

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate. (10 MARKS)

PROSE FICTION: *Silence: A Story of Courage and Healing*

Some say that silence is a great healer. If you'd said that to me two years ago, I wouldn't have agreed. "Silence," I would have argued, "is anything but healing. There is nothing therapeutic about keeping your feelings inside, never talking about what's going on in your life." I now believe that silence is the reward you get from great healing, in addition to being the healer itself. But I didn't know that then. I had never understood the value of silence.

10 I didn't have to. My family was loud and happy. And why not? Nothing serious ever went wrong—not that we knew about. Sure, my siblings and I always fought noisily until our mom yelled at us to stop. Then we'd shout and complain about injustice, but always, eventually, hug and make-up. Within the parameters of my innocent world, I knew silence as a lack of something: a lack of noise, a lack of discussion, a lack of feeling, a lack of love. Maybe I was even a little afraid of the emptiness it created—the aural darkness where forgiveness never happened. I thought I knew ... I was very wrong.

Jaime entered my life without much fanfare about two years ago. I'll never forget the day I met him. My university required a community service stint to graduate, and I wanted to get it out of the way. I'd heard that the local YMCA was a good resource, and I liked working with little kids. I thought maybe they'd let me teach swimming. So, on a cool October day in the fall of my sophomore year, I made my way to the YMCA looking for easy credits.

I didn't have a car at school until my junior year of college, so if I needed to go anywhere, I would generally catch a ride with a friend or walk. On that particular day, no friend was available and the ten-mile walk was far beyond my dedication to public service. Consequently, I was at the mercy of public transportation. Thankfully, I'd heard the local bus system was pretty reliable. With the help of the CITA bus line map, I climbed onto Bus Route 3, paid my fifty cents, and scanned for a seat. Buses often have their own unique demographic: each crowd is unlike

any other. On this bus, most everyone was either asleep or totally oblivious. Except for one kid. He wasn't all that big—maybe thirteen years old—and he was seated by himself, farther apart from the other riders than seemed possible in such a crowded space. Unlike the others, his eyes were

alert. And they were glued on me .Normally, I ignore people with such awkward habits. But for some reason, I couldn't stop staring back. Odder still, instead of avoiding him, I found myself passing an empty seat to sit down on the bench beside him. Once I did, he turned to look out the window. That's when the strangeness of it all hit me, and I started to feel a little awkward. I wanted to get back in control of the situation. Trying to be subtle, I looked him over. I noticed some scarring on his hands, and a small gash on his cheek. Suddenly, he turned and looked me in the eye. Expecting him to say something, I just waited, watching. He said nothing. After about

fifteen seconds, I couldn't take the silence anymore .“Hi,” I said, trying not to appear as nervous as I

felt.

No response. He just kept staring .“I'm Katie.” I added a smile. Again, I received no

response. I gave it one more try. “I've never used the bus system before. It seems pretty reliable. Do you use it a lot?” Silence. My cheery voice sounded out of place. Other people were starting to stare at me. This time I gave up and turned my head toward the front of the bus, trying to ignore the thirteen-year-old staring me down... again. I opened my cell phone to check the time and saw that only two minutes had passed. This was going to be the longest bus ride ever.

Then a thin voice cut through the silence. “I'm Jaime.”

My heart skipped a beat. Could it be that my silence was the catalyst for this small victory?

By allowing Jaime the room that silence allows to make his own decision about talking to me, I had made a connection. Suddenly, I knew that my long held opinion of silence was forever changed.

1. Which of the following best describes the structure of the passage?

- A. A dialogue between two people in which both relate their reasons for travel in an almost equal amount of detail.
- B. An account of the narrator's perspective of meeting a life-changing new person for the first time.
- C. A character sketch of two people as related by a narrator who knows both of them and their

thoughts.

D. A detailed narration the narrator's community service projects accompanied by a description one of the people she helped.

2. Based on the passage, which of the following statements best describes the overall attitude of the narrator towards the boy?

F. The boy's quiet, composed behavior challenges the narrator and makes her initially uncomfortable.

G. The boy's aggressive behavior frightens the narrator and makes her angry.

H. The boy's friendly demeanor relaxes the narrator and makes her more thoughtful.

J. The boy's apathy provokes the narrator and makes her wistful, longing for the quiet days of her youth.

3. It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that the narrator had been raised with which of the following attitudes towards silence?

