



## 12th Grade Worksheet Bundle

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# Study Island 12th Grade Reading - Impact and Tone

## Question 1 .

### Before the Journey

I am standing on the rooftop  
Where I can see the city  
The roads are like spaghetti straps  
And cars are dots rolling by  
The sky is so big and people are tiny  
There is a lone star in the sky  
Shining during the day  
Hours ahead of the moon  
The star and I face the world  
It will always be in that spot  
And where I will be tomorrow  
I know not  
I can see the ocean  
On the other side  
Its blue Jell-O waves saying goodbye  
Today, the universe has expanded  
All around me  
Breathing in my city air  
Before the farewell  
My yellow bus is a reality  
I climb down and leave

What is the impact of the phrase "spaghetti straps" and "Jell-O waves" in the poem?

- A. It emphasizes that the lone star is a shooting star.
- B. It reflects the imagination of the speaker.
- C. It reiterates the oddness of being on a rooftop.
- D. It symbolizes the speaker's powerful hunger.

Question 2 .

**Shield**

by A. Gautam

Radha and Chinua sat facing each other in the bright-lit café. They had come here to say important things to each other, but neither of them could find the right word to begin. Radha hugged the warm coffee mug with her fingers clasped around it. She looked into Chinua's eyes for a clue. They revealed nothing. Everyone else in the cafe seemed to be bursting with life.

The waitress had come and gone a few times. She had sensed a thick and foggy layer of silence between the couple and did not want to break through the fog.

Chinua had rolled up the menu in his hands and he, too, was reading Radha. *When did it become difficult for us to even say a word?* he wondered. Chinua felt like he was trying to fight a dream and wake up into reality. But, he could not.

"So, this is the last time we will see each other in this life," Radha began with words like steel—words that cut through Chinua's heart. She had decided to join the Peace Corps and leave for a country torn by war.

Chinua wanted no part in the life Radha had chosen. He had seen and suffered too much to choose chaos voluntarily. Besides, he was on a Fulbright scholarship; he could not leave now.

"I wish you all the luck in this galaxy," Chinua managed to say. His utterance hung like a prayer between him and Radha. At once, they both closed their eyes and wished for the words to shield Radha from all the dangers in the world.

What does the author mean by "a thick and foggy layer of silence"?

- A. The friendship of Radha and Chinua is strong yet complex.
- B. The tension between Radha and Chinua is apparent.
- C. The bright-lit cafe has a misty atmosphere that night.
- D. The waitress has weak eyesight and feels foggy at night.

Question 3 .

These gray walls are sterilized. Neither plants nor real flowers can live here for much longer. Sunlight does not enter through the door. The window only faces a jungle of concrete. People wearing masks and green scrubs come and go. Sometimes, they remember to smile. I can hear wheels rolling on the smooth floors in the hallway. Once in a while, someone wails in sorrow. Mostly, everything is as quiet as a drying lake. I have only been here for a few days, but seconds feel like decades. They do not know how painful it is for me to just lay here. Although my leg feels heavier than a teenager's heart after the first heartbreak, I feel I could rip the cast and run. I could run endlessly against the waves of the ocean. I could run under the vast sky glowing with moonlight—forever.

What does "sterilized" imply in this passage?

- A. colorless
- B. without life
- C. cleansed
- D. diseased

Question 4 .

**Sighting**  
by A. Gautam

**CHARACTERS:**

IVAN, *a writer*

EDNA, *Ivan's best friend, an attorney*

MYSTERIOUS CHILD

**Stage Set:** Living room. Ivan and Edna are sipping coffee near the fireplace. Ivan has just returned from camping in the woods.

IVAN: What is the point of this conversation if you will not believe me?

EDNA: But, I do believe you. (*her facial expression exposes her disbelief*)

IVAN: I do not sense it. What part of it is hard to understand? Forget about it. (looks outside the window to the overcast sky) If only there was a way to know . . .

EDNA: What happened to her? How did she end up alone in the forest?

IVAN: She was wearing a white gown. She had the feet of an angel. The back of her gown floated in the air, and she was running when I found her.

