

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. **ALL** questions must be answered in complete sentences and in your own words unless otherwise indicated.

All answers must be based on information from the passage. Be sure and pay special attention to the instructions given for each passage.

THE OUTSIDER

They didn't like her. They didn't know her, but they didn't like her. Sandra was a nice enough person, kind and gentle, creative and sensitive, but she was not from the village so they didn't like her. She was born about sixty miles away from them, in another town, down the shore and because of this, was secretly called "driftwood". Nobody wanted to even associate with her.

These people didn't know that Sandra was a real nice person because they were too busy fanning the hate that they had toward her. They thought that she was hateful, not understanding that the only hate involved was the one that they were sending toward her – and for no apparent reason.

For a number of years, Sandra lived among them in the village. She did her art, painting on driftwood, tree trunks, conch shells or any other surface that suited her fancy. She painted and tended her garden where she raised exquisite and delicate flowers.

They couldn't help but see her beautiful garden. Sandra hung her art out so that she might share that part of her spirit with them in a vain hope, I suppose, to soften their hard hearts. But they didn't like her, so they didn't like her art or her garden and they criticized both.

And so she continued to live among those people, feeling the barb of their hate, the sting of their rejection, the scorn and contempt of their attitude toward her. And all that because she was born sixty miles away, down the shore, in a different town and she was not one of them.

Can you believe that these were Christian people? These stiff necks! They fill their churches on Sunday and again on Wednesday nights for prayer meetings. They love their churches; they just don't love people, especially strangers, people who were not born in their town or who came from only sixty miles away, down the shore.

As much as they went to church, I don't know how they missed the message in the story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan. They also missed the other story where He told them to treat kindly the stranger in their midst. And because they could not hear Jesus, they heard only their own fears and their own hate, which they directed toward Sandra simply because she was not one of them. She, on the other hand, knew Jesus and tried not to let their hatred get to her. She tried to love her neighbours as herself (as the Bible said). Fortunately for her, it paid off.

I drove through her adopted town the other day and I stopped by her place to admire her garden and to chat for a while. I was amazed to see her home overflowing with members of the community. When I inquired about this new attitude towards her, I heard the heroic story of how Sandra was out collecting driftwood by the shore when she heard the desperate cries of a child. Without hesitation, she jumped into the choppy waves and saved the boy from drowning, never giving a second thought to her own safety. From that day, Sandra was accepted as a part of the community. When they took the time to get to know her, her neighbours discovered that she was really quite an amazing lady!

Adapted from *Bahama Journal*
From the Heart by Rupert Missick

1. Who is the narrator?
 - a. A villager
 - b. Bahama Journal
 - c. Sandra

- d. Sandra's son
2. Which is an adjective used to describe Sandra?
- a. Sad
 - b. Gentle
 - c. Passive
 - d. Aggressive
3. Which is one of Sandra's hobbies?
- a. Dancing
 - b. Cooking
 - c. Swimming
 - d. Painting
4. How did the villagers react to Sandra's art?
- a. They loved it.
 - b. They were intrigued by it.
 - c. They criticized it.
 - d. They laughed at it.
5. "...feeling the sting of rejection..." What does this phrase mean?
- a. Feeling the pain of an insect bite
 - b. Feeling hurt and unwanted
 - c. Feeling ignored
 - d. Feeling abused

6. Why didn't they like Sandra?
- a. She was not from their community.
 - b. She was poor.
 - c. She was rich.
 - d. She was sensitive.
7. What is the meaning of "driftwood" as it is used in line 4?
- a. Wood used for carpentry
 - b. Wood used for art
 - c. Wood found floating in the sea or washed ashore
 - d. A person not belonging to a place
8. What is the meaning of "driftwood" as it is used in line 30?
- a. Wood used for carpentry
 - b. Wood used for art
 - c. Wood found floating in the sea or washed ashore
 - d. A person not belonging to a place
9. How did Sandra react to their treatment of her?
- a. She hung her art to share a part of herself with them.
 - b. She patronized their stores.
 - c. She refused to let them visit her garden.
 - d. She offered them food.
10. Quote the **FIVE WORD** phrase from paragraph **TWO** that shows that the neighbours refused to get to know Sandra.
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11. What caused the villagers to change how they felt about Sandra?

- a. She shared her art.
- b. She invited them to her garden.
- c. She saved a drowning child.
- d. She fed the neighbours.

12. Number the sentences 1-5 in the order they occurred in the passage.

____ Sandra saved a child from drowning.

____ Sandra moved to the village.

____ Sandra was accepted by the community.

____ No one befriended Sandra.

____ Sandra shared her art.

13. Choose a word from the passage that means the same or nearly the same as:

a. fragile; easily broken (line 10) _____

b. congested; swarming (line 28) _____

c. beautiful, lovely, magnificent (line 10) _____