

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where does the narrator of the story work?

- A. a supermarket
- B. an office
- C. an Italian restaurant
- D. an ice cream parlor

2. After filling a shopping cart with cleaning supplies, the narrator barrels through the restaurant doors with the shopping cart. What is the result of the narrator's actions?

- A. The narrator crashes into the restaurant owner, Debra.
- B. The narrator is fired for making a mess.
- C. The narrator breaks the doors down and gets in trouble.
- D. The narrator is able to clean the basement.

3. The narrator's job is dirty and unpleasant. What evidence from the passage best supports this conclusion?

- A. He counts and restocks boxes of inventory.
- B. He cleans up vomit and takes out the trash.
- C. He polishes silverware and countertops.
- D. He is assigned the boring duties.

4. Read the following sentences: "I had just set out on my own and I was full of plans, big plans, plans that all ended up in the same place: a swimming pool full of money- metaphorically speaking, of course."

Based on this information, what can you conclude about the narrator?

- A. He is cheerful.
- B. He is practical.
- C. He is loyal.
- D. He is ambitious.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A. Debra, the owner of the Italian restaurant
- B. the relationship between Debra and Franco
- C. the life of a busboy at an Italian restaurant
- D. how to get rich while working in a restaurant

6. Read the following sentences: "But I think they noticed my **zeal** and desire to please and decided to take advantage of it. Because whenever a job popped up that was too difficult, too boring, too gross, or just 'plain beneath the other employees,' well, they gave it me. And you know what I said? 'Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.'"

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**zeal**" most nearly mean?

- A. hesitation
- B. enthusiasm
- C. anger
- D. laziness

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

_____ the narrator has to do the dirty work in the restaurant, he does his job with zeal.

- A. Even though
- B. Moreover
- C. As a result
- D. Particularly

8. What does the narrator tell his manager at the end of the story?

9. What motivates the narrator to do his job as busboy with "zeal and desire to please"?

10. Based on the story, explain whether or not the narrator is a good employee. Support your answer using information from the story.

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8. What does the narrator tell his manager at the end of the story?

The narrator tells his manager, "I quit."

9. What motivates the narrator to do his job as busboy with "zeal and desire to please"?

The narrator does his job with zeal and desire to please because he wants to work his way up in the restaurant and eventually make lots of money.

10. Based on the story, explain whether or not the narrator is a good employee. Support your answer using information from the story.

Answers may vary and should be supported by the story. Examples:

"Yes, the narrator is a good employee, because he does his job with zeal, even though his job is mostly dirty work. He goes above and beyond with his tasks, as seen when he goes to get more cleaning supplies to clean the staff toilets."

"No, the narrator is not a good employee. He is clumsy, as seen when he crashes into Debra. This is not a good quality for a busboy. He apparently steals a shopping cart, which is not responsible behavior. He quits his job with no notice at the end of the story, which is not something a good employee would do."