



YEAR 5

Comprehension: GL Style

Eleven multiple-choice questions on the passage below, in the style GL papers use. Read the passage once through before you start, then look back as often as you like. Line numbers are given so you can find the evidence.

Nan has been left in charge of the lighthouse while her grandfather is away on the mainland. The storm has been building since morning.

1. The lamp had to be lit by dusk, and dusk was coming on faster than Nan liked. She climbed the ninety-eight steps with the oil can knocking against her knee, counting as she went, because counting kept her from thinking about the wind. It had been rising all afternoon. Now it leaned against the tower with the patience of something that had 5. nowhere else to be.

At the top she set down the can and looked out. The sea was the colour of an old coin. Far off, where the water met the cloud, she could make out a smudge of sail, and she watched it a moment before she understood what she was watching. A boat. Out there, in that.

10. Her grandfather had a rule about the light: never late, never dim, never for one moment unattended. He had said it so often that it had stopped being a rule and become a kind of weather, something that simply was. Nan had never once thought to ask what would happen if she failed. Standing there with the wick in her hand, she found she could imagine it perfectly well.

15. The match went out. So did the second. On the third she cupped her hands the way she had been shown, and the flame caught and steadied and grew, and the great lens above her began to gather it up and throw it out across the water in long slow arms of light. She did not cheer. She simply stood, breathing, and watched the beam sweep out to the place where the sail had been.

20. It was still there. It had not moved much, and it was lower in the water than before, but it was there, and now it was lit. Nan wound the clockwork, checked the oil, and sat down on the cold iron floor with her back against the wall, where she could see the sea and the sea could see her. She stayed until morning.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

The storm and the climb

Answer with the letter. The evidence is always in the lines given.

- 1 Why does Nan count the steps? (lines 2 to 3)
A She has been told to count them **B** It stops her thinking about the wind **C** She is measuring the tower **D** She counts them every evening out of habit **E** It helps her climb faster
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- 2 "It had been rising all afternoon." (line 3) What does **it** refer to?
A the sea **B** the lamp **C** the wind **D** the tower **E** the oil
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- 3 "the sea was the colour of an old coin" (line 6) This is an example of
A a metaphor **B** personification **C** a simile **D** alliteration **E** exaggeration
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- 4 The wind "leaned against the tower with the patience of something that had nowhere else to be" (lines 4 to 5). What does this suggest?
A The wind was gentle **B** The wind would not let up **C** The wind was about to change direction **D** The tower was leaning **E** The wind came only in short bursts
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- 5 Why does Nan watch the sail "a moment before she understood what she was watching"? (lines 7 to 8)
A It is too far away to see clearly **B** She is thinking about her grandfather **C** It takes her a moment to realise a boat is out in the storm **D** She is counting the steps **E** She mistakes it for a cloud
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The light and what it means

Some of these ask what the writing suggests, not what it says.

- 1 "it had stopped being a rule and become a kind of weather" (lines 11 to 12). What does the author mean?
A The rule changed with the seasons **B** The rule was written down somewhere **C** The rule was so familiar it was simply part of life **D** Her grandfather often forgot the rule **E** The rule only applied in storms
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- 2 Which word is closest in meaning to **unattended** (line 11)?
A unlit **B** unwatched **C** unwanted **D** unfinished **E** unusual
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- 3 What type of words are these? climbed (line 2), leaned (line 4), cupped (line 15), wound (line 21)
A nouns **B** adjectives **C** adverbs **D** verbs **E** prepositions
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- 4 Why does the author write "She did not cheer" (line 18)?
A Nan is disappointed with the light **B** Nan is too tired to celebrate **C** It shows the seriousness of what she is doing **D** Nan does not know whether it worked **E** Nan has been told to keep quiet
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- 5 "where she could see the sea and the sea could see her" (lines 22 to 23). This is an example of
A a simile **B** personification **C** alliteration **D** exaggeration **E** a rhetorical question
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- 6 What impression do we get of Nan by the end of the passage?
A She is reckless and enjoys danger **B** She is frightened and wants to leave
C She is careless about her grandfather's rules **D** She is steady and takes her responsibility seriously **E** She is confident that nothing will go wrong
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