

Part One: Text Analysis (Score:11/20)

Read the following selection, in which the writer speaks of the experience young people go through as they practice the sport of parachuting. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

Parachuting

1. He has been filled with fear since the aircraft took off. Now, the fear turns to terror as the red light comes on. Stiffly, he gets up from his seat and moves into position in the open doorway of the aircraft. He fixes his eyes on the red light, praying that something will go wrong- something to prevent it from changing to green. He wonders what lunacy decided him to take up this sport, but he knows hollowly that it is too late now to turn back. He chews on his gum, and feels sick. He remembers the words of his instructor during the weeks of training: "However often you jump, you'll probably never lose the fear of it. You'll begin to feel frightened as soon as the plane is in the air, and you'll have some moments of pure and absolute terror while you are waiting to jump. But after that you'll have your reward. When the parachute opens, you'll have the most glorious experience of your life. I promise you that." The memory of the promise makes no difference; he continues to pray that something will go wrong and stop the whole thing.
2. Nothing goes wrong. The light turns green.
3. The jumpmaster taps him on the shoulder, looks keenly into his eyes, beams encouragingly, and shouts:" Ready? Okay. Then OUT!"
4. This is the moment when, despite his terror, he must remember his training. He takes a very deep breath (he nearly swallows his chewing gum), and he leaps out of the safety of the aircraft into nothingness, arching his back and spreading out his arms and legs. He begins to count his seconds in his mind: one thousand, two thousand, three thousand....Soon there is the sound of a soft plop, and his parachute opens up.
5. Now he has his reward. The instructor was right. As he floats down to earth, he understands the meaning of the words *bliss* and *ecstasy*. And this glorious experience lasts for two or three minutes.
6. Will he do it again? Will he want this experience enough to suffer the fear and the terror that precede it?
7. Statistics are revealing. Of every hundred who make the first step, only fifteen return for a second one.
8. For these fifteen, this is only the beginning. The real sport is free-fall and sky-diving. However, nobody is allowed to start this until he has made a minimum of five static-line jumps. In a static-line jump, one end of the cord is fastened to the parachute and the other end to the inside of the aircraft, so that the jumper need have no anxiety about whether his parachute will open. In free-fall, he wears two parachutes, but he does not open either until about a minute after he has jumped from the aircraft. During this minute, falling to the earth at 125 miles an hour, he flies like a bird, performing intricate turns and twists, and sometimes forming patterns in the sky with other ski divers. When his time is up, the alarm that is strapped to his chest will make a loud bleeping noise, and he will pull the rip-cord of his parachute. It is extremely unlikely that this will not open but if it did not, he would pull the rip-cord

of the second parachute. He will then float safely back to earth at about 15 miles an hour.

9. Of the fifteen who turn up for the second jump, only two go on to the final stage of free- fall and sky-diving. The 98% total drop-out rate is caused mainly by fear. Statistically, free-fall and sky-diving is safer than mountain climbing or even driving a car at the weekends in some countries, but statistics do little to lessen the fear a jumper feels as he stands in the open doorway, staring out into space, chewing his gum, waiting to go.

A. 1. What does the red light in the above text imply? Why doesn't the young man want it to run green? (Score: 1)

2. What significance(importance) do the series of questions in paragraph 6 have? Explain? (Score:1)

3. Explain briefly why the jumper in the static-line jump needs a second parachute. (Score:1)

4. Pick from paragraph 8 a figure of speech (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole), identify it, and then state the purpose behind using it. (Score:2)

B. 1. State the tone of paragraph one. How does it change in paragraph 4? (Score: 2)

2. Where is the introduction in the text? What type is it? What purpose does this type serve? Explain. (Score: 1.5)

3. What pattern of organization is used in paragraph 9? Explain. (Score:1.5)

C. What does each of the underlined pronouns refer to? (Score: 1)

1. It (par.1)

2. It (par. 1)

3. It (par. 6)

4. His (par. 8)

Part Two: Writing (Score: 09/20)

"A sound mind dwells in a sound body," the saying goes. Elaborate on this saying to spot out a healthy relationship between our mind and body. Support your point of view with evidence from daily life experience. Develop your ideas in a 200-250-word essay of unified, coherent, and properly sequenced paragraphs. Your writing will be assessed for both content and form. [Score: 05 for content, 03 for form, and 01 for tidiness and legible handwriting]

Answer Key

A.

1. The red light signifies the inability of the young man to jump from the aircraft contrary to the green one. And as the young man was so terrified, he did not like the red light to turn green because he was afraid of jumping.
2. The series of questions in paragraph 6 arouse the reader's interest, emphasize the difficult nature of parachuting for the young beginners, and finally , prepare the reader for answers to follow in the coming paragraphs.
3. He needs a second parachute for safety just in case the first one does not open, for one reason or another.
4. In paragraph 8, the writer uses a simile" he flies like a bird.." to indicate the swiftness and intricacy of free falling.

B.

1. The tone in the first paragraph is one of anxiety, fear, panic, and even horror. The young man feels trapped in a horrible experience of parachuting and would like to stop it, but in vain. In paragraph 4, the young man feels overjoyed, ecstatic, satisfied ,and rewarded. The landing was a glorious experience for him.
2. The first four paragraphs constitute the introduction which is an extended anecdote that focuses on a live experience of a young man in parachuting. Such a type introduces the topic and gives background information about parachuting, sets the general atmosphere of the whole text, and finally, prepares the reader for a thorough discussion of parachuting in the coming paragraphs.
3. compare-contrast

C.

1. It (par.1) jumping
2. It (par. 1)