

READING COMPREHENSION

A Dinner Guest

Kindness is an endless chain. (1) This story, which spans two world wars, shows how one act of *altruism* can bring about another.

In 1917, near the end of World War I, a lonely American soldier named Alex Lurye walked into a synagogue in a small German town. Although Germany and the United States were enemies, the soldier meant no harm. Alex was a Jewish person who simply wanted to attend a service in the local synagogue.

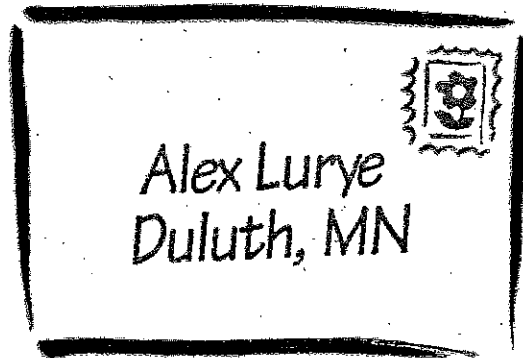
(2) Sensing that Alex's intentions were *benign*, a local man welcomed him. His name was Herr Rosenau. (3) After the service, Herr Rosenau invited Alex to enjoy a *bountiful* home-cooked dinner. (4) The homesick soldier *indulged* in the most delicious food he had tasted in months. When he returned to the United States, Alex wrote a thank-you note to his German host.

Although Herr Rosenau never answered the letter, he did save it. For twenty-one years, it sat in a drawer in his home. During that time, many things in Europe changed. Germany's aggression toward neighboring countries strained diplomatic relations, and Europe was again on the verge of war. Even worse, Adolph Hitler had come to power and was staging attacks against Jews within Germany itself. Herr Rosenau feared for the lives of his family.

In 1938, while rummaging through one of his grandfather's drawers, Herr Rosenau's grandson noticed a letter with a foreign stamp. He asked if he could take it home and show it to his parents. The boy's mother, Herr Rosenau's daughter, opened the envelope and read Alex's thank-you letter from long ago.

Remembering the young American soldier, Rosenau's daughter had an idea. The family desperately wanted to leave Germany, but unless they had a sponsor, they could

not enter the United States. (5) She decided to write to Alex and appeal to his *humanitarian* instincts. She asked him to help her family. She did not know his address, so she sent her request addressed simply, "Alex Lurye, Duluth, Minnesota."



Fortunately, Alex Lurye had become a well-known businessman and the post office was able to find him easily. (6) He read the letter from the family who had helped him so long ago and responded with *exemplary* kindness. (7) He stated that he would be happy to be their *benefactor* and offered to sponsor them. (8) Within the year, the family's problem was *rectified* when they all arrived safely in the United States.

Despite initial hardships, the newcomers prospered. Had the Rosenau's stayed in Germany, they may have been one of the millions of families that were killed in the Holocaust.

(9) Acts of kindness vary from simple *civility* to great gifts. When we perform them, we never know what they will bring in return. (10) In this case, an *amicable* dinner invitation saved a family's lives.

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. This story, which spans two world wars, shows how one act of _____ can bring about another.
a. anger b. financial aid c. politeness d. unselfish concern
- _____ 2. Sensing that Alex's intentions were _____, a local man welcomed him.
a. plentiful b. harmless c. prosperous d. lifesaving
- _____ 3. Herr Rosenau invited Alex to enjoy a(n) _____ home-cooked dinner.
a. abundant b. hot c. delicious d. friendly
- _____ 4. The homesick soldier _____ the most delicious food he had tasted in months.
a. wanted to share b. quickly ate c. treated himself to d. hoped to have

NAME _____

DATE _____

- _____ 5. She decided to write to Alex and appeal to his _____ instincts.
a. plentiful b. gentle c. helpful d. favorite
- _____ 6. He responded with _____ kindness.
a. helpful b. concerned c. unselfish d. admirable
- _____ 7. He stated that he would be happy to be their _____.
a. aid-giver b. friend c. partner d. example
- _____ 8. The family's problem was _____ when they all arrived in the United States.
a. worsened b. fixed c. pampered d. forgotten
- _____ 9. Acts of kindness vary from simple _____ to great gifts.
a. admiration b. politeness c. donation d. wishes
- _____ 10. In this case, a _____ dinner invitation saved a family's lives.
a. plentiful b. worthy c. wealthy d. friendly

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

- _____ 1. Alex Lurye had never been to Germany when he received the letter from the Rosenau family.
- _____ 2. Alex Luyre's letter was found by Herr Rosenau's grandson.
- _____ 3. The Rosenau's might have been killed if Alex Luyre had not helped them.

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. Their new stepmother was so _____ that the children loved her instantly. (*benign*)
- _____ 2. The two competitors _____ agreed on the rules of the contest. (*amicable*)
- _____ 3. They gave thanks for the _____ that they had received. (*bountiful*)
- _____ 4. The _____ preferred not to make his name known. (*benefactor*)
- _____ 5. He _____ the problem by apologizing and trying again. (*rectify*)
- _____ 6. Ice cream is Jonah's greatest _____. (*indulge*)
- _____ 7. Screaming and shouting is not _____ behavior. (*civility*)
- _____ 8. Albert Schweitzer was known for his great _____. (*humanitarian*)
- _____ 9. The children's behavior at the assembly was _____. (*exemplary*)
- _____ 10. It is important to promote an _____ society. (*altruism*)