and happy family in a small English abbey. Her older sister Lizzie, short for Eliza, was her closest friend. Georgiana's mother often worried about her daughters because they would not be inheriting the enormous and profitable family estate. Her father disapproved of this convention that his family insisted on following despite living in the 20th century. However, he had little say in the matter as objecting to the family tradition would be frowned upon by society.

This posed a great problem for Georgiana, who had no interest whatsoever in the societal rules. Lizzie, on the other hand, was quite content with attending parties and keeping up with society's expectations. Georgiana's personality had been greatly influenced by her favorite fictional character, Elizabeth Bennett, from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Georgiana had always been quite inspired by how Elizabeth never let anyone tell her how to think and act, and how she always stood up for herself and for the people she cared about.

One evening, Georgiana's mother came into her room and said, "We are entertaining Mr. Coleridge for dinner tomorrow evening. He is a distant cousin of yours, and runs a successful publication house. This responsibility would have fallen on Lizzie, but it would be a pity to distract her from sweet Mr. Channing."

Georgiana set aside the book she had been reading about the history of pre-colonial India. Without waiting for her daughter to answer, Mrs. Dearwell continued, "You know there is a lot riding on this dinner, my dear. He is a respected man, and isn't too old. Your father's estate could remain in the family, if only . . ." She let her words hang in the air, afraid to finish what was on her mind.

Before her mother could go any further Georgiana said with a hint of irritation, "Mother, I cannot promise you a thing right about now, except that I will be civil to my cousin and consider the prospect of binding myself to this man in holy matrimony." That was more than what Mrs. Dearwell could have hoped for from her strong-headed, unpredictable daughter. Georgiana leaned back into the plush cushions on her bed and rolled her eyes. She could not believe that in this time and age, she was still expected to marry someone not for love or friendship, but for the mere purpose of keeping a roof over her sisters' heads. This was utterly unfair, and Georgiana wanted to scream out of frustration.

Slowly, a plan began unfolding in Georgiana's mind, and an impish smile spread across her face. Oh, Mr. Coleridge would most certainly have an entertaining dinner tomorrow. He would wish they were in different countries by the time Georgiana was through with him. Carefully, Georgiana worked out her plan.

The passage refers to the character of Elizabeth Bennett from *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. How is Elizabeth's character similar to Georgiana's character?

- ☐ A. Both characters are interested in books and dislike men in general.
- ☐ B. Both characters are ordered by their family to marry their cousin.
- ☐ C. Both characters are willful and do not let anyone dictate their actions.
- ☐ D. Both the characters are strong-minded but are not feminine enough.

Question 3 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which sentence best demonstrates Mathilde's sense of entitlement?

from "**The Diamond Necklace**"

by Guy de Maupassant

The girl was one of those pretty and charming young creatures who sometimes are born, as if by a slip of fate, into a family of clerks. She had no dowry, no expectations, no way of being known,

understood, loved, married by any rich and distinguished man; so she let herself be married to a little clerk of the Ministry of Public Instruction.

She dressed plainly because she could not dress well, but she was unhappy as if she had really fallen from a higher station; since with women there is neither caste nor rank, for beauty, grace and charm take the place of family and birth. Natural ingenuity, instinct for what is elegant, a supple mind are their sole hierarchy, and often make of women of the people the equals of the very greatest ladies.

Mathilde suffered ceaselessly, feeling herself born to enjoy all delicacies and all luxuries. She was distressed at the poverty of her dwelling, at the bareness of the walls, at the shabby chairs, the ugliness of the curtains. All those things, of which another woman of her rank would never even have been conscious, tortured her and made her angry. The sight of the little Breton peasant who did her humble housework aroused in her despairing regrets and bewildering dreams. She thought of silent antechambers hung with Oriental tapestry, illumined by tall bronze candelabra, and of two great footmen in knee breeches who sleep in the big armchairs, made drowsy by the oppressive heat of the stove. She thought of long reception halls hung with ancient silk, of the dainty cabinets containing priceless curiosities and of the little coquettish perfumed reception rooms made for chatting at five o'clock with intimate friends, with men famous and sought after, whom all women envy and whose attention they all desire.

When she sat down to dinner, before the round table covered with a tablecloth in use three days, opposite her husband, who uncovered the soup tureen and declared with a delighted air, "Ah, the good soup! I don't know anything better than that," she thought of dainty dinners, of shining silverware, of tapestry that peopled the walls with ancient personages and with strange birds flying in the midst of a fairy forest; and she thought of delicious dishes served on marvelous plates and of the whispered gallantries to which you listen with a sphinxlike smile while you are eating the pink meat of a trout or the wings of a quail.

She had no gowns, no jewels, nothing. And she loved nothing but that. She felt made for that. She would have liked so much to please, to be envied, to be charming, to be sought after.

She had a friend, a former schoolmate at the convent, who was rich, and whom she did not like to go to see any more because she felt so sad when she came home.

But one evening her husband reached home with a triumphant air and holding a large envelope in his hand.

"There," said he, "there is something for you."

She tore the paper quickly and drew out a printed card which bore these words:

*The Minister of Public Instruction and Madame Georges Ramponneau
request the honor of M. and Madame Loisel's company at the palace of
the Ministry on Monday evening, January 18th.*

Instead of being delighted, as her husband had hoped, she threw the invitation on the table crossly, muttering: "What do you wish me to do with that?"

"Why, my dear, I thought you would be glad. You never go out, and this is such a fine opportunity. I had great trouble to get it. Every one wants to go; it is very select, and they are not giving many invitations to clerks. The whole official world will be there."

She looked at him with an irritated glance and said impatiently: "And what do you wish me to put on my back?"

He had not thought of that. He stammered: "Why, the gown you go to the theatre in. It looks very well to me." He stopped, distracted, seeing that his wife was weeping. Two great tears ran slowly from the corners of her eyes toward the corners of her mouth.

"What's the matter? What's the matter?" he answered.

By a violent effort she conquered her grief and replied in a calm voice, while she wiped her wet cheeks: "Nothing. Only I have no gown, and, therefore, I can't go to this ball. Give your card to some

colleague whose wife is better equipped than I am."

Question 4 .

Rosie's Father

Rosie sat on the couch near the window, quietly sulking, and every now and then, glaring at her mother. Her mother Ruby, who was busy making lunch in the kitchen, initially found this quite humorous, but on seeing that Rosie's mood wasn't about to change anytime soon, paused her work and sat with Rosie. "Rosie, you have been looking at me like I'm your worst enemy. What's the matter, sweetie?" Ruby asked, taking little Rosie onto her lap.

