

READING COMPREHENSION (NO.7)

READING 1: Read the following passage and choose the answer to each of the following questions.

After graduating from college, Sean Aiken knew he would need to find a job soon. The problem was that he wasn't sure what kind of work he wanted to do.

At the dinner table, his father said he had worked his whole life doing a job he didn't really enjoy. He encouraged him to do what he liked most. Aiken wanted a different future. He promised himself that he would find something that he was passionate about.

Aiken set a goal to work a new job each week for a year. That's 52 occupations in one year. And he did it! One week, as a dairy farmer, he milked cows every morning. Then, in another week, he was an astronomer studying the night sky. Aiken's favorite job, though, was teaching. He learned he was happiest when he was helping others.

Aiken also learned that it's OK to not know what you want to do right away. After all, Aiken found his message "You'll find your perfect job one day!"

Adapted from Active Skills for Reading Intro by Neil J Anderson

Question 1: What did Sean Aiken want to do after graduating from college?

- A. He wanted to be a teacher.
- B. He didn't know what to do.
- C. He wanted to travel to Europe.

Question 2: What did Aiken's father encourage him to do?

- A. Get a job he enjoyed doing
- B. Work one job his whole life
- C. Work for his father for one year

Question 3: Which of these jobs is NOT talked about in the passage?

- A. Astronomer
- B. dairy farmer
- C. pilot

Question 4: What did Aiken learn by working so many different jobs?

- A. that working is very difficult and not fun
- B. that it is okay to take your time finding a job
- C. that people should get a job right after college

READING 2: Read the following story and choose the answer to each of the following questions.

Last week, I returned from England after three months of living abroad as an international exchange student. Now, I am eager to share some of my fantastic experiences.

During my stay, I learned many things about the United Kingdom. I lived with a British host family named the Atkinsons. We visited the Tower of London and watched a play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. They always gave me delicious meals. And they taught me many interesting things that I could never learn from textbooks. Did you know that in England people call a toilet a "loo"? Funny, isn't it?

Because I had to speak English all the time, my English skills improved **dramatically**. I also had regular school classes in an English middle school. This was especially difficult for me in the beginning. But surprisingly, before long, I began to understand what the students and teachers were saying. The other boys were very kind to me, and I made lots of friends. So, by the end of the third month, I almost didn't want to come home.

(Adapted from Practise Set 6 - Toefl Junior Preparation book - oneplusone.cn)

Question 1: Why did the student write this letter?

- A. To argue that every student should study abroad.
- B. To tell about his experience as an exchange student.
- C. To suggest that he would like to live in England permanently.
- D. To warn other exchange students against staying abroad too long.

Question 2: Which of the following did the student NOT do with the Atkinson family?

- A. Eat tasty English food
- B. Tour the Tower of London
- C. Read about England in textbooks
- D. Watch a play in the Globe Theatre

Question 3: In paragraph 3, the word **dramatically** is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. occasionally
- B. greatly
- C. painfully
- D. loudly

Question 4: Why did the boy almost not want to come home?

- A. His English improved.
- B. His host family fed him very well.
- C. He made many friends at school.
- D. He attended regular school classes.

READING 3: Read the following story and choose the answer to each of the following questions.

The small girl

Sarah Small was the smallest girl in second grade. She could not reach the water fountain. She felt very sad. "Wait and see," said Mother. "It's good to be small."

One day, Sarah and her friends were playing soccer. Sarah was good at soccer. She was so small that she could run through tall people's legs. She had just kicked the ball when she saw something green and white.

There was a five-dollar bill on the other side of the fence, beside a small hole. Sarah's friends were too big to fit through the hole to reach it. But Sarah got down on her hands and knees and slipped through. She picked up the bill from off the ground. Then she told her friends she would buy them all ice cream. "Sometimes, it's good to be small!" she said.

(Source: Adapted from Daily Warm-ups Reading 1)

Question 1: Why is Sarah sad?

- A. because she finds five dollars
- B. because she buys ice cream
- C. because she plays soccer
- D. because she is small

Question 2: Why is Sarah good at soccer?

- A. because she can run through legs
- B. because she finds five dollars
- C. because she is tough
- D. because she can crawl through holes

Question 3: What does Sarah find on the ground?

- A. a soccer ball
- B. a five-dollar bill
- C. ice cream
- D. a worm

Question 4: What does Sarah do with the money?

- A. She shares it.
- B. She hides it.
- C. She leaves it there.
- D. She buys ice cream for herself.

READING 4: Read the text and answer the questions.

Our Class Won

There are four first grade classes at our school. The teachers decided to have a contest. Every day each student would take a book home to read with their Mom or Dad. Their parents sent a note saying they had read the book. The class who read the most books would win.

The contest lasted two weeks. Our class really wanted to win the contest. Everyone took home a book each afternoon and read it with their Mom or Dad at night.

There are twenty kids in my class. We read ten books each. That made two hundred books! We won the contest. We **beat** the next class by only three books.

We were so happy to win. Our classroom got a new red bookcase as a prize. Now we have a place to put all our books.

Adapted from littleworksheets.com

Question 1: How long did the contest last?

- A. two weeks
- B. a month
- C. all year
- D. two months

Question 2: What was the prize for winning the contest?

- A. a pizza party
- B. no homework for a week
- C. a new car
- D. a new red bookcase

Question 3: Which of the following words has the same meaning as “beat” in the story?

- A. lost
- B. did better than
- C. fought
- D. took

Question 4: What is NOT TRUE, according to the story?

- A. The parents sent a note to say that their child had read a book.
- B. The class whose students read most books at the school library would win.
- C. The author's class won the contest with two hundred books read at home.
- D. The author's class use the prize to put their books at the class.