



1 Read the following text and answer the questions.

### Mural City

Philadelphia is a city known for many things. It is where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, and it was also the first capital of the United States. But one fact about Philadelphia is not so wellknown: it is home to nearly 3,000 murals painted on the sides of homes and buildings around the city. It is said that Philadelphia has more murals than any other city in the world, with the exception of Rome. How did this come to be?



More than 20 years ago, a New Jersey artist named Jane Golden started a program pairing troubled youth with artists to paint murals on a few buildings around the city. From this small project, something magical happened. The young people involved helped to create magnificent pieces of art, but there were other, perhaps more important, benefits. The young people learned to collaborate and get along with many different kinds of people during the various **steps** required to paint and design a mural. They learned to be responsible, because they needed to follow a schedule to make sure the murals were completed. They also learned to take pride in their community. It is hard for any resident to see the spectacular designs and not feel proud to be a part of Philadelphia.

Take a walk around some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia—neighborhoods full of broken windows and littered front steps—and you will find beautiful works of art on the sides and fronts of buildings. But murals are not only found in **poor** neighborhoods. They are found in affluent ones as well. Special buses take tourists to different parts of the city to see the various murals, which range from huge portraits of historical heroes, to cityscapes, to scenes **depicting** the diverse ethnic groups that call Philadelphia home.

As a result of its success, the mural program created by Jane Golden has now become the nation's largest public art program and a model for other cities **throughout** the country **seeking** to help troubled **youth**.

1. This passage focuses mostly upon

- a an art program designed to help troubled youth
- b the tourists who come to Philadelphia
- c the many reasons why Philadelphia is a unique city
- d how Jane Golden came up with the idea to start a mural program

pobres  
paises  
representando  
a lo largo de  
buscando  
juventud

2. In paragraph 1, the author states, "It is said that Philadelphia has more murals than any other city in the world, with the exception of Rome." Using this information, we can conclude that

- a Rome has fewer murals than Philadelphia
- b Philadelphia has fewer murals than Rome
- c Rome has the most beautiful murals in the world
- d Rome and Philadelphia are the only cities with murals in the world

3. According to the passage, the mural program helps troubled youth by teaching them

- I. to be more responsible
- II. how to collaborate with others
- III. to take pride in their community

- a I only
- b I and II only
- c II and III only
- d I, II, and III

4. As used in paragraph 3, which is the best definition for **affluent**?

- a popular
- b clean
- c well-known
- d wealthy

5. Are there any spaces in your town where you might want to paint a mural? What should be painted where? Explain.

there are spaces but they aren't provided for it.  
if I had the opportunity I wouldn't know what to paint  
but I would like something that expresses how I would be  
feeling at that moment.

## Meltdown

On January 3, 1961, nine days after Christmas, Richard Legg, John Byrnes, and Richard McKinley were killed in a remote desert in eastern Idaho. Their deaths occurred when a nuclear reactor exploded at a top-secret base in the National Reactor Testing Station (NRTS). Official reports state that the explosion and subsequent reactor **meltdown** resulted from the improper retraction of the control rod.



When questioned about the events that occurred there, officials were reticent. The **whole affair**, in fact, was not discussed much, and seemed to disappear with time.

In order to grasp the mysterious nature of the NRTS catastrophe, it helps to know a bit about how nuclear reactors work. After all, the generation of nuclear energy may strike many as an esoteric process. **However**, given its relative simplicity, the way in which the NRTS reactor functions is widely comprehensible. In this particular kind of reactor, a cluster of nine-ton uranium fuel rods are positioned lengthwise around a central control **rod**. The reaction begins with the slow removal of the control rod, which starts a controlled nuclear reaction and begins to heat the water in the reactor. This heat generates steam, which builds pressure inside the tank. As pressure builds, the steam looks for a place to escape. The only place this steam is able to escape is through the turbine. As it passes through the turbine on its way out of the tank, it turns the giant fan blades and produces energy.

On the morning of January 3, after the machine had been shut down for the holidays, the three men arrived at the station to restart the reactor. The control rod needed to be pulled out only four inches to be reconnected to the automated driver. However, records indicate that Byrnes yanked it out 23 inches, over five times the distance necessary. In milliseconds the reactor exploded. Legg was impaled on the **ceiling**; he would be discovered last. It took one week and a lead-shielded crane to remove his body. Even in full protective gear, workers were only able to work a minute at a time. The three men are **buried** in **lead-lined** coffins under concrete in New York, Michigan, and Arlington Cemetery, Virginia.

The investigation took nearly two years to complete. Did Byrnes have a dark motive? Or was it simply an accident? Did he know how precarious the procedure was? Other operators were questioned as to whether they knew the consequences of pulling the control rod out so far. They responded, "Of course! We often talked about what we would do if we were at a radar station and the Russians came. We'd **yank** it out."

Official reports are oddly ambiguous, but what they do not explain, gossip does. Rumors had it that there was tension between the men because Byrnes suspected the other two of being involved with his young wife. There is little doubt that he, like the other operators, knew exactly what would happen when he **yanked** the control rod.

Fusión de un reactor

embargo

entero

asunto

varilla

techo

enterrado

forrado de plomo

tirado

tirado

1. As used in paragraph 1, which is the best antonym for **reticent**?

- a nosy
- b talkativereserved
- c concerned

2. As used in paragraph 2, which is the best definition for **esoteric**?

- a risky or dangerous
- b highly scientific
- c kept secret
- d understood by few

3. Based on information in paragraph 2, it can be understood that which of the following is directly responsible for energy production in a nuclear reactor?

- a the turning of the turbine blades
- b the escape of pressurized steam
- c the removal of the control rod
- d the positioning of the uranium fuel rods

4. Which of the following literary devices does the author use in the passage?

I. Hyperbole, characterized by the use of specific words and phrases that exaggerate and overemphasize the core of the statement in order to produce a grander, more noticeable effect. This usually works to convey an action or sentiment that is generally not realistically possible or plausible but helps to emphasize an emotion.

II. Foreshadowing, characterized by the use of words or phrases that hint at something—typically something bad—that is going to happen later in the story. This is done without revealing the story or spoiling the suspense.

III. Flashback, characterized by a depiction of specific events which have taken place before the present time in the narration. Flashback devices that are commonly used are past narratives by character depictions and references of dreams, and memories. Flashback is used to provide background information to the present situation, place or person.

- a I only
- b I and II only
- c II and III only
- d I, II, and III

As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for precarious?

- a slow
- b difficult
- c risky
- d involved

6. The author's tone can best be described as

- a neutral
- b dejected
- c sarcastic
- d haunting

7. As used in the final paragraph, which is the best synonym for ambiguous?

- a vague
- b disturbing
- c detailed
- d strange

8. Using the information in the final paragraph as a guide, which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?

- a Official reports about the disaster were detailed and conclusive.
- b Legg, Byrnes, and McKinley were best friends.
- c Byrnes deliberately yanked the control rod.
- d Rumors about the disaster are dubious and uninteresting

9. In your opinion, what is the most plausible reason behind the NRTS disaster? Explain

In my opinion, there is nothing to be applauded in this story, since the interest on the part of the authorities in punishing such a mistake that affected the people involved was not visible.