

Cold-Read Task

Read *“In Which the Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness”* and *“In Which We All Learn About Halloween”* from *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George. Then answer the questions.

1. Read this excerpt from paragraph 1 of *“The Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness.”*

“First she burned the grasses. The grasses seeded and were harvested by the mice and winds.”

Part A

Who is “she” and how does “she” impress the narrator?

- a. She is September and the narrator is impressed by her mild, cool weather.
- b. She is September and the narrator is impressed by her swift and significant changes.
- c. She is autumn and the narrator is impressed by her impact on the wildlife on the mountain.
- d. She is autumn and the narrator is impressed by her beautiful colors in the trees and fields.

Part B

Which three sentences from the story support the answer to Part A?

- a. “The Autumn provides food and loneliness.”
- b. “September blazed a trail into the mountains.”
- c. “Then she frosted the aspen leaves and left them sunshine yellow.”
- d. “I, Sam Gibley, felt just wonderful, just wonderful.”
- e. “I pushed the raft down the stream and gathered arrowleaf bulbs, cattail tubers, bulrush roots, and the nut-like tubers of the sedges.”
- f. “And then a crop of crickets appeared and Frightful hopped all over the meadow snagging them and eating them.”
- g. “I smoked fish and rabbit, dug wild onions by the pouchful, and raced September for her crop.”

2. **Part A**

What is Sam's attitude toward the weather at the beginning of the story?

- a. Sam is relaxed and enjoying the mild weather and wildlife as he rafts down the river.
- b. Sam feels defeated by being unprepared for surviving through the winter and plans to leave the mountain.
- c. Sam is respectful of the weather turning cold and the urgent need to prepare to survive.
- d. Sam is very sad as the weather reminds him of better times from his childhood.

Part B

What are **two** pieces of evidence that support the answer to Part A?

- a. "And I, Sam Gribbley, felt just wonderful, just wonderful."
- b. "I smoked fish and rabbit, dug wild onions by the pouchful, and raced September for her crop."
- c. "Seeing The Baron changing his mantle for winter awoke the first fears in me."
- d. "My line jerked and started to pull, but I was too late."
- e. "The air smelled of leaves and the cool wind from the stream hugged me."
- f. "I was lonely and on the verge of tears."

3. **Part A**

What is the narrator's tone in paragraph 7 of *"In Which the Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness"*?

- a. The narrator has a sarcastic and humorous tone in paragraph 7.
- b. The narrator has a serious and intense tone in paragraph 7.
- c. The narrator has a tone of sadness and depression in paragraph 7.
- d. The narrator has a tone of fearfulness and dread in paragraph 7.

Part B

Which sentence from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "And then a crop of crickets appeared and Frightful hopped all over the meadow snagging them in her great talons and eating them."
- b. "I tried them, because I had heard they are good."
- c. "I think the field cricket would taste excellent if you were starving."
- d. "I abandoned the crickets and went back to the goodness of the earth."

4. Part A

Watching the wildlife "getting prepared for the harsh months," what problem occurred to Sam and how did he plan to solve it?

- a. Watching the squirrels, Sam realized he needed to gather more food and planned to raft down the stream and gather bulbs.
- b. Watching Jessie Coon James crawl down the tree, Sam realized he needed to gain weight to survive and planned to eat as much as he could to store fat like the raccoon.
- c. Watching the skunks, Sam realized his tree would be too cold and planned to build a fireplace.
- d. Watching the birds, Sam realized they migrate south and Sam plans to follow them.

Part B

Which paragraphs from *"In Which the Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness"* best support the answer to Part A?

- a. Paragraphs 1 and 6
- b. Paragraphs 8 and 10
- c. Paragraphs 12 and 14
- d. Paragraphs 15 and 18

5. Read this excerpt from paragraph 35 of *"The Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness."*

"I've got to ventilate this place."

Part A

What is the meaning of the word *ventilate* as it is used in this sentence?

- a. to remove contamination
- b. to circulate a breeze
- c. to reduce power
- d. to put in a new system

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "The rock was flat and narrow and long; it was the answer to my fireplace."
- b. "The fireplace used up all the oxygen."
- c. "I put out the fire, took the door down and wrapped up in it."
- d. "'I cut out several more knotholes to let air in and out of the tree room.'"

6. Part A

What is the meaning of the word *sore* as it is used in paragraph 30 of *"In Which the Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness"*?

- a. Feeling angry or mad
- b. A pulled muscle
- c. Feeling distress or sorrow
- d. A wound on the body

Part B

Which detail best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "Frightful was not absolutely necessary for my survival."
- b. "I must have her if I was going to make it through the winter."
- c. "I heard a cry in the grasses up near the white birches."
- d. "I grabbed so swiftly that my hand hit a rock and I bruised my knuckles."

7. Part A

Which statement about the passage "*In Which the Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness*" describes how Sam feels in paragraph 35?

- a. Sam feels proud.
- b. Sam feels depressed.
- c. Sam feels terrified.
- d. Sam feels content.

