

Reading Comprehension 1

Ernest Miller Hemingway was an American writer and journalist. His distinctive writing style, characterized by economy and understatement, influenced 20th-century fiction, as did his apparent life of adventure and the public image he cultivated. He produced most of his work between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and his career peaked in 1954
5 when he won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Hemingway's fiction was successful because the characters he presented exhibited authenticity that appealed to his audience. Many of his works are classics of American literature. He published seven novels, six short story collections, and two non-fiction works during his lifetime; a further three novels, four collections of short stories, and three non-fiction works were published after his death.

10 Hemingway was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois. After leaving high school he worked for a few months as a reporter, before leaving for the Italian front to become an ambulance driver during World War I, which became the basis for his novel *A Farewell to Arms*. He was seriously wounded and returned home within the year. In 1922 Hemingway married Hadley Richardson, the first of his four wives, and the couple
15 moved to Paris, where he worked as a foreign correspondent. During his time there he met and was influenced by modernist writers and artists of the 1920s expatriate community known as the "Lost Generation". His first novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, was written in 1924.

After divorcing Hadley Richardson in 1927 Hemingway married Pauline Pfeiffer; they
20 divorced following Hemingway's return from covering the Spanish Civil War, after which he wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Martha Gellhorn became his third wife in 1940, but he left her for Mary Welsh Hemingway after World War II, during which he was present at D-Day and the liberation of Paris.

Shortly after the publication of *The Old Man and the Sea* in 1952 Hemingway went on
25 safari to Africa, where he was almost killed in a plane crash that left him in pain or ill-health for much of the rest of his life. Hemingway had permanent residences in Key West, Florida, and Cuba during the 1930s and '40s, but in 1959 he moved from Cuba to Idaho, where he committed suicide in the summer of 1961.

Reading Comprehension

Questions:

1. Hemingway wrote:

- 1) Science Fiction
 - 2) Biographies
 - 3) Realistic stories
 - 4) Fantasy
-

2. Which of the following cannot be deduced about Hemingway?

- 1) He was quite famous in his lifetime
 - 2) He wrote also poetry
 - 3) Some of his work was not published during his lifetime
 - 4) He left his reader space for contemplation
-

3. The "Lost Generation":

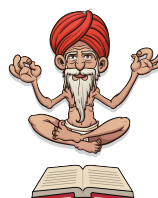
- 1) Were not French
 - 2) Inspired Hemingway in the writing of *A Farewell to Arms*
 - 3) Assisted Hemingway in the writing of *The Sun Also Rises*
 - 4) Were known political activists
-

4. What was the consequence of the plane crash that Hemingway experienced?

- 1) He died
 - 2) He wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*
 - 3) He moved to Key West
 - 4) He suffered pain years later
-

5. Hemingway's life can be described as:

- 1) Dull
- 2) A Continuing love story
- 3) Full of adventures
- 4) Never-ending success



Reading Comprehension 2

One Thousand and One Nights is a collection of Middle Eastern, South Asian stories and folk tales compiled in Arabic during the Islamic Golden Age. The main framework of the story concerns a Persian king and his new bride. Upon discovering his wife's infidelity, the king, Shahryar, has her executed and then declares all women to be unfaithful. He
5 begins to marry a succession of virgins only to execute each one the next morning. Eventually the vizier, whose duty it is to provide them, cannot find any more virgins. Scheherazade, the vizier's daughter, offers herself as the next bride and her father reluctantly agrees. On the night of their marriage, Scheherazade begins to tell the king a tale, but does not end it. The king is thus forced to postpone her execution in order to hear
10 the conclusion. The next night, as soon as she finishes the tale, she begins (and only begins) a new one, and the king, eager to hear the conclusion, postpones her execution once again. So it goes on for 1,001 nights.

The tales vary widely: they include historical tales, love stories, tragedies, comedies, poems, burlesques and various forms of erotica. Numerous stories depict djinn,
15 magicians, and legendary places, which are often intermingled with real people and geography, not always rationally. Sometimes a character in Scheherazade's tale will begin telling other characters a story of his own, and that story may have another one told within it, resulting in a richly layered narrative texture.

