BRITISH COLUMBIA ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 10: LITERARY STUDIES AND COMPOSITION · UNIT A · 25 QUESTIONS

Reading and Understanding Literature — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Reading I - The Blue Bicycle

Use this reading for questions 1 to 6.

Mara found the bicycle at the back of her grandmother's shed, half hidden behind stacked boxes and an old ladder. Its blue paint was chipped, its tires were flat, and a thin coat of dust covered the handlebars. A small brass bell still hung from the handlebar, and when Mara touched it, it gave a faint, clear ring.

All through June, Mara worked on the bicycle after school. She cleaned the chain, pumped up the tires, and tightened every bolt she could reach. Some evenings she wanted to quit, especially when a bolt would not move or when grease stained her hands. She kept going anyway, because she had promised herself she would ride it before summer ended.

On the last Saturday of July, Mara rode the bicycle down the quiet road to the library. The wind pulled at her jacket, the bell rang each time she crossed a bump, and the town seemed smaller and brighter than it had before. When she returned, her grandmother was waiting on the porch, smiling in a way that told Mara she understood exactly how the ride had felt.

1 **According to Reading I, what is the main idea of the passage?**



A Mara restores an old bicycle through steady effort and finally rides it

B Mara buys a new bicycle and rides it to school every day

C Mara learns to repair cars in her grandmother's shed

D Mara moves to a new town and makes friends at the library

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2 **According to Reading I, which word best describes Mara?**

A impatient, because she refuses to wait until summer ends

B fearful, because she will not ride the bicycle alone

C determined, because she keeps working even when she wants to quit

D careless, because she leaves the bicycle out in the rain

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3 **According to Reading I, why does the author describe the chipped paint, flat tires, and dust?**

A to prove that the bicycle is too old to ever be used again

B to suggest that Mara should buy a different bicycle instead

C to explain why the shed is full of boxes and a ladder

D to show how much work the bicycle needs before it can be ridden

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4 **According to Reading I, from which point of view is the story told?**

- **A** third person, by a narrator who knows every character equally well
- **B** third person, by a narrator who follows Mara and her thoughts
- **C** first person, by Mara telling the story in her own words
- **D** second person, by a narrator speaking directly to the reader

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5 **According to Reading I, what is the main conflict in the story?**

- **A** Mara argues with her grandmother about where to keep the bicycle
- **B** Mara cannot find the library because the road has changed
- **C** Mara loses the brass bell and must search the whole town for it
- **D** Mara wants to ride the bicycle, but it is broken and needs repair

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6

According to Reading I, what can the reader infer about why Mara's grandmother smiles on the porch?

A she is surprised that the bicycle still has its brass bell

B she understands the pride Mara feels after finishing a hard job

C she is pleased that Mara has finally cleaned out the shed

D she wants Mara to ride the bicycle to the library every day

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Reading II - Winter Light

Use this reading for questions 7 to 11.

The snow came down like a held breath, soft and slow over the roofs.

Morning light lay thin across the yard, and the fence posts wore white caps.

I stood at the window and watched the road disappear, then come back again.

Nothing hurried. Nothing asked to be hurried. The world kept its quiet promise.

When the sun broke through at noon, the snow answered with a thousand small lights.

I stepped outside, and the cold air woke my face like a splash of clear water.

7 **According to Reading II, what is the main idea of the poem?**



A a quiet winter morning brings calm and then a bright moment of joy

B a snowstorm traps the speaker inside the house all winter

C the speaker wishes winter would end so spring could begin

D a traveller struggles to reach home through a dangerous storm

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8 **According to Reading II, the line about snow falling like a held breath is an example of**

A personification, because it gives the snow a human voice

B a hyperbole, because it greatly exaggerates the snowfall

C a simile, because it compares snow to a held breath using like

D a metaphor, because it says the snow is a held breath

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9 **According to Reading II, which word best describes the mood of the poem?**

A frightened, with a sense of danger from the storm

B lonely, with a sense of sadness about being indoors

C peaceful, with a sense of quiet wonder at the winter light

D angry, with a sense of frustration at the cold weather

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10 **According to Reading II, what does the speaker do at the end of the poem?**

A steps outside into the cold air and feels wide awake

B builds a snow shelter to wait out the storm

C calls a friend to ask for help clearing the road

D goes back to bed until the snow stops falling

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11 **According to Reading II, why does the poet repeat the idea that nothing hurried?**

A to explain why the road disappeared from view

B to stress the slow, calm feeling of the winter morning

C to show that the speaker is late for an appointment

D to suggest that the snow has stopped falling entirely

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Reading III - Why Cities Plant Street Trees

Use this reading for questions 12 to 17.

Many cities are planting more trees along their streets, and the reasons go beyond good looks. On a hot summer day, a street shaded by trees can be up to 5 degrees cooler than a street in full sun. Shade from a leafy canopy lowers the temperature of the pavement, which helps people walking, cycling, and waiting for buses feel more comfortable.

Trees also help clean the air. Their leaves trap dust and take in gases that come from cars and trucks. In heavy rain, tree roots and the soil around them soak up water that might otherwise flood a road or a basement. Birds and insects find food and shelter in city trees, so even a single row of trees can support more wildlife than a bare street.

Planting trees is not free, and cities must plan for the cost. Young trees need watering in their first years, and older trees need pruning so their branches do not block signs or power lines. Still, many city planners argue that the benefits are worth the work, because a healthy street tree can serve a neighbourhood for fifty years or more.

