

Part 2 (Questions 9–20)

Directions (9–20): Below each passage, there are several multiple-choice questions. Select the best suggested answer to each question and record your answer on the separate answer sheet provided for you.

Reading Comprehension Passage A

...To get to the blackberry patch, at the back of the farm, sometimes we drove the pickup, which was a treat. Driving in the fields was a holiday of its own. The grass would brush the underside of the pickup and you could hear it. Or if we didn't drive, we walked out there. Talk about tall grass. If you walked out there, you had to go through the big
5 pasture by the north pond. That pasture had tall fescue grass¹ you had to wade through. If you sat down, the horizon vanished, the trees on the edge of the field vanished. You could see just a few feet into the grass, and you could see sky. That was all. You could flatten down the grass to make a little sitting area. You could make a path to another sitting area and have two sitting areas and a path. Of course, once the grass was cut for hay, there'd be no more
10 of that kind of thing. The grass on the front hill was the same.

They were wild blackberries. Picking them was fun for about the first twelve berries, then it was work, but you were allowed to eat as many as you wanted. Fresh blackberries meant you got a cobbler for dinner. You could also put them on your cereal with honey. The
15 second day, maybe we would crumble hot biscuits into bowls, then sprinkle them with berries, then add milk or cream, then add honey. It was almost the best thing a person could eat. There was no name for it, so when you wanted it you had to say the whole thing: "Biscuits with berries on them and then milk and honey in a bowl." It was a breakfast or a dessert for lunch or dinner or a snack for after dinner or night. That's what it was. It was all of that. ...

20 The brambles would scratch you when you were picking berries. Like how a kitten scratches you on your arms, even though they don't mean it. Also, there were ticks, chiggers and poison ivy. The hazards of the blackberry patch. You never saw any snakes out there, but for some reason you were always told that there might be snakes. A watchful eye was required.

25 It felt like a long way from the house, even though you could look across the pastures and see the house on the hill, residing in the elm shade. Still, it felt like you were really out somewhere. You knew the creek was not too far away. You couldn't hear any roads from there. If you looked up, maybe there was a jet making a line in the sky. Not that you could see the actual jet, just the line. ...

30 Before blackberry month, there were trips to pick strawberries at strawberry farms. For about three days you ate as many strawberries as humanly possible. The rest had to be cleaned, sliced, sugared and frozen. Then there were trips to go pick blueberries. And then you ate as many of them as humanly possible. The rest had to be cleaned and frozen. Or canned. Canning happened at night because it was too hot to do during the day and it
35 helped a lot if Dad was home to pitch in. The shadows slanted across the yard.

The shadows slanted across the garden. A horsefly droned past, on his way to somewhere else. The barn swallows swooped and banked above the horse pasture. They spiraled, dove. Their forked tails.

One flew right between the legs of the horse. You saw it. ...

—Jeremy Jackson
excerpted from "Food, Animals"
The Missouri Review, Spring/Summer 2005

¹fescue grass — grasses or grass often raised for grazing animals

- 9 The primary function of the opening paragraph is to
- (1) identify the conflict
 - (2) establish the setting
 - (3) reveal the theme
 - (4) foreshadow the resolution
- 10 The words “That’s what it was. It was all of that” (lines 18 and 19) illustrate that blackberries most likely represent a
- (1) difficult ordeal
 - (2) community event
 - (3) personal goal
 - (4) family ritual
- 11 The description of hazards in the blackberry patch (lines 20 through 24) is included in order to parallel
- (1) real world dangers
 - (2) rejection of responsibility
 - (3) challenges to authority
 - (4) childhood dreams
- 12 The imagery of “The shadows slanted across the yard” (line 35) is used to emphasize the
- (1) changes in personality
 - (2) concern for the environment
 - (3) passage of time
 - (4) interest in history
- 13 The purpose of the last line is most likely to
- (1) capture a moment in time
 - (2) reveal a tragic event
 - (3) introduce an important narrator
 - (4) indicate a shift in setting
- 14 The primary purpose of the second-person narration throughout most of the passage is to
- (1) expose the writer’s secret identity
 - (2) include the reader in the events
 - (3) present an antagonist in the plot
 - (4) highlight the importance of the setting
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Reading Comprehension Passage B

From San Francisco to New York to Paris, city governments, high-class restaurants, schools, and religious groups are ditching bottled water in favor of what comes out of the faucet. With people no longer content to pay 1,000 times as much for bottled water, a product no better than water from the tap, a backlash against bottled water is growing.

