NEW MEXICO ENGLISH 10 · UNIT 1

Reading Literature — Practice Test

New Mexico English 10 • 10 questions

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Source IV - A Letter Never Sent

Use this reading for question 1.

When Ana was twelve, she wrote a long letter to her grandmother, who lived three states away. In the letter, Ana described her new school, her favorite books, and the garden she was growing behind her house.

Ana never sent the letter. She worried that her handwriting was messy and that her words were not good enough. She folded the letter, tucked it into a drawer, and forgot about it as the years passed.

Last summer, Ana found the letter while cleaning that same drawer. Reading her own young words made her laugh and ache at the same time. That evening, she called her grandmother and told her everything the letter had said, and more.

1 **According to Source IV, what theme does the story suggest?**

- **A** it is never too late to share words that matter
- **B** letters should always be written in perfect handwriting
- **C** old drawers should be cleaned every summer
- **D** phone calls are better than all other communication

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Source V - Morning on the River

Use this reading for questions 2 to 5.

Mist rises off the river like slow breath.

A heron stands still as stone in the shallows.

The sun climbs, and the water turns to gold.

I listen to the river and feel the day begin.

2 **According to Source V, the line about mist rising like slow breath is an example of**

- **A** a simile, because it compares mist to breath using like
- **B** a metaphor, because it says mist is breath
- **C** personification, because it gives mist a voice
- **D** a hyperbole, because it exaggerates the mist

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3 **According to Source V, which word best describes the mood of the poem?**

- **A** tense and frightening
- **B** rushed and chaotic
- **C** angry and bitter
- **D** calm and peaceful

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4 **According to Source V, what does the heron image suggest?**

- **A** the river is dangerous and wild
- **B** the speaker is afraid of birds
- **C** the morning is still and patient
- **D** the sun will not rise that day

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5 **According to Source V, what happens as the poem ends?**

A the river floods the banks

B the speaker leaves the river in anger

C the sun rises and the speaker feels the day begin

D the heron flies away in fear

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6 **In a story, the main character who drives the action is called the**

A antagonist, because that character opposes the hero

B protagonist, because that character is central to the story

C narrator, because that character tells the story

D symbol, because that character stands for an idea

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7 **After the climax, the part of the plot where tension falls and loose ends begin to close is called the**

A exposition, because it introduces the setting

B rising action, because it builds tension

C falling action, because tension decreases after the climax

D hook, because it grabs the reader at the start

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8 **In literature, a dove is often used as a symbol for**

A peace, because doves are linked with calm and hope

B war, because doves fight for territory

C wealth, because doves are rare birds

D speed, because doves fly quickly

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9 **The wind whispered through the trees is an example of**

A a simile, because it uses like or as

B personification, because it gives wind a human action

C a hyperbole, because it exaggerates the wind

D irony, because wind cannot whisper

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10 **Which order correctly lists the main parts of a plot from start to finish?**

A climax, exposition, rising action, falling action, resolution

B exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution

C resolution, falling action, climax, rising action, exposition

D rising action, exposition, resolution, climax, falling action

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ANSWER KEY

1.	A	**5.**	C	**9.**	B
2.	A	**6.**	B	**10.**	B
3.	D	**7.**	C		
4.	C	**8.**	A		

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