EDNA: And, she collapsed? (*knitting her brow*)

IVAN: When she did not see the tree in front of her and hit it. I lifted her in my arms—she was cotton—and brought her into my tent. She had no possessions that could reveal her identity. But, trust me; she was the most innocent thing to walk this planet.

EDNA: And, she was gone? Just like that?

IVAN: Yeah. With my shoes and a jacket. Did I tell you she had been running barefoot? I had bandaged her feet and put her in a sleeping bag. I thought I was watching her the whole night—you know—feeling protective of her. Everything, even a shadow seemed like a badger to me that night. Anyway, I must have blinked. She was gone.

EDNA: So you walked home barefoot?

IVAN: No, I drove my jeep barefoot. I felt that I had heard soft, shuffling steps in my dream. Have you ever heard a butterfly walk? Where did the little girl go? Where did she come from?

EDNA: And, you have nothing of a keepsake from her?

IVAN: No, but she has mine. I can just picture her tying the shoes into one thousand knots so they would not fall off from her tiny feet. Can you imagine a six-year-old girl wearing a man's jacket and shoes? She must have looked like a walking dollhouse with giant shoes!

EDNA: Are you sure that it wasn't a badger who stole your things?

IVAN: (*gets up from the couch, goes to the window, and lets out a long sigh*) Sometimes, I wish I could live among books. The characters I create have more faith in me than the real people I meet every day.

The description "a walking dollhouse with giant shoes" shows

- A. how much she resembles a badger.
- B. how the little girl steals from people.
- C. how unusual the girl's situation is.
- D. how badly she needs food and shelter.

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"I wish you all the luck in this galaxy," Chinua managed to say. His utterance hung like a prayer between him and Radha. At once, they both closed their eyes and wished for the words to shield Radha from all the dangers in the world.

Which of these best shows the painful reality that Radha and Chinua are facing?

- A. The waitress had come and gone a few times.
- B. Everyone else in the cafe seemed to be bursting with life
- C. Radha hugged the warm coffee mug with her fingers clasped around it.
- D. . . . Radha began words like steel—words that cut through Chinua's heart

Question 6 .

**Sighting**  
by A. Gautam

**CHARACTERS:**

IVAN, *a writer*

EDNA, *Ivan's best friend, an attorney*

MYSTERIOUS CHILD

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EDNA: But, I do believe you. (*her facial expression exposes her disbelief*)

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EDNA: And, you have nothing of a keepsake from her?

IVAN: No, but she has mine. I can just picture her tying the shoes into one thousand knots so they would not fall off from her tiny feet. Can you imagine a six-year-old girl wearing a man's jacket and shoes? She must have looked like a walking dollhouse with giant shoes!

EDNA: Are you sure that it wasn't a badger who stole your things?

IVAN: (*gets up from the couch, goes to the window, and lets out a long sigh*) Sometimes, I wish I could live among books. The characters I create have more faith in me than the real people I meet every day.

What is the effect of the line "Have you ever heard a butterfly walk?"

- A. It helps Edna believe in the story.
- B. It reinforces that Ivan is a writer.
- C. It shows that the tale is fabricated.
- D. It explains the little girl's disappearance.

Question 7 .

Adriana was not looking forward to going to the wedding. She could not feign emotions, and today she was feeling especially sad. Ever since her heart was broken into a million little pieces, she did not want to be around happy couples. *Who wants to watch another heartbreak in the making anyway?* she sulkily thought. *If the bride wasn't my best friend's sister, I could skip the wedding.* Adriana remembered that she had never put on her make up or dressed up for an occasion in such low spirits. As Vivi, her best friend, honked the car horn three times in the driveway, Adriana took sluggish steps toward the front door. While she dragged herself down the stairs, she felt her heart, as heavy as lead, slowing her down.

"Don't look like a truck ran over your heart," Vivi, already driving toward the beach—the location of the wedding—said in a hurry. "Come on. Move on. Stop moping!" *This is exactly the kind of talk I hate. I know I have to get over it. Why keep stating the obvious!* Adriana thought. These days, she did not say every thought that crossed her mind. She tried to block the flood of her emotions with an invisible dam. "OKAY. Just take me there," she revealed her frustration.

