

## "A Cold Day"

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

It is a **frigid** January day in York, Pennsylvania.

The temperature is below freezing. Snow is starting to fall.

Dr. James turns on the television to check the weather.

He must leave for his work at the hospital soon.

"Today is going to be very cold," says the TV weatherman. "Be sure to wear very warm clothes when you go outside. Also, be careful driving on the roads. Snowfall will make them **slippery**. In fact, if you can stay home today, do it!"

Dr. James cannot stay home. Very sick people are waiting to see him at the hospital.

He goes to his closet. He takes out the warmest clothes he has.

He puts on a sweater, jacket, gloves, socks, boots, and a hat.

He opens his front door to go to work. A gust of cold air blows inside.

"Wow, it is very cold outside," Dr. James says. He is from Miami and is not used to the cold. "The weatherman was right!"

Before he can drive to work, Dr. James must clear the snow off his car.

He does this very fast. He hops in the car. He shivers. His neck feels especially cold.

Dr. James drives slowly to work. Everyone else is driving slowly, too. There is a lot of **traffic** on the road. There are cars in front of and behind him.

Suddenly, the cars in front of Dr. James come to a stop. There has been an **accident!**

Dr. James hurries from his car to check on the driver of the car that has swerved off the road. "Is everyone okay?" Dr. James asks.

"Yes, yes, we are fine. We slipped on a patch of ice," the driver says. "This would have been a good day to stay home in bed."



Questions:

- 1) If the weather is **frigid**, it is very
- A. cold
  - B. rainy
  - C. windy
  - D. slippery
- 2) In what city does this story take place?
- A. Florida
  - B. Miami
  - C. Pennsylvania
  - D. York
- 3) Dr. James doesn't stay home because
- A. There are sick people waiting for him.
  - B. He listens to the weatherman.
  - C. He has to clear snow off his car.
  - D. He must help the people in the accident.
- 4) What could Dr. James have put on his neck to keep it warm?
- A. gloves
  - B. a scarf
  - C. another hat
  - D. a jacket
- 5) What does Dr. James do before he leaves for work?
- I. He dresses warmly.
  - II. He checks the weather on TV.
  - III. He clears snow from his car.
- A. I only
  - B. I and II
  - C. II and III
  - D. I, II, and III
- 6) Given what is said in the story, what is probably true about Miami?
- A. It is a warm place.
  - B. It is a rainy place.
  - C. It is a windy place.
  - D. People drive slowly there.
- 7) How are people driving today?
- A. badly
  - B. slowly
  - C. very fast
  - D. like they do not care
- 8) As described in the beginning of the story, what does it mean if the roads are **slippery**?
- A. The roads are full of cars.
  - B. The roads are easy to slide on.
  - C. The roads are very long and curvy.
  - D. The roads lead to a place with lots of snow.

Questions (continued):

- 9) Why does Dr. James clear the snow off his car quickly?
- A. because he is very cold
  - B. because he is late for work
  - C. because he knows his patients are waiting
  - D. because he knows he will have to drive slowly
- 10) There is a lot of **traffic** on the road. How can we rewrite this sentence?
- A. There is a lot of snow on the road.
  - B. There are a lot of cars on the road.
  - C. There are a lot of accidents on the road.
  - D. There are a lot of people walking on the road.
- 11) Why did the car have an accident?
- A. because it was snowing outside
  - B. because Dr. James hit the car
  - C. because it was so cold outside
  - D. because the car slipped on a patch of ice
- 12) What is an **accident**?
- A. something that hurts people
  - B. something that happens only in the snow
  - C. something that happens that has not been planned
  - D. something that happens because other people want it to
- 13) What is the weatherman right about?
- I. It is a windy day.
  - II. It is very cold outside.
  - III. The roads are slippery.
- A. I only
  - B. I and II
  - C. II and III
  - D. I, II, and III
- 14) Why does Dr. James hurry from his car after the accident?
- A. because he is very cold
  - B. because he wants to get to the hospital as soon as possible
  - C. because he is worried about his patients waiting at the hospital
  - D. because he wants to make sure the people in the car are okay

Do you like the weather where you live? Why or why not?

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