

“Miss Brill” AP Style Multiple-Choice Questions

Answers (when given) are in boldface. I did not presume to answer for you... so send me the answers if you can.

- The tone of the first two paragraphs is
 - optimistic and sentimental.
 - optimistic and joyful.
 - exuberant and fanciful.
 - formal and pretentious.
 - pedantic and didactic.
- What does the fur symbolize in Paragraph 2?
 - memories
 - youth**
 - herself
 - beauty
- Lines 19-22, “But the nose...a knock somehow” primarily functions to
 - describe in better detail, the fur for the benefit for the reader.
 - express the tenderness Miss Brill felt toward the “little rogue!”
 - to foreshadow a blemish or “knock” to Miss Brill.**
 - to connect the age of Miss Brill and her fur.
 - serve as a bridge between the reader and the author.
- It can be inferred from the description of the fur stole that the qualities of _____ are valued by the character.
 - commonality
 - reputation
 - aristocracy
 - conspicuousness
 - propriety
- What is the speaker’s purpose in Paragraph 6?
 - a sharp contrast between Miss Brill and the other characters.
 - Miss Brill’s lack of self-awareness.
 - to emphasize Miss Brill’s desire to be alone
 - to demonstrate Miss Brill’s happiness.
- What is the purpose of the syntax in “They were odd, silent, nearly all old, and from the way they stared they looked as though they’d just come from dark little rooms or even— even cupboards” (paragraph 6)?
 - to describe the people
 - to portray Miss Brill’s disdain of those around her.
 - to describe Miss Brill.
 - to portray Miss Brill’s similarities to those around her.
 - to show Miss Brill’s attachment to the lives of others as well as her detachment from herself.

7. How would you define the word “rogue” as it is used in the passage?
- A. one who is dishonest or unprincipled.
 - B. a person or thing whose behavior one disapproves of but who is nonetheless likeable or attractive.
 - C. an inferior or effective specimen among many satisfactory ones.
 - D. one who behaves in an unpredictable way.
 - E. a wild animal driven away from the herd.
8. What is the purpose of the question asked in the third paragraph – “Wasn’t the conductor wearing a new coat, too?”
- A. to display Miss Brill’s romantic interest in the conductor.
 - B. to establish her prying nature.
 - C. to display her interest in her surroundings.
 - D. to form her observant nature.**
 - E. to show her favoritism toward the musicians.
9. The object of the following sentence in paragraph three is
“For although the band played all the year round
on Sunday, out of Season, it was never the same.”
- A. bend
 - B. year
 - C. Sunday
 - D. out
 - E. it**
10. 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
11. What does Miss Brill’s “special seat” symbolize in paragraph four?
- A. the respect others at the park show her.
 - B. the fact that everyone has a place at the park.
 - C. the importance Miss Brill places on the ritual of her park visits.
 - D. the fact that no one wants to sit with her.
 - E. her need to sit alone.
12. What is the function of the repetition of the word “two” in paragraph nine?
- A. It enhances the religious tone of the passage.
 - B. It intensifies Miss Brill’s isolation as an observer.**
 - C. It serves to increase the pace and urgency of the passage.
 - D. It displays Miss Brill’s disdain for the noisy world around her.
 - E. It emphasizes the interconnectedness Miss Brill sees in the world around her.
13. How would you restate the meaning of the first five lines of paragraph 11 (Oh, how fascinating it was...It was really like a play)?
- A. Miss Brill sees herself as the center of the crowd’s attention.

- B. Miss Brill considers the whole scene as shallow and meaningless.
- C. Miss Brill considers the people and occasion as incredibly entertaining.**
- D. Miss Brill sees herself as an objective observer of the scene.
- E. Miss Brill believes she is manipulating events for her benefit.

14. The sentences “They were all on the stage. They weren’t only the audience, not only looking on; they were acting” which is in the eleventh paragraph serve to

- A. show Miss Brill’s history with the theater.
- B. emphasize Miss Brill feels that she is a part of the action. She is only an observer.
- C. contrast appearances and reality on the stage.
- D. show Miss Brill’s enjoyment in working with the other actors.
- E. demonstrate basic theater practices of the time period.

15. What is the purpose of the statement in the last three lines of paragraph thirteen?

- A. indicates the most significant shift
- B. foreshadows an epiphany in Miss Brill**
- C. focuses the reader on Miss Brill’s joy.
- D. emphasizes Miss Brill’s being a member of the company
- E. highlights Miss Brill’s confusion

16. What is the purpose of the statement, “No doubt somebody would have noticed if she hadn’t been there; she was part of the performance after all?”

- A. to show her significance in the community.
- B. to imply that she suddenly became useful in the performance.
- C. to reveal the discrepancies of Miss Brill’s perception of reality.
- D. to illustrate an epiphany Miss Brill is experiencing.
- E. to show her realization of her own importance.

17. What atmosphere or mood is established in paragraph fifteen?

- A. degradation**
- B. disapproval
- C. sarcasm
- D. jealousy
- E. humility

18. In paragraph twenty, the passage shifts from a confident and light-hearted tone to _____.

- A. an animated, uplifting tone.
- B. a tragic, unreasonable tone.
- C. an impulsive, unstable tone.
- D. an insecure, hurried tone.**
- E. a dark, dangerous tone.

19. In the next to the last paragraph, the passage shifts from _____ to _____.

- A. caustic to meditative
- B. sardonic to ridiculing
- C. reminiscent to contemptuous
- D. contented to despairing**
- E. self-satisfying to somber

20. In the last paragraph, how is the speaker portrayed?

- A. hopeful
- B. despondent**
- C. reflective
- D. nostalgic
- E. oblivious

21. We can infer from the passage (last two paragraphs) that Miss Brill does not go to the baker's because

- A. she does not have time.
- B. the day's outing has been tiring for her.
- C. she does not feel she deserves the reward.
- D. she feels defeated by the young couple's comments.**
- E. she has a feeling of accomplishment after her successful outing at the park.

22. From the last sentence of the passage, it can be inferred that

- A. Miss Brill feels empathetic with the fur stole.
- B. Miss Brill is psychologically unstable.
- C. the crying she hears is really her own.
- D. the crying she hears represents her loneliness.
- E. Miss Brill is sad the day is ruined.

23. According to the passage, the setting is all of the following EXCEPT

- A. France
- B. a public park
- C. Miss Brill's imagination
- D. Miss Brill's room
- E. autumn

24. The tone of the story shifts from _____ to _____.

- A. nostalgic to baffled.
- B. conciliatory to inflammatory
- C. confident to insecure
- D. critical to despairing
- E. euphoric to despondent

25. 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.

26. 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.