

MAIN THEME USING PASSAGE



READING COMPREHENSION

Trim. #: _____

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

LIST #: _____ - _____

I. DIRECTIONS. Write the letter of the best choice in the space provided.

Read the following story.

The Pedal Boat

Rachel walked up and down the aisles at Costello's Watercraft. She wanted something she and her husband, Arnel, could enjoy during their summer at the family lake house.

The clerk pointed to a brand-new canoe. "This is our top seller. Dependable, good reviews, comes with a ten-year warranty."

But while Rachel was inspecting the canoe, another customer approached her.

"Are you sure you want to spend all that money on a canoe? I've got an old pedal boat I could sell you for a quarter of the price," he offered.

Later that day, Rachel and Arnel went to the man's house to check out the pedal boat. It had a lot of dents, and the man admitted that he hadn't taken it out on the water in three years. But the price was too good to beat.

"The boat would be sold in the condition it's in," the man warned. "All sales final."

But Rachel and Arnel were already talking about the fishing gear they could buy with the money they would be saving. They bought the pedal boat immediately.

When summer arrived, Arnel took the boat for a test run on the lake, while Rachel watched from the shoreline. The boat hardly went fifty feet before the front started sinking. Rachel's summer fantasy sunk along with it. She remembered the brand-new canoe she'd passed up and felt foolish. The pedals stuck as the boat sunk deeper, and Arnel had to swim back to shore.

At least the fishing rods worked. Rachel and Arnel spent the summer catching perch and shaking their heads over their mistake.

1. Which of the following best describes the main theme or lesson of the story?

A) If you don't do your research, people will take advantage of you.

B) Trying too hard to save money can cost you.

2. Select the quotation from the story that most strongly suggests that the theme is **Trying too hard to save money can cost you.**

A) *Rachel and Arnel spent the summer catching perch and shaking their heads over their mistake.*

B) *The boat hardly went fifty feet before the front started sinking. Rachel's summer fantasy sunk along with it.*

Read the following story.

If the Shoes Fit

Taylor made a quick decision shortly before the game against Readville. After putting on her uniform and lacing up her worn sneakers, it hit her how badly she wanted new basketball shoes.

"The game starts in less than an hour," Taylor's dad said, looking at his watch.

"But look at these old things!" Taylor said, lifting a foot. "I'll just run in and out of the mall. I'll be so fast!"

In the car, Taylor fidgeted at each red light, a month's worth of babysitting money in her pocket. She knew that, soon, each jump shot she took would hit nothing but net. Every leap would be higher in her brand-new shoes.

Her father waited in the car as Taylor sprinted into the mall. A beautiful, shiny pair of red basketball shoes were displayed at the front of the shoe store. She nearly ran right into them.

"Uh, size six, please!"

The clerk returned with the box and asked Taylor if she wanted to try them on. Taylor glanced at the time.

"No need!"

With those fancy sneakers under her arm, she ran back to the idling car in the parking lot. She was pumped.

Just in time, Taylor was on the bench with her teammates as their coach drew up the game plan. She opened the box and tried sliding her feet into the shoes she'd rushed to purchase, and her heart sank. Her toes were cramped. But the buzzer sounded, and Taylor ran awkwardly onto the court for the whistle.

Taylor's face showed pain as she jogged up and down the court. She played poorly. When the coach substituted her for another player, she pulled out her old shoes from beneath the bench.

3. Which of the following best describes the main theme or lesson of the story?

A) Don't hurry important choices.

B) Expensive items aren't always worth the money.

4. Select the quotation from the story that most strongly suggests that the theme is **Don't hurry important choices**.

A) *She opened the box and tried sliding her feet into the shoes she'd rushed to purchase, and her heart sank.*

B) *Every leap would be higher in her brand-new shoes.*

Read the following story.

Selective Samples

Cody liked the freedom that came with his first summer job. He worked at Mitchell's Farm, where people could come and pick their own corn, berries, and tomatoes out in the fields. Then they'd bring their produce to the checkout stand, where Cody would weigh it and charge the appropriate price. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell were usually busy somewhere else, so Cody was trusted to manage the stand by himself.

For the most part, Cody enforced the Mitchells' rules. When someone asked for a discount or a sample, Cody said no. But he did sometimes bend the rules for friends, much to their delight.

"Go ahead, taste a few berries before I weigh 'em," he'd say when it was someone he knew. It was against the rules to eat something before you bought it, but everyone wanted to.

One day, a man came to the stand with a bushel of corn he had picked. Cody weighed the ears of corn and told the man how much it cost. The man looked confused.

