



Mini-Test 1

Attempts: _____ Correct: _____

Passage I

LITERARY NARRATIVE: The following passage is an excerpt from *Peter and Wendy* by J.M. Barrie (©1911 by Charles Scribner's Sons).

All children, except one, grow up. They soon know that they will grow up, and the way Wendy knew was this: one day when she was two years old, she was playing in a garden, and she plucked another flower and ran with it to her mother. I suppose she must have looked rather delightful, for Mrs. Darling put her hand to her heart and cried, "Oh, why can't you remain like this forever!" This was all that passed between them on the subject, but henceforth Wendy knew that she must grow up. You always know after you are two. Two is the beginning of the end.

The Darlings lived at number 14, and until Wendy came, her mother had been the chief one. Mrs. Darling was a lovely lady with a romantic mind and such a sweet mocking mouth. Her romantic mind was like the tiny boxes, one within the other, that come from the puzzling East; however, no matter how many you discover there is always one more, and her sweet mocking mouth had one kiss on it that Wendy could never get, though there it was, perfectly conspicuous in the right-hand corner.

The way Mr. Darling won her was this: the many gentlemen who had been boys when she was a girl discovered simultaneously that they loved her, and they all ran to her house to propose to her except Mr. Darling, who took a cab and nipped in first, so he got her. He got all of her except the innermost box and the kiss. He never knew about the box, and in time he gave up trying for the kiss. Wendy thought Napoleon could have gotten it, but I can picture him trying and then going off in a passion, slamming the door.

Mr. Darling used to boast to Wendy that her mother not only loved him but respected him. He was one of those deep ones who knows about stocks and shares. Of course no one really knows, but he quite seemed to know, and he often said stocks were up and shares were down in a way that would have made any woman respect him.

Mrs. Darling was married in white, and at first she kept the books perfectly, almost gleefully, as if it were a game. Not so much as a Brussels sprout was missing, but by and by whole cauliflowers dropped out, and instead of them there were pictures of babies without faces. She drew them when she should have been totting up. They were Mrs. Darling's guesses.

Mrs. Darling loved to have everything just so, and Mr. Darling had a passion for being exactly like his neighbors; so, of course, they had a nurse. As they were poor, owing to the amount of milk the children drank, this nurse was a prim Newfoundland dog called Nana, who had belonged to no one in particular until the Darlings engaged her. She had always thought children were important, and the Darlings had become acquainted with her in Kensington Gardens, where she spent most of her spare time peeping into baby carriages. She was much hated by careless nursemaids whom she followed to their homes and complained of to their mistresses. She proved to be quite a treasure of a nurse. How thorough she was at bath-time, and she was up at any moment of the night if one of her charges made the slightest cry. Of course her kennel was in the nursery. She had a genius for knowing when a cough was a thing to have no patience with and when it needed a stocking around your throat. She believed in old-fashioned remedies like rhubarb leaf to her last day, and she made sounds of contempt over all this new-fangled talk about germs and so on. It was a lesson in propriety to see her escorting the children to school, walking sedately by their sides when they were well behaved and butting them back into line if they strayed.

No nursery could possibly have been conducted more correctly, and Mr. Darling knew it, yet he sometimes wondered uneasily whether the neighbors talked.

1. What does the author mean when he writes that Mrs. Darling's mind was like tiny boxes?
 - A. Mrs. Darling is a complex and secretive person.
 - B. Mrs. Darling is a deep and respectful person.
 - C. Mrs. Darling is a simple-minded person.
 - D. Mrs. Darling has a very good memory.
2. Mr. Darling can best be described as:
 - F. a bold, pretentious man.
 - G. a family man of great character.
 - H. a strict authoritarian parent.
 - J. a gentle and caring man.

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3. Why did Mrs. Darling begin shirking her book-keeping duties?
- A. She started growing vegetables instead.
 - B. Someone was stealing cauliflower from their garden.
 - C. She wanted children and couldn't focus.
 - D. Mr. Darling decided to do the books instead.
4. Nana did all of the following EXCEPT:
- F. bring the children to school.
 - G. give the children baths.
 - H. sleep at the foot of the children's bed.
 - J. cure the children when they were sick.
5. The narrator explains that women respected Mr. Darling because:
- A. he was rich and smart.
 - B. he understood stocks and shares.
 - C. he was a romantic.
 - D. he demanded respect wherever he went.
6. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage that Wendy:
- F. is the center of attention in the house.
 - G. is a neglected child.
 - H. is adventurous and innocent.
 - J. has been full of contempt since the age of two.
7. It is implied in lines 43–44 that:
- A. Mr. Darling valued his reputation a great deal.
 - B. Mr. Darling felt it was important for the sake of his children's health to have a nurse.
 - C. the neighbors did not have nurses for their children.
 - D. Mr. Darling's neighbors envied him.
8. The narrator claims the Darlings are poor because:
- F. Mrs. Darling does not work.
 - G. Mr. Darling lost his job.
 - H. Mr. Darling's job is based on an unreliable market.
 - J. the children drink too much milk.
9. Why is Mr. Darling worried about what the neighbors think?
- A. Because they are poor
 - B. Because Mrs. Darling wears extravagant clothing
 - C. Because their nurse is a dog
 - D. Because their children drink too much milk
10. What does the author imply about Nana's care for the children?
- F. Nana is a more prominent character in the novel than the Darlings.
 - G. Nana is going to be the main protagonist of the novel.
 - H. Nana played a larger role in the children's lives than their parents did.
 - J. The neighbors want to replace their nurses with a dog like Nana.

END OF MINI-TEST ONE
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UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.