"It isn't fair that you're okay with Daddy going away so often when my friend's dads are always home with them. Last time, Daddy had promised me that he would be back within a week, but this time, he made no such promise and only said that he would return as soon as his boss lets him come home. It's my summer vacation! Daddy had promised that he would teach me how to play baseball, and that won't be possible if he's too busy being away from us."

Ruby contemplated what her daughter had just told her and realized how much she had been missing silly old Greg as well. When he was at home, the commotion he made would drive her insane, and they would always end up arguing. But he would always make up for it by taking her out dancing or for a fancy meal, and telling her how gorgeous he finds her even today. Now, whenever he was called on duty or a military posting overseas, Ruby's heart would twist in fear for her husband. Although she knew he was as safe as he could be, a part of her wished she had her husband by her side.

"I know, sweetie, it must be really hard for you to see Daddy go away so often. It is hard for me as well, but you have to understand that Daddy is going to serve his country and protect us all from bad people. Hey, how about I tell you how Daddy and I met? That ought to cheer you up!"

With that, Ruby began narrating the story of how she and Greg met for the first time. Rosie listened attentively. They had met during their sophomore year in college when Greg had changed schools to be closer to home. Ruby had barely paid him any attention until Greg's friends had come up to her and told her that Greg liked her but was too shy to approach her. Ruby thought that it was all rather silly, but decided to talk to Greg to see if his friends were right. It turned out that they couldn't have been more wrong, and they were simply trying to get her to talk to Greg, who was smart, enthusiastic, and a keen observer. Soon, they began spending time together and Ruby even introduced Greg to her parents, who were rather disagreeable toward him. They did not believe that he was disciplined enough to make it into the army. But Greg proved them wrong and became one of the best military cadets of his batch.

Rosie was surprised to hear that her grandmother, who now could not stop praising her son-in-law, had once disliked him. Ruby chuckled at her daughter's reaction and continued telling her about their wedding, feeling glad that Greg's story was finally cheering up her daughter.

How did Ruby's parents react to Greg?

- ☐ A. They believed that Ruby deserved a better man than him.
- ☐ B. They found his behavior very disagreeable toward them.
- ☐ C. They believed he would not be successful in the army.
- ☐ D. They found him to be a very charming and smart man.

Question 5 .

The Dunbar Conspiracy

The kingdom of Dunbar had been rejoicing and celebrating for days following the birth of Princess Elvira. It had been a long-awaited moment for the country, the birth of a child to their beloved and generous King Phillip. The royal castle was flooded with good wishes for King Phillip, Queen Elizabeth, and their baby girl.

However, King Claudius, a distant cousin of King Phillip, grew extremely jealous of King Phillip's happiness. Claudius was the king of Dartmoor and was a shrewd and conniving king. In his frustration at being childless for so many years, he could not stand the prosperity of Dunbar and now the birth of the beautiful princess. An lifelong schemer, it was his deepest desire to overthrow King Phillip and crown himself the King of Dunbar.

In his thirst for acquiring more land and power, he defeated and killed King Phillip and proclaimed himself the king of Dunbar. The death of King Phillip was a severe blow to Dunbar, and the kingdom mourned the death of their beloved king.

Years passed by, and Princess Elvira grew into a brave and capable warrior. The sudden death of King Phillip had thrust many responsibilities on the young princess. She learned the art of politics and warfare, and the importance of being just. She made it her life's mission to defeat King Claudius and win back the kingdom of Dunbar, which was rightfully hers.

Who is the protagonist in the passage?

- ☐ A. King Claudius
- ☐ B. Princess Elvira
- ☐ C. King Phillip
- ☐ D. Queen Elizabeth

Question 6 .

Shori and Phillip had been best friends since they were five years old. That's when Shori had moved to Phillip's block. He spotted Shori sitting on her stoop and decided to say hello. Once they realized they shared the same last name and the same birthday, they were inseparable.

No one ever believed that a boy and a girl could be just friends. Shori's girlfriends teased her about Phillip mercilessly.

"I can't seem to find a date for this weekend for the life of me," Nora sighed. "I guess I'll make this another Friday night filled with washing my hair and watching reruns of Grey's Anatomy."

"I know just what you mean," Shori laughed. "I can't remember the last time I had a date that wasn't with my family."

"Shori's not going to be sitting home alone on Friday night," Cindy said. "She's just agreeing to make us feel better about ourselves."

"What do you mean?" Shori asked. "I'm single just like you are!"

"Single with Phillip to chauffeur you around everywhere you want to go," Cindy replied.

"Phillip and I are just friends," Shori said.

"Sure you are," Cindy said. "I wish I had a *friend* as good as Phillip." All the other girls fell out laughing.

One of Phillip's teammates even suggested that he stop being friends with Shori.

"If you're not going to date the girl, the least you could do is get out of the way and give other guys a fair shot," Tim said.

"What? Shori's just my best friend. I don't understand how I'm in anybody's way," Phillip said.

"As long as she's got you, she doesn't need a boyfriend. You take her out to eat and to the movies," Tim said. "You walk Shori home from school every day."

Phillip thought about what Tim had said. *Maybe he's right? Shori and I do spend a lot of time together.*

Even their parents got in on the act.

"The two of you would make the cutest couple," Shori's mom opined while Shori got fitted for her cousin's wedding. "You should ask Phillip to escort you to Nandi's wedding."

"Mom! I told you Phillip is just a friend," Shori whined. But what her mom and friends said made her start to think. *Phillip is pretty cute, but could we ever be more than friends? If it didn't work out, could we save our friendship?*

Saturday chores at Phillip's house were no different.

"You know who I really like, Phillip?" Dad said without waiting for Phillip to respond. "That Shori! I think one day she's going to make some fellow a really fine wife."

"And let me guess. You think I should snatch her up before some other guy beats me to the punch?"

"Son, you're even smarter than you look," Dad responded with a twinkle in his eye.

Phillip shook his head and walked out of the kitchen. Sure, he had thought about Shori being more than a friend at one point. She was a beautiful girl. But he would never want to lose her friendship, so he put the thought out of his mind immediately.

"Phillip, do you ever wonder if people are right when they say we spend too much time together?" Shori said one day when they were walking home from school.

"I don't think we spend any more time together than other best friends," he replied. "But do you think our relationship is hampering our dating lives?"

