

Reading Test

65 MINUTES, 52 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 1 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage or pair of passages below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage or pair, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage or passages and in any accompanying graphics (such as a table or graph).

Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from George Eliot, *Silas Marner*. Originally published in 1861. Silas was a weaver and a notorious miser, but then the gold he had hoarded was stolen. Shortly after, Silas adopted a young child, Eppie, the daughter of an impoverished woman who had died suddenly.

Unlike the gold which needed nothing, and must be worshipped in close-locked solitude—which was hidden away from the daylight, was deaf to the song of birds, and started to no human tones—Eppie was a
 5 creature of endless claims and ever-growing desires, seeking and loving sunshine, and living sounds, and living movements; making trial of everything, with trust in new joy, and stirring the human kindness in all eyes that looked on her. The gold had kept his
 10 thoughts in an ever-repeated circle, leading to nothing beyond itself; but Eppie was an object compacted of changes and hopes that forced his thoughts onward, and carried them far away from their old eager pacing towards the same blank
 15 limit—carried them away to the new things that would come with the coming years, when Eppie would have learned to understand how her father Silas cared for her; and made him look for images of that time in the ties and charities that bound together
 20 the families of his neighbors. The gold had asked that

he should sit weaving longer and longer, deafened and blinded more and more to all things except the monotony of his loom and the repetition of his web; but Eppie called him away from his weaving, and
 25 made him think all its pauses a holiday, reawakening his senses with her fresh life, even to the old winter-flies that came crawling forth in the early spring sunshine, and warming him into joy because she had joy.
 30 And when the sunshine grew strong and lasting, so that the buttercups were thick in the meadows, Silas might be seen in the sunny mid-day, or in the late afternoon when the shadows were lengthening under the hedgerows, strolling out with uncovered
 35 head to carry Eppie beyond the Stone-pits to where the flowers grew, till they reached some favorite bank where he could sit down, while Eppie toddled to pluck the flowers, and make remarks to the winged things that murmured happily above the bright
 40 petals, calling “Dad-dad’s” attention continually by bringing him the flowers. Then she would turn her ear to some sudden bird-note, and Silas learned to please her by making signs of hushed stillness, that they might listen for the note to come again: so that
 45 when it came, she set up her small back and laughed with gurgling triumph. Sitting on the banks in this way, Silas began to look for the once familiar herbs again; and as the leaves, with their unchanged outline and markings, lay on his palm, there was a sense of
 50 crowding remembrances from which he turned away timidly, taking refuge in Eppie’s little world, that lay lightly on his enfeebled spirit.

As the child’s mind was growing into knowledge, his mind was growing into memory: as her life unfolded, his soul, long stupefied in a cold narrow prison, was unfolding too, and trembling gradually into full consciousness.

It was an influence which must gather force with every new year: the tones that stirred Silas’ heart grew articulate, and called for more distinct answers; shapes and sounds grew clearer for Eppie’s eyes and ears, and there was more that “Dad-dad” was imperatively required to notice and account for. Also, by the time Eppie was three years old, she developed a fine capacity for mischief, and for devising ingenious ways of being troublesome, which found much exercise, not only for Silas’ patience, but for his watchfulness and penetration. Sorely was poor Silas puzzled on such occasions by the incompatible demands of love.

1

Which choice best describes a major theme of the passage?

- A) The corrupting influence of a materialistic society
- B) The moral purity of young children
- C) The bittersweet brevity of childhood naïveté
- D) The restorative power of parental love

2

As compared with Silas’s gold, Eppie is portrayed as having more

- A) vitality.
- B) durability.
- C) protection.
- D) self-sufficiency.

3

Which statement best describes a technique the narrator uses to represent Silas’s character before he adopted Eppie?

- A) The narrator emphasizes Silas’s former obsession with wealth by depicting his gold as requiring certain behaviors on his part.
- B) The narrator underscores Silas’s former greed by describing his gold as seeming to reproduce on its own.
- C) The narrator hints at Silas’s former antisocial attitude by contrasting his present behavior toward his neighbors with his past behavior toward them.
- D) The narrator demonstrates Silas’s former lack of self-awareness by implying that he is unable to recall life before Eppie.

4

The narrator uses the phrase “making trial of everything” (line 7) to present Eppie as

- A) friendly.
- B) curious.
- C) disobedient.
- D) judgmental.

5

According to the narrator, one consequence of Silas adopting Eppie is that he

- A) has renounced all desire for money.
- B) better understands his place in nature.
- C) seems more accepting of help from others.
- D) looks forward to a different kind of future.

6

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 9-11 (“The gold . . . itself”)
- B) Lines 11-16 (“but Eppie . . . years”)
- C) Lines 41-43 (“Then . . . stillness”)
- D) Lines 61-63 (“shapes . . . for”)

7

What function does the second paragraph (lines 30-52) serve in the passage as a whole?

- A) It presents the particular moment at which Silas realized that Eppie was changing him.
- B) It highlights Silas’s love for Eppie by depicting the sacrifices that he makes for her.
- C) It illustrates the effect that Eppie has on Silas by describing the interaction between them.
- D) It reveals a significant alteration in the relationship between Silas and Eppie.

8

In describing the relationship between Eppie and Silas, the narrator draws a connection between Eppie’s

- A) physical vulnerability and Silas’s emotional fragility.
- B) expanding awareness and Silas’s increasing engagement with life.
- C) boundless energy and Silas’s insatiable desire for wealth.
- D) physical growth and Silas’s painful perception of his own mortality.

9

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 1-9 (“Unlike . . . her”)
- B) Lines 30-41 (“And when . . . flowers”)
- C) Lines 46-48 (“Sitting . . . again”)
- D) Lines 53-57 (“As the . . . consciousness”)

10

As used in line 65, “fine” most nearly means

- A) acceptable.
- B) delicate.
- C) ornate.
- D) keen.