

**Directions:** Answer the questions below based on the information in the accompanying passage.

*In the following excerpt from a novella, Rosemary, an elderly woman, reminisces about her childhood as she waits for her grandson to wake up.*

Rosemary sat at her kitchen table, working a crossword puzzle. Crosswords were nice; they filled the time, and kept the mind active. She needed just one word to complete this morning's puzzle; the clue was "a Swiss river," and the first of its three letters was "A." Unfortunately, Rosemary had no idea what the name of the river was, and could not look it up. Her atlas was on her desk, and the desk was in the guest room, currently being occupied by her grandson Victor. Looking up over the tops of her bifocals, Rosemary glanced at the kitchen clock: It was almost 10 A.M. *Land sakes!* Did the boy intend to sleep all day? She noticed that the arthritis in her wrist was throbbing, and put down her pen. At 87 years of age, she was glad she could still write at all. She had decided long ago that growing old was like slowly turning to stone; you couldn't take anything for granted. She stood up slowly, painfully, and started walking to the guest room.

The trip, though only a distance of about 25 feet, seemed to take a long while. Late in her ninth decade now, Rosemary often experienced an expanded sense of time, with present and past tense intermingling in her mind. One minute she was padding in her slippers across the living room carpet, the next she was back on the farm where she'd grown up, a sturdy little girl treading the path behind the barn just before dawn. In her

- (30) mind's eye, she could still pick her way among the stones in the darkness, more than 70 years later . . . . Rosemary arrived at the door to the guest room. It stood slightly ajar, and she peered through the opening. Victor lay sleeping on his side, his arms bent, his expression slightly pained. (35) *Get up, lazy bones,* she wanted to say. Even in childhood, Rosemary had never slept past 4 A.M.; there were too many chores to do. How different things were for Victor's generation! Her youngest grandson behaved as if he had never done a chore in his life. Twenty-one years old, he had driven down to Florida to visit Rosemary in his shiny new car, a gift from his doting parents. Victor would finish college soon, and his future appeared (45) bright—if he ever got out of bed, that is.
- Something Victor had said last night over dinner had disturbed her. Now what was it? Oh yes; he had been talking about one of his college courses—a "gut," he had called it. When she had (50) asked him to explain the term, Victor had said it was a course that you took simply because it was easy to pass. Rosemary, who had not even had a high school education, found the term repellent. If she had been allowed to continue her studies, she would never have taken a "gut" . . . . The memory (55) flooded back then, still painful as an open wound all these years later. It was the first day of high school. She had graduated from grammar school the previous year, but her father had forbidden (60) her to go on to high school that fall, saying she was needed on the farm. After much tearful pleading, she had gotten him to promise that next year, she could start high school. She had endured a whole year of chores instead of books, with animals and rough farmhands for company instead (65) of people her own age. Now, at last, the glorious

day was at hand. She had put on her best dress (she owned two), her heart racing in anticipation.

But her father was waiting for her as she came (70) downstairs.

"Where do you think you're going?" he asked.

"To high school, Papa."

"No you're not. Take that thing off and get back to work."

(75) "But Papa, you promised!"

"Do as I say!" he thundered.

There was no arguing with Papa when he spoke that way. Tearfully, she had trudged upstairs to change clothes. Rosemary still wondered what her (80) life would have been like if her father had not been waiting at the bottom of the stairs that day, or if somehow she had found the strength to defy him . . . .

Suddenly, Victor stirred, without waking, and (85) mumbled something unintelligible. Jarred from her reverie, Rosemary stared at Victor. She wondered if he were having a nightmare.

1. Rosemary's attitude toward the physical afflictions of old age can best be described as one of

- (A) acceptance
- (B) sadness
- (C) resentment
- (D) anxiety
- (E) optimism

2. Rosemary's walk to the guest room (lines 20-31) reveals that she

- (A) feels nostalgia for her family
- (B) is anxious about Victor
- (C) is determined to conquer her ailments
- (D) has an elastic perception of time
- (E) suffers from severe disorientation

3. In context, "if he ever got out of bed" (line 45) suggests that Rosemary thinks Victor

- (A) lacks a sense of humor
- (B) is ashamed of what he said last night
- (C) is promising but undisciplined
- (D) works himself to exhaustion
- (E) has failed to plan for the future

4. The reason Rosemary finds Victor's use of the term *gut* (line 49) repellent is because it

- (A) has unpleasant digestive associations
- (B) is typical of Victor's disregard for traditional values
- (C) signifies a disrespect for education
- (D) reminds Rosemary of her grammar school classes
- (E) implies that Rosemary is lacking in education

5. Lines 63-65 indicate that, for Rosemary, the year after she graduated from grammar school was

- (A) marred by illness and hardship
- (B) filled with travel and adventure
- (C) a year of reading and study
- (D) spent isolated from her peers
- (E) difficult because of her father's temper

6. Rosemary's memory of the day she finally prepared to start high school indicates that she had

- (A) anticipated her father's command to stay home
- (B) hesitated over her choice of clothes
- (C) done especially well in grammar school
- (D) already decided to pursue a career
- (E) strongly desired to continue her education

7. The passage as a whole is most concerned with

- (A) Rosemary's affectionate concern for Victor
- (B) Rosemary's struggle to suppress painful memories
- (C) the abusive treatment Rosemary suffered at the hands of her father
- (D) the interplay in Rosemary's mind between present and past