Shori laughed. "Have you been talking to Cindy?"

"No. Why?" Phillip asked.

"No reason," Shori said. "What do you think we should do about it?"

"I don't know, but it seems like our friends and family won't be happy until we're married off," Phillip said.

"Or at least engaged in a long term dating relationship," Shori replied. "Hey, my mom wanted me to ask you to be my escort for my cousin's wedding next weekend. Do you mind?"

"Of course not," Phillip said with a wink. "It's a date."

Phillip believes that

- ☐ A. Tim and Shori will make a cute couple.
- ☐ B. he will meet someone at the wedding.
- ☐ C. dating Shori could end their friendship.
- ☐ D. Cindy has a secret crush on him.

Question 7 .

Evan looked both ways before he walked through the door. He wanted to make sure that nobody saw him and his grandma walking into the thrift store. He knew that Anthony, the class bully, would make fun of him if he found out that his grandma only bought him used clothes.

He knew because he stood by and watched it happen to other kids. He always felt guilty about that. He knew there was nothing to be ashamed of. He also knew that the other kids who were made fun of knew that there was nothing to be ashamed of. If they kept pretending that wearing used clothes was bad, people like Anthony would try to make them feel shame.

That is when Evan realized that his grandma never worried about people seeing her shopping in thrift stores. In fact, she dressed very well and often received compliments from people who liked her outfits.

Evan raised his head, just like his grandmother's. He let everybody in the store see his face. He was not going to let bullies tell him how to feel. He looked at the entrance and saw Anthony walking in with his father. Anthony had his head down, hiding his face. Evan wanted to tell Anthony that there was nothing to be ashamed of, but he knew that Anthony would eventually figure it out for himself.

At the end of the story, Evan lifts his head because he

- ☐ A. hopes to see one of his classmates in the store.
- ☐ B. wants to show people that he is not ashamed.
- ☐ C. is sure that he heard Anthony talking to his dad.
- ☐ D. does not want his grandma to be angry with him.

Question 8 .

Killer Instinct
by T. Herlinger

Tennis was in Mae’s blood—that’s how she had felt about it ever since she first picked up a racket at the age of five. And now, here she was, captain of her high school tennis team. By all rights, she should feel on top of the world—and she did, all last season, but this season was different. To begin with, Coach Hunt had retired and Coach Miller had replaced him, a fiery x-local tennis star who thought all her players should have one thing in common: a “killer instinct.” She wanted her players to think of their opponents as their enemies and to do “whatever it takes” to win. Mae was a strong player—maybe even the strongest on the team—but she wasn’t exactly a “killer” on the court. So Coach Miller wasn’t too thrilled with Mae, who felt the coach’s constant critical stare every time she hit the ball.

“Come on, Mae, try and concentrate,” her teammate Lindsay gently scolded from across the net as Mae walloped an easy forehand way out of bounds.

Ashleigh and Barb came over just then to practice their doubles game, and Mae stepped up to the service line to serve. The first ball she hit slammed her doubles partner, Ashleigh, square in the back. “Hey, watch it!” she barked.

Mae mumbled an apology, “I’m sorry, my heart’s just not in this.” Mae caught sight of the coach way at the other end of the courts and decided to confide in the other girls. “In fact,” she said with a sigh, “I’m actually thinking of quitting.”

Of course, her teammates all tried to talk Mae out of it, telling her that she was the best player and that they all looked up to her. Leaving the court that day, Mae was so confused, she decided to stop off to see her English teacher, Mrs. Bardsley, who was staying late grading papers.

After Mae described the situation, her teacher put her red pen down and leaned back in her chair before speaking. “I’ve known you for 2 years, Mae, and I’ve never seen you so miserable as during this tennis season.” Tears pooled in Mae’s eyes as she heard the truth of the woman’s words. Mrs. Bardsley went on: “Something they never tell you is that sometimes it’s okay to quit.”

“Are you serious?” Mae asked, feeling like she’d just been given permission to breathe again.

“Absolutely,” her teacher affirmed, adding in a whisper, “especially because I overheard in the teacher’s lounge that your old coach, Mr. Hunt, will be coming out of retirement to coach you girls next year.”

That was the greatest news Mae had heard in years! Thanking Mrs. Bardsley profusely, she dashed out of the room and quickly ran the 10 blocks home. There, she typed up a note to her coach, telling her why she was quitting: “I’m willing to change just about anything about my game to be a better tennis player,” Mae wrote, “except my personality. That part is fine just like it is.”

Directions: Drag the tiles to the correct boxes to complete the pairs.

Each character plays a specific role within the story. Identify each character's role.

interacts with the protagonist in a way that shows respect and understanding

causes some tension by trying to help the protagonist focus

creates conflict by criticizing the protagonist

Lindsay

→

Mrs. Bardsley

→

Coach Miller

→

Question 9 .

from Emma
by Jane Austen

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.

She was the youngest of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father; and had, in consequence of her sister's marriage, been mistress of his house from a very early period. Her mother had died too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses; and her place had been supplied by an excellent woman as governess, who had fallen little short of a mother in affection.

Sixteen years had Miss Taylor been in Mr. Woodhouse's family, less as a governess than a friend, very fond of both daughters, but particularly of Emma. Between them it was more the intimacy of sisters. Even before Miss Taylor had ceased to hold the nominal office of governess, the mildness of her temper had hardly allowed her to impose any restraint; and the shadow of authority being now long passed away, they had been living together as friend and friend very mutually attached, and Emma doing just what she liked; highly esteeming Miss Taylor's judgment, but directed chiefly by her own.

The real evils, indeed, of Emma's situation were the power of having rather too much her own way, and a disposition to think a little too well of herself; these were the disadvantages which threatened alloy to her many enjoyments. The danger, however, was at present so unperceived, that they did not by any means rank as misfortunes with her.

Sorrow came—a gentle sorrow—but not at all in the shape of any disagreeable consciousness. Miss Taylor married. It was Miss Taylor's loss which first brought grief. It was on the wedding-day of this beloved friend that Emma first sat in mournful thought of any continuance. The wedding over, and the bride-people gone, her father and herself were left to dine together, with no prospect of a third to cheer a long evening. Her father composed himself to sleep after dinner, as usual, and she had then only to sit and think of what she had lost.

