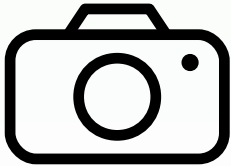




FREE 11+ COMPREHENSION PRACTICE



The Photograph Nobody Chose

An original YanBo comprehension designed to test careful reading, inference, logical reasoning and interpretation.

Medium

10 questions

Answers & explanations included

How to use this paper

Read the passage carefully, then answer all 10 multiple-choice questions. Use the numbered lines to help you find evidence quickly.

The Photograph Nobody Chose

When Mr Iqbal asked Erin to help judge the school photography competition, she expected the difficult part would be choosing between too many brilliant pictures. Instead, after twenty minutes, she had already made a neat pile beside her elbow. A fox under a streetlamp. Lightning above the sports field. A goalkeeper suspended in mid-air.

5 “Finalists,” she announced, pleased with how quickly she had recognised them.

Mr Iqbal looked at the pile but did not touch it. “Recognised what?” Erin frowned. “The best photographs.” On the table remained nearly eighty others: pets, puddles, bus stops, grandparents, bicycles and several sunsets that seemed to have been photographed through dirty bedroom windows. Mr Iqbal pulled up a chair. “Good,” he said. “Now tell

10 me why they’re the best.”

The fox was easy. It was rare, perfectly sharp and staring directly at the camera. The lightning photograph had caught a white fork splitting the purple sky. The goalkeeper’s fingertips were only centimetres from the ball. “Timing,” Erin said. “Drama. Things that are hard to photograph.” Mr Iqbal nodded without agreeing. “Those are reasons. They

15 are not the only reasons.”

They returned to the rejected photographs. Erin tried to be patient. One showed three empty plastic chairs outside a laundrette. Another showed half a sandwich. Then she reached a photograph of an elderly woman sitting on a bus. Nothing remarkable was happening. The woman faced the window, her shopping bag resting on the seat beside

20 her, while rain blurred the shops beyond the glass.

Erin moved it towards the rejected pile. Mr Iqbal stopped her. “Wait.” He turned the photograph slightly beneath the desk lamp. In the dark window, the woman’s reflection could be seen beside the passing street. Her reflected face looked almost transparent, as though the town continued straight through her. “What do you notice?”

25 he asked.

The Photograph Nobody Chose

Erin looked again. The woman's real face was turned away, but the reflection showed her expression: not obviously sad, exactly, but distant. On the seat beside the shopping bag lay a bunch of yellow flowers. Erin had missed them completely. The picture now seemed less empty than it had thirty seconds earlier. Still, she resisted. "But anyone
30 could take a photograph on a bus."

"Anyone could photograph lightning if lightning appeared," Mr Iqbal replied. "Difficulty matters, but it doesn't automatically make an image interesting." He covered the woman with one hand so that only the wet window, flowers and reflection remained visible. Then he covered the reflection instead. Each time, the photograph changed. Erin found
35 herself leaning closer rather than reaching for the next picture.

Near the bottom corner was a small rectangle of white card tucked into the flowers. Only three handwritten words were visible: For your new... The rest disappeared beneath the paper wrapping. Erin immediately began inventing explanations. A new house? A new job? Perhaps the woman was taking the flowers to somebody else. Perhaps they
40 had been given to her.

"Careful," said Mr Iqbal. "A photograph can suggest without proving." Erin sat back. She had almost turned three visible words into an entire story. The picture's strength, she realised, was partly that it refused to finish the story for her. The fox photograph told her exactly what to admire. This one kept changing depending on which detail she noticed
45 and which possibility she considered.

An hour later, they chose six finalists. The lightning remained. So did the goalkeeper. The fox did not. In its place was the woman on the bus. Erin wrote the judges' note herself: An ordinary moment made absorbing through reflection, detail and uncertainty. She paused over the final word, wondering whether it sounded like criticism. Then she
50 smiled and left it exactly where it was.

Questions 1-5

Choose the best answer. For logical-reading questions, use only what the passage proves or supports - not what might be true in real life.

1 Look at lines 1-10. What does Erin's quick creation of a finalist pile suggest about her initial approach?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A She is worried that Mr Iqbal expects her to work quickly. | ☐ B She believes only technically perfect photographs should be considered. |
| ☐ C She is trying to avoid looking at photographs taken by younger pupils. | ☐ D She is confident that striking, dramatic images are obviously the strongest. |

2 Which statement is an opinion rather than a fact stated or directly shown in the passage?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A The woman is sitting on a bus. | ☐ B Three handwritten words are visible on the card. |
| ☐ C The bus photograph is more interesting than the fox photograph. | ☐ D The fox photograph is not among the final six. |

3 Consider these statements. I. The flowers were given to the woman because she had started a new job. II. Erin initially moves the bus photograph towards the rejected pile. III. The fox photograph is included among the final six. Which classification is correct?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A I True • II True • III False | ☐ B I Cannot Say • II True • III False |
| ☐ C I False • II True • III Cannot Say | ☐ D I Cannot Say • II False • III False |

4 Which event most directly causes Erin to begin reconsidering the bus photograph?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A Mr Iqbal tells her that ordinary moments are always better than dramatic ones. | ☐ B She notices that the woman in the photograph is elderly. |
| ☐ C Mr Iqbal prompts her to inspect the reflection and other details she had overlooked. | ☐ D She learns who took the photograph. |

5 Which detail provides the strongest evidence for the claim that the bus photograph rewards closer attention?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A It was taken on a bus. | ☐ B Erin first moves it towards the rejected pile. |
| ☐ C As Erin looks again, she notices the reflection, flowers and incomplete card that she had missed before. | ☐ D Mr Iqbal turns the photograph slightly beneath the desk lamp. |

Questions 6-10

Choose the best answer. For logical-reading questions, use only what the passage proves or supports - not what might be true in real life.

