

Name _____

Date _____

The Rent Man

Someone is knocking on Amanda's door. Amanda is home, but she does not answer. It is the man who owns the house where she lives. His name is Mr. Campbell. Amanda calls him the Rent Man. He has come by to get the rent money Amanda owes, but Amanda does not have the money to pay him. That's because Amanda lost her job at the auto factory three and a half weeks ago.

"I worked there for 15 years," Amanda thinks to herself. She is bitter. "But it took them just one day to take my job away."

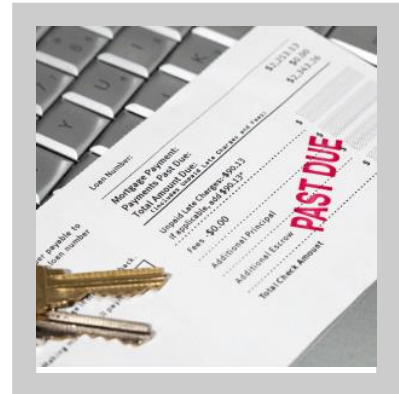
Amanda has no idea when she will find another job. She looks for work most every day.

She looks for work at a restaurant. "You have never worked at a restaurant," the owner tells her. "Unfortunately, we are looking for someone with experience."

She looks for work at the bookstore. "We don't have any jobs right now," the clerk tells Amanda.

She looks for work at the grocery store. "I will call you to let you know," the manager says. Amanda is worried. She is running out of money quickly.

There is another loud knock at the door. Amanda sits quietly in her kitchen, hoping the Rent Man will go away soon.



1) According to the passage, when did Amanda lose her job?

- A. ten days ago
- B. two weeks ago
- C. two and a half weeks ago
- D. three and a half weeks ago

2) In paragraph 2, we learn that Amanda is **bitter**. This means she feels

- A. disappointed and angry
- B. confident and happy
- C. hungry and tired
- D. quiet and alone

3) According to the passage, where does Amanda look for a new job?

- I. a restaurant
- II. a bookstore
- III. a grocery store

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

4) Based on information in the passage, we can understand that Amanda **MIGHT** get

- A. the restaurant job
- B. the bookstore job
- C. the grocery store job
- D. none of the jobs

5) It could have been helpful for Amanda to tell Mr. Campbell that

- A. she will call the police if he knocks again
- B. he had better stop knocking on her door
- C. she recently lost her job at the factory
- D. she will have the rent for him tomorrow

6) What would it be reasonable for Mr. Campbell to do next?

- I. break the door down
- II. come back another day
- III. call Amanda on the phone

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

7) What is the tone (mood, emotion) of this passage? How do you know? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

Answers and Explanations

1) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

Paragraph 1 tells us, “Amanda lost her job at the auto factory three and a half weeks ago.” Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**.

2) A

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

bitter (*adjective*): 1. having a strong or harsh taste. 2. having a sense of anger or hostility towards something or someone.

In paragraph 2, we learn that even though Amanda worked at the auto factory for 15 years, her job was taken away in one day. We can understand that this most likely left her feeling disappointed and angry. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Amanda is worried about money because she does not have a job. She is not confident and happy. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

Although Amanda may be hungry and tired, there is no information in the passage to support this idea. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

When Amanda waits for Mr. Campbell to go away, she does sit quietly. But she is bitter about losing her job, not about owing rent money. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

3) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In paragraph 4, we learn that Amanda “looks for work at a restaurant.” This supports **option (I)**.

In paragraph 5, we learn that Amanda “looks for work at the bookstore.” This supports **option (II)**.

In paragraph 6, we learn that “She looks for work at the grocery store.” This supports **option (III)**.

Therefore **(D)** is correct.

4) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 6, the manager of the grocery store tells Amanda, "I will let you know," when she applies for a job there. This lets us know that it is possible that Amanda might get a job at the grocery store. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

At the restaurant, the owner tells her, "You have never worked at a restaurant," and, "Unfortunately, we are looking for someone with experience." Since Amanda has not worked at a restaurant before, she is not eligible for a job there. This means **(A)** is incorrect.

In paragraph 5, the clerk at the bookstore tells Amanda, "We don't have any jobs right now." This lets us know that Amanda will definitely not get a job at the bookstore, because there are no jobs available. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

There is a chance she might get a job at the grocery store. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

5) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

Amanda could have explained to Mr. Campbell that she lost her job, and this is the reason she could not pay her rent. It is fair to believe that Mr. Campbell might have been willing to wait for the rent until Amanda found a new job and could pay him. Even if she does not answer the door today, he will most likely keep asking for his money and eventually she will have to talk to him. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

If something is reasonable, it is logical, moderate, or understandable. It is not reasonable to believe that Mr. Campbell would break the door down. This would be too forceful. He is only trying to collect the rent, and does not want to do any harm to Amanda or the apartment. This eliminates **option (I)**.

In the passage, Amanda does not answer the door. For this reason, Mr. Campbell might think she is not at home. It is reasonable to believe that he could come back another day and try to find Amanda. This supports **option (II)**.

It is also reasonable to believe that Mr. Campbell could call Amanda on the phone and try to talk to her that way. This supports **option (III)**.

Therefore **(C)** is correct.