



Assessment Practice

DIRECTIONS Read this selection and answer the questions that follow.
Mrs. Barrymore and her husband are servants at Baskerville Hall. Sherlock Holmes's friend, Dr. Watson, is describing the couple in a letter to the famous detective.

from **The Hound of the Baskervilles** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

COMMON CORE

RI.2 Provide an objective summary of the text.
RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings.
L.1a Explain the function of phrases and their function in specific sentences. L.4b Use Greek or Latin roots as clues to the meaning of a word. L.5b Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.

- 1 Mrs. Barrymore is of interest to me. She is a heavy, solid person, very limited, intensely respectable, and inclined to be puritanical. You could hardly conceive a less emotional subject. Yet I have told you how, on the first night here, I heard her sobbing bitterly, and since then I have more than once observed traces of tears upon her face. Some deep sorrow gnaws ever at her heart. Sometimes I wonder if she has a guilty memory which haunts her, and sometimes I suspect Barrymore of being a domestic tyrant. I have always felt that there was something singular and questionable in this man's character, but the adventure of last night brings all my suspicions to a head.
- 2 And yet it may seem a small matter in itself. You are aware that I am not a very sound sleeper, and since I have been on guard in this house my slumbers have been lighter than ever. Last night, about two in the morning, I was aroused by a stealthy step passing my room. I rose, opened my door, and peeped out. A long black shadow was trailing down the corridor. It was thrown by a man who walked softly down the passage with a candle held in his hand. He was in shirt and trousers, with no covering to his feet. I could merely see the outline, but his height told me that it was Barrymore. He walked very slowly and circumspectly, and there was something indescribably guilty and furtive in his whole appearance.
- 3 I have told you that the corridor is broken by the balcony which runs round the hall, but that it is resumed upon the farther side. I waited until he had passed out of sight and then I followed him. When I came round the balcony he had reached the end of the farther corridor, and I could see from the glimmer of light through an open door that he had entered one of the rooms. Now, all these rooms are unfurnished and unoccupied, so that his expedition became more mysterious than ever. The light shone

Practice Test

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steadily as if he were standing motionless. I crept down the passage as noiselessly as I could and peeped round the corner of the door.

- 4 Barrymore was crouching at the window with the candle held against the glass. His profile was half turned towards me, and his face seemed to be rigid with expectation as he stared out into the blackness of the moor. For some minutes he stood watching intently. Then he gave a deep groan and with an impatient gesture he put out the light. Instantly I made my way back to my room, and very shortly came the stealthy steps passing once more upon their return journey. Long afterwards when I had fallen into a light sleep I heard a key turn somewhere in a lock, but I could not tell whence the sound came. What it all means I cannot guess, but there is some secret business going on in this house of gloom which sooner or later we shall get to the bottom of. I do not trouble you with my theories, for you asked me to furnish you only with facts. I have had a long talk with Sir Henry this morning, and we have made a plan of campaign founded upon my observations of last night. I will not speak about it just now, but it should make my next report interesting reading.



Reading Comprehension

Use the excerpt from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* to answer questions 1–9.

1. Which word best describes the mood of this passage?
 - A. Comforting
 - B. Peaceful
 - C. Suspenseful
 - D. Thrilling
2. Which statement is the best summary of Dr. Watson's impression of Mrs. Barrymore?
 - A. She is intensely moral, sometimes emotional, and not likeable at all.
 - B. She is reliable, trustworthy, and yet unexpectedly severe and cold.
 - C. She wants people to feel sorry for her, so she makes a show of crying at night.
 - D. She gives an appearance of being under control, but something is upsetting her.
3. Which sentence contributes most clearly to the mood of this excerpt?
 - A. *You could hardly conceive a less emotional subject.*
 - B. *Last night, about two in the morning, I was aroused by a stealthy step passing my room.*
 - C. *He was in shirt and trousers, with no covering to his feet.*
 - D. *I do not trouble you with my theories, for you asked me to furnish you only with facts.*
4. How does Barrymore's "guilty and furtive" appearance affect the mood of the story?
 - A. Creates a dark, frightening mood
 - B. Makes the mood less scary
 - C. Adds to the happy mood
 - D. Produces a mood of silliness
5. The description of Barrymore's actions at the beginning of paragraph 4 affects the mood of the story by —
 - A. providing relief
 - B. increasing the tension
 - C. making everything clear
 - D. adding hope
6. The author's tone in the passage concerning Dr. Watson's investigation is —
 - A. detached
 - B. ironic
 - C. suspicious
 - D. vengeful
7. The author uses the imagery of a long, black shadow to create a mood of —
 - A. anger
 - B. liveliness
 - C. mystery
 - D. sorrow

