

“The Dinner Party” by Mona Gardner- Skills Check Questions

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS!!!
Record answers on separate paper.

1. Which of the following statements about literary elements is most accurate as established by the details provided in the first paragraph of the story?
 - a. The first paragraph of the story introduces readers to the main conflict by detailing the inciting incident.
 - b. Indirect characterization is used to present readers with the protagonist of the story in the first paragraph.
 - c. In the first paragraph, there is foreshadowing to hint at the sudden turn of events that will take place later in the story.
 - d. Aspects of the setting are described in the first paragraph, which become an important part of the sequence of events that follow.
2. What characteristic of the room’s setting aided the Naturalist in inferring what was happening?
 - a. The ornate décor featuring traditional Indian art and sculpture
 - b. The open and mostly barren nature of the room
 - c. The bowl of milk set on the veranda by the boy
 - d. The large dining table draped in fine cloth

3. Read the following line from paragraph three closely:

A spirited discussion springs up between a young girl who insists that women have outgrown the jumping-on-a-chair-at-the-sight-of-a-mouse era and a colonel who says that they haven’t.

In this sentence, which choice most closely defines what “spirited” means?

- a. tedious
 - b. appealing
 - c. lackluster
 - d. vivacious
4. Read the following line from paragraph three closely:

A spirited discussion springs up between a young girl who insists that women have outgrown the jumping-on-a-chair-at-the-sight-of-a-mouse era and a colonel who says that they haven’t.

Which choice below best explains the author’s reason for using hyphens in the sentence?

- a. The hyphens are used to join multiple words to form an adjective modifying the noun “era”.
 - b. The hyphens are used to join multiple words to form an adverb modifying the verb “outgrow”.
 - c. The hyphens are used to avoid confusion in an awkward grouping of letters.
 - d. The hyphens are used to separate prefixes from capitalized words.

5. The colonel is quick to bring up that the naturalist's actions support his theory about men. Refer back to paragraph 7. How do the naturalist's actions support the colonel's claim?
- The naturalist resisted his first instinct and remained steady in his seat.
 - The man spoke quickly, in an arresting voice, to gain everyone's attention.
 - The man caused a commotion to frighten the cobra away.
 - The naturalist screamed at everyone, showing his unfailing reaction in a crisis.
6. Which of the following choices best summarizes the thinking behind the naturalist's plan to keep the guests of the dinner party safe?
- If a bowl of milk is placed on the veranda to bait the snake out from under the table before anyone can realize it is there, they will all be spared any harm.
 - If he can calmly explain the situation, no one will react brashly or cause a disturbance that would startle the cobra.
 - If he can challenge everyone to stay still without alerting them to the potential danger, it will buy the necessary time they need to eliminate the danger.
 - If he can get the other 19 guests to move first during his challenge, he will win thousands of rupees from them and become a wealthy man.
7. For whom is the ending of this story ironic and why?
- The story is ironic for readers because readers are led to believe the colonel will be correct since his is a high ranking official.
 - The story is ironic for the naturalist because he knew a woman could exercise self control in a frightening and stressful situation.
 - The story is ironic for the colonel because he did not expect that it was a woman who remained calm in a crisis situation.
 - The story is ironic for readers because they were privy to the fact that Mrs. Wynnes knew about the cobra because she summoned the boy to put a bowl of milk out.
8. Which of the following idioms seems most appropriate for the colonel at the end of this story?
- He needed to eat a serving of humble pie.
 - He was glad the argument was put to bed.
 - He had the upper hand in the debate.
 - A colonel's beliefs are always set in stone.