

Snow Packet 6-10
English 11

Instructions:

- Put your full header at the top of this page
- Complete all text-based questions (multiple-choice AND short answer)
- Packet is due no more than two days after your return to school

Snow Packet Day 6

Excerpt from Tess of the d'Urbervilles

By Thomas Hardy

1891

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) was an English novelist and poet. In this excerpt from one of Hardy's most well-known novels, Tess of the d'Urbervilles, Jack Durbeyfield encounters a man who reveals something surprising about his ancestry. As you read, take notes on how the revelation about his ancestry makes Durbeyfield feel.

[1] On an evening in the latter part of May a middle-aged man was walking homeward from Shaston to the village of Marlott, in the adjoining Vale of Blakemore, or Blackmoor. The pair of legs that carried him were rickety, and there was a bias in his gait which inclined him somewhat to the left of a straight line. He occasionally gave a smart nod, as if in confirmation of some opinion, though he was not thinking of anything in particular. An empty egg-basket was slung upon his arm, the nap of his hat was ruffled, a patch being quite worn away at its brim where his thumb came in taking it off. Presently he was met by an elderly parson¹ astride on a gray mare, who, as he rode, hummed a wandering tune.



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"Good night t'ee," said the man with the basket.

"Good night, Sir John," said the parson.

The pedestrian, after another pace or two, halted, and turned round.

[5] "Now, sir, begging your pardon; we met last market-day on this road about this time, and I said 'Good night,' and you made reply 'Good night, Sir John,' as now."

"I did," said the parson.

"And once before that — near a month ago."

"I may have."

"Then what might your meaning be in calling me 'Sir John' these different times, when I be plain Jack Durbeyfield, the haggler?"²

1. a member of the clergy

2. a person who bargains over the price of something

[10] The parson rode a step or two nearer.

“It was only my whim,” he said; and, after a moment’s hesitation: “It was on account of a discovery I made some little time ago, whilst I was hunting up pedigrees³ for the new county history. I am Parson Tringham, the antiquary,⁴ of Stagfoot Lane. Don’t you really know, Durbeyfield, that you are the lineal representative of the ancient and knightly family of the d’Urbervilles, who derive their descent from Sir Pagan d’Urberville, that renowned knight who came from Normandy with William the Conqueror,⁵ as appears by Battle Abbey Roll?”

“Never heard it before, sir!”

“Well it’s true. Throw up your chin a moment, so that I may catch the profile of your face better. Yes, that’s the d’Urberville nose and chin — a little debased.⁶ Your ancestor was one of the twelve knights who assisted the Lord of Estremavilla in Normandy in his conquest of Glamorganshire. Branches of your family held manors over all this part of England; their names appear in the Pipe Rolls⁷ in the time of King Stephen. In the reign of King John one of them was rich enough to give a manor to the Knights Hospitallers; and in Edward the Second’s time your forefather Brian was summoned to Westminster to attend the great Council there. You declined a little in Oliver Cromwell’s time, but to no serious extent, and in Charles the Second’s reign you were made Knights of the Royal Oak for your loyalty. Aye, there have been generations of Sir Johns among you, and if knighthood were hereditary, like a baronetcy,⁸ as it practically was in old times, when men were knighted from father to son, you would be Sir John now.”

“Ye don’t say so!”

[15] “In short,” concluded the parson, decisively smacking his leg with his switch, “there’s hardly such another family in England.”

“Daze my eyes, and isn’t there?” said Durbeyfield. “And here have I been knocking about, year after year, from pillar to post, as if I was no more than the commonest feller in the parish⁹... And how long hev this news about me been knowed, Pa’son Tringham?”

The clergyman explained that, as far as he was aware, it had quite died out of knowledge, and could hardly be said to be known at all. His own investigations had begun on a day in the preceding spring when, having been engaged in tracing the vicissitudes of the d’Urberville family, he had observed Durbeyfield’s name on his waggon, and had thereupon been led to make inquiries about his father and grandfather till he had no doubt on the subject.

“At first I resolved not to disturb you with such a useless piece of information,” said he. “However, our impulses are too strong for our judgement sometimes. I thought you might perhaps know something of it all the while.”

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3. the recorded ancestry of a person or family
 4. a person who deals in antiques
 5. the first Norman king of England
 6. reduced in quality
 7. a collection of financial records maintained by the English Treasury
 8. a British ranking of honor, in which someone is referred to as “sir”
 9. a small district in a Christian religion with its own church and priest

“Well, I have heard once or twice, 'tis true, that my family had seen better days afore they came to Blackmoor. But I took no notice o't, thinking it to mean that we had once kept two horses where we now keep only one. I've got a wold silver spoon, and a wold graven seal at home, too; but, Lord, what's a spoon and seal? . . . And to think that I and these noble d'Urbervilles were one flesh all the time. 'Twas said that my gr'tgranfer had secrets, and didn't care to talk of where he came from. . . And where do we raise our smoke, now, parson, if I may make so bold; I mean, where do we d'Urbervilles live?”

[20] “You don't live anywhere. You are extinct — as a county family.”

“That's bad.”

Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy (1891) is in the public domain.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: In paragraph 17, what is the meaning of “vicissitudes”?
 - A. religious beliefs
 - B. changes in status
 - C. talents and skills
 - D. interests and amusements

2. PART B: Which TWO sentences from the passage support the answer to Part A?
 - A. a. “On an evening in the latter part of May a middle-aged man was walking homeward from Shaston to the village of Marlott, in the adjoining Vale of Blakemore, or Blackmoor.” (Paragraph 1)
 - B. “Presently he was met by an elderly parson astride on a gray mare, who, as he rode, hummed a wandering tune.” (Paragraph 1)
 - C. “Then what might your meaning be in calling me “Sir John” these different times, when I be plain Jack Durbeyfield, the haggler?” (Paragraph 9)
 - D. “I am Parson Tringham, the antiquary, of Stagfoot Lane.” (Paragraph 11)
 - E. “Branches of your family held manors over all this part of England; their names appear in the Pipe Rolls in the time of King Stephen.” (Paragraph 13)
 - F. “The clergyman explained that, as far as he was aware, it had quite died out of knowledge, and could hardly be said to be known at all.” (Paragraph 17)

3. PART A: In paragraph 1 of the passage from *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, the author creates an impression of Durbeyfield. Select TWO words that describe this impression.
 - A. clever
 - B. shabby
 - C. determined
 - D. unsteady
 - E. thoughtful
 - F. fearful

4. PART B: What is the overall impact of the impression of Durbeyfield created by the author?
 - A. It explains where Durbeyfield has been.
 - B. It establishes a contrast between Durbeyfield and his ancestors.
 - C. It explains where Durbeyfield lives.
 - D. It establishes a conflict between Durbeyfield and Parson Tringham.

