Reading Part 1 – Example B

The Wonder of Trees

Paragraph One:

Choose the main idea

An oft-quoted American poem begins “I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree.” Most of us take little notice of the wonder of trees, but they offer us great beauty and play an important ecological role in the "biosphere," the interconnected web of life on Earth. To imagine a world without trees would be to imagine a very different, drab, and possibly lifeless, planet.

a) American poems are beautiful. They are very important for the environment.

b) Trees are beautiful. They’re also very important for the environment.

c) A world with trees would be to imagine a possibly lifeless planet

Paragraph Two:

Choose the main idea.

Ecologically, trees have been an important part of our natural environment since evolving out of plant life about 370 million years ago. Their life-sustaining functions were essential to the further evolution of life on Earth. Trees produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, thus maintaining our atmosphere. They also regulate climate, direct and regulate the flow of water, build and conserve soil, and provide habitat for wildlife.

a) Natural Environment is essential to the evolution on Earth.

b) The life-sustaining functions produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife.

c) Trees help the environment in many ways; trees make the air better for living things.

Paragraph Three:

Choose the main idea.

But the great contribution of trees to the beauty of our planet is also worth remarking. The variety and abundance of trees make Earth a planet of brilliant green that complements the blue of the oceans. The two main varieties of trees,

“deciduous” and “evergreen,” contribute to this beauty in different ways. Deciduous trees shed their leaves for part of the year. Evergreens stay green all year long.

a) The trees contribute with the blue of the oceans. It’s remarkable.

b) Some trees lose their leaves and some don’t; their beauty actually helps the environment.

c) Our planet has more than 240 varieties of trees.

Paragraph Four:

Choose the main idea.

The lushness of Earth is also a result of the abundance and staying power of trees. There are estimated to be approximately 100,000 species of trees today. Most of them are in the tropics. The Amazon Rainforest alone is home to thousands of tree species. Trees can live for thousands of years and grow quite large. A tree in Sweden is considered the oldest, at over 9,500 years of age. The tallest tree in the world is thought to be a Giant Sequoia in California's Redwood Forest. It stands over 117 meters tall with a diameter of about 10 meters.

a) Trees can live a long time and become more beautiful; here are some examples.

b) There are 9,500 species of trees today. Most of them in the tropics.

c) The tallest tree in the world is a tree in Sweden. It stands over 117 meters tall.

QUESTION:

According to the passage, which of the following is an important ecological function performed by trees?

a) Contributing to ‘evergreen’ beauty

b) Absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

c) Keeping the Tropics warm

d) Connecting the Amazon Rain Forest to Sweden’s tall trees.