

Fiction

Question 1

The House of Mirth is a 1905 novel by Edith Wharton. In the novel, Wharton illustrates the protagonist Lily Bart's growing dependence on a sleeping drug, noting that she views it as a source of relief despite her anxiety that its efficacy is fading _____.

Which quotation from *The House of Mirth* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A** He let it be felt that that intimacy was a mere ripple on the surface of a rushing social current.
- B** Selden... paused to scan the ranks of diners approaching down the brightly lit terrace.
- C** A cup of tea in quiet, somewhere out of the noise and ugliness, seemed for the moment the one solace she could bear.
- D** The thought of the chloral was the only spot of light... But she was troubled by the thought that it was losing its power.

Question 2

The following text is from Mark Twain's 1884 novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In this passage, Huckleberry Finn describes meeting up with Tom Sawyer and other boys near the river at night.

Well, when Tom and me got to the edge of the hill-top we looked away down into the village and could see three or four lights twinkling, where there was sick folks, maybe; and the stars over us was sparkling ever so fine; and down by the village was the river, a whole mile broad, and awful still and grand. We went down the hill and found Jo Harper and Ben Rogers, and two or three more of the boys, hid in the old tanyard.

According to the text, what does the narrator observe about the river?

- ☐ A It is filled with boats and activity.
- ☐ B It is surprisingly narrow near the village.
- ☐ C It is rough and dangerous to cross.
- ☐ D It is very wide and appears calm.

Question 3

The Awakening is an 1899 novel by Kate Chopin. In the novel, Chopin depicts the protagonist, Edna Pontellier, as someone who occasionally directs her energy toward organizing her physical environment, writing _____.

Which quotation from *The Awakening* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "Sometimes I feel this summer as if I were walking through the green meadow again; idly, aimlessly, unthinking and unguided."
- B "Madame Lebrun was bustling in and out, giving orders in a high key to a yard-boy whenever she got inside the house."
- C "The coffee and the biscuit accompanying it proved very acceptable to Edna, who had declined refreshment at Madame Lebrun's."
- D "She began to set the toilet-stand to rights, grumbling at the negligence of the quadroon."

Question 4

The following text is from Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem *To William Shelley*. The speaker is reflecting on the memory of his young son who has passed away.

The billows on the beach are leaping around it,
The bark is weak and frail,
The sea looks black, and the clouds that bound it
Darkly strew the gale.
Thy little footsteps on the sands
Of a remote and lonely shore;
The twinkling of thine infant hands,
Where now the worm will feed no more;Thy mingled look of love
and glee
When we returned to gaze on thee--

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined lines in the text as a whole?

- ☐ A) They suggest that the child was frightened by the storm described in the earlier lines.
- ☐ B) They describe a specific, fond memory of the child's happy reaction to seeing the speaker.
- ☐ C) They emphasize the dangerous conditions of the sea and the isolation of the shore.
- ☐ D) They offer a prediction about the future success the child would have achieved in adulthood.

Question 5

Song is a poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley. In the poem, Shelley contrasts the harshness of the natural world with human cruelty, suggesting that the betrayal by a loved one is more painful than the freezing cold of winter, writing _____.

Which quotation from *Song* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A** Cold, cold is the blast when December is howling,
Cold are the damps on a dying man's brow
- B** She said nothing, but wringing the wet from her hair,
Crossed the dark mountain side, though the hour it was late.
- C** But colder is scorn from the being who loved thee,
More stern is the sneer from the friend who has proved thee
- D** Around it no demons or ghosts dare to rave,
But spirits of peace steep her slumbers in dew.

Question 6

The Power Of Prayer is a poem by Sidney Lanier. In the poem, the speaker, a blind man named Jim, demonstrates a selfless willingness to sacrifice his own life to protect a younger companion named Dinah, writing _____.

Which quotation from *The Power Of Prayer* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "And as for Hebben, -- bless de Lord, and praise His holy name -- DAT shines in all de co'ners of dis cabin jes' de same"
- B "I know my front ones IS stopped up, and things is sort o' dim, But den, th'u' DEM, temptation's rain won't leak in on ole Jim!"
- C "O hebbenly Marster, what thou willest, dat mus' be jes' so, [...]
Den, Lord, please take ole Jim, and lef young Dinah hyar below!"
- D "Jes' now he squealed down dar; -- hush; dat's a mighty weakly scream! Yas, sir, he's gone, he's gone; -- he snort way off, like in a dream!"

