

**Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.**

This passage is adapted from P.G. Wodehouse, "Extricating Young Gussie." Originally published in 1917.

Line She sprang it on me before breakfast. There in seven  
words you have a complete character sketch of my Aunt  
Agatha. I could go on indefinitely about brutality and lack of  
consideration. I merely say that she routed me out of bed to  
5 listen to her painful story somewhere in the small hours. It  
can't have been half past eleven when Jeeves, my man, woke  
me out of the dreamless and broke the news:

'Mrs Gregson to see you, sir.'

I thought she must be walking in her sleep, but I crawled  
10 out of bed and got into a dressing-gown. I knew Aunt Agatha  
well enough to know that, if she had come to see me, she was  
going to see me. That's the sort of woman she is.

She was sitting bolt upright in a chair, staring into space.  
When I came in she looked at me in that darn critical way  
15 that always makes me feel as if I had gelatine where my  
spine ought to be. Aunt Agatha is one of those strong-minded  
women. I should think Queen Elizabeth must have been  
something like her. She bosses her husband, Spencer  
Gregson, a battered little chappie on the Stock Exchange. She  
20 bosses my cousin, Gussie Mannering-Phipps. She bosses her  
sister-in-law, Gussie's mother. And, worst of all, she bosses  
me. She has an eye like a man-eating fish.

I dare say there are fellows in the world—men of blood  
and iron, don't you know, and all that sort of thing—whom  
25 she couldn't intimidate; but if you're a chappie like me, fond  
of a quiet life, you simply curl into a ball when you see her  
coming, and hope for the best. My experience is that when  
Aunt Agatha wants you to do a thing you do it.

'Hello, Aunt Agatha!' I said.

30 'Bertie,' she said, 'you look a sight. You look perfectly  
dissipated.'

I was feeling like a badly wrapped brown-paper parcel.  
I'm never at my best in the early morning. I said so.

'Early morning! I had breakfast three hours ago, and have  
35 been walking in the park ever since, trying to compose my  
thoughts. I am extremely worried, Bertie. That is why I have  
come to you.'

And then I saw she was going to start something, and I  
bleated weakly to Jeeves to bring me tea. But she had begun  
40 before I could get it.

'What are your immediate plans, Bertie?'

'Well, I rather thought of tottering out for a bite of lunch  
later on, and then I might trickle off to Walton Heath for a  
round of golf.'

45 'I am not interested in your totterings and tricklings. I  
mean, have you any important engagements in the next week  
or so?'

I scented danger.

'Rather,' I said. 'Heaps! Millions! Booked solid!'

50 'What are they?'

'I—er—well, I don't quite know.'

'I thought as much. You have no engagements. Very well,  
then, I want you to start immediately for America.'

'America!'

55 Do not lose sight of the fact that all this was taking place  
on an empty stomach, shortly after the rising of the lark.

'Yes, America. I suppose even you have heard of  
America?' 'But why America?'

60 'Because that is where your Cousin Gussie is. He is in  
New York, and I can't get at him.'

'What's Gussie been doing?'

'Gussie is making a perfect idiot of himself.'

To one who knew young Gussie as well as I did, the words  
opened up a wide field for speculation.

65 'In what way?'

'He has lost his head over a creature.'

70 On past performances this rang true. Ever since he arrived  
at man's estate Gussie had been losing his head over  
creatures. He's that sort of chap. But, as the creatures never  
seemed to lose their heads over him, it had never amounted  
to much.

'I imagine you know perfectly well why Gussie went to  
America, Bertie. He is not clever, but he is very good-  
looking, and, though he has no title, the Mannering-Phippses  
75 are one of the best and oldest families in England. He had  
some excellent letters of introduction, and when he wrote  
home to say that he had met the most charming and beautiful  
girl in the world I felt quite happy. He continued to rave  
about her for several mails, and then this morning a letter has  
80 come from him in which he says, quite casually as a sort of  
afterthought, that he knows we are broadminded enough not  
to think any the worse of her because she is on the vaudeville  
stage.'

'Oh, I say!'

1

Over the course of the passage, the main focus shifts from a  
A) description of a character to a conversation between that  
character and the narrator.

B) depiction of the narrator's morning routine to an  
explanation on the modifications the narrator is making to  
that routine.

C) examination of the narrator's feelings to a portrayal of  
another character's concern for those feelings.

D) discussion of the differences between two characters to an  
interaction that exemplifies those differences.

2

Which statement best describes the narrator's point of view regarding Aunt Agatha?

- A) The narrator admires Aunt Agatha and agrees with her assertions.
- B) The narrator is skeptical of Aunt Agatha and distrusts her motives.
- C) The narrator respects Aunt Agatha but is intimidated by her demeanor.
- D) The narrator is amused by Aunt Agatha but offended by her rudeness.

3

The passage indicates that the narrator is upset by being woken up because he had

- A) told Jeeves not to wake him.
- B) slept badly that night.
- C) not yet begun to dream.
- D) expected to sleep longer.

4

The narrator's description in lines 13–28 primarily serves to

- A) illustrate Aunt Agatha's personality and contrast it with that of the narrator.
- B) provide background information about the narrator and Aunt Agatha's family.
- C) detail Aunt Agatha's poor treatment of her husband and the narrator's cousin.
- D) introduce the problem that Aunt Agatha is asking the narrator to help solve.

5

The main effect of the phrases “totterings and tricklings” and “important engagement” lines 45–47 is to

- A) make it clear that Aunt Agatha does not understand what the narrator has just said about his plans.
- B) emphasize that Aunt Agatha views the narrator's activities as being of little significance.
- C) highlight Aunt Agatha's lack of interest in spending time with the narrator during her visit.
- D) underscore that Aunt Agatha does not want her visit to interfere with the narrator's plans.

6

The remarks in lines 61–64 (“What's . . . speculation”) serve mainly to

- A) suggest that Gussie is known for foolish behavior.
- B) emphasize the narrator's desire to help Aunt Agatha.
- C) cast doubt on Aunt Agatha's reason for visiting the narrator.
- D) imply that the narrator is unconcerned with Gussie's well-being.

7

As used in line 62 “perfect” most nearly means

- A) accurate.
- B) flawless.
- C) absolute.
- D) ideal.

8

In the passage, Aunt Agatha implies that the problem with Gussie's latest romantic attachment is that the woman he is pursuing

- A) does not have feelings for Gussie.
- B) thinks Gussie's family is not open-minded.
- C) is an inappropriate match for Gussie.
- D) has lied to Gussie about her background.

9

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) line 66 (“He . . . creature”)
- B) lines 69–71 (“But . . . much”)
- C) lines 75–78 (“He . . . happy”)
- D) lines 78–83 (“He . . . stage”)

10

Based on the passage, the most likely outcome of the narrator's meeting with Aunt Agatha is that the narrator will

- A) criticize Aunt Agatha for her rudeness.
- B) recommend to Aunt Agatha that she not intervene in Gussie's decisions.
- C) travel to America.
- D) write a letter to Gussie.

11

Which details from the passage best support the answer to the previous question?

- A) Aunt Agatha makes the narrator get out of bed, and the narrator states that he could speak endlessly about her “brutality and lack of consideration” (lines 3–4).
- B) Aunt Agatha makes a specific request of the narrator, and the narrator reports that when Aunt Agatha “wants you to do a thing you do it” (lines 27–28).
- C) Aunt Agatha inquires as to the narrator’s schedule, and the narrator invents engagements, claiming he is “Booked solid!” (line 49).
- D) Aunt Agatha demands that the narrator set forth on a voyage but the narrator is confused, asking “why America?” (line 58).