

BASIC APPROACH EXERCISE

Questions 1–11 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*. Originally published in 1898. The narrator, a governess caring for two children at a remote estate, encounters an unfamiliar figure on the grounds.

There were hours, from day to day—or at least there were moments, snatched even from clear duties—when I had to shut myself up to think. It was not so much yet that I was more nervous than I could bear to be as that I was remarkably afraid of becoming so; for the truth I had now to turn over was, simply and clearly, the truth that I could arrive at no account whatever of the visitor with whom I had been so inexplicably and yet, as it seemed to me, so intimately concerned. The shock I had suffered must have sharpened all my senses; I felt sure, at the end of three days and as the result of mere closer attention, that I had not been practiced upon by the servants nor made the object of any “game.” Of whatever it was that I knew, nothing was known around me. There was but one sane inference: someone had taken a liberty rather gross. That was what, repeatedly, I dipped into my room and locked the door to say to myself. We had been, collectively, subject to an intrusion; some unscrupulous traveler, curious in old houses, had made his way in unobserved, enjoyed the prospect from the best point of view, and then stolen out as he came. If he had given me such a bold hard stare, that was but a part of his indiscretion. The good thing, after all, was that we should surely see no more of him.

There was a Sunday when it rained with such force and for so many hours,

I had arranged with Mrs. Grose that, should the evening show improvement, we would attend together the late service. The rain happily stopped, and I prepared for our walk. The day was gray enough, but the afternoon light still lingered, and it enabled me, on crossing the threshold, not only to recognize, but to become aware of a person on the other side of the window and looking straight in. One step into the room had sufficed; my vision was instantaneous; it was all there. The person looking straight in was the person who had already appeared to me. He appeared thus again with I won’t say greater distinctness, for that was impossible, but with a nearness that represented a forward stride in our intercourse and made me, as I met him, catch my breath and turn cold. He remained but a few seconds—long enough to convince me he also saw and recognized.

I stood there, a sudden vibration of duty and courage. I bounded straight out of the door again, reached that of the house, got, in an instant, upon the drive, and, passing along the terrace as fast as I could rush, turned a corner and came full in sight. But it was in sight of nothing now—my visitor had vanished. I stopped, almost dropped, with the real relief of this; but I took in the whole scene—I gave him time to reappear. I call it time, but how long was it? That kind of measure must have left me: they couldn’t have lasted as they actually appeared to me to last. The terrace and the whole place, the lawn and the garden beyond it, all I could see of the park, were empty with a great emptiness. There were shrubberies and big trees, but

75 I remember the clear assurance I felt that none of them concealed him. He was there or was not there: not there if I didn't see him. I got hold of this; then, instinctively, instead of returning as I had come, went to
80 the window. It was confusedly present to me that I ought to place myself where he had stood. I did so; I applied my face to the pane and looked, as he had looked, into the room.

1

In the passage, the visitor is presented primarily as

- A) a familiar townspeople.
- B) a shadowy figure.
- C) a bold intruder.
- D) a frightening criminal.

2

Which choice best summarizes the passage?

- A) A character has an unsettling experience with an unknown person and attempts to explain it.
- B) A character's unexpected arrival causes upheaval among the members of the household.
- C) A character's descent into madness begins with a traumatizing experience in her home.
- D) A character takes bold action to try to drive away an intruder.

3

It can most reasonably be inferred from the passage that the narrator's conclusion that her experience was not a "game" is

- A) contrived, because she cannot remember all of the details of her experience.
- B) inaccurate, because she and the visitor saw and recognized one another.
- C) correct, because she is the only one who appears to be aware of the intrusion.
- D) disappointing, because she hoped the incident was a practical joke.

4

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 7–12 ("for the . . . concerned")
- B) Lines 18–19 ("Of whatever . . . me")
- C) Lines 54–56 ("He remained . . . recognized")
- D) Lines 74–76 ("There . . . him")

5

As used in line 16, the phrase "practiced upon" most nearly means

- A) pursued.
- B) surprised.
- C) rehearsed.
- D) fooled.

6

The narrator uses the phrase “my visitor” in line 64 in order to

- A) imply that the visitor was her invited guest.
- B) indicate that the visitor was invisible to others in the house.
- C) emphasize her inability to find the visitor.
- D) convey an impression of connection between her and the visitor.

7

Which choice best supports the conclusion that the narrator did not truly wish to find the intruder?

- A) Lines 19–21 (“There . . . gross”)
- B) Lines 44–46 (“One step . . . there”)
- C) Lines 64–65 (“I stopped . . . this”)
- D) Lines 82–84 (“I applied . . . room”)

8

With regard to the intruder, the narrator is best described as

- A) tense but determined.
- B) curious but hesitant.
- C) shaken but vengeful.
- D) nervous but hopeful.

9

The author most likely uses the phrase “empty with a great emptiness” to highlight the

- A) narrator’s loneliness at the isolated estate.
- B) narrator’s fear that the figure was of supernatural origin.
- C) narrator’s concern that the visitor has robbed the estate.
- D) narrator’s certainty that the figure was no longer present.

10

The author indicates that the narrator would most likely agree that the intruder

- A) was pointedly seeking her out.
- B) demonstrated cunning tactics in his intrusion.
- C) desired a fine home for himself.
- D) was unpleasant to encounter in person.

11

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 23–28 (“We had . . . came”)
- B) Lines 39–44 (“The day . . . in”)
- C) Lines 48–52 (“He appeared . . . intercourse”)
- D) Lines 76–78 (“He was . . . him”)