



GED-SECTION-4^{Q&As}

Section Four Language Arts - Reading

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QUESTION 1

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.

-

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 2

How Are Robots Different from Humans?

[Helena is talking to Domain, the general manager of Rossums Universal Robots factory.]

DOMAIN: Well, any one whos looked into anatomy will have seen at once that man is too complicated, and that a good engineer could make him more simply. So young Rossum began to overhaul anatomy and tried to see what could be left

out or simplified. In short but this isnt boring you, Miss Glory?

HELENA: No; on the contrary, its awfully interesting.

DOMAIN: So young Rossum said to himself: A man is something that, for instance, feels happy, plays the fiddle, likes going for walks, and, in fact, wants to do a whole lot of things that are really unnecessary.

HELENA: Oh!

DOMAIN: Wait a bit. That are unnecessary when hes wanted, let us say, to weave or to count. Do you play the fiddle?

HELENA: No.

DOMAIN: Thats a pity. But a working machine must not want to play the fiddle, must not feel happy, must not do a whole lot of other things. A petrol motor must not have tassels or ornaments, Miss Glory. And to manufacture artificial workers

is the same thing as to manufacture motors. The process must be of the simplest, and the product of the best from a practical point of view. What sort of worker do you think is the best from a practical point of view?

HELENA: The best? Perhaps the one who is most honest and hard-working.

DOMAIN: No, the cheapest. The one whose needs are the smallest. Young Rossum invented a worker with the minimum amount of requirements. He had to simplify him. He rejected everything that did not contribute directly to the progress of

work. In this way he rejected everything that made man more expensive. In fact, he rejected man and made the Robot. My dear Miss Glory, the Robots are not people. Mechanically they are more perfect than we are, they have an enormously

developed intelligence, but they have no soul. Have you ever seen what a Robot looks like inside? HELENA: Good gracious, no!



DOMAIN: Very neat, very simple. Really a beautiful piece of work. Not much in it, but everything in flawless order. The product of an engineer is technically at a higher pitch of perfection than a product of nature.

HELENA: Man is supposed to be the product of nature.

DOMAIN: So much the worse.

Karel C apek,

from R.U.R. (1923, translated by P. Selver)

Which of the following best expresses Rossums view of nature?

- A. Nature is beautiful.
- B. It is dangerous to try to improve upon nature.
- C. Nature is imperfect and unnecessarily complicated.
- D. Mother Nature is the greatest engineer of all.
- E. Machines are also a part of nature.

Correct Answer: C

Rossum wanted to simplify nature, and Domain states that "the product of an engineer is technically at a higher pitch of perfection than a product of nature" (lines

5860), showing that Rossum felt nature was imperfect and unnecessarily complicated. Rossum seems to think that machines are more beautiful (more perfect) than nature, so choice a is incorrect. Rossum clearly tries to improve upon nature

and seems to think hes a better engineer, so choices b and d can be ruled out.

There is a clear distinction in the passage between products of humans (engineers) and products of nature, so choice e is incorrect.

QUESTION 3

Whats Wrong with Biff and Happy?

[Biff is talking with his brother, Happy. They are together with their parents in the home where they grew up.]

BIFF: [with rising agitation] Hap, Ive had twenty or thirty different kinds of jobs since I left home before the war, and it always turns out the same. I just realized it lately. In Nebraska, when I herded cattle, and the Dakotas, and Arizona, and

now in Texas. Its why I came home now, I guess, because I realized it.

This farm I work on, its spring there now, see? And theyve got about fifteen new colts. Theres nothing more inspiring or beautiful than the sight of a mare and a new colt. And its cool there now, see? Texas is cool now, and its spring. And

whenever spring comes to where I am, I suddenly get the feeling, my God, Im not gettin anywhere! What the hell am I doing, playing around with horses, twenty-eight dollars a week! Im thirty-four years old, I oughta be makinmy future.



That's when I come running home. And now, I get here, and I don't know what to do with myself. [After a pause] I've always made a point of not wasting my life, and every time I come back here I know that all I've done is to waste my life.

HAPPY: You're a poet, you know that, Biff?

You're a you're an idealist!

BIFF: No, I'm mixed up very bad. Maybe I oughta get married. Maybe I oughta get stuck into something. Maybe that's my trouble. I'm like a boy. I'm not married,

I'm not in business, I just I'm like a boy. Are you content, Hap? You're a success, aren't you? Are you content?

HAPPY: Hell, no!

BIFF: Why? You're making money, aren't you?

HAPPY: [moving about with energy, expressiveness] All I can do now is wait for the merchandise manager to die. And suppose I get to be merchandise manager?

He's a good friend of mine, and he just built a terrific estate on Long Island. And he lived there about two months and sold it, and now he's building another one.

He can't enjoy it once it's finished. And I know that's just what I would do. I don't know what the hell I'm working for. Sometimes I sit in my apartment all alone.

