

English I Reading

Administered April 2013

RELEASED

READING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Copyright restrictions prevent "Postcard: New Delhi" from being displayed in this format. To access this selection, please refer to *Time Magazine*, November 26, 2007. For *Time Magazine* subscribers, the selection is available at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1684522,00.html>.

A map and a photograph were included with this selection in the printed version of the English I Reading test and are shown below.

Page 1 of Selection



Page 2 of Selection



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Copyright restrictions prevent "Postcard: New Delhi" from being displayed in this format. To access this selection, please refer to *Time Magazine*, November 26, 2007. For *Time Magazine* subscribers, the selection is available at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1684522,00.html>.

1 Nirmal Jindal believes that the purpose of Gupta’s airplane is to —

- A** teach people how to act properly on an airplane
 - B** help people overcome their fear of flying
 - C** demonstrate how comfortable the seats are
 - D** make flying more affordable for Indians
-

2 Why does the author use sentence fragments to begin the article?

- F** To make the reader believe that car travel is better than air travel
 - G** To frighten the reader by issuing warnings about air travel
 - H** To offer the reader a description of a foreign airport
 - J** To interest the reader by connecting with a common flight experience
-

3 The author includes quotations from Gupta primarily to —

- A** show how long it took Gupta to modify his airplane
- B** describe the condition of the Indian airline industry
- C** explain Gupta’s motivation for taking on the project
- D** highlight the importance of training in airline safety

- 4** In which line does the author use figurative language to explain why people participate in the simulation?
- F** *In a nod to a more innocent time, passengers are free to visit the pilots in the cockpit.*
 - G** *Still, for many passengers, the experience is mainly about letting dreams take wing.*
 - H** *The perky attendant runs through various drills, ending with life-vest use.*
 - J** *Because space is limited, the plane has been cut down to about two-thirds its normal length and is held in place by thick concrete pillars.*

-
- 5** The first and last paragraphs offer which contradictory opinions?
- A** Flying is no fun; flying is something to look forward to.
 - B** Oxygen masks are hard to use; airplane safety is important.
 - C** Airplane food tastes awful; passengers enjoy meals on airplanes.
 - D** Plastic deck chairs are ugly; the airplane cabin is pretty.

6 What is the best summary of the selection?

- F** Frustrated by the bad food and lost luggage that accompany modern air travel, B. C. Gupta decided to build a model airplane for his own use. He now welcomes visitors on board for a small fee and even keeps the cabin air-conditioned for comfort.
- G** Engineering students and flight attendants are now receiving training through an innovative program that takes place on a renovated Indian Airlines plane. Attendants like Ridhi Sehgal learn the proper methods for tasks such as oxygen mask demonstrations.
- H** Former airline engineer B. C. Gupta, in an effort to familiarize Indian citizens with air travel protocol, built an airplane replica in which he holds training sessions. The sessions include training in airplane behavior, safety, and etiquette.
- J** College professor Nirmal Jindal is concerned about the way Indian citizens behave on airplanes. As more people begin to travel by airplane, Jindal hopes they will learn such basic manners as how to treat airline hostesses.

7 What is the primary purpose of the map?

- A** To help the reader identify the selection's setting
- B** To show which countries border India
- C** To illustrate the distance between New Delhi and Mumbai
- D** To allow the reader to visualize the selection's details

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

SHORT ANSWER #1

DIRECTIONS

Answer the following question in the box labeled “Short Answer #1” on page 2 of your answer document.

