

## PASSAGE I

### Hair-raising Problems

Why is it that we are so completely obsessive with the  
1  
hair on our heads? Millions of dollars are spent each year  
on cutting hair, lengthening hair, bleaching hair,  
straightening hair, curling hair, highlighting hair, and even  
growing hair; whatever you can do to hair, someone is  
willing to pay the money to do it. Natural redheads long

2

1. **A.** NO CHANGE  
**B.** obsessed  
**C.** obsessing  
**D.** obsessedioned
  
2. **F.** NO CHANGE  
**G.** pay  
**H.** paying money  
**J.** have paid

willing to pay the money to do it. Natural redheads long

2

- ~~2. F. NO CHANGE~~
- ~~G. pay~~
- ~~H. paying money~~
- ~~J. have paid~~

for to be brunettes and dishwater blondes dream of shiny

3

golden tresses. Both men and women cringe at the sight of

- 3. A. NO CHANGE
- B. to have
- C. to be
- D. becoming for

each gray hair, so teenagers enjoy weekly experiments

4

with magenta dyes, spikes, and tangerine streaks.

- 4. F. NO CHANGE
- G. however
- H. yet
- J. and

All of these thoughts cross my mind as I examine the

result of my most recent hair adventure. As a mature

5

- 5. A. NO CHANGE
- B. result for
- C. result with
- D. result by

woman watching the gray hairs mixing in rapidly with my

6

natural brunette tones, I decided over a year ago, to

7

approach my stylist with the idea of highlights. Having

seen many of my peers go this route, I figured that

highlighting was for to be the answer to my reluctance to

8

look my age.

- 6. **F.** NO CHANGE
- G.** rapidly mixing
- H.** mixed rapidly in
- J.** rapidly mix in to

- 7. **A.** NO CHANGE
- B.** ago to
- C.** ago: to
- D.** ago to,

- 8. **F.** NO CHANGE
- G.** was being
- H.** could of been
- J.** was

and ready to go blonde. [4] The result was not quite what I expected, but I resolved to live with it! [11] [5] Donna was surprised at my suggestion, but quickly began sharing my

unbridled enthusiasm as she gathers the appropriate  
12  
chemicals and concoctions that would soon transform me.

Three months later, I find myself seesawing between tears and laughter as I attempt to cover up a patch of  
13  
nearly bald scalp on the top of my head. For someone who has long been fanatical about the appearance of her hair, this absence of hair has proven to be quite a challenge to my ego and self-confidence. I've always enjoyed styling my hair, and suddenly, I have nothing to style.

11. For the sake of logic and coherence, Sentence 5 should be placed:
- A. where it is now.
  - B. before Sentence 1.
  - C. after Sentence 2.
  - D. before Sentence 4.
12. F. NO CHANGE
- G. she was gathering
  - H. she had been gathering
  - J. she gathered
13. A. NO CHANGE
- B. along with
  - C. or
  - D. as well as











1. **The best answer is B.** The passage takes place on a ship, the *Nellie*, and the narrator is one of the crew members. He uses words like “we” and “us” when referring to the crew, implying his membership to this group. The other answer choices are not supported by the passage.
2. **The best answer is F.** Although the passage states, “for some reason or another we did not begin that game of dominoes,” it is reasonable to assume that it was because they were too tired from the use of the words “lazily” and “meditative.” The other answer choices are not supported by the passage.
3. **The best answer is C.** The passage states that “the Lawyer . . . had, because of his many years and many virtues, the only cushion on deck,” indicating that since he was the eldest crew member and had the other crew members’ respect, he was afforded the comfort of the cushion. The other answer choices are not supported by the passage.
4. **The best answer is F.** The definition of “placid” is “not easily excited or upset; calm.” Since the men on the ship were feeling “meditative” and seemed not to have an abundance of energy, it makes sense that they simply wanted to sit calmly. The other answer choices are not supported by the context of the passage.
5. **The best answer is D.** In the fifth paragraph the narrator is describing how Marlow is unlike most sailors: “The yarns of seamen have a direct simplicity, the whole meaning of which lies within the shell of a cracked nut. But Marlow was not typical . . . and to him the meaning of an episode was not inside like a kernel but outside . . .” This is to say that typical sailors tell simple, uncomplicated tales, while Marlow tends to tell stories that are layered and complex. This best supports answer choice D.
6. **The best answer is H.** Since Marlow states that the episode which he is about to recount “seemed to somehow throw a light on everything about (him),” we can assume that this experience had a profound effect on him. The other answer choices are either not supported by the passage or are beyond the scope of the passage.
7. **The best answer is A.** The passage states that “The

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8. **The best answer is G.** There are clues in the passage to indicate that the narrator, as well as the other crew members, were not thrilled when Marlow began to speak. Marlow's very first comment was "accepted in silence" and "no one took the trouble to grunt even." In the next paragraph the narrator begins to realize that the crew was "fated, before the ebb began to run, to hear about one of Marlow's inconclusive experiences." Since resigned means "accepting that something can not be avoided" and tolerance means "patience," making G the best answer.

9. **The best answer is A.** In the third paragraph the passage states that the men's mutual interest in the sea created a bond between them capable of "holding (their) hearts together through long periods of separation," "making (them) tolerant of each other's yarns," and making them accepting of each other's "convictions." Answer choice A is not mentioned in the passage.

10. **The best answer is J.** The passage states that the crewmen watched him "affectionately," meaning "showing fondness or liking." The captain is also described as "trustworthiness personified," indicating that the other crew members have the utmost faith and trust in him. This best supports answer choice J.