

WATER

Josiah Hodge collapsed in a seat at the Café du Monde restaurant in New Orleans. He put his head in his hands and let out a deep sigh.

Josiah had come to New Orleans to do a public service. He had come up with the idea to develop a play for children affected by Hurricane Katrina, and he had secured a modest grant from the government to do so. But he hadn't accounted for the major hindrance he would face: blistering heat in August with no clean water to drink.

Buying water for his crew of 38 volunteers for weeks on end would be far too expensive to do on his shoestring budget, and he had no one to turn to on such short notice for help. Josiah feared he would have to close up the production and return home.

As he sipped on a glass of soda, he found it ironic that water, which flooded this city and left many residents without homes or hope, would now be his downfall as he tried to spread the joy of theater to its children. "Hello, sir," a man at the table next to him said. "What brings you to New Orleans?"

Josiah shook his head. Later, he would find it amusing that this man knew just by looking that Josiah was not a local. For now, he was just tired and irritated.

"Look, I don't mean to be rude, but I've had a bad day," Josiah said. "I don't much feel like talking."

"What brings you to town?" the man said, pleasantly.

Josiah grudgingly talked a bit about his work as a theater director in Manhattan and his dream to bring a top-flight play to the children of New Orleans.

The next day, as Josiah left a blazing hot outdoor studio, he noticed the same man from the restaurant, parked on the street. A shock of fluffy white hair framed his dark face, making him look almost saintly.

"Look, sir, what do you want?"

"To help."

"How?"

"What do you need?"

"What I really need is clean water. That's all I need." Josiah turned and walked away. He had been rude, he knew, but he was so frustrated by this problem.

When he arrived back at his hotel room that evening, the front desk clerk handed Josiah an unmarked envelope. Inside was a check for \$2,000. The memo line read, "For water."

Josiah was flabbergasted. Who was this man?

As he pondered his good fortune, the phone rang in his hotel room. "Will that get you some water?" a voice said on the other end.

"Why, yes, yes it will," Josiah said. "Thank you so much for your generosity."

"My wife and I would like to take you to dinner." Josiah could not refuse! This man was his savior, and his curiosity had gotten the best of him. Who was this benefactor?

At dinner, Etienne Fanchon and his wife, Adelaide, formally introduced themselves. Mr. Fanchon never graduated from high school, but inherited 5 acres of land from his father upon his death. For years, Mr. Fanchon grew cucumbers on the land, barely making a living. One day, a neighbor offered Fanchon a bag of money if Mr. Fanchon would let him bury three old trucks at the back of his property.

Mr. Fanchon took the bag and agreed. Later, he could not believe how much money was in the bag. "And just for letting him bury some trucks!"

The next morning, Mr. Fanchon said, he woke up, picked all the cucumbers off his land, and converted the 5 acres into a waste management facility. He is now one of New Orleans' few multimillionaires.

"So, I have all this money now and live to help others," said Mr. Fanchon. "That is why I've helped you."

1) Which best describes Josiah's mood at the beginning of this passage?

- A. tired and vindictive
- B. angry and conniving
- C. pensive and high-strung
- D. frustrated and overwhelmed

2) Which of the following best describes Josiah's mood after he gets the check?

- A. surprised and curious
- B. confused and questioning
- C. excited and nervous
- D. suspicious and cautious

3) The climax of this story happens when

- A. Josiah opens the envelope
- B. Mr. Fanchon shows up at the studio
- C. Mr. Fanchon describes how he got so rich
- D. Josiah accepts Mr. Fanchon's invitation to dinner

14) In the middle of the story, the author writes, "A shock of fluffy white hair framed his dark face, making him look almost saintly." Which of the following literary devices is used in this quotation?

- A. euphemism, characterized by the replacement of a harsh or direct word or phrase with a vague or milder word or phrase
- B. allegory, characterized by an extended metaphor in which concrete things represent abstract ideas
- C. foreshadowing, characterized by hinting at what is to come
- D. satire, characterized by the making fun of a human flaw or weakness to make a larger point

5) As used in the beginning of the story, which is the best antonym for hindrance?

- A. assistance
- B. obstacle
- C. profit
- D. friend

6) In paragraph 3, the author uses the term "shoestring budget." This means to

- A. accept help when it is offered
- B. have to rely on luck
- C. operate with little money
- D. have extreme patience

7) As used in the beginning of the story, which is the best antonym for irritated?

- A. acclimated
- B. bashful
- C. melancholy
- D. pacified

8) What lesson does Josiah learn in this passage?

- A. It is okay to be somewhat rude on first meeting someone.
- B. Help can come from the most unlikely of places.
- C. Frustration can often cloud one's judgment.
- D. Theater programs are an excellent way to help those in need.