The event had every promise of happiness for her friend. Mr. Weston was a man of unexceptionable character, easy fortune, suitable age, and pleasant manners; and there was some satisfaction in considering with what self-denying, generous friendship she had always wished and promoted the match; but it was a black morning's work for her. The want of Miss Taylor would be felt every hour of every day. She recalled her past kindness—the kindness, the affection of sixteen years—how she had taught and how she had played with her from five years old—how she had devoted all her powers to attach and amuse her in health—and how nursed her through the various illnesses of childhood. A large debt of gratitude was owing here; but the intercourse of the last seven years, the equal footing and perfect unreserve which had soon followed Isabella's marriage, on their being left to each other, was yet a dearer, tenderer recollection. She had been a friend and companion such as few possessed: intelligent, well-informed, useful, gentle, knowing all the ways of the family, interested in all its concerns, and peculiarly interested in herself, in every pleasure, every scheme of hers—one to whom she could speak every thought as it arose, and who had such an affection for her as could never find fault.

Directions: Select the correct answer from each drop-down menu.

Complete the sentence by selecting the word and phrase that accurately describe the character's affect on the plot.

Miss Taylor's creates conflict for Emma in the story by when Miss Taylor gets married.

Question 10 .

My big sister Ashley has always been my hero. From the time that we were little, anything she was doing I wanted to do, too, despite the fact that she was 7 years older than me.

"Remember that time you had that hot date with the boy from your Pre-Calculus class and I tried to help you get dressed?" I said.

"Yeah," Ashley smiled. "I also remember how you helped yourself to my heels and makeup when I left. Then you fell down the stairs and broke your leg," she laughed. "Mom was so frantic when she called me to meet y'all at the hospital."

"I guess that is funny in retrospect," I said sheepishly. "That first step was a doozy. I thought I saw my whole life flash before my eyes."

Ashley and I both collapsed in a heap of giggles at the memory. She slowly got up from her chair and stretched.

"Kendra, I never thought the next time we'd be back at General Hospital would be for Dad," Ashley said pensively, pacing the waiting room floor. "He's always been in such great health. I never would have seen this coming."

Even after having spent the whole night in the ER, I still could not believe this was happening. My dad was lying in intensive care not 400 feet away and they wouldn't even allow us to see him. Mom hadn't left his side except to give us updates on what the doctors were saying.

Shortness of breath. Chest pain. Pulmonary embolism. I could only take in a few words at a time. My head was whirling. My dad, who had never had so much as a chest cold, to my recollection, was now suffering from a blockage in his lung?

"Ashley, you can't keep pacing back and forth like that. You're going to wear a hole in the floor," I said wearily. "You know broke grad students can't afford to pay for repairs like that, so who's going to keep me company when they haul you off to the slammer?"

My big sister, who had always been so sure of herself and optimistic about things working out for our good, was afraid for once. That's when I realized just how serious this was.

Ashley smiled nervously and returned to her seat near me.

"We'll get through this together," I said, taking her hand in mine. "We always have and always will." Ashley just laid her head on my shoulder and closed her eyes.

My big sister Ashley has always been my hero. But sometimes even a hero needs to know everything will be okay.

Why does Kendra say, "My big sister, who had always been so sure of herself and optimistic about things working out for our good, was afraid for once"?

- ☐ A. to show that Ashley has no reason to be afraid
- ☐ B. to show that she's braver than Ashley
- ☐ C. to show how well she knows Ashley
- ☐ D. to show she's more concerned about their dad

Question 11 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which phrase or sentence **best** shows Señor Quesada's obsession with reading about legends?

from The Story of Don Quixote

by Arvid Paulson, Clayton Edwards, and Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

Nearly four hundred years ago, there lived in the village of La Mancha in Spain an old gentleman who had few worldly possessions but many books. **He was given to a hardy and adventurous way of life, and he beguiled his spare time by reading the many tales of chivalry and knighthood that were in his possession.**

This old gentleman was a tall, gaunt man of about fifty, with a lantern jaw and straggling gray hair, and eyes that had a sparkle of madness in them. His surname was Quixada or Quesada, and though not rich, he was well known to the country folk and had some reputation in the community where he lived.

In his younger days he was a great sportsman and used to wake before the sun to follow his favorite pursuits of hunting and hawking. But as he grew older he spent almost all his time in reading books on chivalry and knighthood with which his library was stocked. **At last he grew so fond of these books that he forgot to follow the hounds or even to look after his property.** He spent all his time in his library, mulling over the famous deeds and love affairs of knights who conquered dragons and vanquished wicked enchanters.

Señor Quesada lived with his niece and his housekeeper, both sensible women who loved him and who were much grieved over the havoc his books of chivalry had worked with his senses. **They believed that to talk about these books made the old gentleman worse,** so they refused to answer him when he argued about knights and dragons and whether this fair lady was an enchantress in disguise or only a mortal woman, and whether that dragon actually did breathe forth fire from his nostrils, or only sulphur fumes and smoke. **His niece and the housekeeper would run away when he started upon one of his favorite subjects;** so he turned to the society of the village curate, a learned man for those times, who knew almost as much about books of chivalry as Señor Quesada himself, and to that of Master Nicholas, the village barber. And these three friends would sit up until dawn arguing as to who was the better knight, Sir Lancelot or Amadis of Gaul, and how these both compared with the Knight of the Burning Sword, who with one back stroke cut in half two fierce and monstrous giants.

After he had become thoroughly mad from reading, and more so from such arguments and discussions, Señor Quesada hit upon the strangest notion that ever entered the head of a lunatic. He believed that he and no other was called upon to restore the entire world to the ancient conditions of chivalry, and bring back the tournaments and the courteous knights and fair ladies whose like had existed in the times of the famous King Arthur of Britain. Believing this, it was an easy step for him to think that the world was still full of giants and fierce dragons for him to vanquish, and that as a man of honor and skill at arms he must leave his comfortable home and do battle with them. **To his disordered senses things took on a different appearance than was actually the case**—inns seemed castles, and towers and hills appeared as giants that moved about in the distance; and Señor Quesada could hardly wait before he could meet them on horseback and overthrow them in battle.

Question 12 .

"Is anybody out there? Flip your porch lights on and off if you can hear me," said Mike, just as he did every time he started his radio show. He looked out the garage window but did not see any lights flashing. He was starting to think that spending two-hundred dollars on an FM radio transmitter and starting his own radio station was a bad idea. Just as he was about to sit down and go into his first song, he saw the light at Ben's house flip on and off. He assumed that the light bulb was going out.

Most people would give up on a radio station that had zero listeners, one host, and a range of two square miles, but not Mike. He liked it too much. Sometimes he would broadcast a prerecorded show so that he could listen to himself on the radio.

