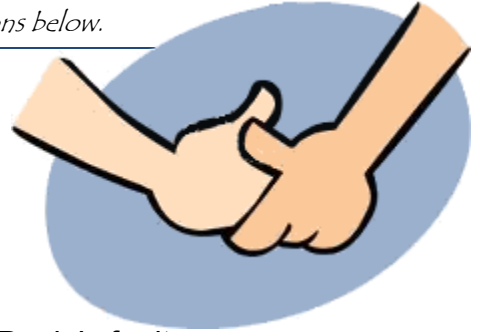


“Worth Working For”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

Paola and Imran have been married nearly 8 years.
They have had many good times together.
They have traveled the world together.
They have had two little girls together.
They have started a chocolate shop together.



Lately, Paola and Imran have been fighting a lot.
Business at the chocolate shop is slow. Imran thinks it is Paola's fault.
They are having trouble with money. Paola thinks Imran spends too much.

One evening, Paola decides to visit her mom for advice.
Paola knocks on her mom's door. Paola's mom is happy. It is a surprise visit.
She quickly sees, however, that something is wrong.

Paola looks sad and tired. “Paola, what is the matter?” Mom asks.

Paola tells her mom all that is going on.

Mom smiles gently. She rubs Paola's back. Then she tells Paola a story.

“Your father and I have a wonderful marriage. But we don't always get along. There was a time when things were very bad between us. We fought all the time. You were just a little girl. One day we watched you playing on the floor. We knew we wanted to make our marriage work. We loved you very much. We loved each other very much. We knew we had to work harder on our marriage.”

“What did you do?” asks Paola.

“We agreed to talk more. We planned a special night each week for the two of us. We went to see someone who helps people with their marriages,” Mom says. “It was worth it. I can't imagine not having your father in my life.”

Paola begins to feel better. “You are right,” she says. “What Imran and I have is worth working for.”

Questions:

1) Paola wants to see her mom to

- A. hear a story
- B. get advice
- C. make her mom happy
- D. get a back rub

2) The talk takes place at

- A. Paola's mom's house
- B. a restaurant
- C. Paola's house
- D. the chocolate shop

Questions:

3) What good times have Paola and Imran had?

- I. They have had children together.
- II. They have started a business together.
- III. They have done extensive traveling together.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

4) In discussing her own problems, what idea does Mom give Paola about fixing her problems with Imran?

- I. Paola can do something special with Imran.
- II. Paola can inform the children about the problems she is having with Imran.
- III. Paola can avoid talking to Imran when she is feeling upset.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

5) How long have Imran and Paola been married?

- A. 6 years
- B. 7 years
- C. 8 years
- D. 10 years

6) At the end of the talk with her Mom, Paola seems

- A. puzzled
- B. convinced
- C. doubtful
- D. surprised

7) Why does Mom seem to know how Paola feels?

- A. She is a good guesser.
- B. She has been told by Imran.
- C. She and Paola have discussed this problem before.
- D. She has experienced the same problem in her own marriage.

8) What kind of relationship does Paola seem to have with her Mom?

- I. open
 - II. loving
 - III. tense
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III.

9) What does the reader not learn in this story?

- A. what Imran has to say
- B. why Paola visits her mom
- C. how many kids Paola and Imran have
- D. what kind of business they have

10) What lesson does Paola learn?

- A. Two children is too many.
- B. Marriage should always be easy.
- C. Eight years of marriage is too long.
- D. Even a good marriage can sometimes be hard work.

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

In paragraph 3, the story says, “One evening, Paola decides to visit her mom for advice.” We can understand from this information that the reason Paola wants to see her mom is to get advice. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

After Paola tells her mom what is going on, Mom tells her about a time when Paola’s mom and dad were having trouble in their marriage. While the story does help Paola decide what to do, she did not go to visit her mother in order to hear the story. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 3, Paola’s mom is happy to see her, but Paola did not visit her mom just to make her happy. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. In paragraph 6, Paola’s mother rubs her back in order to show her sympathy. However, Paola did not visit her mother just to get a back rub. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **A**

