

## ACT READING PRACTICE PAPER

"Cacti" by Ami Dave (2013)

Cacti are plants suited to the desert, and we must always keep this factor in mind when growing ornamental cacti in our gardens, for it helps us provide cacti with conditions that allow them to survive and thrive. For example, a cactus should never be watered over its body, as it will start to rot. This is because it is covered with a waxy coating which prevents water loss through evaporation. When one waters the cactus over its body, the waxy coating is washed away and the plant begins to rot. The amount of water that one must supply to the cactus is very much dependent upon the season and upon the climate of the place. During the summer season one should water cacti every four days, whereas in the rainy season, once every fifteen days is quite enough.

Cacti need a minimum of two and a half hours of sunlight per day; however, they should not be kept in the sun all day because they may wrinkle when exposed to too much bright sunlight. Unlike other plants, cacti produce carbon dioxide during the day and oxygen during the night, so they are ideal plants to be kept in bedrooms to freshen up the air at night.

If a cactus is to thrive and prosper, the size of the pot in which it is grown needs to be monitored carefully. The pot should always be a little smaller than the plant itself because it is only when the plant has to struggle to survive that it will thrive. If the pot is too spacious and the plant does not need to struggle, chances are that the cactus will die. Similarly, if a cactus shows no signs of growth, stop watering it. Watering should be resumed only when the plant begins to grow again.

The substrata of a cactus pot is ideally composed of pieces of broken bricks at the bottom, followed by a layer of charcoal above the bricks, and then coarse sand and pebbles above the charcoal. Leaf mould is the best manure.

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1. The development of a new cactus from a graft is similar to what other biological phenomenon?

An unsuccessful kidney transplant

A lizard that regrows its tail

A cut that successfully heals

A nematode worm that develops into two separate organisms when cut in half

The birth of a genetically unique organism from an egg

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2. The purpose of this passage is to \_\_\_\_\_.

outline the differences between cacti and other plants

explain what to do if you prick yourself on cactus thorns

describe the physical characteristics of a cactus

explain how to correctly graft cacti

explain the proper conditions and protocols for growing cacti

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3. The tone of the passage can be described as \_\_\_\_\_.

<input type="text" value="select"/>	
<input type="text" value="select"/>	objective
<input type="text" value="select"/>	
<input type="text" value="select"/>	critical
<input type="text" value="select"/>	
<input type="text" value="select"/>	indignant
<input type="text" value="select"/>	
<input type="text" value="select"/>	apprehensive
<input type="text" value="select"/>	
<input type="text" value="select"/>	impassioned

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4. The passage addresses all of the following EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

what to do when pricked by a cactus thorn

how often to water a cactus

how to tell cacti apart from other plants

ideal pot size

how water flows through a cactus from the roots

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5. The term "substrata" as it is used in the passage refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

a layer of dirt beneath the surface soil

the thorns of a cactus

the foundation of a ceramic pot

the stalk of a cactus

the scientific classification of the cactus

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6. What is the most reasonable definition of the underlined word "transpiration," as it is used in the last paragraph of the passage?

The evaporation of water from peripheral regions of the plant

The act of watering something

The occurrence of an important event

An act of revealing something

An act of going across something

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7. Which of the following can be inferred from the information provided in the passage?

It is difficult to distinguish cacti from other plants.

Pot size is not an important factor in cactus growth.

select

People have been growing cacti in their homes for hundreds of years.

select

Cacti follow a respiration cycle that is different than that of other plants.

select

Cacti are found in every desert known to man.

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8. The passage is most likely an excerpt from what type of document?

<input type="text" value="select"/>	A science textbook
<input type="text" value="select"/>	A descriptive panel at a botanical garden
<input type="text" value="select"/>	An informational brochure
<input type="text" value="select"/>	A personal anecdote about cacti
<input type="text" value="select"/>	A manual about how to grow cacti at home

Adapted from "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe (1846)

The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult I vowed revenge. You, who so well know the nature of my soul, will not suppose, however, that I gave utterance to a threat. *At length* I would be avenged; this was a point definitively settled — but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved precluded the idea of risk. I must not only punish but punish with impunity. A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.

It must be understood that neither by word nor deed had I given Fortunato cause to doubt my good will. I continued, as was my wont, to smile in his face,

and he did not perceive that my smile *now* was at the thought of his immolation.

