

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Joe and Sam are on their way to which location?

- A. Dauphin Borough
- B. the back roads of Pennsylvania
- C. New York City
- D. Pittsburgh

2. The main setting of this story is

- A. Pittsburgh on a hot summer day
- B. Rockville Bridge on a lazy afternoon
- C. along back roads over the course of a day
- D. an airplane flight to Texas

3. Read the sentences: "Sam hated rushing things and insisted that they take back roads. Joe was in."

Based on this information, it can be concluded that

- A. Sam and Joe did not want to go to Pittsburgh.
- B. Sam and Joe are generally relaxed on road trips.
- C. Sam and Joe are generally very stressed on road trips.
- D. Sam and Joe have known each other for a very long time.

4. How do people in Dauphin Borough most likely feel about the statue?

- A. They believe it is a sign from a higher power.
- B. They embrace its presence.
- C. They are confused by its miraculous appearance.
- D. They pay little attention to it.

5. This story is mostly about

- A. the difference between natural and man-made landmarks
- B. the importance of taking time to appreciate nature
- C. a friendship formed through the bond of sharing a car ride together
- D. the beautiful and interesting things to be discovered along back roads

6. The tone of the writing throughout the passage can be described as

- A. frantic, or hurried
- B. relaxed and smooth
- C. suspenseful and unusual
- D. exhilarating, or exciting

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Joe and Sam decide not to take the highway _____ they could drive through back roads.

- A. even though
- B. so
- C. instead
- D. next

8. The presence and appreciation of nature is evident throughout the story. Identify at least three phrases or sentences that support this claim.

9. What did Joe and Sam enjoy about their trip?

10. Sam and Joe's trip to Pittsburgh would have been quicker had they taken the highway. Why was it more worthwhile that they drove through the back roads?

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8. The presence and appreciation of nature is evident throughout the story. Identify at least three phrases or sentences that support this claim.

The following phrases and sentences suggest that the presence and appreciation of nature is evident throughout the story:

"It was the Susquehanna River that was branching out before them, beautiful and mighty." "[Sam] stretched out in the beauty that lay before him." "[Joe] yelled, 'This place is incredible.'" Direct references to and images of nature include: "sunlight dappled the water," "freshly cut green grass," and "deep cool air."]

9. What did Joe and Sam enjoy about their trip?

Joe and Sam enjoyed seeing the beautiful river, reading historical markers, and learning about the Rockville Bridge and the Dauphin Borough "Statue of Liberty."

10. Sam and Joe's trip to Pittsburgh would have been quicker had they taken the highway. Why was it more worthwhile that they drove through the back roads?

Answers may vary and could include:

A back road can be a longer, less direct or popular way to travel, when compared to a highway but it can also be very beautiful, enjoyable, and informative. Joe and Sam enjoyed their journey through the back roads because they saw beautiful things and learned about historical structures that they did not know about before. By taking the opportunity to drive through these hidden back roads, they were able to make discoveries and enjoy different scenic views of nature. This experience was worth the time they could've saved driving through a highway.