

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## UNIT I: READING

About Unit I: Reading .....	2
Unit I: SUMMARY OF READING KEYS .....	3-4
Summary of TEST TAKING SKILLS (Objective Questions) .....	5

### Fiction: Historical Correspondence

#### The Christmas Truce by Aaron Shepard

Keys to Comprehension: <b>Mood</b> .....	6
The Christmas Truce .....	7-9
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking .....	10-11

### Information: Biography

#### Seeing Through Dorothea's Eyes by Sudipta Bardhan

Keys to Comprehension: <b>Setting</b> .....	12
Seeing Through Dorothea's Eyes .....	13-15
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking .....	16-17

### Information: Recipe

#### Papa's Lemon Pie by Larry Dane Brimner

Keys to Comprehension: <b>Pre-Reading Strategy</b> .....	18
Papa's Lemon Pie .....	19-20
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking .....	21-22

### Information: Social Studies

#### Initiation to America by Mary Antin

Keys to Comprehension: <b>Inference and Drawing Conclusions</b> .....	23
Initiation to America .....	24-25
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking .....	26-27

### Fiction: Poetry

#### Major Differences by Sara Holbrook

Keys to Comprehension: <b>Comparison and Contrast</b> .....	28
Major Differences .....	29
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking .....	30-31

### Information: Social Studies

#### The Printer's Trial: The Case of John Peter Zenger by Gail Jarrow

Keys to Comprehension: <b>Cause and Effect</b> .....	32
The Printer's Trial: The Case of John Peter Zenger .....	33-37
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking .....	38-40







## UNIT III: TEST

About The Test – Part I: Reading.....129

### Information: Science

**The Iditarod: A Commemorative Race** by Don Barnes. .... 130-131

Objective Questions: Critical Thinking ..... 132-133

### Fiction: Poetry

**Western Wagons** by Rosemary & Stephen Vincent Benét.....134

Objective Questions: Critical Thinking ..... 135-136

Test: Part II: Writing.....137

### Fiction: Opera

**Carmen**..... 138-140

Short C-R Questions..... 141-142

Prewriting: Graphic Organizer .....143

Extended C-R Question/Essay Draft ..... 144-145

### Information: Compare and Contrast

**A Political Speech: Susan B. Anthony: On Trial**..... 146-147

**A Biography: Eleanor Roosevelt: Friend of the People**..... 148-149

Short C-R Questions..... 150-151

Prewriting: Graphic Organizer .....152

Extended C-R Question/Essay Draft ..... 153-154

# Keys to Comprehension

## MOOD

The **Mood** of a story is the feeling the story stirs up in a reader. It is the emotions the writer wants you to feel while you are reading.

**For example:** If you don't feel horror when reading a horror story, the story is not a success.

Authors may set the mood to make the reader feel happy, angry, suspenseful, or terrified.

Each of the following weave together to create the mood:

- plot
- setting
- characters
- choice of words

Read the example below.

### On Vacation

*It was a rainy day at the lake. Bobby sat at the kitchen table working on a puzzle, for the fifteenth time. The room had only a flickering light from the oil lamp. No TV! No video games! No Ipod! Bobby yawned. But there was only a radio with lots of local news and scratchy music. The world's oldest Scrabble game and a Monopoly game, missing some money, sat stacked on a wooden shelf. Bobby looked up when his Mom came in. Then his face sank onto his chest. No cookies! No chips! No nothing!*

What mood does the story suggest? Boredom.

Why?

- **choice of words:** No TV! No video games! No ipod!
- **character:** Bobby yawned; Bobby's face fell when his mom came in
- **setting:** gloomy cabin, flickering gas light
- **plot:** Bobby can't think of anything to do.



As you read, look at the ways an author creates the mood through plot, setting, characters, and choice of words.

## Ask Yourself:

**Lines 4-8:** What mood is evident here? Is there a good reason for it?

**Lines 57-61:** How do the pictures on page 7 support the events reported here?

**Lines 67-69:** How has the author's mood changed from lines 4-8?

**Lines 75-81:** How does reality affect the mood of the letter yet again?

# The Christmas Truce

Christmas Day 1914

by Aaron Shepard



British and German troops in No Man's Land, from the British Imperial War Museum Collection.



My dear sister Janet,

It is 2:00 in the morning and most of our men are asleep in their dugouts—yet I could not sleep myself before writing to you of the wonderful events of Christmas Eve.

