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QUESTION 1

FILL BLANK

A student is writing a report for history class about the importance of the Magna Carta. Read the draft of the report and complete the task that follows.

When we think of the most important government documents in history, we often think first of the U.S. Constitution or the Declaration of Independence. While the importance of these documents can hardly be overestimated, it is all too easy to forget that without the Magna Carta neither of them would have been possible. The Magna Carta was a landmark government document that played a key role in the development of modern democracy. The effects of this critical piece of legislation are still felt today,

The roots of the Magna Carta were tied to the reign of King John, who took control of the English throne in 1199. Almost from the moment he became king, John ruled forcefully over his people, imposing harsh laws and severely punishing anyone who dared not to follow them. He was also focused on becoming even more powerful than he already was and repeatedly declared war on France to widen his kingdom. In need of money to fund his wars, King John required his nobles to pay large fees if they chose not to fight on his behalf.

Eventually, King John's constant abuses of power became too much for the nobles to bear. In 1213, they began a rebellion against the king, and, by 1215, England was on the brink of civil war. Realizing he had no other choice, King John met with his nobles on June 15, 1215, and agreed to sign a document that placed limitations on his power and gave the nobles certain guaranteed rights. First called the Articles of the Barons, the document soon became known as the Magna Carta. Though the Magna Carta did not end the conflict between King John and the nobles, it ultimately remained in place after being revised several times.

The rights guaranteed by the Magna Carta came in time to have a significant effect on England's system of government. Most importantly, it helped to establish a fair legal system that granted everyone the right to due process of the law. It also led to the formation of a legislative body that became known as Parliament. Centuries after it was first written, the Magna Carta's influence was again felt when the United States of America was founded. The abuses of power listed in the Declaration of Independence echo the claims made against King John by his nobles. When the framers wrote the U.S. Constitution, they looked to the Magna Carta to outline the rights of citizens and design the new country's legal system.

Write a conclusion that follows logically from the information in the essay.

A.

See explanation below.

Correct Answer: A

For example:

Score 2

A response:

Provides an adequate conclusion that follows from and supports the preceding information in the body of writing as a whole or provides a "so what" statement (or provides an answer as to why this information is important or what should

happen) Does more than restate or summarize the points/reasons—not formulaic Provides adequate connections and/or progression of ideas to contribute to coherence

The Magna Carta has played a vital role through history in the founding of countries and the rights given to those

countries citizens. The Magna Carta was the first document to explain in writing the rights of citizens and what power their ruler or rulers could have. The Magna Carta is the founding document that set in motion our rights as citizens of the United States of America and helped create our freedoms and rights clearly written on the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

Score 1 A response: Provides a limited conclusion that is partially related to the information in the body of writing as a whole

Lists, restates, or summarizes the points/reasons—formulaic

Provides an awkward or partial connection and/or limited progression of ideas The Magna Carta formed the U.S Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. With laws from the Magna Carta like separation of powers is in our government now with the checks and balances system. Also the Magna Carta had a law called trial by jury so that everyone had a fair chance to defend themselves which is now in our Constitution. Plus the Magna Carta gave the people the power which then led to Americans having a voice in government matters by voting. The Magna Carta is how America became the land of the free.

Score 0 A response: Provides no conclusion or a conclusion that is minimally related to the information in the body of writing

May restate random and/or incorrect details from the preceding information Provides no connections or progression of ideas King John constant abuses of power became too much for the nobles to bear. King John met his nobles on June 15, 1215, and agreed to sign a document that placed limitations on his power and gave the nobles certain guaranteed rights.

QUESTION 2

Read the text attached.

