DELAWARE ENGLISH 11 · UNIT 1 · 25 QUESTIONS

American Literature — Practice Test

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Source I - The River Town

Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.

In the summer of 1872, a girl named Clara lived in a river town where steamboats stopped twice a week. Her father ran a small store near the landing, and Clara kept the accounts in a neat ledger, writing each sale in careful script.

One August afternoon a steamboat arrived with a crate addressed to no one in town. Inside were books, dozens of them, with a note that said they were for any reader who wanted them. Clara placed them on a shelf in the store and lent them out, one at a time, writing each borrower's name beside the title.

By autumn the shelf was known across the county. Farmers borrowed histories, children borrowed tales, and Clara kept lending, certain that a town that read together would stay together.

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

- **A** sharing books can bind a community together
- **B** mastery grows from patient, careful practice
- **C** families endure hardship by sharing it together
- **D** a community can solve a dispute with a compromise that respects all sides

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2 **According to Source I - The River Town, which word best describes Clara?**

A patient and exact, because he checks each gear twice and adjusts slowly

B organized and generous, because she lends the books and keeps careful records

C resilient and united, because they share small portions without complaint

D practical and conciliatory, because he proposes a smaller dam with a channel

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

A Samuel spends his first year cleaning gears and oiling pivots

B each morning the father breaks ice in the well

C Clara keeps the store accounts in a neat ledger

D the teacher reads a letter from a town downstream

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

- A the sea captain writes that Samuel's clock never lost a minute
- B the autumn harvest fills the barn after an early planting
- C the town votes to build the smaller dam together
- D the book shelf becomes known across the county

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

- A Clara believes reading is a shared good, not a private luxury
- B Samuel values doing a job rightly more than doing it quickly
- C the family believes endurance is learned through shared difficulty
- D the town values a decision everyone can live with over a quick victory

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Source II - The Apprentice Clockmaker

Use this reading for questions 6 to 10.

Samuel began his apprenticeship at fourteen, sweeping the workshop of a clockmaker in Philadelphia. For a year he was allowed only to clean gears and oil pivots, and he watched the master assemble clocks from the bench by the window.

When the master finally let him assemble a small clock alone, Samuel worked slowly, checking each gear twice. The clock ran fast at first, and Samuel adjusted the pendulum, a little at a time, until it kept true time for a full week.

The master sold that clock to a sea captain, who carried it on a long voyage. Years later the captain wrote that the clock had never lost a minute, and Samuel kept the letter folded in his toolbox.

6 **According to Source II - The Apprentice Clockmaker, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** sharing books can bind a community together
- **B** mastery grows from patient, careful practice
- **C** families endure hardship by sharing it together
- **D** a community can solve a dispute with a compromise that respects all sides

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7 **According to Source II - The Apprentice Clockmaker, which word best describes Samuel?**

A organized and generous, because she lends the books and keeps careful records

B resilient and united, because they share small portions without complaint

C patient and exact, because he checks each gear twice and adjusts slowly

D practical and conciliatory, because he proposes a smaller dam with a channel

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8 **According to Source II - The Apprentice Clockmaker, which detail from the passage is true?**

A Clara keeps the store accounts in a neat ledger

B each morning the father breaks ice in the well

C the teacher reads a letter from a town downstream

D Samuel spends his first year cleaning gears and oiling pivots

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9 **According to Source II - The Apprentice Clockmaker, what happens by the end of the passage?**

A the sea captain writes that Samuel's clock never lost a minute

B the book shelf becomes known across the county

C the autumn harvest fills the barn after an early planting

D the town votes to build the smaller dam together

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10 **According to Source II - The Apprentice Clockmaker, what can the reader infer from the passage?**

A Clara believes reading is a shared good, not a private luxury

B Samuel values doing a job rightly more than doing it quickly

C the family believes endurance is learned through shared difficulty

D the town values a decision everyone can live with over a quick victory

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Source III - Winter on the Prairie

Use this reading for questions 11 to 15.

The winter the Anders family spent on the prairie was the hardest they had known. Snow buried the fences, and the wind found every crack in their sod house. Each morning the father broke ice in the well while the children fed the animals from stored hay.

