

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**  
**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**WEEK ELEVEN: LESSON ONE**

**SUBJECT:** English 'A'  
**GRADE:** Eleven (11)  
**TOPIC:** **COMPREHENSION**

**OBJECTIVE(S)**

**With the aid of a text students will select the correct response to the given questions.**

**READ THE POEM CAREFULLY BEFORE ANSWERING ITEM 1-8**

The Companion

Kayta was her name. She was nine.  
I'd no idea what I could do about her,  
but doubt quickly dissolved into certainty;  
I'd have to take this thing under my wing;  
girls were in some sense of the word human,  
a human being couldn't just be left.  
The droning in the air and the explosions  
receded farther into the distance,  
I touched the little girl on her elbow.  
"Come on. Do you hear? What are you waiting for?"  
The world was big and we were not big,  
and it was tough for us to walk across it. She had  
galoshes on and felt boots  
We forded streams and tramped across the forest;  
each of my feet at every step it took  
taking a smaller step inside the boot.  
The child was feeble, I was certain of it:  
"Boohoo", She'd say. "I'm tired", She'd say.  
She'd tire in no time I was certain of it,  
But as things turned out it was me who tired  
I growled I wasn't going any further  
and sat down suddenly beside the fence.  
"What's the matter with you?" She said.

“Don’t be stupid! Put grass in your boots.  
Do you want to eat something? Why don’t you talk?  
Hold this tin, this is crab.  
We’ll have refreshments. You small boys,  
you’re always pretending to be brave.”  
Then out I went across the prickly stubble  
marching beside her in a few minutes.  
Masculine pride was muttering in my mind:  
I scraped together strength and I held  
out for fear of what she’d say. I even whistled.  
Grass was sticking out of my tattered boots.  
So on and on  
we walked without thinking of rest:  
passing craters, passing fire  
under the rocking sky of “41”  
tottering crazy on its smoking columns  
*Yevgeny Yevtushenko*

1. The episode described in the poem took place after
  - (A) a fire
  - (B) a volcano
  - (C) a train crash
  - (D) an air-raid
2. Which of the following BEST describes the speaker as he is revealed in lines 1-4?
  - (A) Disdainful but sympathetic
  - (B) Cruel and heartless
  - (C) Thoughtful and tender
  - (D) Loving and practical
3. The speaker’s impression of the girl when he decided to take her with him was that she
  - (A) unmanageable
  - (B) weak
  - (C) unfriendly
  - (D) silly
4. The speaker and the girl were walking across the country because
  - (A) their train had reached its destination
  - (B) their grandmothers had deserted them
  - (C) they were looking for a safe place

- (D) they were playing truant
5. Katya, as revealed in lines 24-29 of the poem, can be BEST be described as
- (A) cheerful and understanding
  - (B) bossy and resourceful
  - (C) friendly and talkative
  - (D) angry and mocking
6. Despite his feelings of tiredness, which of the following made the boy keep on moving across the country?
- (A) Pride
  - (B) Courage
  - (C) Fear
  - (D) Hope
7. The speaker in the last eleven lines of the poem (lines 30-40) can BEST be described as
- (A) strong and fearless
  - (B) confident and boastful
  - (C) proud and preserving
  - (D) sensitive and happy
8. The fact that the speaker in the poem "...even whistled" (line 34) indicates that the speaker was
- (A) cheerfully optimistic
  - (B) trying to cheer up Katya
  - (C) musically talented
  - (D) attempting to hide his feelings

*READ THE PASSAGE CAREFULLY BEFORE ANSWERING QUESTIONS 9-18*

Last March

Early one evening last March, a 73-year-old Jewish grandmother heard a strange noise in the hallway outside her apartment in the Squirrel Hill neighbourhood of Pittsburgh. Straightening her housecoat, she opened the door. No one there. She went to the rear stairwell, pushed open the fire door, and came face-to-face with two burglars. They were carrying a 300-pound safe.

For an instant the three stared at one another. ‘then the woman, rising as tall as her five feet five inches would allow, broke the silence.

“Where ya going?” She demanded. The pair didn’t wait to answer. They dropped the safe and ran.

It was just like an Abbott and Costello movie,” the woman recalled later from the front seat of her chauffeur-driven car. “Their mouths literally fell open when they saw me.”

And why not? Of the 370,000 people in Pittsburgh the last one the crooks expected to meet in the stairwell was the mayor, Sophie Masloff, Crime fighter

In her no-nonsense way, the mayor was demonstrating the tough, taking-care-of-business attitude for which Pittsburghers’ are famous- the same attitude with which they confronted their city’s fearful economic problems during the past decade.

Shaken by the collapse of the steel industry, which had provided them with an unshakeable case of identity for more than a century. Pittsburghers’ hunkered down and built a new economy based on services, medicine, education, and technology. In the process, they transformed their community from one driven by quantity of production into one devoted to quality of life

*Extract from “Pittsburgh-Stronger than steel”  
Peter Miller from National Geographic, Dec ‘91*

9. The atmosphere created by the writer in paragraph 1 is one of
- (a) fear
  - (b) suspense
  - (c) anxiety
  - (d) excitement
10. The phrase, “straightening her housecoat” suggest that:
- a. the lady was expecting guest.
  - b. the lady was meticulous about the dress
  - c. the lady wanted to appear neatly dressed in the event that she had visitors
  - d. the lady was getting ready to go out.
11. The burglars’ reaction to the lady was one of
- a. horror
  - b. amazement
  - c. surprise
  - d. shock
12. The phrase, “it was just like an Abbott and Costello movie” implies that:
- a. the burglars behaved like clowns
  - b. the entire incident was comical
  - c. the burglars were humorous
  - d. the incident was awkward
13. What does the writer use the rhetorical question, “And why not?” to suggest?
- a. That the mayor was not seen often.
  - b. That the mayor was least expected to be there.
  - c. That the mayor could have identified with the burglars’ reaction.
  - d. That no one knew where the mayor lived.
14. In the passage, the mayor recaps her encounter with the burglars to
- a. describe a humorous encounter
  - b. point out a particular attitude to life
  - c. show how foolish burglars’ are
  - d. show that the burglars were typical of the people in Pittsburg
15. According to the writer, Pittsburghers’ confront their economic problems:
- a. in a no-nonsense way

- b. with a tough, businesslike attitude
  - c. in a fearful way
  - d. in the same attitude of the burglars
16. The phrase, “an unshakeable sense of identity for more than a century” suggest:
- a. that the Pittsburghers were quite aware of their identity
  - b. that the Pittsburghers had firmly established their identity
  - c. that the Pittsburghers were absorbed in the activities of the steel industry
  - d. that the steel industry determined the Pittsburghers identity
17. According to the passage, how did Pittsburgh transform itself?
- a. By producing more quantity than quality steel.
  - b. By linking the service sector with the steel industry.
  - c. By moving from production of steel to social services.
  - d. By moving away from an economy concerned with quantity of production to quality of life.
18. The style of this passage can be described as:
- a. conversational
  - b. argumentative
  - c. factual
  - d. descriptive