After reading “Postcard: New Delhi,” do you think Gupta’s modified airplane is a good idea? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from the selection.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

The Dinner Party

by Mona Gardner

- 1 The country is India. A colonial official and his wife are giving a large dinner party. They are seated with their guests—army officers and government attachés and their wives, and a visiting American naturalist—in their spacious dining room, which has a bare marble floor, open rafters and wide glass doors opening onto a veranda.
- 2 A spirited discussion springs up between a young girl who insists that women have outgrown the jumping-on-a-chair-at-the-sight-of-a-mouse era and a colonel who says that they haven't.
- 3 "A woman's unflinching reaction in any crisis," the colonel says, "is to scream. And while a man may feel like it, he has that ounce more of nerve control than a woman has. And that last ounce is what counts."
- 4 The American does not join in the argument but watches the other guests. As he looks, he sees a strange expression come over the face of the hostess. She is staring straight ahead, her muscles contracting slightly. With a slight gesture she summons the native boy standing behind her chair and whispers to him. The boy's eyes widen: he quickly leaves the room.
- 5 Of the guests, none except the American notices this or sees the boy place a bowl of milk on the veranda just outside the open doors.
- 6 The American comes to with a start. In India, milk in a bowl means only one thing—bait for a snake. He realizes there must be a cobra in the room. He looks up at the rafters—the likeliest place—but they are bare. Three corners of the room are empty, and in the fourth the servants are waiting to serve the next course. There is only one place left—under the table.
- 7 His first impulse is to jump back and warn the others, but he knows the commotion would frighten the cobra into striking. He speaks quickly, the tone of his voice so arresting that it sobers everyone.
- 8 "I want to know just what control everyone at this table has. I will count to three hundred—that's five minutes—and not one of you is to move a muscle. Those who move will forfeit fifty rupees. Ready!"
- 9 The twenty people sit like stone images while he counts. He is saying ". . . two hundred and eighty . . ." when, out of the corner of his eye, he sees the cobra emerge and make for the bowl of milk. Screams ring out as he jumps to slam the veranda doors safely shut.

- 10 "You were right, Colonel!" the host exclaims. "A man has just shown us an example of perfect control."
- 11 "Just a minute," the American says, turning to his hostess. "Mrs. Wynnes, how did you know that cobra was in the room?"
- 12 A faint smile lights up the woman's face as she replies: "Because it was crawling across my foot."

Originally published in *Saturday Review of Literature*, 25: 15–16, January 31, 1942.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.BookMatch.net>. The page header includes the BookMatch.net logo, a greeting "Hello, Welcome Back!", and navigation links for "My Books", "My Account", and "Sign Out". Below the header, a promotional banner reads "We have book matches for you! If you enjoyed 'The Dinner Party,' consider reading:". Three book covers are displayed in a carousel:

- The Art of Control:** 10 Motivational Essays About Retaining Composure to Get Positive Results. From the author of the bestseller *Fear Nothing*. Price: \$14.95. Reviews: ★★★.
- My New Delhi:** A Memoir from India's Royalty. By Ravi Sida. Price: \$17.95. Reviews: ★★★★★.
- UNEXPECTED GUESTS:** A GUIDE TOWARD UNDERSTANDING YOUR ANIMAL NEIGHBORS. BY ANIMAL EXPERT JACK BROWN. Price: \$9.95. Reviews: ★★.

Photographs courtesy of (left to right) © Michael Hanson/CORBIS; © Katja Ruge/CORBIS; © Bernd Vogel/CORBIS

8 The hostess can best be described as —

- F** elitist
- G** talkative
- H** composed
- J** generous

9 The American faces the challenge of —

- A** making sure the hostess doesn't stay quiet longer than he does
- B** keeping the guests quiet until the cobra leaves the room
- C** calming his fear of snakes in order to capture the cobra
- D** learning Indian social etiquette so that he will be respected by the other guests

10 Which words from paragraph 7 best help the reader understand the use of the word *arresting*?

- F** *it sobers everyone*
- G** *frighten the cobra*
- H** *he knows the commotion*
- J** *He speaks quickly*

- 11** What is the primary purpose of paragraph 1?
- A** To start the story with an exciting event
 - B** To establish the context for the events that follow
 - C** To reveal that the narrator is unreliable
 - D** To introduce the reader to the story's primary conflict
-

- 12** Which of these is an example of irony in the story?
- F** A colonel and a young girl debate whether men and women have different amounts of self-control.
 - G** Cobras normally hide in the rafters of a room, but the cobra in the story is under the table.
 - H** The American is the only person at the party besides the hostess who realizes the danger everyone is in.
 - J** The hostess exhibits extreme self-control at the very moment the colonel is saying that women lack it.
-

