

# Year 5 Reading Comprehension

Read this passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

## The Crystal Heart

Mi Nuong's father was an influential Lord. He ruled all of the lands of the Red River and his palace stood tall and majestic on its broad, sloping banks. Yet, Mi Nuong was forlorn and melancholy. Her father kept her locked away at the top of the palace's tallest tower in order to keep her out of harm's way. Mi Nuong felt trapped; the only company she had was her maid and her daily routine was always the same. Everyday, she would sit by her window embroidering and look out of her window, gazing sorrowfully down at the waters rushing past far below. Often, she dreamed of being carried away in the fast flowing rapids to distant lands.

One morning, Mi Nuong heard music floating through her open window. She hurried over to see where the sound was coming from. There, on the river below, was a little golden fishing boat. Mi Nuong heard the music rise up from the boat, and caught snatches of a song: "My love is like a blossom in the breeze. My love is like a moonbeam on the waves."

The music was captivating, drawing Mi Nuong like a flickering candle flame draws the unwary moth. The voice was clear and sweet and Mi Nuong leaned out as far out as she could to try to catch sight of the singer. As the boat bobbed past, she glimpsed the tiny figure of a man stood on the prow with a net. A sudden glimmer of hope lit up in her heart and she felt as if she was floating on air. Perhaps this man had come to release her from the tower. Perhaps he was a Mandarin's son in disguise; the man she was destined to marry...

Answer these questions about the text that you've just read.  
Circle the letter that matches the correct answer.

- Why was Mi Nuong lonely?
  - The song she heard reminded her of the world outside.
  - She was confined to the tower.
  - She was tired of her daily routine.
  - Her maid wasn't very good company.
  - She wanted to be rescued by her true love.
- What does Mi Nuong usually do to pass the time in her tower?
  - She sings.
  - She plays cards.
  - She dreams of her true love.
  - She paints.
  - She sews.

3. What is Mi Nuong's father like?
- A Cruel
  - B Proud
  - C Protective
  - D Resentful
  - E Arrogant
4. Which one of these things isn't mentioned in the story?
- A Water
  - B Fire
  - C Sunlight
  - D Moonlight
  - E Gold
5. How does the music make Mi Nuong feel?
- A Forlorn and lonely
  - B Enthralled and wishful
  - C Powerful and strong
  - D Sorrowful and desperate
  - E Lovesick and anxious
6. Why was the man on the boat?
- A He hopes to persuade Mi Nuong to marry him.
  - B He has come to sing for Mi Nuong's father.
  - C He is delivering goods to the palace.
  - D He is fishing in the river.
  - E He has come to take Mi Nuong to a distant land.
7. Why does Mi Nuong lean as far out of the window as she can?
- A She wants to hear more of the song.
  - B She wants the figure on the fishing boat to see her.
  - C She wants to see the singer.
  - D She is fascinated by the music.
  - E She wants the man on the boat to rescue her.
8. Which of these words best describes how Mi Nuong feels at the end of the passage?
- A Optimistic
  - B Relieved
  - C Infatuated
  - D Besotted
  - E Emotional

Answer these questions about the way words and phrases are used in the passage.

9. Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word “forlorn” (line 2)?
- A Distracted
  - B Furious
  - C Miserable
  - D Disappointed
  - E Abandoned
10. What is meant by the phrase “she felt as if she was floating on air” (line 15)?
- A She felt light-headed.
  - B She felt joyful.
  - C She couldn’t believe what was happening.
  - D She felt carefree.
  - E She was in love.
11. What is meant by the phrase “the man she was destined to marry” (line 17)?
- A She really wants to marry him.
  - B She is meant to marry him.
  - C She is planning to marry him.
  - D Her father intends her to marry him.
  - E He has come especially to ask her to marry him.
12. “like a flickering candle flame draws the unwary moth” (lines 12-13).  
What technique is being used here?
- A A proverb
  - B Personification
  - C A simile
  - D An analogy
  - E A metaphor
13. What type of word is “unwary” (line 12)?
- A Adjective
  - B Adverb
  - C Noun
  - D Verb
  - E Pronoun
14. “she glimpsed the tiny figure of a man stood on the prow” (line 14).  
Which of these words is a verb?
- A she
  - B glimpsed
  - C tiny
  - D figure
  - E man

Read this passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

## An extract from 'The Secret Garden'

At last the horses began to go more slowly, as if they were climbing up-hill, and presently there seemed to be no more hedges and no more trees. She could see nothing, in fact, but a dense darkness on either side. She leaned forward and pressed her face against the window just as the carriage gave a big jolt.

5 "Eh! We're on the moor now sure enough," said Mrs. Medlock.

The carriage lamps shed a yellow light on a rough-looking road which seemed to be cut through bushes and low-growing things which ended in the great expanse of dark apparently spread out before and around them. A wind was rising and making a singular, wild, low, rushing sound.

"It's—it's not the sea, is it?" said Mary, looking round at her companion.

10 "No, not it," answered Mrs. Medlock. "Nor it isn't fields nor mountains, it's just miles and miles and miles of wild land that nothing grows on but heather and gorse and broom, and nothing lives on but wild ponies and sheep."

"I feel as if it might be the sea, if there were water on it," said Mary. "It sounds like the sea just now."

15 "That's the wind blowing through the bushes," Mrs. Medlock said. "It's a wild, dreary enough place to my mind, though there's plenty that likes it—particularly when the heather's in bloom."