For Adriana, the wedding ceremony and the reception was a blur. The only thing she remembered from the day was watching an old couple walking on the beach holding hands. Their wrinkled hands and slow walk spoke volumes about their love for each other. That chilly afternoon, they walked on despite the waves splashing against their bare feet. Adriana remembered learning how to smile again.

Read this sentence from the story.

She tried to block the flood of her emotions with an invisible dam.

What is the effect of this description on the reader?

- A. It reflects how Adriana uses her knowledge of mechanics in real life.
- B. It reinforces the idea of friendship giving Adriana moral support.
- C. It shows how big of a struggle it is for Adriana to control her emotions.
- D. It emphasizes the lack of understanding Vivi shows for her friend.

Question 8 .

**The Pursuit of Happiness**

by A. Gautam

Mrs. Tang walked to my house  
Covering one block in fifteen minutes  
Only dragging the left foot forward  
The right foot followed suit somehow  
Mrs. Tang walked with a stooped back  
Without a cane  
Breathing heavily again and again  
Her gown was like a curtain—  
Drifting lazily  
Mrs. Tang wore her husband's sandals—  
He had passed years ago  
Just after she had retired  
To travel the world with him  
Now she walked around the block  
Wearing him  
Mrs. Tang reached my front porch  
Bearing a smile and a jar of cookies  
For my little girl  
Who she said  
Reminded her of youth  
And happiness

What is the effect of the descriptive language of this poem?

- A. It vividly portrays Mrs. Tang and helps create a sympathetic tone.
- B. It acutely describes the speaker's little girl's youth and happiness.
- C. It helps the reader imagine the speaker's emotions using few words.
- D. It helps create a passionate tone while describing Mrs. Tang's insanity.



Question 9 .

**Strength**  
by A. Gautam

**CHARACTERS:**

DAN, *a high school senior*

GINA, *Dan's little sister*

KEV, *Dan's best friend*

REED, *the school bully*

**Stage Set:** Late in the evening in the football field. Dan sits on a bench drenched in sweat. His eyes are swollen and the lower lip has a cut. He appears angry and sad at the same time. Kev is trying to console and pacify him.

KEV: You are not serious, are you?

DAN: What do you mean? How many years of humiliation can a sane person take?

KEV: Reed is just a bully—a bull that charges at anything red. Don't let him trap you!

DAN: Kev, he hasn't just hurt my face. My heart and pride are bleeding. He said—he said—he insulted my sister.

KEV: And, you will stoop to his level?

DAN: No, I won't. I will stand up for my family.

KEV: I think Gina already respects you for your decency.

DAN: I am a boy, Kev! I am not Martin Luther King, Jr. or Gandhi! I am just a boy with feelings. Right now, I am bleeding. The only bandage that would stop my hemorrhage is revenge.

KEV: But, Reed is a giant.

DAN: And, I've learned karate.

KEV: Why don't you invite him to a match? Beat him at the school championship in front of all those people. That would be a decent way to beat him. That would be you!

DAN: Yeah. I heard he has a green belt.

KEV: And, you have a black one. Defeat him in a sport and not in a stupid fight.

DAN: So, I just keep on drinking the poison till the day of the match?

KEV: No, turn his insulting words into energy. Turn your anger into power.

What does "the only bandage that would stop my hemorrhage is revenge" imply?

- A. that Reed does not intend to push Dan to a breaking point
- B. that Kev wants his friend to heal from the pain of humiliation
- C. that Dan has been worked up from years of being bullied
- D. that Gina is actually upset about Reed's insulting words

Question 10 .

**CHARACTERS:**

MAYURI, a high school junior

MASAKO, Mayuri's best friend

RYAN, a fraud who fools girls

AITO, the Student Body President

**Stage Set:** A cloudy afternoon in the park. Mayuri and Masako come here after school every day.

MASAKO: I mean, how can I describe him? He is sunshine. His voice is like the ocean waves. His eyes are stars on a moonless night.

MAYURI: I get it. He is awesome.

MASAKO: Gosh! What is wrong with you, Mayuri? When you were smitten, you were all about Aito. It was Aito this, Aito that . . . all day. Now, you can't even hear me say a thing.

