

Grade 12 Adv. Term 1 – Reading Comprehension 1

Read the passage carefully and choose the correct answer:

My next pet was a pigeon. He was still very young. He was the most revolting bird to look at, with his feathers pushing through the wrinkled scarlet skin, mixed with the horrible yellow down that covers baby pigeons and makes them look as though they have been peroxidizing their hair. Because of his repulsive and obese appearance, Larry suggested we call him Quasimodo and, liking the name without realizing the implications, I agreed. Owing to his unorthodox upbringing, and the fact that he had no parents to teach him the facts of life, Quasimodo became convinced that he was not a bird at all, and refused to fly. Instead, he walked everywhere. If he wanted to get onto a table, or a chair he stood below it, ducking his head and cooing in a rich contralto until someone lifted him up. He was always eager to join us in anything we did, and would even try to come for walks with us. This, however, we had to stop, for either you carried him on your shoulder, which was risking an accident to your clothes, or else, you let him walk behind. If you let him walk, then you had to slow down your own pace to suit his, for should you get too far ahead you would hear the most frantic and imploring coos and turn around to find Quasimodo running desperately after you, his chest pouted out with indignation at your cruelty.

1. What was the main reason Quasimodo was named after the famous character?

- a) He was a hunchback
- b) His appearance was ugly and obese
- c) He refused to fly like other birds
- d) He made strange cooing sounds

2. According to the narrator, why did Quasimodo refuse to fly?

- a) He was too heavy
- b) He thought he wasn't a bird
- c) His wings were damaged
- d) He was too young to learn to fly

3. What did Quasimodo do when he wanted to get onto a higher surface?

- a) He flapped his wings and jumped
- b) He stood below it and cooed until someone helped him
- c) He made a nest at the base of the object
- d) He tried to climb up by himself

4. Why did the narrator stop taking Quasimodo for walks?

- a) Quasimodo kept flying away
- b) Quasimodo was too slow and they had to wait for him
- c) He caused accidents while being carried
- d) He refused to come along for walks

5. What did Quasimodo do when he felt left behind during walks?

- a) He flew to catch up with the narrator
- b) He ran after them, cooing frantically
- c) He stayed behind and sulked
- d) He tried to walk faster but always fell

6. What unusual physical trait did Quasimodo have when he was young?

- a) His feathers had a wrinkled, scarlet appearance
- b) He had a long, crooked beak
- c) He was missing one wing
- d) He had unusually large eyes

7. How did Larry influence the naming of the pigeon?

- a) He suggested the name based on a mythological bird
- b) He suggested the name Quasimodo based on the pigeon's appearance
- c) He named the pigeon after a famous literary bird
- d) He wanted to name the pigeon after a family member

8. What made Quasimodo's cooing sounds stand out, according to the text?

- a) They were unusually loud
- b) They were deep and rich, like a contralto voice
- c) They were high-pitched and shrill
- d) They sounded like a song

9. How did Quasimodo show his frustration when left behind?

- a) He attacked the narrator
- b) He made angry cooing sounds and puffed out his chest
- c) He flew away, never to return
- d) He sulked silently and refused to follow

10. What was implied as the reason for Quasimodo's strange behavior?

- a) His lack of parents and proper upbringing
- b) His physical deformity
- c) His obesity and inability to fly
- d) His diet and mistreatment by the narrator

- Test your reading comprehension skills. To check your answers, WhatsApp me to get the answer key.