



## THE WAITING ROOM

Dr. Brown's dental practice was on the ground floor of a large suburban house which had been built towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The front room, which served both as the waiting room and an office for the secretary, was furnished with dusty armchairs and a couple of sofas that looked as though they must have been bought second-hand when the house was first occupied. The usual selection of magazines, all hopelessly out of date and falling to pieces, were scattered on the scratched coffee table that stood on the worn-out carpet in the centre of the room.

John wondered where all these magazines came from. Somehow, he could not imagine Dr. Brown reading magazines with titles like "Woman's Fashion Weekly" and "Home and Family" in his spare time. Perhaps the secretary brought them in, he thought, as he sat fidgeting on the uncomfortable sofa next to his serious-looking father. He wanted to ask her, but it somehow seemed wrong to speak; just about the only sounds that could be heard in the room was the steady tick of the clock which stood on the mantelpiece over the fire-place and the tap-tap of the secretary's typewriter.

Some of the people sitting in the waiting room idly flipped through the old magazines while others, probably regular visitors, read the morning newspapers they had wisely brought with them. One lady sat next to the fire quietly knitting what looked like a long scarf, exactly as if she were sitting in her own living room at home. Another woman kept looking at the clock and moaning softly, but there was no conversation amongst the waiting patients.

Bored, John started to play a game. What was wrong with all these people, he asked himself. Were they all here for the same routine check-up as he was? Surely not; that lady was clearly in pain, so he decided the others must all have terrible problems as well. He imagined that the knitting lady had absent-mindedly put one of her knitting needles in her mouth and bitten it, breaking a tooth. He was sure this was the case because his mother was always warning him that this would happen to him if he didn't stop chewing his pen when he was doing his homework. And that man with the grey hair; wasn't his right cheek just a little bit swollen? Obviously he had eaten something with a

maggot in it and now the maggot was still there in his mouth, eating through his gums...

Suddenly, John was brought back to earth by the sound of footsteps in the hall outside and then a bell rang somewhere in the room. Everybody looked up at the secretary as she consulted a list of names in the diary on her desk. "Mrs. Barker," she called out, and the lady by the fire carefully put her knitting away in the plastic bag she carried and rose to her feet, heading towards the door and the dentist's chair. The other patients seemed to relax a little as they returned to their reading; even the moaning from the clock-watching lady ceased for a few seconds. John sighed inwardly and picked up one of the more colourful-looking magazines in front of him. He had had enough of his game, but he had a horrible feeling that it was going to be a long time before he got to see the dentist.

1. The furniture in the waiting room was \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. made before the house was built.
  - B. very shabby and dirty looking.
  - C. not new when it was bought.
  - D. not suitable for a dental practice.
2. John was quite sure that Dr. Brown \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. never read the magazines in the waiting room.
  - B. told his secretary to buy new magazines.
  - C. did not know where the magazines came from.
  - D. did not have enough time to read magazines.
3. Why didn't John ask the secretary about the magazines?
  - A. His father would be angry.
  - B. He could see she was very busy.
  - C. He was too shy to do so.
  - D. Nobody else was talking.
4. The writer suggests that some patients had brought newspapers with them because \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. they wanted to catch up with the news.
  - B. they didn't want to talk to each other.
  - C. they knew the magazines were old.
  - D. they had been to the dentist before.
5. Why did John have to see the dentist?
  - A. He had broken one of his teeth.
  - B. He was in a lot of pain.
  - C. His mother insisted on it.
  - D. It was time for his regular visit.

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6. The secretary knew the dentist was ready to see the next patient because \_\_\_\_\_
- A. she heard footsteps in the corridor.
  - B. the clock sounded the hour.
  - C. the bell was a signal to her.
  - D. Mrs. Barker put her knitting away.
7. Why did John stop playing his game?
- A. He had got bored with it.
  - B. It was time to see the dentist.
  - C. He wanted to read a magazine.
  - D. It was not very relaxing.



