

## **CTBS Reading Practice # 4**

Read the following poem by Emily Dickinson entitled "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?" and answer the corresponding questions 1 – 4.

**I'm Nobody! Who are you?  
Are you – Nobody – Too?  
Then there's a pair of us?  
Don't tell! they'd advertise – you know!**

**How dreary – to be – Somebody!  
How public – like a Frog –  
To tell one's name – the livelong June-  
To an admiring Bog!**

1. In the poem there are a pair of \_\_\_?
  - a. Emily Dickinsons
  - b. Frogs
  - c. Nobodys
  - d. Somebodys
2. Why do you think the frog is considered public?
  - a. Everyone knows Kermit the frog
  - b. Frog is a nickname for Presidents
  - c. Frogs croak all the time, shouting their existence
  - d. Frogs are infamous characters
3. When the poet describes herself as nobody she is telling us, she is...
  - a. important
  - b. inconsequential
  - c. noticeable
  - d. a frog
4. In the second stanza the author describes the bog as admiring. How is this ironic?
  - a. a bog is wet
  - b. a bog is where a frog lives
  - c. to admire someone is to appreciate them
  - d. a bog has no emotion or feelings

The following excerpt is from William Shakespeare. Read the text and answer questions 1 – 6.

### **All the World's a Stage**

**All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.  
Then the wining schoolboy, with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,  
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad  
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,  
Full of strange oaths and bearded like pard,**

**Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,  
Seeking the bubble reputation  
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,  
In fair round belly with good capon lined,  
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws and modern instances;  
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
Into the lean and slippered pantaloan,  
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;  
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide  
For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.**

1. When Shakespeare says that all the world's a stage, he uses a...
  - a. metaphor
  - b. simile
  - c. hyperbole
  - d. overstatement
2. When he says the world is a theatrical stage why is this ironic?
  - a. everyone is an actor of life
  - b. he describes the stages of life
  - c. life has a set
  - d. Shakespeare died young
3. What do entrances and exits represent?
  - a. doors and windows
  - b. signs
  - c. lives and deaths
  - d. other Shakespeare plays
4. What is the correct order of events?
  - a. infant, schoolboy, soldier, justice, pantaloan, second childishness
  - b. infant, second childishness, schoolboy, soldier, justice, pantaloan
  - c. infant, schoolboy, justice, soldier, pantaloan, second childishness
  - d. infant, schoolboy, second childishness, justice, pantaloan, soldier
5. In the time of Shakespeare all actors were men. Where does Shakespeare confirm this?
  - a. And all the men and women merely players;... And one man in his time plays many parts,
  - b. The whining schoolboy, with his satchel  
And shining morning face,
  - c. In fair round belly with good capon lined,  
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut
  - d. For his shrunk shrank, and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
6. Knowing that "sans" means without, what might you infer from the last three lines.
  - a. The man is having children
  - b. The man is dead
  - c. The man is old and has lost his senses
  - d. The man is lost

The following Editorial comes from the Boston Globe January 14, 2002. Read the passage and answer questions 1 – 5.

### American Dream

**THE DREAM CATCHER is hot, and that leaves some Native Americans understandably cold.**

**Considered a sacred object in their culture, the web-like dream catcher- which is supposed to hang above a baby's cradle to trap nightmares and let good dreams into the soul- has become a staple in mall trinket stores.**

**It dangles from key chains, earrings, car mirrors, Christmas trees, and windows. It comes ready-made in plastic or can be put together with quickie, do-it-yourself kits that are worlds away from tribal ritual and the meditative ceremony of careful crafting in wood.**

**But while this popularization of the spiritual can be written off as the co-opting and secularizing of a belief system, it is, at its heart, a search for meaning.**

**That search is evident in the popularity of New Age products and practices- most of which are very old. Americans – including some mainstream doctors – are embracing yoga and meditation, buying incense, and exploring the healing power of acupuncture and herbal medicine.**

**Women join goddess groups to tap into ancient feminine wisdom. Pagan and Wiccan rituals, as well as more mainstream Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, and Christian, have all led Americans on spiritual journeys, often as converts.**

**To the traditionalist these pilgrimages may look slapdash or appear to be "the religion of the week," taken up with enthusiasm and then dropped something else or brewed in a**

**soup that accepts a little bit of everything, boiled down to something that seems way to comfortable.**

**Our society is a cultural smorgasbord, and the seeker may want to try it all, but in doing so intends no disrespect – quite the opposite, for the exploration, while perhaps a bit frenetic, is usually sincere.**

1. The writer uses what as support for the passage?
  - a. facts
  - b. opinions
  - c. biographical information
  - d. personal experience
2. What has become a trinket mall stores?
  - a. baby's cradles
  - b. good dreams
  - c. key chains
  - d. dream catchers
3. Mainstream doctors are not embracing what new age practices?
  - a. yoga
  - b. buying incense
  - c. acupuncture
  - d. praying
4. According to the passage, which of these statements is a fact?
  - a. The Dream catcher is hot.
  - b. Women join goddess groups to tap into ancient feminine wisdom.
  - c. Our society is a cultural smorgasbord.
  - d. There are no facts in this piece.
5. Which of these best states the main idea of the passage?
  - a. Dream Catcher's are a hot commodity.
  - b. Life is a box of chocolates.
  - c. Society wants no religion.
  - d. Our culture is looking for meaning by exploring spiritual options.

Read the following passage and answer questions 1-4.

**AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps engages more than 50,000 Americans in intensive, results-driven service each year. We're teaching children to read, making neighborhoods safer, building affordable homes, and responding to natural disasters through more than 1000 projects. Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with projects like Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, and Boys and Girls Clubs, and many more local and national organizations. Others serve in AmeriCorps\*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and AmeriCorps\*NCCC (the National Civilian Community Corps). After their term of service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance college or pay back student loans.**

**AmeriCorps members train volunteers, tutor and mentor at-risk youth, build housing, clean up rivers and streams, help seniors live independently, provide emergency and long-term assistance to victims of natural disasters, and meet other community needs.**

**AmeriCorps\*VISTA members have served economically challenged communities for more than 35 years. The program is dedicated to increasing the capability of people to improve the conditions of their own lives. Members of AmeriCorps\*VISTA serve full-time and live in the communities they serve, creating programs that can continue after they complete their service.**

**AmeriCorps\* NCCC is a ten-month, full-time residential service program for men and women ages eighteen to twenty-four. Members help meet the nation's critical needs in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs. AmeriCorps\*NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership and team building.**

**The Corporation for National Services which oversees AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Service Corps- works with governor-appointed state commissions, nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools, and other organizations to provide opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve their communities.**

1. AmeriCorps is a national version of...
  - a. Peace Corps
  - b. School
  - c. Study Abroad
  - d. employment
2. What are Volunteer in Service to America members dedicated to?
  - a. meet the nation's critical needs
  - b. military service
  - c. civilian services
  - d. making people capable to change their own lives.
3. What don't AmeriCorps Members do?
  - a. educate at risk youth
  - b. register voters
  - c. construct housing
  - d. help with environmental needs
4. According to the AmeriCorps passage which of these statements is a fact?
  - a. AmeriCorps provides an experience that will forever impact the lives of others.
  - b. The community support AmeriCorps provides enables communities to grow stronger and offer more resources.
  - c. AmeriCorps volunteers receive education awards to be used to pay back student loans or help finance college.
  - d. Young Americans make the best volunteers.