



GED-SECTION-4^{Q&As}

Section Four Language Arts - Reading

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QUESTION 1

Why Is the Man Screaming?

Edvard Munch's 1893 painting "The Scream" is a powerful work of art that has true aesthetic value. In its raw depiction of the unavoidable human emotions of alienation, anxiety and fear, "The Scream" invites meaningful introspection as the

viewer internalizes its message of the vulnerability of the human psyche.

"The Scream" is a very dynamic and yet frightening painting. The blood-red sky and eerie water/air seem to be moving and twirling, even enveloping the screaming man's mind as he stands on a bridge completely disregarded by passers-by

who do not share in his horror. Viewers of the painting cannot help but ask:

Why is the man screaming? And why is he alone in his scream? What is he afraid of? Or, what has he realized or seen that is making him scream?

Why aren't the others as affected as he? The threat must be internal, yet the brushstrokes, colors and perspective seem to indicate that the horror is also bound to something in nature, something outside of the man. In any case, the agony

and alienation are inescapable. Something horrible has happened or been realized by the man who cannot contain his horror, but has not affected the others on the bridge.

That the people in the background are calm and do not share this horror conveys a truth regarding the ownership of our own feelings. We are often alone in our feelings, as can be especially noticed when we are in pain. The horror is the

man's own; he must carry it himself. In this expressionist piece, the black, red, and orange colors are both bold and dark, illuminating and haunting at the same time. Remarkably, the light from the blood-reds and vibrant oranges in the distant

sky seem to be somewhat detached from the figure in the forefront, failing to reach his persona, suggesting that there is little to illuminate his (and the viewers') fears.

The man's face is nondescript; in fact, it almost looks more like a skull than a living man's face, hollow with two simple dots to indicate the nostrils, no hair, no wrinkles of the skin. This could be any man or woman, left to deal with his or her own horrors.

Which of the following best describes what is depicted in the painting?

- A. a man screaming as he falls through the sky
- B. a man standing alone on a bridge and screaming
- C. several people on a bridge, with the man in the forefront screaming
- D. several people on a bridge, all of them screaming
- E. something horrible happening to people on a bridge

Correct Answer: C

The author states that the man "stands on a bridge" and is "completely disregarded by passers-by" (lines 12



QUESTION 2

What Did the Speaker Learn from Alfonso?

Alfonso I am not the first poet born to my family. We have painters and singers, actors and carpenters.

I inherited my trade from my zio, Alfonso. Zio maybe was the tallest man in the village, he certainly was the widest. He lost his voice to cigarettes before I was born, but still he roared with his hands, his eyes, with his brow, and his deafening

smile.

He worked the sea with my nonno fishing in silence among the grottoes so my father could learn to write and read and not speak like the guaglione, filled with curses and empty pockets.

He would watch me write with wonder, I could hear him on the couch, he looked at the lines over my shoulder, tried to teach himself to read late in the soft Adriatic darkness. Wine-stained pages gave him away.

But I learned to write from Zio He didnt need words, still he taught me the language of silence, the way the sun can describe a shadow, a gesture can paint a moment, a scent could fill an entire village with words and color and sound, a

perfect little grape tomato can be the most beautiful thing in the world, seen through the right eyes.

Marco A. Annunziata (2002)

Reprinted by permission of the author.

What is the relationship between the speaker and Alfonso?

- A. Alfonso is his uncle.
- B. Alfonso is his father.
- C. Alfonso is his best friend.
- D. Alfonso is his brother.
- E. Alfonso is a neighbor.

Correct Answer: A

Line 1 states, "I am not the first poet in my family, and line 28 states, "But I learned to write from Zio."Thus, he learned to write poetry from Zio. There is no evidence that either of them paints, except through words and gestures (see lines 2835), so choice a is incorrect. Zios trade was fishing, but the speaker is not a fisherman, so b is incorrect. There is no evidence that he is a singer or carpenter, so choices d and e are incorrect.

QUESTION 3

What Is the Author Asking for?

