

TESTED

THE PILLARSTEDU



# Test 1

## Reading Test

65 MINUTES, 52 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 1 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

### DIRECTIONS

Each passage or pair of passages below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage or pair, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage or passages and in any accompanying graphics (such as a table or graph).

Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage.

This passage explores the narrator's development into a young adult through her relationship with her mother.

I clamber out of the bumble bee bus that chugs to a stop outside my house, run through the wide front door, and skid to a stop in the kitchen where my mother stands waiting. She turns to me and follows the age-old tradition of asking how my first day of school was. As I settle down for my afternoon snack, she begins to fill out all the school forms I've brought home—forms for emergency contact, lunch orders, PFA membership, photo censorship, medical allowances, forms for individual teachers, the works.

10 "Mom?" I ask, wiping my chin clean of juice, "what's that blue paper for?"

She doesn't look up from her pen but replies in Chinese, "It's asking what allergies you have."

"I don't have any, right?"

15 "Right," she says and swiftly checks off a few more boxes before planting her sweeping signature on the bottom of the page.

"And this one?" I ask, peering over her shoulder. "It says . . . 'siblings . . . age . . . school . . .' Are they asking about sis?"

20 "Mhm."

"She's in fourth grade, right? I can't wait until I'm that old!"

"And then you can fill out these forms by yourself," she replies, switching to English, and gives me a smile.

25 I still remember that day, and the many more like it, when my mother gave me a look that made me wonder when I would grow up. At the time, growing up seemed like an impossibility. The future was a dip in a road obscured by mist, while my mother was a more tangible presence that

30 stood next to me. It's weird, though, how soon you reach the dip and how quickly the mist disappears to reveal a new path.

I push open the front door and walk into the kitchen where my mother sits in front of her computer, her brows arched in frustration. I'm a high school student now and, with routine casualness, I sling my backpack onto an empty chair and walk over to my mother.

"Back from school? Anyway, can you help me with this? I just can't understand what they're asking me."

40 Without a word, I commandeer my mother's computer and peruse her screen; she is inspecting an online questionnaire from a hotel we've stayed at recently.

"They're just asking us how our stay was, mom, things like room service quality."

"Oh well, can you fill it out for me?"

45 "But it's so simple, mom, they're just asking—"

"No no, I know, but you can fill it out for me."

The next day she asks me to proofread an e-mail to a friend because her English grammar, in her opinion, is quite deficient. The day after that, I am called to look over her resume

50 so that she can find another job. A week later, I help her answer questions at the customs office while we get our passports approved. When I get the annual deluge of forms from school, my pen marks its way through all of them, leaving only the line at the bottom of each page for a parent's signature. And one day,

55 I muse, I'll be helping her sign that for me too.

It's a Chinese tradition, though, that when children grow up they must take care of their parents. It's a responsibility that grows with the children; when you are very young, you are allowed to be innocent and ignorant because you do not understand, but when you grow up and your mind widens, you must accept a series of new revelations and responsibilities. My mother's brief moments of helplessness occasionally remind me of myself when I was still in grade school, but maybe they're

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65 actually signs that she is growing even older. It's a thought that I can't quite wrap my mind around yet, but I know that while she grows, I grow too. That's why, when she asks me for help, I habitually take a deep breath and reply in English, "Sure, I can fill out those forms for you."

1

This passage can best be described as

- A) a stirring recollection of a parent who is no longer part of the narrator's life.
- B) an account of the psychological pressures facing Asian-American students.
- C) a rumination on the nature of a particular family responsibility.
- D) a discussion of the dangers that individual desires pose to traditional family structures.

2

When the narrator initially brings home school-related papers (lines 1-24), she is

- A) curious about the purposes served by the forms.
- B) oblivious to the stress the forms bring her mother.
- C) intrusive in demanding that her mother read the forms for her.
- D) puzzled that her mother does not know sufficient English to fill out the forms.

3

As used in line 16, "planting" most nearly means

- A) seeding.
- B) placing.
- C) settling.
- D) cultivating.

4

The mother's remark about fourth grade in line 23 ("And then . . . yourself") can best be described as

- A) foreshadowing.
- B) threatening.
- C) apologetic.
- D) admonishing.

5

The "dip" discussed in lines 28 and 31 expresses the author's sense that growing up

- A) is a descent into an unpleasant world of responsibilities and hardship.
- B) seems too distant to be real until one actually grows up.
- C) can change one's life instantly and irrevocably.
- D) requires a period of confusion followed by steady advancement.

6

It can be inferred from the passage that the narrator's role in helping her mother fill out forms is

- A) a purely sentimental means of expressing her love for her mother.
- B) a service which may become requested even more often as time passes.
- C) an irritating intervention in her mother's affairs.
- D) a clever way of avoiding more pressing obligations within her family.

7

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 25-28 ("I still . . . impossibility")
- B) Lines 47-49 ("The next . . . deficient")
- C) Lines 52-55 ("When I . . . too")
- D) Lines 66-68 ("That's why . . . you")

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8

As used in line 52, “deluge” most nearly means

- A) wealth.
- B) load.
- C) attack.
- D) calamity.

9

The narrator views her duties to her mother as

- A) an unfair burden that she wishes to relinquish.
- B) an affectionate gesture motivated by the unique relationship she shares with her mother.
- C) an occasion for reflection on the nature of maturity.
- D) an unnecessary but well-known custom that she maintains out of nostalgia.

10

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 5-9 (“As I settle . . . works”)
- B) Lines 44-46 (“Oh well . . . me”)
- C) Lines 56-57 (“It’s a Chinese . . . their parents”)
- D) Lines 61-64 (My mother’s . . . older”)