

Question ID 3616aebf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3616aebf

The following text is adapted from Pam Muñoz Ryan’s 2020 novel *Mañanaland*. In the village where Max lives, there is an old fortress called La Reina. Children in the village say that the fortress is haunted.

For as long as he could remember, Max had begged Papá [his father] to take him to see La Reina and the ruins up close. He’d be a hero among his friends if he was the first boy to cross the haunted gates! Just because Papá didn’t believe in ghosts didn’t mean they weren’t there. Maybe this summer Papá would finally take him. He was almost twelve.

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Which choice best describes the overall purpose of the text?

- A. To portray how proud Max’s father is of Max
- B. To explain why Max doesn’t want to grow up yet
- C. To criticize Max for disliking summer
- D. To show how much Max wants to visit La Reina

ID: 3616aebf Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall purpose of the text. The text indicates that "for as long as he could remember," Max had "begged" his father to take him to La Reina. This point is later emphasized in the text by indicating that "this summer" his father might "finally take" Max to visit La Reina. Thus, the purpose of the text as a whole is to show how much Max wants to visit La Reina.

Choice A is incorrect. The text does not discuss Papa’s feelings toward Max. Rather, it mentions that Max has long wanted Papa to take him to La Reina and that, unlike Max and some other children, Papa does not believe that La Reina is haunted. Choice B is incorrect. The text mentions that Max is "almost twelve" at the time, which suggests anticipation of growing up rather than refusal to. Choice C is incorrect. The text indicates that Max hopes to visit La Reina during the current summer, but nothing suggests that Max dislikes summer.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2028fe45

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2028fe45

The following text is from Holly Goldberg Sloan’s 2017 novel *Short*.

More than two years ago my parents bought a piano from some people who were moving to Utah. Mom and Dad gave it to my brothers and me for Christmas. I had to act really happy because it was such a big present, but I pretty much hated the thing from the second it was carried into the hallway upstairs, which is right next to my bedroom. The piano glared at me. It was like a songbird in a cage. It wanted to be set free.

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- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. It explains why the narrator always wanted a piano close to her bedroom.
 - B. It establishes how the narrator feels about the piano.
 - C. It suggests that the narrator’s brothers are talented piano players.
 - D. It describes the event that led the narrator’s parents to buy a piano.

ID: 2028fe45 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively states the main purpose of the text, which is to establish the narrator’s feelings about the piano. In the text, the narrator reveals that she “had to act really happy” about the piano even though she “pretty much hated the thing” as soon as it was placed upstairs near her bedroom. The narrator also describes the piano as glaring at her and compares it to a caged bird that wants to be set free. These details establish the narrator’s feelings about the piano, suggesting that she dislikes it.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t state that the narrator wanted a piano near her bedroom. In fact, she “hated the thing” from the start and felt that it glared at her. These details express dislike, not desire. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t state that the narrator’s brothers are talented piano players. The only information provided in the text about the narrator’s brothers is that they were also given the piano. Choice D is incorrect because the text states only that the narrator’s parents bought the piano for the children from people who were moving. The text doesn’t give any information about what made the parents decide to buy a piano in the first place.

Question Difficulty: Easy