

Solutions for Rumack's Preparation Workbook Language Section: 3.2

Fiction Passage 1

1. The correct answer is (B) fantastical. The genre of fantastical fiction is defined as, "a genre of fiction that commonly uses magic and other supernatural phenomena as a primary element of plot, theme, or setting." This excerpt indicates that an inanimate object has been given life by the speaker. A supernatural being therefore is the primary subject of the plot.
2. The correct answer is (B) the speaker believes that human nature is changeable. The term "changeable" is defined as, "inconstant; fickle." This is clear when the speaker states, "The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of human nature." This implies that while accidents in life are not necessarily changeable, human nature is.
3. The correct answer is (B) repugnant. The term "repugnant" is defined as, "Arousing disgust or aversion; offensive or repulsive." Within the text, the speaker is clearly horrified by the sight of his creation when he shares the following sentiment, "...but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart."
4. The correct answer is (C) eagerness. Both eagerness and ardour are synonyms meaning "feelings of great intensity and zeal." The speaker created the supernatural being with great zeal and intensity.
5. The correct answer is (D) the creature he created was beautiful. It is clear that the speaker is disgusted by his creature when he states, "Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriations only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips." The speaker contrasts beautiful elements with distinctly un-beautiful elements.

Fiction Passage 2

1. The correct answer is (E) It is the end of summer. The reason for this is due to description in the passage such as, "The purple butterflies fluttered about with gold dust on their wings, visiting each flower in turn; the little lizards crept out of the crevices of the wall, and lay basking in the white glare; and the pomegranates split and cracked with the heat, and showed their bleeding red hearts." The butterflies visiting flowers which are fully in bloom suggests a time period later

than spring time. The portion regarding the “pomegranates split(ing) and crack(ing) with the heat,...” indicates very hot temperatures which are unlikely to occur in spring and fall.

2. The correct answer is (C) pollen. It is a dust-like substance and is golden in color, found on plants and flowers and transferred by insects. The butterflies were “visiting each flower in turn,” so it is logical that it would transfer to their wings.
3. The correct answer is (B) decaying. The terms “decaying” and “mouldering” both have the definition, “becoming rotten.”
4. The correct answer (E) describe the day of the celebration. The excerpt focuses on the surroundings and scenic views that are apparent on the day of the celebration. Although the Infanta is mentioned, she is not the focus of the passage.
5. The correct answer is (D) The Infanta is an orphan. This is because all other facts are mentioned or can be inferred from the excerpt. The statement, “it was naturally a matter of great importance for the whole country” implies that the people of the country care about her, or “adore” her. It is never made clear, or even mentioned, that the Infanta may be an orphan.

Fiction Passage 3

1. The correct answer is (C) a river. It is stated that White Fang was “on a steamboat bound up the Yukon to Dawson.” Yukon is clearly a type of path seeing as the words “up the Yukon” are used, and it is evident that this path or passage must be a water way as the mode of transportation is a steamboat.
2. The correct answer is (D) abhorrent. The term abhorrent is defined as, “Feeling repugnance or loathing.” White Fang’s feelings of loathing or hatred are known from the statement, “ Why should he not hate them? He never asked himself the question. He knew only hate and lost himself in the passion of it. Life had become a hell to him.”
3. The correct answer is (B) it is being used as a proper name. The speaker applies human characteristics to nature. An example from the passage which highlights this includes, “Nature had given him plasticity.”
4. The correct answer is (E) adjustability. Both “adjustability” and “plasticity” can be defined as, “the ability to adjust to new surroundings; adaptability.” In the sentence following the term “plasticity,” it states, “Where many another animal would have died or had its spirit broken, he *adjusted* himself and lived.”

5. The correct answer is (C) They were shaping his whole being. "Moulding the clay" is a metaphor that compares the act of shaping pliable clay to the impact that White Fang's keepers' actions had on him developing him into a "ferocious thing." Both his physical and mental being were moulded, as he was known as "the fighting wolf" and known for his temperament as "ferocious."

6. The correct answer is (E) sadistic. The term "sadistic" is defined as "extreme cruelty." The relationship between White Fang and Beauty Smith can certainly be describe using this term when it is written, "Beauty Smith, archfiend and tormentor" in the final portion of the excerpt. Tormenting is purposeful cruelty, or sadistic behavior.