

Name _____

UNIT THREE

Chapters 5 and 6

COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word *babbling* mean?

If Mr. Miller was babbling about missing money, it might have been just a coincidence. Tuttle himself said Mr. Miller was demented. Maybe he did not even know what he was talking about.

- a. thinking
- b. singing
- c. forgetting
- d. talking senselessly

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word *anguished* mean?

... Roylin hoped that Mr. Miller was somewhere good now and that he could hear Roylin's anguished voice. "I'm sorry, Mr. Miller, I'm sorry. Please hear me. Please forgive me. I didn't mean to make you die."

- a. cheerful and carefree
- b. uninterested and boring
- c. upset and tormented
- d. aggressive and threatening

B. Supporting Details

3. The following words were said by

- a. Roylin Bailey.
- b. Amberlynn Bailey.
- c. Mrs. Bailey.
- d. Tuttle.

"The guilt is catin' you alive, isn't it, Roylin? I used to be like that. When I was very young, before life hardened me, the guilt would gnaw at me too. Don't worry about it. As time goes by, you'll care less. You'll be able to remember Ambrose Miller and laugh at what a useless old fool he was."

4. The following words were said by

- a. Korie Archer.
- b. Amberlynn Bailey.
- c. Mrs. Bailey.
- d. Roylin Bailey.

"I hate you so much. You're just like Tuttle. I wish he would adopt you so you could go live down there with him in the basement!"

5. The following words were said by

- a. Roylin Bailey.
- b. Cooper Hodden.
- c. Hakeem Randall.
- d. Steve Morris.

"You shoulda dated me when I asked you, Darcy. Remember when I asked you out and you blew me off? I wouldn't be giving you some cheap trinket like that."

C. Main Idea

6. The central point of the selection on the next page is that

- a. when Roylin is with Korie, he can justify all that happened in Mr. Miller's apartment.

Roylin smiled. Here, sitting beside Korie in the sunny classroom, it seemed so much easier to dismiss all that had happened in the apartment. He never meant to hurt Mr. Miller. He had just borrowed some money. Mr. Miller would not have minded that. Roylin would have paid it back, except that before he could, Mr. Miller died of old age, that was all. . . . Maybe it was not even the missing money that triggered the heart attack. How could that old devil Tuttle know that for sure? . . . Tuttle himself said Mr. Miller was demented. Maybe he did not even know what he was talking about.

- 7. Which sentence best expresses the central point of the following selection?
 - a. Roylin is comforted by the sights and smells of Mr. Miller's apartment.
 - b. Mr. Miller's familiar apartment painfully reminds Roylin of his wrongdoings.
 - c. Even though he was elderly, Mr. Miller liked to keep his place clean.

Roylin went into the apartment he had entered so many times before. Filled with the aroma of vanilla air freshener, the room still smelled as if Mr. Miller had never left. Even though he was old and frail, Mr. Miller always kept his apartment clean. Roylin shuddered as he stepped into the living room. His throat tightened, and he decided to quickly toss everything in a garbage bag and get out fast.

- 8. Which sentence best expresses the central point of the following selection?
 - a. Roylin regrets buying Mr. Miller a cheap present from a thrift store.
 - b. The sweater reminds Roylin of the joy he and Mr. Miller brought to each other in the past.
 - c. Mr. Miller liked the cardigan sweater even though Roylin bought it at a thrift store.

Roylin remembered it then—the cardigan sweater he had bought for Mr. Miller the Christmas Roylin was eleven. Roylin saved money from his odd jobs and went to a thrift store and got Mr. Miller a nice cardigan sweater with a red and white pattern on it. How touched Mr. Miller had been by the gift. How proud Roylin had felt to give it to him, even though it was only a used sweater from the thrift store. It was the one gift Roylin gave that meant more to his old friend than anything else.

D. Conclusions

- 9. You can conclude from the following selection that
 - a. Darcy now regrets dating Hakeem and wishes she was dating Roylin.
 - b. Roylin thinks that the more expensive a gift is, the better the gift is.
 - c. Amberlynn prefers to wear silver jewelry.

"Hi, Darcy," Amberlynn said as she entered the room. Something seemed to catch her eye. "Ooh, let me see!" she exclaimed, pointing at the gold charm on Darcy's bracelet.

"It's an 'H,'" Darcy said. "Hakeem gave it to me."

"It's really pretty," Amberlynn said.

"I bet Hakeem got it at the dollar store," Roylin interrupted. "You shoulda dated me when I asked you, Darcy. Remember when I asked you out and you blew me off? I wouldn't be giving you some cheap trinket like that."

Annoyance darkened Darcy's face, but she said only, "Like they say, it's the thought that counts. Not the price."

- 10. From the following excerpt you can conclude that probably
 - a. Korie's mother completely trusts her daughter to manage her responsibilities.
 - b. Korie can't wait to see Roylin and is excited when he finally calls.
 - c. Korie agrees to see Roylin only so she can get her present.

"I'm feelin' really low and I need you right now, okay?" Roylin said desperately.

"Oh man, Roylin, I'm swamped with homework, and I got that horrible history paper about a stupid Civil War general. Mom expects me to stay home and do schoolwork. . . . [S]he'll check on me like a jail warden!"

"Please, Korie. I got something for you. You won't be sorry," Roylin begged.

"Well . . . okay," she replied. "If you pick me up, and we just spend a little time together, I guess it's okay."

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SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. When Korie is beside Roylin in class, he thinks differently about all that has happened with Mr. Miller. How do his thoughts change?

2. What does Hakeem say to Roylin about Korie? How does Roylin respond?

3. What chores does Tuttle demand that Roylin do for him? What is Roylin's reaction?

4. What does Roylin do to Amberlynn that upsets her and their mother? Why does he do this?

5. What kinds of emotions does Roylin feel when he's cleaning out Mr. Miller's apartment?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Tuttle threatens to call the police, Roylin fearfully gives in to Tuttle's demands. If you were in Roylin's position, what would you do: cooperate with Tuttle—or refuse his demands? What are the pros and cons of both decisions?
2. During their conversation about gifts, Darcy and Roylin express different ideas about what makes a gift special. What does each of them believe? Whose view do you identify with more: Roylin's or Darcy's? Explain.
3. Hakeem tries to warn Roylin about Korie. Do you agree with the way he goes about doing this? If you had a friend who was getting involved with someone you thought was "trouble," what would you do?

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Think about how Roylin's mother reacts to his misbehavior—how she talks to him, what she says, what she threatens to do if he continues. Then write her a letter telling her whether you agree with how she's been handling Roylin's conduct. Offer detailed analysis of the various things she's said. Be sure to offer her additional advice for dealing with Roylin in the future.
2. In the course of cleaning Mr. Miller's apartment, Roylin fondly recalls the thrift-store cardigan sweater he gave Mr. Miller as a child. Write about a special gift that you recall giving to a loved one when you were young. Who was the recipient? What made your gift so memorable and special? Did the person react as you had hoped? Be sure to include details about the gift itself as well as about the reaction of the person receiving it.
3. Some might argue that Korie is paying attention to Roylin only because she knows that he will buy her an expensive gift. Write about a time when you treated someone a certain way in order to get something you wanted. You might write about dealing with parents, a friend, teacher, coach, or someone else. What did you want from that person? What did you do to get on the person's "good side"? Looking back, how do you feel about what you did, and would you recommend this type of behavior to others?