



EduTest Year 9 Entry Reading Comprehension Practice Paper 1

Reading Comprehension

52 questions · 4 options each (A–D) · 30 minutes · No dictionary

How to use this booklet

- Read each text carefully, then answer the questions that follow it. Every question has four options, A, B, C and D: choose the one best answer.
- The last 16 questions are about grammar, punctuation, spelling and word choice. They do not have a passage.
- You have 30 minutes for the 52 questions. You will not lose marks for wrong answers, so attempt every question.

TEXT 1 — NARRATIVE

Questions 1–6

The Last Harvest

This text is adapted from an original short story.

The orchard had been in the family for four generations, and now it had a sign at the gate: SOLD. Mira and her father were picking the last of the Granny Smiths, working in the long silence that had settled over them since the papers were signed.

He climbed the ladder with his usual slow care, his hands closing around each apple as if it were an egg. Mira, below, held the basket. Every so often he would say the name of a tree, “Big Annie”, “the Widow”, “Old Crooked”, and she would nod, though she had stopped hearing the names as names years ago and now heard only a tune.

“The buyers want to put houses here,” he said, not looking down. “Thirty-two. They showed me a drawing. Little gardens.” He laughed, a dry, short sound, and the ladder trembled.

Mira did not know what to say. She had spent most of the year telling herself that she did not mind the orchard going, that she wanted a city and a different life. Now, standing in the pale gold afternoon light and the smell of bruised fruit, she found that the sentence she had rehearsed would not come.

At the end of the row stood Old Crooked, the first tree her great-grandfather had planted, its trunk twisted like a wrung cloth. Her father laid his palm against the bark and stood for a long time. Then he took out his pocketknife and, with the care of a surgeon, cut a thin branch from the highest limb and wrapped the end in damp newspaper.

“Graft,” he said, holding it out. “In spring. Anywhere. It will take, if you let it.” His eyes were bright, but his voice was steady.

Mira took the cutting. It weighed almost nothing. She thought of the thirty-two small gardens and the drawing and the sign at the gate, and then she thought of a spring somewhere else, and a hole in the ground, and the way a thing can be carried from one place to another without being lost.

1. The description of the father's hands “closing around each apple as if it were an egg” suggests that he

- A handles the fruit with great gentleness
- B is picking the fruit as quickly as possible
- C is checking the fruit for signs of disease
- D is angry that the fruit has to be sold

2. What does the phrase “heard only a tune” suggest about how Mira hears the tree names?

- A She finds the names beautiful and wants to learn them all.
- B She cannot understand her father's accent very well.
- C She thinks her father is singing to the trees as he works.
- D They are so familiar that she no longer notices them.

3. What does the father's "dry, short" laugh as he describes the planned houses suggest?

- A He finds the buyers' plan truly amusing.
- B He is pleased with the price that he was paid.
- C He wants Mira to share the joke.
- D He is hiding his sadness behind bitter humour.

4. Why does the sentence Mira had rehearsed "not come"?

- A She has forgotten what she wanted to say to her father.
- B She realises that she does mind losing the orchard.
- C She is afraid that her father will be angry with her.
- D She is distracted by the smell of the fruit.

5. What does the cutting from Old Crooked most likely represent?

- A a payment that the buyers have not yet made
- B a punishment for Mira's earlier coldness
- C a way for the family's story to continue
- D a sign that the orchard may soon be bought back again

6. What is the effect of the final sentence of the story?

- A It suggests that something can survive the loss of a place.
- B It shows that Mira has decided to stay on the orchard after all.
- C It shows that Mira is angry about the sale of the land.
- D It shows that Mira will forget the orchard quite quickly.

READING COMPREHENSION — 52 QUESTIONS

Answers & worked solutions

Answer Key

1 A	2 D	3 D	4 B	5 C	6 A
7 B	8 A	9 A	10 D	11 B	12 B
13 A	14 D	15 A	16 C	17 C	18 B
19 A	20 B	21 D	22 D	23 B	24 A
25 C	26 D	27 C	28 D	29 C	30 A
31 D	32 A	33 A	34 C	35 B	36 D
37 B	38 A	39 A	40 C	41 C	42 B
43 C	44 C	45 D	46 B	47 B	48 A
49 D	50 C	51 C	52 D		

1. The description of the father's hands “closing around each apple as if it were an egg” suggests that he [Figurative]

Correct answer: A — handles the fruit with great gentleness

- What is the question asking? It asks what the comparison with an egg shows.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “his hands closing around each apple as if it were an egg”
- Eggs are fragile and are held carefully. The simile shows that he handles each apple gently, which reveals his feeling for the orchard.
- So the correct answer is A (handles the fruit with great gentleness).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- B: Handling something like an egg is slow and careful, not hurried.
- C: The comparison concerns how gently he holds the apples, not their health.
- D (is angry that the fruit has to be sold): Anger would be shown by rough handling, not by delicate care.

LOS: Reading: figurative language

KEY TAKEAWAY

Figurative language means something other than the literal words: ask what two things are being compared and what they share.