

## “Museum Hours”

### Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Dear Editor,

I have just learned that our town’s public art museum will be eliminating Saturday hours next month due to a **protracted** budget shortfall.

It will be a severe hardship and loss to our town’s citizens if the museum closes on Saturdays. For many working people, like myself, Saturday is the only day of the week to take advantage of the breathtaking and thought provoking artwork our museum has to offer.

Parents often use this day to take their children to the museum in order to expose them to this important bit of culture.

The public museum has been a **boon** to this town since it opened in 1975. People from many nearby towns choose Saturday to come and see artwork here.

This is an **exigent** matter. Not that much would need to be added to the average homeowner’s tax bill to keep the museum open. Isn’t the museum worth it?

I beseech everyone who values our museum to contact their town representative and ask for funding to keep the museum Saturday hours intact.

Sincerely,

Maria B. Williams

### Questions:

- 1) Which best describes the tone of this letter?
  - A. flrid
  - B. ingenuous
  - C. inimical
  - D. obtuse

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## Questions (continued):

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2) How could Maria have made her letter more cogent?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A.  interviewed the museum curator
- B.  listed the names of artists featured at the museum
- C.  included how much would be added to the average homeowner's tax bill
- D.  highlighted important programs that occur at the museum on Saturday

3) Which is the best antonym for **protracted**?

- A. curable
- B. imagined
- C. ridiculous
- D. shortened

4) *"For many working people, like myself, Saturday is the only day of the week to take advantage of the breathtaking and thought provoking artwork our museum has to offer."*

▼ Identify the grammatical error in this sentence.

- A. myself should be me
- B. like should be such as
- C. breathtaking should be breath taking
- D. has should be had

5) Who might Maria be writing to in this letter?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A.  the mayor
- B.  the citizens of her town
- C.  the local newspaper
- D.  federal government officials

6) Which is the best antonym for **boon**?

- A. bore
- B. curse
- C. hassle
- D. inconsequence

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Questions (continued):

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7) How might this type of writing best be described?

- A. comparative, meaning demonstrates the similarities and differences between two topics
- B. instructive, meaning it teaches how to do something
- C. persuasive, meaning it aims to make a cogent argument about something
- D. narrative, meaning it tells a story in a sequence of events

8) "*This is an **exigent** matter.*"

▼ Choose the best way to rewrite the above sentence.

- A.  This is an urgent matter.
- B.  This is a historical matter.
- C.  This is a worthwhile matter.
- D.  This is a noteworthy matter.

9) "*I beseech everyone who values our museum to contact their town representative and ask for funding to keep the museum Saturday hours intact.*"

▼ Which word in the above sentence is incorrect?

- A. beseech
- B. their
- C. ask
- D. hours

10) Check all that make sense. Short of raising taxes, what other options might best be considered to keep the museum open on Saturdays?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A.  Add more Saturday programs.
  - B.  Close on another day of the week.
  - C.  Don't let town representatives vote on issue.
  - D.  Increase the number of volunteers who work on Saturday.
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