



*Online assessments will contain selected response items and technology-enhanced items.*

adapted from **"The Cobbler and the Rich Man"**

by Lida Brown McMurry

- 1 A **cobbler** worked in his shop from morning until night. As he worked he sang. Tired people who heard him were rested. Sad men and women were cheered as they came near the shop. Children visited him. They watched him at his work and heard him sing. They called him "Jolly Gregory."
- 2 "How can he sing when he works so hard and makes so little?" many asked. But still his singing went on.
- 3 Across the road from the cobbler lived a rich man. His home was beautiful, his clothes fine, and his **fare** the best that money could buy. But never in his life had he been known to give to anyone who needed help. He was really tired, for he **lacked** one thing which he very much wanted—sleep. Sometimes he could not get to sleep until early morning. Then his neighbor's song would waken him. He wished that sleep could be bought for money.



- 4 One day he said to himself, "I believe I will help that cobbler over the way. He has a hard time to make enough money to buy his food and clothes." So he sent for the cobbler.
- 5 "Jolly Gregory," he said, "how much do you earn in a year?"
- 6 "How much a year?" replied the cobbler, scratching his head. "I never **reckon** my money in that way. It goes as fast as it comes, but I am glad to be able to earn it. I cobble on from day to day and earn a living."
- 7 "Well then, Gregory, how much do you earn each day?" asked the rich man.
- 8 "Why, sometimes more and sometimes less," answered the cobbler. "On many days—the holidays—I earn nothing. I wish there were fewer of these; but then we manage to live."

**Glossary**

**cobbler**—a person who makes or fixes shoes

**fare**—food

**lacked**—needed

**reckon**—think of

- 9 "You are a happy man now," said the rich man, "but I will make you happier." He handed the cobbler five hundred dollars. "Go spend this money carefully. It will supply your needs for many days," he said.
- 10 The cobbler had never dreamed of so much money before. He thought it was enough to keep him in food and clothes all his life.
- 11 He took the money home and hid it, but he hid his joy with it. He stopped singing and became sad. He could not sleep for fear of robbers. He thought that everyone who came into his shop was trying to find out his secret, or wished a gift. When a cat ran over the floor, he thought a thief had slipped through the door.
- 12 At last, poor man, he could bear it no longer. He took the money, and hurried to the rich man. He cried, "Oh, give me back my songs and my sweet sleep! Here is your money, every cent of it. I made a poor trade."
- 13 The rich man looked at him and said, "I thought I had made you happy. I have not missed your songs, for, strange as it may seem, I have been sleeping soundly ever since I talked with you."

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## Part A

### 1. What is the lesson of the passage?

- A The best way to keep money safe is to put it in the bank.
- B People can help their neighbors by not making too much noise.
- C It is important to get enough sleep every night.
- D It takes more than money to bring a person happiness.

## Part B

### 2. Which quotation from the passage *best* supports the answer in Part A?

- A "As he worked he sang. Tired people who heard him were rested." (paragraph 1)
- B "But never in his life had he been known to give to anyone who needed help." (paragraph 3)
- C "He was really tired, for he lacked one thing which he very much wanted—sleep. Sometimes he could not get to sleep until early morning. Then his neighbor's song would waken him." (paragraph 3)
- D "He took the money, and hurried to the rich man. He cried, 'Oh, give me back my songs and my sweet sleep! Here is your money, every cent of it. I made a poor trade.'" (paragraph 12)

**Part A**

**3. What is the meaning of the phrase “makes so little” in paragraph 2?**

- A The cobbler is only able to work on a small number of shoes each day.
- B The cobbler works only on small children’s shoes.
- C The cobbler earns a small amount of money from his job fixing shoes.
- D The cobbler makes shoes that feel too small.