The next day, as Mike flipped through the CDs at a local music store, Ben walked up and said, "So, why don't you play more classic country music?"

Mike was stunned. He could not believe it. Somebody was listening to his show. "Well," he responded, "I, uh, don't really like country music."

"I do," responded Ben, "and so do a lot of other people. I'm sure they'd like to hear me play it on your radio station."

"I don't know . . ." Mike said, trailing off. The radio station was his, and only his. He wasn't comfortable with other people coming in. He was afraid that they would try to change things. He tried convincing Ben that he would not like having his own show, saying, "I'm sure you have a lot of great music, but I don't think you'd be happy playing it for a nonexistent audience."

"Your audience might not be nonexistent if you would broadcast your show at the same time each week. If we both did shows, we could broadcast them back-to-back on the same day. That way, people would know when to tune in."

The following Saturday, Mike and Ben did their first back-to-back broadcast. As soon as Ben's show ended, Chrissy, who had a portable radio in her hand, knocked on the garage door. When Mike opened the door, she stepped in the garage and said, "Your station is a boys' club. Y'all need to play songs by girls. We're listening, too!" The following week, Chrissy started her own show, "The Girls' Club," and began promoting the station on her MySpace page. After that, Mike's mom began doing a weekly update of community news.

After a few weeks of broadcasting a full schedule of shows, Mike realized that he finally had the radio station he always wanted. His garage and the airwaves were full of different ideas and good music. He knew he could not have done it without the friends and family members who gathered around him.

Everybody in the garage fell silent as he began his show. "Is anybody out there?" he said into the microphone. "Flip your porch lights on and off if you can hear me." He looked out the garage window and saw every porch light on his street flashing.

At the end of the passage, Mike is happy about other people joining his radio station because

- ☐ A. he knows that he will no be longer responsible for doing all of the work.
- ☐ B. he sees that it has become the station he always hoped it would be.
- ☐ C. being in charge of many people makes him feel good about himself.
- ☐ D. having lots of people around keeps him from being lonely all the time.

Question 13 .**Jeremy's Summer**

Mrs. Patterson gave up and exasperatedly looked at her class that was bursting with enthusiasm. She could hear anticipated murmurs throughout the class, and all she could do was smile at their excitement. At the sound of the school bell, the whole class erupted into a unanimous squeal of laughter. After a long tedious term, the students were looking forward to their summer break. Lea was bragging about how she would be visiting her uncle's ranch, whereas Diane revealed her volunteering plans at the Community Service Center.

All the students were looking forward to their summer break, but the most eager of the lot was Jeremy and his baseball team. As soon as the school bell rang, Jeremy enthusiastically hooted and had a wide grin plastered over his face. He had planned his summer in detail and had decided to devote time for baseball practice, which he couldn't do during the semester. Along with a few teammates, Jeremy chalked out a perfect plan for the team practice on their school ground. Jeremy hurriedly packed his bag and dashed out of his class toward the cafeteria to tell the rest of his team about his brilliant plan. On his way toward the cafeteria, Jeremy heard his name called out, and he turned back to see Mrs. Smith waiting outside her office with a frown on her face. Something about her grim expression made Jeremy's heart sink, and he could sense the impending bad news.

Mrs. Smith summoned Jeremy to her office and asked him about his summer plans. When he informed her about his plans, she gravely replied, "This could sound harsh, but you would have to change your summer plans, Jeremy." Ignoring Jeremy's stunned expression, Mrs. Smith continued, "I have been going through recent records, which show that you haven't been scoring well in your class tests. Therefore, I would like you to enroll for remedial classes this summer." Jeremy was dumbfounded and he stuttered, "Err . . . baseball practice . . . school team." Hearing his incoherent stuttering, Mrs. Smith frowned, "I shall not give the school team the permission to practice on the school premises." Jeremy said nothing and reluctantly nodded.

He had no option but to spend the next few weeks of his summer break taking remedial classes as per Mrs. Smith's instructions.

Who is the protagonist in the passage?

- ☐ A. Mrs. Patterson
- ☐ B. Mrs. Smith
- ☐ C. Diane
- ☐ D. Jeremy

Question 14 .**Rosie's Father**

Rosie sat on the couch near the window, quietly sulking, and every now and then, glaring at her mother. Her mother Ruby, who was busy making lunch in the kitchen, initially found this quite humorous, but on seeing that Rosie's mood wasn't about to change anytime soon, paused her work and sat with Rosie. "Rosie, you have been looking at me like I'm your worst enemy. What's the matter, sweetie?" Ruby asked, taking little Rosie onto her lap.

"It isn't fair that you're okay with Daddy going away so often when my friend's dads are always home with them. Last time, Daddy had promised me that he would be back within a week, but this time, he made no such promise and only said that he would return as soon as his boss lets him come home. It's my summer vacation! Daddy had promised that he would teach me how to play baseball, and that won't be possible if he's too busy being away from us."

Ruby contemplated what her daughter had just told her and realized how much she had been missing silly old Greg as well. When he was at home, the commotion he made would drive her insane, and they would always end up arguing. But he would always make up for it by taking her out dancing or for a fancy meal, and telling her how gorgeous he finds her even today. Now, whenever he was called on duty or a military posting overseas, Ruby's heart would twist in fear for her husband. Although she knew he was as safe as he could be, a part of her wished she had her husband by her side.

"I know, sweetie, it must be really hard for you to see Daddy go away so often. It is hard for me as well, but you have to understand that Daddy is going to serve his country and protect us all from bad people. Hey, how about I tell you how Daddy and I met? That ought to cheer you up!"

With that, Ruby began narrating the story of how she and Greg met for the first time. Rosie listened attentively. They had met during their sophomore year in college when Greg had changed schools to be closer to home. Ruby had barely paid him any attention until Greg's friends had come up to her and told her that Greg liked her but was too shy to approach her. Ruby thought that it was all rather silly, but decided to talk to Greg to see if his friends were right. It turned out that they couldn't have been more wrong, and they were simply trying to get her to talk to Greg, who was smart, enthusiastic, and a keen observer. Soon, they began spending time together and Ruby even introduced Greg to her parents, who were rather disagreeable toward him. They did not believe that he was disciplined enough to make it into the army. But Greg proved them wrong and became one of the best military cadets of his batch.

Rosie was surprised to hear that her grandmother, who now could not stop praising her son-in-law, had once disliked him. Ruby chuckled at her daughter's reaction and continued telling her about their wedding, feeling glad that Greg's story was finally cheering up her daughter.

