



Literature Keystone (PA Core) Quiz

Reading for Meaning - Fiction - (L.F.1.3.1) Main Ideas & Supporting Details, (L.F.1.3.2) Key Details And Events, (L.F.2.3.4) Theme

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher Name: Jared George

Score: _____

Nadia's Stage Fright

By: Clark Benson

Nadia sat at the piano, tapping her shoe to keep time with the rhythm of the song she had been practicing for a month. Her dog Lucky, her biggest fan, lay near her feet. At first, Nadia had to shoo him away and distract him with his favorite toy, a blue rubber ball. But now, Lucky had found the ideal spot on the floor; close enough to be near Nadia, but far enough away that he wouldn't disturb her playing.

²Nadia had practically perfected this particular song, but she had to perform it at the school talent show and was relentless in her practicing. Before she started to play, she had a routine to prepare herself. First, she would stretch and wiggle her fingers to get them loose for playing. Then, she would take a few deep breaths to relax and clear her mind from the day's activities. Finally, she would close her eyes and imagine herself playing the song; she envisioned her hands moving along the keys.



After Nadia performed this routine, the song seemed to flow freely from her fingertips. Of course, she knew well enough that hours of practicing had resulted in her playing the song so well. Still, her routine allowed her to clear her mind and quiet the butterflies in her stomach.

⁴Nadia knew those butterflies would be worse once she had to play the song in front of her entire school. When she decided to participate in the school talent show, she had chosen a more complicated piece of classical music. Nadia had been playing the piano since she was seven, and she truly wanted to challenge herself.

When the big night finally arrived, Nadia prepared backstage. She watched her classmates display their own various talents. Then came the moment that both excited and terrified her; she was up next.

⁶The audience's applause sounded like ocean waves and made her feel welcome. Still, she could feel those butterflies fluttering in her belly, and she felt her palms start to sweat. Nadia had already performed her routine backstage, but it seemed as if it hadn't worked this time! She sat down on the piano bench and looked at the black and white keys, which seemed unfamiliar now.

⁷For a moment, she panicked and glanced at the audience in front of her. Nadia spotted her mother in the first row. Seeing her mother made her think of home and Lucky. This time, when she looked down at the piano keys, she imagined she was at home with Lucky beside her. In that moment, her nerves settled as she forgot about the audience eagerly awaiting her performance. Now that it was just her and Lucky, she struck the first note, and the other notes just fell in line with ease. When Nadia hit the last note, she turned to the audience and smiled. Just as she did, the audience erupted in applause.

1) Why did Nadia choose a more challenging piece of music ?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| A) She wanted to show off. | C) It reflected her accomplishments. |
| B) She wanted to challenge herself. | D) She was competing with a friend and wanted to win. |

2) To prepare herself to play the piano Nadia does all of these EXCEPT

- | | |
|--|---|
| A) stretch and wiggle her fingers to get them loose. | C) close her eyes and imagine herself playing the song. |
|--|---|

B) take a few deep breaths to relax and clear her mind.

D) tap her foot several times to set the beat of the music.

The System of Dr. Tarr and Prof. Fether

By: Edgar Allan Poe

¹ DURING THE AUTUMN OF 18-- , while on a tour through the extreme southern provinces of France, my route led me within a few miles of a certain Maison de Sante or private mad-house, about which I had heard much in Paris from my medical friends. As I had never visited a place of the kind, I thought the opportunity too good to be lost; and so proposed to my travelling companion (a gentleman with whom I had made casual acquaintance a few days before) that we should turn aside, for an hour or so, and look through the establishment. To this he objected- pleading haste in the first place, and, in the second, a very usual horror at the sight of a lunatic. He begged me, however, not to let any mere courtesy towards himself interfere with the gratification of my curiosity, and said that he would ride on leisurely, so that I might overtake him during the day, or, at all events, during the next. As he bade me good-bye, I bethought me that there might be some difficulty in obtaining access to the premises, and mentioned my fears on this point. He replied that, in fact, unless I had personal knowledge of the superintendent, Monsieur Maillard, or some credential in the way of a letter, a difficulty might be found to exist, as the regulations of these private mad-houses were more rigid than the public hospital laws. For himself, he added, he had, some years since, made the acquaintance of Maillard, and would so far assist me as to ride up to the door and introduce me; although his feelings on the subject of lunacy would not permit of his entering the house.

² I thanked him, and, turning from the main road, we entered a grass-grown by-path, which, in half an hour, nearly lost itself in a dense forest, clothing the base of a mountain. Through this dank and gloomy wood we rode some two miles, when the Maison de Sante came in view. It was a fantastic chateau, much dilapidated, and indeed scarcely tenable through age and neglect. Its aspect inspired me with absolute dread, and, checking my horse, I half resolved to turn back. I soon, however, grew ashamed of my weakness, and proceeded.