"But I was here yesterday, and you told someone that for every five ears you buy, you get one free," he said.

Cody remembered. He had indeed offered that deal to the Thomases, who happened to be his neighbors. Now he regretted it. He saw Mrs. Mitchell baling hay close by. How was Cody going to explain that he had given a deal to those he knew while he made everyone else pay full price?

The man saw that Cody was looking at Mrs. Mitchell. "Is that the owner? May I speak to her?" he asked.

Cody thought about offering the man the same discount, but there were people in line behind him, and they were carrying corn, too. Cody hung his head and walked over to see Mrs. Mitchell.

5. Which of the following best describes the main theme or lesson of the story?

A) Rules should be applied fairly.

B) You should appreciate the people you work for.

6. Select the quotation from the story that most strongly suggests that the theme is **Rules should be applied fairly**.

A) *It was against the rules to eat something before you bought it, but everyone wanted to.*

B) *How was Cody going to explain that he had given a deal to those he knew while he made everyone else pay full price?*

Read the following story.

Broken Dishes

Joe owned a few businesses in Penfield, and he was a thoughtful business owner. The windows of his art gallery were made of special glass that protected the art from sun damage. And he bought a new delivery van for his flower shop when the old one kept breaking down, because no one should receive withered flowers.

He was especially proud on the day his restaurant opened. A restaurant was a brand-new venture for Joe. He'd picked out beautiful plates and glasses. They were costly, but he wanted to give his customers the best dining experience he could.

He was thrilled when the restaurant filled up for lunch, but disheartened when he heard a glass break in the kitchen.

"Please be more careful," he told the dishwasher.

Not much later, a child shattered a plate on the dining room floor. After that, a man waved Joe to his table, where he pointed out a chip in the rim of his water glass. It would have to be thrown away.

In the kitchen that night, Joe counted the remaining plates and glasses.

"Owning this place is going to cost a lot more than I thought," he told the chef.

"You know, there's a restaurant supply store in Ridgemont. It sells dishes and glassware, and you buy them in bulk, so they're cheap," the chef said.

"Good point," said Joe. "In this business, sooner or later everything breaks."

That weekend, Joe and his chef drove to the store in Ridgemont.

The next day, Joe watched contentedly as the restaurant fill up again. When a server dropped one of the new plates, Joe didn't get upset. A new one was taken from a large box, where there were plenty more replacements at the ready.

7. Which of the following best describes the main theme or lesson of the story?

A) People don't always respect the property of others.

B) Some things in life are not worth spending a lot of money on.

8. Select the quotation from the story that most strongly suggests that the theme is **Some things in life are not worth spending a lot of money on.**

A) "Good point," said Joe. "In this business, sooner or later everything breaks."

B) They were costly, but he wanted to give his customers the best dining experience he could.

Read the following story.

Diving In

It was a hot day at the beach, so why did the ocean feel like ice? Carol wanted to cool off, but she had only managed to wade in up to her ankles. Her feet were nearly numb from the cold water.

"Wow, it's freezing today," said her sister, Pauline. They stood side by side, half-shivering in the water and half-baking in the sun.

Carol noticed the windsurfers in the distance. *Of course*, she thought. *They're wearing wetsuits*. But then she saw an old man swimming nearby, wearing only his trunks and a swim cap. A few more courageous heads bobbed up and down in the chilly sea.

"Okay, that's it," Pauline said. "I'm doing it." She took a deep breath, ran into the surf, and dived into a large, breaking wave. She emerged farther out, a big grin on her face.

Carol inched forward. As she did, her shins, then her knees, and then her thighs stung from the cold. She noticed that her feet felt okay now, but when the water touched her stomach, she shrieked. The breakers now splashed water across her back and shoulders.

"It's too cold!" Carol shouted. "I'm going back!"

Then she froze. She saw a big wave approaching. There was no time to turn back; she was in too deep. She watched with dread as the crest swelled above her head. She closed her eyes and dunked beneath the wave.

A freezing sensation enveloped her for an instant, but then she felt fine. Refreshed, even.

Finally, she swam out to her sister.

9. Which of the following best describes the main theme or lesson of the story?

- A) Sometimes it's better when unpleasant experiences happen quickly.
- B) Not everybody can be brave.

10. Select the quotation from the story that most strongly suggests that the theme is **Sometimes it's better when unpleasant experiences happen quickly.**

- A) *A freezing sensation enveloped her for an instant, but then she felt fine.*
- B) *They stood side by side, half-shivering in the water and half-baking in the sun.*