

BOOKLET 9

LITERATURE

On the next pages there is a short story. Read the story carefully and thoughtfully before going on to the questions about it.

Read the questions carefully and answer them as thoughtfully and honestly as you can. The questions are preceded by instructions which you should follow. All your answers should be made on your answer card. You will not need any other paper on which to write.

If you have any questions, ask your teacher.

The Sea

SECTION W

THE SEA

Poor boy. He had very big ears, and when he would turn to the window, they would become scarlet. Poor boy. He was bent over, yellow. The man who cured came by behind his glasses. "The sea", he said "the sea, the sea". Everyone began to pack
5 suitcases and speak of the sea. They were in a great hurry. The boy figured that the sea was like being inside a tremendous seashell full of echoes and chants and voices that would call from afar with a long echo. He thought that the sea was tall and green.

10 But when he arrived at the sea, he stood still. His skin, how strange it was there. "Mother," he said because he felt ashamed, "I want to see how high the sea will come on me."

15 He who thought that the sea was tall and green, saw it white like the head of a beer - tickling him, cold on the tips of his toes.

"I am going to see how far the sea will come on me." And he walked, he walked, he walked and the sea, what a strange thing! - grew and became blue, violet. It came up to his knees. Then to his waist, to his chest, to his lips, to his eyes. Then into
20 his ears there came a long echo and the voices that call from afar. And in his eyes all the color. Ah, yes, at last the sea was true. It was one great, immense seashell. The sea truly was tall and green.

25 But those on the shore didn't understand anything about anything. Above they began to cry and scream and were saying "What a pity, Lord, what a great pity".

Ana Maria Matute -
Spanish

 Part I

Answer the following questions as carefully and as honestly as you can.

Here is a number of questions that might be asked about "The Sea". Some of these are more important than others. Read the list carefully and choose the five (5) questions that you think are the most important questions to ask about "The Sea". In the Section marked W on your Answer Card 8 blacken in the oval marked A next to the numbers of the five questions you have chosen. After you have done that blacken in the ovals marked B for the other fifteen questions.

1. Is there any one part of "The Sea" that explains the whole story?
2. What does "The Sea" tell us about people I know?
3. What metaphors (or comparisons), images (or references to things outside the story) or other writer's devices are used in "The Sea"?
4. Is there anything in "The Sea" that has a hidden meaning?
5. How is the way of telling the story related to what "The Sea" is about?
6. Is "The Sea" well written?
7. What type of story is "The Sea"? Is it like any other story I know?
8. Are any of the characters in "The Sea" like people I know?
9. What happens in "The Sea"?
10. Does "The Sea" tell me anything about people or ideas in general?
11. Is "The Sea" about important things? Is it a trivial or a serious work?
12. Has the writer used words or sentences differently from the way people usually write?
13. How can we explain the way people behave in "The Sea"?
14. How does the story build up? How is it organized?
15. Is there a lesson to be learned from "The Sea"?
16. Is this a proper subject for a story?
17. When was "The Sea" written? What is the historical background of the story and the writer? Does the fact that the author is Spanish tell me anything about the story?
18. Does "The Sea" succeed in getting me involved in the situation?
19. What emotions does "The Sea" arouse in me?
20. What is the writer's opinion of, or attitude toward the people in "The Sea"?

Please turn over and continue

Part II

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by four suggested answers. One of these answers or completions is the best answer to the problem posed in the question. That is, of the four answers, one makes the most sense in the light of the story you have read. Some of the questions are more important than others. These questions are marked with a star (*). Answer all the questions, but pay particular attention to the starred questions. Read each question carefully, choose your answer and indicate your choice in the appropriate space on your answer card.