Part B

Which sentence supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "She didn't intend to leave, but I was going to make sure that she didn't."
- b. "Then I noticed something dreadful."
- c. "Frightful and I slept with the good frost nipping at our faces."
- d. "I have Frightful on my fist watching her."

8. **Part A**

How does the first paragraph of *"We All Learn About Halloween"* contribute to the story?

- a. Sam continues the endless struggle to survive, but keeps his pragmatic sense of humor.
- b. Sam works cooperatively with the animals to gather food to store for the winter.
- c. Sam is desperate to catch the animals for their meat and fur; he needs both to survive.
- d. Sam has fun playing with the wildlife while gathering food for the upcoming cold weather.

Part B

What evidence from the story best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "I have been up and down the mountains every day for a week, watching to see if walnuts and hickory nuts are ripe."
- b. "I decided ripe or not, I must gather them. It's me or the squirrels."
- c. "I have never seen so many squirrels. They seem to come from the whole forest."
- d. "They must pass messages along to each other – messages that tell what kind of nuts and where the trees are."

9. Read this excerpt from paragraph 4 of *"We All Learn About Halloween"*.

A few days later, my storehouse rolling with nuts, I began the race for apples. Entering this race were squirrels, raccoons, and a fat old skunk who looked as if he could eat not another bite. He was ready to sleep his autumn meal off, and I resented him because he did not need my apples.

Part A

What does the word *resented* mean as it is used in this excerpt?

- a. teased or made fun of
- b. envied or felt bitter toward
- c. tricked or played a joke on
- d. feared or frightened of

Part B

Which reason **best** states why Sam resented the skunk?

- a. The skunk looked repulsive and unnatural after it had grown fat.
- b. The skunk could have defended himself with his terrible smelling spray.
- c. The skunk had won the race for apples before Sam had even started.
- d. The skunk was already prepared for winter and Sam wasn't.

10. Read paragraphs 18 and 19 from the chapter *"We All Learn About Halloween"*.

Part A

What is the impact of the author's word choice in the development of these paragraphs?

- a. The reader can feel Sam's fear about being in the dark, but is relieved by the lit sky.
- b. The reader is impressed with Sam's lively imagination, but it is just an ordinary night.
- c. The reader senses Sam's struggle to survive alone in the cold wilderness, but admires his courage.
- d. The reader can visualize the beauty of the night and also feel Sam's apprehension in the dark.

Part B

What evidence from *"We All Learn About Halloween"* **best** supports the answer to part A?

- a. "Home that night, everything seemed peaceful enough."
- b. "Frightful is very alert, as if there are things all around us."
- c. "Halloween was over at midnight last night, but for us it is just beginning."
- d. "When it grew too dark, I lit a fire, hoping it would not end the party."

11. Part A

How does the writer develop the narrator's point of view in the two chapters?

- a. The author uses a third-person narrator to communicate both Sam's actions and the actions of all the animals.
- b. The author uses a third-person narrator to describe the thoughts and feelings of all the characters in the story.
- c. The author uses a first-person narrator to reveal all Sam's actions, thoughts and feelings.
- d. The author uses a first-person narrator to limit the information to only a few of Sam's experiences.

Part B

What evidence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "Seeing The Baron changing his mantle for winter awoke the first fears in me."
- b. "Frightful was sitting on the bedpost, her head under her wings. She was toppling."
- c. "Entering this race were squirrels, raccoons, and a fat old skunk who looked as if he could eat not another bite."
- d. "A bat winged in from the darkness and circled the tallow candle. It was Halloween and the goblins were at work."

Read “Help Me Make it Through the Night – surviving a wilderness emergency” by Kelly Stangk. Then answer the questions.

Help Me Make it Through the Night —surviving a wilderness emergency

By Kelly Stang

“I am just...”

...going for a day hike/ going to run ahead/ going to scout for deer sign/ going to do some fishing at the lake. These simple words can quickly lead to trouble, landing you in a dangerous situation where Mother Nature tests you and

even threatens your life. There may be an unexpected change in the weather, or you might lose your paddles or capsize your canoe and be miles from your vehicle. Or you could get lost or sick or injured; a simple twisted ankle could prevent

you from getting back before dark. The bottom line is when pursuing outdoor activities, expect the unexpected, because if you’re not properly prepared, the end result can be disastrous.

According to wilderness safety expert Peter Kummerfeldt, those three words “I am just...” are the most dangerous words uttered in the outdoors. Peter, an experienced wilderness survival trainer, has instructed thousands of outdoor enthusiasts to gain an understanding of the physical, mental and spiritual preparation needed for those unexpected events that knock on our outdoor experiences. His instructions provide practical advice on what to do when you find yourself in trouble because of the “I am just...”

I recently had the opportunity to take Peter’s “Surviving a Wilderness Emergency” class in which he cites many examples of individuals who ended up in survival situations; several succumbed



John Bulmer

as a result of their unpreparedness. Peter states that “It is easy to convince yourself that nothing life-threatening will happen—after all, you are ‘just...’”