The narrator's standards for what constitutes a cliffhanger seem broader than in modern
20 literature. While in many cases a story is cut off with the hero in danger of losing his life or another kind of deep trouble, in some parts of the full text Scheherazade stops her narration in the middle of an exposition of abstract philosophical principles or complex points of Islamic philosophy, and in one case during a detailed description of human anatomy according to Galen. In all these cases she turns out to be justified in her belief
25 that the king's curiosity about the sequel would buy her another day of life.

The different versions have different individually detailed endings (in some Scheherazade asks for a pardon, in others the king sees their children and decides not to execute his wife, in some, other things happen that distract the king) but they all end with the king giving his wife a pardon and sparing her life.

Reading Comprehension

Questions:

1. The word 'conclusion' (line 9) could be replaced by the word –
 - 1) Inference
 - 2) Plot
 - 3) End
 - 4) Story

2. Which of the following is not mentioned about the stories in 1001 Nights?
 - 1) They try to predict the future
 - 2) They have secondary plots within them
 - 3) They include real historical figures
 - 4) They depict love stories and erotica

3. It can be inferred from the text that a "cliffhanger" is –
 - 1) An opening of a story so grandiose that forces the listener to keep on listening
 - 2) A boring part in the middle of a story in which the listener can take a break
 - 3) A break in the plot in a very exciting spot in order to ensure that the listener will want to continue listening
 - 4) A low point in the plot that comes after a peak

4. What is common to all versions of 1001 Nights?
 - 1) Scheherazade asks for forgiveness
 - 2) The king is distracted
 - 3) The king kills Scheherazade
 - 4) Scheherazade is pardoned

5. A fifth paragraph could have dealt with –
 - 1) The content of the different stories
 - 2) Modern theatre and movie productions of 1001 Nights
 - 3) The method in which Scheherazade kept the king in anticipation
 - 4) The structure of the story of 1001 Nights.



Reading Comprehension 3

On The 24th of May 1906 the famous Swiss hotelier César Ritz opened the London Ritz hotel. The building was neoclassical in the Louis XVI manner, built during the Belle
Époque to resemble a stylish Parisian block of flats, over arcades that consciously evoked
5 the Rue de Rivoli. Its architects were Charles Mewès, who had previously designed Ritz's
Hôtel Ritz Paris, and Arthur Davis. The engineering was overseen by the Swedish
engineer Sven Bylander. It was the first substantial steel-frame structure in London.

Ritz personally managed much of the hotel's operation for many years. He hired the
world-famous chef Auguste Escoffier to provide cuisine to match the opulence of the
10 hotel's decorations; he placed a special bell in the entryway by which the doorman could
notify the staff of the impending arrival of royalty. The high standards to which he held
his staff and the ultimate luxury which he provided his guests had been entirely foreign to
Victorian Londoners, and the sensation he caused in the hotel industry precipitated a
dramatic shift in that industry's focus.

15 The hotel was owned for some time by the Bracewell-Smith family who also had
significant stakes in the nearby Park Lane Hotel. However the oil crisis in the early 1970s
affected business and prompted the family to sell their stake to Trafalgar House in 1976
for £2.75 Million.

20 David and Frederick Barclay purchased the ailing hotel for £80 Million from Trafalgar
House, in October 1995, through their company Ellerman Investments. They spent eight
years and £40 Million restoring it to its former grandeur.

Reading Comprehension

Questions:

1. It can be inferred from the text that the Belle Époque is a –

- 1) Famous hotel
 - 2) Design
 - 3) Building technique
 - 4) Time period
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2. What caused the sensation (line 13)?