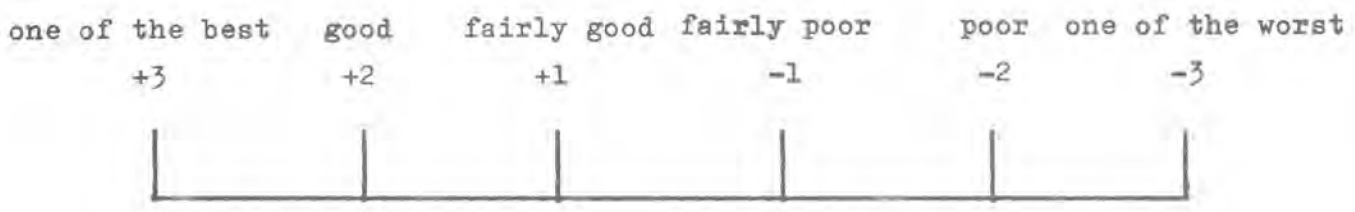
21. Which of the following do the first two sentences indicate about the boy?
- A. That he was unattractive to look at.
 - B. That he was afraid of the light.
 - C. That he had no money.
 - D. That he was very young.
22. What else do the first four sentences indicate about the boy?
- A. That he was friendly.
 - B. That he was sickly.
 - C. That he was bad.
 - D. That he was short.
23. Who is the man who cured?
- A. A doctor.
 - B. A priest.
 - C. The boy's father.
 - D. A friend.
- * 24. Which of the following inferences about the boy's past is supported by the first paragraph?
- A. He had been told that the sea was dangerous but beautiful because of its seashells.
 - B. He had listened to the seashells and become sick from the habit of doing so.
 - C. He had gone to the sea and brought back many seashells.
 - D. He had listened to a seashell and gotten the idea that the sea was beautiful and mysterious.
- * 25. Which of the following explains "but when he arrived at the sea, he stood still".
- A. The boy was surprised at the sound of the sea and was angry that the seashell was wrong.
 - B. The boy was surprised at the feel of the sea air and wished he was back at home.
 - C. The boy was surprised at the sight of the sea and felt as if he did not belong there.
 - D. The boy was surprised that the sea had a beach, and he did not like to be tickled.

- * 26. Which of the following best explains why the boy first said, "I want to see how high the sea will come on me" (lines 11 - 12)?
- A. He wanted to cover his body with the sea.
 - B. He wanted to show how tall he was.
 - C. He wanted to trick his mother.
 - D. He wanted to show his mother he was not afraid of the sea.
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27. As the boy walked into the sea, which of the following changes occurred?
- A. A change in color, smell and feel.
 - B. A change in depth, feel and sound.
 - C. A change in sound, color and smell.
 - D. A change in depth, sound and color.
- * 28. In the context of the story as a whole, which of the following best explains "Ah, yes, at last the sea was true" (lines 21 - 22)?
- A. At last the sea was as he had imagined it would be.
 - B. At last the sea was as his mother said it would be.
 - C. At last the sea was as the man who cured said it would be.
 - D. At last the sea was gone, and he was back at home.
-
29. Which of the following is most likely to have said or thought "Poor boy" (sentence 1)?
- A. The boy himself.
 - B. The person telling the story.
 - C. The sea.
 - D. The "man who cured".
- * 30. When we read "The man who cured came by behind his glasses", we are being asked to look at the man as if we were which of the following?
- A. The man himself.
 - B. The sea.
 - C. The boy.
 - D. The people on the shore.
31. What did "those on the shore" see (line 24)?
- A. The boy swimming.
 - B. The boy drowning.
 - C. The boy walking on the beach.
 - D. The boy playing with seashells.

- * 32. Who is making the comment, "But those on the shore didn't understand anything about anything"?
- A. The boy.
 - B. The person telling the story.
 - C. Either of the above.
 - D. Neither of the above.
- * 33. What was it that those on the shore did not understand (line 24)?
- A. Why the sea had changed.
 - B. Why they were on the shore.
 - C. Why they were screaming.
 - D. Why the boy did what he did.
- * 34. Through whose eyes are we seeing the events of the story?
- A. Those of one person - the boy.
 - B. Those of one person - a person telling the story, but not in the story.
 - C. Those of two people - the boy and a person telling the story, but not in the story.
 - D. Those of several people - the boy, his mother, the people on the shore, and the man who cured.
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35. Which of the following best describes the feelings of the boy in lines 18 to 23?
- A. Uncertainty.
 - B. Anger.
 - C. Joy.
 - D. Fear.
- * 36. There are many colors in this story: the boy is described as red and yellow, and the sea as green, blue, and violet. Which of the following comments about all the colors is most valid in the context of the story as a whole?
- A. The colors help us to understand that the sea represents everything that the boy is not but would like to be.
 - B. The colors help show us how the sea appears to be two different things for the boy and for his parents.
 - C. The colors help us see that the person telling the story does not like the sea as much as the boy does.
 - D. The colors help us see that the boy cannot understand the difference between what happens to him and what happens to the people on the shore.