He had a weak point — this Fortunato — although in other regards he was a man to be respected and even feared. He prided himself upon his connoisseurship in wine. Few Italians have the true virtuoso spirit. For the most part their enthusiasm is adopted to suit the time and opportunity, to practice imposture upon the British and Austrian *millionaires*. In painting and gemmary, Fortunato, like his countrymen, was a quack, but in the matter of old wines he was sincere. In this respect I did not differ from him materially; — I was skillful in the Italian vintages myself, and bought largely whenever I could.

It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered my friend. He accosted me with excessive warmth, for he had been drinking much. The man wore motley. He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress, and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells. I was so pleased to see him that I thought I should never have done wringing his hand.

I said to him — “My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met. How remarkably well you are looking to-day. But I have received a pipe of what passes for Amontillado, and I have my doubts.”

“How?” said he. “Amontillado? A pipe? Impossible! And in the middle of the carnival!”

“I have my doubts,” I replied; “and I was silly enough to pay the full Amontillado price without consulting you in the matter. You were not to be found, and I was fearful of losing a bargain.”

“Amontillado!”

“I have my doubts.”

“Amontillado!”

“And I must satisfy them.”

“Amontillado!”

“As you are engaged, I am on my way to Luchresi. If any one has a critical turn it is he. He will tell me ——”

“Luchresi cannot tell Amontillado from Sherry.”

“And yet some fools will have it that his taste is a match for your own.”

“Come, let us go.”

“Whither?”

“To your vaults.”

9. "[A wrong] is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong." In this line, the narrator indicates that he wants what to happen?

He wants to make Fortunato apologize.

He wants to understand how Fortunato feels about having offended him.

He wants Fortunato to know why he is being punished.

He wants to avenge a harm done to Fortunato.

He wants to make Fortunato feel pain.

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10. In the line, "I continued, as was my wont, to smile in his face, and he did not perceive that my smile *now* was at the thought of his immolation," the word *wont* is closest in meaning to what?

A lack of desire to do something

A distaste for something

A habitual way of doing something

A desire for something

A need for something

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“I have my doubts,” I replied; “and I was silly enough to pay the full Amontillado price without consulting you in the matter. You were not to be found, and I was fearful of losing a bargain.”

“Amontillado!”

“I have my doubts.”

“Amontillado!”

“And I must satisfy them.”

“Amontillado!”

“As you are engaged, I am on my way to Luchresi. If any one has a critical turn it is he. He will tell me ——”

“Luchresi cannot tell Amontillado from Sherry.”

“And yet some fools will have it that his taste is a match for your own.”

“Come, let us go.”

“Whither?”

“To your vaults.”

11. In the context of the passage, the narrator sees Fortunato's connoisseurship in wine as "a weak point" for what reason?

It provides an easy way to lure Fortunato away from Carnival.

It makes Fortunato drink too much.

It makes Fortunato argue with other wine connoisseurs.

It gives Fortunato an enormous ego.

It makes Fortunato unpleasant to be around.

Adapted from "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe (1846)

The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult I vowed revenge. You, who so well know the nature of my soul, will not suppose, however, that I gave utterance to a threat. *At length* I would be avenged; this was a point definitively settled — but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved precluded the idea of risk. I must not only punish but punish with impunity. A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.

It must be understood that neither by word nor deed had I given Fortunato cause to doubt my good will. I continued, as was my wont, to smile in his face, and he did not perceive that my smile *now* was at the thought of his immolation.

He had a weak point — this Fortunato — although in other regards he was a man to be respected and even feared. He prided himself upon his connoisseurship in wine. Few Italians have the true virtuoso spirit. For the most part their enthusiasm is adopted to suit the time and opportunity, to practice imposture upon the British and Austrian *millionaires*. In painting and gemmery, Fortunato, like his countrymen, was a quack, but in the matter of old wines he was sincere. In this respect I did not differ from him materially; — I was skillful in the Italian vintages myself, and bought largely whenever I could.

It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered my friend. He accosted me with excessive warmth, for he had been drinking much. The man wore motley. He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress, and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells. I was so pleased to see him that I thought I should never have done wringing his hand.

