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READING COMPREHENSION/REASONING ABILITY

Read the following passage carefully. Answer questions 1—10 following the passage based on the information in the passage by choosing the correct answer from the four choices given. Work quickly but carefully.

It was moving day for the Robertson family. Bernard and Marian had married before World War II. Bernard was in the Army. When he returned from his tour of duty, the couple lived with Marian's widowed mother in the house her late husband had left to her. After several years they had a son, Lewis. Two years later they had a daughter, Hannah. When the children were seven and five years old respectively, their parents had both worked and saved up enough money to have a new house built. Now they were finally moving in, bringing along Marian's mother, whom the children called Nana, and their pet cat, whom they had named Fluffy.

The house was not completely finished, but it was livable. It was a hot summer day. After hours of setting up their furniture brought by the movers, and bringing in and unpacking many belongings, the family sat down to take a breather. Suddenly they noticed that Fluffy was missing. Fearing he had run outside during all the moving commotion and become lost in a new neighborhood, Marian and Hannah went walking around the block, calling their pet's name. Marian had contracted a terrible case of poison oak on her legs from petting Katie, a neighbor's beautiful Irish setter who had picked up the poison oak oils on her coat from running through the woods and then rubbed against Marian's bare legs. This made it painful for her to walk in the summer heat, but she was so worried about Fluffy. Hannah was equally distressed about her beloved pet.

After searching to no avail, the family decided to sit down to eat dinner and hope that Fluffy would show up at some point. Right in the middle of the meal, they heard a "Meow!" coming from the adjacent living room. Turning to look in the direction of the sound, they spotted Fluffy sitting on the hearth of their new fireplace! Excited, they all jumped up, shouting, "Fluffy!" Upon hearing the clamor, the little tabby immediately turned and jumped up into the chimney to escape. Now they realized that he had not been lost or outdoors at all, but had simply found a dark, quiet, cool place to hide from the commotion. Reaching up into the chimney, Bernard and Lewis discovered a ledge where Fluffy was comfortably perched. Marian offered up a little dish of hamburger, a favorite treat; but Fluffy just ate the meat without emerging from his hiding place. The family all laughed together at the kitty's cleverness and Mom's foolishness in not placing the meat farther away to lure him out of hiding.

The family agreed that it would be best to give their pet the safety and seclusion he needed after all the trauma of moving (cats generally hate any changes in their environment), and the noise and confusion

of things being brought in and moved about, people coming in and going out, and so forth. They let him stay in the chimney. Once things had settled down and it was quiet in the house, Fluffy eventually came out of his safe refuge and began to explore his new surroundings. Soon he had adjusted to the new home. He slept on Hannah's bed, lounged on the living room chairs, kept Nana company while she sewed when the parents were at work and the children were at school, and scampered around the house playing. He had completely gotten over his initial fear and made himself at home with his family.

Question: 1

This story takes place:

- A. Several years after World War I.
- B. Several years after World War II.
- C. Several years after the Korean War.
- D. This information is not given in the story.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Paragraph I states the parents married before World War II, and everything that follows occurs after that.

Question: 2

Nana was:

- A. What the children called their mother.
- B. The name the family gave to their cat.
- C. What the kids called their grandmother.
- D. The nickname the family called Hannah.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The last sentence of the first paragraph identifies Nana as what the children called Marian's mother, who 'was therefore their grandmother. It also identifies Fluffy as the cat's name

Question: 3

Marian contracted poison oak from:

- A. Running through the neighborhood woods.
- B. Petting their cat Fluffy who had it on his coat.
- C. Walking around the block in the summer heat.
- D. Having the dog Katie rub against her bare legs,

Answer: C

Explanation:

Sentence #6 of 8 in paragraph 2 states that Marian had contracted poison oak while petting the Irish setter, Katie, who had rubbed against Marian's bare legs.

Question: 4

Before building their first new home, the Robertson family lived:

- A. In Nana's house.
- B. In an apartment.
- C. In another town.
- D. This is not given.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Sentence #4 of paragraph 1 states that the couple lived with Marian's widowed mother. The last sentence of this paragraph also states that the children called Marian's mother Nana.

Question: 5

The "tour of duty" referred to in the passage means:

- A. The term that a soldier serves in the armed forces.
- B. A program of visiting various countries in the world.
- C. Fulfilling all the duties of moving into a new house.
- D. There is no such reference existing in this passage.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Sentence #3 of paragraph 1 says Bernard was in the Army. Sentence #4 refers to his tour of duty. This means the term a soldier serves in the military forces.

Question: 6

How did the family discover where Fluffy had been?

- A. He came to the dinner table, lured by the smell of meat.
- B. During dinner, they heard him meow from the living room.
- C. After hearing him, they saw him go back up the chimney.
- D. They walked around the block calling until they found him.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 describes the family hearing Fluffy meow during dinner (B), but this was not how they discovered where he had been; it was by seeing him go back up the chimney where he had been hiding all along.

Question: 7

Why was Fluffy sitting on a ledge inside the chimney?

- A. Cats just naturally always hide.
- B. It Was cooler on a summer day.
- C. To escape all the commotion.
- D. Both (B) and (C) are correct.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 identifies the chimney as a cool place (B) to escape from all the commotion (C), so these are both correct. Cats generally tend to hide, but when frightened, not always CA).

Question: 8

Which is the least likely reason Fluffy found moving day traumatic?

- A. Cats hate any changes in their environment.
- B. The moving process is noisy and confusing.
- C. There was a dog in the new neighborhood.
- D. It kept him from feeling privacy and safety.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Sentence 1 of paragraph 4 says cats hate changes in their environment (A), and identifies the noise and confusion of moving (B). The beginning of this sentence describes the cat's need for safety and seclusion/privacy (D). Paragraph 2 identifies a dog in the neighborhood (C), but not in the house; the passage states Fluffy was

never outdoors. Fluffy could have smelled the dog's scent on Marian, who had petted her, and also from a distance; but considering the more direct factors of (A), (B), and (D), this is the least likely reason the cat found moving day traumatic.