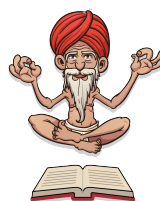
- 1) The high demands from the staff
 - 2) The exquisite food
 - 3) The special treatment of the guests
 - 4) All of the above
-

3. The word 'precipitated' (line 13) could be replaced with –

- 1) Changed
 - 2) Brought
 - 3) Regressed
 - 4) Resembled
-

4. The word 'they' (line 20) refers to –

- 1) The workers of Ellerman Investments
 - 2) David and Frederick Barclay
 - 3) The owners of the Trafalgar House
 - 4) The bankers
-



Reading Comprehension

5. A suitable title for the text would be –

- 1) The Ritz – London's most famous hotel
- 2) César Ritz – the well known hotelier
- 3) London's hotel industry – then and now
- 4) A revolution in the London accommodation business

Reading Comprehension 4

The Grand Canyon is a steep-sided gorge carved by the Colorado River in the United States in the state of Arizona. It is largely contained within the Grand Canyon National Park, one of the first national parks in the United States. A rail line to the largest city in the area, Flagstaff, was completed in 1882 by the Santa Fe Railroad company. Stage
5 coaches started to bring tourists from Flagstaff to the Grand Canyon the next year. It was an eleven hour journey. Tourism greatly increased in 1901 when a spur of the Santa Fe Railroad to Grand Canyon Village was completed. The first scheduled train with paying passengers of the Grand Canyon Railway arrived from Williams, Arizona, on September 17 that year. The 64-mile (103 km) long trip cost \$3.95, and naturalist John Muir later
10 commended the railroad for its limited environmental impact.

The first automobile was driven to the Grand Canyon in 1902. Oliver Lippincott from Los Angeles, California, drove his Toledo Automobile Company-built car to the South Rim from Flagstaff. Lippincott, a guide and two writers set out on the afternoon of January 4, anticipating a seven-hour journey. Two days later, the hungry and dehydrated
15 party arrived at their destination; the countryside was just too rough for the ten-horsepower auto. A three-day drive from Utah in 1907 was required to reach the North Rim for the first time.

Trains remained the preferred way to travel to the canyon until they were surpassed by the automobiles in the 1930s. Competition with the automobile forced the Santa Fe
20 Railroad company to cease operation of the Grand Canyon Railway in 1968 (only three passengers were on the last run). The railway was restored and service reintroduced in 1989, and it has since carried hundreds of passengers a day. By the early 1990s more than a million automobiles per year visited the park. Air pollution from those vehicles and wind-blown pollution from Flagstaff and even the Las Vegas area has reduced visibility
25 in the Grand Canyon and vicinity.

Reading Comprehension

Questions:

1. The railroad reaching the Grand Canyon –

- 1) Was very cheap
 - 2) Did not cause much damage to the natural surrounding
 - 3) Was completed by 1882
 - 4) Was extremely long
-

2. Why did operation of the Grand Canyon Railway cease in 1968?

- 1) It was too expensive to operate
 - 2) It could not hold many passengers
 - 3) It was too slow and it took too much time
 - 4) People preferred going there by cars
-

3. The word 'vicinity' (line 24) could be replaced by –

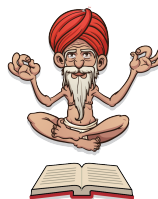
- 1) Surroundings
 - 2) Elsewhere
 - 3) Creek
 - 4) River
-

4. What happened due to pollution?

- 1) Wind blew from Flagstaff
 - 2) The railway ceased to operate
 - 3) The air got darker
 - 4) It got harder to see through the air
-

5. A suitable title for the text would be :

- 1) Tourism in the Grand Canyon
- 2) The Grand Canyon – Transportation
- 3) The railway leading to the Grand Canyon
- 4) Features of the Grand Canyon



Reading Comprehension 5

On March 29, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. went to Memphis, Tennessee in support of the black sanitary public works employees, who had been on strike since March 12 for higher wages and better treatment. King was booked in room 306 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Then, at 6:01 p.m., April 4, 1968, a shot rang out as King stood on the motel's second floor balcony. The bullet entered through his right cheek, smashing his jaw, then traveled down his spinal cord before lodging in his shoulder. Ralph Abernathy, a close associate of King's, heard the shot from inside the motel room and ran to the balcony to find King on the floor.