Snow Packet Day 7

Martin Luther King, Jr. Nobel Acceptance Speech

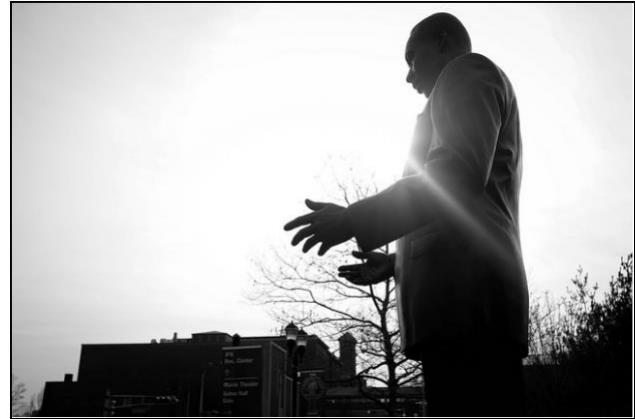
By Martin Luther King, Jr.

1964

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most prominent leader of the Civil Rights Movement. He was known for his use of nonviolent civil disobedience to protest against racial injustice. In 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions to the Civil Rights Movements. As you read, identify and take notes on examples of figurative language in King's speech, as well as how they contribute to an understanding of racial inequality in America.

[1] Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I accept the Nobel Prize for Peace at a moment when 22 million Negroes of the United States of America are engaged in a creative battle to end the long night of racial injustice. I accept this award on behalf of a civil rights movement which is moving with determination and a majestic scorn for risk and danger to establish a reign of freedom and a rule of justice. I am mindful that only yesterday in Birmingham, Alabama, our children, crying out for brotherhood, were answered with fire hoses, snarling dogs and even death. I am mindful that only yesterday in Philadelphia, Mississippi, young people seeking to secure the right to vote were brutalized and murdered. And only yesterday more than 40 houses of worship in the State of Mississippi alone were bombed or burned because they offered a sanctuary to those who would not accept segregation. I am mindful that debilitating and grinding poverty afflicts my people and chains them to the lowest rung of the economic ladder.



"Martin Luther King, Jr. Statue" by B.C. Lorio is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Therefore, I must ask why this prize is awarded to a movement which is beleaguered¹ and committed to unrelenting struggle; to a movement which has not won the very peace and brotherhood which is the essence of the Nobel Prize.

After contemplation, I conclude that this award which I receive on behalf of that movement is a profound recognition that nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time — the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression. Civilization and violence are antithetical² concepts. Negroes of the United States, following the people of India, have demonstrated that nonviolence is not sterile passivity, but a powerful moral force which makes for social transformation. Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy³ into a creative psalm⁴ of brotherhood. If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

[6] **Beleaguered (adjective):** persistently troubled or harassed

[11] The tortuous road which has led from Montgomery, Alabama to Oslo bears witness to this truth. This is a road over which millions of Negroes are travelling to find a new sense of dignity. This same road has opened for all Americans a new era of progress and hope. It has led to a new Civil Rights Bill, and it will, I am convinced, be widened and lengthened into a super highway of justice as Negro and white men in increasing numbers create alliances to overcome their common problems.

I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious⁵ faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the "isness" of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal "oughtness" that forever confronts him. I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam⁶ in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him. I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.

I refuse to accept the cynical⁷ notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of thermonuclear⁸ destruction. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. I believe that even amid today's mortar⁹ bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate¹⁰ on the blood-flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of men. I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down other-centered men can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive good will proclaim the rule of the land. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid."¹¹ I still believe that We Shall overcome!

This faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, we will know that we are living in the creative turmoil of a genuine civilization struggling to be born.

Today I come to Oslo as a trustee,¹² inspired and with renewed dedication to humanity. I accept this prize on behalf of all men who love peace and brotherhood. I say I come as a trustee, for in the depths of my heart I am aware that this prize is much more than an honor to me personally.

[16] Every time I take a flight, I am always mindful of the many people who make a successful journey possible — the known pilots and the unknown ground crew.

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3. **Antithetical (adjective):** directly opposed or contrasted; opposite
 4. a sad or mournful poem, especially for a funeral
 5. a sacred song or hymn, in particular any of those used in the Bible
 6. **Audacious (adjective):** extremely bold or daring
 7. useless or discarded objects from a ship
 8. **Cynical (adjective):** believing that people are motivated by self-interest
 9. relating to nuclear reactions that occur only at very high temperatures
 10. a short, light cannon used to shoot shells high into the air
 11. lying stretched out on the ground with one's face downward
 12. a verse from the Old Testament of the Bible
 13. one who is responsible for caring for someone else or managing their affairs

So you honor the dedicated pilots of our struggle who have sat at the controls as the freedom movement soared into orbit. You honor, once again, Chief Lutuli of South Africa, whose struggles with and for his people, are still met with the most brutal expression of man's inhumanity to man. You honor the ground crew without whose labor and sacrifices the jet flights to freedom could never have left the earth. Most of these people will never make the headline and their names will not appear in *Who's Who*.¹³ Yet when years have rolled past and when the blazing light of truth is focused on this marvelous age in which we live — men and women will know and children will be taught that we have a finer land, a better people, a more noble civilization — because these humble children of God were willing to suffer for righteousness' sake.

I think Alfred Nobel¹⁴ would know what I mean when I say that I accept this award in the spirit of a curator¹⁵ of some precious heirloom which he holds in trust for its true owners — all those to whom beauty is truth and truth beauty — and in whose eyes the beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace is more precious than diamonds or silver or gold.

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[21] the American publisher of directories containing short biographies

[22] the founder of the Nobel Prizes

[23] a manager or guardian of something valuable

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following identifies the central idea of the text?
 - A. The Civil Rights Movement must remain peaceful in the struggle against injustice because using violence would cost the movement the public's support.
 - B. There have been times in history when violence was necessary to resolve mankind's problems, but the Civil Rights Movement is not one of those moments.
 - C. Too many American leaders have been willing to accept violence, and it will not be possible to achieve equality if they don't adopt King's peaceful activism.
 - D. Citizens and leaders must work together to reject violence and promote peace, which will allow them to fulfill the goals of the Civil Rights Movement and eradicate racial injustice.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "I am mindful that only yesterday in Birmingham, Alabama, our children, crying out for brotherhood, were answered with fire hoses, snarling dogs and even death." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "I conclude that this award which I receive on behalf of that movement is a profound recognition that nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time" (Paragraph 4)
 - C. "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits." (Paragraph 7)
 - D. "I think Alfred Nobel would know what I mean when I say that I accept this award in the spirit of a curator of some precious heirloom which he holds in trust for its true owners" (Paragraph 12)

3. PART A: What is the effect of King describing passivity as "sterile" in paragraph 4?
 - A. It contrasts passivity with nonviolence, which is a more effective path to social change.
 - B. It stresses the idea that neither passivity nor nonviolence lead to peace.
 - C. It reinforces the idea that passivity is a safer way to create change than nonviolence.
 - D. It portrays passivity as more important than nonviolence in fighting injustice.

