

## “Wanga”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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



I, Nancy Norris, believer of nothing, order my spell kit on the Internet.

I feel pretty silly, but I have run out of more **sane** ideas.

I have looked in the want ads. I have sent my resume to a million companies. I have gone to businesses up and down my block asking for work.

I need a job. I need money. I need these things fast. I am **desperate**.

I am about to lose my house. I am about to lose my car. I have been out of work for 8 months.

The Internet is free at the library. This is a very good thing. I see a site that sells witch doctor spell kits.

WARNING: Do not ask for something unless you truly want it to **come true!**

There are Love Kits. These get someone to love you back. There are New Life Kits. These make you happy. There are Money Kits. These bring you money, riches and an easy life.

Of course, I choose the Money Kit. This is what I need. I truly want it to come true.

I have \$20 left on my credit card. I use it all to order my spell kit. Don't laugh.

The kit arrives in three days, as promised. I hope the spell works more quickly.

Inside the kit is a wanga doll. The doll has been blessed by an actual witch doctor and is a very important part of making my spell come true. That is what the box says, anyway.

Wanga is about 6 inches tall. It has bushy black hair. It is dressed in a furry outfit that looks like a bathrobe. Hopefully, he will be my new best friend.

There are three different powders in the kit. Each has its own separate bag.

The kit also comes with a set of **detailed** instructions. I am to follow them exactly.

I spread the powders out on the floor and place my wanga doll next to them. I hope for the best. My mortgage is due tomorrow.

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Questions:

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1) What is the meaning of the word **sane** ?

- A. something that is foolish
- B. something that is powerful
- C. something that makes sense
- D. something that makes money

2) Why does Nancy order a spell kit?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A.  She needs a job.
- B.  She needs money.
- C.  She wants a boyfriend.
- D.  She wants to be a witch.

3) Given what is said in the passage, what is another way to write the following sentence?

*"I am **desperate**."*

- A. I am crazy.
- B. I full of hope.
- C. I am willing to try anything.
- D. I am not sure about anything anymore.

4) What can be said about Nancy from this passage?

- A. She is well read.
- B. She is very serious.
- C. She was once very wealthy.
- D. She can make fun of herself.

5) What does it mean for something to **come true** ?

- A. It happens.
- B. It tells the truth.
- C. It brings money.
- D. It is a fairy tale.

6) Which kit does Nancy order?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) What does the wanga doll look like?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A.  It is black.
- B.  It is 6 inches tall.
- C.  It has bushy hair.
- D.  It has on a furry outfit.

8) Which sentence from the story is most likely an exaggeration?

- A. I need a job.
- B. Wanga is about 6 inches tall.
- C. The kit arrives in three days, as promised.
- D. I have sent my resume to a million companies.

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Questions (continued):

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9) According to the story, why would a person buy the New Life Kit?

- A. to have a baby
- B. to become happy
- C. to move to a new town
- D. to be cured from sickness

10) What is special about the wanga doll?

- A. It is full of money.
- B. It has bushy black hair.
- C. It is Nancy's best friend.
- D. It has been blessed by a witch doctor.

11) How long does it take for the kit to arrive?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12) What would be the opposite of **detailed** instructions?

- A. many instructions
- B. basic instructions
- C. specific instructions
- D. funny instructions

13) How does Nancy pay for her spell kit?

- A. with cash
- B. with a check
- C. with a credit card
- D. with a money order

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Are you superstitious? Why or why not?

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