

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Painter of Light

Thomas Kinkade is known for his gift of painting light. Splashes of light ranging in color from creamy white to sunny yellow litter his paintings. No other artist has captured light in its many forms, hues, and patterns like the inimitable Thomas Kinkade. Because of his talent, he is recognized as America's most collected artist.

In 1958, Thomas Kinkade was born in Sacramento, California. From 1976 to 1978, Kinkade attended the University of California, receiving his formal training at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. The summer after graduation, he embarked on a sketching tour with a college friend, James Gurney. In 1982, he married his childhood sweetheart, Nanette, and co-authored *The Artist's Guide to Sketching* with Gurney. He and Gurney went on to be employed by Ralph Bakshi Studios to create background art for the animated feature *Fire and Ice*. From 1984 to 1989, Kinkade published many paintings, so that by 1994, he was a published artist in his own right. That year, he earned the honorary title of Artist of the Year from the National Association of Limited Edition Dealers (NALED). An era in landscape artistry had begun that would make a lasting impression in art history. He went on to publish more art books and receive more recognition, collecting fans as rapidly as they collected his works.

One of the unique qualities of Kinkade's work is that he hides messages to his wife and daughters in each painting. For example, for his wife Nanette, he paints a hidden letter "N" in each piece. His four daughters' names, as well as their faces, also appear in his works. Some people say that Kinkade is a passing craze of the twenty-first century; however, it is clear that he has staying power in the art world. His works soothe the senses and inspire the mind because he captures the essence of light, the force on which human life thrives.

Landscape Art

Landscape art is a form of escapism. That is, it allows the viewer to escape into another world of beautiful scenery that is easy on the eyes and induces peace of mind. Thomas Kinkade is a good example of a landscape artist whose work has this effect. His ability to paint light shows his profound understanding of what is lovely to the human eye.

Modern Art Critics

Thomas Kinkade's influence on modern art will be minimal. His art is merely decorative and faddish and will only be a flash in the pan of art history. The only reason he is so popular is that he captures on canvas the scenes that relax and pacify us during a turbulent time in American history.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Painter of Light".

1 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

What is the central idea of the passage?

- A. Famous for his use of light, Thomas Kinkade is now one of the most popular artists.
- B. Having the unique quality of hiding messages in his art, Thomas Kinkade is on his way to becoming the most famous artist of all time.
- C. Uniquely talented, Thomas Kinkade is famous for being both an author and an artist.
- D. Although considered a temporary trend, Thomas Kinkade may prove critics wrong and become the most popular artist of modern times.

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Correct: A

Rationale:

- A. Correct answer
- B. Student(s) may have understood Thomas Kinkade's messages in his art, as well as his popularity. Student(s) may not have realized that his messages are just a minor detail, not a central idea, and that although he is a popular artists, there was nothing in the passage to indicate that he would become the "most famous artist of all time."
- C. Student(s) may have understood Thomas Kinkade's achievements as both an author and an artist. Student(s) may not have realized that although the central idea develops around his fame as an artist, his experiences as an author is only a minor detail, not the main idea of the passage. Student(s) may not have realized that his use of light is at the center of this passage.
- D. Student(s) may have understood Thomas Kinkade's popularity as well as the reference to him as a "passing craze." Student(s) may not have realized that only some people consider him a "passing craze," not everyone, and that this idea is only a minor point, not a central idea.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RI.9-10.2

2 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which sentence from the text *best* reveals the cause of Thomas Kinkade's popularity?

- A. From 1976 to 1978, Kinkade attended the University of California, receiving his formal training at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena.
- B. He and Gurney went on to be employed by Ralph Bakshi Studios to create background art for the animated feature *Fire and Ice*.
- C. One of the unique qualities of Kinkade's work is that he hides messages to his wife and daughters in each painting.
- D. His works soothe the senses and inspire the mind because he captures the essence of light, the force on which human life thrives.

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Correct: D

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have understood the importance of attending college and its effect on the individual. Student(s) may not have realized that although attending college helped Thomas Kinkade gain skills, it is not the cause of his popularity.
- B. Student(s) may have understood that people sometimes become famous when they are involved in animated features. Student(s) may not have realized that there is nothing in the passage to support that his fame was caused by this experience. Student(s) may not have realized that this is simply a minor detail in his life.
- C. Student(s) may have understood that this is a unique quality that some people find interesting. Student(s) may not have realized that although this is interesting and unique, it is not the cause of his popularity.
- D. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RI.9-10.1

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

3 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer(s).

A student is writing a research report about hammerhead sharks for his science class. The student wants to revise the draft to include the most significant, concrete evidence to develop his report. Read the draft of the report and complete the task that follows.

Hammerhead sharks are unique, and it is their uniqueness that has fortified their survival. They are similar to many other species of sharks because of their coloring, but their heads are different. Hammerhead sharks have extremely wide-set eyes and a broad head. Having a head like this makes them sharper hunters because their field of vision is much bigger than a traditional shark's. Their head also scares off many potential predators because it is so unusual. With few predators and the ability to birth 20–40 pups each time they reproduce, hammerhead sharks are steady in population.

