

“Miss Brill” by Katherine Mansfield

**Directions: Choose the best answer.**

1. What does the fur symbolize in Paragraph 2?  
A) memories  
**B) youth**  
C) herself  
D) beauty
  
2. We can infer from the ending of the story that Miss Brill feels  
**A) lonely**  
B) happy  
C) lackadaisical  
D) satisfied
  
3. What is the speaker’s purpose in Paragraph 6?  
**A) a sharp contrast between Miss Brill and the other characters.**  
B) Miss Brill’s lack of self-awareness.  
C) to emphasize Miss Brill’s desire to be alone  
D) to demonstrate Miss Brill’s happiness.
  
4. What is the best theme of “Miss Brill”?  
A) Happiness can be found in the small things.  
B) Life is short; enjoy each moment.  
C) Our own self-image is all that matters.  
**D) Things aren’t always as they seem.**
  
5. The tone of “Miss Brill” is  
A) pessimistic to sentimental.  
**B) sentimental to sad.**  
C) arrogance to light-hearted.  
D) reminiscent to cynical.
  
6. What function does Miss Brill’s fur serve in the story?  
**A) a metaphor representing her life**  
B) a symbol of her wealth and status  
C) personification of her individual freedom  
D) represents society’s disregard for the elderly (and animals)
  
7. Which of the following emotions most accurately represents Miss Brill’s attitude at the beginning of the story?  
**A) jovial**  
B) nostalgic  
C) despairing  
D) apathetic

8. What is the symbolic nature of Miss Brill's fur stole at the end of the story?

- A) a direct reflection of Miss Brill
- B) represents the degrading class system
- C) represents violence and disregard for human life
- D) represents a renewed optimism of the main character

9. What is the tone of this passage?

- A) despairing
- B) amused
- C) optimistic
- D) affectionate

10. It can be inferred by the final sentence, "But when she put the lid on she thought she heard something crying," that

- A) Miss Brill will remain unable to connect and interact with those around her.
- B) Miss Brill will find her true love.
- C) Miss Brill is a young actress who loves others.
- D) Miss Brill will change her ways and seek companionship.

11. The tone of the passage shifts from one of \_\_\_\_\_ to one of \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A) apathetic to peaceful
- B) nostalgia to sentimental
- C) hopeful to outraged
- D) ideal to insulting
- E) regretful to bitter

12. By using the words "The hero and heroine arrived...still soundlessly singing...Miss Brill prepared to listen,"

- A) Miss Brill would find the conversation to be more intriguing and demand her attention.
- B) Only young love would provide enough quality conversation.
- C) Miss Brill would not find quality conversation.
- D) They were oblivious to her eavesdropping due to their age and preoccupation with each other.

13. What qualities are present in the scene described in the first three lines of Paragraph 6?

- A) symbolic, to represent the need for Brill to take rests.
- B) representative of the weather
- C) to contradict the music with the weather.
- D) to show you how Brill actually feels.

14. The phrase "rubbed the life back into its dull little eyes" indicates that Miss Brill's worldview is one of

- A) responsible care.
- B) appearance superseding actuality.
- C) witty irony.
- D) playful imaginativeness.
- E) judgmental observation.

15. The pairing of characters throughout the short story serves to

- A) establish Miss Brill as confident and independent.
- B) heighten the reader's appreciation of Miss Brill's isolation.
- C) demonstrate Miss Brill's character flaws.
- D) explain Miss Brill's personal history.
- E) portray Miss Brill as a more unlikeable character.

16. What does the speaker accomplish in using color?

- A) describes the setting using imagery
- B) informs the readers of Miss Brill's favorite colors
- C) enhances the contrast between Miss Brill's reality and fantasy
- D) explains that Miss Brill lives through colors.
- E) shows the seasons.

17. How would you describe the diction and style of the passage?

- A) ambiguous
- B) elevated and fragmented
- C) whimsical and confusing
- D) informal and silly
- E) polished and charismatic

18. In paragraphs 11-16, the passage shifts from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) humorous, serious
- B) sad, happy
- C) warm, uncomfortable
- D) hopeful, bleak
- E) passionate, calm

19. What effect is achieved by the speaker's using the phrases "old people"?

- A) Separation from Miss Brill to others.
- B) Miss Brill is a young woman.
- C) The people will leave soon.
- D) Miss Brill hasn't seen them in a while.
- E) Everyone else in the park is young and vibrant.

20. The speaker's attitude toward her fur is best described as one of \_\_\_\_\_

- A) fear.
- B) compassionate.
- C) possessive.
- D) sad.
- E) adoration.

21. What is the point of view in this short story?
- A) first person
  - B) Second person
  - C) Third person limited
  - D) Third person omniscient
  - E) Objective
22. What is the tone of this passage?
- A) optimistic
  - B) cheery
  - C) tragic
  - D) detached
  - E) amorous
23. In lines 16-17, what is the effect of using personification?
- A) illustrates a realm of conscience that something is not right
  - B) depicts signs of Miss Brill's illness
  - C) a disconnection from surroundings
  - D) Miss Brill is going crazy.
  - E) The new season is bringing life back to Miss Brill.
24. What is a theme of the short story?
- A) Youth should not be taken for granted.
  - B) One should always be aware of one's surroundings.
  - C) Watching others live does not make a life.
  - D) Dying is a part of living.
  - E) Age does not define a person.
25. The imagery of this story is characterized by
- A) repetition and visual sensories.
  - B) religious and historical allusions.
  - C) point of view and contrast.
  - D) auditory and visual sensories.