ILLINOIS ENGLISH 11 · UNIT 1 · 5 QUESTIONS

American Literature — Practice Test

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Source I - The Last Train from Meridian

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

Elias had packed his bag three times before sunrise. The train from Meridian would leave at seven, and it would carry him to a job in a city he had never seen. His father stood on the porch with his hands in his pockets, saying little, while his mother pressed a warm loaf of bread into Elias's hands and told him to write every Sunday.

On the platform, Elias watched the town wake up. The bakery opened its doors, the postman loaded his cart, and the station clock ticked louder than Elias remembered. He thought about staying. He thought about the river where he fished with his brother, and the schoolhouse where he had learned to read. Each memory pulled at him like a hand on his sleeve.

When the train arrived, Elias stepped aboard and chose a seat by the window. As the town slid past, he did not feel only sadness. He felt fear, hope, and a strange pride all at once. He understood that leaving home was not the same as losing it, and that the people he loved would travel with him in memory wherever the train might go.

1 **According to Source I, what is the main conflict in the passage?**

- **A** Elias must repair the station clock before seven.
- **B** Elias must choose between two jobs in Meridian.
- **C** Elias must convince his father to travel with him.
- **D** Elias must decide whether to leave his hometown for a new job.

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2 **Red apples, bright oranges and a loaf of bread sit on a wooden kitchen table. According to Source I, what does the warm loaf of bread most likely represent?**



A His mother's love and care for him

B His fear of the city

C The cost of the train ticket

D The wealth of his family

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3 **According to Source I, how does Elias feel as the train leaves?**

A Only sadness

B Only anger

C Fear, hope, and pride all at once

D Complete relief

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4 **Which detail from Source I best shows the theme that home stays with a person?**

A The bakery opened its doors.

B The postman loaded his cart.

C The people he loved would travel with him in memory.

D The station clock ticked loudly.

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5 **The memory pulling at Elias like a hand on his sleeve is an example of what?**

A A paradox

B A simile

C A hyperbole

D An alliteration

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ANSWER KEY

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

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