After emergency chest surgery, King was pronounced dead at St. Joseph's Hospital at 7:05 p.m. According to biographer Taylor Branch, King's autopsy revealed that though only thirty-nine years old, he had the heart of a sixty-year-old man, perhaps a result of the stress of thirteen years in the civil rights movement.

The assassination led to a nationwide wave of riots in more than 100 cities. Vice-President Hubert Humphrey attended King's funeral on behalf of Lyndon B. Johnson, as there were fears that Johnson's presence might incite protests and perhaps violence. At his widow's request, King's last sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church was played at the funeral. It was a recording of his "Drum Major" sermon, given on February 4, 1968. In that sermon, King made a request that at his funeral no mention of his awards and honors be made, but that it be said that he tried to "feed the hungry", "clothe the naked", "be right on the [Vietnam] war question", and "love and serve humanity".

Two months after King's death, escaped convict James Earl Ray was captured at London Heathrow Airport while trying to leave the United Kingdom on a false Canadian passport in the name of Ramon George Sneyd on his way to white-ruled Rhodesia. Ray was quickly extradited to Tennessee and charged with King's murder. He confessed to the assassination on March 10, 1969, though he recanted this confession three days later. Eventually he was sentenced to a 99-year prison term. He spent the remainder of his life attempting (unsuccessfully) to withdraw his guilty plea and secure the trial he never had.

Reading Comprehension

Questions:

1. A Suitable title for the text would be –

- 1) The life of Martin Luther King Jr.
 - 2) The aftermath of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination
 - 3) The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.
 - 4) James Earl Ray - Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin
-

2. The word "lodging" (line 6) could be replaced with –

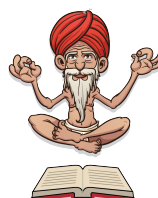
- 1) Biting
 - 2) Cutting
 - 3) Stuck
 - 4) Running
-

3. It can be inferred from the second paragraph that –

- 1) Martin Luther King looked much older than his age
 - 2) Martin Luther King had died before reaching the hospital
 - 3) Taylor Branch was a close associate of Martin Luther King
 - 4) The activity in the civil rights movement caused a lot of stress
-

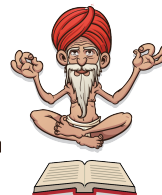
4. It can be inferred that Lyndon B. Johnson –

- 1) Was a senator
 - 2) Was not popular with the African-American Community
 - 3) Was very much distressed by the death of Martin Luther King
 - 4) Was an instigator
-



Reading Comprehension

5. Which of the following information about James Earl Ray is not true according to the text?
- 1) He was a Canadian
 - 2) He died in prison
 - 3) He took back his confession
 - 4) The assassination was not his first conviction



Reading Comprehension 6

The Battle of Trafalgar (21 October 1805) was a sea battle fought between the British Royal Navy and the combined fleets of the French Navy and Spanish Navy, during the War of the Third Coalition (August–December 1805) of the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815). The combined French and Spanish fleet under Villeneuve's command
5 numbered 33 ships of the line. Villeneuve had been reluctant to risk an engagement with the British, and this reluctance led Napoleon to order Vice-Admiral François Rosily to go to Cádiz and take command of the fleet, sail it into the Mediterranean to land troops at Naples, before making port at Toulon. Villeneuve decided to sail the fleet out before his successor arrived. On 20 October the fleet was sighted making its
10 way out of harbour by patrolling British frigates, and Nelson was informed that they appeared to be headed to the west.

At four o'clock in the morning of 21 October Nelson ordered the *Victory* to turn towards the approaching enemy fleet, and signalled the rest of his force to battle stations. He then went below and made his will, before returning to the quarterdeck to
15 carry out an inspection. Despite having 27 ships to Villeneuve's 33, Nelson was confident of success, declaring that he would not be satisfied with taking fewer than 20 prizes. He returned briefly to his cabin to write a final prayer, after which he joined *Victory*'s signal lieutenant, John Pasco and said to him: Mr Pasco, I wish to say to the fleet "England confides that every man will do his duty".

