

● Lesson 15: Reading Literature

Directions: Read the poem. Choose the best answers to the questions that follow.

Black-Eyed Rebel

by Will Carleton

A boy drove into the city, his wagon loaded down
With food to feed the people of the British-governed town;
And the little black-eyed rebel, so innocent and sly,
Was watching for his coming from the corner of her eye.

...He drove up to the market, he waited in the line;
His apples and potatoes were fresh and fair and fine;
But long and long he waited, and no one came to buy,
Save the black-eyed rebel, watching from the corner of her eye.

...For she knew that 'neath the lining of the coat he wore that day,
Were long letters from the husbands and the fathers far away,
Who were fighting for the freedom that they meant to gain or die;
And a tear like silver glistened in the corner of her eye.

But the treasures—how to get them? crept the questions though her mind,
Since keen enemies were watching for what prizes they might find;
And she paused a while and pondered, with a pretty little sigh;
Then resolve crept through her features, and shrewdness fired her eye.

So she resolutely walked up to the wagon old and red;
“May I have a dozen apples for a kiss?” she sweetly said;
And the brown face flushed to scarlet; for the boy was somewhat shy,
And he saw her laughing at him from the corner of her eye.

...Clinging round his brawny neck, she clasped her fingers white and small,
And then whispered, “Quick! the letters! thrust them underneath my shawl!”
Carry back again this package, and be sure that you are sly!”
And she sweetly smiled upon him from the corner of her eye.

...With the news of loved ones absent to the dear friends they would greet,
Searching them who hungered for them, swift she glided through the street.
“There is nothing worth the doing that it does not pay to try,”
Thought the little black-eyed rebel, with a twinkle in her eye.

READING: COMPREHENSION**● Lesson 15: Reading Literature (cont.)**

1. What word best describes the interaction between the boy and the black-eyed rebel?
 - (A) peaceful
 - (B) dangerous
 - (C) prosperous
 - (D) happy
2. How does the author tell the story?
 - (F) in the order in which it happened
 - (G) in a different order than how it happened
 - (H) by only telling facts
 - (J) by only telling feelings
3. How are the boy and the girl alike?
 - (A) They are hungry.
 - (B) They are British.
 - (C) They are selling fruits and vegetables.
 - (D) They are rebels.
4. What happens first in the poem?
 - (F) The girl kisses the boy.
 - (G) The boy gives the girl letters.
 - (H) The boy tries to sell fruit and vegetables.
 - (J) The boy brings a wagon of fruit and vegetables to town.
5. What is the theme of the poem?
 - (A) It is good to be sneaky.
 - (B) Sometimes, you have to try something unusual to get what you want.
 - (C) Desperate times require desperate action.
 - (D) It's always right to fight against an enemy.
6. What line from the poem best summarizes the text?
 - (F) Then resolve crept through her features, and shrewdness fired her eye.
 - (G) "May I have a dozen apples for a kiss?" she sweetly said;
 - (H) "There is nothing worth the doing that it does not pay to try,"
 - (J) Searching them who hungered for them, swift she glided through the street.
7. In the third stanza, *a tear like silver glistened* in the girl's eye. This line contains an example of which type of figurative language?
 - (A) metaphor
 - (B) personification
 - (C) foreshadowing
 - (D) simile
8. The boy and girl are _____ because they break the law to get news to the people.
 - (F) soldiers
 - (G) loyal
 - (H) rebels
 - (J) cowards