In February their flour ran low, and the mother stretched it with cornmeal and dried beans. No one complained at the table, though the portions were small, because everyone understood that spring would come if they held on.

When the thaw finally arrived, the family planted early and worked from dawn to dusk. That autumn their harvest filled the barn, and the father said the winter had taught them what they could endure together.

11 **According to Source III - Winter on the Prairie, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** sharing books can bind a community together
- **B** mastery grows from patient, careful practice
- **C** families endure hardship by sharing it together
- **D** a community can solve a dispute with a compromise that respects all sides

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12 **According to Source III - Winter on the Prairie, which word best describes the Anders family?**

A organized and generous, because she lends the books and keeps careful records

B patient and exact, because he checks each gear twice and adjusts slowly

C practical and conciliatory, because he proposes a smaller dam with a channel

D resilient and united, because they share small portions without complaint

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13 **According to Source III - Winter on the Prairie, which detail from the passage is true?**

A each morning the father breaks ice in the well

B Clara keeps the store accounts in a neat ledger

C Samuel spends his first year cleaning gears and oiling pivots

D the teacher reads a letter from a town downstream

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14 **According to Source III - Winter on the Prairie, what happens by the end of the passage?**

A the book shelf becomes known across the county

B the autumn harvest fills the barn after an early planting

C the sea captain writes that Samuel's clock never lost a minute

D the town votes to build the smaller dam together

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15 **According to Source III - Winter on the Prairie, what can the reader infer from the passage?**

A Clara believes reading is a shared good, not a private luxury

B Samuel values doing a job rightly more than doing it quickly

C the family believes endurance is learned through shared difficulty

D the town values a decision everyone can live with over a quick victory

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Source IV - The Town Meeting

Use this reading for questions 16 to 20.

When the mill owner proposed damming the creek, the town of Cedar Falls called a meeting in the schoolhouse. Farmers worried about their fields, the miller argued for jobs, and the teacher read a letter from a town downstream that had dammed its own creek years before.

The debate lasted three evenings. On the fourth, a young farmer proposed a smaller dam with a channel that let water reach the fields in dry months. The miller agreed, the farmers agreed, and the town voted to build the smaller dam together.

Years later the creek still ran, the mill still worked, and the schoolhouse kept the minutes of the meeting as a record of how a town could disagree and still decide.

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

- **A** sharing books can bind a community together
- **B** mastery grows from patient, careful practice
- **C** families endure hardship by sharing it together
- **D** a community can solve a dispute with a compromise that respects all sides

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17 **According to Source IV - The Town Meeting, which word best describes the young farmer?**

A practical and conciliatory, because he proposes a smaller dam with a channel

B organized and generous, because she lends the books and keeps careful records

C patient and exact, because he checks each gear twice and adjusts slowly

D resilient and united, because they share small portions without complaint

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

A Clara keeps the store accounts in a neat ledger

B the teacher reads a letter from a town downstream

C Samuel spends his first year cleaning gears and oiling pivots

D each morning the father breaks ice in the well

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

A the book shelf becomes known across the county

B the sea captain writes that Samuel's clock never lost a minute

C the town votes to build the smaller dam together

D the autumn harvest fills the barn after an early planting

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

A Clara believes reading is a shared good, not a private luxury

B Samuel values doing a job rightly more than doing it quickly

C the family believes endurance is learned through shared difficulty

D the town values a decision everyone can live with over a quick victory

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21 **Which term is defined as follows: the idea that hard work can bring opportunity and success?**

A American dream

B regionalism

C naturalism

D transcendentalism

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22 **Which of the following is an example of American dream?**

A a story full of prairie speech and customs

B a farmer building a better life for his children

C a family beaten by a harsh winter

D a writer finding wisdom in a walk through woods

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23 **Which statement best describes American dream?**

- A regionalism uses local detail to make a place feel real
- B naturalism stresses environment and chance over free choice
- C the American dream is an ideal, not a guarantee
- D transcendentalism values the individual conscience over institutions

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24 **Which term is defined as follows: writing that captures the speech and customs of a place?**

- A American dream
- B regionalism
- C naturalism
- D transcendentalism

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

A a farmer building a better life for his children

B a family beaten by a harsh winter

C a story full of prairie speech and customs

D a writer finding wisdom in a walk through woods

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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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