

“Autumntime” Answer Key

by Anthony Lentini 1971

1. **RL.KID.2**

PART A: Which of the following best identifies a theme of this story?

- A. **Technological progress and urbanization come at a cost.**
- B. Nature is resilient and humans should not worry about damaging the environment.
- C. Humans value preserving nature over technological progress.
- D. The benefits of human progress outweigh its negative consequences.

2. **RL.KID.1**

PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “Mom dialed a light breakfast of toast and synthetic milk so that we wouldn’t waste time eating.” (Paragraph 3)
- B. “When the news of the tree’s discovery leaked out, quite a few sightseers stopped by to have a look at it, and the local government, realizing the money-making potential, began charging admission and advertising the place.” (Paragraph 5)
- C. “It had none of the marble gloss or steely sheen of modern buildings, but was rather a dull white color, with the paint peeling in places.” (Paragraph 7)
- D. **“They intend to tear down the place to make room for some kind of insurance building, and the tree will have to go, too.” (Paragraph 10)**

3. **RL.KID.3**

Re-read the following excerpt from Paragraph 9: “But best of all was the smell. It was a fresh, living odor, alien to the antiseptic world outside with all its metal, plastic, and glass. I wanted to touch the bark, but the fence prevented me from doing so.” What does this quote reveal about the narrator’s attitude towards nature?

- A. The narrator is excited by nature, but not deeply affected by it.
- B. **The narrator is captivated by the beauty of nature.**
- C. The narrator prefers the world of steel and glass to the world of nature.
- D. The narrator is fearful of nature and tries to keep their distance.

4. **RL.KID.3**

How does visiting the tree affect the narrator?

- A. They feel excited by the chance to see the tree again in the future.
- B. **They are moved by the tree, and upset when they learn it will be cut down.**
- C. They are angry that there are not more real trees in their city.
- D. They ignore their parents when they see that they do not care about the tree.