Reading Comprehension Questions

Circle the correct answer

Question 1
Not long after the wedding, on a silent, moonlit night, Susu's father told her that he feared he had not long to live. Some enemy, he said, had cast a spell upon him with a wasting sickness. Day by day he grew weaker and weaker.

Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?

A. "Wasting Sickness and Other Spells"
B. "What Susu Learned One Silent, Moonlit Night"
C. "How Many Days it Takes to Become Very Weak"
D. "Enemies that Cast Spells"

Question 2
Seeing Susu, the stepmother took her by the hand. She drew the girl into a place where they could be seen by the father, yet far enough away to be out of earshot. This is what the woman said, and her voice was like a poison dart as she whispered loud enough for the owl in the hollow tree to hear.

The stepmother's voice is compared to a poison dart because

A. what she said was hurtful.
B. when she spoke, an actual dart flew out of her mouth.
C. The stepmother practiced throwing darts at the tree.
D. The stepmother drew Susu far enough away to be out of earshot.
Question 3

Susu quickly drew away her arm. She must speed to her father to warn him! But the woman caught her by the wrist, twisting it painfully, and pinched the soft place on her arm with her other hand.

The MOST important thing we learn about the stepmother in this passage is that

A. she has good reflexes because she quickly caught Susu by the wrist.

B. she will not hesitate to hurt someone else.

C. she probably has long fingernails.

D. she is good at finding the soft place on an arm.

Question 4

The wise man told Susu and Chico that it was the wonderful magic mirror of one called Paracaca, long since dead. It was like none other, said the wise man. Whoever looked in the mirror would see his own face as others saw it—but whoever owned the mirror saw something else. "For with it," he said, "you may see the hidden spirit of other people, hidden behind the mask they wear."

Which of the following activities had probably been MOST important to Paracaca when he was alive?

A. collecting mirrors

B. training falcons to deliver objects far away

C. learning the true nature of other people

D. polishing discs until they are as smooth as mirrors
Question 5

Then Chico took out his flute and played music until the world seemed full of peace. Susu, too, sang sweetly. For a moment the father thought that the shadow that was upon him was but a dream and might pass. The three of them talked for a long time.

When the father refers to "the shadow that was upon him," he is thinking about

A. his cloak.
B. a tree nearby that is casting a shadow on him.
C. a storm predicted for later that day.
D. his sickness.

Question 6

In less than three moments, three evil things died. It was like the sun coming from behind a cloud-veil, the way in which joy came to that place. The weakness of the father fell from him like a cloak. The bodies of the toad, the snakes, and the stepmother withered and shriveled. As a light breeze sprang up, what was left of them was blown away as dust. The whole world seemed to burst into song.

Which sentence in the passage best summarizes the end to this story?

A. "It was like the sun coming from behind a cloud-veil, the way in which joy came to that place."
B. "The weakness of the father fell from him like a cloak."
C. "The bodies of the toad, the snakes, and the stepmother withered and shriveled."
D. "As a light breeze sprang up, what was left of them was blown away as dust."
Sequence of Events
Circle the correct answer

Story Timeline:

**Box 1** On a silent, moonlit night, Susu's father tells her that he fears he has not long to live.

**Box 2** One day, Susu sees a falcon swooping down from the sky with something glittering in its beak.

**Box 3**

**Box 4** All of a sudden, Susu's eyes fall upon a large grindstone that lay nearby.

**Box 5**

**Question A**
Which of these events belongs in Box 3?

1) Susu comes upon her stepmother talking to a great horned owl.

2) He tells them it is the magic mirror of one called Paracaca, long since dead.

3) Years after Susu's mother died, her father marries again.

4) Chico tells Susu of a mysterious experience he had the night before.

**Question B**
Which of these events belongs in Box 5?

1) She keeps the disc, wrapping it in a leaf.

2) In the mirror, Susu beholds about her stepmother's neck two writhing white snakes!

3) "With it," says the wise man, "you may see the hidden spirit of other people."

4) In less than three moments, three evil things died.
Questions to Answer about Word Strategies:
Similes, Descriptive Details & Transitional Words

Read each sentence below from Susu and the Magic Mirror. Fill in the circle which indicates whether the words that are underlined can be described as a simile, descriptive details, transitional words, or "none of the above."

A. From far off in the woods came the sound of an answering owl like an echo: "Hate you—Hoo!—Hoo!"
   ① simile  
   ② descriptive details  
   ③ transitional words  
   ④ none of the above

B. In less than three moments, three evil things died.
   ① simile  
   ② descriptive details  
   ③ transitional words  
   ④ none of the above

C. The weakness of the father fell from him like a cloak.
   ① simile  
   ② descriptive details  
   ③ transitional words  
   ④ none of the above

D. And so it went on, a mad and horrible concert.
   ① simile  
   ② descriptive details  
   ③ transitional words  
   ④ none of the above

E. She drew the girl into a place where they could be seen by the father, yet far enough away to be out of earshot.
   ① simile  
   ② descriptive details  
   ③ transitional words  
   ④ none of the above

F. The bodies of the toad and the snakes withered and shriveled.
   ① simile  
   ② descriptive details  
   ③ transitional words  
   ④ none of the above
Answer Key - Multiple-Choice Questions

Susu and the Magic Mirror

Reading Comprehension Questions:
Question 1 – B
Question 2 – A
Question 3 – B
Question 4 – C
Question 5 – D
Question 6 – A

Sequence of Events:
Question A – 2
Question B – 4

Questions to Answer about Word Strategies
A. 2
B. 3
C. 1
D. 2
E. 4
D. 2
Open Response Questions

As you write, be sure to:
• Use your own ideas.
• Write neatly and clearly.
• Use only the space provided.

Question 1
Susu helped her father even though she was scared of her stepmother. Think of a time when you helped someone even though that was hard to do. Describe what happened.

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Open Response Questions, continued

As you write, be sure to:

● Use your own idea.
● Write neatly and clearly.
● Use only the space provided.

Question 2

If you had the magic mirror of Paracaca and looked at your own reflection, what are the good things you would see?

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