According to Kummerfeldt, “Survival is the ability and desire to stay alive, all alone, under adverse conditions, until rescued. Those who are prepared will usually survive an emergency, while those who are not, probably won’t.” Preparation and the ability to save yourself are two of the most important topics taught in Peter’s class.

The class stresses practical, not primitive survival skills. Many of the “reality” survival shows on TV today demonstrate starting fires by rubbing sticks together, building debris shelters out of sticks and evergreen boughs, and getting water by digging solar stills (a low-tech way to distill water that uses natural evaporation and condensation). While these skills could help you, they require many, many hours of practice to master and are not practical for a lost or injured person to do while the sun is setting and a cold rain begins to fall.

It may seem obvious, but Peter emphasizes that you have a much better chance of survival if you simply prepare beforehand. He explains how a few simple rules and essential pieces of survival gear can turn a life-threatening situation into a survivable (and even somewhat comfortable) night in the woods.

Rule number one is to carry a survival kit with you at all times. A survival kit does no good if it is in your vehicle at the trailhead or in your pack back at your campsite while you are exploring. You should also make sure your kit is lightweight and compact (see pg. 23 for survival kit contents.). If it is heavy and bulky, you are more likely to leave it

behind. If you don’t always carry a pack, buy or make a carry case for the survival kit to attach to your belt. Darren McGee



Another important tip is to always let someone know about your plans. No one is going to look for you unless they know you are missing, so leave a detailed trip plan with someone reliable every time you head out to hike, hunt, camp, fish, bike, etc. The trip plan should include detailed information on your planned route (give GPS coordinates if you know them), possible side trips you might take, date and time you will

Susan Shafer



be returning, who is going with you, the

make, color and plate number of your vehicle, the color of your tent, and your cell phone number. Ask that person to check that you got home safely when you said you would. And by all means, if you do get into trouble, stay put! Search and rescue becomes much more difficult if you stray from your planned itinerary.

Also, keep in mind that today’s technology is great, but do not rely on it to save you. Cell phones, GPS units and satellite trackers can be fantastic when they work, but batteries die, and signals can be sporadic (especially in mountainous terrain). Plus, what happens if you drop them or they get wet? Even if you do manage to contact someone, it can take awhile for them to reach you, and in the meantime you need to try to keep dry and warm.

I recommend that you check out Peter’s website www.outdoorsafe.com where you can purchase the survival items he swears by (large brightly-colored bags, metal match and others). He also has a terrific book called *Surviving a Wilderness Emergency* that should be required reading for everyone who ventures into the outdoors.

In the end, it’s always good to “Hope for the best, but plan for the worst.” And, of course, make sure to never say “I am just...”

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Editor’s note: Peter Kummerfeldt is one of a number of wilderness safety experts who offer classes. For a list of others, you can contact your local DEC forest ranger.

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12. Part A

What does the word *succumbed* mean as it is used in paragraph 3 of “*Help Me Make it Through the Night – surviving a wilderness emergency*”?

- a. failure to resist
- b. quickly yield to
- c. despair of
- d. die due to

Part B

What detail from the article best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “‘I am just...’ are the most dangerous words uttered in the outdoors.”
- b. “if it is heavy and bulky, you are more likely to leave it behind”
- c. “Another important tip is to always let someone know about your plans.”
- d. “And by all means, if you do into trouble, stay put!”

13. Part A

What is the author's main purpose in *"Help Me Make it Through the Night – surviving a wilderness emergency"*?

- a. to encourage people to be prepared with practical survival strategies, such as having a lightweight survival kit at all times, before going into the wilderness
- b. to encourage people to learn how to survive by learning primitive survival skills, such as building debris structures, before going into the wilderness
- c. to encourage people to take classes on how to survive in the wilderness, like people on reality television shows, until the person is rescued
- d. to encourage people to use every survival technique available, including relying on GPS units and satellite trackers, if they are lost or hurt in the wilderness.

Part B

What detail from the article best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "there may be an unexpected change in the weather, or you might lose your paddles or capsize your canoe and be miles from your vehicle"
- b. "I recently had the opportunity to take Peter's "Surviving a Wilderness Emergency" class in which he cites many examples of individuals who ended up in a survival situation"
- c. "a few simple rules and essential pieces of gear can turn a life-threatening situation into a survivable night in the woods"
- d. "keep in mind that today's technology is great"

14. Which three details from the article best support the central idea of the text?

- a. “expect the unexpected”
- b. “properly prepared”
- c. “experienced wilderness survival trainer”
- d. “require many, many hours of practice”
- e. “lightweight and compact”
- f. “today’s technology is great”
- g. “hope for the best, plan for the worst”

Refer to the excerpts “In Which the Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness” and “In Which We All Learn About Halloween” from My Side of the Mountain and the article “Help Me Make it Through the Night – surviving a wilderness emergency” when answering question 15.

15. You have read two excerpts and an article about survival in the wilderness. Are the same ideas about survival expressed in all three texts? Write a multiparagraph essay that compares and contrasts the role of preparedness (being prepared and not being prepared) on survival in the wilderness from the texts. Use relevant details and evidence from each text to support your ideas. Be sure to observe the conventions of standard English.