

“Running”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

Dieter loves to run.
He runs in the morning. He runs in the afternoon. He runs in the evening. He runs at night.

Dieter loves to run, but it **hurts** to run.
When Dieter runs, it hurts.
His legs hurt. His arms hurt. His back hurts. His head hurts. When Dieter runs, his whole body hurts.



Then, Dieter starts thinking. He starts dreaming.
He dreams about his job. He dreams about his home.
He dreams about his family. He dreams about his friends. He dreams about the world.



At first, running hurts. No one likes it when it hurts.
When it hurts, Dieter dreams about things that do not hurt.
This is why Dieter loves running. Running gives him the best dreams.
Sometimes, Dieter forgets that he is running. Sometimes, he runs all morning.
Sometimes, he runs all afternoon. Sometimes, he runs all night.

Dieter runs and dreams.



Questions:

- 1) What does Dieter love to do?
 - A. He loves to run.
 - B. He loves to dream.
 - C. He loves to think.
 - D. He loves to hurt.
- 2) When Dieter runs, it **hurts**. What does this mean?
 - A. He feels good.
 - B. He feels bad.
- 3) What does Dieter do while he is running?
 - A. He dreams.
 - B. He sleeps.
 - C. He eats.
 - D. He drinks.
- 4) What does Dieter dream about?
 - I. his job
 - II. his family
 - III. his future
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The first line of the story says, “Dieter loves to run.” Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Dieter loves running because it “gives him the best dreams,” but the story does not say that Dieter loves to dream. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. When running makes Dieter’s body hurt, “Dieter starts thinking.” The story does not say that Dieter loves thinking. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. In paragraph 4, it says, “No one likes it when it hurts.” Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

In paragraph 4, it says, “No one likes it when it hurts.” People do not like bad things. Since no one likes it, hurting must feel bad. Therefore **(B)** is correct. People like good things. Since no one likes hurting, it does not feel good. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

3) **A**

In paragraph 3, when Dieter’s body starts to hurt, Dieter “starts dreaming.” The last line of the story says, “Dieter runs and dreams.” Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **B**

In paragraph 3, it says Dieter “dreams about his job,” “home,” “family,” “friends,” and “the world.” The mention of “job” supports **options (I)**. The mention of “family” supports **option (II)**. The story does not say that Dieter dreams about the future. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.