4. PART B: Which quote from paragraph 4 best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "the need for man to overcome oppression and violence" (Paragraph 4)
 - B. "civilization and violence are antithetical concepts" (Paragraph 4)
 - C. "but a powerful moral force which makes for social transformation" (Paragraph 4)
 - D. "sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace" (Paragraph 4)

[24] Which statement best describes how the style of the text contributes to its persuasiveness?

King uses figurative language and repetition to emphasize the most important points in his speech to the audience.

King describes the injustices that African Americans have faced in great detail to evoke sympathy from the audience.

King uses simplistic language so that he can appeal to more people and better convey abstract ideas to the audience.

King uses language that unifies the audience to encourage them to put their differences aside for the movement.

[25] What is the effect of King comparing freedom movement to the flight of an airplane in paragraphs 10 and 11?

Snow Packet Day 8

Excerpt from “Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall-Street”

By Herman Melville

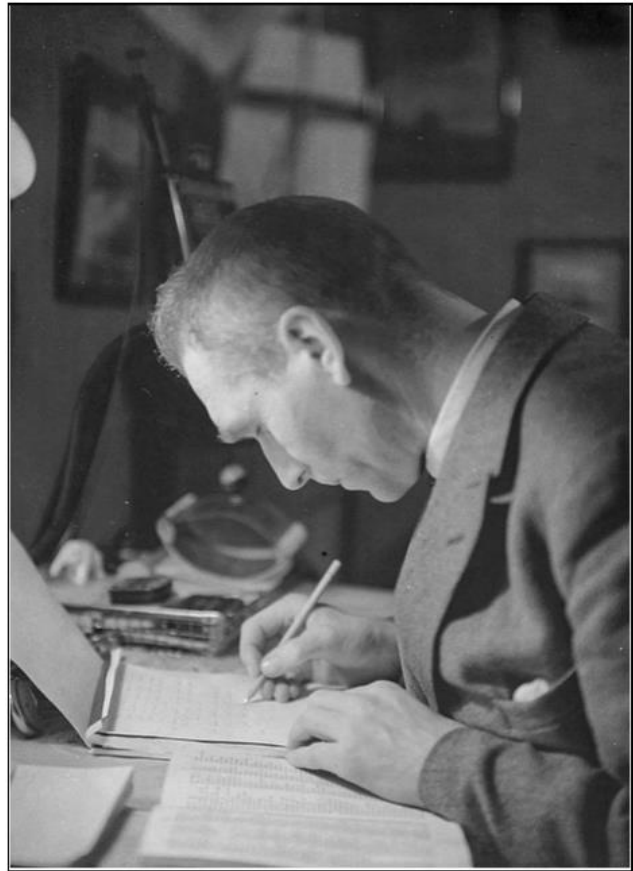
1853

Herman Melville (1819-1891) was an American novelist, short story writer, and poet. Melville’s writing often explored aspects of philosophy and American society. In this excerpt from “Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall-Street,” a lawyer hires the scribe Bartleby. As you read, take notes on how the narrator describes Bartleby and responds to his actions.

[1] In answer to my advertisement, a motionless young man one morning, stood upon my office threshold, the door being open, for it was summer. I can see that figure now — pallidly¹ neat, pitifully respectable, incurably forlorn!² It was Bartleby.

After a few words touching his qualifications, I engaged him, glad to have among my corps of copyists a man of so singularly sedate an aspect, which I thought might operate beneficially upon the flighty temper of Turkey, and the fiery one of Nippers.

I should have stated before that ground glass folding-doors divided my premises into two parts, one of which was occupied by my scriveners, the other by myself. According to my humor I threw open these doors, or closed them. I resolved to assign Bartleby a corner by the folding-doors, but on my side of them, so as to have this quiet man within easy call, in case any trifling thing was to be done. I placed his desk close up to a small side-window in that part of the room, a window which originally had afforded a lateral view of certain grimy back-yards and bricks, but which, owing to subsequent erections, commanded at present no view at all, though it gave some light. Within three feet of the panes was a wall, and the light came down from far above, between two lofty buildings, as from a very small opening in a dome. Still further to a satisfactory arrangement, I procured a high green folding screen, which might entirely isolate Bartleby from my sight, though not remove him from my voice. And thus, in a manner, privacy and society were conjoined.



["PEM-VRI-N00471](#) [Vilhelm Riksheim](#)" by Perspektivet Museum is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

[7] dull

[8] **Forlorn (adjective):** pitifully sad and lonely

At first Bartleby did an extraordinary quantity of writing. As if long famishing³ for something to copy, he seemed to gorge himself on my documents. There was no pause for digestion. He ran a day and night line, copying by sun-light and by candle-light. I should have been quite delighted with his application, had he been cheerfully industrious. But he wrote on silently, palely, mechanically.

- [12] It is, of course, an indispensable part of a scrivener's business to verify the accuracy of his copy, word by word. Where there are two or more scribes in an office, they assist each other in this examination, one reading from the copy, the other holding the original. It is a very dull, wearisome, and lethargic⁴ affair. I can readily imagine that to some sanguine⁵ temperaments it would be altogether intolerable. For example, I cannot credit that the mettlesome poet Byron would have contentedly sat down with Bartleby to examine a law document of, say five hundred pages, closely written in a crimped hand.

Now and then, in the haste of business, it had been my habit to assist in comparing some brief document myself, calling Turkey or Nippers for this purpose. One object I had in placing Bartleby so handy to me behind the screen, was to avail myself of his services on such trivial occasions. It was on the third day, I think, of his being with me, and before any necessity had arisen for having his own writing examined, that, being much hurried to complete a small affair I had in hand, I abruptly called to Bartleby. In my haste and natural expectancy of instant compliance, I sat with my head bent over the original on my desk, and my right hand sideways, and somewhat nervously extended with the copy, so that immediately upon emerging from his retreat, Bartleby might snatch it and proceed to business without the least delay.

In this very attitude did I sit when I called to him, rapidly stating what it was I wanted him to do — namely, to examine a small paper with me. Imagine my surprise, nay, my consternation,⁶ when without moving from his privacy, Bartleby in a singularly mild, firm voice, replied, "I would prefer not to."

I sat awhile in perfect silence, rallying my stunned faculties. Immediately it occurred to me that my ears had deceived me, or Bartleby had entirely misunderstood my meaning. I repeated my request in the clearest tone I could assume. But in quite as clear a one came the previous reply, "I would prefer not to."

