



6th Online Learning #1 ELA

Subject: English Language Arts

State: Ohio

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School Name: _____

This passage is from a novel about a boy named Bud. Miss Hill is his favorite librarian. Read the passage.

Then, answer the questions.

Bud, Not Buddy

by Christopher Paul Curtis

1. I pushed the heavy door open and walked into the library. The air in the library isn't like the air anywhere else, first it's always cooler than the air outside, it feels like you're walking into a cellar on a hot July day, even if you have to walk up a bunch of stairs to get into it.
2. The next thing about the air in the library is that no other place smells anything like it. If you close your eyes and try to pick out what it is that you're sniffing you're only going to get confused, because all the smells have blended together and turned themselves into a different one.
3. As soon as I got into the library I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. I got a whiff of the leather on all the old books, a smell that got real strong if you picked one of them up and stuck your nose real close to it when you turned the pages. Then there was the smell of the cloth that covered the brand-new books, the books that made a splitting sound when you opened them. Then I could sniff the paper, that soft, powdery, drowsy smell that comes off the pages in little puffs when you're reading something or looking at some pictures, a kind of hypnotizing smell.
4. I think it's that smell that makes so many folks fall asleep in the library. You'll see someone turn a page and you can imagine a puff of page powder coming up really slow and easy until it starts piling on the person's eyelashes, weighing their eyes down so much that they stay down a little longer after each blink and finally making them so heavy that they just don't come back up at all. Then their mouths come open and their heads start bouncing up and down like they're bobbing in a big tub of water for apples and before you know it, ... woop, zoop, sloop ... they're out cold and their face thunks down smack-dab on the book.
5. That's the part that gets the librarians the maddest, they get real upset if folks start drooling in the books and, page powder or not, they don't want to hear no excuses, you gotta get out. Drooling in the books is even worse than laughing out loud in the library, and even though it might seem kind of mean, you can't really blame the librarians for tossing drooly folks out 'cause there's nothing worse than opening a book and having the pages all stuck together from somebody's dried-up slobber.
6. I opened my eyes to start looking for Miss Hill. She wasn't at the lending desk so I left my suitcase with the lady there. I knew it would be safe.
7. I walked between the stacks to see if Miss Hill was putting books up. Three doggone times I walked through the library, upstairs and down, and couldn't find her.

8. I went back up to the librarian at the lending desk. I waited until she looked up at me. She smiled and said, "Yes? Would you like to retrieve your suitcase?" She reached under the desk.
9. I said, "Not yet, ma'am, could I ask you a question?"
10. She said, "Of course, young man, how may I help you?"
11. "I'm looking for Miss Hill."
12. The librarian looked surprised. "Miss Hill? My goodness, hadn't you heard?"
13. I answered, "No, ma'am."
14. The librarian said, "There's no need for you to look so stricken. It's not bad news, young man."
15. She laughed a quiet, librarian-type laugh and said, "Really, it's not bad news. Unless you had matrimonial plans concerning Miss Hill."
16. I pretended I knew what she was talking about, most times if you listen to how grown folks ask a question they let you know what it is they want to hear.
17. I said, "No, ma'am, I didn't plan that at all."
18. She laughed again and said, "Good, because I don't think her new husband would appreciate the competition. Miss Hill is currently living in Chicago, Illinois."
19. I said, "Husband? You mean she got married, ma'am?"
20. The librarian said, "Oh, yes, and I must tell you, she was radiating happiness."
21. I said, "And she moved all the way to Chicago?"
22. "That's right, but Chicago isn't that far. Here, I'll show you."
23. She reached under her desk and pulled out a thick leather book called *Atlas of the United States of America* .
24. She thumbed through a couple of pages and said, "Here we are." She turned the book to me, it was a big map of Michigan and a couple of the states that were next to it.
25. "We're here." She pointed to the spot that said Flint. "And Chicago is here in Illinois."

26. They looked pretty close, but I know how tricky maps can be, shucks, they can put the whole world on one page on a map, so I said, “How long would it take someone to walk that far?”
27. She said, “Oh, dear, quite a while, I’m afraid.”
28. I thanked the librarian for the bad news and went to sit at one of the big heavy tables so I could think what to do next.

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- 1 What mood is expressed when Bud closes his eyes in the beginning of the selection?
- (A) He is unhappy because he just walked to the library and up a tall set of stairs.
 - (B) He is excited to feel the page powder on his face so he can fall asleep.
 - (C) He is comfortable with the mixture of smells in the library.
 - (D) He is nervous about a plan to find Miss Hill.

2 "Then their mouths come open and their heads start bouncing up and down like they're bobbing in a big tub of water for apples and before you know it, ... woop, zoop, sloop ... they're out cold and their face thunks down smack-dab on the book." (Paragraph 4)

Identify the simile in the above sentence and explain what it means in the context of this selection.

- 3 What information is revealed to the reader only through Bud's inner thoughts?
- (A) Bud does not understand the librarian's reference to his matrimonial plans.
 - (B) It would take a long time to walk from Flint, Michigan to Chicago.
 - (C) Bud left his suitcase with the librarian at the lending desk.
 - (D) Miss Hill got married and moved to Chicago.

4 "Three doggone times I walked through the library, upstairs and down, and couldn't find her."
(Paragraph 7) What does this statement tell the reader about Bud's mood?

- (A) He is tired from walking up and down the steps of the library while trying to find Miss Hill.
- (B) He is confused because he cannot remember which days Miss Hill works at the library.
- (C) He is disappointed that he cannot find Miss Hill to ask her to hold onto his suitcase.
- (D) He is frustrated because he cannot locate Miss Hill anywhere in the library.

5 Why is Bud doubtful when the librarian shows him the map to locate Chicago?

- (A) He has not used an atlas before.
- (B) He does not believe that the librarian is telling him the complete truth about Miss Hill.
- (C) He wants to walk to Chicago, but he realizes that the map is not going to help him find his way.
- (D) He cannot tell the distance from place to place because such a large area can fit onto one page.

6 Explain Bud's first reaction to the smells in the air as he enters the library. Then, describe three specific smells that he notices afterward.

7 Which statement summarizes what happens at the end of the selection?

- (A) Bud decides to consult another map of Michigan and its neighboring states.
- (B) Bud is relieved to see that Flint and Chicago are not too far apart.
- (C) Bud tries to make sense of the news that the librarian told him.
- (D) Bud cannot decide whether or not to believe the librarian.

8 "She laughed a quiet, librarian type laugh and said, 'Really, it's not bad news. Unless you had **matrimonial** plans concerning Miss Hill.'" (Paragraph 15)

Which paragraph helps the reader determine the meaning of the word **matrimonial**?

(A) paragraph 14

(B) paragraph 16

(C) paragraph 17

(D) paragraph 18