6 Suppose another photograph showed an unopened letter with only the words 'I'm sorry for...' visible. Based on Mr Iqbal's reasoning, which response would be most justified?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A Conclude that the recipient had been betrayed. | ☐ B Treat the words as evidence that may suggest possibilities without proving one particular story. |
| ☐ C Reject the photograph because the full story cannot be known. | ☐ D Assume the photographer staged the letter. |

7 Erin argues, 'But anyone could take a photograph on a bus.' What is the main weakness in her argument?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A She assumes that because a photograph may be easy to take, it cannot be interesting or strong. | ☐ B She forgets that buses move while photographs are being taken. |
| ☐ C She assumes that only adults are allowed to use buses. | ☐ D She ignores a competition rule that bans photographs taken on public transport. |

8 What is the effect of describing the reflected woman as 'almost transparent, as though the town continued straight through her'?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ A It suggests the window is too dirty to produce a clear reflection. | ☐ B It makes the woman appear mysterious and somehow separate from the busy world outside. |
| ☐ C It proves the photographer has digitally altered the image. | ☐ D It suggests that the bus is moving too quickly for the camera. |

9 Why is it significant that the fox does not remain among the six finalists?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A Erin has discovered that the fox photograph was staged. | ☐ B Mr Iqbal insists that only one wildlife photograph can be selected. |
| ☐ C It shows that Erin's judging criteria have changed rather than simply expanded to include more photographs. | ☐ D The photograph is rejected because it does not contain enough visual detail. |

10 Why does Erin finally decide to keep the word 'uncertainty' in the judges' note?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A She wants the photographer to understand that the judges are unsure whether the image is good. | ☐ B She now recognises that leaving room for interpretation can be a strength rather than a weakness. |
| ☐ C She cannot think of a more positive word before the judging deadline. | ☐ D Mr Iqbal has told her that all strong photographs should be mysterious. |

Answer Sheet

Shade or circle one answer for each question.

Name _____ Date _____

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Score / 10

When you have finished, check your answers using the explanations on the following pages.

Answers 1-5

- 1 D She is confident that striking, dramatic images are obviously the strongest.**

Erin quickly chooses the fox, lightning and goalkeeper photographs because they have immediate impact. Her speed shows that she initially assumes obvious drama, rarity and difficulty are reliable signs of quality.

- 2 C The bus photograph is more interesting than the fox photograph.**

A, B and D are all directly established by the passage. C is a judgement about quality: a reader or judge may agree with it, but it is not an objective fact that can be proved simply by observing the events described.

- 3 B I Cannot Say • II True • III False**

I is Cannot Say: Erin imagines a new job as one possibility, but the text never confirms why the flowers were given or even that they were given to the woman. II is True: Erin moves the photograph towards the rejected pile. III is False: the passage explicitly says that the fox does not remain among the six finalists.

- 4 C Mr Iqbal prompts her to inspect the reflection and other details she had overlooked.**

Erin's view begins to change when Mr Iqbal makes her look again. She notices the reflection and then the flowers, details she had missed. The cause of her change is closer observation, not new information about the photographer or a rule from Mr Iqbal.

- 5 C As Erin looks again, she notices the reflection, flowers and incomplete card that she had missed before.**

C gives the strongest evidence because it shows that repeated examination reveals several meaningful details that were not obvious at first. B shows Erin's first reaction, and D helps her look, but neither proves the photograph itself rewards close attention as strongly as the newly discovered details do.

Answers 6-10

6

B

Treat the words as evidence that may suggest possibilities without proving one particular story.

This applies Mr Iqbal's principle to a new situation. A fragment of text can support possible interpretations, but it cannot prove the entire story behind it. The careful reader must separate what the evidence supports from what is merely imagined.

7

A

She assumes that because a photograph may be easy to take, it cannot be interesting or strong.

Erin treats difficulty as if it automatically determines quality. Mr Iqbal exposes the flaw by pointing out that even a dramatic lightning photograph depends on the lightning appearing. A photograph can be easy to take yet still be interesting because of composition, detail or ambiguity.

8

B

It makes the woman appear mysterious and somehow separate from the busy world outside.

The description makes the woman seem faint and partly absorbed into the scene outside. This creates a thoughtful, ambiguous mood and helps the photograph feel more mysterious than a straightforward record of a bus journey.

9

C

It shows that Erin's judging criteria have changed rather than simply expanded to include more photographs.

If all Erin's original favourites had remained, her thinking would not have changed very much. Replacing the striking fox image with the quieter bus photograph shows that she now values subtle detail, interpretation and uncertainty as well as obvious drama.

10

B

She now recognises that leaving room for interpretation can be a strength rather than a weakness.

By the end, Erin understands that unanswered questions can make a viewer look and think more carefully. 'Uncertainty' therefore describes one of the photograph's strengths, not a failure of the judges to decide whether they like it.