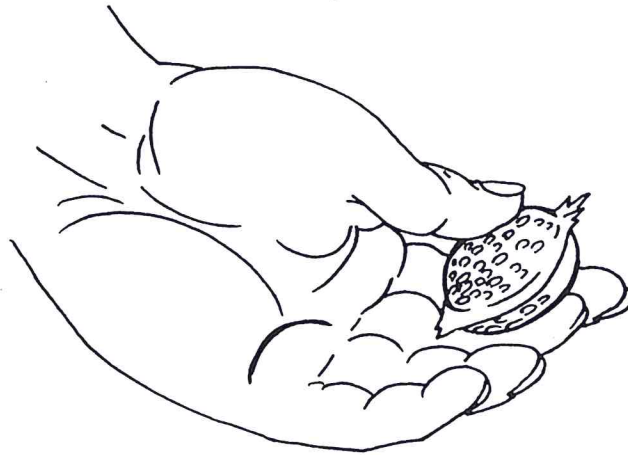


PART 2: COMPREHENSION**READING SELECTION #1**

DIRECTIONS: Read Selection 1, THE PEACH SEED. Then answer the questions that follow. Mark all your answers on your Unit 3 ANSWER SHEET.

The Peach Seed

There once was a man named Gerhard who made a living from thievery and deception. He was so skillful that he had never been caught.

One day, Gerhard saw Rosamund, the bookseller's servant, and immediately fell in love. He began to court her. When he was assured of her love, he confessed how he made his living. Then he promised to become an honest man if she would marry him.

"Yes," she replied, "but to prove that you've reformed, you must acquire my wedding ring through honest labor."

Gerhard consented, and the next day he began working as a stonecutter's assistant. However, the work was boring, and he soon told himself, "I'll resort to thievery once more and then I'll find an occupation."

Unfortunately, while stealing a ring for Rosamund, Gerhard was caught and thrown into prison.

In his cell, he brooded on how he could escape to wed Rosamund. But the cell was constantly guarded.

Once daily, the guard passed food through Gerhard's cell bars: moldy bread, rotten meat, and a piece of spoiled fruit. How he loved the color and sweetness of the fruits!

One day, as he bit into a slightly dented, dawn-colored peach, an idea blossomed in his mind. He cleaned the peach seed and wrapped it in a cloth.

To the guard he declared, "I have a valuable gift for the king."

The guard was disbelieving, but he escorted the prisoner to the royal chamber.

Gerhard bowed before the king and said, "Your Majesty, although I'm only a humble prisoner, I bring you a wondrous gift."

Seeing the peach seed, the king bellowed, "How ridiculous! I extend your sentence by five years!"

Gerhard grew ashen and, choosing his words very carefully, said, "But, your Majesty, what if I told you that this is a magic peach seed? And what if I also told you that when planted by an honest individual who has never stolen anything, it will produce a tree with fruit of pure gold? For anyone else—for a thief like myself—the tree will produce only the usual fruit. Would you accept the gift of such a peach seed?"

The king turned red and stammered, "I . . . I . . . must decline. My memory is faulty, and it's possible I did something foolish in my youth." He held out the seed to his son.

The prince, remembering all the peasants whose land he had seized, said, "I . . . I . . . have no interest whatsoever in planting seeds." The king then offered the seed to his most trusted general.

"I . . . I . . . depart for battle tomorrow," the general mumbled, thinking of the numerous lives he had taken.

After an awkward silence, the king said, "Prisoner, you have taught us all a lesson more valuable than gold. You've paid for your crime. For this worthwhile lesson, I grant you your freedom."

Gerhard bowed and, stifling a smile, put the peach seed in his pocket. There he kept it the remainder of his life. On his deathbed, he passed on the seed to his and Rosamund's son, along with the conviction that honesty brings forth gold.

READING

GO ON.

“The Peach Seed”

Questions 1–11

- 1 The first thing that caused Gerhard’s way of life to change was
- A going to prison.
 - B meeting with the king.
 - C seeing Rosamund.
 - D working for a stonecutter.
- 2 Before going to see the king, Gerhard MOST LIKELY thought that
- A the king must have done dishonest deeds in the past.
 - B the guard will refuse to take me to the king.
 - C the king will try to give the peach seed to his son.
 - D the king has granted other prisoners their freedom.
- 3 The statement that BEST explains the king’s initial reaction to the peach seed is
- A he did not want to talk to a prisoner.
 - B he felt insulted by the gift of the peach seed.
 - C he thought anything magic was nonsense.
 - D he knew that Gerhard was trying to trick him.
- 4 Gerhard’s plan depended MOST upon
- A the peach seed being magic.
 - B the king having lied in the past.
 - C the general being loyal to the king.
 - D Rosamund loving Gerhard.
- 5 Gerhard kept the peach seed in his pocket for the rest of his life to remind him of
- A the importance of his wife and son.
 - B the first time he saw Rosamund.
 - C the lesson that he taught the king.
 - D the time he spent in prison.

- 6 As Gerhard was dying, he believed the MOST important thing to be
- A cleverness.
 - B honesty.
 - C riches.
 - D freedom.
- 7 The peach seed is important to the plot because
- A Gerhard used it in his plan to get out of prison.
 - B it reminded Gerhard of the happiest days of his life.
 - C Gerhard realized that he could use its magic power.
 - D it came from the best fruit Gerhard ate in prison.
- 8 A DIFFERENCE between Gerhard and those in power was
- A only Gerhard had done foolish things when he was young.
 - B only Gerhard had managed to live without working hard.
 - C only Gerhard had stolen things from other people.
 - D only Gerhard had been punished for his dishonesty.
- 9 The event that occurred before the events of this story was
- A Gerhard became a stonecutter.
 - B Rosamund became a bookseller's servant.
 - C Gerhard and Rosamund had a son.
 - D the king granted Gerhard a pardon.
- 10 The BEST generalization about the literary elements used in "The Peach Seed" is that
- A in the end, good always conquers evil.
 - B people are either all good or all bad.
 - C people can learn from their mistakes.
 - D it is never too late to change.

11 Because it teaches a lesson, this story is BEST described as a

- A myth.
- B tall tale.
- C legend.
- D fable.

PART 2A: RESPONSE TO THE READING SELECTION

DIRECTIONS: Write your answer to Question A on your Unit 3 ANSWER SHEET in the space provided. Base your answer on “The Peach Seed.”

- A Why was it necessary for Gerhard to choose his words very carefully when he spoke to the king about the peach seed?

READING

STOP. DO NOT GO ON UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.