READING COMPREHENSION
TEXT 1

Read the text and do the exercises below:

A metaphor is a poetic device that deals with comparison. It compares similar qualities of two dissimilar objects. With a simple metaphor, one object becomes the other: Love is a rose. Although this does not sound like a particularly rich image, a metaphor can communicate so much about a particular image that poets use them more than any other type of figurative language. The reason for this is that poets compose their poetry to express what they are experiencing emotionally at that moment. Consequently, what the poet imagines love to be may or may not be our perception of love. Therefore, the poet's job is to enable us to experience it, to feel it the same way that the poet does. We should be able to nod in agreement and say, "Yes, that's it! I understand precisely where this person is coming from."

Let's analyze this remarkably unsophisticated metaphor concerning love and the rose to see what it offers. Because the poet uses a comparison with a rose, first we must examine the characteristics of that flower. A rose is spectacular in its beauty, its petals are velvety soft, and its aroma is soothing and pleasing. It's possible to say that a rose is actually a veritable feast to the senses: the visual, the tactile, and the aural [more commonly known as the senses of sight, touch, and sound]. The rose's appearance seems to border on perfection, each petal seemingly symmetrical in form. Isn't this the way one's love should be? A loved one should be a delight to one's senses and seem perfect. However, there is another dimension added to the comparison by using a rose. Roses have thorns. This is the comprehensive image the poet wants to communicate; otherwise, a daisy or a mum would have been presented to the audience as the ultimate representation of love—but the poet didn't, instead conveying the idea that roses can be treacherous. So can love, the metaphor tells us. When one reaches out with absolute trust to touch the object of his or her affection, ouch, a thorn can cause great harm! "Be careful," the metaphor admonishes: Love is a feast to the senses, but it can overwhelm us, and it can also hurt us. It can prick us and cause acute suffering. This is the poet's perception of love—an admonition. What is the point? Just this: It took almost 14 sentences to clarify what a simple metaphor communicates in only five words! That is the artistry and the joy of the simple metaphor.

1. The main idea of this passage is

a. poetic devices are necessary for poets.
b. poetry must never cater to the senses.
c. always use words that create one specific image.
d. the metaphor is a great poetic device.

2. It can be inferred that a metaphor is

a. a type of figurative language.
b. the only poetic device.
c. not precise enough.
d. a type of flower in a poem.

3. According to the passage, thorns

a. protect the rose from harm.
b. reduce the ability to love another.
c. add a new element to the image of love.
d. are just more images to compare to a rose
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4. It can be inferred that the true meaning of the love is a rose metaphor is that

a. love is a true joy.
b. love comes only once in a lifetime.
c. love is never permanent.
d. love is a combination of good and bad experiences.

5. According to the passage, the poet's intention is

a. to release anger.
b. to announce heartache.
c. to enable you to experience the poet's point of view.
d. to reward the senses.

LIVEWORKSHEETS