## **PERT Reading Practice Test 2**

Ogden Nash has a way of making clever observations about life. P. B. (Percy Bysshe) Shelley was a famous nineteenth-century English poet. Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

**You and Me and P. B. Shelley**

What is life? Life is stepping down a step or sitting in a  
chair,  
And it isn’t there.  
Life is not having been told that the man has just waxed  
**(5)** the floor,  
It is pulling doors marked Push and pushing doors marked  
Pull and not noticing notices which say Please Use  
Other Door.  
Life is an Easter Parade  
**(10)** In which you whisper, “No darling if it’s a boy we’ll name  
him after your father!” into the ear of an astonished  
stranger because the lady you thought was walking  
beside you has stopped to gaze into a window full of  
radishes and hot malted lemonade.  
**(15)** It is when you diagnose a sore throat as an unprepared  
geography lesson and send your child weeping to  
school only to be returned an hour later covered with  
spots that are indubitably genuine,  
It is a concert with a trombone soloist filling in for Ye-  
**(20)** hudi Menuhin.\*  
Were it not for frustration and humiliation  
I suppose the human race would get ideas above its sta-  
tion.  
Somebody once described Shelley as a beautiful and inef-  
**(25)** fective angel beating his luminous wings against the  
void in vain,  
Which is certainly describing with might and main,  
But probably means that we are all brothers under our  
pelts,  
**(30)** And Shelley went around pulling doors marked Push and  
pushing doors marked Pull just like everybody else.  
—Ogden Nash

*\* Yehudi Menuhin — a famous American violinist and conductor*  
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**Q1. In the poem, what does the poet use to define life?**

* A. a popular fable
* B. a dictionary definition
* C. a quotation from another poem
* D. a series of humorous comparisons

**Answer: \_\_\_\_**

**Q2. Which of the following phrases best summarizes the events described in lines 1–8?**

* A. familiar nightmares
* B. common practical jokes
* C. life’s common frustrations
* D. life’s dangerous experiences

**Answer: \_\_\_\_**

**Q3. Which of the following sentences best summarizes what is happening in lines 9–14?**

* A. The speaker mistakenly speaks to a stranger.
* B. The speaker asks a friend what to name his child.
* C. The speaker ignores his wife and looks in a store window.
* D. The speaker argues with his wife about naming their baby.

**Answer: \_\_\_\_**

**Q4. What is the speaker saying about Shelley in lines 24–31?**

* A. Shelley was a better poet than most.
* B. Shelley acted like an angel most of the time.
* C. Shelley experienced many tragedies in his life.
* D. Shelley experienced the same problems as everyone.

**Answer: \_\_\_\_**

**Q5. Which of the following definitions of station is used in lines 22–23?**

* A. a social position or rank
* B. a stopping place along a route
* C. a place where one is assigned to stand
* D. a place from which a service is provided

**Answer: \_\_\_\_**

**Answers Keys LINK**

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