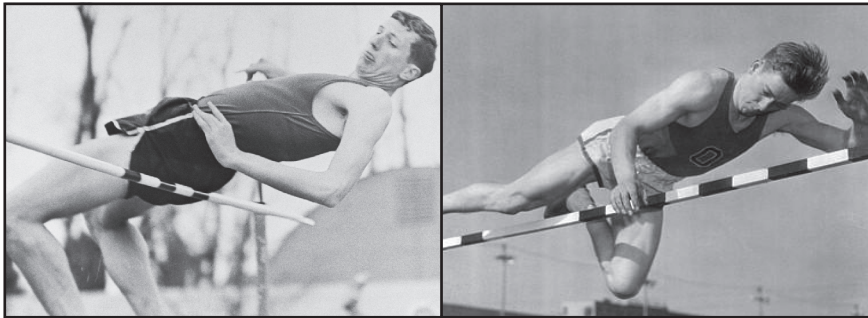
- 13** The books recommended on the website all relate to which aspect of "The Dinner Party"?
- A** Its symbolism
 - B** Its story line
 - C** Its characters
 - D** Its setting

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Copyright restrictions prevent "Fosbury, Richard Douglas" from being displayed in this format. To access the selection, please refer to *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives—Sports Figures* edited by Arnold Markoe.

Two photographs and a series of drawings were included with this selection in the printed version of the English I Reading test and are shown below.

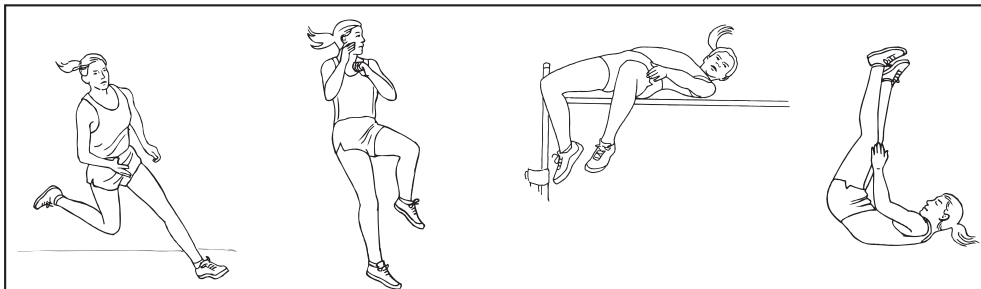
Page 1 of Selection



Dick Fosbury (left photo) developed his unique style of high jumping (the Fosbury Flop) and went on to set an Olympic record when he cleared 7 feet 4 1/4 inches (2.24 meters) in 1968. Les Steers (right photo) used the straddle (or belly roll) technique, which was popular at the time, to set a world high jump record of 6 feet 11 inches (2.11 meters) in 1941.

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A jumper executing the Fosbury Flop sprints toward the bar, plants her right foot, spins 180 degrees, and launches herself backward, landing on her shoulders.

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14 Which expression from paragraph 8 means “to glorify”?

- F** *put on a pedestal*
 - G** *get out of control*
 - H** *tear you down*
 - J** *let you become human*
-

15 Why does the author include details about the “scissors” style of high jumping?

- A** To help the reader visualize the Fosbury Flop
 - B** To demonstrate that track-and-field competitors like to use descriptive terminology
 - C** To emphasize that the high jump can be dangerous for young athletes
 - D** To describe a technique that was common before the Fosbury Flop
-

16 What can the reader conclude from paragraph 5?

- F** When Fosbury competed at the 1968 Olympics, he was the center of attention.
- G** Olympic spectators are more interested in high jumpers than in marathon runners.
- H** Fosbury didn’t face much competition at the 1968 Olympics.
- J** The Olympics used to produce more record-setting performances.

