

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

5 ...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 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 of that kind of thing. The grass on the front hill was the same.

Q9: function

Q10:
blackberries

10 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 second day, maybe we would crumble hot biscuits into bowls, then sprinkle them with add milk or cream, then add honey. It was almost the best thing a person could have. It had 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. ...

Q11L description of hazards

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 helped a lot if Dad was home to pitch in. The shadows slanted across the yard.

Q12: Imagery

35 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. ...

Q13: pupose

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

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

Q14 2nd person
narration purpose

- 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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