

# Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions about "The Adventure Begins." **Sample answers**

1. How did the family in the story come to be in South Dakota?
- A. They won a drawing in a vacation sweepstakes.
  - B. They pulled the state's name out of a hat.**
  - C. They are visiting friends who moved there.
  - D. They are lost because the RV's GPS failed.

2. Describe Serena's attitude toward the trip in the first half of the story. Cite specific text evidence to support your answer.  
**Serena is not excited about the trip. She "scoffed" at the idea of it being an adventure, and she is "disappointed" they are in South Dakota.**

3. How does Serena's perception of her friends' vacations affect her view of her own?  
**She thinks the pictures of their vacations are much more exciting and adventurous than a boring road trip through South Dakota.**

4. What is the meaning of **envisioned** as it is used in paragraph 3?  
**"Envisioned" means imagined or pictured.**

5. List three things from the first half of the story that Serena would consider "real adventures."
- 1. **Rafting through the Grand Canyon**
  - 2. **Exploring beaches in Florida**
  - 3. **Going on a safari in Africa**

6. Select **three** of the following words that best describe Tony's personality based on his actions in the story.
- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. envious           | <b>E. encouraging</b> |
| B. creative          | F. impatient          |
| <b>C. optimistic</b> | G. responsible        |
| <b>D. eager</b>      | H. nosy               |

7a. What is different about Serena's attitude at the end of the story?  
**By the end of the story, Serena is more excited about her trip and thinks it could be a real adventure.**

- 7b. What two things in the story help bring about Serena's change of attitude?
- 1. **Tony's excited description of the Badlands**
  - 2. **Seeing the herd of bison along the road**

8. In paragraphs 11 and 12, the author incorporates nonfiction elements into this fictional story. What effect might this have on the reader?  
**Including specific, interesting facts about the Badlands can make readers more interested in the setting and help them better understand why Serena changes her mind about her family vacation.**

9. Which **two** statements best capture the themes of the story?
- A. Adventure can be found in unexpected places.**
  - B. Everything in life eventually passes away.
  - C. Seeing through others' eyes can affect your own perspective.**
  - D. Nothing is as important as the people you love.

10. Summarize the development of one of the themes you selected above.  
**Theme C: Serena was letting her friends' pictures affect how she saw her own vacation. Then seeing how excited Tony was about their experience helped her change how she thought about their family adventure.**