Starlight 9 Test 1

Reading

When I say that my first view of New York Bay struck me as something not of this Earth it is not a figure of speech. I vividly recall the feeling with which I greeted the first cat I saw on American soil. A large, black feline stood in a corner, eyeing the crowd of newcomers. The sight of it gave me a thrill. "Look!" I said to Gitelson, my newly acquired companion. And in my heart I added, "Just like those at home!"

We were ferried over to Castle Garden, where the harsh manner of the immigration officers was a grievous surprise to me. As contrasted with the officials of my homeland, those of America had been portrayed in my mind as models of refinement. My anticipations were proven false. These unfriendly officials flavoured all of America with an icy inhospitality that sent a chill through my soul. However, we had no difficulty in being admitted to the United States. Many of the other immigrants were met by relatives, friends. There were cries of joy, tears, embraces, kisses. All of which intensified my sense of loneliness. Gitelson, who like myself had no friends in New York, never left my side. It seemed as though he were holding on to me for dear life.

"Cheer up!" I said joyfully. "America is no place to be a coward. Come; pull yourself together." I led the way out of the station, across Battery Park and under the railway to State Street. The active life of the strange city made me feel like one abandoned in the midst of a jungle. But the presence of Gitelson encouraged me. I mustered the bravery to approach a policeman, something I would never have done at home. However, my efforts to communicate were lost on him. With a grimace, he pointed in the direction of Broadway and strutted off majestically.

At this moment a voice hailed us. Facing about, we saw a middle-aged man. Prosperity was written all over his face and body, but he was unmistakably one of our people. Still, his very diamonds somehow told a tale of former want, of a time when he had landed, an impoverished immigrant like myself; and this made him a living source of encouragement for me.

"You're a tailor, aren't you?" he asked, his eyes eagerly fixed on Gitelson. My companion nodded. "Well come along; I have work for you," he smiled. And then turning to me, "You have no trade, have you?" I shook my head. "Any relatives here? Well, don't worry. If a fellow isn't lazy he has no reason to be sorry he came to America. " We continued our walk past Bowling Green, with the stranger and Gitelson absorbed in conversation. The trim-looking crowds of lower Broadway impressed me as a multitude of counts, barons, princes. I was puzzled by their preoccupied faces and hurried step, which seemed at odds with their general high-born appearance. When we finally reached the post office, the bejewelled man turned to me, "Walk straight ahead," he said, waving his hand toward Park Row. "It isn't far from here." With that, he slipped a silver quarter into my hand and made Gitelson bid me goodbye. The two then boarded a big red horse-car.

I stood watching the receding vehicle with a sickening sense of abandonment. The grey hair of my timid companion haunted my brain as a hideous symbol of disloyalty. Then, with twenty-nine cents in my pocket, I set forth in the direction of East Broadway.

Read the excerpt from a novel. For questions 1-8, choose the answer A, B, C or D.

1) What impression did the writer have of American officials?

A They were polite.
B They were rude.
C They were lenient.
D They were strict.

2) How does the writer feel after being admitted to America?

A emotional
B excited
C isolated
D frightened

3) How does the writer describe the stranger?

A He was a successful immigrant.
B He was a friend.
C He was poor.
D He was a worthy employer.

4) According to the stranger what is necessary to succeed in America?

A A skilled profession.
B An established family.
C A good work ethic.
D A sympathetic nature.

5) What was the writer's attitude towards Gitelson?

A He had grown sick of him.
B He realised he was a coward.
C He became threatened by him.
D He felt betrayed by him.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

Choose the correct word.

1 The tribe lived in a(n) ..... village in the mountains.

A lonely C alone
B secluded D sheltered

2 Tonnes of ..... food go to landfill every year.

A edible C intact
B recyclable D reusable

3 New York is a(n) ..... city with many shops.

A alert C alive
B active D bustling

4 I managed to ..... my friend to come on the trip.

A assume C prove
B change D convince

5 On the plane to France, I sat in a(n) ..... seat.

A hall B passage C aisle D alley

Grammar

Choose the correct item.

1 Steve ..... around Brazil for the last 2 weeks.

A travels C is travelling
B has been travelling D travelled

2 The ..... the house, the more expensive it is to heat.

A big C bigger than
B bigger D biggest

3 We ..... in traffic while the workers were repairing
the road.

A wait C had waited
B were waiting D are waiting

4 Sue ..... of joining a community sharing programme.

A is going to think C is thinking
B will think D thinks

5 People are driving faster and ..... with no regards
for the speed limit.

A more fast C fastest
B faster D fast

6 Don't you think the neighbours ..... a bit strange these days?

A are acting C acted
B act D had acted

7 They ..... the house before the tenants arrived.

A clean C had cleaned
B were cleaning D have cleaned

8 Carol ..... a garden party this Saturday.

A is having C has
B had D has had

9 Someone ..... behind me and now I can't get my car out of the lot!

A parks C has parked
B had parked D was parking

10 This flat ..... great; let's rent it.

A is looking C looks
B looked D has looked

Everyday English

Read the dialogue and fill in the missing phrases.

- Yes, I did.
- Just this one suitcase.
- Would you like a window or aisle seat?
- Please go to gate 31A at 2:15.
- No, nothing at all.

A: Hello. How many pieces of luggage will you be checking in?
B: 1) .....
A: Did you pack your luggage yourself?
B: 2) .....
A: Have you packed any prohibited items in your hand luggage?
B: 3) .....
A: OK. 4) .....
B: Aisle, please.
A: Alright, here is your boarding card. 5) ..... Enjoy your flight.
B: OK. Thank you very much.

LIVEWORKSHEETS