"Prefer not to," echoed I, rising in high excitement, and crossing the room with a stride. "What do you mean? Are you moon-struck? I want you to help me compare this sheet here — take it," and I thrust it towards him.

- [17] "I would prefer not to," said he.

[26] starving

[27] **Lethargic (adjective):** sluggish

[28] optimistic or positive

[29] **Consternation (noun):** feeling of anxiety or dismay, typically at something unexpected

I looked at him steadfastly. His face was leanly composed; his gray eye dimly calm. Not a wrinkle of agitation rippled him. Had there been the least uneasiness, anger, impatience or impertinence⁷ in his manner; in other words, had there been any thing ordinarily human about him, doubtless I should have violently dismissed him from the premises. But as it was, I should have as soon thought of turning my pale plaster-of-paris bust of Cicero out of doors. I stood gazing at him awhile, as he went on with his own writing, and then reseated myself at my desk. This is very strange, thought I. What had one best do? But my business hurried me. I concluded to forget the matter for the present, reserving it for my future leisure. So calling Nippers from the other room, the paper was speedily examined.

A few days after this, Bartleby concluded four lengthy documents, being quadruplicates of a week's testimony taken before me in my High Court of Chancery. It became necessary to examine them. It was an important suit, and great accuracy was imperative.⁸ Having all things arranged I called Turkey, Nippers and Ginger Nut from the next room, meaning to place the four copies in the hands of my four clerks, while I should read from the original. Accordingly Turkey, Nippers and Ginger Nut had taken their seats in a row, each with his document in hand, when I called to Bartleby to join this interesting group.

"Bartleby! quick, I am waiting."

I heard a slow scrape of his chair legs on the uncarpeted floor, and soon he appeared standing at the entrance of his hermitage.

5. "What is wanted?" said he mildly.

"The copies, the copies," said I hurriedly. "We are going to examine them. There" — and I held towards him the fourth quadruplicate.

"I would prefer not to," he said, and gently disappeared behind the screen.

For a few moments I was turned into a pillar of salt, standing at the head of my seated column of clerks. Recovering myself, I advanced towards the screen, and demanded the reason for such extraordinary conduct.

"Why do you refuse?"

[30] "I would prefer not to."

With any other man I should have flown outright into a dreadful passion, scorned all further words, and thrust him ignominiously⁹ from my presence. But there was something about Bartleby that not only strangely disarmed me, but in a wonderful manner touched and disconcerted me. I began to reason with him.

"These are your own copies we are about to examine. It is labor saving to you, because one examination will answer for your four papers. It is common usage. Every copyist is bound to help examine his copy. Is it not so? Will you not speak? Answer!"

Impertinence (noun): lack of respect; rudeness
essential
characterized by disgrace or shame

"I prefer not to," he replied in a flute-like tone. It seemed to me that while I had been addressing him, he carefully revolved every statement that I made; fully comprehended the meaning; could not gainsay¹⁰ the irresistible conclusion; but, at the same time, some paramount consideration prevailed with him to reply as he did.

"You are decided, then, not to comply with my request — a request made according to common usage and common sense?"

2. He briefly gave me to understand that on that point my judgment was sound. Yes: his decision was irreversible.

It is not seldom the case that when a man is browbeaten¹¹ in some unprecedented and violently unreasonable way, he begins to stagger in his own plainest faith. He begins, as it were, vaguely to surmise that, wonderful as it may be, all the justice and all the reason is on the other side. Accordingly, if any disinterested persons are present, he turns to them for some reinforcement for his own faltering mind.

"Turkey," said I, "what do you think of this? Am I not right?"

"With submission, sir," said Turkey, with his blandest tone, "I think that you are."

"Nippers," said I, "what do you think of it?"

- [30] "I think I should kick him out of the office."

(The reader of nice perceptions will here perceive that, it being morning, Turkey's answer is couched in polite and tranquil terms, but Nippers replies in ill-tempered ones. Or, to repeat a previous sentence, Nippers's ugly mood was on duty, and Turkey's off.)

"Ginger Nut," said I, willing to enlist the smallest suffrage in my behalf, "what do you think of it?" "I

think, sir, he's a little lunny,"¹² replied Ginger Nut, with a grin.

"You hear what they say," said I, turning towards the screen, "come forth and do your duty."

- [35] But he vouchsafed¹³ no reply. I pondered a moment in sore perplexity. But once more business hurried me. I determined again to postpone the consideration of this dilemma to my future leisure. With a little trouble we made out to examine the papers without Bartleby, though at every page or two, Turkey deferentially¹⁴ dropped his opinion that this proceeding was quite out of the common; while Nippers, twitching in his chair with a dyspeptic¹⁵ nervousness, ground out between his set teeth occasional hissing maledictions¹⁶ against the stubborn oaf behind the screen. And for his (Nippers's) part, this was the first and the last time he would do another man's business without pay.

10. to deny or contradict a fact or statement

11. to intimidate someone

12. short for "lunatic"

13. to give or grants someone something

14. marked by showing respect

15. irritable

16. a curse

Meanwhile Bartleby sat in his hermitage, oblivious to every thing but his own peculiar business there.

"Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall-Street" by Herman Melville (1853).

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What is the meaning of the word “trifling” as it is used in paragraph 3?
 - A. unpredictable
 - B. fulfilling
 - C. unimportant
 - D. laborious

2. PART B: Which word used in the story is most similar in meaning to “trifling?”
 - A. sedate (Paragraph 2)
 - B. indispensable (Paragraph 5)
 - C. lethargic (Paragraph 5)
 - D. trivial (Paragraph 6)

3. PART A: What is the impact of the narrator’s statement, “I should have been quite delighted with his application, had he been cheerfully industrious” (Paragraph 4) on the passage as a whole?
 - A. It introduces the narrator’s unreasonable attitude toward his employees.
 - B. It foreshadows the narrator’s deep interest in understanding Bartleby.
 - C. It reveals that the narrator enjoys working side by side with his employees at all times.
 - D. It indicates that the narrator will be able to objectively assess Bartleby’s strengths and weaknesses.

4. PART B: Which quotation from the passage most directly supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. “I should have stated before that ground glass folding-doors divided my premises into two parts, one of which was occupied by my scribes, the other by myself. According to my humor I threw open these doors, or closed them.” (Paragraph 3)
 - B. “It is, of course, an indispensable part of a scrivener’s business to verify the accuracy of his copy, word by word.” (Paragraph 5)
 - C. “But there was something about Bartleby that not only strangely disarmed me, but in a wonderful manner touched and disconcerted me.” (Paragraph 21)
 - D. “He briefly gave me to understand that on that point my judgment was sound. Yes: his decision was irreversible.” (Paragraph 25)

5. PART A: How does the narrator’s description of his office in paragraph 3 function in the context of the story as a whole?
 - A. It suggests the narrator’s unawareness of the way others in the office might show their working environment.
 - B. It reveals a negative aspect of the narrator’s personality because the other scribes refuse to occupy the same office as the narrator.
 - C. It illustrates that the other scribes, despite being in the same predicament as Bartleby, exhibit no sympathy for Bartleby.
 - D. It highlights the contrast between Bartleby’s comfortable working environment and his negative attitude toward work.