Question 7

The following text is from Betty Smith's 1943 novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Francie, a young girl, visits the library often.

Francie thought that all the books in the world were in that library and she had a plan about reading all the books in the world. She was reading a book a day in alphabetical order and not skipping the dry ones. She remembered that the first author had been Abbott. She had been reading a book a day for a long time now and she was still in the B's. Already she had read about bees and buffaloes, Bermuda Vacations and Byzantine architecture. For all her enthusiasm, she had to admit that some of the B's had been hard going. But Francie was a reader.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To illustrate Francie's enjoyment of an unusual topic
- ☐ B To explain why Francie prefers reading over other activities
- ☐ C To portray Francie's determination to meet a goal
- ☐ D To describe a book that Francie greatly admires

Question 8

The Canterbury Tales is a collection of stories by Geoffrey Chaucer. In the prologue to "The Parson's Tale," the Parson explicitly refuses the Host's request to tell a fictional story, stating that he will not share fables.

Which quotation from *The Canterbury Tales* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "Thou gettest fable none y-told for me...
Reproveth them that weive soothfastness,
And telle fables, and such wretchedness."
- B "The sunne from the south line was descended
So lowe, that it was not to my sight
Degrees nine-and-twenty as in height."
- C "Unbuckle, and shew us what is in thy mail.
For truely me thinketh by thy cheer
Thou shouldest knit up well a great mattere."
- D "Upon this word we have assented soon;
For, as us seemed, it was for to do'n,
To enden in some virtuous sentence."

Question 9

The following text is from Frances Hodgson Burnett's 1911 novel *The Secret Garden*. The passage describes an interaction between Mary and a boy named Basil, who is teasing her.

“Mistress Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow? With silver bells, and cockle shells, and marigolds all in a row.” Basil sang it until the other children heard and laughed, too; and the crosser Mary got, the more they sang “Mistress Mary, quite contrary.” After that, they called her “Mistress Mary Quite Contrary” when they spoke of her to each other. “You are going to be sent home,” Basil said to her. “It’s England, of course.”

According to the text, how does Mary react to the teasing from Basil and the other children?

- ☐ A She laughs along with them to show she doesn't care.
- ☐ B She runs away to hide from them.
- ☐ C She becomes increasingly angry as they sing.
- ☐ D She ignores them until they stop singing.

Question 10

Wuthering Heights is a 1847 novel by Emily Brontë. In the novel, the character Edgar Linton reveals a conflicted attitude toward his own mortality, confessing that his previous desire for death has turned into fear _____.

Which quotation from *Wuthering Heights* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "If thou weren't more a lass than a lad, I'd fell thee this minute, I would; pitiful lath of a crater!"
- B "I wink," he answered: "I wink to see my father strike a dog or a horse, he does it so hard."
- C "'I've prayed often,' he half soliloquised, 'for the approach of what is coming; and now I begin to shrink, and fear it.'"
- D "What a shame of your mother, never to waken your filial regard for me! You are my son, then, I'll tell you"

Question 11

The following text is adapted from Anton Chekhov's 1904 play *The Cherry Orchard* (translated by Julius West in 1916).

TROFIMOV: Believe me, Anya, believe me! I'm not thirty yet, I'm young. I'm still a student, but I have undergone a great deal! I'm as hungry as the winter, I'm ill, I'm shaken....and where haven't I been —fate has tossed me everywhere!

As used in the text, what does the word "undergone" most nearly mean?

- ☐ A Neglected
- ☐ B Enjoyed
- ☐ C Conveyed
- ☐ D Endured

Question 12

The Awakening is a 1899 novel by Kate Chopin. In the novel, Chopin depicts the protagonist, Edna Pontellier, as someone who has long understood the distinction between how she presents herself to society and her true inner self, writing _____.

Which quotation from *The Awakening* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "At a very early period she had apprehended instinctively the dual life—that outward existence which conforms, the inward life which questions."
- B "She was working with great energy and interest, without accomplishing anything, however, which satisfied her even in the smallest degree."
- C "They were women who idolized their children, worshiped their husbands, and esteemed it a holy privilege to efface themselves as individuals."
- D "The voice of the sea is seductive; never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander for a spell."

Question 13

The following text is from Jane Austen's 1813 novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The excerpt describes the departure of Lydia and her new husband, Mr. Wickham, from the Bennet family home.