**5** As I wrote previously, there has been little serious combat of late because the first battles of the war left so many casualties, depleting both the British and the German armies. Both sides have retrenched, anxiously awaiting replacements to arrive from home. The morale of the men sinks lower and lower as we hunker down in our trenches and wait – for what, we know not.



**10** But how harrowing the waiting has been—knowing that any moment an artillery shell might land and explode beside us in the trench. The daylight hours are just as scary, since we dare not lift our heads above ground for fear of a sniper’s bullet.

**15** And the rain, our constant companion, has fallen almost daily forming a field of mud. Luckily, just yesterday morning—Christmas Eve Day—we had our first good freeze. Cold as we were, we welcomed it because the mud froze solid making it easier for us to move around. In addition, everything was tinged white with frost, glittering in the brilliant sunshine, ideal Christmas weather. With the changes in the weather the soldiers’ spirits took an upward turn.

**20** During the day, there was only sporadic shelling or rifle fire from either side. And as darkness fell on our Christmas Eve, the shooting stopped entirely—our first complete silence in months! We hoped it might promise a peaceful holiday, but we didn’t count on it.

I flung myself onto the cot in the dugout, relieved by the quiet around me. I had just drifted into a light slumber when suddenly, my friend John was shaking me awake, saying, “Come and see! See what the Germans are doing!” Puzzled, I grabbed my rifle, stumbled out into the trench and cautiously peered out through the corner of one of the sandbags.

**25** Clusters of lights shone all along the German line, left and right as far as the eye could see. The light reflected on the icy span of No Man’s Land and the world seemed a different phenomenon, a silent, glistening marvel.

“What is it?” I asked in bewilderment, and John answered, “Christmas Trees!”

**30** And so it was. The Germans had placed Christmas trees in front of their trenches with candles or lanterns adorning the branches like beacons of good will.

And then we heard their voices raised in song, “Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht...”

**35** “Silent Night, Holy Night.” When the song finished, the men in our trenches applauded. Then one of our own men started singing. We all joined in and soon the night was reverberating with Christmas music. “The First Noel, the angels did say...”

Be assured we did not sound nearly as good as the Germans; their voices blended in superior harmonies. But they responded with enthusiastic applause of their own and then began another, “O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum...”

Then we replied with a rendition of, “O, Come All Ye Faithful...”

**40** This time the voices of adversaries blended together as the British and the Germans sang the same words in Latin, “Adeste Fideles...”

British and German voices harmonizing across No Man’s Land! I would have thought nothing could be more astonishing. However, what came next was even more astounding.

**45** “English, come over!” we heard one of them shout. “You not shoot, we not shoot.”

There in the trenches we looked at each other perplexed. A loud voice rang out from our side and shouted jokingly, “You come over here, first.”

To our astonishment, we saw two figures rise from the trench, climb over the barbed wire, and advance unprotected across No Man’s Land. One of them called over, “Send officer to talk.”

**50** I saw one of our men lift his rifle to the ready, and no doubt others did the same, when our captain called out, “Hold your fire.” He climbed out of the trench and went to meet the Germans halfway. There they stood, in the middle of No Man’s Land talking

amiably as if they had met on a street corner. A few minutes later, the captain came back with a German cigar in his mouth!

**55** “We’ve agreed to start a cease fire that will last until midnight tomorrow,” he announced. “However, sentries are to remain on duty and the rest of you stay alert.”

**60** Moments later groups of two or three scrambled out of the trenches on the opposite side and came unhesitatingly toward us. Then some of our soldiers were climbing out of our trenches. In minutes more, there we were congregated in No Man’s Land, where over a hundred officers and soldiers of each side shook hands with men they had been trying to destroy just hours earlier.

**65** Even those who could not converse could still exchange gifts. We swapped our cigarettes for their cigars, our tea for their coffee, our corned beef for their sausage. Badges and buttons from uniforms changed owners, and one of our lads walked off with the infamous spiked helmet! I, myself, traded a jackknife for a leather equipment belt—a fine souvenir to show when I get home.

As it grew late, a few more songs were traded and all joined in for—I am not lying to you—“Auld Lang Syne.” Then we parted with promises to meet tomorrow, and even some talk of a football match.

**70** I was just starting back to the trenches when an older German clutched my arm. “My God,” he said, “why cannot we have peace and all go home?”