9) Why does Josiah grudgingly talk to Mr. Fanchon in the Café du Monde?

- A. He is hungry.
- B. He is irritated and does not feel like being bothered.
- C. He decided conversation might make him feel better.
- D. He wanted to spread the word about his theater program.

10) In this passage, how are Josiah and Mr. Fanchon alike?

- A. Both are patient.
- B. Both lack ambition.
- C. Both are quick to show emotion.
- D. Both have philanthropic interests.

Simile examples:

She is as sweet as candy.
Bob runs like a deer.
The willow's music is like a soprano.
She slept like a log.
He is as thin as a rail.

Metaphor examples:

My dad is a bear.
The bar of soap was a slippery eel.
The light was the sun during our test.
He hogged the road.
She toyed with the idea.

1. Now You Try This :

Similes:

A friend is like _____, or Friendship is like _____.
A friend is as _____ as _____.
When I am tired, I am as _____.
When I am sad, I am like _____.
The dog was as fast as _____.

Metaphors:

A friend is _____.
Friendship is _____.
Feeling tired is _____.
He was a _____ through all their trouble.



2. Underline the Similes and Metaphors in the following sentences :

1. The baby was like an octopus, grabbing at all the cans on the grocery store shelves.
2. As the teacher entered the room she muttered under her breath, "This class is like a three-ring circus!"
3. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.
4. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it after a long day.
5. I feel like a limp dishrag.
6. Those girls are like two peas in a pod.
7. The fluorescent light was the sun during the test.
8. No one invites Harold to parties because he's a wet blanket.
9. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog's bath.
10. Ted was as nervous as a cat with a long tail in a room full of rocking chairs.

3. Make a summary of not more than 120 words, describing the various means of transportation.

The means of transportation has changed and improved over many centuries. Long ago, during the times of the kings and knights, animals such as horses, buffaloes and camels were used by man for transportation purposes. These animals no doubt did save man from traveling by foot, they took a long time to complete the journeys, especially when transporting goods.

In 1825, George Stephenson's opening of the first railway marked a significant progress in the history of transportation. Railways were in popular demand because they could carry more people and loads. More importantly, they ran faster than animals. Railways improved the communication networks and hence, imports and exports of goods and people traveling out of their towns or even countries to work were made possible. Unfortunately, since the invention of motor vehicles, the popularity of railways has declined.

Motor vehicles were first invented in the eighteenth century. These vehicles were preferred by many people as they do not run on tracks and hence do not have fixed routes. Travelers can then plan their own routes to suit their convenience. This is especially so when the destinations are places like small towns or remote areas. In these places, few or even none of the trains ever reach them; so traveling by the motor vehicle would solve this problem. Over many years of modifications, the motor vehicle is now one of the most commonly used means of transportation. Today, we travel in cars, taxis, buses, lorries or vans almost every day.

Another form of transportation is by water. It may be the slowest but definitely the cheapest form of bulk transportation. Though over the centuries of innovations, water transportation has improved from the ancient wind dependent yachts to the modern motor driven ships, journeys by water are still characterized by the dangers and unpredictability of meeting natural disasters like the storms.

The evolution of world transportation has reached its pinnacle with the invention of airplanes. Transportation by planes is the easiest and fastest. Planes gliding smoothly in the air, are not obstructed by seas, hills, buildings and so on. Though convenient, this means of transport is the most expensive. Despite the popular demand, the transportation network of the planes is still not a balanced and complete one till today. Developed countries tend to make use of air transportation more frequently than the less developed ones as they do more exporting and importing of goods and also have more people traveling to and from their countries. Hence, the networks in these developed countries are denser.

How well do you know the use of COMMA? Here are some rules and examples. Try the exercises according to the rules:

1. Use a comma to separate the parts of a compound sentence.

- a. Your answers are correct, but you did the wrong exercise.
- b. Roberto's wife liked the appliance, and he liked the price.

2. Use a comma to set off an introductory clause or phrases or words.

- a. If I don't learn English this semester, I will be very unhappy.
- b. While talking to Jean about her plans, I found out that she is going to Hawaii.

3. Use a comma between 3 or more words in a series when no conjunctions have been used.

- a. Rats need places to hide, to nest, and to breed.
- b. My favorite sports are swimming, tennis, and skiing.

4. Use a comma to set off words such as yes, no, well, and however at the beginning of a sentence.

- a. Furthermore, I don't have enough money for the trip.
- b. No, I have not traveled in Mexico.

5. Use a comma to set off parenthetical words and phrases which interrupt the sentence with information that is nonessential.

- a. You are, of course, planning to attend the convention.
- b. Some Americans, however, use chopsticks when they eat Chinese food.