20 Pasco suggested changing 'confides' to 'expects', which being in the Signal Book, could be signalled by the use of a single flag, whereas 'confides' would have to spelt out letter by letter. Nelson agreed, and the signal was hoisted.

As the fleets converged, the *Victory*'s captain, Thomas Hardy suggested that Nelson remove the decorations on his coat, so that he would not be so easily identified by
25 enemy sharpshooters. Nelson replied that it was too late 'to be shifting a coat', adding that they were military orders and he did not fear to show them to the enemy. Captain Henry Blackwood, of the frigate HMS *Euryalus*, suggested Nelson come aboard his ship to better observe the battle. Nelson refused, and also turned down Hardy's suggestion to let Eliab Harvey's HMS *Temeraire* come ahead of the *Victory* and lead
30 the line into battle.

Reading Comprehension

Questions:

1. Why did Napoleon want to replace Villeneuve ?
 - 1) He was not a good commander
 - 2) He disobeyed his orders
 - 3) He lost the previous battle
 - 4) He did not want to face the British in a battle

2. According to the second paragraph, what can be said about Nelson's state of mind prior to the battle?
 - 1) He believed his fleet is going to win the battle but he was not absolutely sure
 - 2) He was afraid they are going to lose but he knew they cannot avoid the battle
 - 3) He had no doubt that the outcome of the battle would be successful
 - 4) He was afraid they were about to lose but decided to engage battle anyway

3. Why was it decided to change the word 'confides' with the word 'expects' in Nelson's message?
 - 1) Signalling 'confides' would have been quite laborious while signalling 'expects' was much easier
 - 2) Since the word 'confides' was not in the signal book, the signal lieutenant did not know how signal it
 - 3) Nelson was advised that the fleet might not understand its meaning
 - 4) John Pasco could not spell it letter by letter

4. In the battle of Trafalgar Nelson was wounded critically and consequently he died. What could have prevented it?
 - 1) Taking off his decorations
 - 2) Complying with Captain Henry Blackwood's suggestion
 - 3) Letting the HMS *Temeraire* lead the fleet
 - 4) All of the above

Reading Comprehension

5. A suitable title for the text would be –
- 1) The outcome of the Battle of Trafalgar
 - 2) The preparations for the Battle of Trafalgar
 - 3) The events of the Battle of Trafalgar
 - 4) The life of Admiral Nelson

Reading Comprehension 7

In the late days of Roman Empire, the Praetorian prefecture of the East, the *Praefectura Praetorio Orientis*, included most of the Eastern Roman Empire from the eastern Balkans eastwards; its easternmost part was the Diocese of the East, the *Dioecesis Orientis*, corresponding roughly to Greater Syria.

- 5 Over time, the common understanding of 'the Orient' has continually shifted eastwards, as Western explorers traveled farther into Asia. It finally reached the Pacific Ocean, in what Westerners came to call 'the Far East'. These shifts in time and identification sometimes confuse the scope (historical and geographic) of Oriental Studies.
- 10 Yet, there remain contexts where 'the Orient' and 'Oriental' have kept their older meanings, e.g. 'Oriental spices' typically are from the regions extending from the Middle East to sub-continental India and Indo-China. Travelers may again take the Orient Express train from Paris to Istanbul, a route established in the early 20th century. It never reached the nations bordering the Pacific Ocean, or what is currently
- 15 understood to be *the Orient*.

- In contemporary English, *Oriental* usually refers to goods from the parts of East Asia traditionally occupied by East Asians and most Central Asians and Southeast Asians are racially categorized as "Mongoloid". This excludes Indians, Arabs and most other West Asian peoples. Because of historical discrimination against Chinese and
- 20 Japanese, in some parts of the United States, the term is considered derogatory; for example, Washington prohibits use of the word "Oriental" in legislation and government documentation, preferring the word "Asian" instead.