I said to him — “My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met. How remarkably well you are looking to-day. But I have received a pipe of what passes for Amontillado, and I have my doubts.”

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“And yet some fools will have it that his taste is a match for your own.”

“Come, let us go.”

“Whither?”

“To your vaults.”

12. Judging from the details in the passage, all of the following can be inferred about the Carnival season EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Carnival is a religious holiday
<input type="checkbox"/>	people drink to excess during Carnival
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carnival lasts for multiple days
<input type="checkbox"/>	people dress up in costume during Carnival
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carnival is a crazy holiday

Adapted from "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe (1846)

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It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered my friend. He accosted me with excessive warmth, for he had been drinking much. The man wore motley. He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress, and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells. I was so pleased to see him that I thought I should never have done wringing his hand.

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“Luchresi cannot tell Amontillado from Sherry.”

“And yet some fools will have it that his taste is a match for your own.”

“Come, let us go.”

“Whither?”

“To your vaults.”

13. Given the passage as a whole, Fortunato's expression of disbelief about the pipe of Amontillado implies all of the following EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

select

Amontillado is hard to get in large quantities

select

Amontillado can be gotten for a bargain

select

Amontillado is very expensive

select

Amontillado is hard to get during Carnival season

select

Amontillado is rare

Adapted from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792)

In the middle rank of life, to continue the comparison, men, in their youth, are prepared for professions, and marriage is not considered as the grand feature in their lives; whilst women, on the contrary, have no other scheme to sharpen their faculties. It is not business, extensive plans, or any of the excursive flights of ambition, that engross their attention; no, their thoughts are not employed in rearing such noble structures. To rise in the world, and have the liberty of running from pleasure to pleasure, they must marry advantageously, and to this object their time is sacrificed, and their persons often legally prostituted. A man when he enters any profession has his eye steadily fixed

on some future advantage (and the mind gains great strength by having all its efforts directed to one point) and, full of his business, pleasure is considered as mere relaxation; whilst women seek for pleasure as the main purpose of existence. In fact, from the education, which they receive from society, the love of pleasure may be said to govern them all; but does this prove that there is a sex in souls? It would be just as rational to declare that the courtiers in France, when a destructive system of despotism had formed their character, were not men, because liberty, virtue, and humanity, were sacrificed to pleasure and vanity.—Fatal passions, which have ever domineered over the *whole* race!

The same love of pleasure, fostered by the whole tendency of their education, gives a trifling turn to the conduct of women in most circumstances: for instance, they are ever anxious about secondary things; and on the watch for adventures, instead of being occupied by duties.

A man, when he undertakes a journey, has, in general, the end in view; a woman thinks more of the incidental occurrences, the strange things that may possibly occur on the road; the impression that she may make on her fellow travelers; and, above all, she is anxiously intent on the care of the finery that she carries with her, which is more than ever a part of herself, when going to figure on a new scene; when, to use an apt French turn of expression, she is going to produce a sensation.—Can dignity of mind exist with such trivial cares? This observation should not be confined to the *fair* sex; however, at present, I only mean to apply it to them.

14. In the second paragraph the information about love of pleasure serves to \_\_\_\_\_.

act as a transition into a discussion about the way women behave in certain circumstances

bring up a new idea that is in no way related to the ideas discussed in the first paragraph

contrast with the information about marriage to render it further from the idea of it being a pleasurable thing

reassert what has been said in the previous paragraph

negate what has been said in the previous paragraph

Adapted from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792)

In the middle rank of life, to continue the comparison, men, in their youth, are prepared for professions, and marriage is not considered as the grand feature in their lives; whilst women, on the contrary, have no other scheme to sharpen their faculties. It is not business, extensive plans, or any of the excursive flights of ambition, that engross their attention; no, their thoughts are not employed in rearing such noble structures. To rise in the world, and have the liberty of running from pleasure to pleasure, they must marry advantageously, and to this object their time is sacrificed, and their persons often legally prostituted. A man when he enters any profession has his eye steadily fixed on some future advantage (and the mind gains great strength by having all its efforts directed to one point) and, full of his business, pleasure is considered as mere relaxation; whilst women seek for pleasure as the main purpose of existence. In fact, from the education, which they receive from society, the love of pleasure may be said to govern them all; but does this prove that there is a sex in souls? It would be just as rational to declare that the courtiers in France, when a destructive system of despotism had formed their character, were not men, because liberty, virtue, and humanity, were sacrificed to pleasure and vanity.—Fatal passions, which have ever domineered over the *whole* race!

