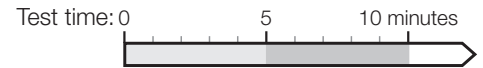


Test B: Comprehension



Read the text carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Call Me Ishmael

“Call me Ishmael,” he said in his best James Bond voice as he considered his reflection in the mirror. Then he frowned. “Call me Bert.” No, it just wasn’t so exciting. Bert desperately wanted a more exhilarating life as he was bored of gaming. His friends had all gone on holiday or were doing football camp and the interminable rain was miserable. Bert was staying with Grandma and she thought a ‘nice cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit’ was enough of a thrill! Bert looked at the cover of the book that Grandma had given him. It looked worn and shabby. “*Moby Dick*,” he said to himself. It sounded grim – he would rather read a dictionary and that would be punishing enough. The words ‘books’ and ‘Bert’ did not sit well together. That said, this first sentence did sound catchy. “Call me Ishmael.” He read again, but this time he carried on reading. Bert wasn’t going to read much further on, but he slumped on the bean bag – Grandma’s attempt at being cool – and turned the pages ...

5

“Bert?” called Grandma. “Bert, are you in here?” She walked into the room and looked flabbergasted when she saw him engrossed in the book. “Ah!” she thought. “*Moby Dick* was a good choice.” She left the room with a smile on her face. All of her grandchildren assumed that Grandma had lived her life shuffling around in slippers and resting for frequent cups of tea. Grandma thought back to a day so many years ago when she was fed up with the weather and her shrewd grandfather had passed her his favourite book. She turned the tap on to make a cup of tea. “Call me Ishmael,” she said in her best James Bond voice. She chuckled to herself.

10

15

20

1 Why did Bert begin reading the book? Underline the correct answer.

- a Grandma had given him the book. Bert enjoyed the first line.
- b There was nothing else for Bert to do. It was Bert’s favourite book.
- c Grandma had asked him to read the book. It was Bert’s favourite book.
- d Bert loved reading. There was nothing else for Bert to do.
- e Bert enjoyed the first line. Grandma had asked him to read the book.

1

2 Why does Grandma repeat the first line at the end of the extract? Underline the correct answer.

 1

- a Grandma had been young once.
- b She had been given the book by her grandfather.
- c It was a book that she had also enjoyed.
- d The first line of the book had also captured her interest.
- e All of the above.

3 Underline the **ONE** false statement.

 1

- a Bert had no friends who were free to play with him.
- b The book looked tatty.
- c Grandma had always worn slippers.
- d Bert didn't enjoyed reading books.
- e Bert was enjoying *Moby Dick*.

What do these words mean as used in the text? Underline the correct answer.

 5

- 4 exhilarating (line 3) scary / enjoyable / exciting / calming / sedate
- 5 catchy (line 11) enticing / rough / coarse / fun / boring
- 6 engrossed (line 15) relaxing / entertaining / riveted / repulsed / disgusted
- 7 interminable (line 5) heavy / short / gentle / drizzly / endless
- 8 shrewd (line 20) amusing / gentle / astute / severe / caring

9 How had Bert changed from the beginning of the text to the end? Underline **TWO** answers.

 2

- a Bert felt that he understood Grandma more.
- b Bert had learned not to complain.
- c Bert had turned into someone who enjoyed reading a book.
- d Bert had found a way of dealing with boredom.
- e Bert had learned to enjoy a nice cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit.

Total 10

Answers

English and Verbal Reasoning

Test B: Comprehension

- 1 **a** Grandma had given him the book. Bert enjoyed the first line.
- 2 **e** All of the reasons could be given for Grandma repeating the first line.
- 3 **c** Grandma had always worn slippers. (The grandchildren 'assumed' she had always worn slippers.)
- 4 exciting
- 5 enticing
- 6 riveted
- 7 endless
- 8 astute
- 9 **c** (Bert had turned into someone who enjoyed reading a book.) and **d** (Bert had found a way of dealing with boredom.)