

## READING COMPREHENSION

# The Lost Love of Orpheus

According to Greek mythology, Orpheus was the greatest of all musicians. His beautiful songs brought happiness to the saddest hearts. Humans, animals, and even stones and trees gathered around to hear him sing and play the lyre.

When the adventurer Jason sailed in search of the Golden Fleece, Orpheus traveled on Jason's ship, helping the sailors through the long days and nights. (1) When tempers flared, Orpheus's singing restored *congeniality*. (2) Sailors, *disgruntled* with the length of the voyage, would feel their spirits lift when Orpheus touched his lyre. (3) Those *disillusioned* by the unexpectedly hard conditions at sea would feel contented, once again.

However, Orpheus's great charms could not prevent his own unhappiness. The story began when he fell in love with a beautiful maiden named Eurydice. (4) *Exuberant* with happiness, the young couple were married at a joyous ceremony. (5) But shortly afterward, as Eurydice was *blithely* walking through a field, a poisonous snake bit and killed her.

(6) Orpheus's *anguish* knew no bounds. He had lost his love on the very day of their wedding. (7) He sat by the rocks in *desolation*.

Finally, he decided that he would go to the Underworld and plead for his wife's return. His journey was long and dangerous, but his beautiful music helped convince the monsters who guarded the Underworld to let him pass. Finally, he came to the throne of Hades, the ruler of the Underworld. Charmed by Orpheus's music and his devotion to Eurydice, Hades decided to grant Orpheus's request. He agreed to let Eurydice return with Orpheus to the land of the living. Hades had only one

condition: Orpheus was not to look back at his bride until they had climbed to Earth's surface.

(8) The *gratified* couple began their long journey back to Earth, passing through the gates of the Underworld and traveling ever upward. Orpheus carefully kept his eyes on the path ahead of them. But just as they were about to pass into the sunlight, perhaps to reassure himself that she was really there, Orpheus suddenly looked back. Eurydice, calling out to him, vanished again into the Underworld.

Orpheus was heartbroken. His own carelessness had cost him his love. (9) *Defiantly*, he tried to descend into the Underworld again, but this time, even his music couldn't convince the guards to let him through.

From that day on, the joy went out of Orpheus. Abandoning the company of humans, he sat alone, playing his lyre for comfort. (10) The uplifting happiness of his music gave way to *despondent*, mournful tunes.



Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When tempers flared, Orpheus's singing restored \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. hostility                      b. loneliness                      c. discontent                      d. friendliness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sailors, \_\_\_\_\_ with the length of the voyage, would feel their spirits lift when Orpheus touched his lyre.  
a. tortured                      b. displeased                      c. happy                      d. lighthearted
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Those \_\_\_\_\_ the unexpectedly hard conditions at sea would feel contented, once again.  
a. disappointed by                      b. enthusiastic about                      c. satisfied with                      d. tormented by
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ with happiness, the young couple were married at a joyous ceremony.  
a. Resentful                      b. Satisfied                      c. Overjoyed                      d. Annoyed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. But shortly afterward, as Eurydice was \_\_\_\_\_ walking through a field, a poisonous snake bit and killed her.  
a. pleasantly                      b. boldly                      c. lightheartedly                      d. sadly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Orpheus's \_\_\_\_\_ knew no bounds.  
a. pain                      b. cheerfulness                      c. happiness                      d. resistance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. He sat by the rocks in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. great anger                      b. sad loneliness                      c. a crowd                      d. silence
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The \_\_\_\_\_ couple began their long journey back to Earth, passing through the gates of the Underworld and traveling ever upward.  
a. irritated                      b. enthusiastic                      c. despairing                      d. grateful
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_, he tried to descend into the Underworld again.  
a. Sadly                      b. Boldly                      c. Noisily                      d. Humbly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The uplifting happiness of his music gave way to \_\_\_\_\_, mournful tunes.  
a. sad                      b. quiet                      c. carefree                      d. satisfied

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. According to the myth, Orpheus's music had the power to bring happiness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Orpheus lost his love because he did not follow instructions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Orpheus recovered from his grief and was able to make joyful music, once again.

## WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the cheerleaders spread to the fans. (*exuberant*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The children \_\_\_\_\_ played on the rusty old swing set, unconcerned about getting hurt. (*blithe*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Though unhappy with their training, the \_\_\_\_\_ recruits refrained from complaining. (*disgruntled*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It will be difficult for voters to overcome their \_\_\_\_\_ after they were misled during the last election campaign. (*disillusion*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The friendliest contestant was voted Miss \_\_\_\_\_. (*congenial*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Refusing to speak to the police officer was an act of \_\_\_\_\_ by the suspect. (*defiant*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. After losing the World Series, the team members were \_\_\_\_\_ as they answered the reporters' questions. (*despondent*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The mourners' \_\_\_\_\_ could only be appreciated by others who shared a similar loss. (*anguish*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Above the timberline, the terrain has a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_. (*desolate*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The film director seemed \_\_\_\_\_ by the lifetime achievement award presented by the academy. (*gratification*)