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Reading

Weekly Test Lesson 5

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Blackout

It was a Monday night in early November, and heavy rain pounded on the rooftop. My parents were at a neighborhood block association meeting. My sister and I were supposed to be getting our homework finished. I was sitting on the sofa in the family room, staring into space.

“You have a peculiar expression on your face,” said Lisa, who was sitting at the table nearby, “and it is making it really hard for me to concentrate.”

“I’m in a quandary because I need an interesting topic for an essay,” I replied, “but my brain is empty. I need to write three hundred words providing useful information on something like changing a flat tire. It’s due tomorrow, and Mrs. Jackson said late papers are unacceptable.”

Lisa laughed. “Remember on our summer vacation camping trip you helped change a flat?” Lisa asked. “Why not use that idea?”

“Mrs. Jackson used it as an example to explain the assignment, so I can’t borrow her idea. I’m trying to formulate something different, and so far all I’ve come up with is how to take out the garbage, which I can probably stretch out to fifteen sentences maximum.”

At that moment, there was a strong gust of wind, and the lights flickered. Suddenly, everything was dark.

“The entire street is dark,” Lisa said, looking out the front window. “I wonder if the storm knocked out a transformer or possibly toppled a power line.”

“Maybe we should call the power company and report the outage and get an estimate on when the repairs will be completed,” I said. “Where’s the flashlight so that I can find the number in the telephone directory?”

“It might be in the drawer next to the dishwasher,” Lisa answered. We cautiously made our way to the kitchen and located the flashlight.

“This is definitely a positive development,” I said, holding the metal cylinder up like a trophy. However, when I clicked the switch on the handle, nothing happened. “Terrific,” I said, shaking the flashlight, “the batteries are dead.”

“Here are a couple of candles,” said Lisa, reaching into the far recesses of the drawer.

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“We’d better hope this blackout doesn’t continue indefinitely,” I said, feeling around in the drawers, “because our level of emergency preparedness isn’t exactly outstanding.”

Suddenly, all the lights returned to life. We looked at each other and smiled with relief.

“Boy, that was kind of alarming,” Lisa said. “Let’s go shopping tomorrow for emergency supplies.”

“Good idea. I’ll help you make a list just as soon as I finish my essay on how to be prepared for a power failure, because that’s something we all need to know!”

“Wow!” laughed Lisa. “What a coincidence! We’ve got light bulbs going on in the neighborhood and inside your head as well!”

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- 1 Read the sentence from the text.

Suddenly, all the lights returned to life.

What does the word suddenly mean as it is used in the text?

- (A) unfortunately
- (B) occurring in the dark
- (C) without telling anyone
- (D) quickly and unexpectedly

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- 2** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

What is the theme of the text?

- (A) The dark is frightening.
- (B) Homework is important.
- (C) Good ideas come at the most unexpected times.
- (D) You can rely on family to help in times of trouble.

Part B

Which detail from the text **best** supports the answer to part A?

- (A) Lisa and the narrator worked together to look for a flashlight and candles.
- (B) The narrator's essay topic came from responding to a power outage.
- (C) The narrator had to finish her homework before tomorrow.
- (D) The entire street went dark during a storm.

- 3** Read these sentences from the text.

“Wow!” laughed Lisa. “What a coincidence! We’ve got light bulbs going on in the neighborhood and inside your head as well!”

What does Lisa’s comment tell you about her?

- (A) Lisa has a sense of humor.
- (B) Lisa isn’t afraid of the dark.
- (C) Good grades are important to Lisa.
- (D) Lisa wants to be prepared for an emergency.

- 4** Which event happens first?

- (A) The lights go out.
- (B) A gust of wind blows.
- (C) The girls find a flashlight.
- (D) The narrator decides to write an essay about emergency supplies.

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- 5 Label each event from the text in the order in which it happened. The first event will be labeled 1, and the last event will be labeled 4.

- The girls look for candles.
 Their parents go to a meeting.
 The narrator selects a topic for her essay.
 The power goes out.

- 6 Why did the narrator decide to write an essay about being prepared for emergencies? Support your answer with details from the text.
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Writing

7 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.

- (A) The young boy avoided the cracks as he skipped down the street.
- (B) The teacher was proud to annonce the winner of the spelling bee.
- (C) The cat happily lapped up milk from the saucer.
- (D) The baby tiger at the zoo pounced on the ball.

8 Which sentence has an error in grammar usage?

- (A) Mateo ate two sandwiches for lunch.
- (B) Mateo sat with his friends while he ate.
- (C) Mateo and his friends ate their lunchs in the cafeteria.
- (D) Mateo wished he had more sandwiches because he was still hungry.

9 Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (A) The children played with the puppys all afternoon.
- (B) When they eat pollen, butterflies pollinate flowers.
- (C) Hummingbirdes are attracted to bright flowers.
- (D) We ate lunch in the cafeteriaes.

10 Read the paragraph. Underline the **three** words that are spelled incorrectly.

Fireflyes are flying bugs that glow. They can be seen flying in backyards at twilight. Childs sometimes catch the bugs in clear jars that have holes in the lid. Although boys and girls like to watch the captured bugs, the bugs would rather be flying around in the night skyes!