Hammerheads are frightening to look at because of their heads and their sharp teeth. Their size is also notable. They scare humans more often than some other kinds of sharks because it is known that they prefer to swim in warm, temperate waters close to coastlines. While they may look scary, most hammerheads are totally harmless to humans and actually swim much too deep down to be attracted to humans as prey with any regularity. Hammerheads prefer fish, stingrays, other sharks, and squid for their meals.

The underlined sentences need revising to provide more concrete details. Which *two* sentences are the best choices to replace the underlined sentences?

- A. Many people are afraid of hammerheads because of their size.
- B. Like many other types of sharks, hammerheads come in regular colors.
- C. Hammerheads are really big compared to other sharks too, and that can be truly frightening to humans.
- D. Similar to many other types of sharks, Hammerheads are dark green or brown in color with white bellies.
- E. Because they can be up to 20 feet long and weigh between 500–1000 pounds, hammerheads are intimidating to humans.

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Correct: DE

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have chosen this answer because it related to the size of the sharks scaring humans.
- B. Student(s) may have chosen this answer because it would have fit into the paragraph contextually.
- C. Student(s) may have thought this answer was slightly more detailed than the sentence in the stem.
- D. Correct answer
- E. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.2.b

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

The Clang of the Liberty Bell

Adapted from *The Clang of the Liberty Bell*, from the book *The Dare Boys*, of 1776 by Stephen Angus Cox, public domain.

Prologue: The day at hand was the fourth day of July in the year 1776. The air was filled with such great enthusiasm in the American colonies, for on this exact day, the council of the people were gathering together in Philadelphia to decide whether the Declaration of Independence should be signed and approved. The excitement in the city of Philadelphia was so intense that many businesses were closed. People swarmed the streets, with excited chatter, while waiting, waiting for the council's decision to be made. Would this be the beginning of their very own independent nation? This choice would mean everything to them. Talk surrounded the streets contending whether or not the Declaration of Independence would be signed.

Rick and Tom Dare, two patriot adolescent brothers from New Jersey, traveled to the city of Philadelphia to hear the news. They eagerly listened and were thrilled by all the excitement shown from both sides.

Scene I

Man #1: (*contending*) See, here it is, almost sundown, and nothing has been decided. If the representatives were going to come to an agreement over the Declaration of Independence, it would have been done already. This impediment presumably means it shant be adopted.

Man #2: (*in opposition*) They are diligently taking their while. If you recall, this is of the most significant of affairs and should not be determined hastily. I am certain the representatives will adopt and authorize the Declaration before the day is completed!

(*Stage light focuses on patriot brothers.*)

Tom: I hope they'll adopt the Declaration of Independence!

Rick: I hope so too, brother!

Lem Hicks: (*sneering*) Bah, they won't do nothin' today, Rick Dare. They know if they do, they'll for sure get in trouble with the great King George. No one will ring that ol' Liberty Bell today!

Tom: Oh, they'll ring it all right, Lem Hicks, and they undeniably are not petrified of your long forgotten king.

Rick: (*Glaring unflinchingly at Lem*) Go about your business and stop interfering with us.

(*Lem Hicks swerved his fist at the young patriot's face.*)

Lem: (*scowling*) That there will learn ya to keep yer hands off of people!

(*Quick as a flash, Tom Dare impulsively threw his fist and caught Lem Hicks between the eyes, which knocked him down.*)

Tom: Lem, I ain't frightened of you or your obtuse king!

(*Instantly, an inquisitive crowd gathered.*)

Rick: Lem Hicks picked a quarrel with us patriot boys who don't honor the ol' English king.

Person in the crowd: (*shouting*) You did right by knocking him down! Bravo!

Scene II

Backdrop of State House with a steeple. Inside the steeple was a bell. Rick and Tom pacing back and forth in front of the old State House. There was such an immense crowd waiting in front of the State House that it was almost impossible to get within half a block.

Juvenile boy: (*hastening out of State House*) It's accomplished! The representatives reached a favorable conclusion and signed the Declaration of Independence! Ring the bell! Ring it loudly!

Bell Ringer: (*leaped up, forgetting his rheumatism*) On the double!

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

(Bell Ringer seized the great iron clapper and swung it back and forth against the bell.)

(Sound effect: Gong! Gong! Gong!)

Bell Ringer: *(shouting with zeal)* I shall read to you the inscription on this stately bell. *(hands cupped around mouth)*
"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

4 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

What is the theme of the drama?

- A. Find strength from within.
- B. Good things are worth waiting for.
- C. Put family before others.
- D. Politics are predictable.

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Correct: **B**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have understood that both Rick and Tom spoke out against Lem Hicks. Student(s) may not have realized that the theme involved waiting for the Declaration to be signed, not the minor event of the men fighting.
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) may have understood that Rick and Tom stuck up for each other. Student(s) may not have realized that the theme involved them waiting to hear about the signing of the Declaration of Independence, not the idea that they stuck up for each other.
- D. Student(s) may have understood that the day would end with the signing of the document. Student(s) may not have realized that the theme involved the waiting, not the fact that the signing could be predicted.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.2