

Vauxhall High School  
English Language  
Grade 8 Activity Sheet  
April 6-10, 2020  
Comprehension

1. Instruction: Read the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

**Crossing the Water**

Mannie was a busy little mongoose. Yet, he never looked as if he was in a hurry. He always ran along carefully, keeping his body quite straight and moving his legs quickly, like the wheels of a train running on its rails. His head stuck out before him, all in a line with his body, like the engine of the train and his bushy tail curved behind, each hair stiffly in place.

Mannie was very happy because he had finished eating his favourite early morning breakfast. He had caught a large black moth who was on his way home as the sun was rising. Mannie thought of his comfortable home, a burrow near the breadfruit tree, and ran across the lawn planning to have a short nap.

As he went past the hibiscus bush, the one with the pink flowers dancing in the wind, he noticed Nul, who was sitting so still he looked like part of the trunk of the nearby mahogany tree. Mannie tried to rush past, pretending he had not seen the old mongoose, but Nul moved his head and looked at Mannie in that strange way he had, as if he was laughing at him.

“How are you?” asked Mannie.

“All right for now,” answered Nul.

Nul never seemed happy to Mannie. He was always talking about some old country his grandfathers had come from, far across the water, which was better than this one.

“Is Khala better?” Mannie asked politely.

Then, without waiting for an answer, he dashed off, and Nul ran for his burrow too. The reason soon made itself seen and heard.

From “Crossing the Water” by Joy Bland, Cedar Press Ltd.

1. What was Mannie?
2. What does the word “burrow” (line 12) mean?
3. Give two examples of simile in the passage.
4. Why was Mannie happy?
5. Where does the story take place?
6. Give one example of personification in the passage.
7. From the passage give two words that describe Nul.
8. Identify an example of onomatopoeia in the passage.
9. What time of day do you think the story takes place?
10. What is the meaning of the word “dashed” in the passage?

2. Instruction- Read the passage below and answer the following questions.

### **The Crab-Hunt**

They were on their way, walking through the night, on the St. Thomas road. George, the only adult in the party, was in the lead. Close behind him followed Edward and Altamont, both aged thirteen. Edward carried an empty crocus bag, folded small, on his head. George and Altamont both had torches, but they had not yet lit them.

“Boy the night is certainly dark,” Eddie said, looking up to the sky. “It’s a good thing we have torches or else we wouldn’t be able to see the crabs.”

“People always go crab-hunting with torches,” George told him, ‘Whether there is moonlight or complete darkness.’”

There was a silence for a while as they walked on. Then Altamont spoke.

“George,” he asked, ‘Why are we going out when it is so wet? Couldn’t we have come on a dry night? Last night for instance?’”

“No,” George replied. “Today’s rain has made it ideal for catching crabs. When rain falls, the crab holes fill up with water, and the creatures have to leave them and get on dry land. On a night like this the crabs are homeless, and when we make a grab at them, they can’t rush into a hole and escape us. We shall catch them easily and fill up our bag.”

From “Reaching Upwards”, adopted by Austin Nurse and Ruth Reviere

1. How many persons were going crab-hunting?
  - a) five
  - b) two
  - c) three
  - d) four
  
2. How many adults were in the party?
  - a) two
  - b) three
  - c) one
  - d) four
  
3. The word nearest in meaning to ‘ideal’ (line 13) is
  - a) sure
  - b) good
  - c) exciting
  - d) perfect

4. Why did they choose to go crab-hunting on a rainy night?
- a) The crabs would be plentiful.
  - b) The crabs should not be able to see properly.
  - c) It was a moonlit night.
  - d) There would be lots of crab in the water.
5. Who seems to be the most experienced crab-hunter in the party?
- a) Eddie
  - b) George
  - c) Altamont
  - d) Thomas

Email the response to **YOUR CLASS TEACHER:**

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