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15. Which of the following sentences best summarizes the second paragraph?



Women are more adventurous than men.

Women are easily worried by the finer details of their pursuits.

Women are constantly preoccupied with more than one thing.

Women are encouraged to be entertained by trivial things by their education.

Women's education causes them to be lackadaisical.

Adapted from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792)

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16. What is the main idea of the underlined question, "Can dignity of mind exist with such trivial cares?"

The author is asking if women can retain their mental capabilities under the pressure of daily life.

The author is asking if seriousness, self-control, and respect can be gained if women are taken up with niggling details.

The author is asking if women will be thought of as less intelligent than men by society.

The author is asking if men think women's opinions are valid, with reference to their habits.

All of these answers are correct.

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17. One of the main points made in the last paragraph is that \_\_\_\_\_.

women have no understanding of how a journey should be undertaken

one of the things women are preoccupied with, when undertaking a journey, is the welfare of other passengers

men are superior to women when you compare their mental processes

men mostly regard a journey as moving towards an endpoint

only women think about trivial things when undertaking a journey

Adapted from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792)

In the middle rank of life, to continue the comparison, men, in their youth, are prepared for professions, and marriage is not considered as the grand feature in their lives; whilst women, on the contrary, have no other scheme to sharpen their faculties. It is not business, extensive plans, or any of the excursive flights of ambition, that engross their attention; no, their thoughts are not employed in rearing such noble structures. To rise in the world, and have the liberty of running from pleasure to pleasure, they must marry advantageously, and to this object their time is sacrificed, and their persons often legally prostituted. A man when he enters any profession has his eye steadily fixed on some future advantage (and the mind gains great strength by having all its efforts directed to one point) and, full of his business, pleasure is considered as mere relaxation; whilst women seek for pleasure as the main purpose of existence. In fact, from the education, which they receive from society, the love of pleasure may be said to govern them all; but does this prove that there is a sex in souls? It would be just as rational to declare that the courtiers in France, when a destructive system of despotism had formed their character, were not men, because liberty, virtue, and humanity, were sacrificed to pleasure and vanity.—Fatal passions, which have ever domineered over the *whole* race!

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18. The author's tone can best be described as \_\_\_\_\_.

select

surrendering and defeatist

none of these answers

distracted and complacent

forceful and jesting

angry and sardonic

Adapted from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792)

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19. It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that which of the following statements is true?

The author believes women are kept ignorant by society's teachings

The author believes souls are gendered

The author detests men

The author dislikes women

The author believes that everyone should learn to speak French

Adapted from *The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe (1719)

I was now, in the months of November and December, expecting my crop of barley and rice. The ground I had manured and dug up for them was not great; for, as I observed, my seed of each was not above the quantity of half a peck, for I had lost one whole crop by sowing in the dry season. But now my crop promised very well, when on a sudden I found I was in danger of losing it all again by enemies of several sorts, which it was scarcely possible to keep from it; as, first, the goats, and wild creatures which I called hares, who, tasting the sweetness of the blade, lay in it night and day, as soon as it came up, and eat it so close, that it could get no time to shoot up into stalk.

This I saw no remedy for but by making an enclosure about it with a hedge; which I did with a great deal of toil, and the more, because it required speed. However, as my arable land was but small, suited to my crop, I got it totally well fenced in about three weeks' time; and shooting some of the creatures in

the daytime, I set my dog to guard it in the night, tying him up to a stake at the gate, where he would stand and bark all night long; so in a little time the enemies forsook the place, and the corn grew very strong and well, and began to ripen apace.

But as the beasts ruined me before, while my corn was in the blade, so the birds were as likely to ruin me now, when it was in the ear; for, going along by the place to see how it throve, I saw my little crop surrounded with fowls, of I know not how many sorts, who stood, as it were, watching till I should be gone. I immediately let fly among them, for I always had my gun with me. I had no sooner shot, but there rose up a little cloud of fowls, which I had not seen at all, from among the corn itself.

