

READING PART 1 (5)

For questions 31-36, read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, C or D).

Oliver reached the stile at which the by-path terminated; and once more gained the high-road. It was eight o'clock now. Though he was nearly five miles away from the town, he ran, and hid behind the hedges, by turns, till noon: fearing that he might be pursued and overtaken. Then he sat down to rest by the side of the milestone, and began to think, for the first time, where he had better go and try to live. The stone by which he was seated, bore, in large characters, an intimation that it was just seventy miles from that spot to London. The name awakened a new train of ideas in the boy's mind.

London!—that great place!—nobody—not even Mr. Bumble—could ever find him there! He had often heard the old men in the workhouse, too, say that no lad of spirit need want in London; and that there were ways of living in that vast city, which those who had been bred up in country parts had no idea of. It was the very place for a homeless boy, who must die in the streets unless some one helped him. As these things passed through his thoughts, he jumped upon his feet, and again walked forward.

He had diminished the distance between himself and London by full four miles more. till he reached his place of destination. As this consideration forced itself upon him, he slowed his pace a little, and meditated upon his means of getting there. He had a crust of bread, a coarse shirt, and two pairs of stockings, in his bundle. He had a penny too—a gift of Sowerberry's after some funeral in which he had acquitted himself more than ordinarily well—in his pocket. 'A clean shirt,' thought Oliver, 'is a very comfortable thing; and so are two pairs of darned stockings; and so is a penny; but they are small helps to a sixty-five miles' walk in winter time.' After a good deal of thinking to no particular purpose, he changed his little bundle over to the other shoulder, and trudged on.

Oliver walked twenty miles that day; and all that time tasted nothing but the crust of dry bread, and a few draughts of water, which he begged at the cottage-doors by the roadside. When the night came, he turned into a meadow; and, creeping close under a hay-rick, determined to lie there, till morning. He felt frightened at first, for the wind moaned dismally over the empty fields: and he was cold and hungry, and more alone than he had ever felt before. Being very tired with his walk, however, he soon fell asleep and forgot his troubles.

He felt cold and stiff, when he got up next morning, and so hungry that he was obliged to exchange the penny for a small loaf, in the very first village through which he passed. He had walked no more than twelve miles, when night closed in again. His feet were sore, and his legs so weak that they trembled beneath him. Another night passed in the bleak damp air, made him worse; when he set forward on his journey next morning he could hardly crawl along.

He waited at the bottom of a steep hill till a stage-coach came up, and then begged of the outside passengers; but there were very few who took any notice of him: and even those told him to wait till they got to the top of the hill, and then let them see how far he could run for a halfpenny. Poor Oliver tried to keep up with the coach a little way, but was unable to do it, by reason of his fatigue and sore feet. When the outsides saw this, they put their halfpence back into their pockets again, declaring that he was an idle young dog, and didn't deserve anything; and the coach rattled away and left only a cloud of dust behind.

QUESTIONS

31 In paragraph 1, Oliver sat down and

- A** hid from strangers.
- B** decided to make a plan.
- C** tried to wake up.
- D** felt happy he was nearly at London.

32 In the second paragraph we find out that Oliver

- A** was not scared of anything.
- B** was very grateful to Mr. Bumble.
- C** felt homesick and wanted to go back to his old home.
- D** realised he was in danger.

33 What does the word *bundle* refer to in paragraph 3?

- A** his jacket
- B** his belongings tied in a cloth
- C** his money
- D** his problems

34 In paragraph 4, we realise that Oliver

- A** was exhausted.
- B** didn't like the taste of the bread.
- C** was glad he was travelling by himself.
- D** was surprised that the fields were so empty..

35 In paragraph 5, it is clear to the reader that the boy

- A** was feeling gradually stronger.
- B** decided it was better to crawl so nobody could see him.
- C** walked at night to avoid being seen.
- D** hardly had any strength left.

36 In the final paragraph, the stagecoach passengers

- A** were worried about the boy.
- B** tried to cheer Oliver up by playing games.
- C** were cruel, unpleasant people.
- D** couldn't see Oliver because the road was very dusty.

ANSWERS AND ANALYSIS

31 (b) *and began to think, for the first time, where he had better go and try to live.*

32 (d) *As these things passed through his thoughts, he jumped upon his feet, and again walked forward.*

33 (b) *He had a crust of bread, a coarse shirt, and two pairs of stockings, in his bundle.*

34 (a) *Being very tired with his walk, however, he soon fell asleep*

35 (d) *His feet were sore, and his legs so weak that they trembled beneath him. Next morning he could hardly crawl along.*

36 (c) *...and then let them see how far he could run for a halfpenny. Poor Oliver tried to keep up with the coach a little way, but was unable to do it. When the outsiders saw this, they put their halfpence back into their pockets again.*