Study Suggests Today's US Students Are Less Efficient Readers

Do today's students perform better than their peers in 1960? Given the advances in education and technology, it would be natural to assume that the answer is a resounding "yes." But, when it comes to reading efficiency, new research suggests that that's not the case. The research, published by the International Literacy Association, compares the comprehension-based silent reading efficiency of US students (grades 2-12) in 2011 with data collected in 1960. A key finding was that students fall further behind as they advance through the grades, wrote Alexandra Spichtig, Ph.D., Chief Resource Officer of Reading Plus, and first author of the study. The study showed that today's second-grade students are comparable to their peers of 50 years ago, but that by the end of high school, students' comprehension-based silent reading rates average 19 percent slower than the rates of their 1960 peers. "What we know—and the data underscore this—is that for many students, the progression to efficient silent reading does not develop naturally. Many students need structured silent reading instruction," explains Mark Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of Reading Plus, a web-based silent reading program for schools. Some of the benefits of implementing silent reading instruction at home or in school are: expanded vocabulary, improved comprehension, increased efficiency, enhanced reading enjoyment, [and] improved writing skills. Experts agree that without extensive silent reading practices in the classroom or at home, students will continue to struggle and literacy rates will continue to fall short or fall behind. "Effective reading instruction must integrate fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension practice tailored to meet each student's unique needs. This study demonstrates that as long as structured silent reading practice is neglected in this country, the literacy problem is likely to continue," Taylor adds. While researchers can't pinpoint reasons for the decline in silent reading efficiency from that of 50 years ago, it stands to reason that those students who engage in structured silent reading practice become more efficient readers and take with them a love of books that lasts far past their high school graduation.

Which of these is the most effective counterargument that an opponent of silent reading instruction might make to this text?

A. Silent reading practice only works if students are good readers. If they lack fluency skills, those skills won't get

remarkably better by silently reading a text.

B. Silent reading is a skill often taken for granted. Parents and teachers must work together to help students improve their reading skills, both orally and silently.

C. Reading scores in general are falling, not just those measuring silent reading comprehension.

D. Silent reading is not a skill people really use today. The jobs and lifestyle of the 1960s lent itself more to a need for silent reading skills.

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 3

FILL BLANK

Read the text and answer the question.

Blue Crabs Provide Evidence of Oil Tainting Gulf Food

Weeks ago, before engineers pumped in mud and cement to plug the gusher, scientists began finding specks of oil in crab larvae plucked from waters across the Gulf coast.

The government said last week that three-quarters of the spilled oil has been removed or naturally dissipated from the water. But the crab larvae discovery was an ominous sign that crude had already infiltrated the Gulf's vast food web – and

could affect it for years to come.

"It would suggest the oil has reached a position where it can start moving up the food chain instead of just hanging in the water," said Bob Thomas, a biologist at Loyola University in New Orleans.

"Something likely will eat those oiled larvae . . . and then that animal will be eaten by something bigger and so on."

Tiny creatures might take in such low amounts of oil that they could survive, Thomas said. But those at the top of the chain, such as dolphins and tuna, could get fatal "megadoses."

Marine biologists routinely gather shellfish for study. Since the spill began, many of the crab larvae collected have had the distinctive orange oil droplets, said Harriet Perry, a biologist with the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast

Research Laboratory.

"In my 42 years of studying crabs I've never seen this," Perry said.

She wouldn't estimate how much of the crab larvae are contaminated overall, but said about 40 percent of the area they are known to inhabit has been affected by oil from the spill.

While fish can metabolize dispersant and oil, crabs may accumulate the hydrocarbons, which could harm their ability to reproduce, Perry said in an earlier interview with Science magazine.

She told the magazine there are two encouraging signs for the wild larvae – they are alive when collected and may lose oil droplets when they molt.

Tulane University researchers are investigating whether the splotches also contain toxic chemical dispersants that were

spread to break up the oil but have reached no conclusions, biologist Caz Taylor said.

If large numbers of blue crab larvae are tainted, their population is virtually certain to take a hit over the next year and perhaps longer, scientists say. The spawning season occurs between April and October, but the peak months are in July

and August.

How large the die-off would be is unclear, Perry said. An estimated 207 million gallons of oil have spewed into the Gulf since an April 20 drilling rig explosion triggered the spill, and thousands of gallons of dispersant chemicals have been dumped.

Scientists will be focusing on crabs because they're a "keystone species" that play a crucial role in the food web as both predator and prey, Perry said.

Richard Condrey, a Louisiana State University oceanographer, said the crabs are "a living repository of information on the health of the environment."

Named for the light-blue tint of their claws, the crabs have thick shells and 10 legs, allowing them to swim and scuttle across bottomlands. As adults, they live in the Gulf's bays and estuaries amid marshes that offer protection and abundant

food, including snails, tiny shellfish, plants and even smaller crabs. In turn, they provide sustenance for a variety of wildlife, from redfish to raccoons and whooping cranes.

