

Historical Setting & Culture



Bell Ringer

December 4, 2017

Read the passage and answer the question below.

Power grabs and murder plots were as much a Ptolemaic tradition as family marriage, and Cleopatra and her brothers and sisters were no different. Her first sibling-husband, Ptolemy XIII, ran her out of Egypt after she tried to take sole possession of the throne, and the pair later faced off in a civil war. Cleopatra regained the upper hand by teaming with Julius Caesar, and Ptolemy drowned in the Nile River after being defeated in battle. Following the war, Cleopatra remarried to her younger brother Ptolemy XIV, but she is believed to have had him murdered in a bid to make her son her co-ruler. In 41 B.C., she also engineered the execution of her sister, Arsinoe, who she considered a rival to throne.

We learn from the above paragraph that in Cleopatra's culture, it is normal for

- a. siblings to murder or kill each other.
- b. siblings to marry each other.
- c. both a and b.



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December 5, 2017

From “The Lady or the Tiger”

But even here the exuberant and **barbaric** fancy asserted itself. The **arena** of the king was built, not to give the people an opportunity of hearing the rhapsodies of dying **gladiators**, nor to enable them to view the inevitable conclusion of a conflict between religious opinions and hungry jaws, but for purposes far better adapted to widen and develop the mental energies of the people. This vast **amphitheater**, with its encircling galleries, its mysterious vaults, and its unseen passages, was an agent of poetic justice, in which crime was punished, or virtue rewarded, by the decrees of an impartial and incorruptible chance.

Words such as barbaric, arena, gladiators, and amphitheater suggest that the time period of the passage

- a. happened long ago.
- b. is happening in present day.
- c. is something that would happen in the future.



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Bell Ringer

December 6, 2017

From *Up From Slavery*

I was born a slave on a plantation in Virginia. I am not sure of the exact place or date I was born. The first things I remember are the plantation and the slave quarters, which were where the slaves had their cabins.

This is an excerpt from the life of Booker T. Washington. From your knowledge of history, you know that the slave plantation was a _____ place.

- a. real
- b. imaginary



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December 7, 2017

from *Betrayed by America* by Kristin Lewis

It was hard to believe how suddenly Bill's life had changed. Just three months earlier, he was scarfing down tacos with his friends, playing baseball after school, going on picnics with his family, and buying comic books.

But then the president of the United States signed an order for Bill and his family— along with some 120,000 others—to be rounded up like criminals. They were forced to leave their homes and sent to live in faraway internment camps.

This happened not because they had committed any crime.

They had broken no laws. They had done nothing wrong.

This happened simply because they were Japanese American.

This story takes place in

- a. Japan.
- b. America.
- c. Korea.



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December 8, 2017

From “The Cost of Child Labor” by Susan Hayes

Why are so many children forced to work? In some countries like India and Pakistan, very poor parents sell their children to factory owners. These children are called bonded workers, but they are practically slaves. They must work for the factory owner until they pay back the money that was given to their parents. Because the children earn so little money, this takes years and years. They work in terrible conditions. Many become sick and die before they become adults. Factory owners want child workers for jobs like stitching soccer balls or weaving rugs. They say it's because children have small, quick fingers. But many people believe the real reason is that children can be ordered around more easily than adults. And they don't have to be paid as much. “For what I'd pay one second-class adult weaver I can get three boys, sometimes four, who produce first-class rugs in no time,” one rug maker in Pakistan said.

Is child labor an American practice?

- a. Yes
- b. No



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