SASKATCHEWAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS B30 · UNIT A · 5 QUESTIONS

Reading and Responding to Canadian Texts — Practice Test

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Reading III - The Comparative Paragraph

Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.

Both texts describe a journey, but they value different things. In the first, the journey is inward: a character leaves home to understand herself, and the road is a mirror for her thoughts. In the second, the journey is outward: a character travels to help others, and the road is a test of generosity and endurance.

The comparison matters because it shows that the same form, a journey, can carry opposite meanings. A good comparative paragraph therefore does not only list similarities and differences. It argues what the comparison reveals, in this case that journeys in literature measure what characters value most, whether self-knowledge or service to others.

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

- **A** a comparative paragraph argues what comparing two journey texts reveals
- **B** a comparative paragraph only lists similarities with no argument
- **C** a comparative paragraph should ignore differences entirely
- **D** a comparative paragraph proves both texts are identical

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2 **According to Reading III, which detail is stated in the passage?**



A in the first text the road is a test of generosity

B in the second text the road is a test of generosity and endurance

C both texts value exactly the same thing

D comparative paragraphs should never argue anything

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3 **According to Reading III, in this passage the word endurance most nearly means**

- A a type of road
- B giving up quickly
- C the ability to keep going through difficulty
- D a mirror for thoughts

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4 **According to Reading III, what is the author's main purpose?**

- A to tell two journey stories with no comparison
- B to persuade readers to avoid comparative writing
- C to list every journey in literature
- D to explain how a good comparative paragraph argues from comparison

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5 **According to Reading III, what can the reader most reasonably infer?**

A readers will likely see journey texts as measuring different values

B readers will see all journeys as identical

C comparisons will reveal nothing about values

D literature will stop using journey forms

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ANSWER KEY

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

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