

Reading Comprehension

Directions: After reading the story below, complete the exercises that follow.

"Ana, Praty, and Yad were three fish living in a pond. A fisherman passing by the pond said, 'I have never seen this pond. It seems to be full of fish. It is now evening. I will come at dawn tomorrow and bag as many fish as I can.'

Hearing the fisherman, Ana, the one who could foresee danger, called a meeting of all the fish and told them, 'Haven't you heard what the fisherman was saying? We must move out of this pond tonight. As the wise men have said, weak men should flee when a strong man invades or seek refuge in a fort. There is no alternative.

'The fisherman will come tomorrow. I think we should not be here for even a moment more,' said Ana.

'That's true. I agree with your suggestion,' said Praty. 'Let's go elsewhere. Those who are afraid of foreign lands and those who are bound to

their soil will die in their own country. He who can prosper anywhere does not die in his own land clinging to sentiment.'

Loudly laughing, Yad said, 'Your plans are not good. Why should we leave this pond, ancient home of our forefathers, because the fisherman has evil intentions? If it is destined, we cannot escape death even if we go elsewhere.'

Unable to convince Yad and the other fish, Praty and Ana left the pond. The next day, the fisherman took a big catch of fish from the pond. Yad was among them."

The female pheasant who was telling the story added, "That is why I told you that those who foresee the problem and those who deal with the problem when it arises are always victors and those who trust their luck are the losers."

TRUE OR FALSE

Directions: Place a *T* next to the statements that are true and an *F* next to those that are false.

- _____ 1. The fisherman wants to kill the fish.
- _____ 2. Ana does not think it is important to leave after hearing the fisherman's words.
- _____ 3. The "wise men" mentioned in this story suggest fighting those who invade your land.
- _____ 4. Yad does not believe in destiny.
- _____ 5. Praty thinks that they will escape the fisherman even if they stay in the pond.
- _____ 6. Ana and Praty leave the pond and survive.
- _____ 7. Yad escapes the fisherman.
- _____ 8. Ana and Praty deal with the problem at hand.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions.

1. Who is the narrator of the story?
2. What is the moral of the story?
3. Why does Yad believe that he cannot escape his fate even if he leaves the pond?
4. Do you agree with the moral of this story? Why or why not?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Directions: Circle the letter that best answers the question or completes the sentence based on the play *Climbing the Stairs*.

1. Vidya and her father are caught in a protest against
 - a. the British army for opposing Germany.
 - b. the British army for keeping Indians under colonial rule.
 - c. the Nazis.
2. This story takes place during
 - a. World War I.
 - b. World War II.
 - c. the Great Depression.
3. Who is Periappa?
 - a. Vidya's uncle
 - b. Vidya's grandfather
 - c. Vidya's father
4. Malati feels that Vidya's father is foolish because
 - a. he has been beaten into a stupor.
 - b. he chose to fight the British.
 - c. he cannot support his family.
5. Vidya's greatest concern in this story is
 - a. climbing the stairs
 - b. her marriage prospects.
 - c. going to college.
6. Raman plans to
 - a. join the British army.
 - b. move to the United States.
 - c. care for Vidya's family.
7. Why does Kitta call India "the jewel in the British crown"?
 - a. India has a strong army for Britain to use as a resource in battle.
 - b. The British support India's beautiful culture.
 - c. India is rich with resources and people to make ammunition and armor for the British army.
8. Vidya initially refuses to marry Raman because
 - a. he arranged the marriage without asking her first.
 - b. Raman refuses to allow her to study.
 - c. she does not want to go to the U.S.

PART I

Directions: Choose the word from the word bank that best completes each sentence.

acrid	clamor	conservative	demonstrations
deployed	enlist	expounds	fundamental
haven	patriarch	wisps	

1. The hot sun makes the _____ stench of warm garbage fill the alley.
2. Jimmy's platoon was _____ to Vietnam on June 15, 1970.
3. _____ of apple-scented steam rise from the pie cooling on Mrs. Duther's windowsill.
4. Our barn used to house horses, but we turned it into a _____ for lost and abused animals.
5. The protestors' _____ did little to persuade the city lawmakers to overturn their decision.