How does Greg's character contrast with Ruby's?

- ☐ A. Greg is a stern and bossy military man.
- ☐ B. Greg is quieter and less enthusiastic.
- ☐ C. Greg is a very shy and undisciplined man.
- ☐ D. Greg is louder, sillier, and more romantic.

Question 15 .

My big sister Ashley has always been my hero. From the time that we were little, anything she was doing I wanted to do, too, despite the fact that she was 7 years older than me.

"Remember that time you had that hot date with the boy from your Pre-Calculus class and I tried to help you get dressed?" I said.

"Yeah," Ashley smiled. "I also remember how you helped yourself to my heels and makeup when I left. Then you fell down the stairs and broke your leg," she laughed. "Mom was so frantic when she called me to meet y'all at the hospital."

"I guess that is funny in retrospect," I said sheepishly. "That first step was a doozy. I thought I saw my whole life flash before my eyes."

Ashley and I both collapsed in a heap of giggles at the memory. She slowly got up from her chair and stretched.

"Kendra, I never thought the next time we'd be back at General Hospital would be for Dad," Ashley said pensively, pacing the waiting room floor. "He's always been in such great health. I never would have seen this coming."

Even after having spent the whole night in the ER, I still could not believe this was happening. My dad was lying in intensive care not 400 feet away and they wouldn't even allow us to see him. Mom hadn't left his side except to give us updates on what the doctors were saying.

Shortness of breath. Chest pain. Pulmonary embolism. I could only take in a few words at a time. My head was whirling. My dad, who had never had so much as a chest cold, to my recollection, was now suffering from a blockage in his lung?

"Ashley, you can't keep pacing back and forth like that. You're going to wear a hole in the floor," I said wearily. "You know broke grad students can't afford to pay for repairs like that, so who's going to keep me company when they haul you off to the slammer?"

My big sister, who had always been so sure of herself and optimistic about things working out for our good, was afraid for once. That's when I realized just how serious this was.

Ashley smiled nervously and returned to her seat near me.

"We'll get through this together," I said, taking her hand in mine. "We always have and always will." Ashley just laid her head on my shoulder and closed her eyes.

My big sister Ashley has always been my hero. But sometimes even a hero needs to know everything will be okay.

Ashley's character is mainly revealed through her

- ☐ A. conversation with Mom and Dad.
- ☐ B. thoughts while waiting for the doctor.
- ☐ C. memories of the past.
- ☐ D. conversation with Kendra.

Question 16 .

In the Zone

Daniel and his friend Alex were hanging out after school and playing basketball. Daniel hated playing with Alex because Alex felt the need to trash talk during the game, telling Daniel what a lousy player Daniel was. The thing that bothered him even more than that was the way Alex would talk about how much better he was than Daniel.

After beating him in three straight games, Alex decided to call it a day.

"I'm tired of beating you," Alex said to Daniel. "It's not even funny anymore."

"Shut up," Daniel responded.

Just then, David and his friends took the court. David played forward for the school's varsity squad. He was two years older than Daniel, but they used to be neighbors when they were in middle school. As good as Alex was at basketball, David was better. David even tried to give Daniel tips. "Don't listen to the talk," he once told Daniel. "Just block it out and focus. When you get in a zone, nothing else around you matters."

Daniel waved at David, who waved back. The boys stayed and watched David and his friends play for a few minutes before Alex got bored.

"This is boring; let's go," Alex said.

"You just know you couldn't keep up with them if you tried," Daniel responded.

"I'm going. Are you coming?" Alex said as he began to walk away.

Daniel followed close behind as the two walked home. They passed the park, the school, and Belkin's Gorge. As they made their way around Belkin's Gorge, something caught their eyes. There looked to be a man stranded down below. He was wearing a suit and crawling around, but it looked like some of the construction in the gorge had fallen on him.

"I think that guy fell in!" cried Alex.

"We have to do something," responded Daniel.

"I can go for help. I run faster. You should stay up here. I don't think you could make it down there on your own," Alex said.

"I can make it," replied Daniel.

"Just wait here. Flag down a car if you see one. I won't be long," Alex said and scurried off for help.

The man in the gorge rolled onto his back to see Daniel.

"Help!" cried the man. "I think I've broken my leg. This rock has me trapped!"

Daniel was frazzled. He wanted to help, but he had Alex's words ringing in his ears—*I don't think you could make it down there on your own*. Just then, he also heard David's voice—*Just block it out and focus. When you get in a zone, nothing else around you matters*. The man's voice below began to get fainter. Daniel focused and started to climb down the edge of the gorge.

"Hang on," he said. "Help is on the way."

adapted from "In the Zone" by c.safos

How does Alex contribute to the plot of the story?

- ☐ A. He causes a feud between Daniel and David.
- ☐ B. He pushes the man into Belkin's Gorge.
- ☐ C. He causes David to not make the school's basketball team.
- ☐ D. He constantly talks down to Daniel and makes him feel inferior.

Question 17 .

Georgiana Dearwell

Georgiana Dearwell had always been quite mature for her age. While most girls her age were content attending parties and picnics, Georgiana spent her time reading books. Georgiana was one of four sisters, and belonged to a large and happy family in a small English abbey. Her older sister Lizzie, short for Eliza, was her closest friend. Georgiana's mother often worried about her daughters because they would not be inheriting the enormous and profitable family estate. Her father disapproved of this convention that his family insisted on following despite living in the 20th century. However, he had little say in the matter as objecting to the family tradition would be frowned upon by society.

This posed a great problem for Georgiana, who had no interest whatsoever in the societal rules. Lizzie, on the other hand, was quite content with attending parties and keeping up with society's expectations. Georgiana's personality had been greatly influenced by her favorite fictional character, Elizabeth Bennett, from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Georgiana had always been quite inspired by how Elizabeth never let anyone tell her how to think and act, and how she always stood up for herself and for the people she cared about.

One evening, Georgiana's mother came into her room and said, "We are entertaining Mr. Coleridge for dinner tomorrow evening. He is a distant cousin of yours, and runs a successful publication house. This responsibility would have fallen on Lizzie, but it would be a pity to distract her from sweet Mr. Channing."

Georgiana set aside the book she had been reading about the history of pre-colonial India. Without waiting for her daughter to answer, Mrs. Dearwell continued, "You know there is a lot riding on this dinner, my dear. He is a respected man, and isn't too old. Your father's estate could remain in the family, if only . . ." She let her words hang in the air, afraid to finish what was on her mind.