- * 37. Which of the following best expresses the difference between what the boy thought and what the others thought at the end of the story?
 - A. The boy was ashamed to have lost a dream, and the others pitied his shame.
 - B. The boy was disappointed by what he saw, and the others were sorry that his vacation was spoiled.
 - C. The boy was glad to be cured, and the others were surprised at the change that had taken place.
 - D. The boy was content that his dream was fulfilled, and the others were sorry at his death.

M. We would like to know how you personally would compare this story to other stories you have read. If you think it is one of the best stories you have read, rate it +3. If you think it is one of the worst stories you have read, rate it -3. Here is a scale:



Mark the number of the rating you would give this story on your answer card in space M.

END OF SECTION W

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION Q

IEA/9 Q

National Centers

The Student Literature Questionnaire is to be inserted in this booklet at this point. This is IEA/9 Q and is to be found in the Questionnaire Bulletin. It is four sides long, not including the cover sheet.

National Centers

The Student Literature Attitude Scales are to be inserted in this booklet at this point. These are not yet ready, but will be sent to you in the near future.

At the end of this section, please print :

END OF BOOKLET 9

These questions are being put to pupils in several countries with different cultures. Their purpose is to find out what part books, films, etc. play in the lives of young people. This material is confidential, and will not be seen by anyone in your school.

Read each question carefully, select the one answer most appropriate for you, and mark it in the appropriate space on your answer card.

1. Have you done something you would not ordinarily have done because you read about it in a story, poem or play? (for example, when you were younger have you dressed up as a pirate because you read a story about pirates.)
 - A. Often.
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Once or twice.
 - D. Never.

2. While you were reading a book have you thought of yourself as one of the people in it?
 - A. Often.
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Once or twice.
 - D. Never.

3. Have you compared a person you meet in real life with people you have read about? (For instance, have you ever called a strong person Samson?).
 - A. Often.
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Once or twice.
 - D. Never.

4. Have you been in a situation and asked yourself what some person in a story you read would have done in that situation?
 - A. Often.
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Once or twice.
 - D. Never.

5. When you read a novel or a story, do you imagine that what is happening in the story takes place in some town or city that you have seen?
 - A. I have never done it.
 - B. I have done it once or twice.
 - C. I have done it occasionally.
 - D. I have done it often.

6. Have you done something or gone somewhere, felt that this has happened before, and then realized that in fact it happened in a book you read?
 - A. Never.
 - B. Once or twice.
 - C. Occasionally.
 - D. Often.

7. When you read a story, how often do you imagine that the people in the story look like people you know?
- A. Often,
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Seldom.
 - D. Never.
8. When you meet a new person, how often do you compare the person to someone you saw in a film?
- A. Often.
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Seldom.
 - D. Never.
9. How often do you think that the people you are reading about in a story are real people and not simply people in a story?
- A. Never.
 - B. Once or twice.
 - C. Occasionally.
 - D. Often.
10. When you read a story or a play, do you try to remember something that happened to you that is like what you are reading about? Do you say to yourself "Something like this happened to me once"?
- A. Never.
 - B. Once or twice.
 - C. Occasionally.
 - D. Often.
11. How many books have you read for your own pleasure in the past year?
- A. None
 - B. Fewer than 5.
 - C. 5 to 10.
 - D. More than 10.
12. During the past year, have you read any plays for your own pleasure?
- A. None.
 - B. One or two.
 - C. 3 to 5.
 - D. More than 5.
13. During the past year, have you read any novels for your own pleasure?
- A. None.
 - B. One or two.
 - C. 3 to 5.
 - D. More than 5.
14. During the past year, have you read any biographies for your own pleasure?
- A. None.
 - B. One or two.
 - C. 3 to 5.
 - D. More than 5.

15. When you choose a story or novel to read, which one of the following is most likely to be the reason for your choice.
- A. Friends or parents recommend it.
 - B. I have read other books by the same author.
 - C. The title attracts me.
 - D. I just choose any.
16. How often do you re-read novels, stories or plays?
- A. Never.
 - B. Once or twice.
 - C. Occasionally.
 - D. Frequently.
17. Have you ever gone to a film because you read the story in a book?
- A. Often.
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Once or twice.
 - D. Never.
18. Have you ever read a book because you saw the story in a film?
- A. Never.
 - B. Once or twice.
 - C. Occasionally.
 - D. Frequently.
19. Have you ever read a book because you saw the story on television or heard the story on the radio?
- A. Often.
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Once or twice.
 - D. Never.
20. After you have seen a play or film, would you want to read a criticism of the work?
- A. Often.
 - B. Occasionally.
 - C. Once or twice.
 - D. Never.