

R12

Prose fiction: hack

Suggestion for training:

Lime green folder

Option A

Option B

Make genius map but...

a. If you feel lost read 1st paragraph and last paragraph

1. Circle mystery questions
2. Underline mystery keywords
3. Answer Line reference questions- eyes open for Mystery keywords
4. Save Big picture questions for last.

Tools:

See topic sentence

Good/stinky rule

READING TEST

35 Minutes—40 Questions

DIRECTIONS: There are four passages in this test. Each passage is followed by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

Passage I

PROSE FICTION: This passage is adapted from the novel *Mr. Ives' Christmas* by Oscar Hijuelos (©1995 by Oscar Hijuelos).

Although Edward Ives had never been the most talented of artists, as he'd tell his son, Robert, years later, he had a highly developed work ethic. A conscientious and self-effacing laborer, ever humble before his craft, he never thought he'd have any money and figured out, as a young man, that he would always live humbly, "without means," practicing his illustrative and painterly skills into his old age. And if he was lucky, getting along on numerous fleeting jobs, he might one day have a show of beautiful portraits. Perhaps he would make enough money to see something more of the world than just the view from his window or where the trains and subways of the mass transit system would take him. Paris, Tahiti, Rome—names that he associated with artists and adventure. That was all he wanted.

Before the war, as a teenager just trying to figure out a little more about the world, when he was not working in his father's printing plant, Edward Ives had also held other jobs. For a time he had been an usher in a big movie house on Ocean Avenue several days a week. It was a job he did not mind because he loved gangster stories and Westerns and animated cartoons. And he enjoyed wearing a velvet-buttoned dark gray outfit and escorting the perfumed pretty girls down to their seats. He fell in love every week but was too shy to do anything about it. He also painted window displays and made special signs for local Brooklyn merchants, and worked in stores like Macy's doing the same. He picked up a little extra money working as an occasional messenger boy, and sometimes worked as a temporary mail sorter in the post office. Every so often he had gone to work for the Steichman brothers, whose animation studio was down on Lafayette Street.

(For his part, Ives had most enjoyed his on-and-off job with the Steichmans. It was an obscure studio, the big animation houses being out in California—Disney, Lantz, Warner Bros.—and it produced mainly kiddie melodramas, its characters bugs and tender animals with cute names like "Mike and Moth," "Zippy the Squirrel," or "Trinket the Tomcat," creations that never really made it with the public.)

Then World War II had come. He did his bit as a civilian employee with a unit of the Army Information Service out in Secaucus, New Jersey, where he worked for three years during the war, churning out instructional comics with titles like "Hygiene at Sea," pamphlets, and posters about everything from malaria to dental hygiene.

Sometimes while resting, traffic noise would take him back to his early days in Manhattan, after the war, when he lived in a walk-up on Fiftieth Street, as a plodding, ever slow but first-rate freelancer, who fell in love with Annie MacGuire. He would see his old radio, which he'd hauled up out of the street and fixed with some new tubes from the corner store; and next to that their rust-bladed electric fan, which used to make the living room, an oven in the summers, a little more bearable; and then his old drawing board and the little cuckoo clock, in which they'd stash their savings, five- and ten-dollar bills. A Chinese screen, and then, later on, the crib in which his son, Robert, or Roberto as he'd call him, would sleep. Adorable and ever so tender, on his back, little feet up, his face would go into delighted contortions when Ives, the shyest and most reticent father in the world, would stand over him and touch his belly.

Thinking about Robert, Ives would always fondly remember those evenings he spent in 1948, at the Art Students League. After a day freelancing, he'd walk in and sit in the back, his sketchbook, charcoals, and pencils set out before him. And often enough he'd notice that among the twenty or so students there sat the quiet Annie MacGuire, whose intensity and concentration had always impressed him. The few times he had spied her work he had been struck by the simplicity and elegance of her drawing. He did not know much about her, other than what he'd once overheard her saying during one of the breaks, when the artists would congregate out in the hall. That she was an art and English teacher at a school on the Upper East Side, her pay lousy. She liked books, he'd noticed, and was probably taking a night course in literature, because she always walked in with thick novels, PROPERTY OF HUNTER COLLEGE stamped on them.

When she'd walk into the studio, her portfolio in hand, she'd barely acknowledge the presence of others. Ives couldn't tell if she was a snob or simply private.

1. The events in the passage are described primarily from the point of view of a narrator who presents the:
 - A. inner thoughts and feelings of Ives exclusively.
 - B. inner thoughts of Ives and MacGuire exclusively.
 - C. thoughts of Ives, his employers, and his classmates as expressed in dialogue.
 - D. inner thoughts and feelings of all the characters in the life of Ives.
2. The passage supports all of the following statements about the Steichman brothers' business EXCEPT that:
 - F. it was a small animation studio compared to the big ones in California.
 - G. it produced cartoons that were shown in the theater where Ives was an usher.
 - H. Ives worked there on an irregular basis.
 - J. it created characters that included tender and cute animals.
3. Which of the following questions is NOT answered by the passage?
 - A. What kind of work did Ives do in his father's printing plant?
 - B. Did a relationship ever develop between Ives and MacGuire?
 - C. As an infant, how did Robert respond to his father's gentle attention?
 - D. In what setting did Ives first become aware of MacGuire?
4. One of the main ideas of the second paragraph (lines 16-33) is that:
 - F. as a young man, Ives frequently changed jobs because employers found his work unsatisfactory.
 - G. Ives's work at a movie theater earned him the attention of the Steichman brothers.
 - H. to get to know the world around him, Ives held a variety of jobs as a young man.
 - J. working many jobs at once, Ives lost important chances to advance his art career.
5. According to the passage, all of the following were aspects of Ives's job at the movie theater EXCEPT:
 - A. wearing a dark gray outfit.
 - B. being able to see gangster movies.
 - C. escorting girls to their seats.
 - D. painting window displays.
6. In the passage, the statement that MacGuire's artwork is characterized by simplicity and elegance is best described as the opinion of:
 - F. Ives that he expresses to her in an effort to impress her.
 - G. Ives that he forms at the Art Students League.
 - H. MacGuire that she states to her classmates in hopes that Ives will agree.
 - J. Ives that replaced his initial impression of her work as being too cute for his taste.
7. The passage indicates that Ives's primary response to the events described in the sixth paragraph (lines 67-84) is:
 - A. disappointment over a painful personal loss.
 - B. warmth rising from a treasured memory.
 - C. confusion over the direction his life has taken.
 - D. satisfaction from completing a work of fine art.
8. According to the passage, as a young man, Ives had a vision of success for himself that included:
 - F. becoming a Hollywood cartoonist.
 - G. moving to a house in the country.
 - H. having a show of beautiful portraits.
 - J. having his artwork published in a national magazine.
9. The passage indicates that compared to his work at the movie theater, Ives found his work for the Steichman brothers to be:
 - A. more enjoyable.
 - B. less enjoyable.
 - C. more profitable financially.
 - D. less profitable financially.
10. That MacGuire was enrolled in a literature class was:
 - F. an inference Ives made based on his observation of what she brought to art class.
 - G. a fact she mentioned to her art school classmates as a way of suggesting her superiority to them.
 - H. a detail that Ives learned from a classmate who had discovered that Ives was fond of MacGuire.
 - J. a comment she made to overcome an awkward silence in her first conversation with Ives.