

# Reading Comprehension

## Describe Character, Setting, and Mood

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, circle the letter of the correct answer.

In China we never ate celery raw, or any other kind of vegetable raw. We always had to disinfect the vegetables in boiling water first. When we were presented with our first relish tray, the raw celery caught us unprepared.

We had been invited to dinner by our neighbors, the Gleasons. After arriving at the house, we shook hands with our hosts and packed ourselves into a sofa. As our family of four sat stiffly in a row, my younger brother and I stole glances at our parents for a clue as to what to do next.

Mrs. Gleason offered the relish tray to Mother. The tray looked pretty, with its tiny red radishes, curly sticks of carrots, and long, slender stalks of pale green celery. "Do try some of the celery, Mrs. Lin," she said. "It's from a local farmer, and it's sweet."

—"The All-American Slurp" by Lensey Namioka

- 1 What was the mood of the scene in which the Lins are invited to dinner at the Gleasons?
  - A Tense
  - B Comfortable
  - C Confident
  - D Angry
- 2 When can you infer that the Lins came to America?
  - A Generations ago
  - B Last year
  - C Recently
  - D On vacation
- 3 What can you infer would be the Lins' reaction to eating the raw vegetables?
  - A Disgusted
  - B Hesitant
  - C Excited
  - D Angry
- 4 Which of the following best describes the setting of this passage?
  - A The neighbors' dining room
  - B The Lins' dining room
  - C A local farmer's house
  - D The neighbors' living room
- 5 At what time of day can you infer this passage took place?
  - A Morning
  - B Afternoon
  - C Evening
  - D Late at night
- 6 Which of the following is the best way to describe the brother's and sister's feelings about being invited to the Gleasons' for dinner?
  - A Unhappy
  - B Nervous
  - C Excited
  - D Indifferent

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I knew [a] man—let me see—it's forty years ago now—who took an old, damp, rotten set of chambers, in one of the most ancient Inns, that had been shut up and empty for years and years before. There were lots of old women's stories about the place, and it certainly was very far from being a cheerful one; but he was poor, and the rooms were cheap, and that would have been quite a sufficient reason for him, if they had been ten times worse than they really were. He was obliged to take some mouldering fixtures that were on the place, and, among the rest, was a great lumbering wooden press for papers, with large glass doors, and a green curtain inside; a pretty useless thing for him, for he had no papers to put in it; and as to his clothes, he carried them about with him, and that wasn't very hard work, either.

— "The Lawyer and the Ghost" by Charles Dickens

- 1 Which of the following best describes the setting of the story?  
A A new apartment building  
B Old hotel rooms  
C An old woman's place  
D An expensive hotel
- 2 Which of the following best describes when the story takes place?  
A A week ago  
B A month ago  
C A year ago  
D Many years ago
- 3 What was the man's motive for staying in this place?  
A He needed a place to store his clothes.  
B The place had a good reputation.  
C The rooms were cheap.  
D He needed a place to set up an office.
- 4 What character trait does the man show in this passage?  
A Fussy  
B Extravagant  
C Thrifty  
D Cheap
- 5 What can you infer about the man's wardrobe?  
A He has a worn, but elegant, business suit.  
B He keeps all his clothes packed in several suitcases.  
C He has very expensive clothes.  
D He has the clothes that he is presently wearing.
- 6 Which best describes the atmosphere in his room?  
A Cheerful  
B Frightening  
C Dreary  
D Cozy