

“The Widow and the Parrot” by Virginia Woolf**Selection Test****Critical Reading**

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

- _____ 1. The author’s primary purpose in writing “The Widow and the Parrot” is to
- inform readers of parrot behavior.
 - entertain readers with an engaging story.
 - persuade readers of animal intelligence.
 - criticize miserly behavior.
- _____ 2. Which word best describes Mrs. Gage’s lifestyle at the beginning of “The Widow and the Parrot”?
- modest
 - mysterious
 - extravagant
 - unfulfilling
- _____ 3. In “The Widow and the Parrot,” what does the parrot’s phrase “Not at home!” reveal about Joseph Brand, the parrot’s owner?
- He had a good sense of humor.
 - He appreciated the parrot’s intelligence.
 - He did not like the company of others.
 - He was a miser.
- _____ 4. What can be inferred from the details about the house that Mrs. Gage inherits in “The Widow and the Parrot”?
- The parrot liked Joseph Brand.
 - Mrs. Ford disapproved of Joseph Brand.
 - Mrs. Gage has expensive tastes.
 - Joseph Brand was an eccentric miser.
- _____ 5. In “The Widow and the Parrot,” how does Mrs. Gage’s treatment of her dog hint at her motives for showing kindness to the parrot?
- It reveals that Mrs. Gage cares deeply for animals.
 - It shows that she prefers dogs to birds.
 - It demonstrates that she is a lonely, old woman.
 - It indicates that she thinks animals are better than people.
- _____ 6. What can you infer about Mrs. Gage’s attitude toward the parrot based on her initial treatment of the it in “The Widow and the Parrot”?
- She thinks the parrot is ill-tempered and doesn’t want to take responsibility for it.
 - She is concerned about the parrot and wants to make it happy.
 - She thinks it is an unattractive bird with sadly neglected feathers.
 - She is appalled by the parrot’s foul language and obnoxious screeching.
- _____ 7. In “The Widow and the Parrot,” the farmer tells Mrs. Gage terrible tales of young people drowning while crossing the river at high tide. What effect does this detail have on the story?
- It foreshadows events.
 - It creates suspense.
 - It shows Mrs. Gage’s motivation.
 - It helps readers identify with Mrs. Gage.

- ___ 8. In “The Widow and the Parrot,” Mrs. Gage is disappointed with the inheritance from her brother because
- she must share the money with another relative.
 - she doesn’t want to keep the parrot.
 - the house is in bad shape and the money cannot be found.
 - the solicitors inform her that there is nothing to inherit.
- ___ 9. As Mrs. Gage walks along the river bank in “The Widow and the Parrot,” what conclusion does she draw about her brother’s reason for leaving her an inheritance?
- He was being deliberately cruel.
 - He felt guilty.
 - He wanted to express his love for her.
 - He was repaying her kindness to him.
- ___ 10. In “The Widow and the Parrot,” why does Mrs. Gage despair as she returns from the solicitors’ offices?
- She worries about having to pay back the money for her trip.
 - She wishes she had spent more time with her brother.
 - She is concerned about the parrot’s health.
 - She cannot remember her way back to the town.
- ___ 11. When you draw inferences you
- respond to the story.
 - identify with a character or situation.
 - make assumptions about a character or situation.
 - envision the setting.
- ___ 12. In “The Widow and the Parrot,” what motivates Mrs. Gage to follow the parrot to the burned house?
- amusement
 - greed
 - belief in animal intelligence
 - desperation
- ___ 13. In “The Widow and the Parrot,” what is the parrot’s motive for leading Mrs. Gage to the gold?
- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| a. fear | c. wisdom |
| b. revenge | d. gratitude |
- ___ 14. Which sentence best summarizes the theme of “The Widow and the Parrot”?
- Some people have a special way with animals.
 - Never give up hope.
 - Family ties are important.
 - Kindness to others is eventually rewarded.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 15. In “The Widow and the Parrot,” which detail best reveals that the house Mrs. Gage inherits is *dilapidated*?
- Mrs. Gage must light a lantern to see her way inside.
 - The kitchen floor is overgrown with toadstools.
 - A kitchen range hides the spot where gold is buried.
 - The furniture is worth very little.

- ___ 16. What is the appositive in the following sentence?
"Be thankful you're not inside yourself, Madam," said the Rev. James Hawkesford, the clergyman.
- a. yourself
 - b. Madam
 - c. the Rev. James Hawkesford
 - d. the clergyman
- ___ 17. Which sentence uses an appositive to combine the following two sentences?
Mrs. Ford was an old village woman. Mrs. Ford took Mrs. Gage by the hand and led her off to her own cottage, where she was to sleep the night.
- a. An old village woman named Mrs. Ford took Mrs. Gage by the hand and led her off to her own cottage, where she was to sleep the night.
 - b. Mrs. Ford was an old village woman who took Mrs. Gage by the hand and led her off to her own cottage, where she was to sleep the night.
 - c. Mrs. Ford, who was an old village woman, took Mrs. Gage by the hand and led her off to her own cottage, where she was to sleep the night.
 - d. Mrs. Ford, an old village woman, took Mrs. Gage by the hand and led her off to her own cottage, where she was to sleep the night.
- ___ 18. An appositive is a noun or noun phrase
- a. that renames the subject of the sentence.
 - b. that modifies another noun or pronoun by telling *what kind or which one*.
 - c. that is placed near another noun or pronoun to explain it.
 - d. that functions as the object of a preposition.
- ___ 19. The parrot demonstrates his *sagacity* by
- a. leading Mrs. Gage to the gold.
 - b. shrieking "Not at home!"
 - c. perching on Mrs. Gage's head.
 - d. falling over dead.
- ___ 20. Why would carrying an apronful of *sovereigns* slow Mrs. Gage's progress?
- a. The paper bills flutter out of the apron.
 - b. The coins are very heavy.
 - c. The oddly shaped objects are difficult to balance.
 - d. The slippery creatures try to escape.

Essay Questions

21. In a brief essay, describe the reading strategy you applied while reading "The Widow and the Parrot," and explain how it helped you understand the story. Provide examples from the selection to support your main points.
22. In "The Widow and the Parrot," characters' motivations drive the story's action, or plot. What crucial results arise from these actions? Write a cause-and-effect essay in which you describe how character motivations affect three different story events.
23. In "The Widow and the Parrot," Mrs. Gage interacts with humans and with animals. Write an essay in which you compare and contrast these interactions and conclude how they reveal the story's theme.