Question: 9

Which of the following is NOT included among Fluffy's activities once he adjusted?

- A. Lounging on living room chairs
- B. Keeping Nana company sewing
- C. Climbing drapes in Lewis's room
- D. Sleeping in Hannah's bedroom

Answer: C

Explanation:

The penultimate sentence of the final paragraph describes Fluffy doing CA), (B), and (D), but never mentions his climbing drapes in Lewis's room (C).

Question: 10

The main focus of this passage is:

- A. How the family lived with the grandmother in both homes.
- B. How hard two parents worked and saved to build a house.
- C. How difficult it was to move the family into the new home.
- D. How a family "lost" and then found their cat when moving.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The main focus of the passage is how the family "lost" and then found their pet while moving. The other choices are all details included in the story rather than its main topic.

Read the following passage carefully. Answer questions 11-20 following the passage based on the information in the passage by choosing the correct answer from the four choices given. Work quickly but carefully.

The phrase "boulevard of broken dreams" may be familiar to many people, because it has been used so often. In 1933, the songwriting team of lyricist Al Dubin and composer Harry Warren wrote a song entitled "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," which was a big hit in its day and, a version sung by Constance Bennett was included in the 1934 movie Moulin Rouge. The lyrics include the verses, "I walk along the street of sorrow/ The Boulevard of Broken Dreams/Where gigolo and gigolette/Can take a kiss without regret/ So they forget their broken dreams. ...Here is where you'll always find me/Always walking up and

down...," Many other singers have covered this song over the years, including a 2006 duet by Tony Bennett and Sting, and some as recently as 2010 and 2012. The phrase "boulevard of broken dreams" was a reference to Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles.

In 1942, the modern American artist Edward Hopper created an oil painting he called *Nighthawks*. It depicts a late-night scene of a diner in a downtown area. The street outside is deserted, and inside the lighted diner are three customers sitting at the counter and a man with a white hat and shirt behind the counter. This painting became very famous. What does this painting have to do with the phrase "boulevard of broken dreams"? Well, contemporary Viennese artist Gottfried Helnwein (born in 1948) created a parody of Hopper's painting in 1984. Helnwein's watercolor appears quite similar to Hopper's work—until you look more closely. Then you see that the anonymous people sitting in the diner in Hopper's original have been replaced in Helnwein's version with the iconic late celebrity actors Humphrey Bogart, Marilyn Monroe, and James Dean; and the attendant behind the counter has been replaced with the late Elvis Presley. These famous figures had all died young between 1955 and 1977. Helnwein's was one of a number of parodies based on Hopper's painting. It inspired Billie Joe Armstrong, the lyricist and lead singer of the contemporary rock band Green Day, to write a song entitled "Boulevard of Broken Dreams." Its music and lyrics are different from the 1933 song: "I walk a lonely road/The only one that I have ever known/Don't know where it goes/But it's home to me and I walk alone/I walk alone, I walk alone ...I walk this empty street/On the Boulevard of Broken Dreams/When the city sleeps/And I'm the only one and I walk alone/My shadow's the only one that walks beside me/My shallow heart's the only thing that's beating/Sometimes I wish someone up there will find me/'til then I walk alone." Released in 2004 on their album *American Idiot*, the song became one of Green Day's biggest and most recognized hits.

Green Day was not the only example of works using the title "Boulevard of Broken Dreams." Country singer Ferlin Husky released an album with that title in 1957. The band Smokie released both an album and its title song with the same name in 1989. Songs with this title were also recorded by Juan Garcia Esquivel (1958), Hanoi Rocks (1984), Brian Setzer (1986), David Cassidy (1990), Beatmasters (1991), and with the same title in Spanish by Joaquin Sabina (1994). In addition to painters and musicians, other artists have used the familiar phrase. Science fiction author Harlan Ellison entitled a 1978 short story "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," which he published in *Strange Wine*, a collection of his stories. An Australian movie with this title was released in 1988. Paul Alexander published a biography of James Dean entitled *Boulevard of Broken Dreams* (1994)—perhaps inspired by Dean's likeness in Helnwein's painting. Kim Deitch published an acclaimed graphic novel (2002) with the same title. In 2007, the E! television network aired a documentary series about

celebrities, also using this title.

Question: 11

The earliest use of the title and lyric "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" identified in the passage was by:

- A. Billie Joe Armstrong
- B. Tony Bennett and Sting
- C. A1 Dubin and Harry Warren
- D. Gottfried Helnwein

Answer: C

Explanation:

The earliest use of this title and lyric identified in this passage were by A1 Dubin and Harry Warren in 1933. Billie Joe Armstrong (A) used it in 2004. Tony Bennett and Sting (B) recorded a duet covering the Dubin and Warren original in 2006. Gottfried Helnwein (D) gave his painting this title in 1984.

Question: 12

The famous painting by Edward Hopper described in the passage is entitled:

- A. Boulevard of Broken Dreams
- B. American Idiot
- C. Strange Wine
- D. Nighthawks

Answer: D

Explanation:

The passage states that Hopper named his famous painting Nighthawks. Boulevard of Broken Dreams (A) was the name of Gottfried Helnwein's painting, which was a parody of Hopper's Nighthawks. American Idiot (B) was the title of Green Day's 2004 album that included their original song, inspired by Helnwein's painting and also entitled Boulevard of Broken Dreams. Strange Wine (C) was the title of Harlan Ellison's 1978 collection of science fiction short stories, which included his story entitled Boulevard of Broken Dreams.

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