BLOGS

Reading Comprehension Questions for CLAT UG 2026

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PASSAGE

When we were small, Jem and I confined our activities to the southern neighborhood, but when I was well into the second grade at school and tormenting Boo Radley became passe, the business section of Maycomb drew us frequently up the street past the real property of Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose.

It was impossible to go to town without passing her house unless we wished to walk a mile out of the way. We would be raked by her wrathful gaze, subjected to ruthless interrogation regarding our behavior, and given a melancholy prediction on the outcome of our future. We had long ago given up the idea of walking past her house on the other side of the street; that only made her raise her voice and shout after us.

Mrs. Dubose was plain hell. Jem and I hated her. If she was on the porch when we passed, we would be raked by her wrathful gaze, subjected to ruthless interrogation regarding our behavior, and given a melancholy prediction on the outcome of our future. She was vicious. Once she heard Jem refer to our father as “Atticus,” and her reaction was to tell us that Atticus was “no better than the niggers and trash he works for!” Jem was scarlet. I pulled at his sleeve, and we went home.

Atticus was in the living room reading the mobile register when I ran to him and burst out, “She’s gone and said you lawed for niggers and trash!”

Atticus lowered his newspaper and gazed at me. “Scout,” he said, “you are not to say that word, ever, even if it’s in a book or someone else says it. Now, what did Mrs. Dubose say?”

I repeated her remarks as exactly as I could. Atticus sighed. “Don’t pay any attention to her, Scout. She’s an old lady and she’s ill. You just hold your head high and be a gentleman. Whatever she says to you, it’s your job not to let her make you mad.”

Jem was boiling. “She can’t say that about you!”

Atticus said, “It’s her own business. Let her say it. She’s old and poor and sick. She’s going through a tough time. Try to understand her, Jem. Try to understand what she’s going through, and don’t let her make you mad. That’s the only way you’ll ever be able to get along with people.”

I tried to remember Atticus’s advice, but it was hard. Mrs. Dubose was a mean old woman, and I didn’t see how Atticus could be so patient with her. But I knew he was right. He always was.

QUESTIONS

1. Which central theme of the passage is most evident in Atticus’s advice to his children regarding Mrs. Dubose?

A) The importance of social status
B) The value of empathy and understanding
C) The inevitability of conflict
D) The dangers of curiosity

Correct Answer: B) The value of empathy and understanding
Explanation: Atticus’s counsel to “try to understand her” and “not let her make you mad” reflects the theme of empathy, teaching his children to look beyond Mrs. Dubose’s harshness and consider her circumstances.

2. What does the repeated mention of Mrs. Dubose’s “wrathful gaze” and “ruthless interrogation” suggest about the children’s perception of her?

A) They see her as a misunderstood figure
B) They view her as a source of wisdom
C) They perceive her as a menacing and oppressive presence
D) They consider her irrelevant to their lives

Correct Answer: C) They perceive her as a menacing and oppressive presence
Explanation: The language used, “wrathful gaze,” “ruthless interrogation,” “plain hell” underscores the children’s sense of fear and oppression in her presence.

3. From the passage, what can be inferred about the broader social context of Maycomb, especially regarding attitudes towards Atticus?

A) Atticus is universally respected in Maycomb

B) There is social tension and prejudice in the community

C) Atticus's work is celebrated by all

D) Maycomb is indifferent to issues of race and class

Correct Answer: B) There is social tension and prejudice in the community

Explanation: Mrs. Dubose's derogatory remarks about Atticus's work reveal underlying prejudice and social tensions in Maycomb.

4. How does the narrative perspective influence the reader's understanding of Mrs. Dubose?

A) It presents her as a sympathetic character from the outset

B) It offers a detached, objective view of her

C) It filters her character through the children's fear and resentment

D) It focuses solely on her illness

Correct Answer: C) It filters her character through the children's fear and resentment

Explanation: The narration, from Scout's point of view, emphasizes the children's emotional reactions, shaping the reader's initial perception of Mrs. Dubose.

5. Which of the following best encapsulates Atticus's moral philosophy as depicted in the passage?

A) Retaliate against those who insult you

B) Confront injustice with aggression

C) Maintain dignity and try to understand others, regardless of their behavior

D) Avoid difficult people at all costs

Correct Answer: C) Maintain dignity and try to understand others, regardless of their behavior

Explanation: Atticus encourages his children to "hold your head high," "be a gentleman," and "try to understand her," reflecting his philosophy of dignity and empathy.