5 The U.S. Conference of Mayors, which represents some 1,100 American cities, discussed at its June 2007 meeting the irony of purchasing bottled water for city employees and for city functions while at the same time touting¹ the quality of municipal water. The group passed a resolution sponsored by Mayors Gavin Newsom of San Francisco, Rocky Anderson of Salt Lake City, and R. T. Rybak of Minneapolis that called for the examination
10 of bottled water’s environmental impact. The resolution noted that with \$43 billion a year going to provide clean drinking water in cities across the country, “the United States’ municipal water systems are among the finest in the world.”...

Tap water promotional campaigns would have seemed quaint a few decades ago, when water in bottles was a rarity. Now such endeavors are needed to counteract the pervasive²
15 marketing that has caused consumers to lose faith in the faucet. In fact, more than a quarter of bottled water is just processed tap water, including top-selling Aquafina and Coca-Cola’s Dasani. When Pepsi announced in July [2007] that it would clearly label its Aquafina water as from a “public water source,” it no doubt shocked everyone who believed that bottles with labels depicting pristine mountains or glaciers delivered a superior product. ...

20 With sales growing by 10 percent each year, far faster than any other beverage, bottled water now appears to be the drink of choice for many Americans—they swallow more of it than milk, juice, beer, coffee, or tea. While some industry analysts are counting on bottled water to beat out carbonated soft drinks to top the charts in the near future, the burgeoning³ back-to-the-tap movement may reverse the trend.

25 In contrast to tap water, which is delivered through an energy-efficient infrastructure, bottled water is an incredibly wasteful product. It is usually packaged in single-serving plastic bottles made with fossil fuels. Just manufacturing the 29 billion plastic bottles used for water in the United States each year requires the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of crude oil.

30 After being filled, the bottles may travel far. Nearly one quarter of bottled water crosses national borders before reaching consumers, and part of the cachet⁴ of certain bottled water brands is their remote origin. Adding in the Pacific Institute’s estimates for the energy used for pumping and processing, transportation, and refrigeration, brings the annual fossil fuel footprint of bottled water consumption in the United States to over 50
35 million barrels of oil equivalent—enough to run 3 million cars for one year. If everyone drank as much bottled water as Americans do, the world would need the equivalent of more than 1 billion barrels of oil to produce close to 650 billion individual bottles. ...

40 Slowing sales may be the wave of the future as the bottle boycott movement picks up speed. With more than 1 billion people around the globe still lacking access to a safe and reliable source of water, the \$100 billion the world spends on bottled water every year could certainly be put to better use creating and maintaining safe public water infrastructure everywhere.

—Janet Larsen
excerpted from “Bottled Water Boycotts: Back-to-the-Tap
Movement Gains Momentum”
www.earthpolicy.org, December 7, 2007

¹touting — praising or publicizing loudly or extravagantly

²pervasive — tends to become diffused throughout every part

³burgeoning — growing rapidly

⁴cachet — influential status

- 15 What quality of bottled water is represented in line 3 of the passage?
- (1) convenience
 - (2) purity
 - (3) flavor
 - (4) cost
- 16 The resolution passed by the United States Conference of Mayors in 2007 emphasized the
- (1) health benefits from imported water
 - (2) high quality of public water
 - (3) tax money gained from bottled water
 - (4) outstanding taste of spring water
- 17 The author includes the phrase “pristine mountains or glaciers delivered a superior product” (line 19) to illustrate a
- (1) common misconception
 - (2) shared goal
 - (3) lasting impression
 - (4) basic condition
- 18 What is the primary focus of lines 32 through 35?
- (1) consumer cost
 - (2) foreign influence
 - (3) national debt
 - (4) environmental impact
- 19 The author’s comparison of tap water to bottled water illustrates that bottled water is
- (1) “clean drinking water” (line 11)
 - (2) “the finest in the world” (line 12)
 - (3) “incredibly wasteful” (line 26)
 - (4) “the wave of the future” (line 38)
- 20 The author develops the passage primarily through the use of
- (1) factual evidence
 - (2) cause and effect
 - (3) descriptive narrative
 - (4) question and answer
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