³ As we rode up to the gate-way, I noticed it slightly open, and the visage of a man peering through. In an instant afterward, this man came forth, accosted my companion by name, shook him cordially by the hand, and begged him to alight. It was Monsieur Maillard himself. He was a portly, fine-looking gentleman of the old school, with a polished manner, and a certain air of gravity which was very impressive.

⁴ My friend, having presented me, mentioned my desire to inspect the establishment, and received Monsieur Maillard's assurance that he would show me all attention, now took leave, and I saw him no more.

⁵ When he had gone, the superintendent ushered me into a small and exceedingly neat parlor, containing, among other indications of refined taste, many books, drawings, pots of flowers, and musical instruments. A cheerful fire blazed upon the hearth. At a piano, singing an aria from Bellini, sat a young and very beautiful woman, who, at my entrance, paused in her song, and received me with graceful courtesy. Her voice was low, and her whole manner subdued. I thought, too, that I perceived the traces of sorrow in her countenance, which was excessively, although to my taste, not unpleasingly, pale. She was attired in deep mourning, and excited in my bosom a feeling of mingled respect, interest, and admiration.

⁶ I had heard, at Paris, that the institution of Monsieur Maillard was managed upon what is vulgarly termed the "system of soothing"- that all punishments were avoided- that even confinement was seldom resorted to- that the patients, while secretly watched, were left much apparent liberty, and that most of them were permitted to roam about the house and grounds in the ordinary apparel of persons in right mind.

⁷ Keeping these impressions in view, I was cautious in what I said before the young lady; for I could not be sure that she was sane; and, in fact, there was a certain restless brilliancy about her eyes which led me to imagine she was not. I confined my remarks, therefore, to general topics, and to such as I thought would not be displeasing or exciting even to a lunatic. She replied in a perfectly rational manner to all that I said; and even her original observations were marked with the soundest good sense, but a long acquaintance with the metaphysics of mania, had taught me to put no faith in such evidence of sanity, and I continued to practice, throughout the interview, the caution with which I commenced it.

⁸ Presently a smart footman in livery brought in a tray with fruit, wine, and other refreshments, of which I partook, the lady soon afterward leaving the room. As she departed I turned my eyes in an inquiring manner toward my host.

⁹ "No," he said, "oh, no- a member of my family- my niece, and a most accomplished woman."

¹⁰ "I beg a thousand pardons for the suspicion," I replied, "but of course you will know how to excuse me. The excellent administration of your affairs here is well understood in Paris, and I thought it just possible, you know-

¹¹ "Yes, yes- say no more- or rather it is myself who should thank you for the commendable prudence you have displayed.

We seldom find so much of forethought in young men; and, more than once, some unhappy contre-temps has occurred in consequence of thoughtlessness on the part of our visitors. While my former system was in operation, and my patients were permitted the privilege of roaming to and fro at will, they were often aroused to a dangerous frenzy by injudicious persons who called to inspect the house. Hence I was obliged to enforce a rigid system of exclusion; and none obtained access to the premises upon whose discretion I could not rely."

12 "While your former system was in operation!" I said, repeating his words- "do I understand you, then, to say that the 'soothing system' of which I have heard so much is no longer in force?"

13 "It is now," he replied, "several weeks since we have concluded to renounce it forever."

3)

I perceived the traces of sorrow in her countenance, which was excessively, although to my taste, not unpleasingly, pale.

Which sentence **MOST** accurately and concisely restates the information in the sentence from paragraph 5?

- | | |
|---|--|
| A) Her sorrow could be traced back to excessive paleness. | C) Her face was excessively full of such sorrow, but to my taste she was pale and unpleasing to look at. |
| B) Her face was full of sorrow, but pale as she was, she was somewhat attractive to me. | D) I was one of the few who could perceive the sorrow she hid from others, yet I could tell it was excessive sorrow because her paleness gave that away. |

4) After reading paragraph 6, consider which sentence **BEST** summarizes the speaker's thoughts in this paragraph.

- | | |
|---|---|
| A) Monsieur Maillard ran his institution with liberal, loose rules, allowing mental patients to roam in virtual freedom in the normal clothes of the day. | C) Monsieur Maillard himself was considered mentally unstable as evidenced by his cruel punishments, confining his patients to the house or grounds and allowing them the freedom to wear other people's ordinary clothing. |
| B) Patients, while they were secretly being watched, were, however, given the liberty to wear what they wanted, but were punished if they even questioned being confined. | D) The institution's 'system of soothing' was a system whereby the confinement of such patients admitted to Monsieur Maillard's grounds were eventually granted their liberty and allowed to leave the institution. |

5)

As he bade me good-bye, I bethought me that there might be some difficulty in obtaining access to the premises, and mentioned my fears on this point.

