

“A Day Like No Other”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Frank Wilcox has been Chief of Police in Lansett County for 25 years. He took the job when he had just turned 30.

He has seen murders. He has seen robberies. He has seen cats stuck in trees. He has found missing children.

But today would be like no other day on the job.

It is 11:00 at night. Chief Wilcox begins putting together his things. He is tired. He wants to go home.

“Chief Wilcox,” calls an officer walking quickly into his office. It is Officer Simpson. He looks nervous. He looks like he would like to be anywhere else but there.

“What is it, Simpson?” asks the Chief.

“Holman’s Grocery was just held up at gunpoint,” Simpson says. His voice is **shaky**. He coughs to clear his throat.

“Was anyone hurt?” asks Chief.

Lansett is a very small county. The Chief knows just about everyone who lives there. If anyone was hurt, there is a good chance he knows the person. Maybe that’s why Officer Simpson looks nervous.

“No one was hurt,” says Simpson. “But we caught the suspect.”

“Ah, well, Simpson. You guys can take care of that. I’m—” Chief Wilcox stops in mid-sentence.

He understands what is wrong. From behind Officer Simpson, the Chief sees his youngest daughter, Devon. She is in handcuffs.

Chief Wilcox gets a lump in his throat. He sits in his chair, stunned. “How could it be?” he thinks.

“Devon, will you please tell me what is going on?” the Chief demands.

Devon does not look at him. The Chief can feel anger growing inside of him. He **refuses** to let that anger show.

“Take her back for questioning,” the Chief says to Officer Simpson in a calm voice.

“Devon, whatever you do, tell the truth,” the Chief says. “I’m your dad. I love you. We will figure this out.”

Questions:

- 1) What is the main problem in this story?
- A. Devon won't look at her dad.
 - B. Officer Simpson is nervous.
 - C. The Chief's daughter has been arrested.
 - D. The Chief is tired and wants to go home.
- 2) For how long has Wilcox been Chief of police?
- A. 15 years
 - B. 25 years
 - C. 30 years
 - D. 35 years

- 3) What can the reader tell about Chief Wilcox?
- I. He wants the truth.
 - II. He has seen a lot in his job.
 - III. He is 30 years old.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and II
 - D. I, II, and III
- 4) Why does the Chief want to go home?
- A. He is hungry.
 - B. He is tired.
 - C. He does not want to see Devon.
 - D. He is worried about his family.

- 5) Why is Officer Simpson nervous?
- A. He is scared of Chief Wilcox.
 - B. He has just been held up at gunpoint.
 - C. He has just arrested the Chief's daughter.
 - D. He has just found an important piece of evidence in a new case.
- 6) If someone's voice is **shaky**, it is
- I. loud
 - II. unsure
 - III. unsteady
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

- 7) When does the Chief discover what is wrong with Officer Simpson?
- A. when he sees the gun
 - B. when he stands up
 - C. when Officer Simpson tells him
 - D. when he sees his daughter
- 8) "He **refuses** to let that anger show." Which sentence below means the same thing?
- A. He is forced to let that anger show.
 - B. He is about to let that anger show.
 - C. He wants to let that anger show.
 - D. He decides not to let that anger show.

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The story first tells us that Frank has been the police chief for 25 years. In that time, the Chief has seen many things, but today is different because today Chief Wilcox' own daughter is the suspect. The Chief's daughter's arrest is the problem at the heart of the story. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Devon won't look at her dad because she has been arrested for robbing a grocery store, which means the main problem is the arrest for robbery. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Officer Simpson is nervous because he has just arrested the Chief's daughter. The main problem, the arrest, has caused his nervousness. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Although the story does tell us that Chief Wilcox is tired, that is a less serious problem than his daughter's arrest for robbery. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

At the beginning, the story says, "Frank Wilcox has been Chief of Police in Lansett County for 25 years." Therefore **(B)** is correct. The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **B**