And I think of the rent I'm paying. And it's crazy. But then, it's what I always wanted. My own apartment, a car, and plenty of women. And still, goddammit, I'm lonely.

Arthur Miller, from *Death of a Salesman* (1949)

Biff has come home because

- A. he needs a vacation.
- B. he isn't earning enough money at his new job.
- C. he feels like he isn't getting anywhere in life.
- D. he likes to be home in springtime.
- E. he misses his family.

Correct Answer: C

Biff tells Happy, "And whenever spring comes to where I am, I suddenly get the feeling, my God, I'm not getting

QUESTION 4

What Happened When He Came to America? My parents lost friends, lost family ties and patterns of mutual assistance, lost rituals and habits and favorite foods, lost any link to an ongoing social milieu, lost a good part of the sense they had of themselves. We lost a house, several towns, various landscapes. We lost documents and pictures and heirlooms, as well as most of our breakable belongings, smashed in the nine packing cases that we took with us to America. We lost connection to a thing larger than ourselves, and as a family failed to make any significant new connection in exchange, so that we were left aground on a sandbar barely big enough for our feet. I lost friends and relatives and stories and familiar comforts and a sense of continuity between home and outside and any sense that I was normal. I lost half a



language through want of use and eventually, in my late teens, even lost French as the language of my internal monologue. And I lost a whole network of routes through life that I had just barely glimpsed. Hastening on toward some idea of a future, I only half-realized these losses, and when I did realize I didnt disapprove, and sometimes I actively colluded. At some point, though, I was bound to notice that there was a gulf inside me, with a blanketed form on the other side that hadnt been uncovered in decades. My project of self-invention had been successful, so much so that I had become a sort of hydroponic vegetable, growing soil-free. But I had been formed in another world; everything in me that was essential was owed to immersion in that place, and that time, that I had so effectively renounced. [. . .] Like it or not, each of us is made, less by blood or genes than by a process that is largely accidental, the impact of things seen and heard and smelled and tasted and endured in those few years before our clay hardens. Offhand remarks, things glimpsed in passing, jokes and commonplaces, shop displays and climate and flickering light and textures of walls are all consumed by us and become part of our fiber, just as much as the more obvious effects of upbringing and socialization and intimacy and learning. Every human being is an archeological site. Luc Sante, from *The Factory of Facts* (1998) In the last sentence of the excerpt, the author writes that "Every human being is an archeological site."What does he mean by this?

- A. The environment that formed us is a permanent, if buried, part of us.
- B. We must dig deep within ourselves to discover our past.
- C. We all have a piece of our past that we would prefer to keep buried.
- D. Only archaeologists understand the impact of our environment.
- E. The past is always with us, no matter where we go.

Correct Answer: A

In the third paragraph, the author lists all the aspects of our environment that have an impact on our identity and sense of self. Even if we dont consciously think of these things, or even notice them, they are a part of who we are. We do not necessarily have to dig deep within ourselves to discover our past, so choice b is incorrect. We may all have a part of our past that we want to keep buried (choice c), but the author doesnt state that anywhere in the passage. The author does not appear to be an archaeologist, and he does not claim that only archaeologists understand the impact of our environment, so choice d is incorrect. Choice e may be true, and the author seems to convey this in the passage, but that is not what he means by this sentence.

QUESTION 5

What Is the Work-Study Program?

Overview of the Work-Study Program The Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program is a student employment program subsidized by the federal government and designed to help students finance their post-secondary education. The program

provides funds to colleges, universities, and affiliated organizations which then provide employment to work-study students. Students receive their work-study financial awards in the form of paychecks from their work-study positions.

Applying for Work-Study Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply. Work-Study grants are awarded based upon demonstrated financial need. To apply, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This application must

be submitted each year Work-Study employment is desired.

What Are the Advantages of Work-Study?

A work-study job is essentially just like any other job you go to work, do your job, and get paid. But Work-Study positions



have several distinct advantages over

"regular" jobs:

What Types of Work-Study Jobs Are Available?

The work-study positions at Madison Community College are as diverse as the functions of the college. Work-study students are employed as clerical assistants, data entry clerks, computer technicians, laboratory monitors, research

assistants, language tutors, and more. In addition, Madison Community College has long-standing relationships with a number of employers and agencies that provide services for the community and have been approved to participate in the

Federal

Work-Study Program, including the Madison County Childrens Museum, the Madison County Library, Children First Day Care, and Right Start Tutoring Agency.

Students may be employed as museum guides, library aides, child caregivers, research assistants, tutors, and more.

Who is eligible for the Work-Study Program?

- A. first-year students only
- B. undergraduate students only
- C. graduate students only
- D. undergraduate and graduate students
- E. unemployed students only

Correct Answer: D

The second paragraph clearly states that "both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply." This eliminates choices a, b, and c. No employment criteria are mentioned, so choice e is incorrect.

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