- 17** The author includes the information in paragraph 4 to —
- A** show Fosbury’s determination and eventual success
 - B** explain the mechanics of the Fosbury Flop
 - C** demonstrate Fosbury’s reluctance to follow the advice of others
 - D** emphasize Fosbury’s desire to get a college education
-

- 18** According to the selection, why was it not surprising that younger athletes were the first to use the Fosbury Flop?
- F** Younger athletes were less afraid to use the “scissors” approach.
 - G** Older athletes were already committed to the established style of high jumping.
 - H** Successful high jumpers were convinced the Fosbury Flop wouldn’t result in higher jumps.
 - J** It is human nature to resist change.
-

- 19** The author organizes the selection by —
- A** discussing only Fosbury’s successes in high jumping
 - B** showing what Fosbury’s coaches taught him
 - C** presenting a chronological account of Fosbury’s high jumping career
 - D** comparing Fosbury’s life to the lives of other track-and-field athletes

- 20** The author ends the selection with information about Fosbury's later life in order to show —
- F** what an athlete can expect when he or she gets older
 - G** Fosbury's continued commitment to the sport and the honors he has received
 - H** an example of what it takes to be elected to the United States Olympic Hall of Fame
 - J** why it is important for famous athletes to serve as role models for others

-
- 21** The primary purpose of the series of drawings is to help the reader —
- A** attempt the Fosbury Flop in competition
 - B** determine the height that can be attained with the Fosbury Flop
 - C** see that the Fosbury Flop is effective for female as well as male athletes
 - D** understand how the Fosbury Flop is executed

Read the next two selections and answer the questions that follow.

Sunday Morning Early

by David Romtvedt

My daughter and I paddle identical red kayaks
across the lake. Pulling hard, we slip easily
through the water. Far from either shore
it hits me that my daughter is a young woman,
5 and suddenly everything is a metaphor for how
short a time we are granted on earth:
the red boats on the blue-black water,
the russet and gold of late summer's sunburnt grasses,
the empty blue sky. We stop and listen to the stillness.
10 I say, "It's Sunday, and here we are
in the church of the out-of-doors."
Then I wish I'd had the sense to stay quiet.
That's the trick in life—learning to leave well enough alone.

Our boats drift north to where the chirring
15 of grasshoppers reaches us from the rocky hills.
A clap of thunder beyond those hills. How well sound
travels over water. I want to say just the right thing,
something stronger and truer than a lame *I love you*.
I want my daughter to know that, through her, I live
20 a life that was closed to me before. I paddle up
beside her, lean out from the boat, and touch
her hand. I start to speak, then stop.

Used by permission of the author.

I Wish I Was a Poet

from *Like One of the Family*

by Alice Childress

- 1 Marge, I wish I was a poet. . . . Now that's no cause for you to stop stringing the beans and lookin' at me like you was struck by lightnin'. . . . No, I don't wish it on account of I want to be famous, but I do wish it because sometimes there are poetry things that I see and I'd like to tell people about them in a poetry way; only I don't know how, and when I tell it, it's just a plain flat story.
- 2 Well, for an instance, you know my cousin Thelma stopped in town for a few days, and she stayed at a downtown hotel. . . . Yes, I dropped by to see her last night. . . . Now, Marge, when I walked up to the desk to get her room number, all of a sudden the folks in the lobby cleared a path on both sides of me and I was about to get real salty about their attitude when I chanced to look behind me and saw two old people walkin' up to the desk. . . .
- 3 No, they were white, and you've never seen such a couple in your life—a man and his wife, and they must have been in their seventies. They were raggedy and kinda beat. The old lady wore men's shoes and trousers and an old battered raincoat and on her head a man's hat. From under the hat her white hair hung in curly wisps—and she was pretty. . . .



© G. Marshall Wilson/Ebony Collection via AP Images

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY—Alice Childress (1916–1994)

Alice Childress, the African American author of the short story "I Wish I Was a Poet," was born in South Carolina but moved to Harlem when she was nine to live with her grandmother. She credits her grandmother, who had no formal education, with exposing her to a world of culture as well as instilling in her a love of storytelling and a sensitivity to class issues.

Dedicated to the art of storytelling, Childress explored a variety of methods in order to share ideas throughout her lifetime, including serving as a playwright, novelist, actor, director, and teacher.