The day of his and Lydia's departure soon came, and Mrs. Bennet was forced to submit to a separation, which, as her husband by no means entered into her scheme of their all going to Newcastle, was likely to continue at least a twelvemonth.

"Oh! my dear Lydia," she cried, "when shall we meet again?"

"Oh, lord! I don't know. Not these two or three years, perhaps."

"Write to me very often, my dear."

"As often as I can. But you know married women have never much time for writing. My sisters may write to me. They will have nothing else to do."

According to the text, why does Lydia claim she will be unable to write to her mother frequently?

- ☐ A She believes that she will be traveling too often to send letters.
- ☐ B She suggests that being married leaves her with little free time.
- ☐ C She thinks that her sisters are better at writing letters than she is.
- ☐ D She worries that postage from Newcastle will be too expensive.

Question 14

The following text is from Louisa May Alcott's 1868 novel *Little Women*. In this excerpt, the March sisters and their neighbor Laurie are holding a meeting of their secret society, the Pickwick Club.

A long discussion followed, and everyone came out surprising, for everyone did her best; so it was an unusually lively meeting, and did not adjourn till a late hour, when it broke up with three shrill cheers for the new member. No one ever regretted the admittance of Sam Weller, for a more devoted, well-behaved, and jovial member no club could have. He certainly did add “spirit” to the meetings, and “a tone” to the paper; for his orations convulsed his hearers and his contributions were excellent.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- ☐ A It argues that the club made a mistake by allowing a new member to join.
- ☐ B It confirms the positive impact of a character's addition to the group.
- ☐ C It describes the specific rules and regulations of the club meetings.
- ☐ D It explains why the meeting lasted much longer than usual.

Question 15

The following text is from Louisa May Alcott's 1868 novel *Little Women*. In this excerpt, the character Jo March reflects on her personal ambitions and financial goals.

Jo saw that money conferred power: money and power, therefore, she resolved to have; not to be used for herself alone, but for those whom she loved more than self. The dream of filling home with comforts, giving Beth everything she wanted...and always having more than enough, so that she might indulge in the luxury of charity, had been for years Jo's most cherished castle in the air.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To describe Jo's motivation for acquiring wealth
- ☐ B To explain why Jo refuses to accept charity from others
- ☐ C To argue that money is the only source of true happiness
- ☐ D To illustrate Jo's plan to travel abroad with Beth

Question 16

The Age of Innocence is a 1920 novel by Edith Wharton. In the novel, the protagonist Newland Archer experiences a moment of nervousness and self-reflection just before his own wedding, relying on a familiar gesture to reassure himself that he is prepared with the ring. _____

Which quotation from *The Age of Innocence* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "Archer made the gesture which he had seen so many bridegrooms make: ... he felt in the pocket of his dark-gray waistcoat, and assured himself that the little gold circlet... was in its place."
- B "'Got the ring all right?' whispered young van der Luyden Newland, who was inexperienced in the duties of a best man, and awed by the weight of his responsibility."
- C "Overhead, Handel's March swelled pompously through the imitation stone vaulting, carrying on its waves the faded drift of the many weddings."
- D "All the elderly ladies whom Archer knew regarded any woman who loved imprudently as necessarily unscrupulous and designing, and mere simple-minded man as powerless in her clutches."

Question 17

The following text is from Edith Wharton's 1920 novel *The Age of Innocence*. The excerpt describes the feelings of the protagonist, Newland Archer, after spending an afternoon making formal visits with his fiancée, May Welland.

It was the custom, in old New York, for a betrothed couple to spend the afternoon of the day following their engagement in calling on their friends and relatives. This ritual, though irksome, was performed with due solemnity from one drawing-room to another, and Archer, when the afternoon's round was over, parted from his betrothed with the feeling that he had been shown off like a wild animal in a zoo, rather than presented as a future husband.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Archer feels a deep sense of pride and accomplishment after introducing his fiancée to his extended family.
- ☐ B Archer feels objectified and uncomfortable by the social ritual of presenting himself and his fiancée to society.
- ☐ C Archer is annoyed because his fiancée, May, behaved rudely during their visits to friends and relatives.
- ☐ D Archer believes that the custom of visiting relatives after an engagement is a delightful tradition that should be preserved.

Question 18

The following text is from Frances Hodgson Burnett's 1911 novel *The Secret Garden*. In this passage, the narrator describes the transformation of a neglected garden as it comes back to life.

