

EXTENDED READING COMPREHENSION: SAMPLE ANSWERS

PRINCE HYACINTH AND THE DEAR LITTLE PRINCESS

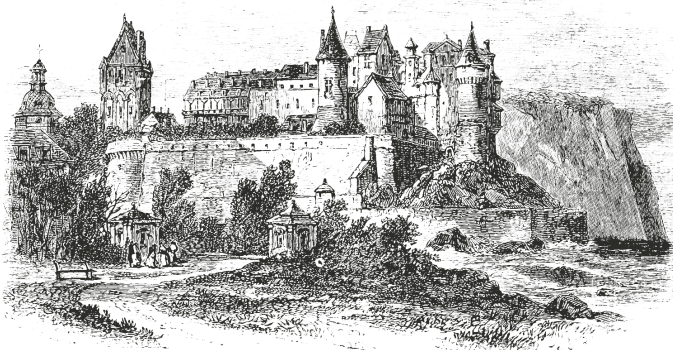
Answer the following questions about “Prince Hyacinth and the Dear Little Princess.”

1. **Part A.** What is the Queen's initial reaction when she sees her son's nose, and how does she decide to proceed with raising her child?

The Queen is horrified that Prince Hyacinth's nose is so enormous. She makes sure that the boy never knows that his nose is enormous, and she raises him to believe that big noses are best and that all great heroes had long noses.

- Part B.** Describe how the Queen's decisions about how to deal with the Prince's large nose impact Prince Hyacinth's life. Support your answer with text details.

The Prince lacks self-awareness and struggles to understand others' behaviors. For example, he doesn't understand why the Fairy goes on about the size of his nose because he thinks there's nothing wrong with it. He criticizes the Fairy's chattiness but is unable to see his own flaws.



2. Write the correct letter to match the words from the passage with their meanings on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <u>A</u> defect | A. flaw |
| <u>E</u> moderate | B. desirable trait |
| <u>F</u> devised | C. representative |
| <u>B</u> virtue | D. picture |
| <u>D</u> portrait | E. not extreme |
| <u>G</u> banished | F. came up with |
| <u>C</u> ambassador | G. sent away |

3. Read the following sentence from the text.

As he was just advancing to kiss her hand, however, the Enchanter appeared as suddenly as a flash of lightning.

What does the simile in the sentence show about the arrival of the Enchanter?

- A. He floated in on a dark, stormy cloud.
 B. His arrival was very jarring.
 C. His arrival was silent and stealthy.
 D. He waited and watched from the shadows.
4. In paragraphs 15–18, Prince Hyacinth and the narrator have different points of view. What effect does this difference create for readers?
- A. suspense
 B. humor
 C. relief
 D. confusion

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Keep going! Answer the following questions about "Prince Hyacinth and the Dear Little Princess."

5. Write words and phrases from the box into the diagram to show the similarities and differences between the Prince and the Fairy.

royalty big nose persuaded by flattery talks too much magical unaware of own flaws		
PRINCE HYACINTH	BOTH	FAIRY
big nose	royalty persuaded by flattery unaware of own flaws	talks too much magical

6. **Part A.** Which of the following famous quotes reflects a theme of the story? Choose two.

- A. "O, happy the soul that saw its own faults." — Rumi
- B. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." — Eleanor Roosevelt
- C. "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." — Confucius
- D. "A diamond with a flaw is worth more than a pebble without imperfections." — Chinese proverb
- E. "It is easy to see the faults of others, but difficult to see one's own." — Buddha

Part B. Provide evidence from the text to support each of your above choices.

Choice 1: A : Prince Hyacinth could only find happiness when he recognized the truth that his nose really was too big. When he did so, the curse was broken, and he and the Princess lived happily ever after.

Choice 2: E : Prince Hyacinth recognized the Fairy's flaw, her chattiness, and that she's allowed flatterers to deceive her about it. However, he doesn't see that he's also let flatterers deceive him about his flawed nose.

In "Prince Hyacinth and the Dear Little Princess," the kingdom focuses on a physical feature—the size of Prince Hyacinth's nose—and creates a skewed version of reality for the Prince. Characters tailor their words and behaviors so that Prince Hyacinth can be confident and comfortable in his own skin. As a result, he is judgmental of others while he remains blissfully ignorant about the way society judges him. **What are the implications of using physical traits to judge a person's worth? Jot some notes, and then discuss!**