

“The Runaway”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

My name is Uma.

I was 17 when I ran away from home **for good**.

I stole \$45 from my Dad’s drawer one morning.

He had already left for work.

I stuffed some clothes in my backpack.



I headed for the bus station.

I caught the first bus that came in.

It did not matter to me where I was going.

It just mattered that I was leaving.

I ended up in Springfield, Massachusetts.

I got here around sunset.

My first night here, I was scared.

I was alone.

I slept behind an old store so no one would see me.

It was December. I was so cold.

Today, I am still in Springfield. I am 28-years-old. I have a kid who is 11.

I wait tables at a restaurant. The food is not so good. The people who eat there are not so nice.

I think about my dad sometimes.

“Do I have a grandma?” my kid asks.

“No,” I say.

“Do I have a grandpa?” he asks.

“Not to speak of,” I say. That is when I think of my dad.

I think about what he is doing.

I think about if he misses me or not.

I don’t miss him much at all.

But it’s nice to feel like someone misses you.

Questions:

1) What does **for good** mean in this story?

- A. forever
- B. for a little while
- C. to have a good time
- D. to make things better

2) How old was Uma when she ran away?

- A. 11
- B. 16
- C. 17
- D. 28

3) Where did Uma get \$45?

- A. She stole it.
- B. She borrowed it.
- C. She worked for it.
- D. She got it from her drawer.

4) How did Uma run away?

- A. she walked
- B. she drove
- C. she caught the bus
- D. she caught the train

5) Why might Uma not have cared where the bus was going?

- A. She was very tired.
- B. She wanted to get away fast.
- C. Her friends were on the bus.
- D. She did not want to catch the train.

6) What kind of person does Uma seem to be?

- A. honest
- B. funny
- C. pretty
- D. sad

7) Why did Uma sleep behind the store?

- A. so she could buy food
- B. so no one would see her
- C. there were other people there
- D. her friends asked her to

8) In what month did Uma run away?

- A. _____

9) Where does Uma work?

- A. at a school
- B. at a restaurant
- C. at a bakery
- D. at a store

10) When does Uma think about her Dad?

- A. all the time
- B. every December
- C. when her child asks about grandpa
- D. when she works at the restaurant

