DELAWARE ENGLISH 10 · UNIT 1 · 25 QUESTIONS

Reading Literature — Practice Test

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Source I - The Lighthouse Keeper

Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.

Mara lived alone in a lighthouse on a rocky point. Each evening she climbed the iron stairs, polished the great lens, and lit the lamp before dark. The sea was often rough, and the wind rattled the small windows of her tower room.

One November night a fishing boat lost its way in thick fog. Mara saw its faint light moving in circles far below. She turned the lamp slowly toward the boat, again and again, until the captain saw the beam and steered toward the harbor.

By morning the boat was safe at anchor. Mara never met the captain, but she kept a small stone from the shore on her windowsill to remember the night her lamp had mattered.

1 **According to Source I - The Lighthouse Keeper, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** steady, quiet work can save others even when no one sees it
- **B** patience and repeated effort can turn a doubtful start into success
- **C** shared work succeeds when both sides follow one fair plan
- **D** steady care keeps friendships strong across distance and difficulty

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2 **According to Source I - The Lighthouse Keeper, which word best describes Mara?**

A patient and determined, because she plants again after the frost

B steady and responsible, because she tends the lamp every evening

C practical and fair, because he measures every joint to one plan

D loyal and steady, because he repairs the letter box himself

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3 **According to Source I - The Lighthouse Keeper, which detail from the passage is true?**

A June clears weeds, turns the soil, and plants seeds in neat rows

B Tomas draws a plan for a wooden bridge with stone supports

C Mara polishes the lens and lights the lamp before dark each evening

D Mr. Hall walks to the red letter box at the end of his lane each morning

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4 **According to Source I - The Lighthouse Keeper, what happens by the end of the passage?**

A June shares a full harvest with her neighbors in spring

B the two halves of the bridge meet in the middle and the villages feast on it

C Mr. Hall reads his sister's letter and writes back at once

D the fishing boat reaches the harbor safely after following her beam

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5 **According to Source I - The Lighthouse Keeper, what can the reader infer from the passage?**

A Mara takes pride in work that helps others, even without thanks

B June believes that hard work over time matters more than a quick result

C Tomas understands that cooperation needs clear standards everyone trusts

D Mr. Hall values regular contact with his sister more than convenience

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Source II - A Garden in Winter

Use this reading for questions 6 to 10.

When June moved to a new town, she found a small garden behind her house, full of weeds and broken pots. Her neighbors told her nothing would grow there, but June spent her Saturdays clearing the ground and turning the soil.

She planted seeds in neat rows and watered them after school. Some seeds never sprouted, and a late frost killed the first green shoots. June planted again, this time covering the rows with old cloth at night.

By spring the garden was full of lettuce, carrots, and bright flowers. June shared the first harvest with the neighbors who had doubted her, and they asked her to help them start gardens of their own.

6 **According to Source II - A Garden in Winter, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** steady, quiet work can save others even when no one sees it
- **B** patience and repeated effort can turn a doubtful start into success
- **C** shared work succeeds when both sides follow one fair plan
- **D** steady care keeps friendships strong across distance and difficulty

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7 **According to Source II - A Garden in Winter, which word best describes June?**

- A steady and responsible, because she tends the lamp every evening
- B practical and fair, because he measures every joint to one plan
- C patient and determined, because she plants again after the frost
- D loyal and steady, because he repairs the letter box himself

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8 **According to Source II - A Garden in Winter, which detail from the passage is true?**

- A Mara polishes the lens and lights the lamp before dark each evening
- B Tomas draws a plan for a wooden bridge with stone supports
- C Mr. Hall walks to the red letter box at the end of his lane each morning
- D June clears weeds, turns the soil, and plants seeds in neat rows

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9 **According to Source II - A Garden in Winter, what happens by the end of the passage?**

A June shares a full harvest with her neighbors in spring

B the fishing boat reaches the harbor safely after following her beam

C the two halves of the bridge meet in the middle and the villages feast on it

D Mr. Hall reads his sister's letter and writes back at once

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10 **According to Source II - A Garden in Winter, what can the reader infer from the passage?**

A Mara takes pride in work that helps others, even without thanks

B June believes that hard work over time matters more than a quick result

C Tomas understands that cooperation needs clear standards everyone trusts

D Mr. Hall values regular contact with his sister more than convenience

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Source III - The Bridge Builders

Use this reading for questions 11 to 15.

Two villages stood on opposite banks of a wide river. For years the villagers crossed by ferry, but the ferry ran only in daylight and often stopped in storms. The elders of both villages agreed that a bridge was needed, yet no one could agree on how to build it.

A young carpenter named Tomas drew a plan for a wooden bridge with stone supports. He asked builders from both villages to work together, each side building toward the middle. At first the two crews argued about measurements, but Tomas measured every joint himself and kept both sides to the same plan.

