NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LITERARY STUDIES 11 (MLTST11) · UNIT A · 5 QUESTIONS

Reading and Analyzing Fiction — Practice Test

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Reading IV - The Winter Train

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

I have worked as a conductor on the northern train line for twelve winters, and I still remember the night the snow stopped us cold. The train sat between two small stations, the wind piled snow against the windows, and the lights flickered each time the engine struggled. The passengers waited quietly, wrapped in coats and blankets, while the crew worked to clear the track ahead.

Near midnight a boy of about ten came to me in the corridor, close to tears. He had lost his ticket somewhere between his seat and the dining car, and he was afraid he would be put off the train in the snow. The rule book was clear. No ticket meant no ride. But the next station was his home town, where his mother would be waiting on the platform, and the night was far too cold for a child to be left alone.

I told him to stay beside me in the warm cab until we reached his station, and I wrote a note in my log explaining what I had done. When we arrived, his mother thanked me with tears in her eyes, and the boy pressed a small crayon drawing of the train into my hand. I still keep that drawing in my locker, because it reminds me that a rule should serve people, not the other way around.

1 **According to Reading IV, what is the main idea of the passage**

- **A** a conductor breaks a ticket rule out of care and keeps a drawing that reminds her why rules should serve people
- **B** a conductor learns to drive a train through snow after twelve winters on the northern line

C a boy loses his mother at a station and must walk home alone through the snow

D a train crew decides to close the northern line for the whole winter season

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2 **According to Reading IV, the central conflict for the conductor is**



A a conflict with the train engine, which refuses to start in the cold

B a conflict between two towns over who owns the northern line

C a conflict with the boy, who refuses to sit in the warm cab

D an inner conflict between following the rule book and showing compassion to a child

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3 **Reading IV is told from the first person point of view because the narrator**

- A addresses the reader directly as you in every paragraph
- B never appears in the story and only reports facts
- C is the conductor herself and uses the word **I** to tell her own story
- D is an outside observer who knows what every passenger thinks

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4 **In Reading IV, the crayon drawing most likely symbolizes**

- A the speed of the train between two stations
- B gratitude and the human reason behind the conductor decision
- C the price of a ticket on the northern train line
- D the danger of travelling by train in winter

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5 **The rising action of a story is the part where**

A tension builds as complications and conflicts develop

B the main conflict is fully resolved for good

C the setting is described before any character appears

D the theme is stated in a single closing sentence

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ANSWER KEY

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

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