BRITISH COLUMBIA ENGLISH STUDIES 12 (MENST12) · UNIT A · 5 QUESTIONS

Reading Literature Critically — Practice Test

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Reading I - The Winter Market

Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.

Each December, Ana helped her aunt run a stall at the winter market, selling jars of preserves made from summer fruit. The labels were written in her late grandmother's handwriting, and Ana had memorised the recipes by watching her aunt work, not by reading a cookbook.

One cold Saturday, an elderly customer tasted the plum preserves and began to cry quietly. She told Ana that her own mother had made preserves the same way, in a kitchen far from this town, and that one spoonful had brought the whole kitchen back to her. Ana listened, and for the first time she saw the stall not as a chore but as a place where memories were kept and shared.

That evening Ana asked her aunt to teach her the recipe properly, step by step, so that she could one day teach someone else. The market lights were going out, but the stall still smelled of sugar and fruit, and Ana felt that she was part of something much older than herself.

1 **According to Reading I, what is the heart of the story?**

- **A** Ana opens a large new shop in town
- **B** Ana learns to cook from a cookbook
- **C** Ana discovers that shared food can carry memory and community
- **D** Ana decides to stop helping at the market

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2 **According to Reading I, who tells the story?**

- A Ana herself, in first person
- B the aunt, in second person
- C an unnamed customer, in first person
- D a third-person narrator following Ana and her thoughts

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3 **According to Reading I, why are the labels in the grandmother's handwriting important to the story?**

- A they prove the preserves are expensive
- B they show Ana cannot read
- C they explain how markets are organised
- D they link the preserves to family history

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4 **According to Reading I, what can the reader infer Ana will do next?**

A sell the stall to a stranger

B learn the recipes well enough to pass them on

C stop making preserves altogether

D move away from the town

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5 **According to Reading I, which theme fits the story best?**

A traditions stay alive when people share them

B markets are only about making money

C old recipes should never change

D winter always makes people sad

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ANSWER KEY

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

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