On and on they drove through the darkness, and though the rain stopped, the wind rushed by and whistled and made strange sounds. The road went up and down, and several times the carriage passed over a little bridge beneath which water rushed very fast with a great deal of noise. Mary felt as if the drive would never come to an end and that the wide, bleak moor was a wide expanse of black ocean

20 through which she was passing on a strip of dry land.

"I don't like it," she said to herself. "I don't like it, and she pinched her thin lips more tightly together."

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Answer these questions about the text that you've just read.  
Circle the letter that matches the correct answer.

15. What can Mary see when she first looks out of the carriage?

- A Hedges and trees
- B Darkness
- C The road
- D The sea
- E The moor

16. Which of these things is not mentioned by Mrs Medlock?

- A Moor
- B Gorse
- C Wind
- D Water
- E Sheep

17. How do you think Mary feels as they travel?
- A Excited
  - B Anxious
  - C Tired
  - D Sick
  - E Enthusiastic
18. How is the moor described in the passage?
- A Treacherous and boggy
  - B Full of wildlife
  - C Untamed and desolate
  - D Mountainous and bare
  - E Dry and barren
19. Why does Mary ask “it’s not the sea, is it?” (line 9)?
- A She can hear seagulls above her.
  - B She can see nothing but darkness all around.
  - C She can smell salt in the air.
  - D She can feel the carriage jolting.
  - E She can see water out of the window.
20. Which of these best describes the journey?
- A Uphill and smooth
  - B Fast and exciting
  - C Uncomfortable and lonely
  - D Strange but interesting
  - E Long and disorientating
21. What kind of mood does the author create in lines 16-22?
- A Unsettling
  - B Relaxing
  - C Melancholy
  - D Terrifying
  - E Cheerful
22. What kind of text is this?
- A Biography
  - B Travel writing
  - C A fairy tale
  - D Fiction
  - E A diary

Answer these questions about the way words and phrases are used in the passage.

23. What is meant by the word “presently” (line 1)?
- A Eventually
  - B Later
  - C Previously
  - D Straight away
  - E Before long
24. Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word “expanse” (line 7)?
- A Open
  - B View
  - C Area
  - D Boundary
  - E Horizon
25. Which of these words is closest in meaning to “singular” (line 8)?
- A Strange
  - B Loud
  - C Quiet
  - D Lonely
  - E Exciting
26. “the carriage passed over a little bridge beneath which water rushed” (lines 17-18). Which of the words in this sentence is a preposition?
- A the
  - B carriage
  - C little
  - D beneath
  - E rushed
27. “the wide, bleak moor was a wide expanse of black ocean” (line 19). What technique is used here?
- A A simile
  - B A metaphor
  - C An allusion
  - D Onomatopoeia
  - E A cliché
28. What type of words are these?
- ponies sheep mountains bushes**
- A Abstract nouns
  - B Proper nouns
  - C Common nouns
  - D Collective nouns
  - E Pronouns

## Reading Comprehension Answers

1. **B** — *Mi Nuong is lonely because "Her father kept her locked away at the top of the palace's tallest tower."*
2. **E** — *Mi Nuong sits at her window "embroidering" — this is another word for sewing.*
3. **C** — *In the passage it says Mi Nuong's father locks her in a tower "to keep her out of harm's way."*
4. **C** — *Sunlight is the only option that isn't mentioned in the passage.*
5. **B** — *The song makes Mi Nuong feel enthralled and wishful — the music is "captivating" and gives her a "glimmer of hope".*
6. **D** — *The man is fishing — he stands on a "golden fishing boat" and he has a net.*
7. **C** — *In the passage it says "Mi Nuong leaned out as far out as she could to try to catch sight of the singer" — she wants to get a better look at the man on the fishing boat.*
8. **A** — *In the passage it says "A sudden glimmer of hope lit up in her heart" and "Perhaps this man had come to release her from the tower" — she is hopeful that the man has come to rescue her.*
9. **C** — *"forlorn" is closest in meaning to 'miserable'. It means that Mi Nuong is unhappy.*
10. **B** — *The phrase "floating on air" is an idiom which means 'to be overjoyed'.*
11. **B** — *The phrase means that Mi Nuong thinks she is meant to marry him — "destined" means the same as 'meant'.*
12. **C** — *This is a simile because the author is saying that Mi Nuong is like a moth.*
13. **A** — *"unwary" is an adjective because it is describing a noun.*
14. **B** — *"glimpsed" is a verb. It is the action word in this sentence.*
16. **D** — *In the passage the only thing Mrs Medlock doesn't mention is water.*
17. **B** — *Mary feels anxious as she doesn't know anything about the moor and she says that she does not like it.*
18. **C** — *In the passage Mrs Medlock describes the moor as "wild" and that nothing grows on the moor "but heather and gorse".*
19. **B** — *Mary can only see darkness around her, which she thinks could be the sea.*
20. **E** — *In the passage it says "Mary felt as if the drive would never come to an end", and she's uncertain about where they are, which means that she is disorientated.*
21. **A** — *The author creates an unsettling mood because the moor is described as uncertain and mysterious.*
22. **D** — *This is a story so it's a fiction text.*
23. **E** — *"presently" means the same as 'before long'.*
24. **C** — *"expanse" is closest in meaning to 'area'.*
25. **A** — *"singular" is closest in meaning to 'strange'.*
26. **D** — *"beneath" is a preposition because it tells you where the water is in relation to the bridge.*
27. **B** — *This is a metaphor because the moor is described as an ocean.*
28. **C** — *These words are common nouns because they are names for types of things.*