

Try to summarize the main ideas of the passage by answering the following True or False questions.

(T/F)

- _____ 1. The narrator's brother was angry with him and locked him in a closet.
- _____ 2. The mother was angry because her sons were having a fight.
- _____ 3. It was all his brother's fault that the narrator developed claustrophobia.
- _____ 4. The narrator's brother had a girlfriend who was very short.
- _____ 5. The narrator purposely wrecked his brother's model car.
- _____ 6. The brother always punished him without a reason when their mother was not around.
- _____ 7. Brian ran away because he knew he was in trouble.
- _____ 8. The brother's model car was flattened by a Pepsi Cola bottle.
- _____ 9. The narrator thought everyone in the house took his brother's side.
- _____ 10. The narrator didn't want to take the blame for what he did.

C. Vocabulary

The following exercises will help you understand the new words that this text contains. If there are still words that you do not understand at the end of this section, check them in your vocabulary list or in your dictionary.

Part 1: Fill in the blank with the right word. Then write a new sentence with the word to clearly reflect its meaning.

agony claustrophobic dungeon fling inflict lurk wreck

1. After being locked in the closet, the narrator thought he might grow up to be

_____.

2. The narrator felt he had been thrown into a _____.

3. No doubt he is sitting in his room trying to think of other ways to _____ pains on his younger sibling.

4. The brother stomped over to the narrator's room and _____ the door open after he finished his model car.

5. The narrator wanted his mother to think that he was in _____ while he was locked in the closet.

Part 2: Choose the best meaning for each of the following words as it is used in the story. Then write a new sentence with the word to clearly reflect the meaning.

1. wrecked a) worn out b) damaged c) eliminated

2. deny a) disagree b) disapprove c) refuse

3. emerge a) come out b) impose c) arrive

4. inevitable a) unavoidable b) uninvited c) invisible

5. episode a) torture b) event c) problem

D. Idioms and Expressions

Find the following expressions and look at the words in the context of the sentence. Then choose the meaning which is closest to the underlined words.

1. Even with the thought of the epilator lurking in the back of my mind...
 - a) stopping him from thinking clearly
 - b) giving him a headache
 - c) reminding him

2. Because he couldn't find any battery and the cord was chewed up by my dog ...
 - a) His dog ran away with the cord.
 - b) His dog bit the cord into pieces.
 - c) His dog was chewing the cord.

3. We played with ..., but then my brother's new set of ray guns caught our eye.
 - a) The ray guns looked very attractive.
 - b) The ray guns were too bright for their eyes.
 - c) The ray guns injured their eyes.

4. My brother was in his room putting the finishing touches on his precious model car.
 - a) He admired the model car.
 - b) He touched the car for the last time.
 - c) He put the car together completely.

5. Just because he is my older brother doesn't mean he can push me around!
- a) His brother pushes him around the house.
 - b) His brother is stronger than him.
 - c) His brother can do anything he wants to the narrator.

E. Comprehension

Answer the following questions in order to make sure that you understand the details of the article. Read the paragraph again to help you understand the meaning better.

1. At the beginning of the story (par.1)
 - a) The narrator was very sad because his mother was not there to protect him.
 - b) The narrator was scared because the closet was very small and dark.
 - c) The narrator was upset and angry at his situation.

2. The narrator's brother had warned him (par.4)
 - a) not to play with his friend Brian
 - b) not to go in his room when he was not around
 - c) not to touch the model car he had just finished making

3. The main idea of the paragraph 4 is
 - a) The narrator explains how much he loves model cars.
 - b) The narrator explains what caused him and Brian to go into the room and play with the car.
 - c) The narrator explains how cruel his brother was.

4. After the accident, the narrator was thinking of escaping to the West Indies, but (par.5)
 - a) He did not have money to make the trip.
 - b) His brother did not allow him to make the trip.
 - c) He could only get permission to go out next Thursday.

5. The narrator says, “My brother gets all the attention around this joint. I’ m hardly noticed.” By this he means (par.3)
 - a) In the family, the narrator’ s parents pay more attention to his brother.
 - b) He never noticed that his brother took care of the house for his parents.
 - c) His brother always joined his parents to ignore the narrator.

6. We set the car on the bed and played a quick game of super warrior. The narrator and Brian were (par.5)
 - a) sitting on the car and playing a game called “super warrior”
 - b) putting the car on the bed and playing another game called “super warrior”
 - c) letting the super warrior sit in the car and play with it on the bed

7. Thankfully he spared me the epilator, but only because he couldn’ t find any batteries. (par.7)
 - a) His brother gave him the broken epilator.
 - b) His brother gave him a break and did not punish him with the epilator.
 - c) His brother saved the epilator punishment for the next time.

8. His story definitely has more merit than mine. The narrator said so, because (par.8)
- a) He knows his mom will always pay more attention to his brother than to him.
 - b) He knows his brother is a good story teller. He will always get the parents on his side.
 - c) He knows very well that he should take the blame for wrecking the car.
9. In this dark, scary, damp, sorry excuse for a closet. (par.2) What does the narrator mean by “sorry excuse”?
- a) He is sorry that he is in the closet.
 - b) The big brother will be sorry when their mother gets home.
 - c) He thinks the closet is very small.
10. The main idea of the story is
- a) to show the relationship between the narrator and his brother
 - b) to show the relationship between the narrator and his mother
 - c) to show how big brothers are always stronger than little brothers

F. Advanced Comprehension

Critical thinking is often required to understand the implied meaning of something. When the meaning is not clearly stated, you might want to read parts of the story again to know what is suggested. In English, it is sometimes known as making an “educated guess.” Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What is the narrator’s relationship with his brother?

2. How do you know that the narrator was displeased with his brother?

3. Why did Brian quickly disappear?

4. Describe the model car in your own words.

5. What does the last word in the story mean? (Why did the narrator call for his mother?)

G. Writing Critically

This is an opportunity for you to express your understanding of the story in writing. Try to organize and plan for what you have to say and justify your ideas and opinions.

1. What is the main problem in the story? Give examples to support your ideas.

2. How does the narrator feel about his situation in the closet?

3. What did the author mean by, “My brother’s model car was flatter than a day-old Pepsi in Arizona”? What happened to the model car? What happens to a day-old Pepsi? Why Arizona?

(END OF SAMPLER)