



Written Comprehension Marking Guidelines

GRADE 10

Ishmael Beah's New Battles

Suggested Answers

1. What does paragraph 1 suggest about Ishmael Beah's life now? 3
Ishmael Beah is still setting himself up in NY. He has a drum set that suggests he is pursuing his own interests, and he has surrounded himself with furniture from his African roots. He has recreated a family for himself.
2. What do you understand about Beah's 'two worlds'? 4
He is both African and American, and he embraces both cultures. He has not denounced his roots, but knows that his experiences in Africa have shaped him. He also embraces both his past and present. He acknowledges that his life as a soldier has defined who he is now.
3. 'his rescue and subsequent difficulties re-entering civilian life.'
List 3 possible difficulties for Beah, re-entering civilian life. 3
 - **Dependency on drugs**
 - **Trusting people**
 - **Believing that people will not judge him**
 - **Believing that he is capable of being more than a soldier**
 - **People trusting him****(Any reasonable responses)**
4. How have things not changed for him in Sierra Leone? 2
No one regards him as an international best seller.
He is treated as a poor Sierra Leonean, and people are suspicious of him when he tries to behave beyond what is expected of the locals.

Why do you think this is so? 2
His success has not been advertised in Sierra Leone. While people may have heard of his success, they do not know the face that goes with the name.
Also, he appears much younger than he looks.
5. 'The elders' job is to protect the young; when they feared them instead, it made resuming normal life much more complicated.'
Why does this fear make resuming life more complicated? 2
The young soldiers could be helped in their rehabilitation by the elders.
However, this distrust means that the elders will not protect and guide them, nor offer them the emotional or financial support that could help them to re-establish themselves within the community.



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6. Explain the meaning of *'Holocaust'*. 2
This refers to the mass destruction of people. It could refer to the bombing of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, or the Jewish genocide at the hands of the Germans. (Any relevant response)
7. *'you can do it to an African person.'* 2
What is Beah suggesting here?
Beah is suggesting that the Australians are implying that because he is African, he has fabricated the story and lied to gain fame. They will be sensitive towards Holocaust victims but not towards Africans because they stereotypically think that Africans are dishonest.
8. *'While Beah still has vestigial shadows from his past life, he believes they have less power than they once did.'*
Is this a loose or periodic sentence? 1
It is a periodic sentence.
What is the writer's intention in using this type of sentence? 2
It gives focus to the shadows of his life by mentioning them first, and also creates anticipation regarding the impact of these shadows.
9. Refer to the meaning of *'vestigial'*.
9.1 What part of speech is it in paragraph 7? 1
Adjective.
9.2 Explain whether you consider it a good choice of word. 1
(own comments – should contain the meaning of the word)

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