6. PART B: Which quotation from paragraph 3 highlights the function of the narrator's description of his office?
- A. "divided my premises into two parts, one of which was occupied by my scriveners, the other by myself."
 - B. "commanded at present no view at all, though it gave some light"
 - C. "Still further to a satisfactory arrangement"
 - D. "entirely isolate Bartleby from my sight, though no remove him from my voice."
7. PART A: How does the repetition of the response "I would prefer not to" in this story function in developing Bartleby's character?
- A. It reveals the cause of his confusion.
 - B. It suggests his lack of work experience.
 - C. It emphasizes his alienation.
 - D. It hints at the extent of his anger.
8. PART B: Which quotation from the story best supports the answer to Part A?
- A. "had there been any thing ordinarily human about him, doubtless I should have violently dismissed him from the premises. But as it was, I should have as soon thought of turning my pale plaster-of-paris bust of Cicero out of doors." (Paragraph 11)
 - B. "I heard a slow scrape of his chair legs on the uncarpeted floor, and soon he appeared standing at the entrance of his hermitage." (Paragraph 14)
 - C. "But there was something about Bartleby that not only strangely disarmed me, but in a wonderful manner touched and disconcerted me." (Paragraph 21)
 - D. "He briefly gave me to understand that on that point my judgment was sound: Yes: his decision was irreversible." (Paragraph 25)

Snow Packet Day 9

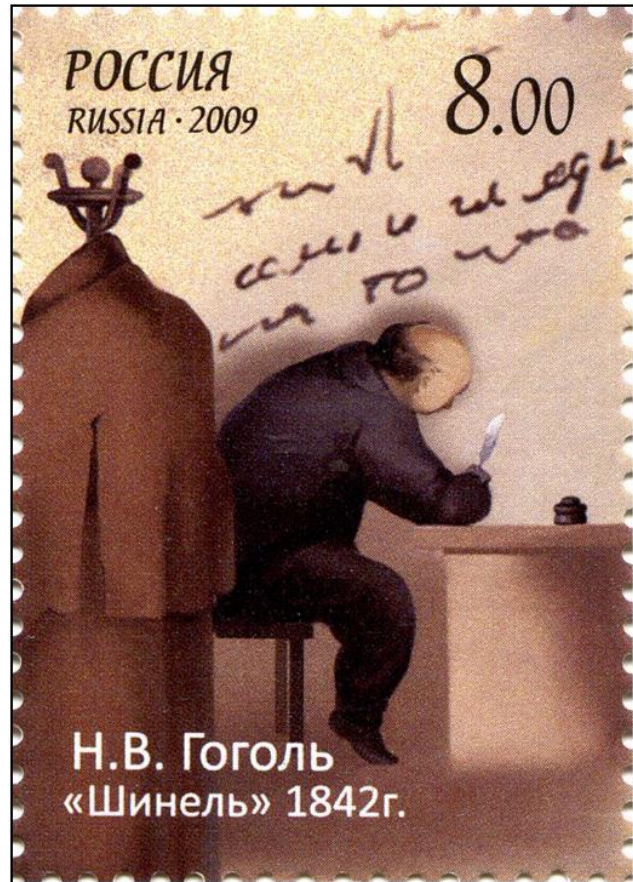
Excerpt from “The Overcoat”

By Nikolai Gogol

1842

Nikolai Gogol (1809-1852) was a Russian novelist and short story writer. In this excerpt from Gogol's short story “The Overcoat,” a hard-working man is harassed by his coworkers. As you read, take notes on Akakiy's interactions with other people.

- [9] When and how he entered the department, and who appointed him, no one could remember. However much the directors and chiefs of all kinds were changed, he was always to be seen in the same place, the same attitude, the same occupation; so that it was afterwards affirmed that he had been born in undress uniform with a bald head. No respect was shown him in the department. The porter not only did not rise from his seat when he passed, but never even glanced at him, any more than if a fly had flown through the reception-room. His superiors treated him in coolly despotic¹ fashion. Some sub-chief would thrust a paper under his nose without so much as saying, “Copy,” or “Here's a nice interesting affair,” or anything else agreeable, as is customary amongst well-bred officials. And he took it, looking only at the paper and not observing who handed it to him, or whether he had the right to do so; simply took it, and set about copying it.



"The Overcoat by Nikolai Gogol" by Scanned and processed by Andrew Krizhanovsky is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

[13] tyrannical

The young officials laughed at and made fun of him, so far as their official wit permitted; told in his presence various stories concocted about him, and about his landlady, an old woman of seventy; declared that she beat him; asked when the wedding was to be; and strewed bits of paper over his head, calling them snow. But Akakiy Akakievitch answered not a word, any more than if there had been no one there besides himself. It even had no effect upon his work: amid all these annoyances he never made a single mistake in a letter. But if the joking became wholly unbearable, as when they jogged his hand and prevented his attending to his work, he would exclaim, "Leave me alone! Why do you insult me?" And there was something strange in the words and the voice in which they were uttered. There was in it something which moved to pity; so much that one young man, a new comer, who, taking pattern by the others, had permitted himself to make sport of Akakiy, suddenly stopped short, as though all about him had undergone a transformation, and presented itself in a different aspect. Some unseen force repelled him from the comrades whose acquaintance he had made, on the supposition that they were well-bred and polite men. Long afterwards, in his gayest moments, there recurred to his mind the little official with the bald forehead, with his heart-rending words, "Leave me alone! Why do you insult me?" In these moving words, other words resounded — "I am thy brother." And the young man covered his face with his hand; and many a time afterwards, in the course of his life, shuddered at seeing how much inhumanity there is in man, how much savage coarseness is concealed beneath delicate, refined worldliness, and even in that man whom the world acknowledges as honourable and noble.

It would be difficult to find another man who lived so entirely for his duties. It is not enough to say that Akakiy laboured with zeal: no, he laboured with love. In his copying, he found a varied and agreeable employment. Enjoyment was written on his face: some letters were even favourites with him; and when he encountered these, he smiled, winked, and worked with his lips, till it seemed as though each letter might be read in his face, as his pen traced it. If his pay had been in proportion to his zeal, he would, perhaps, to his great surprise, have been made even a councillor of state. But he worked, as his companions, the wits, put it, like a horse in a mill.

