

“Contents of the Dead Man’s Pocket” by Jack Finney
Selection Test A

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

- ___ 1. At the beginning of the story, what seems to be the most important thing in Tom Benecke’s life?
- A. opening the window that always sticks
 - B. going to the movies with his wife
 - C. getting paid at the end of the week
 - D. getting a promotion at work
- ___ 2. Which of the following events happened first in “Contents of the Dead Man’s Pocket”?
- A. Tom thought about what the police would find in his pockets.
 - B. Tom dropped coins from his pockets to the street below.
 - C. Tom watched his wife get ready to go out alone.
 - D. Tom smashed his fist through the window.
- ___ 3. Which of the following events causes Tom to go out on the ledge?
- A. Tom does research on store displays.
 - B. Clare goes to the movies alone.
 - C. Tom’s paper flies out the window.
 - D. Tom puts on his coat.
- ___ 4. Which event in “Contents of the Dead Man’s Pocket” causes Tom to panic?
- A. His wife goes to the movies.
 - B. He sees the street below him.
 - C. He thinks about the contents of his pockets.
 - D. He sees a man reading a newspaper across the street.
- ___ 5. Which of the following is a moment of high suspense in the story?
- A. Clare leaves.
 - B. Tom looks down and panics.
 - C. Tom stares through the window into his living room.
 - D. Tom sees the yellow paper fly out the window a second time.
- ___ 6. Why doesn’t Tom simply wait for his wife to come home and help him?
- A. He thinks she probably would not notice him out on the ledge.
 - B. She will become very angry if she comes home and finds him on the ledge.
 - C. She had left early to see the second feature and would not be home for hours.
 - D. He wants to get off the ledge and join her at the movies.

- ___ 7. Why does Tom change his attitude toward life?
 - A. His wife goes to the movies alone.
 - B. He almost falls off the ledge and dies.
 - C. He smashes his fist through the window.
 - D. The paper flies out the window again.

- ___ 8. Often, a seemingly minor detail mentioned early in a short story becomes very important later. Which of the following details later becomes important to Tom's efforts to get back into his apartment?
 - A. The window is hard to open.
 - B. It is hot in the apartment.
 - C. Clare is slender and pretty.
 - D. Tom puts on his jacket.

- ___ 9. Which of the following is an example of internal conflict in "Contents of the Dead Man's Pocket"?
 - A. Tom's efforts to open the window
 - B. Tom's struggle to stay on the ledge
 - C. Tom's attempts to get someone's attention
 - D. Tom's struggle to overcome his fear

- ___ 10. What does Tom decide the contents of his pockets would say about him if he were to fall and die?
 - A. His life had been wasted.
 - B. He did not love his wife.
 - C. He should have gotten a promotion.
 - D. He was a selfish and foolish man.

- ___ 11. In "Contents of the Dead Man's Pocket," Tom has an important realization during his terrible experience on the ledge. What is this realization?
 - A. He will never get ahead at work.
 - B. He hasn't put enough effort into his work.
 - C. He wants to spend more time with his wife.
 - D. He is going to fall off the ledge and die.

- ___ 12. What is "Contents of the Dead Man's Pocket" mostly about?
 - A. a man and the contents of his pockets
 - B. a man who does not think about his actions
 - C. a man and woman who go to the movies
 - D. a man whose desire for a promotion at work nearly kills him