They always called it Magic and indeed it seemed like it in the months that followed—the wonderful months—the radiant months—the amazing ones. Oh! the things which happened in that garden! At first it seemed that green things would never cease pushing their way through the earth, in the grass, in the beds, even in the crevices of the walls. Then the green things began to show buds and the buds began to unfurl and show color, every shade of blue, every shade of purple, every tint and hue of crimson.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A The garden is a scary place where weeds are overtaking the walls and paths.
- ☐ B Mary is disappointed that the garden does not grow as quickly as she had hoped.
- ☐ C Ben Weatherstaff is working hard to clear the mortar from the brick walls.
- ☐ D The garden is experiencing a vibrant and almost magical rebirth filled with colorful growth.

Question 19

The following text is adapted from Edith Wharton's 1920 novel *The Age of Innocence*. The story details the careful preparations made by the protagonist, Newland Archer, shortly before his wedding ceremony.

A private compartment had been engaged in the train that was to carry the young couple to the country; every detail was in order, and there remained only the anxious interval until the ceremony began.

As used in the text, what does the word "engaged" most nearly mean?

- ☐ A Attacked
- ☐ B Interested
- ☐ C Reserved
- ☐ D Employed

Question 20

The following text is from Louisa May Alcott's 1868 novel *Little Women*. In this passage, Jo and her mother discuss the news of Amy and Laurie's engagement.

When Amy and Laurie wrote of their engagement, Mrs. March feared that Jo would find it difficult to rejoice over it, but her fears were soon set at rest; for, though Jo looked grave at first, she took it very quietly, and was full of hopes and plans for “the children” before she read the letter twice. It was a sort of written duet, wherein each glorified the other in lover-like fashion, very pleasant to read and satisfactory to think of, for no one had any objection to make.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To reveal Jo's deep resentment toward her sister
- ☐ B To describe Jo's positive reaction to a surprising announcement
- ☐ C To explain why Mrs. March disapproves of the engagement
- ☐ D To illustrate the intense rivalry between Amy and Laurie

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: D

(D) is the correct answer as it explicitly mentions the drug ("chloral") as a "spot of light" or relief, while also stating Lily's fear that it was "losing its power."
(A) is incorrect because it describes a man's casual attitude toward a relationship, not Lily's reliance on a drug. **(B)** is incorrect because it describes a character named Selden looking at diners in a restaurant. **(C)** is incorrect because while it mentions finding comfort, the source of comfort is a cup of tea, not the sleeping drug mentioned in the claim.

Question 2

Correct Answer: D

The text tells us exactly what the river looks like. The narrator says the river was "a whole mile broad, and awful still and grand."
"Broad" means wide, and "still" means calm. Therefore, the correct answer is **(D)**.
(A) is wrong because the text says the river was "awful still," not full of activity.
(B) is wrong because the text states the river was "a whole mile broad" (wide), not narrow.
(C) is wrong because the text describes the river as "still" and "grand," which is the opposite of rough or dangerous.

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

(D) is the correct answer as it directly describes Edna organizing her physical environment. The phrase "set the toilet-stand to rights" means she

is tidying up or arranging the furniture in her room.

(A) is incorrect because it describes Edna's internal feelings and memories, not her organizing her surroundings.

(B) is incorrect because it describes the actions of a different character, Madame Lebrun, rather than Edna.

(C) is incorrect because it focuses on Edna eating and drinking, which is unrelated to organizing her environment.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

The correct answer is (B). The underlined lines describe the child looking at the speaker with "love and glee" when the speaker returned. This is a specific, positive memory of the child's expression.

(A) is incorrect because the text says the child had a look of "glee" (happiness), not fear.

(C) is incorrect because these lines focus on the child's face and emotions, not the setting of the beach or the sea, which are described earlier in the poem.

(D) is incorrect because the lines are about a past memory, not a prediction about the future.

Question 5

Correct Answer: C

(C) is the correct answer as it directly compares emotional pain to physical coldness. By stating that scorn is "colder" and a sneer is "more stern" than the elements, it supports the claim that human betrayal is the more painful experience.

(A) is incorrect because it only describes the physical cold of winter and death, without making the comparison to human cruelty. (B) is incorrect because it describes a character's actions and movement, not the relative severity of her pain. (D) is incorrect because it describes the peacefulness of the character's grave, which is unrelated to the pain of betrayal.

