

**Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.**

This passage is excerpted from Louisa May Alcott, *Rose in Bloom*, originally published in 1876.

Line Three young men stood together on a wharf one bright  
5 October day awaiting the arrival of an ocean steamer with an  
impatience which found a vent in lively skirmishes with a  
small lad, who pervaded the premises like a will-o'-the-wisp  
and afforded much amusement to the other groups assembled  
there.

"They are the Campbells, waiting for their cousin, who  
has been abroad several years with her uncle, the doctor,"  
whispered one lady to another as the handsomest of the  
10 young men touched his hat to her as he passed, lugging the  
boy, whom he had just rescued from a little expedition down  
among the piles.

"Which is that?" asked the stranger.

"Prince Charlie, as he's called a fine fellow, the most  
15 promising of the seven, but a little fast, people say,"  
answered the first speaker with a shake of the head. "Are the  
others his brothers?"

"No, cousins. The elder is Archie, a most exemplary  
young man. He has just gone into business with the merchant  
20 uncle and bids fair to be an honor to his family. The other,  
with the eyeglasses and no gloves, is Mac, the odd one, just  
out of college."

"And the boy?"

"Oh, he is Jamie, the youngest brother of Archibald, and  
25 the pet of the whole family. Mercy on us he'll be in if they  
don't hold on to him!"

The ladies' chat came to a sudden end just there, for by the  
time Jamie had been fished out of a hogshead, the steamer  
hove in sight and everything else was forgotten. As it swung  
30 slowly around to enter the dock, a boyish voice shouted,  
"There she is! I see her and Uncle and Phebe! Hooray for  
Cousin Rose!" And three small cheers were given with a will  
by Jamie as he stood on a post waving his arms like a  
windmill while his brother held onto the tail of his jacket.

35 Yes, there they were, Uncle Alec swinging his hat like a  
boy, with Phebe smiling and nodding on one side and Rose  
kissing both hands delightedly on the other as she recognized  
familiar faces and heard familiar voices welcoming her  
home.

40 "Bless her dear heart, she's bonnier than ever! Looks like a  
Madonna doesn't she? with that blue cloak round her, and her  
bright hair flying in the wind!" said Charlie excitedly as they  
watched the group upon the deck with eager eyes.

"Madonnas don't wear hats like that. Rose hasn't changed  
45 much, but Phebe has. Why, she's a regular beauty!" answered  
Archie, staring with all his might at the dark-eyed young  
woman with the brilliant color and glossy black braids  
shining in the sun.

"Dear old Uncle! Doesn't it seem good to have him back?"  
50 was all Mac said, but he was not looking at "dear old uncle"

as he made the fervent remark, for he saw only the slender  
blond girl nearby and stretched out his hands to meet hers,  
forgetful of the green water tumbling between them.

55 During the confusion that reigned for a moment as the  
steamer settled to her moorings, Rose looked down into the  
four faces upturned to hers and seemed to read in them  
something that both pleased and pained her. It was only a  
glance, and her own eyes were full, but through the mist of  
happy tears she received the impression that Archie was  
60 about the same, that Mac had decidedly improved, and that  
something was amiss with Charlie. There was no time for  
observation, however, for in a moment the shoreward rush  
began, and before she could grasp her traveling bag, Jamie  
was clinging to her like an ecstatic young bear. She was with  
65 difficulty released from his embrace to fall into the gentler  
ones of the elder cousins, who took advantage of the general  
excitement to welcome both blooming girls with affectionate  
impartiality. Then the wanderers were borne ashore in a  
triumphal procession, while Jamie danced rapturous jigs  
70 before them even on the gangway.

Archie remained to help his uncle get the luggage through  
the Custom House, and the others escorted the damsels  
home. No sooner were they shut up in a carriage, however,  
than a new and curious constraint seemed to fall upon the  
75 young people, for they realized, all at once, that their former  
playmates were men and women now.

**1**

Which choice best summarizes the passage?

- A) The passage provides an explanation of relationships within a family.
- B) The passage presents a revelation about children growing older.
- C) The passage captures a conversation regarding reuniting cousins.
- D) The passage describes an anecdote about traveling by ship.

**2**

Over the course of the passage, the attitude of the cousins shifts from

- A) preoccupation to constraint.
- B) apprehension to embarrassment.
- C) anticipation to reticence.
- D) contemplation to diffidence.

3

Which statement best characterizes the relationship among the reunited cousins?

- A) They are excited to get back to their ordinary lives and friendships.
- B) They have changed too dramatically to find anything in common.
- C) The younger cousins help put the older cousins at ease.
- D) Their growing up has put limitations on their relationships.

4

As used in line 3, “vent” most nearly means

- A) opening.
- B) outlet.
- C) crack.
- D) passage.

5

The conversation between the lady and the stranger in lines 7–26 (“They . . . him”) serves primarily to

- A) show how the town locals tend to gossip about the family.
- B) establish the relationships among the reuniting family.
- C) introduce the traits of the family members who are waiting.
- D) demonstrate the lady’s lack of knowledge about the family.

6

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) lines 7–8 (“They . . . doctor”)
- B) lines 14–15 (“Prince . . . say”)
- C) lines 18–20 (“The . . . family”)
- D) lines 24–26 (“Oh . . . him”)

7

Archie’s comments in lines 44–45 (“Madonnas . . . beauty”) primarily indicate that he

- A) disagrees strongly with Charlie.
- B) finds Phebe to be beautiful.
- C) thinks Rose looks like a Madonna.
- D) feels distracted by Rose and Phebe.

8

The description (lines 50–53) that follows Mac’s comment in line 49 (“Dear . . . back”) reveals that Mac is

- A) not actually paying attention to his uncle.
- B) unaware of the possibility of falling in the ocean.
- C) more excited to see his uncle than he is to see Rose.
- D) distracted by all the excitement in the crowd.

9

It can be inferred that Rose is “both pleased and pained” when she views her cousins from the ship because she

- A) feels exhausted and confused after a long journey by sea.
- B) believes her cousins don’t recognize her anymore.
- C) senses that her relationship with her cousins has changed.
- D) concludes that her cousins’ lives have gotten better without her.

10

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) lines 57–61 (“It . . . Charlie”)
- B) lines 64–68 (“She . . . impartiality”)
- C) lines 61–64 (“There . . . bear”)
- D) lines 73–76 (“No . . . now”)

11

As used in lines 67–68, the phrase “affectionate impartiality” most nearly means

- A) restraint.
- B) aloofness.
- C) tenderness.
- D) enthusiasm.