Reading Comprehension

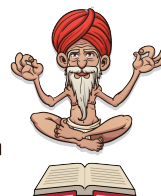
Questions:

1. The word 'prefecture' (line 1) could be replaced with:
 - 1) movement
 - 2) commerce
 - 3) governorship
 - 4) conflict

2. Why does the scope of Oriental Studies get confused sometimes?
 - 1) Because of the move eastward, the area under research has become very far and different from the west.
 - 2) Because at earlier times the 'orient' referred to a certain area and due to the shift eastward it began to refer to a different area.
 - 3) Because as time passed by people did not understand the shift eastward.
 - 4) Because it was identified as shifting eastward.

3. The word 'it' (line 14) refers to:
 - 1) the usage of 'Orient'
 - 2) the meaning of 'Orient'
 - 3) the Orient Express
 - 4) the establishment of the route

4. Why the word 'Asian' is preferred in government documentation?
 - 1) It describes better the persons referred to
 - 2) It answers the definition better
 - 3) It includes all the peoples of Asia
 - 4) It is not considered to be offensive



5. What would be a suitable title for the text?

- 1) The term 'Orient'
 - 2) The west and the Orient
 - 3) The meaning of the word 'Orient'
 - 4) The exploration of the 'Orient'
-

Reading Comprehension 8

The apricot was known in Armenia during ancient times, and has been cultivated there for so long that it is often thought to be native there. Its scientific name *Prunus armeniaca* (Armenian plum) derives from that assumption. For example, De Poerderlé, writing in the 18th century, asserted "this tree takes its name from Armenia, province of Asia, where it is native, and whence it was brought to Europe ..." An archeological excavation at Garni in Armenia found apricot seeds in an Eneolithic-era site. However, the Vavilov center of origin theory locates the origin of the apricot's domestication in the Chinese region, and other sources say the apricot was first cultivated in India in about 3000 BC.

Its introduction to Greece is attributed to Alexander the Great. the Roman General Lucullus (106–57 B.C.) also exported some trees – the cherry, white heart cherry, and apricot – from Armenia to Europe. Subsequent sources were often confused about the origin of the species. Loudon (1838) believed it had a wide native range including Armenia, Caucasus, the Himalaya, China, and Japan.

Apricots have been cultivated in Persia since antiquity, and dried ones were an important commodity on Persian trade routes. Apricots remain an important fruit in modern-day Iran where they are known under the common name of Zard-ālū. Egyptians usually dry apricots, add sweetener, and then use them to make a drink called "'amar al-dīn". More recently, English settlers brought the apricot to the English colonies in the New World. Most of modern American production of apricots comes from the seedlings carried to the west coast by Spanish missionaries. Almost all U.S. production is in California, with some in Washington and Utah. Today this fruit has spread to all parts of the globe with climates that support it.

Reading Comprehension

Questions:

1. The word 'assumption' in line 3 could be replaced with the word:

- 1) Conjecture
 - 2) Conclusion
 - 3) Disbelief
 - 4) Evidence
-

2. Which of the following is not mentioned as a place from which the apricot could have originated?

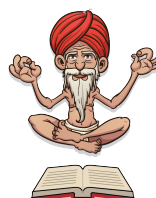
- 1) China
 - 2) Greece
 - 3) Armenia
 - 4) Japan
-

3. According to the text, what is common both to Alexander the Great and Lucullus?

- 1) Both brought the apricot to Europe
 - 2) Both conquered parts of the East
 - 3) Both traded in apricots
 - 4) Both visited Armenia
-

4. How did apricot first get to America?

- 1) Through Persian trade routes
 - 2) With the British settlers
 - 3) By Spanish missionaries
 - 4) By Egyptian traders
-



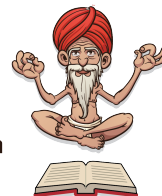
Reading Comprehension

5. A Proper title for this text would be:

- 1) The Apricot
- 2) The introduction of the apricot to Europe
- 3) The apricot trade
- 4) History of Apricot cultivation

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Reading Comprehension

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2 .2	2 .2	3 .2	3 .2	4 .2	4 .2	1 .2	2 .2
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