PASSAGE

Elizabeth, as they drove along, watched for the first appearance of Pemberley Woods with some perturbation; and when at length they turned in at the lodge, her spirits were in a high flutter. The park was very large, and contained great variety of ground. They entered it in one of its

lowest points, and drove for some time through a beautiful wood stretching over a wide extent.

Elizabeth's mind was too full for conversation, but she saw and admired every remarkable spot and point of view. They gradually ascended for half a mile, and then found themselves at the top of a considerable eminence, where the wood ceased, and the eye was instantly caught by Pemberley House, situated on the opposite side of a valley, into which the road with some abruptness wound.

It was a large, handsome, stone building, standing well on rising ground, and backed by a ridge of high woody hills; and in front, a stream of some natural importance was swelled into greater, but without any artificial appearance. Its banks were neither formal nor falsely adorned.

Elizabeth was delighted. She had never seen a place for which nature had done more, or where natural beauty had been so little counteracted by an awkward taste. They were all of them warm in their admiration; and at that moment she felt that to be mistress of Pemberley might be something!

They descended the hill, crossed the bridge, and drove to the door; and, while examining the nearer aspect of the house, all her apprehension of meeting its owner returned. She dreaded lest the master of the house might be at home. Turning to the guide, she inquired whether Mr. Darcy was at Pemberley, and was told that he was not—that he was coming down the next day with a large party of friends.

How rejoiced was Elizabeth! She felt that to be mistress of Pemberley might be something! She was overpowered by the beauty of the place, and the thought of its master's absence gave her a momentary sense of relief and pleasure.

QUESTIONS

1. What does Elizabeth's reaction to Pemberley most reveal about her character at this point in the novel?

A) She is indifferent to wealth and status
B) She is easily impressed by superficial beauty
C) She is capable of appreciating both natural and architectural beauty, and is open to reconsidering her opinions
D) She is primarily concerned with social appearances

Correct Answer: C) She is capable of appreciating both natural and architectural beauty, and is open to reconsidering her opinions

Explanation: Elizabeth's admiration for Pemberley's natural and architectural harmony, and her fleeting thought about being its mistress, show her openness to new perspectives and her capacity for deep appreciation.

2. Which literary device is most evident in the description of Pemberley's landscape as having "natural beauty…so little counteracted by an awkward taste"?

A) Hyperbole

B) Irony

C) Juxtaposition

D) Allusion

Correct Answer: C) Juxtaposition

Explanation: The passage contrasts (juxtaposes) natural beauty with the absence of artificial or awkward design, highlighting the estate's harmonious integration with nature.

3. Elizabeth's "apprehension of meeting its owner" upon arriving at Pemberley suggests which of the following about her emotional state?

A) She is eager to see Mr. Darcy

B) She feels guilt and anxiety about a possible encounter

C) She is completely indifferent to Mr. Darcy

D) She is angry at Mr. Darcy

Correct Answer: B) She feels guilt and anxiety about a possible encounter

Explanation: Elizabeth's apprehension and relief at Darcy's absence indicate anxiety and perhaps unresolved feelings about their previous interactions.

4. What does the phrase "to be mistress of Pemberley might be something!" imply about Elizabeth's evolving perspective?

A) She is solely motivated by material gain

B) She is beginning to appreciate the advantages of marrying Darcy

C) She regrets ever rejecting Darcy

D) She wants to own a large estate herself

Correct Answer: B) She is beginning to appreciate the advantages of marrying Darcy

Explanation: The phrase suggests that Elizabeth, for the first time, is seriously contemplating the positive aspects of being connected to Darcy and Pemberley.

5. How does the author use the setting of Pemberley to influence the reader's perception of Mr. Darcy?

A) By presenting Pemberley as ostentatious and gaudy

B) By associating Darcy with natural beauty and tasteful refinement

C) By emphasizing Darcy's absence from his estate

D) By focusing on the estate's financial value

Correct Answer: B) By associating Darcy with natural beauty and tasteful refinement

Explanation: The estate's natural beauty and lack of artificiality subtly reflect positively on Darcy's character, suggesting he possesses similar qualities of integrity and good taste.