BRITISH COLUMBIA ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 10: LITERARY STUDIES AND COMPOSITION · UNIT A · 5 QUESTIONS

Reading and Understanding Literature — Practice Test

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Reading V - The River Market

Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.

Every Saturday, Tomas helped his father at their stall in the river market. His job was to arrange the crates of apples, pears, and plums so the ripest fruit showed on top. His father did the talking, calling out prices in a warm, steady voice that made strangers stop and smile.

One Saturday, an old woman asked for a bag of plums, then counted her coins twice and looked worried. Tomas saw that she was short by a few coins. Without thinking, he slipped two plums from his own lunch bag into hers and folded the top shut. His father watched but said nothing.

On the walk home, his father finally spoke. Honesty, he said, is not only about telling the truth. It is also about noticing when someone needs help and finding a fair way to give it. Tomas thought about the woman's relieved smile, and he understood that the market sold more than fruit: it sold kindness between neighbours.

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

- A Tomas learns from his father that honesty includes noticing when someone needs help
- B Tomas learns how to count coins and set prices at a market stall
- C Tomas decides to stop helping his father at the market
- D Tomas teaches an old woman how to grow plums at home

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2 **According to Reading V, what is Tomas's job at the stall?**

A to drive the truck that brings fruit to the market

B to count all the money at the end of the day

C to arrange crates so the ripest fruit shows on top

D to call out prices in a warm, steady voice

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3 **According to Reading V, what does Tomas do when the old woman is short of coins?**



A he asks his father to lower the price of all the plums

B he tells the woman she cannot buy the plums that day

C he takes the coins from the cash box to make up the difference

D he quietly adds two plums from his own lunch bag to her bag

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4 **According to Reading V, which word best describes Tomas's father?**

A impatient, because he rushes Tomas through his work

B wise, because he explains honesty through the day's events

C strict, because he scolds Tomas for helping the woman

D careless, because he ignores the customers at the stall

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5 **According to Reading V, what is the main conflict Tomas faces?**

A he argues with his father about the price of apples

B he cannot find the river market on Saturday morning

C he loses his lunch bag on the way to the market

D he sees someone in need and must decide whether to help

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ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. D

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