Adults could be harmed by direct contact with oil and from eating polluted food. But scientists are particularly worried about the vulnerable larvae.

That's because females don't lay their eggs in sheltered places, but in areas where estuaries meet the open sea. Condrey discovered several years ago that some even deposit offspring on shoals miles offshore in the Gulf.

The larvae grow as they drift with the currents back toward the estuaries for a month or longer. Many are eaten by predators and only a handful of the 3 million or so eggs from a single female live to adulthood.

But their survival could drop even lower if the larvae run into oil and dispersants.

"Crabs are very abundant. I don't think we're looking at extinction or anything close to it," said Taylor, one of the researchers who discovered the orange spots.

Still, crabs and other estuary-dependent species such as shrimp and red snapper could feel the effects of remnants of the spill for years, Perry said.

"There could be some mortality, but how much is impossible to say at this point," said Vince Guillory, biologist manager with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Perry, Taylor and Condrey will be among scientists monitoring crabs for negative effects such as population drop-offs and damage to reproductive capabilities and growth rates.

Crabs are big business in the region. In Louisiana alone, some 33 million pounds are harvested annually, generating nearly \$300 million in economic activity, Guillory said.

Blue crabs are harvested year-round, but summer and early fall are peak months for harvesting, Guillory said.

Prices for live blue crab generally have gone up, partly because of the Louisiana catch scaling back due to fishing closures, said Steve Hedlund, editor of SeafoodSource.com, a website that covers the global seafood industry.

Fishers who can make a six-figure income off crabs in a good year now are now idled – and worried about the future.

"If they'd let us go out and fish today, we'd probably catch crabs," said Glen Despaux, 37, who sets his traps in Louisiana's Barataria Bay. "But what's going to happen next year, if this water is polluted and it's killing the eggs and the larvae? I

think it's going to be a long-term problem."

Excerpt from "Blue Crabs Provide Evidence of Oil Tainting Gulf Food Web" by John Flesher. Copyright © 2010 by The Associated Press. Reprinted by permission of The Associated Press.

Summarize the author's point about why scientists are monitoring the blue crab population so closely. Support your summary using key evidence from the text.

A.

See explanation below.

Correct Answer: A

For example:

Score 2

A response:

Gives sufficient evidence of the ability to determine/summarize the author's message/claim/point/central idea, or to explain the support for a central idea Includes specific examples/details that make clear reference to the text Adequately explains the author's message/ claim/point/central idea or explanation with clearly relevant information based on the text

Oil tainted water has contaminated populations of blue crabs, a species relatively low on the food chain. The primary concern here is that while these crabs may survive the poisoning, their position on the food chain could be disastrous for the environment overall. For example, the oil may negate their ability to reproduce and the animals who hunt blue crab may die off- and in turn their predators will starve as well. Poisoned blue crabs could also survive small doses of oil but those at the top of the food chain could consume fatal megadoses. "Something likely will eat those oiled larvae... and then that animal will be eaten by something bigger and so on." says the scientist in the text. Scientists must monitor the blue crab population because the effects that the oil may have had on them could disrupt the entire food chain.

Score 1

A response:

Gives limited evidence of the ability to determine/summarize the author's message/ claim/point/central idea, or to explain the support for a central idea Includes vague/limited examples/details that make reference to the text Explains the author's message/ claim/point/central idea or explanation with vague/limited information based on the text

They are monitoring the blue crab population so closely because they are a key part to the food chain. If the species cannot reproduce then they will die off causing a chain reaction that will effect the consumers of the food chain.

Score 0

A response:

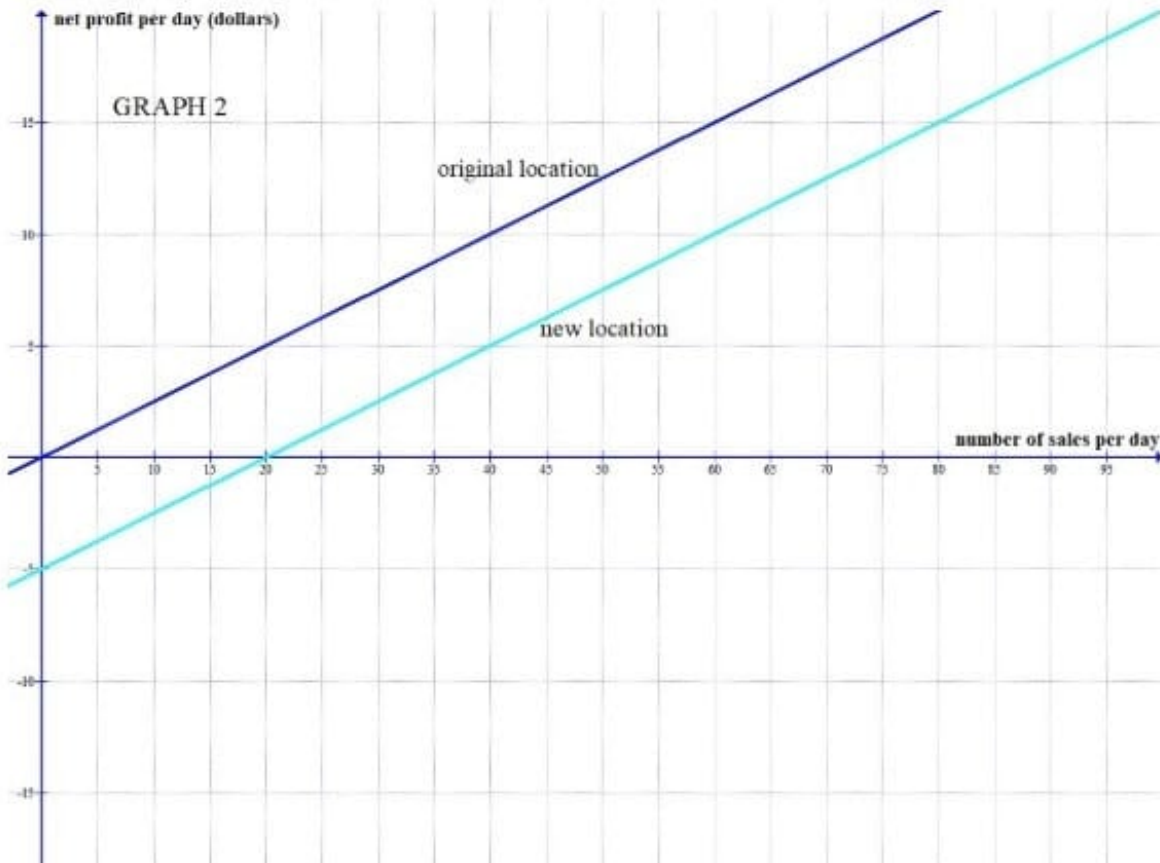
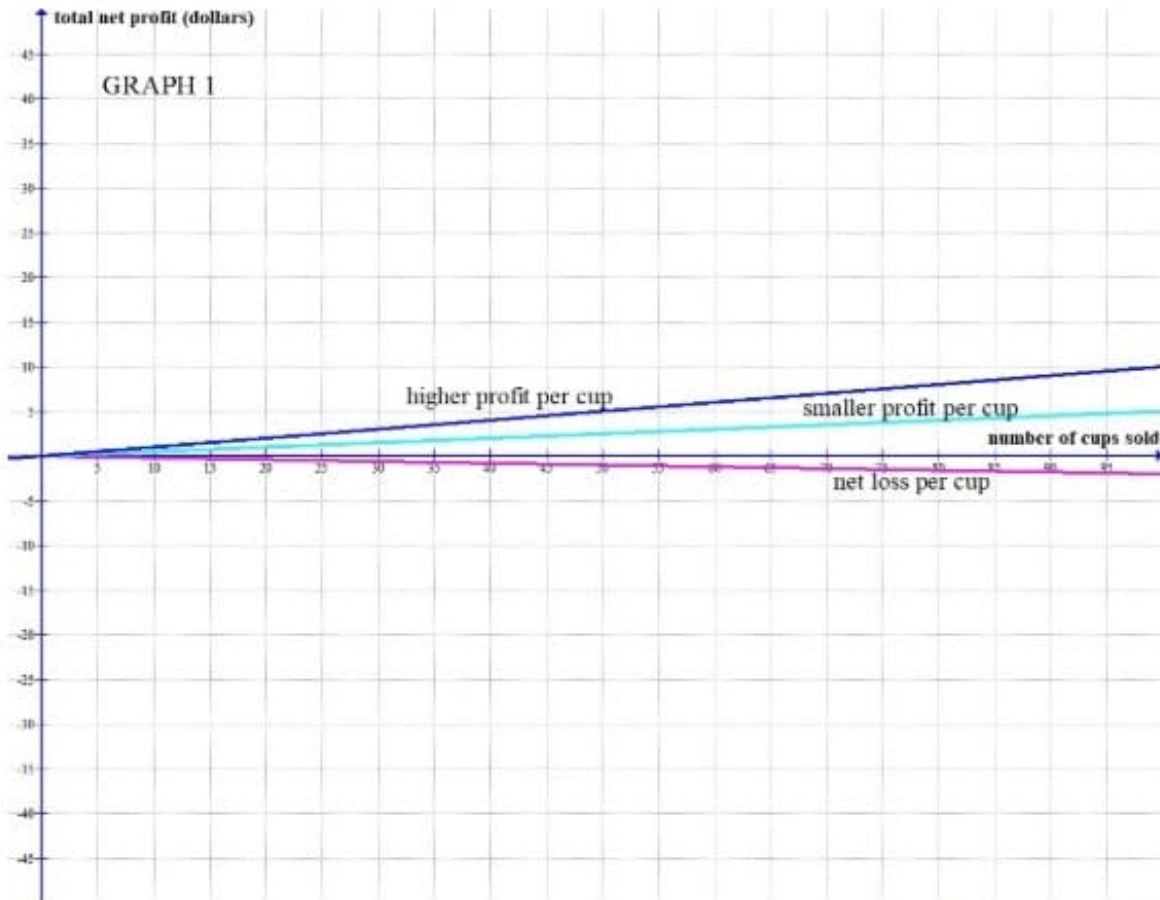
Gives no evidence of the ability to determine/summarize the author's message/claim/point/central idea, or to explain the support for a central idea OR Gives the author's message/claim/point/central idea or explanation, but includes no examples or no examples/details that make reference to the text OR Gives the author's message/claim/point/central

