

Directions:

For all questions: Read each passage. Then answer each question carefully by choosing the best answer.

Uncle Wilbur

My uncle Wilbur used to spend hours every day checking on the lightning rods that stood guard on the roof of his house. We get a lot of storms here in our state. Sometimes we see wind up to sixty miles per hour and baseball-size hail. Lightning, Uncle Wilbur would say, is a living thing, and like a cat, it will strike anything that moves. You'd better not tempt it, he always told us. He advised my cousins and me to always be mindful of the nearest sheltering tree. He said we should be prepared to drop to the ground like a hot potato at the first sound of thunder. Knowing that lightning is attracted to the tallest thing around, Uncle Wilbur worried constantly about my cousin Jared, who, at sixteen, was 6'2" and still growing.

Uncle Wilbur has always been a smart man. We all listened as he dismissed the automobile as a passing fancy. Every year it seemed more and more Model Ts came rolling into town, but Uncle Wilbur insisted that nothing could replace the reliability of a good old-fashioned mule when it came to transportation, work, or even entertainment. Yes, Uncle Wilbur's Mule Olympics, complete with obstacle courses and a long jump, was known far and wide. Sadly, the Mule Olympics did not survive into the next decade because the mules got too old and lost interest.

Nonetheless, my uncle Wilbur continued to predict future trends and warn us of impending tragedy. To this day, he reminds us that he foresaw the stock market crash of 1929, and that's why he kept his money wrapped in a handkerchief under his mattress. When the government started collecting income taxes a few years back, Uncle Wilbur reluctantly shared his wealth with Uncle Sam, insisting that the money was just a temporary loan.

Uncle Wilbur did not take kindly to the power company man who came knocking one day in 1936. This was the year the government launched a campaign to bring electricity to rural areas like ours. Most people, like Uncle Wilbur, were a little wary of having electricity in their homes. Many of us had running water, and we just weren't sure that the two mixed. Nevertheless, Uncle Wilbur was downright floored when the man said he wanted to string power lines up to the house. Nearly losing his temper, Uncle Wilbur exclaimed, "Here I am doing everything in my power to keep from getting struck by lightning, and you want to bring it right to my doorstep?" He sent the man on his way with a "No, thank you," and a "Good day, sir," but in the months that followed, we all eventually relented and let in the light. I must admit, playing checkers in the dark is a talent you can easily lose without daily practice.

Many things have changed since those times. Uncle Wilbur still lives in mortal fear of a lightning strike, but because he doesn't get out much anymore, most of his lightning rods have rusted through and fallen to the ground. Uncle Wilbur lives mostly on Social Security, which he proudly proclaims as his victory (see, he says, the government did *eventually* give his money back). He probably spends more time reminiscing about the past than he does making future predictions, but Uncle Wilbur will be the first to tell you

that television will never be as popular as radio, and the idea of a human traveling into outer space is just plain crazy.

1. What is the prefix in the word foresaw?

A. fore

B. saw

C. for

D. aw

Answers

2. Which phrase is an example of personification?

A. lightning rods standing guard

B. dismissed the automobile as a passing fancy

C. string power lines up to the house

D. idea of a human traveling into outer space

Answers

3. How would Uncle Wilbur feel about cellular phones?

A. fearful

B. distrustful

C. welcoming

D. indifferent

Answers

4. Compared to Uncle Wilbur, how does the narrator feel toward modern advancements?

A. resisting

B. accepting

C. uncertain

D. exhilarated

Answers

5. Which reason explains why the author wrote about Uncle Wilbur?

A. to explain him

B. to pacify him

C. to remember him

D. to persuade him

Answers

6. Which pair of words best describe how the narrator most likely feels about Uncle Wilbur?

A. annoyed and frustrated

B. respectful and amused

C. sad and indifferent

D. envious and distrustful

Answers

7. What BEST describes the passage?

A. a character sketch

B. a factual research

C. a persuasive essay

D. a news article

Answers

Answer Keys Link : [Reading Practice Test – 3 \(Reading Comprehension\)](#)

