

Reading comprehension test 2

Match the sentence with the correct picture.



He was to remember that distant afternoon

The world was so recent that many things lack its names



The town was built on the bank of a river

It was necessary to point



He was facing the firing squad

The stones were like prehistoric eggs



Exercise: Deduction, Meaning, and Vocabulary

Paragraph: Cape Town, South Africa, an old woman is dying of cancer. A classics professor, Mrs. Curren has been opposed to the lies and brutality of apartheid all her life but has been insulated from its true horrors. Now she is suddenly forced to come to terms with the iron-hearted that the system has wrought, in an extended letter to her daughter who has long since fled to America, Mrs. recounts the strange events of her dying days. She witnesses the burning of a nearby black township and discovers the bullet-riddled body of her servant's son. A teenage black activist hiding in her house is killed by security forces. And through it all, her only companion, the only person to whom she can confess her mounting anger and despair, is a homeless man, an alcoholic, who one day appeared on her doorstep.

1. **Deduction:** What can be inferred about Mrs. Curren's previous understanding of apartheid before the events described in the paragraph?
 - A) She was actively involved in fighting apartheid.
 - B) She was unaware of apartheid's existence.
 - C) She knew about apartheid but was sheltered from its worst aspects.
 - D) She supported apartheid secretly.
2. **Meaning:** What does the phrase "insulated from its true horrors" imply about Mrs. Curren's experience with apartheid?
 - A) She was indifferent to apartheid.
 - B) She was protected from experiencing its worst effects.
 - C) She was a victim of apartheid.
 - D) She actively participated in apartheid.

3. **Vocabulary:** What does the word "brutality" most closely mean in the context of the paragraph?
- A) Kindness
 - B) Cruelty
 - C) Politeness
 - D) Ignorance
4. **Deduction:** What event indicates the severity of the political situation in South Africa at the time?
- A) Mrs. Curren's letter to her daughter
 - B) The burning of a black township
 - C) Mrs. Curren's illness
 - D) The professor's teachings
5. **Meaning:** What is likely meant by the term "iron-hearted" in this context?
- A) Compassionate
 - B) Unyielding and cruel
 - C) Friendly
 - D) Emotional
6. **Vocabulary:** Which word is closest in meaning to "recounts" as used in the paragraph?
- A) Forgets
 - B) Narrates
 - C) Ignores
 - D) Invents
7. **Vocabulary:** What does the term "bullet-riddled" imply about the state of the servant's son's body?
- A) It was covered with bandages.
 - B) It had multiple bullet wounds.
 - C) It was uninjured.
 - D) It was burned.
8. **Deduction:** What does the presence of the homeless man suggest about Mrs. Curren's situation?
- A) She has many friends and supporters.
 - B) She is completely alone except for him.
 - C) She does not trust anyone.
 - D) She is living in luxury.