The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky? The land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?



Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect. All are holy in the memory and experience of my people.

We know the sap which courses through the trees as we know the blood that courses through our veins. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters. The bear, the deer, the great eagle, these are our

brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadow, the body heat of the pony, and man, all belong to the same family.

The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water, but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you our land, you must remember that it is sacred. Each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes tells of events and

memories in the life of my people. The waters murmur is the voice of my fathers father.

The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry out canoes and feed our children. So you must give to the rivers the kindness you would give any brother. If we sell you our land, remember that the air is precious to us, that the

air shares its spirit with all the life it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh. The wind also gives our children the spirit of life. So, if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a

place where man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow flowers.

Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother? What befalls the earth, befalls all sons of the earth. This we know:

The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites us all.

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Chief Seattle, from "This We Know" (1854)

According to the author, what sort of relationship do his people have with the land?

A.

They own it and do whatever they want with it.

B.

They respect it and do not understand how anyone can own it.

C.

They are indifferent and can live anywhere.

D.

They live there only because they have to and would be glad to sell it.

E.

They believe it is haunted and full of spirits and ghosts.

Correct Answer: B



Throughout the essay, the author expresses his people's respect for the land. "Every part of the earth is sacred to my people," he states (lines 6

QUESTION 4

What Is the New Dress Code Policy?

MEMORANDUM

TO:All Employees FROM:Helen Suskind, Director,

Human Resources Department

DATE:March 22, 2005 RE: Implementation of New Dress Code

A new dress code for all employees will take effect on September 1. All employees will be required to wear professional business attire while in the office. In this context, professional business attire excludes T-shirts, sleeveless shirts, shorts,

jeans, athletic attire, miniskirts, sandals, flip-flops, and sneakers. The attached sheet provides a complete list of attire that is inappropriate for the office. Please be sure to review this list carefully.

Violations of the new dress code will be handled as follows:

If you have any questions about the parameters of the dress code, please contact Martin Lamb in Human Resources immediately to schedule an appointment.

It is important that all employees understand the seriousness of this policy. Management based its decision to implement this code upon evidence that the lack of a dress code leads to a decrease in productivity. Our new dress code will help

maintain the reputation and integrity of our company by keeping us aware of the need for professionalism. Thank you for your cooperation.

According to the new policy, employees

- A. can wear sandals but not flip-flops.
- B. can wear short-sleeved shirts but not T-shirts.
- C. must wear suits or dresses.
- D. can wear shorts on very hot days.
- E. cannot wear hats in the office.

Correct Answer: B

The first paragraph lists several items that are expressly prohibited by the new dress code. These items include sandals, flip-flops, and shorts, so choices a and d are incorrect. The memo does not specify that employees must wear suits or dresses (choice b), nor does it mention the suitability of hats (choice e). T-shirts are prohibited, but short-sleeved shirts are not on the list, so choice b is the only possible correct answer.



QUESTION 5

What Has Mrs. Mallard Realized?

[Mrs. Mallard has locked herself in a room and is crying.]

She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams.

She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of

reflection, but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought.

There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, the

color that filled the air.

Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been.

When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. She said it over and over under her breath: "free, free, free!" The vacant stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed

keen and bright. Her pulses beat fast, and the coursing blood warmed and relaxed every inch of her body. She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. A clear and exalted perception enabled her to dismiss the

suggestion as trivial.

She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years

to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome. There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers

in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of

illumination.

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Kate Chopin, from "The Story of an Hour" (1894)

From what you learn in the passage, what relationship do you think Mrs. Mallard had with her husband?

A.

She loved him, but he did not love her.



B.

He loved her, but she did not love him.

C.

They loved each other and were kind to each other.

D.

They fought constantly.

E.

They were estranged from each other.

Correct Answer: C

In line 39, we learn that Mr. Mallard "had never looked save with love" upon Mrs. Mallard, and that she "would weep again when she saw [his] kind, tender hands folded in death." This shows that they had a loving relationship and eliminates all of the other choices.

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