When the two halves met in the middle, the villages held a feast on the bridge itself. Children ran across it the next morning, and the ferry was kept only for visitors who wanted a slow ride.

11 **According to Source III - The Bridge Builders, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** steady, quiet work can save others even when no one sees it
- **B** patience and repeated effort can turn a doubtful start into success
- **C** shared work succeeds when both sides follow one fair plan
- **D** steady care keeps friendships strong across distance and difficulty

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12 **According to Source III - The Bridge Builders, which word best describes Tomas?**

A steady and responsible, because she tends the lamp every evening

B patient and determined, because she plants again after the frost

C loyal and steady, because he repairs the letter box himself

D practical and fair, because he measures every joint to one plan

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13 **According to Source III - The Bridge Builders, which detail from the passage is true?**

A Tomas draws a plan for a wooden bridge with stone supports

B Mara polishes the lens and lights the lamp before dark each evening

C June clears weeds, turns the soil, and plants seeds in neat rows

D Mr. Hall walks to the red letter box at the end of his lane each morning

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14 **According to Source III - The Bridge Builders, what happens by the end of the passage?**

A the fishing boat reaches the harbor safely after following her beam

B the two halves of the bridge meet in the middle and the villages feast on it

C June shares a full harvest with her neighbors in spring

D Mr. Hall reads his sister's letter and writes back at once

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15 **According to Source III - The Bridge Builders, what can the reader infer from the passage?**

A Mara takes pride in work that helps others, even without thanks

B June believes that hard work over time matters more than a quick result

C Tomas understands that cooperation needs clear standards everyone trusts

D Mr. Hall values regular contact with his sister more than convenience

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Source IV - The Letter Box

Use this reading for questions 16 to 20.

Every morning, old Mr. Hall walked to the red letter box at the end of his lane. He posted letters to his sister, who lived in a city far away, and he waited for her replies. The walk took him past the school, the bakery, and the park where children played.

One winter the letter box was damaged in a storm, and no mail came for two weeks. Mr. Hall fixed the box himself with wood from his shed, painted it red again, and nailed it firm to its post.

When the first letter arrived after the repair, Mr. Hall read it at his kitchen table and smiled. He wrote back at once, telling his sister that the letter box, like their friendship, only needed steady care.

16 **According to Source IV - The Letter Box, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** steady, quiet work can save others even when no one sees it
- **B** patience and repeated effort can turn a doubtful start into success
- **C** shared work succeeds when both sides follow one fair plan
- **D** steady care keeps friendships strong across distance and difficulty

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17 **According to Source IV - The Letter Box, which word best describes Mr. Hall?**

A loyal and steady, because he repairs the letter box himself

B steady and responsible, because she tends the lamp every evening

C patient and determined, because she plants again after the frost

D practical and fair, because he measures every joint to one plan

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18 **According to Source IV - The Letter Box, which detail from the passage is true?**

A Mara polishes the lens and lights the lamp before dark each evening

B Mr. Hall walks to the red letter box at the end of his lane each morning

C June clears weeds, turns the soil, and plants seeds in neat rows

D Tomas draws a plan for a wooden bridge with stone supports

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19 **According to Source IV - The Letter Box, what happens by the end of the passage?**

A the fishing boat reaches the harbor safely after following her beam

B June shares a full harvest with her neighbors in spring

C Mr. Hall reads his sister's letter and writes back at once

D the two halves of the bridge meet in the middle and the villages feast on it

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20 **According to Source IV - The Letter Box, what can the reader infer from the passage?**

A Mara takes pride in work that helps others, even without thanks

B June believes that hard work over time matters more than a quick result

C Tomas understands that cooperation needs clear standards everyone trusts

D Mr. Hall values regular contact with his sister more than convenience

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21 **Which term is defined as follows: a comparison using like or as?**

A simile

B metaphor

C personification

D imagery

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22 **Which of the following is an example of simile?**

A The classroom was a beehive of activity

B Her smile was bright like the morning sun

C The wind whispered through the trees

D The bread smelled warm and yeasty

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23 **Which statement best describes simile?**

- A a metaphor states a comparison directly without like or as
- B personification gives human actions or feelings to something nonhuman
- C a simile compares two unlike things with like or as
- D imagery creates a sensory picture for the reader

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24 **Which term is defined as follows: a comparison that says one thing is another?**

- A simile
- B metaphor
- C personification
- D imagery

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25 **Which of the following is an example of metaphor?**

A Her smile was bright like the morning sun

B The wind whispered through the trees

C The classroom was a beehive of activity

D The bread smelled warm and yeasty

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ANSWER KEY

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

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