

Escaping the Endless Adolescence
Reading Comprehension Answers

1. This passage is narrated from the point of view of

(C) a concerned therapist who works with struggling young adults.

Why? A is incorrect because it uses the word bulimia, and the disorder was anorexia. Plus, you wouldn't expect concerned parents to take their child to see a college professor for help. B is incorrect because it's an older person telling the story. D is incorrect because sleeping and compulsive disorders are never discussed nor implied. E is incorrect because a college student would not have an office or visits from concerned parents.

2. According to the passage, Perry's two biggest problems were

(A) being an unhappy achiever and his parents' increase of his mental strain.

Why? Look at lines 26 – 27 and lines 38 – 39. The problems are stated explicitly.

3. The primary purpose of the passage is to

(A) describe one young man's struggle with anorexia and in doing so, provide possible reasons a young person may resort to an eating disorder.

Why? To start, look at the verbs at the beginning of the answers. You can get rid of answer choices B and C because the passage neither advocates for anyone nor does it compare anything. D is incorrect because the passage is largely unemotional, and E is wrong because it's too broad – the passage focuses on one young man and his struggle more than it focuses on today's youth as a whole.

4. The author uses which of the following in the sentence beginning in line 18

(E) metaphor

Why? "But beneath his academic success, Perry faced a world of troubles, and while he took awhile to get to know, eventually the problems came pouring out." Actually, the sentence uses two metaphors: "world of troubles" and "pouring out." The author compares the amount of troubles facing Perry to a world without using the words "like" or "as." He also compares Perry's relating of his troubles to pouring – two explicitly different ideas connected without the simile signifiers.

5. In line 39 of the passage, the word "inadvertently" most nearly means

(D) mistakenly

Why? Here's where your vocabulary knowledge or your ability to understand vocab words in context come in handy. If you didn't know the meaning of the word, you could assume some things based on the text: "But in their efforts to nurture and support him, his parents inadvertently increased his mental strain." Nurturing and supporting are positive things. With the "but" you know that the opposite is true in the last part of the sentence, so you could assume that the parents didn't mean to increase his mental strain, thus, answer D.