Moreover, it is impossible to say that no attention was paid to him. One director being a kindly man, and desirous of rewarding him for his long service, ordered him to be given something more important than mere copying. So he was ordered to make a report of an already concluded affair to another department: the duty consisting simply in changing the heading and altering a few words from the first to the third person. This caused him so much toil that he broke into a perspiration, rubbed his forehead, and finally said, "No, give me rather something to copy." After that they let him copy on forever.

"The Overcoat" by Nikolai Gogol (1842) is in the public domain.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

- [15] PART A: In paragraph 1, the author describes behavior that “is customary amongst well-bred officials.” How is this description important to the passage?
3. It explains the narrator’s beliefs about the way Akakiy’s colleagues should treat each other.
 4. It suggests the extent to which Akakiy has failed to perform well in his position.
 5. It hints at the ways in which Akakiy believes his situation to be worse than it is.
 6. It magnifies the isolation and humiliation that characterize Akakiy’s situation.
- [16] PART B: Which quotation has the most similar effect to that of the answer to Part A in how it contributes to the passage?
3. “When and how he entered the department, and who appointed him, no one could remember. However much the directors and chiefs of all kinds were changed, he was always to be seen in the same place, the same attitude, the same occupation; so that it was afterwards affirmed that he had been born in undress uniform with a bald head.” (Paragraph 1)
 4. “The young officials laughed at and made fun of him, so far as their official wit permitted; told in his presence various stories concocted about him, and about his landlady, an old woman of seventy; declared that she beat him; asked when the wedding was to be; and strewed bits of paper over his head, calling them snow. But Akakiy Akakievitch answered not a word, any more than if there had been no one there besides himself.” (Paragraph 2)
 5. “Enjoyment was written on his face: some letters were even favourites with him; and when he encountered these, he smiled, winked, and worked with his lips, till it seemed as though each letter might be read in his face, as his pen traced it. If his pay had been in proportion to his zeal, he would, perhaps, to his great surprise, have been made even a councillor of state.” (Paragraph 3)
 6. “So he was ordered to make a report of an already concluded affair, to another department: the duty consisting simply in changing the heading, and altering a few words from the first to the third person. This caused him so much toil, that he broke into a perspiration, rubbed his forehead, and finally said, ‘No, give me rather something to copy.’ After that they let him copy on forever.” (Paragraph 4)
- [17] PART A: How does the introduction of the “young man, a new comer” in paragraph 2 contribute to meaning in the passage?
3. It allows the narrator to provide a broader commentary on what Akakiy’s mistreatment shows about people’s behavior.
 4. It permits insight into the motivations Akakiy’s colleagues have for teasing him so mercilessly.
 5. It suggests that the reader needs to view the events of the story from Akakiy’s perspective.
 6. It provides insight into Akakiy’s thoughts that is not otherwise available.

- [31] PART B: Which quotation from paragraph 2 most directly supports the answer to Part A?
- “But Akakiy Akakievitch answered not a word, any more than if there had been no one there besides himself.”
- “amid all these annoyances he never made a single mistake in a letter.”
- “Some unseen force repelled him from the comrades whose acquaintance he had made, on the supposition that they were well-bred and polite men.”
- “many a time afterwards, in the course of his life, shuddered at seeing how much inhumanity there is in man, how much savage coarseness is concealed beneath delicate, refined worldliness”
- [32] PART A: How does the description of Akakiy throughout paragraph 2 add to the development of Akakiy’s character?
- It reveals his concerns beyond the workplace but shows he has no opportunity to deal with these concerns.
- It reveals his physical troubles and shows how these troubles have impacted his ability to work.
- It reveals his potential for advancement as a worker but shows he has no desire for advancement.
- It reveals his true feelings about his work and shows why he does not feel comfortable expressing these feelings.
- [33] PART B: Which pair of quotations from paragraphs 2 and 3 best supports the answer to Part A?
- “It would be difficult to find another man who lived so entirely for his duties.” / “This caused him so much toil, that he broke into a perspiration, rubbed his forehead, and finally said, ‘No, give me rather something to copy.’”
- “it seemed as though each letter might be read in his face, as his pen traced it.” / “One director being a kindly man, and desirous of rewarding him for his long service, ordered him to be given something more important than mere copying.”
- “If his pay had been in proportion to his zeal, he would, perhaps, to his great surprise, have been made even a councillor of state.” / “It is impossible to say that no attention was paid to him.”
- “It is not enough to say that Akakiy labored with zeal” / “After that they let him copy on forever.”
- [34] PART A: As used in paragraph 3, what does the word “zeal” suggest about Akakiy?
- He is a good-natured worker.
- He executes his work with precision.
- He takes pains to indicate to others that he is working.
- He is extremely passionate about his work.
- [35] PART B: Which quotation from paragraph 3 best illustrates the meaning of the word “zeal” as it is used in the paragraph?
- “he found varied and agreeable employment.”
- “Enjoyment was written on his face”
- “to his great surprise”
- “have been made even a councillor of state.”

Snow Packet Day 10

Once Upon a Time

By Nadine Gordimer

1991

Nadine Gordimer is a South African writer who received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1991. This story takes place during the end of the apartheid era in South Africa. Apartheid was an official system of racial segregation enforced by the ruling government from 1948 to 1994. Throughout the 1990s, after decades of oppression, many black South Africans protested against apartheid and retaliated against white South Africans who had benefited from it.

[10] Someone has written to ask me to contribute to an anthology of stories for children. I reply that I don't write children's stories; and he writes back that at a recent congress/book fair/seminar a certain novelist said every writer ought to write at least one story for children. I think of sending a postcard saying I don't accept that I "ought" to write anything.

And then last night I woke up — or rather was awakened without knowing what had roused me.

A voice in the echo-chamber of the subconscious?¹

A sound.

[14] A creaking of the kind made by the weight carried by one foot after another along a wooden floor. I listened. I felt the apertures² of my ears distend³ with concentration. Again: the creaking. I was waiting for it; waiting to hear if it indicated that feet were moving from room to room, coming up the passage — to my door. I have no burglar bars, no gun under the pillow, but I have the same fears as people who do take these precautions, and my windowpanes are thin as rime,⁴ could shatter like a wineglass. A woman was murdered (how do they put it) in broad daylight in a house two blocks away, last year, and the fierce dogs who guarded an old widower and his collection of antique clocks were strangled before he was knifed by a casual laborer he had dismissed without pay.



"Barbed wire in Beirut" by Eusebius@Commons is licensed under CC BY 2.0

[18] **Subconscious (noun):** a part of the mind we are not aware of but which we can gain access to by redirecting our attention

[19] **Aperture (noun):** a circular opening, often in relation to optical devices that deal with vision or photography through light manipulation

[20] **Distend (verb):** to expand, swell, or inflate

[21] Rime is a frost formed when fog droplets freeze onto solid objects.