Question 6

Correct Answer: C

(C) is the correct answer as it directly illustrates Jim's selflessness. He prays to the "Lord" (Marster) and explicitly asks to be taken ("take ole Jim") so that Dinah can be left safe ("lef young Dinah hyar below").
(A) is incorrect because it focuses on Jim's faith and perception of Heaven, not on sacrificing himself for Dinah.
(B) is incorrect because it discusses Jim's blindness and how it protects him from temptation, which is unrelated to saving Dinah.
(D) is incorrect because it describes the moment the "Devil" (actually a steamboat) moves away, rather than Jim's offer of sacrifice.

Question 7

Correct Answer: C

This is a Primary Purpose question. The passage describes Francie's ambitious goal to read every book in the library, in alphabetical order, and her persistence in reading even the "dry ones." The main purpose is to highlight her dedication.
(A) is incorrect because while she reads about unusual topics, the main purpose isn't to show enjoyment of one specific topic.
(B) is incorrect because the passage focuses on her reading method and determination, not a comparison to other activities.
(D) is incorrect because the passage mentions various books she's read, but doesn't focus on her admiration for a single one.

Question 8

Correct Answer: A

(A) is the correct answer as it directly quotes the Parson declining to tell a story ("Thou gettest fable none y-told for me") and explaining his dislike of fables ("such wretchedness").
(B) is incorrect because it describes

the time of day and the position of the sun, which sets the scene but does not address the Parson's refusal.

(C) is incorrect because it features the Host asking the Parson to speak, rather than the Parson refusing the request.

(D) is incorrect because it describes the reaction of the other travelers, who agree to listen to the Parson, rather than the Parson's refusal to tell a fable.

Question 9

Correct Answer: C

The text tells us exactly how Mary felt when the children teased her. It says, "the crosser Mary got, the more they sang." The word "cross" here means angry or annoyed. So, as they sang more, she got more angry.

Therefore, choice **(C)** is the correct answer because it matches the text saying she got "crosser" (angrier).

Choice **(A)** is incorrect because the text says she got "cross" (angry), not that she laughed.

Choice **(B)** is incorrect because the text never mentions her running away or hiding.

Choice **(D)** is incorrect because she didn't just ignore them; her reaction was getting angry, which actually made them sing more.

Question 10

Correct Answer: C

(C) is the correct answer as it directly illustrates Edgar Linton's conflicting emotions about death. The quote states that he has "prayed often" for death ("what is coming"), indicating he desired it, but now that it is near, he begins to "shrink, and fear it."

(A) is incorrect because it depicts Hareton Earnshaw expressing anger at being insulted, not Edgar discussing mortality.

(B) is incorrect because it features Linton Heathcliff talking about his father's cruelty toward animals, which is unrelated to Edgar's death.

(D) is incorrect because it shows Heathcliff speaking to his son about his mother, a topic unrelated to Edgar's conflicting

feelings about dying.

Question 11

Correct Answer: D

The correct answer is **(D)**, "Endured". The speaker, Trofimov, describes his experiences by saying he is "ill" and "shaken," and that "fate has tossed me everywhere." These phrases suggest he has faced significant hardships and suffering. The word "endured" means to suffer something patiently, which perfectly aligns with the negative and difficult experiences he describes.
(A) "Neglected" means to fail to care for properly, which doesn't fit the context of experiencing events. **(B)** "Enjoyed" has a positive meaning, which contradicts the suffering Trofimov describes. **(C)** "Conveyed" means to transport or communicate, which makes no sense in the context of having personal experiences.

Question 12

Correct Answer: A

(A) is the correct answer as it directly describes the claim that Edna distinguishes between her public and private selves. The quote explicitly mentions a "dual life," defining it as an "outward existence" that follows social rules and an "inward life" that doubts them.
(B) is incorrect because it describes Edna's frustration with her artwork, not her split between her public and private selves.
(C) is incorrect because it describes other women, specifically the "mother-women" at Grand Isle, rather than Edna's own internal nature.
(D) is incorrect because it describes the atmosphere of the sea, which is a setting detail rather than a description of Edna's character.

Question 13

Correct Answer: B

The text tells us about a conversation between a mother (Mrs. Bennet) and her daughter (Lydia). The mother asks Lydia to write often. Lydia says she will try, but gives a specific reason why she might not be able to. She says, "married women have never much time for writing." This means Lydia thinks being a wife keeps her too busy to write letters. Therefore, the correct answer is **(B)**. **(A)** is incorrect because Lydia never mentions traveling; she only talks about being a married woman. **(C)** is incorrect because while she mentions her sisters, she says they have "nothing else to do," not that they are better writers. **(D)** is incorrect because the cost of postage is not mentioned in the text at all.