In paragraph 3, the story says, “One evening, Paola decides to visit her mom for advice. Paola knocks on her mom’s door.” After this, Paola tells her mom what is happening and they talk about it. We can understand from this information that Paola has gone to her mom’s house to get some advice and they have a conversation there. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The story does not contain information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **D**

In paragraph 1, we learn “Paola and Imran have been married nearly 8 years. They have had many good times together.” Then, the story lists some of the good times Paola and Imran have had together. We learn “they have had two little girls together.” This means that Paola and Imran have a family together. This supports **option (I)**. We learn that “they have started a chocolate shop together.” We can understand from this that Paola and Imran have a business together. This supports **option (II)**. We learn “they have traveled the world together.” Since traveling the world is extensive travel, this supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

4) **A**

In the middle of the story, Paola goes to see her mom for some advice about how to handle her problems with Imran. Mom tells Paola how she dealt with a rough time she had in her marriage to Paola’s father. Paola asks Mom what they did. In paragraph 9, Mom says, ““We agreed to talk more. We planned a special night each week for the two of us. We went to see someone who helps people with their marriages.” We can understand from this information that Paola’s mom is encouraging Paola to take similar action to help her marriage to Imran. This means Paola gets the idea to do something special with Imran each week. This supports **option (I)**. The story does not provide information to support **options (II)** or **(III)**. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

5) **B**

In paragraph one, the story says, "Paola and Imran have been married nearly 8 years." Since they have been married nearly 8 years, they have been married 7 years, almost 8 years. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Since Paola and Imran have been married nearly 8 years, they have not been married for 8 years yet. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The story does not provide information to support choices **(A)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **B**

Near the end of the story, Paola's mother tells her what she and Paola's father did to improve their relationship when they were having trouble. Then, in the last paragraph, "Paola begins to feel better. 'You are right,' she says. 'What Imran and I have is worth working for.'" *Convinced* means made sure of. Since Paola thinks that her mom is right, we can understand from this information that Paola has become convinced to do what she can to improve her marriage. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Puzzled means confused. When Paola arrives at her mom's house, she is troubled and possibly confused, but after talking to Mom, Paola feels better and wants to improve her marriage. This means that Paola knows what she should do next. She is not puzzled anymore. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. *Doubtful* means uncertain. Again, her talk with Mom has helped Paola be certain about what she must do. She is not doubtful of this. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. *Surprised* means startled by something unexpected. Paola wants to hear what her mom did to help her marriage, but Paola does not seem surprised at what her mom tells her. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

7) **D**

In the middle of the story, Paola goes to her mom and tells her mom about the troubles she is having with Imran. Mom tells her that there was a time when her relationship with Paola's dad was in trouble. Mom tells Paola what they did to improve their relationship. Since Mom has had a similar experience to Paola's, Mom knows how Paola feels. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

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

8) **B**

When Paola is having trouble with her marriage, she turns to her mom for help. Since Paola feels comfortable telling her mother about her personal problems, they have an open relationship. This supports **option (I)**. When Paola tells her mother about her troubles, Mom comforts Paola by rubbing her back. Paola's mother also tells Paola that one of the reasons she and Paola's father made their marriage work was because, "We loved you very much." We can understand from this information that Paola and her mom have a loving relationship. This supports **option (II)**. There is nothing in the story that suggests that Paola and her mom have a tense relationship. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

9) **A**

In the story, we learn that Imran is Paola's husband and that they have been having marriage troubles. However, the entire story is about Paola visiting her mom to get advice. We do not learn anything about what Imran thinks or has to say. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

We know that Paola visits her mom to get advice about her marriage, so we do learn why Paola visits Mom. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. At the beginning of the story, we learn that Paola and Imran "have two little girls together." Since this tells us how many children they have, **(C)** is incorrect. At the beginning of the story we learn that Paola and Imran "have started a chocolate shop together. This tells us what kind of business they have. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

10) **D**

Paola is having a hard time in her marriage. When she talks to her mom, her mom tells her about her own experience. Paola's mom tells her that when her marriage to Paola's father was difficult, they worked on it and made it better. This convinces Paola to work on her own marriage. Since Paola has realized that she must work on her marriage, she has realized that even a good marriage can be hard work. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

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