**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**

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