Which sentence **BEST** restates the information in this sentence found in paragraph 1?

- | | |
|--|--|
| A) As I said goodbye to my friend, I wondered whether I would ever see him again. | C) As my friend said good-bye, I told him I was concerned that I might not be able to get into the house once I got there. |
| B) After spending all day talking about my fears, my friend finally said good-bye. | D) As my friend departed, he thought that I was afraid to go onto the premises and said how I shouldn't show any fear. |

6)

My friend, having presented me, mentioned my desire to inspect the establishment, and received Monsieur Maillard's assurance that he would show me all attention, now took leave, and I saw him no more.

Which **BEST** summarizes this sentence?

- | | |
|--|--|
| A) My friend, Monsieur Maillard, introduced me and said he was about to leave. | C) My friend was able to present me to Monsieur Maillard because he had to leave and I saw him no more. |
| B) My friend introduced me to Monsieur Maillard, told him I wanted a tour of the house, then left. | D) My friend told Monsieur Maillard that I was here to officially inspect the place to see if he had insurance, then left. |

7)

To this he objected- pleading haste in the first place, and, in the second, a very usual horror at the sight of a lunatic.

Which sentence **BEST** restates the information in the sentence found in paragraph 1?

- | | |
|---|--|
| A) Neither the narrator nor his friend make a good argument for going, but for two reasons, they decide to go anyway. | C) To the idea of being hasty and getting to the lunatic's house of horror, the narrator's traveling companion is pleased. |
| B) The object of pleading with the narrator is to get him to go and to see what a lunatic's horror-house looks like. | D) The narrator's traveling companion said no for two reasons: a) we're in a hurry, and b) it's creepy to go into a crazy person's home. |

Aunt Elizabeth's Dream

By: Matthew Ramirez

¹*United States, 1919. Hanna and her sister, Ali, anxiously await their mother's return. Their mother, who is the niece of the late Elizabeth Cady Stanton, is out voting for the first time since the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment—a law which guaranteed women the right to vote.*

²HANNA: I'm still astonished that mother is out voting in the election today! Mother must be very proud of her Aunt Elizabeth—after all, it was the work of the suffragists that helped women gain the right to vote. She even helped organize the convention about women's rights in Seneca Falls.

³ALI: I wish that Aunt Elizabeth was alive to participate in today's election. From what mother says about her, Aunt Elizabeth would have enjoyed showing others why it is critical for women to take part in the political process.

⁴HANNA: It was always Aunt Elizabeth's dream for women to win the right to vote. She spent many years lobbying politicians to get women the same rights as men.

⁵*MOTHER enters the room, smiling and wearing a pin that reads, "I voted today." Hanna and Ali rush toward their mother and hug her.*

⁶ALI: Mother, did you vote in the election?

⁷MOTHER: Yes, I did! I wish more women had participated in today's election, but I'm sure they will take advantage of this right in the future. Aunt Elizabeth and her friends would have been extremely proud. They spent many years trying to make politicians understand that women deserved the same rights as men. All of the American women who voted today owe them a debt of gratitude for their bravery.

⁸HANNA: Mother, I am very proud of you for voting today. All the women who voted today helped show the nation and the world that American women are ready to take part in the political process.

⁹ALI: I agree, Hanna. Mother, you set a great example for Hanna and me. Someday, I hope we are just like you and Aunt Elizabeth!

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Declaration of Sentiments

¹⁰Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a suffragist who worked to gain voting rights for American women. During her struggle for women's suffrage, Stanton helped organize a convention that took place in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. At the convention, Stanton and other suffragists developed a document they called the Declaration of Sentiments. This document asserted that women in the United States were suppressed by men, and they deserved rights—including the right to vote—equal to those of their male counterparts. Among other things, the document claimed:

¹¹*The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny [SIC] over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.*

¹²*He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise.*

¹³*He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice. . . .*

¹⁴*He has taken from her all right in property, even to the wages she earns. . . .*

¹⁵*Now, [women] insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States.*

8) What is the theme of this play?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A) helping those in need | C) showing kindness toward others |
| B) being honest with oneself | D) fighting for an important cause |

9) Which quotation from the play BEST states that main idea of the *Declaration of Sentiments*?

- A) "Mother, I am very proud of you for voting today."
- B) "I'm still astonished that mother is out voting in election today!"
- C) "She even helped organize the convention about women's rights in Seneca Falls."
- D) "They spent many years trying to make politicians understand that women deserved the same rights as men."