Question 14

Correct Answer: B

The underlined sentence tells us that "no one ever regretted" letting Sam Weller (Laurie) join the club because he was "devoted, well-behaved, and jovial." This means the group was very happy he joined and that he was a good addition. **(B)** is the correct answer because it matches the idea that his addition was positive and successful. **(A)** is incorrect because the text says no one "regretted" it, meaning they were happy about it, not that it was a mistake. **(C)** is incorrect because the sentence talks about a person's character, not rules or regulations. **(D)** is incorrect because the length of the meeting is mentioned in the sentence before the underlined part, not in the underlined sentence itself.

Question 15

Correct Answer: A

The text talks about why Jo wants money and power. It says she wants

these things not just for herself, but to help the people she loves, like giving her sister Beth nice things and giving to charity.

(A) is the correct answer because the whole passage is about the *reasons* (motivation) Jo wants to get rich—to help her family and others.

(B) is incorrect because the passage says Jo wants to *give* charity, not that she refuses to take it.

(C) is incorrect because the passage doesn't say money is the *only* source of happiness; it just says Jo wants money to do good things.

(D) is incorrect because while the text mentions Jo going abroad, it does not mention a specific plan for Beth to travel with her.

Question 16

Correct Answer: A

(A) is the correct answer as it describes the specific moment mentioned in the claim. It shows Archer performing the "gesture" of checking his pocket to "assure himself" that the ring is there, which illustrates his preparation and nervousness.

(B) is incorrect because it describes the best man, not Newland Archer himself, and his inexperience rather than Archer's actions.

(C) is incorrect because it describes the music and the setting of the church, not Archer's specific action of checking for the ring.

(D) is incorrect because it discusses the general societal views of elderly ladies regarding love and marriage, which is unrelated to the specific moment of Archer checking for the ring.

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about a man named Archer who has to go visit a lot of people because he just got engaged. The text says he felt like a "wild animal in a zoo" being shown off.

Since he feels like an animal in a zoo, he feels like an object people are just staring at, which is not a nice feeling. This matches choice (B) because "objectified" means being treated like an object, and he is definitely uncomfortable.

(A) is incorrect because

he doesn't feel proud; he feels like an animal in a zoo. **(C)** is incorrect because the text never says May was rude; it only talks about how Archer felt about the visits themselves. **(D)** is incorrect because the text calls the ritual "irksome" (annoying), so he does not think it is delightful.

Question 18

Correct Answer: D

The text talks about how the garden seems like "Magic" because of how many wonderful things are happening there. It describes "green things" pushing through the earth everywhere and colorful buds opening up in shades of blue, purple, and crimson. The main idea is that the garden is coming alive in a beautiful way.

(D) matches this perfectly because it mentions the "vibrant" and "magical rebirth" of the garden.

(A) is incorrect because the text describes the growth as wonderful and radiant, not scary or just weeds.

(B) is incorrect because Mary is not mentioned as being disappointed; the tone is very positive and excited.

(C) is incorrect because Ben Weatherstaff is not mentioned in this specific part of the text.

Question 19

Correct Answer: C

To solve this, look at how the word "engaged" describes the train compartment. The text says a private compartment had been "engaged" for the couple to use later. This means a space was booked or set aside specifically for them.

Choice **(C)** captures this meaning perfectly. When you "reserve" a room or a seat, you book it for future use, just like the compartment on the train.

Choice **(A)** is incorrect because "attacked" suggests violence, which doesn't fit a wedding trip. Choice **(B)** is incorrect because while a person can be "interested" or engaged in a topic, a train compartment is an object and cannot feel interest. Choice **(D)** is incorrect because "employed" usually refers to hiring a person for a job, not

booking a space on a vehicle.

Question 20

Correct Answer: B

The text explains that Mrs. March was worried Jo might be upset about Amy and Laurie getting engaged. However, the passage shows that Jo actually handled the news very well. It says she was "full of hopes and plans" and that she found the letter "pleasant to read." This means the main point is to show that Jo reacted positively.

(A) is incorrect because the text says Jo was "full of hopes and plans" and found the news pleasant, not that she was resentful.

(C) is incorrect because the text explicitly states that "no one had any objection to make," meaning Mrs. March did not disapprove.

(D) is incorrect because the passage describes the letter as a "written duet" where they "glorified the other," which shows they are in love, not rivals.