**Reading Comprehension #3**

**Objective 5: Words in Context**

Directions: Read the passage, and then answer the questions below it. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

Day had broken cold and gray, **(1) exceedingly** cold and gray, when the man turned from the main Yukon trail and climbed the high **(2) earth-bank**, where a dim and little-traveled trail led eastward through the fat spruce timberland. It was a steep bank, and he paused to breath at the top, **(3)** **excusing the act to himself** by looking at his watch. It was nine o’clock. There was no sun nor hint of sun, though there was not a cloud in the sky. It was a clear day, and yet there seemed an **(4) intangible (5) pall** over the face of things, a **(6)subtle** gloom that made the day dark, and that was due to the absence of sun.

-“To Build a Fire” by Jack London

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| 1. In this passage, the word **exceedingly** means—    1. remotely    2. beautifully    3. darkly    4. extremely 2. In this passage, the phrase **earth-bank** means—    1. ridge    2. cave    3. ditch    4. overpass 3. The phrase **excusing the act to himself** in this passage means—    1. lying to himself    2. giving himself a reason to stop    3. acting normally    4. making excuses for the hard journey | 1. In this passage, the word **intangible** means—    1. imperceptible    2. noticeable    3. definable    4. tangled 2. The word **pall** in this passage means—    1. death    2. glow    3. storm    4. veil 3. The word **subtle** in this passage means—    1. difficult to understand    2. clever    3. ominous    4. extremely slight |

**Reading Comprehension #4**

**Objective 5: Words in Context**

Directions: Read the passage, and then answer the questions below it. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

Though determined to enlist, I was half inclined to put off awhile; I had a **(1) fluctuation** of desires; I was **(2) fainthearted** and brave; I wanted to enlist, and yet—Here I turned the knob, and was relieved….

My first uniform was a bad fit: my trousers were too long by three or four inches; the flannel shirt was **(3) coarse** and unpleasant, too large at the neck and too short elsewhere. The forage cap was an **(4) ungainly** bag with pasteboard top and leather visor; the blouse was the only part which seemed decent; while the overcoat made me feel like a little **(5) nubbin** of corn in a large **(6) preponderance** of husk.

-“Recollections of a Private” by Warren Lee Goss

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| 1. In this passage, the word **fluctuation** means—    1. shifting    2. strengthening    3. heightening    4. explosion 2. In this passage, the word **fainthearted** means—    1. having a heart attack    2. light-headed    3. lacking courage    4. losing consciousness 3. The word **coarse** in this passage means—    1. vulgar    2. rough    3. offensive    4. large | 1. In this passage, the word **ungainly** means—    1. military    2. dirty    3. small    4. cumbersome 2. In this passage, the word **nubbin** means—    1. stalk    2. plant    3. undeveloped ear    4. root 3. The word **preponderance** in this passage means—    1. excessive quantity    2. heavy container    3. thick row    4. silk bushel |

**Reading Comprehension #3**

**Objective 5: Words in Context**

Directions: Read the passage, and then answer the questions below it. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

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**Reading Comprehension #4**

**Objective 5: Words in Context**

Directions: Read the passage, and then answer the questions below it. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

Though determined to enlist, I was half inclined to put off awhile; I had a **(1) fluctuation** of desires; I was **(2) fainthearted** and brave; I wanted to enlist, and yet—Here I turned the knob, and was relieved….

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