8. The author's style is best described as —
- A. a formal, flowery style that relies on symbolic language
 - B. a formal, conversational style that relies on descriptive observations
 - C. an objective, journalistic style that relies on scientific facts
 - D. an informal, folksy style that relies on natural speech patterns
9. Which statement is the best summary of Dr. Watson's actions on the morning after he sees Barrymore?
- A. Dr. Watson reports on what he saw to Sir Henry, and they come up with a plan of action.
 - B. Dr. Watson hears a key turning in a lock, but he doesn't know where.
 - C. Dr. Watson barely makes it back to his room before he hears steps coming back again.
 - D. Dr. Watson hears someone weeping miserably in the house.

SHORT CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

Write two or three sentences to answer this question.

10. Briefly summarize Dr. Watson's report to Sherlock Holmes. Identify the characters and the setting in your summary.

Write a paragraph to answer this question.

11. Reread the descriptions of Mr. and Mrs. Barrymore in the excerpt. Describe the author's style based on his words, sentences, and tone.

Tone Definition

Tone, in written composition, is an attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience. Tone is generally conveyed through the choice of words or the viewpoint of a writer on a particular subject.

GO ON 

10.

11.

Vocabulary

Use your knowledge of context clues to answer the following questions.

1. Which word has the same meaning as *conceive* in this sentence from paragraph 1?

"You could hardly conceive a less emotional subject."

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| A. Imagine | C. Understand |
| B. Plan | D. See |

2. Which word has the same meaning as *gnaws* in this sentence from paragraph 1?

"Some deep sorrow gnaws ever at her heart."

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| A. Angers | C. Strengthens |
| B. Hovers | D. Worries |

3. Which word has the same meaning as *intently* in this sentence from paragraph 4?

"For some minutes he stood watching intently."

- A. Angrily
B. Carefully
C. Intelligently
D. Sadly

Use your knowledge of context clues and Greek and Latin word and root definitions to answer the following questions.

4. The Latin root *cline* means "lean." What does the word *inclined* mean in paragraph 1?

"She is a heavy, solid person, very limited, intensely respectable, and inclined to be puritanical."

- A. Tending to be a certain way
B. Leaning over to the side
C. Completely honest
D. Extremely worried

5. The Greek word *theoros* means "spectator." What does the word *theories* mean in paragraph 4?

"I do not trouble you with my theories, for you asked me to furnish you only with facts."

- A. The acts that a person sees
B. Games that people watch
C. Guesses based on limited information
D. Facts that really happen

Revising and Editing

DIRECTIONS Read this passage and answer the questions that follow.

(1) For thousands of years, bodies were preserved. (2) A process called embalming preserved them. (3) Mummification was an embalming process used by the Egyptians. (4) There were various embalming processes. (5) An embalmer would remove internal organs. (6) The embalmer would dry out the body and wrap it in linens. (7) The embalmer used herbs and salt for drying. (8) The embalmer placed linen inside the body. (9) Such careful preparations show how important burial was to the Egyptians.

1. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 1 and 2?
 - A. Embalming for thousands of years were a process of preserving bodies.
 - B. Embalming, a process for thousands of years, were preserving bodies.
 - C. Embalming was a preserved bodies process for thousands of years.
 - D. Embalming, a process of preserving bodies, was used for thousands of years.
2. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 3 and 4?
 - A. Mummification, among the various embalming processes, were used by the Egyptians.
 - B. Mummification, among the various embalming processes, was used by the Egyptians.
 - C. Mummification, used by the Egyptians, were among the various embalming processes.
 - D. Mummification was an embalming process, the Egyptians used various embalming processes.
3. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 5 and 6?
 - A. An embalmer removed internal organs, dried out the body, and wrapped it in linens.
 - B. Removing internal organs, the body was dried out and wrapped in linens.
 - C. Removing internal organs, linens wrapped the dried out body.
 - D. Removing internal organs, the dried out body was wrapped in linens.
4. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 7 and 8?
 - A. Using herbs and salt for drying, linen was then placed inside the body.
 - B. Using herbs and salt for drying, the body then had linen placed inside.
 - C. Using herbs and salt for drying, the embalmer then placed linen inside the body.
 - D. Using herbs and salt for drying, herbs, salt, and linen were then placed inside the body.