This touched me sensibly, for I foresaw that in a few days they would devour all my hopes; that I should be starved, and never be able to raise a crop at all; and what to do I could not tell; however, I resolved not to lose my corn, if possible, though I should watch it night and day. In the first place, I went among it to see what damage was already done, and found they had spoiled a good deal of it; but that as it was yet too green for them, the loss was not so great but that the remainder was likely to be a good crop if it could be saved.

I stayed by it to load my gun, and then coming away, I could easily see the thieves sitting upon all the trees about me, as if they only waited till I was gone away, and the event proved it to be so; for as I walked off, as if I was gone, I was no sooner out of their sight than they dropped down one by one into the corn again. I was so provoked, that I could not have patience to stay till more came on, knowing that every grain that they ate now was, as it might be said, a peck-loaf to me in the consequence; but coming up to the hedge, I fired again, and killed three of them. This was what I wished for; so I took them up, and served them as we serve notorious thieves in England—hanged them in chains, for a terror to others. It is impossible to imagine that this should have such an effect as it had, for the fowls would not only not come at the corn, but, in short, they forsook all that part of the island, and I could never see a bird near the place as long as my scarecrows hung there. This I was very glad of, you may be sure, and about the latter end of December, which was our second harvest of the year, I reaped my corn.

20. As it is used in the passage, the underlined word “blade” in the first paragraph most nearly means \_\_\_\_\_.

select

hedge

sheet

knife

leaf

spade

Adapted from *The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe (1719)

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This I saw no remedy for but by making an enclosure about it with a hedge; which I did with a great deal of toil, and the more, because it required speed. However, as my arable land was but small, suited to my crop, I got it totally well fenced in about three weeks' time; and shooting some of the creatures in the daytime, I set my dog to guard it in the night, tying him up to a stake at the gate, where he would stand and bark all night long; so in a little time the enemies forsook the place, and the corn grew very strong and well, and began to ripen apace.

But as the beasts ruined me before, while my corn was in the blade, so the birds were as likely to ruin me now, when it was in the ear; for, going along by the place to see how it throve, I saw my little crop surrounded with fowls, of I know not how many sorts, who stood, as it were, watching till I should be gone. I immediately let fly among them, for I always had my gun with me. I had no sooner shot, but there rose up a little cloud of fowls, which I had not seen at all, from among the corn itself.



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21. What is the subject of the passage?

A man dealing with animals

A man trying to grow crops whilst coping with various pests

A man's attempts at hunting

A farmer and his recommendations for pest control

A man recollecting the best seasons to grow things

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22. The passage states that which of the following is true?

select

The narrator had no need for fertilizer.

select

The mammals would only feed on the crops at night.

select

The quality of the ground was poor.

select

December on the island is warm enough to grow crops.

select

The mammals would only eat the plants once they had formed stalks.

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23. Which of the following most fully lists solutions considered by the author in the passage to the problem of the pests?

select

A gun, a hedge, a dog, and dead birds

Pesticide, munitions, and boundaries

Noise makers, a perimeter, missiles, and decoys

A net, his bare hands, and a pack of dogs

A fence, scarecrows, a dog, nets

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24. The point of view from which the passage is told can best be described as that of \_\_\_\_\_.

a professional survivalist

an American on an island

a nomad and native to the island

a hunter in a remote land

a lone Englishman

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25. It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.

the man had an unlimited supply of ammunition

the birds were not afraid of the man

the man had found the dog on the island

the man had a limited supply of seed

there were many different types of birds on the island

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26. As it is used in the passage, the phrase “in the ear” underlined in the third paragraph most nearly means \_\_\_\_\_.

<input type="button" value="select"/>	
	rotting
<input type="button" value="select"/>	
	ripening
<input type="button" value="select"/>	
	dying
<input type="button" value="select"/>	
	failing
<input type="button" value="select"/>	
	finished growing

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27. Which of the following statements about the narrator's attitude toward the birds is supported by the passage?

select

He sees them as allies.

select

He is complacent with them.

select

He sees them as felons.

select

He is ambivalent towards them.

select

He enjoys their company.

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28. In the last paragraph, the underlined word “scarecrows” refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

<input type="text" value="select"/>	
	dead rabbits
<input type="text" value="select"/>	
	straw men
<input type="text" value="select"/>	
	the man's dog
<input type="text" value="select"/>	
	birds' remains
<input type="text" value="select"/>	
	corn dollies

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you may be sure, and about the latter end of December, which was our second harvest of the year, I reaped my corn.

