

# Reading Comprehension

## Connotation/Denotation

Read the passage, and then answer the questions below it. Mark the letter of your answer on a bubble sheet if your teacher provides one; otherwise, number from 1 to 5 on a separate sheet of paper, and write the letter of the correct answer next to each number.

We could see smoke rising from fires that dotted the entire east coast of Africa, and in the same orbit only moments later, ice floes jostling for position in the Antarctic. . . .

As the shuttle races the sun around the Earth, we pass from day to night and back again during a single orbit—hurtling into darkness, then bursting into daylight. The sun’s appearance unleashes spectacular blue and orange bands along the horizon, a clockwork miracle that astronauts witness every 90 minutes. But, I really can’t describe a sunrise in orbit. The drama set against the black backdrop of space and the magic of the materializing colors can’t be captured in an astronomer’s equations or an astronaut’s photographs.

—“Single Room, Earth View” by Sally Ride

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| <p><b>1</b> What connotation does the word <u>jostling</u> have in this passage?</p> <p><b>A</b> It suggests that something is nearby.</p> <p><b>B</b> It suggests the colliding or bumping of objects.</p> <p><b>C</b> It connotes competition or combat.</p> <p><b>D</b> It connotes a disagreement.</p> <p><b>2</b> What connotation does the word <u>unleashes</u> have in this passage?</p> <p><b>A</b> It connotes the freeing of animals.</p> <p><b>B</b> It means “is loose.”</p> <p><b>C</b> It means “causes something to be released.”</p> <p><b>D</b> It connotes the removing of something.</p> <p><b>3</b> Which word in this passage has connotations of plunging or swooping?</p> <p><b>A</b> hurtling</p> <p><b>B</b> darkness</p> <p><b>C</b> bursting</p> <p><b>D</b> daylight</p> | <p><b>4</b> What connotation does the word <u>clockwork</u> have in this passage?</p> <p><b>A</b> It connotes something that is mechanical and uninteresting.</p> <p><b>B</b> It connotes something that occurs with unfailing regularity.</p> <p><b>C</b> It connotes something that is repetitious and dull.</p> <p><b>D</b> It suggests the measuring of time.</p> <p><b>5</b> What connotation does the word <u>drama</u> have in this passage?</p> <p><b>A</b> It connotes something that is acted out, such as a performance.</p> <p><b>B</b> It connotes the spectacle of something that demands one’s attention.</p> <p><b>C</b> It refers to a play.</p> <p><b>D</b> It connotes something that tells a story.</p> |
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# Reading Comprehension

## Connotation and Denotation

Read the passage, and then answer the questions below it. Mark the letter of your answer on a bubble sheet if your teacher provides one; otherwise, number from 1 to 6 on a separate sheet of paper, and write the letter of the correct answer next to each number.

It's odd the little things that come to your mind at times of utmost stress, the flashes of deep \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> you feel for people who are really not at the center of the tragedy. I heard a Secret Service man say in the most \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> voice—and I hurt for him: "We never lost a President in the Service." Then, Police Chief Curry of Dallas came on the plane and said, "Mrs. Kennedy, believe me, we did everything we possibly could." That must have been \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> moment for him. . . .

Mrs. Kennedy's dress was stained with blood. . . . Somehow that was one of the most \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> sights—that immaculate woman \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> dressed, and caked in blood.

I asked her if I couldn't get someone in to help her change. . . . And then with almost an element of fierceness—if a person that gentle, that \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>, can be said to have such a quality—she said, "I want them to see what they have done to Jack."

—A *White House Diary* by Lady Bird Johnson

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| <p><b>1</b> Which word best completes the sentence?<br/><b>A</b> emotion<br/><b>B</b> sensation<br/><b>C</b> feeling<br/><b>D</b> compassion</p> <p><b>2</b> Which word best completes the sentence?<br/><b>A</b> sad<br/><b>B</b> desolate<br/><b>C</b> unhappy<br/><b>D</b> melancholy</p> <p><b>3</b> Which words best complete the sentence?<br/><b>A</b> an uncomfortable<br/><b>B</b> a difficult<br/><b>C</b> an agonizing<br/><b>D</b> a tough</p> | <p><b>4</b> Which word best completes the sentence?<br/><b>A</b> memorable<br/><b>B</b> striking<br/><b>C</b> poignant<br/><b>D</b> painful</p> <p><b>5</b> Which word best completes the sentence?<br/><b>A</b> well<br/><b>B</b> finely<br/><b>C</b> nicely<br/><b>D</b> exquisitely</p> <p><b>6</b> Which word best completes the sentence?<br/><b>A</b> controlled<br/><b>B</b> unruffled<br/><b>C</b> dignified<br/><b>D</b> calm</p> |
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# Reading Comprehension

## Connotation

Read the passage, and then answer the questions below it. Mark the letter of your answer on a bubble sheet if your teacher provides one; otherwise, number from 1 to 6 on a separate sheet of paper, and write the letter of the correct answer next to each number.

But when I was in 8th grade, a friend of mine (who was a lot smarter than I was) convinced me to give comics another look and lent me his collection. Soon, I was hooked!

In less than a year, I became totally obsessed with comics! I decided to become a comics artist in 10th grade and began to practice, practice, practice!

I felt that there was something lurking in comics . . . something that had never been done. Some kind of hidden power!

But whenever I tried to explain my feeling, I failed miserably.

Sure, I realized that comic books were usually crude, poorly-drawn, semiliterate, cheap, disposable kiddie fare—

but—they don't have to be. . . .

If people failed to understand comics, it was because they defined what comics could be too narrowly! . . .

"Comics" is . . . [j]uxtaposed pictorial and other images in deliberate sequence, intended to convey information and/or to produce an aesthetic response to the viewer.

—"Understanding Comics" by Scott McCloud

- Which word in the passage has connotations of *persuasion*?  
A lent  
B convinced  
C explain  
D became
- Which word in the passage has connotations of *abnormality*?  
A practice  
B totally  
C obsessed  
D decided
- Which word in the passage has connotations of *craftiness* and *concealment*?  
A hooked  
B lurking  
C hidden  
D power
- Which word in the passage has connotations of being *unrefined* or *rough*?  
A crude  
B semiliterate  
C cheap  
D disposable
- Which word in the passage has connotations of *carefulness* or *thoroughness*?  
A sequence  
B aesthetic  
C casual  
D deliberate
- Which word in the passage has connotations of being *overly simplistic*?  
A kiddie  
B fare  
C narrowly  
D poorly