



“The Storm”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

“Crack-crack...kowowww! Thunder struck and illuminated the vinyl siding of the house as though it were high noon on a sunny day,” Rowan read aloud. Her eyes continued to scan the page before her.

“I was never a big fan of onomatopoeia,” Nolli casually interrupted, “But, do continue.”

“That’s why I could never do this in front of you, *Nolli*,” declared Rowan *vituperatively*, “Haven’t you something better to do?”

“Ha! Better than to annoy you before your moment of reckoning? Rowan my dear, I am your little brother, yet you hardly even know me,” said Nolli, superciliously.

“Nolli, keep quiet!” Mother Ann broke in, “ This is important. She presents in less than an hour. Rowan, my angel, disregard your little brother. Please, continue.”

“Mmmgghhm hmmm,” Rowan cleared her throat and continued where she left off, “Farmer John knew this was a storm of epic proportion. Even the cows retreated to their hutches. Not one person in the...”

“Ah hahaha! ‘The cows, “retreated,”” she said!” Nolli *chortled* upon hearing the repetition of this line in his own voice. “That’s great. Even the stupid cows retreated! Oh man. That must have been one heck of a storm uh brewin’. Mama, I’m scared!” he howled at the ceiling and curled up into a little ball of laughter.

“Nolli!” Mother Ann turned and shouted in a volume *tantamount* to Nolli’s laughter. Then she began laying into the boy, *castigating* him most thoroughly, after which, she sighed rather contentedly; she felt as though she had achieved the intended effect. Sometimes, she even surprised herself at the fury by which, if completely necessary, she could quell any quarrel.

“Oh Mother Ann!” Rowan protested and shriveled to the floor in utter *despondency*. “It’s no use. “The Storm” shall be the end of me!”

“Ahh, but Rowan, my dear,” Mother Ann rejoined, “This is but a mere shower!”

Questions:

Vocabulary:

1) Why does Rowan get upset at Nolli?

- A. Because he is being sarcastic.
- B. Because he interrupts her reading.
- C. Because he dislikes onomatopoeia.
- D. A and B.
- E. All of the above.

2) What might Nolli be referring to when he talks about Rowan’s, “moment of reckoning”?

- A. The end of her life.
- B. An upcoming presentation.
- C. An upcoming court trial.
- D. A sinister plot to assassinate Mother Ann.

3) Why does Rowan “shriveled to the floor” at the end?

- A. Because she is tired.
- B. Because she feels defeated.
- C. Because she feels hopeless.
- D. B and C.

4) When Rowan declares that, ““The Storm’ shall be the end of me!” she is referring to...

- A. a shower.
- B. her story.
- C. the storm in her story.
- D. none of the above.

5) When Mother Ann says that, “*This* is but a mere shower!” she is referring to...

- A. the story you have just read.
- B. Rowan’s story.
- C. a storm.
- D. none of the above.

1) If you use *vituperative* language, you use...

- A. caustic language.
- B. abusive language.
- C. serious language.
- D. A and B

2) Nolli *chortled*. This means he...

- A. chuckled.
- B. laughed with glee.
- C. coughed.
- D. choked.

3) If X is *tantamount* to Y, X is...

- A. greater than Y.
- B. less than Y.
- C. equal to Y.
- D. None of the above.

4) When Mother Ann *castigates* Nolli, she...

- A. chides him.
- B. congratulates him.
- C. severely reprimands him.
- D. All of the above.

5) At the end of the story, Rowan is utterly *despondent*. This mean she feels...

- A. happy.
- B. sad.
- C. hurt.
- D. hopeless.