- 4 Yes, mam, she was pretty and still she was seventy and bent and dragged her feet along instead of liftin' them. The man was dressed just as sorry as her and in his hand he carried a paper bag. . . . Marge, he was lookin' at her like every woman on earth dreams of bein' looked at, and her eyes were doin' the same thing back at him.
- 5 Honey, everyone was standin', just starin'. There was a giggle from some kid and one well-dressed woman looked like she was goin' to faint, but the old man walked up to the clerk with the old lady follerin' behind him and he said in a quavery voice, "We'd like a room for the night."
- 6 Well, you could cut the silence with a knife. The clerk hemmed and hawed while they stood there lookin' back at him real innocent and peaceful, and finally he said, "You'll have to pay in advance." "How much is the cheapest room?" the old man asked. The clerk breathed a little easier and said: "Three-fifty." The old man went in his coat pocket and brought out four crumpled up dollar bills and put them on the desk.
- 7 The clerk turned red in the face and said real loud, "You can't have a room without carryin' baggage—where's your baggage?" You could hear a pin drop when the old man placed the paper bag on the desk, opened it and pulled out two rough dry shirts. . . . Well, with that the clerk took the money, gave him a key and fifty cents change and said, "Top floor rear!"
- 8 The couple smiled in such a dignified way, and it seemed like they hadn't noticed a thing. They started over toward the elevator and then the old lady turned away from the man and made her way over to the receptionist's desk. Everyone kept their eyes dead on her, and the receptionist, who was awfully young and pretty, was almost scared out of her wits. The old lady kept makin' straight for her, and I could see that the young lady was gonna scream any second. . . .
- 9 When the old woman reached the desk, she leaned over a bowl of red roses that was there and, ever so gently, breathed in the sweet smell, and then she turned away and quickly joined her husband at the elevator, and nobody moved until the doors closed and they were gone from sight. . . .
- 10 That's all, Marge. Of course, there was buzzin' and hummin' after that, but I got to wonderin' about who they were and where they came from . . . and did they have children . . . and how much work they both done in their lifetime . . . and what it must feel like to be old and draggin' around in the cold.
- 11 That's all there is to the story and it sure don't sound like much the way I tell it, but if I was a poet, I would sing a song of praise for the love in their eyes and I would make you see the sight of a lifetime when that ragged lady bent over those roses, and I would tell how awful it is to be old and broke in the midst of plenty. . . . And that's what I mean when I say—sometimes I wish I was a poet.

Use "Sunday Morning Early" (p. 21) to answer questions 22–27. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

22 Which words best help the reader understand the meaning of the word *russet* in line 8?

F *blue-black water*

G *boats, grasses*

H *gold, sunburnt*

J *empty blue sky*

23 Read the following lines from the poem.

I say, "It's Sunday, and here we are
in the church of the out-of-doors."

By using this analogy, the poet emphasizes —

A the speaker's authority as a parent

B the importance of spending time with family

C the speaker's emotional vulnerability

D the sacredness of nature

24 Read these lines from the poem.

A clap of thunder beyond those hills. How well sound
travels over water. . . .

The poet uses these lines to emphasize the importance of —

- F** truth
- G** listening
- H** power
- J** imagination

25 Which line best explains why the speaker begins to speak at the end of the poem but then stops?

- A** A clap of thunder beyond those hills.
- B** it hits me that my daughter is a young woman,
- C** the russet and gold of late summer's sunburnt grasses,
- D** That's the trick in life—learning to leave well enough alone.

- 26** What does the poet mean by the lines “suddenly everything is a metaphor for how/short a time we are granted on earth”?
- F** Nature often serves as a reminder that time does not stand still.
 - G** Time passes differently for different people.
 - H** The future represents uncertainty.
 - J** Ordinary occurrences in nature cannot always be described.

