

Reading Comprehension

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

English Language

Read very carefully through the following passage, and then answer the questions in complete sentences.

It is not an afternoon promising much enjoyment out of doors. Overflowing from the pavements into the roadway are young men and old men, and not a few women, artisans cloth-capped, clerks, soldiers, sailors, shabby folk and prosperous folk. These thousands on foot and in taxis, maxi buses, are going to support and cheer their favourites. Many of them are armed with large wood rattles which they swing now and then with a crackling din.

Not a couple of hundred yards from the ground, where we can see a mob surging about the high white gates, a wild rumour suddenly gains belief. "They shut the gates half an hour ago." Anxiety is visible on every face. One man shuffles into a trot, another begins to run. Instantly everybody stampedes. But the worst fears prove unfounded. The clicking turnstiles admit us in an orderly fashion. While we are waiting shrill-throated boys cry "Hot roast peanuts! Cho'lates! Cig'rettes! Ices!" Another delicacy is the "hot dog" - warm sausage rolls sold from tricycles ridden by youths in spotless white jackets. All is good humoured excitement and joyful, bustling anticipation. Probably the scene outside the Colosseum* was something like this in old days. But the rain still drizzles.

We squelch through the mud to the stands. As we emerge from the dim stairway into the open, a muffled roar bursts out. It swells and crashes into triumphant thunder, brass band hurries off the green arena, and below us blue-jerseyed, stocky, bandy-legged fellows run down towards the goal. The other team follows at once receiving its applause.

There comes an abrupt hush, a sharp whistle blast, and a high-pitched yell. "Our' side has got away the ball. Thrills follow. The fortunes of the fight ebb away. The gladiators battle nobly and nimbly. Now our fellows are winning; now "we" are in peril, and again, on the very tiptoe of scoring.

The whole vast crowd sways round when the ball is quickly transferred from one end to the other. It is agitated like a stormy sea. What groans and moans and laughter! What cheers of derision greet an error! What sympathetic sighs console an unlucky player! What roars of exasperation go up at failed chances! An immense assembly of some 50,000 is suffering all the pangs and fears.

A mighty ringing shout resounds under grey sky when "we" score a goal. Surely the echo of it reached Olympus! Enthusiasts rise in their narrow seats and cheer until the corrugated iron roof booms again. One spectator is so much moved as to snatch the hat off the head of a man in front

of him and fling it up into the air with whoops of triumph. So passes a dull, wet, dreary Saturday afternoon, and the muffins taste all the better after such a couple of hours in the open air.

*-Colosseum- An amphitheatre in Rome

Questions

Getting the Facts

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is the main incident in this passage?

_____ (1pt)

2. What time of the day is the incident taking place?

_____ (1pt)

3. What is the weather like?

_____ (1pt)

4. In what mood is the crowd?

_____ (1pt)

5. For what reason are they gathering?

_____ (1pt)

Beyond the Information

6. How can we tell from paragraph one that it was a large crowd of people? Give two pieces of evidence.

_____ (2pts)

7. In paragraph 2, anxiety was visible in every face.

a. Why was this so?

_____ (1pt)

b. How was their anxiety expressed? _____ (1pt)

8a. What is the mood of the crowd in paragraph two? _____(1pt)

b. Which sentences captures the mood in this paragraph? ____

a. Anxiety is visible in every face

b But the worst fears proved unfounded

c. All is good humoured excitement and joyful bustling anticipation. (1pt)

9. What was the rumour referred to in paragraph two (2)?

_____(2pts)

10. What main event takes place in paragraph three (3)?

_____(2pts)

Total Marks 15pts