idea or explanation, but includes no explanation or no relevant information from the text

Scientists began finding specks of oil in crab larvae plucked from waters across the Gulf coast. The government said last week that three-quarters of the spilled oil has been removed or naturally dissipated from the water.

QUESTION 4

Aimee plans to open a lemonade stand. She wants to determine whether to sell an 8 ounce or 10 ounce cup of lemonade. Each 8-ounce cup costs 2 cents and 10 ounce cups are 3 cents each. The lemons to make a half-gallon of lemonade cost 5 dollars and the sugar for the half-gallon costs 85 cents. She already has all the materials needed to make the stand and she can use the location at no cost. Aimee notices that about 150 people pass by the location of her stand each day and thinks that 20 percent of these people will buy a cup of lemonade. You have made the 2 accompanying graphs to help Aimee make business decisions.



Read the attached passage and consult the attached graphs. Joshua tells Aimee to sell at a small loss and people will like the deal so much that she will sell lots of cups and still make lots of money. Use one of the attached graphs to explain to him why this is wrong.

- A. Graph 2 shows that even if profit starts below zero it will go above zero at some point.
- B. Graph 2 shows that a smaller profit eventually will give more income than a larger profit.
- C. Graph 1 shows that selling at a net loss per cup will never reach a positive value no matter how many cups are sold.
- D. Graph 1 shows that the amount lost is very small.

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 5

Read the text and answer the question.

Moving to the Back of Beyond

When my parents said the three of us were moving out to California, to a place just north of Los Angeles, my mind immediately went to thoughts of Disneyland and Hollywood, glitz and glamour. I imagined a Rodeo Drive shopping spree to

pick out a bikini for the endless days I would be spending on the beach. However, I'd forgotten about my parents' penchant for the unconventional; they're definitely "the road less traveled" kind of people. Mom had a gopher snake for a pet

when she was younger, and Dad was never happier than when he was climbing near-vertical cliffs that only mountain goats could love. These are not city folk.

They had chosen to buy a 900-square-foot cabin under a 250-year-old oak tree in the high chaparral forest out in the back of beyond – so far away from Los Angeles that you couldn't even see the glow of the lights at night. When I first saw

where we were going to live, I vacillated between feeling terrified and excited. This would be an adventure, for sure. But this was no camping trip where you could go home to civilization after a few days of roughing it; this was home, and roughing it was the new normal.