I was staring at the door, making it out in my mind rather than seeing it, in the dark. I lay quite still — a victim already — the arrhythmias⁵ of my heart was fleeing, knocking this way and that against its body-cage. How finely tuned the senses are, just out of rest, sleep! I could never listen intently as that in the distractions of the day, I was reading every faintest sound, identifying and classifying its possible threat.

But I learned that I was to be neither threatened nor spared. There was no human weight pressing on the boards, the creaking was a buckling, an epicenter of stress. I was in it. The house that surrounds me while I sleep is built on undermined ground; far beneath my bed, the floor, the house's foundations, the stopes⁶ and passages of gold mines have hollowed the rock, and when some face trembles, detaches and falls, three thousand feet below, the whole house shifts slightly, bringing uneasy strain to the balance and counterbalance of brick, cement, wood and glass that hold it as a structure around me. The misbeats of my heart tailed off like the last muffled flourishes on one of the wooden xylophones made by the Chopi and Tsonga⁷ migrant miners who might have been down there, under me in the earth at that moment. The stope where the fall was could have been disused, dripping water from its ruptured veins; or men might now be interred⁸ there in the most profound of tombs.

I couldn't find a position in which my mind would let go of my body — release me to sleep again. So I began to tell myself a story, a bedtime story.

In a house, in a suburb, in a city, there were a man and his wife who loved each other very much and were living happily ever after. They had a little boy, and they loved him very much. They had a cat and a dog that the little boy loved very much. They had a car and a caravan trailer for holidays, and a swimming-pool which was fenced so that the little boy and his playmates would not fall in and drown. They had a housemaid who was absolutely trustworthy and an itinerant⁹ gardener who was highly recommended by the neighbors. For when they began to live happily ever after they were warned, by that wise old witch, the husband's mother, not to take on anyone off the street. They were inscribed¹⁰ in a medical benefit society, their pet dog was licensed, they were insured against fire, flood damage and theft, and subscribed to the local Neighborhood Watch, which supplied them with a plaque for their gates lettered YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED over the silhouette of a would-be intruder. He was masked; it could not be said if he was black or white, and therefore proved the property owner was no racist.

[36] **Arrhythmia (noun):** any variation from the normal rhythm of the heartbeat

[37] A stope is a step-like excavation made in a mine to extract ore or mineral deposits.

[38] Chopi and Tsonga are two peoples from Mozambique, a country to the northeast of South Africa.

[39] **Inter (verb):** to place in a grave or tomb

[40] **Itinerant (adj.):** working for a short time in various places; a casual laborer

[41] **Inscribe (verb):** to enroll or list

5. It was not possible to insure the house, the swimming pool or the car against riot damage. There were riots, but these were outside the city, where people of another color were quartered. These people were not allowed into the suburb except as reliable housemaids and gardeners, so there was nothing to fear, the husband told the wife. Yet she was afraid that some day such people might come up the street and tear off the plaque YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED and open the gates and stream in... Nonsense, my dear, said the husband, there are police and soldiers and tear-gas and guns to keep them away. But to please her — for he loved her very much and buses were being burned, cars stoned, and schoolchildren shot by the police in those quarters out of sight and hearing of the suburb — he had electronically controlled gates fitted. Anyone who pulled off the sign YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED and tried to open the gates would have to announce his intentions by pressing a button and speaking into a receiver relayed to the house. The little boy was fascinated by the device and used it as a walkie-talkie in cops and robbers play with his small friends.

The riots were suppressed, but there were many burglaries in the suburb and somebody's trusted housemaid was tied up and shut in a cupboard by thieves while she was in charge of her employers' house. The trusted housemaid of the man and wife and little boy was so upset by this misfortune befalling a friend left, as she herself often was, with responsibility for the possessions of the man and his wife and the little boy that she implored¹¹ her employers to have burglar bars attached to the doors and windows of the house, and an alarm system installed. The wife said, She is right, let us take heed of her advice. So from every window and door in the house where they were living happily ever after they now saw the trees and sky through bars, and when the little boy's pet cat tried to climb in by the fanlight to keep him company in his little bed at night, as it customarily had done, it set off the alarm keening¹² through the house.

The alarm was often answered — it seemed — by other burglar alarms, in other houses, that had been triggered by pet cats or nibbling mice. The alarms called to one another across the gardens in shrills and bleats and wails that everyone soon became accustomed to, so that the din roused the inhabitants of the suburb no more than the croak of frogs and musical grating of cicadas' legs. Under cover of the electronic harpies' discourse intruders sawed the iron bars and broke into homes, taking away hi-fi equipment, television sets, cassette players, cameras and radios, jewelry and clothing, and sometimes were hungry enough to devour everything in the refrigerator or paused audaciously¹³ to drink the whiskey in the cabinets or patio bars. Insurance companies paid no compensation for single malt,¹⁴ a loss made keener by the property owner's knowledge that the thieves wouldn't even have been able to appreciate what it was they were drinking.

2. **Implore (verb):** to ask earnestly
3. loudly emitting a sharp noise
4. **Audacious (adj.):** bold, daring
5. Single malt is an expensive type of liquor.

Then the time came when many of the people who were not trusted housemaids and gardeners hung about the suburb because they were unemployed. Some importuned¹⁵ for a job: weeding or painting a roof; anything, baas,¹⁶ madam. But the man and his wife remembered the warning about taking on anyone off the street. Some drank liquor and fouled the street with discarded bottles. Some begged, waiting for the man or his wife to drive the car out of the electronically operated gates. They sat about with their feet in the gutters, under the jacaranda trees that made a green tunnel of the street—for it was a beautiful suburb, spoilt only by their presence — and sometimes they fell asleep lying right before the gates in the midday sun. The wife could never see anyone go hungry. She sent the trusted housemaid out with bread and tea, but the trusted housemaid said these were loafers and tsotsis,¹⁷ who would come and tie her and shut her in a cupboard. The husband said, She’s right. Take heed of her advice. You only encourage them with your bread and tea. They are looking for their chance... And he brought the little boy’s tricycle from the garden into the house every night, because if the house was surely secure, once locked and with the alarm set, someone might still be able to climb over the wall or the electronically closed gates into the garden.

You are right, said the wife, then the wall should be higher. And the wise old witch, the husband’s mother, paid for the extra bricks as her Christmas present to her son and his wife — the little boy got a Space Man outfit and a book of fairy tales.