I told him gently, “That you must ask your emperor.”

He looked at me then, searchingly and said, “Perhaps, my friend. But also we must ask our hearts.”

**75** And so, dear sister, tell me, has there ever been such a Christmas Eve in all history? And what does this all mean, this impossible befriending of enemies?

For the fighting here, of course, it means regrettably little. Decent fellows those soldiers may be, but they follow orders and we do the same. Besides, we are here to stop their army and send it home, and never could we shirk that duty.

**80** All nations say they want peace. Yet on this Christmas morning, I wonder if we want it quite enough?

Your loving brother,  
Tom

**85** The Christmas Truce of 1914 is certainly one of the most remarkable incidents of World War I and perhaps of all military history. The truce covered as much as two-thirds of the British-German front. It grew out of no single initiative but sprang up in each place spontaneously and independently.

**90** There have been those convinced it never happened—that the whole thing was made up. However, the truce made headlines for weeks in British newspapers—with published letters and photos from soldiers at the front. They depicted British and German soldiers crowded together, their caps and helmets exchanged, smiling for the camera. My fictional letter is drawn from these accounts.



## Tips for Answering the Objective Question

In this book, there is no guessing penalty. **Never leave a blank.** When unsure, eliminate answers you know aren't right. Then take an educated guess using the process of elimination.

### Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

1. This document is primarily about:
  - a. an established custom of war.
  - b. an odd occurrence in time of war.
  - c. a bungled attempt to end a war.
  - d. a gentlemanly way to conduct a war.
2. Which statement best expresses the writer's view of the war?
  - a. He does not reveal his thoughts on the war.
  - b. He is resigned to the continuation of the war.
  - c. He admires our commitment to the war.
  - d. He hates having to take part in the war.
3. According to this account, what effect did the German's singing of "Silent Night" have on the British soldiers?
  - a. It brought back memories of home.
  - b. It lessened some of the tension.
  - c. It made them understand the German's faith.
  - d. It made them realize the Germans were friendly.

4. Read this sentence from lines 33-34 of the letter.  
**We all joined in and soon the night was reverberating with Christmas music.**

The word "reverberating" most closely means:

- a. interrupted.
  - b. bellowing.
  - c. echoing.
  - d. bright.
5. How does the information on lines 29 through 31 set the change in the course of the letter?
    - a. It depicts the Germans as a religious people.
    - b. It suggests that a lighter mood will follow.
    - c. It acknowledges the connection between countries.
    - d. It clarifies the role of the soldiers.

**6. Part A.** What effect does the author expect the Christmas events to have on the rest of the war?

- a. The soldiers will be less willing to kill one another.
- b. The truce will continue for a few days after Christmas.
- c. The Germans will retreat from this stand-off.
- d. It will have no effect.

**6. Part B.** Which line from the story best supports your answer?

- a. “Decent fellows those soldiers may be,…” (lines 77-78)
- b. “My God,” he said, “why cannot we have peace and all go home?” (line 71)
- c. “For the fighting here, of course, it means regrettably little.” (line 77)
- d. “And what does this all mean, this impossible befriending of enemies?” (line 76)

7. Carefully reread the following conversation from lines 70 through 74 of the letter.

**I was just starting back to the trenches when an older German clutched my arm. “My God,” he said, “why cannot we have peace and all go home?” I told him gently, “That you must ask your emperor.” He looked at me then, searchingly and said, “Perhaps, my friend. But also we must ask our hearts.”**

Why does the German say that they should also “ask our hearts”?

- a. He thinks man must not just follow orders blindly.
- b. He suggests that he agrees with the British cause.
- c. He believes that killing goes against religion.
- d. He wonders how this war started in the first place.

**8. Part A.** What evidence supports the truthfulness of the events described in this letter?

- a. the commander’s report
- b. other firsthand accounts
- c. the change in German attitude
- d. the British victory

**8. Part B.** The statement that best describes this evidence is:

- a. “A few minutes later, the captain came back with a German cigar in his mouth!” (lines 53-54)
- b. “..., the truce made headlines for weeks in British newspapers—with published letters and photos from soldiers at the front.” (lines 90-92)
- c. “*And as darkness fell on our Christmas Eve, the shooting stopped entirely —...*” (lines 18-19)
- d. “...*is certainly one of the most remarkable incidents of World War I...*” (lines 84-85)