

CTBS Reading Practice #1

Read the following examples below and use the text to answer the questions. It may be helpful to read the questions before reading the text, regardless check over your work, and look up any confusing words.

Passage 1

**Three things there are that will never come back:
The arrow shot forth on its destined track;
The appointed hour that could not wait;
And the helpful word that was spoken too late.
(From the Persian)**

1. The poet writes about
 - a. three things that won't come back
 - b. hunting
 - c. waiting
 - d. missing a train
 - e. speaking out of turn

2. The poet implies that
 - a. things are never the same
 - b. appointments should not be broken
 - c. a target is never needed
 - d. one should be helpful whenever one can
 - e. everything returns to the beginning

3. The poet mentions
 - a. arrow, target, word
 - b. arrow, hour, word
 - c. hour, arrow, back
 - d. word, hour, watch
 - e. word, arrow, speech

4. This poem
 - a. tells a joke
 - b. is very scary
 - c. teaches a lesson
 - d. tries to be silly
 - e. is a story

5. This poem is
 - a. American
 - b. Dutch
 - c. Slavic
 - d. Spanish
 - e. Persian

Passage 2

VI

**Plot-tlot;plot-tlot! Had they heard it?
The horsehoofs ringing clear.
Plot-tlot;plot-tlot, in the distance?
Were they deaf that they did not hear?
Down the ribbon of moonlight, over
The brow of the hill,
The highwayman came riding,
Riding, riding!
The red-coats looked to their priming!
She stood up, straight and still.**

VII

**Plot-tlot, in the frosty silence. Plot-tlot,
in the echoing night!
Nearer he came nearer! Her
face was like a light!
Her eyes grew wide for a moment; She
drew one last deep breath
Then her finger moved in the moonlight,
Her musket shattered the moonlight,
Shattered her breast in the moonlight,
And warned him –with her death.**

1. This poem is a
 - a. narrative poem
 - b. lyric poem
 - c. sonnet
 - d. prose poem
 - e. none of the above

2. The feeling of this selection is
 - a. funny
 - b. dramatic and suspenseful
 - c. serious
 - d. both b and c
 - e. none of the above

3. It is apparent in the last stanza that
 - a. the highwayman was murdered
 - b. the redcoats started shooting
 - c. the horse had broken his leg
 - d. the girl killed herself
 - e. it was a winter night

Passage 3

**If you think you are beaten, you are
If you think you dare not, you don't ;
If you'd like to win, but think you can't
It's almost a cinch you won't;
If you think you'll lose, you've lost
For out in the world you'll find
Success begins with a fellow's will
It's all in the state of mind.**

If you think you are outclassed, you are;

**You've got to think high to rise;
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battle doesn't always go
To the stronger or faster man;
But sooner or later, the man who wins
Is the fellow who thinks that he can.**

1. The best title for this poem would be
 - a. Running the Race
 - b. Confidence
 - c. Losing Life's Battle
 - d. The Prize
 - e. Winning

2. In relation to the statement "only the strong survive," the author of this poem would probably
 - a. agree
 - b. disagree
 - c. agree most of the time
 - d. disagree most of the time
 - e. never agree

3. This poem expresses a feeling of
 - a. hope
 - b. bitterness
 - c. disillusionment
 - d. pessimism
 - e. humor

4. According to this selection, which qualities are needed for success?
 - a. vision
 - b. confidence
 - c. determination
 - d. planning
 - e. all of the above

Passage 4

**Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered
weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume
of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there
came a tapping
As of someone gently rapping at my
chamber door
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my
chamber door-
Only this and nothing more."**

**Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost
upon the floor
Eagerly I wished the morrow- vainly I had sought to
row**

**From my books surcease of sorrow- sorrow for the
lost Lenore
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name
Lenore-
Nameless here for evermore.**

1. The speaker in this poem is
 - a. in a half-doze
 - b. reading a letter
 - c. entertaining visitors
 - d. having a nightmare
 - e. daydreaming

2. The poem took place in which season?
 - a. in the springtime
 - b. in the fall
 - c. in the winter
 - d. in the summer
 - e. both b and d

3. The setting described suggests that the room contained
 - a. a chamber pot
 - b. a fireplace
 - c. a large bookcase
 - d. ghosts
 - e. a record player

4. The character "Lenore" is clearly
 - a. the speaker's daughter who had been lost
 - b. his mother who had run away
 - c. his sweetheart who had died
 - d. his sister who had left home
 - e. his wife who had divorced him