Before her mother could go any further Georgiana said with a hint of irritation, "Mother, I cannot promise you a thing right about now, except that I will be civil to my cousin and consider the prospect of binding myself to this man in holy matrimony." That was more than what Mrs. Dearwell could have hoped for from her strong-headed, unpredictable daughter. Georgiana leaned back into the plush cushions on her bed and rolled her eyes. She could not believe that in this time and age, she was still expected to marry someone not for love or friendship, but for the mere purpose of keeping a roof over her sisters' heads. This was utterly unfair, and Georgiana wanted to scream out of frustration.

Slowly, a plan began unfolding in Georgiana's mind, and an impish smile spread across her face. Oh, Mr. Coleridge would most certainly have an entertaining dinner tomorrow. He would wish they were in different countries by the time Georgiana was through with him. Carefully, Georgiana worked out her plan.

What type of historical or cultural trend is portrayed in the above passage?

- ☐ A. It portrays the historical or cultural trend that women should not learn more than two languages.
- ☐ B. It portrays the historical or cultural trend that women cannot be trusted with anything important.
- ☐ C. It portrays the historical or cultural trend that women cannot inherit their family's property.
- ☐ D. It portrays the historical or cultural trend that women should cater to the rules set by society.

Question 18 .

After yet another horrible practice, I felt like quitting. Maybe I just wasn't cut out to be a figure skater? The toe loops and salchows and loops and lutzes just made me feel like a klutz! I stormed into the locker room and started unlacing my skates with ferocity.

My coach seemed to be able to tell I was getting frustrated and sat down to help me out of the skates.

"Whitney, I noticed you were having a hard time with that axel jump. I could help you practice a bit more outside of class," Brooke said, as we unlaced.

"You don't have to sugarcoat it for me, Brooke," I responded. "Just admit that I'm awful at skating. I'm hanging up my skates for good."

"Actually, I think you're very talented. You just need some work," she said. "Becoming a figure skater is more than just a notion. I fell, hurt myself, and quit a hundred times before I made it to the Olympics trials."

"Why'd you keep getting up and dusting yourself off? I mean, how did you know that this is what you were born to do?" I asked shyly.

"The first time I ever laced up a pair of skates I was six years old. I stepped onto the ice and promptly fell on my bum," Brooke laughed. "I didn't really get interested in skating as a career until I saw Kristi Yamaguchi in the 1992 Olympics. Right then, I knew I was going to have a life-long love affair with skating."

"Didn't it take a lot of training to get to the professional level? We only practice four days a week, and I'm so sore I can barely move," I said.

"It was a lot of hard work, but I didn't mind. Nothing I had ever done up until then seemed so . . . right," Brooke said. "I believe that you're a gifted skater, but you have to believe in yourself and have a passion for the sport. That's the only thing that will sustain you through all the bumps and bruises."

I took in Brooke's words carefully. Even though an injury had ended her skating career shortly after she won the Bronze in the Olympics, she still devoted her time to teaching us to skate. For free. *Do I have that kind of passion and commitment?* I thought.

"Let me know if you decide you want some extra help," Brooke gave me a half hug and waved goodbye as she grabbed her bag to leave. "My mornings are always free," she said with a smile.

"Thanks, Brooke. You're the best," I said.

As I shoved all my things in my bag and headed out to my mom's car, I started to think about my last competition. Brooke was right— nothing compared to the feeling of going into a jump and knowing that you were going to nail it.

"Hey Babycakes, how was practice?" Mom said after I closed my car door.

"It wasn't that great," I admitted. "But do you think you could bring me to practice some mornings?"

The character Brooke can be described as

- ☐ A. a caring coach.
- ☐ B. a careless friend.
- ☐ C. a curious teacher.
- ☐ D. a concerned parent.

Question 19 .

The Dunbar Conspiracy

The kingdom of Dunbar had been rejoicing and celebrating for days following the birth of Princess Elvira. It had been a long-awaited moment for the country, the birth of a child to their beloved and generous King Phillip. The royal castle was flooded with good wishes for King Phillip, Queen Elizabeth, and their baby girl.

However, King Claudius, a distant cousin of King Phillip, grew extremely jealous of King Phillip's happiness. Claudius was the king of Dartmoor and was a shrewd and conniving king. In his frustration at being childless for so many years, he could not stand the prosperity of Dunbar and now the birth of the beautiful princess. An lifelong schemer, it was his deepest desire to overthrow King Phillip and crown himself the King of Dunbar.

In his thirst for acquiring more land and power, he defeated and killed King Phillip and proclaimed himself the king of Dunbar. The death of King Phillip was a severe blow to Dunbar, and the kingdom mourned the death of their beloved king.

Years passed by, and Princess Elvira grew into a brave and capable warrior. The sudden death of King Phillip had thrust many responsibilities on the young princess. She learned the art of politics and warfare, and the importance of being just. She made it her life's mission to defeat King Claudius and win back the kingdom of Dunbar, which was rightfully hers.

How does the antagonist affect the plot?

- ☐ A. The antagonist kills King Phillip and proclaims himself the king of Dunbar.
- ☐ B. The antagonist does not like the happiness and prosperity of Dunbar.
- ☐ C. The antagonist wants to have the kingdom of Dunbar for himself.
- ☐ D. The antagonist is extremely shrewd and jealous of King Philip's happiness.

Question 20 .

Shori and Phillip had been best friends since they were five years old. That's when Shori had moved to Phillip's block. He spotted Shori sitting on her stoop and decided to say hello. Once they realized they shared the same last name and the same birthday, they were inseparable.

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No one ever believed that a boy and a girl could be just friends. Shori's girlfriends teased her about Phillip mercilessly.

"I can't seem to find a date for this weekend for the life of me," Nora sighed. "I guess I'll make this another Friday night filled with washing my hair and watching reruns of Grey's Anatomy."

"I know just what you mean," Shori laughed. "I can't remember the last time I had a date that wasn't with my family."

"Shori's not going to be sitting home alone on Friday night," Cindy said. "She's just agreeing to make us feel better about ourselves."

"What do you mean?" Shori asked. "I'm single just like you are!"

"Single with Phillip to chauffeur you around everywhere you want to go," Cindy replied.

"Phillip and I are just friends," Shori said.

"Sure you are," Cindy said. "I wish I had a *friend* as good as Phillip." All the other girls fell out laughing.

