

“Scorpion”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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



Soon after Navi got engaged to Roberto, she went to meet his family in Mexico.

She had heard many a story of Roberto’s birth city of Guanajuato, and they had all **captivated** her. At one time, this colonial city was the source of two-thirds of the world’s silver.

“Our family goes to a beautiful church in Guanajuato,” Roberto had told her while they courted in the United States. “It is said that silver dust was mixed into the cement building blocks and that is why the church sparkles.”

Navi had been **enthralled**. Roberto always told such wonderful stories. She could not wait to see the city and meet all of Roberto’s family. Navi was an artist and knew that the trip would inspire her to create.

While Roberto had imparted Navi with all the wonders of his beautiful city, it had not occurred to him to mention any dangers. They were young. They were in love. They lived only in the moment.

Navi was speechless when she saw the Oratorio de San Felipe. “It really does sparkle!” she exclaimed.

Navi kissed Roberto on the cheek. “I’ll meet you outside,” she said, leaving the church.

She pulled her sketchpad and pencils from her bag and went to sit against one of the glorious palm trees outside the church. She began sketching the **colossal** cupola which extended three stories above the nave.

Suddenly, a sharp pain took hold of her left shoulder. It felt like an electrical shock. The pain began to **pervade** the rest of her body.

She had been stung by a **pernicious** scorpion!

The last thing Navi remembered was Roberto kneeling by her side. She woke up a week later with him holding her hand and telling her a story. “In Mexico, scorpions are **ubiquitous**. There are more scorpion deaths here than in any other place in the world. And they love palm trees,” he said, rubbing her hand with tears of relief in his eyes. “I should have mentioned that before.”

Questions:

1) Which is the best antonym for **captivated**?

- A. dishonored
- B. enthralled
- C. repelled
- D. saddened

2) Which of the following sentences most clearly foreshadows that something bad will happen?

- A. They lived only in the moment.
- B. It had not occurred to him to mention any dangers.
- C. Suddenly, a sharp pain took hold of her left shoulder.
- D. "I'll meet you outside," she said, leaving the church.

3) According to the passage, which conditions may result from a scorpion sting?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. paralysis
- B. nausea
- C. pain
- D. unconsciousness

4) "*They were young. They were in love. They lived only in the moment.*"

▼ Choose the best way to combine the above sentences.

- A. They were young and in love and they lived only in the moment.
- B. They were young and in love; they lived only in the moment.
- C. They were young and in love; therefore, they lived only in the moment.
- D. They were young and in love; conversely, they lived only in the moment.

5) Which is the best antonym for **colossal**?

- A. banal
- B. microscopic
- C. temporal
- D. uninspiring

6) What is the best synonym for **pervade**?

- A. numb
- B. paralyze
- C. permeate
- D. sicken

Questions (continued):

7) How does Roberto seem to feel about not having told Navi about scorpions?

- A. aloof
- B. perplexed
- C. remorseful
- D. validated

8) What is the best definition of **pernicious**?

- A. deadly
- B. evil
- C. sneaky
- D. territorial

9) What type of narrator is telling this story?

- A. first person, characterized as a person in the story.
- B. second person, characterized as speaking directly to the reader.
- C. third person omniscient, characterized as knowing what all the characters are thinking.
- D. third person focalized, characterized by knowing only what one character may be thinking

10) Which is the best antonym for **ubiquitous**?

- A. scarce
- B. benevolent
- C. harmless
- D. adulterated

Do you think Navi should be upset at Roberto? Explain.