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On April 26 1986, one of history's worst nuclear accidents occurred at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Ukraine (the former Soviet Union). At 4:23 AM, technicians at the Chernobyl plant allowed the power in the fourth reactor (reactor-4) to fall to low levels as part of a controlled experiment, which went terribly wrong. The reactor overheated and caused a meltdown of the core. This resulted in an explosive force of steam, which blew off the lid of the reactor. Large amounts of radioactive material were released into the atmosphere. The reactor-4 explosions released more radioactivity than the atomic bombs

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dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. Most of the discharged material was deposited close by as dust and debris, but wind carried the lighter radioactive material over the Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and parts of Europe.

The operators' over-confident decision-making, a flaw in the design of the reactor, and inadequate safety systems are believed to be the major factors that caused the Chernobyl disaster.

Many people were affected by this catastrophe. The accident caused 31 immediate deaths that were mainly the result of exposure to radiation. The main casualties were among those who fought the fires caused by the explosion. Once the fires were extinguished, a liquidating crew of around 200,000 people was initially employed to clean up the site. Later the number swelled to 600,000. This crew was exposed to high doses of radiation, which might affect their health in the long run.

Many children in the surrounding areas developed thyroid cancer due to the radiation emitted. Many Ukrainians, Russians and Belarussians were evacuated from within a 30-kilometre contaminated radius and later given new homes in a different area.

Today reactor-4 is buried in a cement tomb which was quickly built in order to allow the other reactors at the power station to continue working. However, this shelter is not strong and will not last and there are plans to replace it. Many people have suffered in some way as a result of the Chernobyl disaster and millions of dollars are still being spent today to contain reactor-4 and assure that no further radiation leakage occurs.

1. The Chernobyl disaster is thought to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. as serious as the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.
  - B. a minor accident with no future consequences.
  - C. one of many similar accidents.
  - D. Europe's greatest catastrophe.
2. When the Chernobyl-4 reactor overheated \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. technicians turned it down.
  - B. it melted the core.
  - C. the power plant was filled with steam.
  - D. it sealed the lid of the reactor shut.
3. One of the causes of the accidents was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the raising of the power in reactor-4 to high levels.
  - B. a design fault.
  - C. the installation of proper safety back-up systems.
  - D. the technicians lack of confidence.

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4. The reactor-4 explosion resulted in the \_\_\_\_\_
- A. spread of the heavier radioactive material by the wind.
  - B. immediate death of 200,000 people.
  - C. release of dust and debris into the atmosphere.
  - D. release of reactor-4's cover.
5. Most of the people who died as a result of the explosion were \_\_\_\_\_
- A. firefighters.
  - B. members of the clean up crew.
  - C. operators of the reactor.
  - D. children.
6. The members of the clean-up crew \_\_\_\_\_
- A. developed thyroid cancer.
  - B. put out the fires.
  - C. were subject to high levels of radiation.
  - D. were unharmed by the radiation.
7. Reactor-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- A. is still leaking radiation.
  - B. is enclosed in cement
  - C. will be replaced in the future.
  - D. cost millions of dollars.

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Global warming could cause drought and possibly famine in China, the source of much of Hong Kong's food, by 2050, a new report predicts. Hong Kong could also be at risk from flooding as sea levels rose. The report recommends building sea-walls around low-lying areas such as the new port and airport reclamations. Published by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the report, which includes work by members of the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, uses the most recent projections on climate change to point to a gloomy outlook for China.

By 2050 about 30 to 40 per cent of the country will experience changes in the type of vegetation it supports, with tropical and sub-tropical forest conditions shifting northward and hot desert conditions rising in the west where currently the desert is temperate. Crop-growing areas will expand but any benefit is expected to be negated by increased evaporation of moisture, making it too dry to grow crops such as rice. The growing season also is expected to alter, becoming shorter in southern and central China, the mainland's breadbasket. The rapid changes make it unlikely that plants could adapt.