3. But every week there were more reports of intrusion: in broad daylight and the dead of night, in the early hours of the morning, and even in the lovely summer twilight — a certain family was at dinner while the bedrooms were being ransacked upstairs. The man and his wife, talking of the latest armed robbery in the suburb, were distracted by the sight of the little boy’s pet cat effortlessly arriving over the seven-foot wall, descending first with a rapid bracing of extended forepaws down on the sheer vertical surface, and then a graceful launch, landing with swishing tail within the property. The whitewashed wall was marked with the cat’s comings and goings; and on the street side of the wall there were larger red-earth smudges that could have been made by the kind of broken running shoes, seen on the feet of unemployed loiterers, that had no innocent destination.

[31] to ask for or do persistently

[32] boss

[33] “Tsotsi” is a South African word meaning “hooligan” or “troublemaker.”

When the man and wife and little boy took the pet dog for its walk round the neighborhood streets they no longer paused to admire this show of roses or that perfect lawn; these were hidden behind an array of different varieties of security fences, walls and devices. The man, wife, little boy and dog passed a remarkable choice: there was the low-cost option of pieces of broken glass embedded in cement along the top of walls, there were iron grilles ending in lance-points, there were attempts at reconciling the aesthetics¹⁸ of prison architecture with the Spanish Villa style (spikes painted pink) and with the plaster urns of neoclassical¹⁹ facades (twelve-inch pikes²⁰ finned like zigzags of lightning and painted pure white). Some walls had a small board affixed, giving the name and telephone number of the firm responsible for the installation of the devices. While the little boy and the pet dog raced ahead, the husband and wife found themselves comparing the possible effectiveness of each style against its appearance; and after several weeks when they paused before this barricade or that without needing to speak, both came out with the conclusion that only one was worth considering. It was the ugliest but the most honest in its suggestion of the pure concentration-camp style, no frills, all evident efficacy.²¹ Placed the length of walls, it consisted of a continuous coil of stiff and shining metal serrated into jagged blades, so that there would be no way of climbing over it and no way through its tunnel without getting entangled in its fangs. There would be no way out, only a struggle getting bloodier and bloodier, a deeper and sharper hooking and tearing of flesh. The wife shuddered to look at it. You're right, said the husband, anyone would think twice... And they took heed of the advice on a small board fixed to the wall: Consult DRAGON'S TEETH The People For Total Security.

Next day a gang of workmen came and stretched the razor-bladed coils all round the walls of the house where the husband and wife and little boy and pet dog and cat were living happily ever after. The sunlight flashed and slashed, off the serrations, the cornice of razor thorns encircled the home, shining. The husband said, Never mind. It will weather. The wife said, You're wrong. They guarantee it's rust-proof. And she waited until the little boy had run off to play before she said, I hope the cat will take heed... The husband said, Don't worry, my dear, cats always look before they leap. And it was true that from that day on the cat slept in the little boy's bed and kept to the garden, never risking a try at breaching security.

One evening, the mother read the little boy to sleep with a fairy story from the book the wise old witch had given him at Christmas. Next day he pretended to be the Prince who braves the terrible thicket of thorns to enter the palace and kiss the Sleeping Beauty back to life: he dragged a ladder to the wall, the shining coiled tunnel was just wide enough for his little body to creep in, and with the first fixing of its razor-teeth in his knees and hands and head he screamed and struggled deeper into its tangle. The trusted housemaid and the itinerant gardener, whose "day" it was, came running, the first to see and to scream with him, and the itinerant gardener tore his hands trying to get at the little boy. Then the man and his wife burst wildly into the garden and for some reason (the cat, probably) the alarm set up wailing against the screams while the bleeding mass of the little boy was hacked out of the security coil with saws, wire-cutters, choppers, and they carried it — the man, the wife, the hysterical trusted housemaid and the weeping gardener — into the house.

"Once Upon a Time" by Nadine Gordimer. Reprinted by permission of Russell & Volkening as agents for the author. Copyright © 1991 by Felix Licensing, B.V.

[36] **Aesthetic (noun):** style particular to a person, group, or culture

[37] **Neoclassical (adj.):** relating to the late 18th- and early 19th- century style in architecture and art based on imitations of surviving classical (often ancient Hellenic/Greek or Roman) models

[38] Pikes are medieval weapons resembling spikes.

[39] **Efficacy (noun):** the ability to produce a desired or intended result

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

6. PART A: What does the phrase “pure concentration-camp style” suggest about the wall in paragraph 16?
- A. The wall will lead to a violent and inhumane result.
 - B. No one can get past the wall under any circumstances.
 - C. The South Africans borrowed the idea of the wall from the Germans in WWII.
 - D. The wall is intended to injure and destroy the most innocent and weak individuals.
7. PART B: Which phrase best supports the answer to Part A?
- A. “And they took heed of the advice on a small board fixed to the wall: Consult DRAGON’S TEETH The People For Total Security” (Paragraph 16)
 - B. “There would be no way out, only a struggle getting bloodier and bloodier, a deeper and sharper hooking and tearing of flesh” (Paragraph 16)
 - C. “Next day a gang of workmen came and stretched the razor-bladed coils all round the walls of the house.” (Paragraph 17)
 - D. “The sunlight flashed and slashed, off the serrations, the cornice of razor thorns encircled the home, shining.” (Paragraph 17)
8. Which statement best identifies a theme of the story?
- A. Fear and paranoia can only be useful if contained to safe levels, otherwise they can lead to hurting other people.
 - B. Though families act with best intentions, fear can drive individuals to hurt the people they intend to protect.
 - C. Families can remain loyal to each other despite all of the adversity that they face in the outside world.
 - D. Families can never truly protect the people that they love from the cruelty of the world.
9. PART A: How is the narrator’s introduction in paragraphs 1-8 important to the passage as a whole?
- A. The narrator’s introduction introduces the setting and contrasts the innocence of children’s books and bedtime stories with the tragedy that can result from fear.
 - B. The narrator’s introduction normalizes fear, but foreshadows that individuals can overreact to fear through the metaphor of bedtime stories.
 - C. The narrator’s introduction reveals the narrator’s role in the story and describes the character’s motivations for the rest of the story.
 - D. The narrator’s introduction explains the theme of children’s stories and how it will influence the rest of the plot.

9. PART B: Which TWO sentences from the story's introduction best support your answer to Part A?
- A. "I reply that I don't write children's stories" (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "And then last night I woke up — or rather was awakened without knowing what had roused me." (Paragraph 2)
 - C. "A voice in the echo-chamber of the subconscious?" (Paragraph 3)
 - D. "I have no burglar bars, no gun under the pillow, but I have the same fears as people who do take these precautions" (Paragraph 5)
 - E. "I learned that I was to be neither threatened nor spared." (Paragraph 7)
 - F. "I couldn't find a position in which my mind would let go of my body — release me to sleep again. So I began to tell myself a story, a bedtime story." (Paragraph 8)

10. Provide evidence from the text that shows that the family is white. What is the effect of the author never explicitly stating the family's race?

7. How is the vivid imagery in the last scene of the story important to the development of the story's themes?