At the end of the story, Wilcox tells his daughter, "Whatever you do, tell the truth." This indicates that the truth is important to Wilcox. This supports **option (I)**. At the beginning of the story, the reader learns that over his 25 years as chief of police, Wilcox has seen "murders," "robberies," "cats stuck in trees," and "has found missing children." We can infer that Wilcox has seen a lot in his job. This supports **option (II)**. At the beginning of the story, the reader learns that Wilcox was 30 years old when Wilcox became the police chief and Wilcox has been the police chief for 25 years. Therefore, Wilcox is 55 years old. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

4) **B**

At the beginning, the story says Wilcox "is tired. He wants to go home." We can understand from this that Wilcox wants to go home because he is tired. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **C**

In the middle of the story, Officer Simpson walks in and "looks nervous." When Wilcox "sees his youngest daughter" in handcuffs, Wilcox "understands what is wrong." We can understand from this that Simpson was nervous because he had just arrested Wilcox' daughter. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

According to the story, Holman's Grocery was "held up at gunpoint." Simpson was not held up at gunpoint. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. The passage does not provide information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

- 6) **C**
shaky (*adjective*): trembling or quivering; uncertain or questionable.

Simpson tells the Chief, “Holman’s Grocery was just held up at gunpoint.” Simpson’s “voice is **shaky**. He coughs to clear his throat.” From this, we can understand that Simpson is uncomfortable and that his voice is not clear. A loud voice is clear rather than *unclear*. This eliminates **option (I)**. When Officer Simpson first appears at the station, “he looks nervous.” A nervous voice is *unsure*. This supports **option (II)**. An uncomfortable, unclear voice is *unsteady*. This supports **(III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

- 7) **D**
In the middle of the story, we learn that Officer Simpson seems nervous and shaky. Wilcox wonders if Simpson is nervous and shaky because someone that Wilcox knew got hurt. A little later, the story says Wilcox “understands what is wrong. From behind Officer Simpson, the Chief sees his youngest daughter, Devon. She is in handcuffs.” From this, we can understand that Wilcox figured out why Officer Simpson was nervous when Wilcox saw his daughter in handcuffs. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

- 8) **D**
refuses (*verb*): declines to do something.

Near the end, the story says, “The Chief can feel anger growing inside of him. He **refuses** to let that anger show.” We can understand from this that even though the Chief feels angry, he chooses not to show this anger. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Something that is *forced* is made necessary. The Chief does not feel it is necessary to show his anger. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. If you are *about* to do something, you are going to do it presently. That is different from choosing to do something or not. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. To *want* is to desire. That is different from deciding not to do something. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

- 9) **A**
When Chief Wilcox asks Devon what is going on, “Devon does not look at him.” Therefore **(A)** is correct. Although the story tells us that Devon is wearing handcuffs, the story does not say that Devon takes them off. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(B)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

- 10) **A**
Early in the story, we learn that Chief Wilcox “is tired.” Then when Wilcox first realizes that the suspect is Devon, Wilcox “sits in his chair, stunned.” From this, we can understand that Wilcox is surprised. Then, when Devon does not answer Wilcox’ question, Wilcox “can feel the anger growing inside of him.” We can understand from this that Wilcox is angry. Finally, Wilcox tells Devon, “I’m your dad. I love you. We

will figure this out.” We can understand from this that Wilcox feels loving toward his daughter. Chief Wilcox’ feelings in the story went from tired, to surprised, to angry, to loving. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Answer choices **(B)**, **(C)** and **(D)** list the feelings in improper order. Therefore they are incorrect.

11)**C**

At the beginning of the story, the reader learns that Wilcox was 30 years old when Wilcox became the police chief and Wilcox has been the police chief for 25 years. 30 plus 25 is 55, so Wilcox is 55 years old. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

12)**B**

In the middle of the story, Officer Simpson says, “Holman’s Grocery was just held up at gunpoint.” Then Simpson says, “We caught the suspect.” Finally, “the Chief sees his youngest daughter, Devon. She is in handcuffs.” We can understand from this that Devon was caught holding up the grocery store at gunpoint. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Although Chief Wilcox “has found missing children,” the story does not say that Devon was missing. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. While Officer Simpson is describing the crime, he states that “no one was hurt.” Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Devon’s crime was not merely having a gun, but holding up the grocery store at gunpoint. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.