**Part B**

**4. Which quotation from the passage *best* supports the answer in Part A?**

- A “Sad men and women were cheered as they came near the shop.” (paragraph 1)
- B “Children visited him. They watched him at his work and heard him sing.” (paragraph 1)
- C “He was really tired, for he lacked one thing which he very much wanted—sleep.” (paragraph 3)
- D ““On many days—the holidays—I earn nothing. I wish there were fewer of these; but then we manage to live.”” (paragraph 8)

**5. Which word describes the cobbler at the beginning of the passage?**

- A funny
- B glad
- C greedy
- D sleepy

**6. What caused the rich man to give money to the cobbler?**

- A The rich man liked to give his money away to others.
- B The rich man wanted to pay the cobbler for fixing his shoes.
- C The rich man needed to get rid of his money because people were trying to steal it.
- D The rich man wanted to buy sleep by giving the cobbler money to keep him from singing.

**7. Which *two* quotations from the passage show how the cobbler changed after receiving the money?**

- A "‘You are a happy man now,’ said the rich man, ‘but I will make you happier.’" (paragraph 9)
- B "He handed the cobbler five hundred dollars." (paragraph 9)
- C "The cobbler had never dreamed of so much money before." (paragraph 10)
- D "He took the money home and hid it, but he hid his joy with it." (paragraph 11)
- E "He stopped singing and became sad." (paragraph 11)

**8. Read the sentence from paragraph 6.**

**"It goes as fast as it comes, but I am glad to be able to earn it."**

**What does the phrase "it goes as fast as it comes" mean?**

- A The cobbler does not have money because someone is stealing it.
- B The cobbler does not make money because he does his work for free.
- C The cobbler saves all of his money in the bank in town.
- D The cobbler spends the small amount of money that he makes quickly.

**9. What can the reader conclude about the cobbler from paragraphs 11-13?**

- A The cobbler enjoyed having enough money for food and clothes.
- B The cobbler wanted to get more money because he did not have enough.
- C The cobbler enjoyed being able to relax instead of working so hard.
- D The cobbler wanted to return to his old way of life.

## Writing

10. A student is writing a report about woodpeckers. Read the paragraph from the report.

Each different type of woodpecker has a clue on its body to show which type it is. For example, the pileated woodpecker is known for the red feathers on the top of its head. The black-backed woodpecker has only three toes. The ivory-billed woodpecker is the largest type, though it has recently disappeared from the wild and is now considered endangered.

Which topic sentence would *best* begin the paragraph?

- A Woodpeckers are social animals.
- B There are over 180 different types of woodpeckers.
- C The ivory-billed woodpecker can grow to an amazing 21 inches in length.
- D The acorn woodpecker has a brownish-black head.

11. Which sentence is written *correctly*?

- A Joe said, I can't wait for the soccer game this weekend."
- B "Lori shouted, Look out for the fence!"
- C Kate asked, "When can we go to the park again?
- D Jermaine said, "We are going to the mountains this week."

## Research

12. A student is writing a research report about Louis Armstrong. Read the sentences from her report.

Louis Armstrong was one of the most famous jazz musicians in history. Born to a poor family in New Orleans, Louisiana, he began playing music at a young age. He began with the cornet, which is a brass instrument that is similar to a trumpet. Other musicians recognized Armstrong's talent, and he began playing professionally when he was just a teenager. Armstrong moved to Chicago and continued playing music. He became one of the most popular musicians in America. People who had never before been interested in jazz liked his music.

Which source would *most likely* give the student more information about what she has written?

- A a dictionary that has the meanings of the words "jazz" and "cornet"
  - B a chapter called "Louis Armstrong" in the book *American Musicians*
  - C a magazine article called "How to Play the Trumpet"
  - D a book called *New Orleans: A Visitor's Guidebook*
13. A student writes a research report about class pets. He writes an opinion in the report. Read the sentences from the student's report.

I think that our class should have a class pet. Having a class pet is a great way to teach students about responsibility. Students can take turns caring for the pet. In addition, there are many science lessons that class pets can help students learn. For example, students could learn about gills by watching their class fish.

The student takes notes about class pets. Choose a note that supports the student's opinion.

- A Class pets are sometimes ignored on the evenings and weekends when school is not in session.
- B Teachers must be careful when selecting class pets because some students are allergic to animals.
- C Students who do not have pets at home are able to make connections with their class pets.
- D You can buy all different types of pets and supplies at local pet stores.