On move-in day, we drove fifteen miles out from Antelope Valley – where the nearest grocery store was located – on a two-lane road past llamas, cattle, and horses. Up and up we went, until finally we turned down a dirt road and headed into

a canyon full of towering Coulter pines, blue-green sagebrush, and ancient canyon live oaks. I didn't know the names of these plants then, of course; I learned them later. That first day all I saw then was a million shades of green.

We parked under an oak tree that shaded our cabin and a front yard of rock, sand, and sagebrush twice as large as the cabin itself. On the stone staircase that led to the front door, black lizards interrupted their push-ups to twist their heads

and eye us as we passed. Scrub jays squawked and hummingbirds zoomed past the eaves, scolding us with their territorial calls.

No cars roared past. No radios blared from a neighbor's house. There were no neighbors – no human neighbors, anyway.

Our new home consisted of one bedroom, one bathroom, and one big room for everything else. A fireplace in the corner of the big room would be our sole source of heat in the winter. A swamp box (cooler) would blow a breeze over a big damp pad to keep us cool all summer, or so my father said. But it was early autumn that day, and the temperature was perfect in the shade of the oak tree. Our oak tree, I thought; I was settling in.

Mom wiped a layer of grime off the kitchen counter and muttered about getting a bottle of bleach on our next trip into town. That was the beginning of an important lesson about living in the back of beyond: you don't just zip over to the local

convenience store anytime you need something out here. You have to make a careful list and check it twice so that you don't forget anything, because anywhere is a long way from here.

On my first walk around the property, I saw two horned toads, a red-tailed hawk, and some deer tracks. I wondered what else I might find deeper and higher in the canyon. Dad told me the real estate agent had mentioned that coyotes,

bobcats, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, and even bears roamed these hills. To my surprise, I found I couldn't wait to see them. All of them. I felt my feet taking root in the earth, claiming this place as home.

With no street lamps timed to turn on at sunset, when night came it was darker than anything I had ever experienced. Mom and I went out to look at the stars while Dad tried to unplug the ancient toilet. In the city, or even in the suburbs where

I had lived before, you could see only the brightest stars in the sky. But out here, it was like being in a planetarium, except there were no labels typed onto our sky. The sheer number and spread of stars was awe-inspiring.

That first night, we slept on air mattresses on the living room floor because the movers had not yet arrived. There were no curtains on the windows, so when the moon rose, it shone in as if moonbeams were an integral part of the cabin.

Eventually, I moved into the bedroom and Mom and Dad got a foldout bed for the living room. Over the next few months, I began to count the passage of time in full moons rather than by the pages of a calendar, and for the first time I really

noticed the days growing shorter in winter and longer in summer.

It's hard to believe, but we've been here for six years now. I've been going to school in the valley, but I feel most at home up here with my wild fellow canyon dwellers. Soon, I will have to leave home for college, and I'm a little afraid of the

culture shock I'm sure I will feel when I move back to civilization. Soon I'll be walking on pavement and well-mowed grass again, rooming with strangers, and eating meals in a cafeteria crowded with more people than live within twenty miles

of this house. But I know I will come back. The back of beyond is home now.

1. chaparral: a dense thicket of shrubs and small trees

The following question is divided into two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

What is most likely the author's intent by mentioning the "Rodeo Drive shopping spree" in the following paragraph?

When my parents said the three of us were moving out to California, to a place just north of Los Angeles, my mind immediately went to thoughts of Disneyland and Hollywood, glitz and glamour. I imagined a Rodeo Drive shopping spree to pick out a bikini for the endless days I would be spending on the beach. However, I'd forgotten about my parents' penchant for the unconventional; they're definitely "the road less traveled" kind of people. Mom has a gopher

snake for a pet when she was younger, and Dad was never happier than when he was climbing near-vertical cliffs that only mountain goats could love. These are not city folk.

- A. to show that the narrator comes from a family that is used to spending money
- B. to reveal the narrator as someone who is shallow and cares only for nice things
- C. to contrast the narrator's grand dreams with the sparse life her parent have in mind
- D. to emphasize the narrator's nervousness about moving to a place so far removed from civilization

Correct Answer: C

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