-
- 27** What is the most likely reason the poet ends the first stanza after line 13?
- A** To emphasize the poem’s central message
 - B** To indicate a change in the poem’s setting
 - C** To introduce new details about the poem’s speaker
 - D** To highlight a shift in point of view

**Use "I Wish I Was a Poet" (pp. 22–23) to answer questions 28–33.
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 28** What is the primary purpose of paragraphs 1 and 11?
- F** To show how the narrator's viewpoint changes
 - G** To frame the story with the narrator's primary conflict
 - H** To contrast the narrator's opinion with Marge's opinion
 - J** To highlight the resolution of the narrator's conflict
-
- 29** In paragraph 6, what is the effect of the author's use of figurative language?
- A** It highlights the old couple's naiveté.
 - B** It reveals the clerk's confusion.
 - C** It shows how reluctant the old man is to pay.
 - D** It emphasizes the tension of the scene.

30 Which sentence best supports the idea that the old couple is still in love after many years?

- F** *No, they were white, and you've never seen such a couple in your life—a man and his wife, and they must have been in their seventies.*
 - G** *Marge, he was lookin' at her like every woman on earth dreams of bein' looked at, and her eyes were doin' the same thing back at him.*
 - H** *They started over toward the elevator and then the old lady turned away from the man and made her way over to the receptionist's desk.*
 - J** *The couple smiled in such a dignified way, and it seemed like they hadn't noticed a thing.*
-

31 The narrator faces a major conflict over how to —

- A** capture the beauty and essence of the story she is relating
 - B** communicate effectively with Marge
 - C** succeed in becoming a writer
 - D** find happiness like that shared by the old couple
-

32 By having the narrator tell the story to Marge, the author allows the reader to function as —

- F** a firsthand witness
- G** a second storyteller
- H** a third-party observer
- J** an informed participant

33 The author uses ellipses primarily to —

- A** give the story a conversational tone
- B** make the reader think that the story will have an unexpected ending
- C** indicate that the narrator is judgmental
- D** imply that the reader should act as a participant in the events of the story

Use “Sunday Morning Early” and “I Wish I Was a Poet” to answer questions 34–38. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

34 Which quotation from “I Wish I Was a Poet” best reflects the speaker’s overall experience in “Sunday Morning Early”?

F *They were raggedy and kinda beat.*

G *Everyone kept their eyes dead on her, and the receptionist, who was awfully young and pretty, was almost scared out of her wits.*

H *Yes, I dropped by to see her last night. . . .*

J *Sometimes there are poetry things that I see and I’d like to tell people about them in a poetry way. . . .*

35 Which two actions in the selections have a similar meaning?

A Paddling identical kayaks in “Sunday Morning Early” and staying at a downtown hotel in “I Wish I Was a Poet”

B Hearing the chirring of grasshoppers in “Sunday Morning Early” and taking out the crumpled dollar bills in “I Wish I Was a Poet”

C Listening to the stillness in “Sunday Morning Early” and smelling the roses in “I Wish I Was a Poet”

D Leaning out of the boat in “Sunday Morning Early” and stringing the beans in “I Wish I Was a Poet”

- 36** What is one difference between the speaker of “Sunday Morning Early” and the narrator of “I Wish I Was a Poet”?
- F** The speaker wishes to remain quiet, while the narrator wishes to tell a story.
 - G** The speaker tries to communicate with the daughter, while the narrator tries to exclude Marge.
 - H** The speaker enjoys being in nature, while the narrator enjoys being indoors.
 - J** The speaker has a pessimistic outlook, while the narrator has an optimistic one.
-

37 The mood of both selections is —

- A** depressing
 - B** bittersweet
 - C** frightening
 - D** carefree
-

38 What do the daughter in “Sunday Morning Early” and Marge in “I Wish I Was a Poet” have in common?

- F** They share the same point of view.
- G** Neither listens to what is being said.
- H** They share a passion for bold adventures.
- J** Neither has a line of dialogue.

SHORT ANSWER #2

DIRECTIONS

Answer the following question in the box labeled "Short Answer #2" on page 3 of your answer document.

What message do you think the speaker in "Sunday Morning Early" and the narrator of "I Wish I Was a Poet" are trying to convey? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from **both** selections.



**STAAR
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April 2013**