12 **According to Reading III, what is the main idea of the passage?**



A city trees are planted only to make streets look attractive to visitors

B street trees cause flooding because their roots block drains

C cities should stop planting trees and build more roads instead

D street trees cool neighbourhoods, clean the air, and support wildlife, despite their cost

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13 **According to Reading III, by how much can a shaded street be cooler than a street in full sun?**

A up to 1 degree cooler

B up to 5 degrees cooler

C up to 50 degrees cooler

D up to 15 degrees cooler

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14 **According to Reading III, what is the author's main purpose?**

A to tell a story about a child who plants a single tree

B to compare city trees with trees in a forest

C to instruct readers how to prune an old tree safely

D to persuade readers that planting street trees is worthwhile

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15 **According to Reading III, in this passage the word canopy most nearly means**

A the layer of leaves and branches above a street

B the roots of a tree below the ground

C a metal cover placed over a bus stop

D the trunk of a tree above its roots

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16 **According to Reading III, which text structure does the author mainly use?**

A compare and contrast, weighing two different cities

B question and answer, listing questions from readers

C benefits and drawbacks, presenting gains and then costs

D order of events, telling a story from start to finish

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17 **According to Reading III, which statement is supported by the passage?**

A a healthy street tree can serve a neighbourhood for fifty years or more

B young trees never need watering after they are planted

C tree roots make flooding worse on every city street

D birds avoid city trees because the streets are too noisy

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Reading IV - Join the School Garden Club

Use this reading for questions 18 to 22.

This poster hangs by the main office of a school. At the top, in large green letters, it reads: GROW SOMETHING GOOD. Below the headline is a photograph of three students planting small seedlings in a raised bed, their hands covered in soil and their faces turned toward the sun.

Under the photograph, the poster gives three facts in bold print. Meetings are every Tuesday after school in the greenhouse behind the gym. No experience is needed, and all tools are provided. New members will plant their own row of vegetables in the spring garden.

At the bottom, in smaller print, the poster says: Bring a friend. Snacks provided at the first meeting.

18 **According to Reading IV, what is the main purpose of the poster?**



A to announce that the school office is moving

B to persuade students to join the school garden club

C to advertise vegetables for sale at the school

D to explain how to build a greenhouse behind the gym

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19 **According to Reading IV, when and where does the garden club meet?**

A every Friday at lunch in the school library

B every Saturday morning in the town park

C every Tuesday after school in the greenhouse behind the gym

D every Monday before school in the main office

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20 **According to Reading IV, who is the intended audience of the poster?**

A teachers who need help grading garden projects

B parents who want to buy vegetables from students

C visitors who are looking for the main office

D students at the school who might want to join the club

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21 **According to Reading IV, why does the poster show students planting small seedlings?**

A to prove that the club only accepts experienced gardeners

B to show that the school garden is already fully grown

C to warn students that gardening is dirty work

D to suggest that new members can start something and watch it grow

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22 **According to Reading IV, which persuasive technique does the headline GROW SOMETHING GOOD use?**

A a quotation from a famous gardener

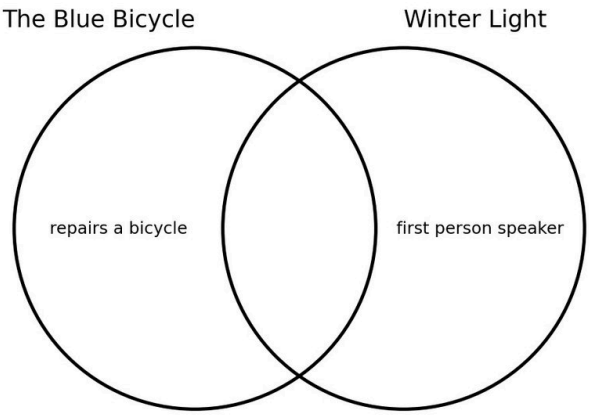
B a warning about what happens without a garden

C a short, memorable slogan that links gardening with doing good

D a scientific fact about how fast vegetables grow

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23 **In the diagram, which idea belongs in the overlapping middle region shared by both texts?**



Question 23

In the diagram, which idea belongs in the overlapping middle region shared by both texts?

A) a grandmother waits on a porch

B) a season shapes the mood of the text

C) a character repairs a broken object

D) a speaker tells the poem in first person

A a grandmother waits on a porch

B a season shapes the mood of the text

C a character repairs a broken object

D a speaker tells the poem in first person

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24

Which statement best explains the difference between a topic and a theme?

A. a topic names a subject, while a theme states a message about that subject

B. a topic is always stated directly, while a theme is never important

C. a topic is the main character, while a theme is the setting

D. a topic and a theme mean exactly the same thing in literature

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25 **A character packs a bag the night before a trip, checks the bus time twice, and sets two alarms. What can the reader most reasonably infer?**



A the character dislikes travelling by bus

B the character is packing for someone else

C the character is anxious not to miss the bus

D the character has decided to cancel the trip

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ANSWER KEY

1.	A	**10.**	A	**19.**	C
2.	C	**11.**	B	**20.**	D
3.	D	**12.**	D	**21.**	D
4.	B	**13.**	B	**22.**	C
5.	D	**14.**	D	**23.**	B
6.	B	**15.**	A	**24.**	A
7.	A	**16.**	C	**25.**	C
8.	C	**17.**	A		
9.	C	**18.**	B		

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