A. It is pleasant and calming.

B. It is positive and reaffirming.

C. It is dangerous and threatening.

D. It is empty and ominous.

4. According to the narrator, silence is usually characterized by:

F. forgiveness.

G. absence.

H. injustice.

J. innocence.

5. In relation to the first paragraph's earlier description of silence, the narrator's comments in lines 6–8 primarily serve to:

A. reveal how silence heals a person.

B. explain how silence can actually be a positive force.

C. clarify why the narrator distrusts silence.

suggest that silence is quite overrated

6. Which of the following statements about the people on the bus is best supported by the passage?
- F. The bus is filled with fascinating people, most of whom you see on every bus ride.
 - G. People who ride the bus are always quiet.
 - H. You might never see the same people on any given bus ride.
 - J. People who take the bus are dull and uninteresting.
7. According to the passage, the main reason the narrator decided to go to the YMCA was that:
- A. her university required community service credits.
 - B. she liked to swim.
 - C. she was looking for a new job working with children.
 - D. she was exploring her new town.
8. Based on the narrator's account, the boy, Jaime, is best described as:
- F. sleepy, yet hostile.
 - G. bored and antagonistic.
 - H. outgoing and friendly.
 - J. aware, yet shy.
9. As it is used in line 15, the word parameters most nearly means:
- A. requirements.
 - B. variables.
 - C. limitations.
 - D. attributes.
10. In the passage, the narrator describes her cheery voice as sounding out of place most likely



because:

- F. the bus was silent; most of the other passengers were asleep or lost in their own thoughts.
- G. the bus was noisy; most of the other passengers were loudly talking to their neighbors.
- H. the bus was noisy; most of the other passengers were arguing with their neighbors.
- J. the bus was silent; most of the other passengers were watching a scene on the street.

Directions: Answer the following grammar questions (10 Qs)

- Question 1. The dog wagged _____ tail.
 - a. its
 - b. it's
 - c. its'
- Question 2. Their restaurants, which are opening all over New England, _____ notable for their quality food and low prices.
 - a. was
 - b. were
 - c. are
- Question 4. Some flowers don't grow as well in Massachusetts as others _____.
 - a. do
 - b. did
 - c. have did
- Question 5. Each of those jackets _____ way too much money!
 - a. cost
 - b. costs
- Question 6. Either the teacher or the students sitting in the front row _____ from the board.
 - a. reads
 - b. read
- Question 7. Twitter and Instagram are an example of social media tools I refuse to use.
 - a. CORRECT as is
 - b. a part
 - c. examples
- Question 8. The athlete was noted for his athletic skill, his good business, and he was sincerely humble as well.

- a. being both sincere and humble.
- b. ; and he was sincerely humble as well.
- c. , and his sincere humility.
- d. being both sincere and humble.

- Question 9. In the future, we decided to admit applicants based on grades and tests scores as well as its letters of recommendation.

- a. it's
- b. they're
- c. there
- d. their

- Question 11.

All of the ingredients for Pablo's secret chocolate chip cookie recipe, which included the special dark chocolate, was available in his mother's pantry.

- a. was
- b. that was
- c. being
- d. were

- Question 12.

Reading maps involve several abilities, including the ability to locate places, to ascertain directions, to measure distances, and to interpret the mapmaker's symbols.

- a. involve
- b. involves
- c. will involve
- d. has involved
- e. have involved

Directions: Guess the meaning of the word in each of the following sentences using context clues) (5 Q's – 10 mins)

1. When your plan brings us great wealth, you will be rewarded for your **sagacity**.

What does **sagacity** mean?

- A. good looks
- B. mistakes
- C. intelligence
- D. huge appetite for herbs

2. Public phone booths have become **obsolete** now that a majority of people carry cell phones.

- a. out-of-date, no longer in use
- b. ridiculous, absurd, silly
- c. popular
- d. problematic

3. The **weary** travelers collapsed on their beds after a long day of walking and biking.

- a. feeling worried or anxious
- b. feeling or showing extreme tiredness
- c. happy, content
- d. relieved or grateful

4. The lost campers **sweltered** in the heat of the desert sun.

- a. ate
- b. burned
- c. slept
- d. floated

5. Cold rain fell all day, making it **a dismal** Saturday afternoon.

- a. gloomy
- b. red
- c. shining
- d. fun

[illegible]



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