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Reading comprehension sample lesson

Answer these 2 questions and share your answers with the group.

1. What do you usually do when someone in your family is sick?

2. Where do you take children when they get sick?

Guess the meaning of the key words. Write any word that comes to mind.

1. Thaumaturge:
2. Maiden:
3. Harsh:
4. Indoctrination:
5. Protracted:
6. Neophyte:

Match the words on the left column with a word or phrase on the right column.

1	Thaumaturge		A	Long, in time
2	Maiden		B	to accept a set of beliefs uncritically
3	Harsh		C	a person who is new to a skill or recovered from a health situation
4	Indoctrination		D	a performer of miracles
5	Protracted		E	difficult
6	Neophyte		F	a young woman

Read and select the correct statement with the overall idea of the text.

This text is about:

1. A place where services are provided to sick people.
2. Special ceremonies with children and adults.
3. The different challenges sick people face.

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Pair/Group feedback: Answer these questions and share your answers.

1. Which words would you use to describe your experience reading the text: challenging? Easy? Fun? boring? Why?

2. What are 2-3 ideas from the text that stand out for you now?

Read the text and answer these questions with detailed information.

1. What is this imposing temple?

2. How expensive are services provided at this temple?

3. Why do children resist attempts to take them to the temple?

4. What do sick natives do to be admitted to the temple?

Answer the following questions and then share your answers with the group.

1. What do you think the author was trying to do or say in creating this satirical piece?

2. What do you see in the text now that you know it is satirical, that you hadn't seen before?

3. Is there something in your life that you would like to write a satirical piece about? What that might look like?

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Extract from the Reading Nacirema (by Horace Miner)

https://www.sfu.ca/~palys/Miner-1956-BodyRitualAmongTheNacirema.pdf

The medicine men have an imposing temple, or latipso, in every community of any size. The more elaborate ceremonies required to treat very sick patients can only be performed at this temple. These ceremonies involve not only the thaumaturge but a permanent group of vestal maidens who move sedately about the temple chambers in distinctive costume and headdress.

The latipso ceremonies are so harsh that it is phenomenal that a fair proportion of the really sick natives who enter the temple ever recover. Small children whose indoctrination is still incomplete have been known to resist attempts to take them to the temple because "that is where you go to die." Despite this fact, sick adults are not only willing but eager to undergo protracted ritual purification, if they can afford to do so. No matter how ill the supplicant or how grave the emergency, the guardians of many temples will not admit a client if he cannot give a rich gift to the custodian. Even after one has gained admission and survived the ceremonies, the guardians will not permit the neophyte to leave until he makes still another gift.

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