"China will produce smaller crops. In the central and northern areas, and the southern part, there will be decreased production because of water limitations," Dr. Rik Leemans, one of the authors of the report, said during a brief visit to the territory yesterday. Famine could result because of the demands of feeding the population - particularly if it grows - and the diminished productivity of the land. "It looks very difficult for the world as a whole," he said.

Global warming is caused by the burning of large amounts of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, which release gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. World temperatures already have increased this century by about .6 degrees Celsius and are projected to rise by between 1.6 degrees and 3.8 degrees by 2100.

Dr. Leemans said China's reliance on coal-fired power for its industrial growth did not bode well for the world climate. "I think the political and economic powers in China are much greater than the environmental powers, and [greenhouse gas emissions] could accelerate," Dr. Leemans said. "China is not taking the problem seriously yet, although it is trying to incorporate this kind of research to see what is going to happen."

The climate change report, which will be released tomorrow, focuses on China but Mr David Melville of WWF-Hong Kong said some of the depressing scenarios could apply to the territory. Food supplies, for

instance, could be affected by lower crop yields. "Maybe we could afford to import food from elsewhere but you have to keep in mind that the type of changes experienced in southern China will take place elsewhere as well," he said. Sea levels could rise as glaciers melted and the higher temperatures expanded the size of the oceans, threatening much of developed Hong Kong which is built on reclaimed land. Current projections are that sea levels worldwide will rise by 15 to 90 centimetres by 2100, depending on whether action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Hong Kong has substantial areas built on reclaimed land and sea level rises could impact on that, not only on Chek Lap Kok but the West Kowloon Reclamation and the Central and Western Reclamation – the whole lot," Mr Melville said, adding that sea-walls would be needed. Depleted fresh water supplies would be another problem because increased evaporation would reduce levels. Mr Melville said the general outlook could be helped if Hong Kong used water less wastefully and encouraged energy efficiency to reduce fuel-burning. He also called on the West to help China improve its efficiency.

1. Overall, what sort of picture is painted of the future effects of global warming?
  - A. disastrous
  - B. potentially disastrous
  - C. relatively optimistic
  - D. on balance things are going to be satisfactory
2. What is this passage?
  - A. a report
  - B. a preview of a report
  - C. an article describing a response to a report
  - D. an article previewing a report
3. Mr David Melville suggests that in future more food could be imported into Hong Kong. He thinks these measures could be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. efficient
  - B. sufficient
  - C. insufficient
  - D. inefficient
4. The main point of paragraph 3 is to describe \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. effects of changes in the climate of China on food production
  - B. future changes in the climate of China
  - C. effects of changes in the climate of China on the growing season
  - D. projected future changes in the climate of China
5. The main point of paragraph 5 is to describe \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. global warming
  - B. the effects of global warming

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- C. the causes and projected effects of global warming  
D. the causes and effects of global warming
6. Why does the writer add the information in square brackets in paragraph 5?
- A. because the quote is from a second language user whose command of English is not perfect.  
B. because, although they are not part of the original quote, the additional information given is necessary to understand the statement.  
C. because the writer is quoting from another source.  
D. because the writer wants to emphasize the meaning of these words.
7. In paragraph 7, which point is Mr Melville NOT making?
- A. suggesting that there is a potential disaster in Hong Kong  
B. suggesting that reclamation areas are at risk  
C. criticising current safeguards  
D. making a call for action
8. How would you describe the Dr. Leeman's attitude towards China?
- A. mainly favourable  
B. critical  
C. supportive in theory  
D. admiring
9. In paragraph 2 "**negated**" is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. . made possible                      B. made ineffective  
C. reduced                                D. paid for
10. In paragraph 7 "**depleted**" could be replaced by which of the following?
- A. reduced              B. poor              C. decaying              D. decimated

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