29. One of the main points made in the last paragraph is that \_\_\_\_\_.

when the narrator feigned walking away the birds flew down to attack the corn

the birds were nesting in the surrounding trees

the narrator killed two birds

the narrator used a dog to keep the birds away but was unsuccessful

the narrator's efforts were unsuccessful

Adapted from *A Practical Treatise on the Hive and Honey-Bee* by Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth (1857 ed.)

Of all the numerous enemies of the honey-bee, the Bee-Moth (*Tinea mellonella*), in climates of hot summers, is by far the most to be dreaded. So widespread and fatal have been its ravages in this country that thousands have abandoned the cultivation of bees in despair, and in districts which once produced abundant supplies of the purest honey, bee-keeping has gradually dwindled down into a very insignificant pursuit. Contrivances almost without number have been devised to defend the bees against this invidious foe, but still it continues its desolating inroads, almost unchecked, laughing as it were to scorn at all the so-called "moth-proof" hives, and turning many of the ingenious fixtures designed to entrap or exclude it into actual aids and comforts in its nefarious designs.

I should feel but little confidence in being able to reinstate bee-keeping in our country into a certain and profitable pursuit if I could not show the apiarian in what way he can safely bid defiance to the pestiferous assaults of this, his most implacable enemy. I have patiently studied its habits for years, and I am at length able to announce a system of management founded upon the peculiar construction of my hives, which will enable the careful bee-keeper to protect his colonies against the monster. The bee-moth infects our apiaries, just as weeds take possession of a fertile soil. Before explaining the means

upon which I rely to circumvent the moth, I will first give a brief description of its habits.

Swammerdam, towards the close of the seventeenth century, gave a very accurate description of this insect, which was then called by the very expressive name of the "bee-wolf." He has furnished good drawings of it, in all its changes, from the worm to the perfect moth, together with the peculiar webs or galleries that it constructs and from which the name of *Tinea galleria* or "gallery moth" has been given to it by some entomologists. He failed, however, to discriminate between the male and female, which, because they differ so much in size and appearance, he supposed to be two different species of the wax-moth. It seems to have been a great pest in his time, and even Virgil speaks of the "dirum tineæ genus," the dreadful offspring of the moth; that is the worm.

This destroyer usually makes its appearance about the hives in April or May, the time of its coming depending upon the warmth of the climate or the forwardness of the season. It is seldom seen on the wing (unless startled from its lurking place about the hive) until towards dark, and is evidently chiefly nocturnal in its habits. In dark cloudy days, however, I have noticed it on the wing long before sunset, and if several such days follow in succession, the female, oppressed with the urgent necessity of laying her eggs, may be seen endeavoring to gain admission to the hives. The female is much larger than the male, and "her color is deeper and more inclining to a darkish gray, with small spots or blackish streaks on the interior edge of her upper wings." The color of the male inclines more to a light gray; they might easily be mistaken for different species of moths. These insects are surprisingly agile, both on foot and on the wing. The motions of a bee are very slow in comparison. "They are," says Reaumur, "the most nimble-footed creatures that I know." "If the approach to the apiary be observed of a moonlight evening, the moths will be found flying or running round the hives, watching an opportunity to enter, whilst the bees that have to guard the entrances against their intrusion will be seen acting as vigilant sentinels, performing continual rounds near this important post, extending their antenna to the utmost, and moving them to the right and left alternately. Woe to the unfortunate moth that comes within their reach!" "It is curious," says Huber, "to observe how artfully the moth knows how to profit, to the disadvantage of the bees, which require much light for seeing objects; and the precautions taken by the latter in reconnoitering and expelling so dangerous an enemy."

30. Which of these most accurately restates the meaning of "The bee-moth infects our apiaries, just as weeds take possession of a fertile soil," a line found in the second paragraph?



The bee moth is nothing compared to the weed in fertile soil.

The bee moth is to the bee keeper what the dandelion is to the gardener.

The description of the moth is not sufficient without considering its impact on a garden.

None other than gardeners and bee keepers can comprehend the devastations of the moth.

The impact of the bee moth on a hive is disproportionate to that of the weed on a garden.