

4.5 Fiction Review Skills Passage

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Day I Made My Mother Proud

1 My mother, grandmother, and I live near the ocean. My grandmother takes care of me while my mother works long hours at a restaurant. I want to help my mother, but she says I can help her just by being good. Then she tells me to study hard in school so I can make her proud. I want my mother to be proud, but I want her to be happy, too.

2 My mother has collected seashells ever since she was a little girl. She has all kinds of shells in her collection. One day I asked her why she doesn't collect shells anymore. My mother told me that she doesn't have time. "But I like looking at them," she said. "Each shell reminds me of a happy time in my life." My mother held up a creamy white shell. It had rows of brown squares. "This one is a Scotch bonnet. I found it the day before you were born." I told my mother that she must have every shell there is. "That is not so, Maria," she said. "I have always wanted a queen helmet. But they are hard to find."

3 Now I knew what I could do for my mother. Every day for a week my grandmother took me to the beach. I looked and looked, but I did not find a queen helmet anywhere.

4 "Maybe you could buy her one," said my grandmother. But I told her I did not want to buy a shell. The shells in my mother's collection came from a beach, not a store.

5 Finally, one day I saw the tip of a shell poking out of some seaweed. I dug and dug until I uncovered it. It was a beautiful queen helmet. I raced to show my grandmother. She patted my head and smiled.

6 That night when my mother came home I told her I had a surprise. I held out my hand and showed her the shell. "She's been looking for weeks," said my grandmother.

7 My mother hugged me. "I'm proud of you," she said. "I will put this shell where I can see it every day. Then, whenever I look at it, I will think of how hard you worked to find it."



1. Which sentence is the best summary of the story?

- A. A girl likes to collect shells like her mother.
- B. A girl takes a vacation to the beach.
- C. A girl works hard to make her mother happy.
- D. A girl visits her grandmother at the seashore.

2. According to the story, why did Maria's mother like the shells?

- A. She did not have enough time.
- B. They were a gift when her daughter was born.
- C. They remind her of happy times in her life.
- D. She buys them at fancy stores.

3. Based on the events in the story, which word best describes Maria?

- A. happy
- B. determined
- C. intelligent
- D. uncaring

4. Which question does paragraph 2 answer?

- A. Where does Maria live?
- B. What did Maria find in the sand?
- C. Where did Maria get the idea to make her mother happy?
- D. What surprise did Maria have for her mother?

5. Why was the grandmother important to the story?

- A. The grandmother found the shell.
- B. The grandmother told her to buy a shell at the store.
- C. The grandmother took Maria to the beach each day.
- D. The grandmother collected shells.

7. In which word is **un-** used in the same way as it is in **uncovered** in paragraph 5?

- A. unless
- B. unusual
- C. unify
- D. underneath

6. Which meaning of **store** is used in paragraph 4?

The shells in my mother's collection come from the beach, not a store.

store - 1. to collect or accumulate
2. a place in a computer's memory
3. a building where things are sold
4. a large amount of something

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

8. Read these sentences from paragraph 2,

" My mother held up a creamy white shell. It had rows of brown squares."

These senses appeal to the readers sense of-

- A. Sight
- B. Touch
- C. Hearing
- D. Smell

9. Complete each sentence using a word from the list.

Maria is _____.

Maria's mother is _____.

unmotivated forgiving friendly
appreciative disappointed thoughtful

10. The author most likely wrote this passage to –

- A. teach you about different types of shells
- B. explain how to start a shell collection
- C. have you enjoy a story about a girl making her mom proud
- D. read about a family that is happy