

**“The Apple Tree” by Katherine Mansfield****Selection Test****Critical Reading**

In the blank, write the letter of the one best answer.

- \_\_\_ 1. The narrator refers to this particular apple tree as the
- Untouchable Tree.
  - English Tree.
  - Forbidden Tree.
  - Special Tree.
- \_\_\_ 2. The friend from England tells Father that
- the tree is a particular variety of apple of which he is very fond.
  - he’s never seen an apple tree like this before.
  - this kind of tree normally grows only in England.
  - he will be surprised by the type of fruit the tree bears.
- \_\_\_ 3. Why is Father’s response in the following passage somewhat odd?
- “Great Scott!” said the friend, lighting upon it with every appearance of admiring astonishment: “Isn’t that a—?” And a rich, splendid name settled like an unknown bird on the tree.
- “Yes, I believe it is,” said Father lightly. He knew nothing whatever about the names of fruit trees.
- because the friend is so excited, but Father answers “lightly”
  - because he knew very well that his friend was making up the name
  - because he wasn’t sure to what tree his friend was referring
  - because Father knows nothing whatever about the names of fruit trees
- \_\_\_ 4. Why does Father act as if he knows what kind of tree his friend has noticed?
- He wants to show off in front of his friend.
  - He wants to appear to be knowledgeable about his own property.
  - He really does know what kind of tree it is; his children just don’t realize it.
  - He just wants his friend to stop going on and on about it.
- \_\_\_ 5. The friend says this type of apple tree is rare. What conclusion does Father then draw?
- The tree is really exceptional and worthy of special attention.
  - The tree must be sent to a nursery to be properly cared for.
  - He shouldn’t have bought an orchard since he doesn’t even know a rare apple tree when he sees one.
  - Given the value of the tree, he should have paid a higher price for the orchard.
- \_\_\_ 6. Which of the following best describes Father’s behavior as he picks, cuts open, and examines the first apples from the tree?
- He selfishly keeps the surprises of the apples to himself.
  - He acts as if he is very knowledgeable about apples.
  - He reveals his expertise about the bouquet of apples.
  - He is nervous and chatters about the apples as he slices them.

- \_\_\_ 7. The apples that Father slices open are unusual because
- the skin is extremely tough.
  - the flesh is pink.
  - the insides are rotten.
  - they have no seeds.
- \_\_\_ 8. Why does Father never go near the apple tree again?
- because he learns that the tree isn't valuable after all
  - because the children lied to him about the taste of the apple
  - because he is so disappointed by the taste of the apple
  - because he thinks the color of the apples is a bad sign
- \_\_\_ 9. Three of the following questions are answered directly in "The Apple Tree." Choose the question that can be answered only by piecing together information from the story.
- What does Father know about the names of fruit trees?
  - Why did Father go to look at the tree every Sunday morning?
  - Why don't the children play in the "wild" orchard?
  - What is unusual about the apples from the special tree?
- \_\_\_ 10. Which of the following would be a useful question to ask—and answer—while you read "The Apple Tree"?
- Why does Father take a "new and lively interest" in the tree after his friend's comments?
  - What is the narrator's name?
  - Is the narrator a boy or a girl?
  - What was the "rich, splendid name" that the friend gave the apple tree?
- \_\_\_ 11. An allusion is
- a description of something that doesn't really exist.
  - a reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work, or art work.
  - a quotation borrowed from another source.
  - the mention of the name of another literary work within a story.
- \_\_\_ 12. Which of the following general types of questions may be useful to ask yourself while reading in order to gain fuller understanding of a short story?
- Why does this character behave this way?
  - Why does this character treat the other character in a certain way?
  - How does the story end?
  - When does the story take place?
- I, II, and III
  - I, II, III, and IV
  - I, II, and IV
  - II, III, and IV
- \_\_\_ 13. Choose the sentence that contains an allusion.
- One, that we called the "wild" orchard, lay beyond the vegetable garden.
  - "They're rare—they're very rare. Hardly ever see 'em in England nowadays," said the visitor.
  - "Don't touch that tree! Do you hear me, children!" said he, bland and firm.
  - If the house had burned to the ground at that time it would have meant less to him than the destruction of his tree.
- \_\_\_ 14. Allusions can add meaning to a story by
- showing how familiar the author is with other literary works.
  - forcing readers to read another literary work to understand the allusion.
  - making readers guess to what literary work the author is referring.
  - hinting at the underlying meaning of the story.

## Vocabulary and Grammar

- \_\_\_ 15. When the children look for windfalls they are
- checking for any apple trees blown down by a storm.
  - picking up branches blown down by the wind.
  - searching for rotten apples with which to make apple cider.
  - seeking edible apples that have fallen off the tree.
- \_\_\_ 16. Paddocks are best described as
- meadows surrounded by woods.
  - large pastures.
  - hillside orchards.
  - small, enclosed fields.
- \_\_\_ 17. In which sentences are the words *lie* and *lay* used correctly?
- Bogey is lying beneath the tree, eating an apple.
  - I think I'll lay my basket down and join him.
  - After we had laid there for a while, we ran to catch up with father.
  - Father lay one apple down, opened the penknife, and cut the other in half.
- I and II
  - I and III
  - II and III
  - III and IV
- \_\_\_ 18. Yesterday, we \_\_\_\_\_ under the tree all morning.
- lie
  - laid
  - lay
  - lied
- \_\_\_ 19. Choose the sentence in which the adjective *exquisite* is used most accurately.
- As children, we viewed Grandmother's grape arbor as a magical and exquisite hiding place.
  - The storm was exquisite, with its booming thunder and flickering lightning.
  - The big stone house that stood high on the hill was exquisite.
  - My neighbors chose the light, exquisite foliage of a cypress tree over that of the more traditional maple to shade their yard.
- \_\_\_ 20. The verb *to lay* is
- never followed by a direct object.
  - rarely followed by a direct object.
  - always followed by a direct object.
  - usually followed by a direct object.

## Essay Questions

21. In an essay, list three questions you had while reading "The Apple Tree." Cite information from the story that you used to answer the questions. Explain how asking and then answering the questions helped you to understand something about the story that was not directly stated.
22. Did you suspect that the apples might be a disappointment? What hints does the story contain that the apples would not meet anyone's expectations? In an essay, identify any hints, whether they are directly stated or implied in the text, that give you an indication as to the quality of the apples. Explain why these passages or events give clues about the coming disappointment.
23. Katherine Mansfield quite purposely wove an allusion into "The Apple Tree." The allusion is to the biblical story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that occurs in Genesis 3–4. In an essay, describe the allusion in the story and discuss the parts of Mansfield's story that are parallel to the story of Adam and Eve. In what ways does Mansfield's story differ from the biblical story? How does the allusion affect the reading of Mansfield's story?