One of Phillip's teammates even suggested that he stop being friends with Shori.

"If you're not going to date the girl, the least you could do is get out of the way and give other guys a fair shot," Tim said.

"What? Shori's just my best friend. I don't understand how I'm in anybody's way," Phillip said.

"As long as she's got you, she doesn't need a boyfriend. You take her out to eat and to the movies," Tim said. "You walk Shori home from school every day."

Phillip thought about what Tim had said. *Maybe he's right? Shori and I do spend a lot of time together.*

Even their parents got in on the act.

"The two of you would make the cutest couple," Shori's mom opined while Shori got fitted for her cousin's wedding. "You should ask Phillip to escort you to Nandi's wedding."

"Mom! I told you Phillip is just a friend," Shori whined. But what her mom and friends said made her start to think. *Phillip is pretty cute, but could we ever be more than friends? If it didn't work out, could we save our friendship?*

Saturday chores at Phillip's house were no different.

"You know who I really like, Phillip?" Dad said without waiting for Phillip to respond. "That Shori! I think one day she's going to make some fellow a really fine wife."

"And let me guess. You think I should snatch her up before some other guy beats me to the punch?"

"Son, you're even smarter than you look," Dad responded with a twinkle in his eye.

Phillip shook his head and walked out of the kitchen. Sure, he had thought about Shori being more than a friend at one point. She was a beautiful girl. But he would never want to lose her friendship, so he put the thought out of his mind immediately.

"Phillip, do you ever wonder if people are right when they say we spend too much time together?" Shori said one day when they were walking home from school.

"I don't think we spend any more time together than other best friends," he replied. "But do you think our relationship is hampering our dating lives?"

Shori laughed. "Have you been talking to Cindy?"

"No. Why?" Phillip asked.

"No reason," Shori said. "What do you think we should do about it?"

"I don't know, but it seems like our friends and family won't be happy until we're married off," Phillip said.

"Or at least engaged in a long term dating relationship," Shori replied. "Hey, my mom wanted me to ask you to be my escort for my cousin's wedding next weekend. Do you mind?"

"Of course not," Phillip said with a wink. "It's a date."

Why does Phillip's dad say, "I think one day she's going to make some fellow a really fine wife"?

- ☐ A. He wants Phillip to introduce Shori to Tim.
- ☐ B. He wants Phillip to ask Shori out on a date.
- ☐ C. He doesn't think Shori's good enough for his son.
- ☐ D. He doesn't like Cindy very much.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. In the first paragraph, the author states that the Talbots chose to live in a boarding house when they moved to Washington, and that "It was the Southern style and aspect of the place that pleased the eyes of the Talbots."
2. Elizabeth and Georgiana are strong, intelligent women who stand up for what they believe in. Furthermore, they are not easily swayed by other people's opinions. Hence, the correct answer is "both characters are willful and do not let anyone dictate their actions."
3. The sentence "Mathilde suffered ceaselessly, feeling herself born to enjoy all delicacies and all luxuries" best demonstrates Mathilde's sense of entitlement. Because she is pretty, Mathilde believes that she deserves only the best in terms of material items. She is not grateful for what she has, which causes her to suffer.
4. In the passage, Ruby tells Rosie that, "They did not believe that he was disciplined enough to make it into the army." This shows that Ruby's parents thought that Greg wasn't capable enough to be in the army.
5. The protagonist in any narrative is the central and most important character. In the given passage, Princess Elvira is the protagonist as the passage revolves around her mission.
6. Phillip says he thinks Shori is attractive, but " . . .he would never want to lose her friendship."
7. In the second paragraph, Evan begins to realize that there is nothing wrong with wearing the clothes his grandma buys from the thrift store. In the third paragraph, he is sure that there is nothing wrong with it and decides that he is not going to let people tell him how to feel. Instead of feeling shame, he is going to feel pride. That is why he lifts his head, to show people that he does not feel shame.
8. Lindsay is the character who "causes some tension in trying to help the protagonist to focus." Mrs. Bardsley is the character who "interacts with the protagonist in a way that shows respect and understanding." Coach Miller is the character who "creates conflict by criticizing the protagonist."
9. The correct answer for the first drop-down menu is "devotion." The correct answer for the second drop-down menu is "heightening Emma's sense of loss." When Miss Taylor marries, her long-standing devotion to Emma creates a conflict within Emma because it heightens Emma's sense of loss. Because Miss Taylor was such a faithful friend, Emma feels her departure keenly.
10. Kendra can tell by Ashley's reaction just how serious things are and attempts to help her calm down.
11. The sentence "At last he grew so fond of these books that he forgot to follow the hounds or even to look after his property" is correct because it gives the reader the idea that Señor Quesada was neglecting his routine activities and was instead spending time on reading tales. The sentence shows the extent of his obsession.
12. In the final paragraph, the author tells you that after the other people joined the station, "Mike realized that he finally had the radio station he always wanted." Mike likes the fact that his friends and family bring new ideas and different kinds of music to his radio station.
13. The protagonist in any narrative is the central and most important character. In the given passage, Jeremy is the protagonist as the passage revolves around Jeremy and his summer plans.

- 14.** The narrator states, "When he was at home, the commotion he made would drive Ruby insane, and they would always end up arguing. But he would always make up for it by taking Ruby out dancing or for a fancy meal, and telling her how gorgeous he finds her even today." Also, Ruby refers to him as "silly." This shows that Greg is louder, sillier, and more romantic.
- 15.** When Ashley talks to Kendra, she reveals her affection for her little sister and her concern for her father.
- 16.** Alex's trash talk extends past the basketball court. When they find the man who needs help, Alex tells Daniel that Daniel can't handle the situation by saying, "I can go for help. I run faster. You should stay up here. I don't think you could make it down there on your own." Alex makes Daniel feel inferior every time he talks down to him. This makes Daniel want to do better and prove Alex wrong.
- 17.** Even in the twentieth century, women were not permitted to inherit their family property. The property would be passed on to the male relative who was closest to the family, and the only way to keep the property in the family was for one of the daughters to marry their cousin.
- 18.** Brooke is Whitney's skating coach. She shows her concern for her by taking time out to talk to her after practice and offering her words of encouragement.
- 19.** The antagonist in any narrative is any character that creates obstacles or problems for the protagonist. In the given passage, King Claudius is the antagonist. He kills King Phillip to fulfill his desire for land and power.
- 20.** Phillip's dad thinks Shori is a great girl and wants his son to date her.