

**“You Can’t Take it With You” by Eva Lis-Wuorio – Skills Check**

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE!**

**Record answers on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. After reading paragraph 2, which of these statements about Basil’s family is clear?
  - A. They are well-to-do because of a large family fortune that has been passed down through the generations.
  - B. They take nice things for granted and assume they are entitled to them.
  - C. They are destitute and struggle to meet the daily financial needs in life.
  - D. Uncle Basil regularly buys them nice things even though they do not take care of them.
2. What do Basil’s relatives mean when they say he can’t take it with him?
  - A. He should not travel with large sums of money because he could become a target.
  - B. Having a savings is not the most important thing in life for an old man.
  - C. He can’t bring his fortune or things with him when he moves to a large home in the country.
  - D. He will not be able to bring his fortune with him when he dies.
3. Which word best describes the tone set in the first 2 paragraphs of the story?
  - A. Grave
  - B. Unemotional
  - C. Somber
  - D. Enthusiastic
4. Reread the following excerpt:

*They were like circus animals, he often thought, behind the bars of their thousand demands of something for nothing.*

What simile is in use here?

- A. Animal cages compared to the family members’ wants.
  - B. Circus animals compared to cages with bars.
  - C. The family members compared to circus animals.
  - D. Thousands of demands compared to the family members.
5. Why is it important for readers to know that Verner is “slow-witted”?
  - A. The fact that Verner is slow-witted is the reason Uncle Basil employs him.
  - B. The fact that Verner is slow-witted causes the family to disregard his suggestion that they buy a new coffin.
  - C. Since Verner is slow-witted, the family assumes he will not be in competition for any of the fortune.
  - D. The family was wrong to assume Verner was slow-witted because he is actually very bright.

6. What does having himself measured for a coffin show about Uncle Basil's character?
- A. He is clever and determined in his plan to make sure none of his greedy relatives get their hands on his fortune.
  - B. He is irresponsible for including someone as slow-witted as Verner in the plan.
  - C. He is a prankster who often pulls jokes on the members of his family.
  - D. He values the power he holds over his family above all else.
7. The master carpenter who builds Uncle Basil's coffin is described as a "dour countryman of the same generation as Uncle Basil." What word is most similar to **dour** as it is used in this context?
- A. Cheerless
  - B. Purposeful
  - C. Harsh
  - D. Indecisive
8. How might things have turned out differently if the family had listened to the "dull-witted" Verner?
- A. They might have been kinder to Uncle Basil like Verner was.
  - B. They might have realized that all of the envelopes Verner was using to line the coffin contained money.
  - C. They might have purchased Basil a nicer coffin and later discovered the original coffin lining.
  - D. They might have used their inheritance to purchase a large estate in the country.
9. What is clear as evidenced by the fact that Basil left his housekeeper enough money to keep her comfortable and left the house to Verner?
- A. Basil was a greedy old man who only wanted to spite his family.
  - B. Basil's love of his fortune consumed his life as well as his death.
  - C. The housekeeper had a very special place in Basil's heart.
  - D. Basil took care of those people who served him well.
10. Quite literally, what happened to Uncle Verner's fortune in the end?
- A. He took it with him to the afterlife so he could continue to enjoy it.
  - B. He left it all to the slow-witted Verner.
  - C. He spent it all on a nice funeral feast for the family, featuring nothing but the best.
  - D. It was burned to ash, making it impossible for the family to enjoy it.

**Short Responses: Record answers on your loose-leaf. Answers will be graded using the short response rubric.**

11. Explain two ways Basil's family could have gotten a part of his fortune.
12. Explain why Verner was an appropriate choice to assist in the execution of Basil's plan.