

Literary Response and Analysis

Directions: Read each passage, and then answer the questions about the passage. Fill in the space for your answer choice.

Lydia's Sister Comes Home for the Summer

The day was a special one for twelve-year-old Lydia. Her older sister Marcie was coming home from college for the summer. Lydia could hardly wait for them to go to the movies and to the swimming pool – the things they used to do together.

When Marcie walked in the door, the sisters greeted each other with a warm hug. Lydia hoped to hear all about Marcie's college experiences while they made pizza that night. Unfortunately Marcie had made other plans. Though disappointed, Lydia was sure that they would do something together the next day.

At breakfast the next morning, Lydia asked Marcie to go shopping. Lydia wanted her sister to help her pick out some summer outfits and even offered to treat Marcie to lunch. Once again Marcie already had plans. "We'll spend some time together tonight," Marcie promised.

Lydia rented a movie for the two of them to watch that night. However, when Marcie came home that afternoon, she informed Lydia that she had invited some friends over. Lydia pretended to be reading to hide the tears welling in her eyes. She did not want to begrudge Marcie a good time with her friends, but she missed her sister's company.

When Marcie's friends arrived, Lydia was not her usual self. She intruded into their conversation by making comments or asking questions that had nothing to do with their discussion. She sang loudly while Marcie was on the phone and even changed the channel while everyone was watching television. By the time Lydia's bedtime arrived, she was feeling very ashamed. Marcie had not said anything about Lydia's behavior, but she looked hurt.

Over the next few days, Lydia was not able to find a good opportunity to apologize to her sister. When Marcie's friends visited again, Lydia considered joining them in the backyard but she decided not to. She was afraid she would aggravate the problem.

Desperate to be close to Marcie again, Lydia went into Marcie's room and sat on her bed. She studied the photograph of the two smiling girls that was on the nightstand. Next to the picture, she noticed some letters and cards that she had sent to Marcie at school. The letters reminded Lydia of how much she had enjoyed writing to her sister. She decided to write Marcie a letter apologizing for her behavior and leave it on Marcie's pillow.

Later that night Lydia heard Marcie tell her friends good-bye and go into her room. Minutes later Marcie knocked on Lydia's door. "I'm the one who should be apologizing," Marcie said as she peeked in. "I'm sorry that I've been so selfish. I didn't realize how much I hurt your feelings."

Lydia invited Marcie to sit beside her on the bed. One of Marcie's old letters to Lydia that Lydia had been rereading fell to the floor. Marcie picked it up and smiled. "At school I read your letters over and over, too. They helped me bear being away from home."

Marcie and Lydia hugged each other. "Let's make some popcorn and then watch a movie," Marcie suggested. Lydia hurried toward the kitchen, knocking the rest of the letters off the bed. Marcie smiled and followed Lydia, remembering how much she had missed her best friend—her little sister.

Literary Response and Analysis *(continued)*

21. The author probably wrote this passage in order to _
- A. encourage people to go to college
 - B. contrast the different hobbies that two sisters have
 - C. persuade people to write letters
 - D. tell a story about two sisters who are good friends
22. Lydia went into Marcie's room because she _
- F. missed doing things with Marcie
 - G. needed to use the telephone on the nightstand
 - H. had found a picture that Marcie was looking for
 - J. wanted to watch the movie that she had rented
23. The reader can tell that Marcie _
- A. was taking classes in college to become a writer
 - B. ate a lot of pizza while she was away at college
 - C. read the apology that Lydia had left on her pillow
 - D. came home on the weekends when she was at college
24. What is the conflict between the two sisters in this passage?
- F. Lydia wanted to move into Marcie's bedroom now that Marcie was in college.
 - G. While Marcie was away at college, she did not write letters to Lydia.
 - H. Lydia wished she were old enough to go away to college with Marcie.
 - J. When Marcie first came home from college, she did not spend time with Lydia.
25. Which of these will most likely happen in the future?
- A. Marcie and Lydia will throw away the letters they sent to each other.
 - B. Marcie will decide not to go back to college after the summer.
 - C. Marcie and Lydia will spend a lot of time together during the summer.
 - D. Marcie will sing loudly when Lydia is talking on the telephone.
26. Which of these is the best summary of this passage?
- F. Lydia sees some letters and cards that she had sent to Marcie at college and decides to write Marcie a letter apologizing for her behavior and leave it on Marcie's pillow.
 - G. When Marcie comes home from college for the summer, Lydia feels left out until her older sister realizes how important it is for the two of them to spend more time together.
 - H. Marcie comes home from college, and Lydia can hardly wait for them to do the things they used to do together, such as going to the movies and to the swimming pool.
 - J. On the day after Marcie comes home from college, Lydia asks Marcie to go shopping to help her pick out some summer outfits and even offers to treat Marcie to lunch.