MAYURI: I am sorry, Masako. Please go on. What does he like?

MASAKO: Forget it.

MAYURI: No. I want to know about this guy you like.

MASAKO: Well, he likes poetry and music. Yeah, he is an athlete, but he has a soft side. He is like the coconut, you know. Oh, and he rescues stray animals in his free time. He is like—perfect!

MAYURI: Will your parents like him, too?

MASAKO: Hey, take it one day at a time. I have not thought about that far yet. Today, he wrote me a poem. It goes like this: Nobody, not even rain has such small hands. He said my hands are like petals and called me a rose.

MAYURI: I know that one. It's by e. e. cummings.

MASAKO: No. Ryan Jennings, silly.

MAYURI: I can write the saddest lines tonight.

MASAKO: What are you talking about?

MAYURI: I am quoting Pablo Neruda. This Ryan guy is playing you, sweetheart. At least, the poem he said he wrote for you is by e. e. cummings.

MASAKO: You know what. Forget it. Your jealousy is a fog that blinds you. And, your selfishness stops you from being happy for me.

MAYURI: Forgive me for being honest. Did you even ask me about my day? Did you even know that my parents are separating? Today is the end of the world for me. Dark clouds hover everywhere. It will rain endlessly—raindrops bigger than your hands! *(sighs and sobs, after a pause)* First, Aito dumped me, and now my parents are splitting. All you care about is that lying Ryan.

MASAKO: I had no idea.

MAYURI: Honey, you never have any idea. Step out of your castle in the clouds and peer into the reality! And lose the metaphorical language. It is not your style. You don't have to sound like the guy you like!

What is the impact of the line "Step out of your castle in the clouds and peer into the reality!" in this play?

- A. It reinforces Mayuri's scorn for Masako's happy family.
- B. It portrays Mayuri's bitterness for Aito, who dumps her.
- C. It reflects Mayuri's disgruntlement toward Masako.
- D. It shows Mayuri dislikes it when Ryan composes poems.

## **Answers: Reading - Impact and Tone**

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. C
10. C

# Explanations: Reading - Impact and Tone

1. The similes and metaphors used in this poem reflect the imagination of the speaker. The author uses these descriptions to show how the speaker views the world from his or her perspective.
2. The phrase "a thick and foggy layer of silence" describes how the waitress perceives Radha and Chinua's interaction. Non-verbal communication tells a lot about people. The phrase implies that the silence between the couple reveals an apparent tension.
3. While "sterilized" in the medical sense means "made free from bacteria," in this passage it means "without life." The setting of this passage is a hospital. The narrator feels gloomy and implies that flowers and people cannot thrive in this lifeless atmosphere for much longer.
4. In this play, the situation of the little girl, as Ivan describes, is highly unusual. In addition to her strange sighting in the forest, her wearing of a man's jacket and shoes is also worth noticing.
5. In this passage, Radha's words state that she is meeting Chinua for the last time. These words not only reflect the reality but also hurt Chinua. The finality implied by Radha's statement cause the pain.
6. The play shows that Ivan is a writer through his dialogue. He uses poetic language and rich description while talking about the little girl with his friend Edna.
7. In this story, the author describes the thought processes in Adriana's head as she tries to face and overcome heartbreak. The sentence shows that Adriana needs to control her powerful emotions with a lot of determination. The author uses rich language to describe this process.
8. In this narrative poem, the author vividly describes the act of Mrs. Tang coming to the speaker's house with a jar of cookies. The detailed description shows how painful it is for Mrs. Tang to walk a block, how intensely she misses her husband, and how tenderly she loves the speaker's little girl. The language creates a sympathetic tone.
9. In this play, Dan reveals that he has been dealing with Reed's intolerable behaviors for a long time, and he has been worked up about it. The author reflects the fact that Dan has reached his breaking point when Dan says that he is ready for revenge. The author uses a powerful metaphor to state Dan's emotions.
10. Mayuri, upset by her friend's oblivious nature, asks her to be realistic. Mayuri uses harsh words to command Masako to be grounded. This also reveals frustration on Mayuri's part.