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Auszug aus:

Reading comprehension - A more meaningful alternative to the traditional question / answer approach.

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READING COMPREHENSION
**A MORE MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVE TO THE
TRADITIONAL QUESTION / ANSWER APPROACH**

**A collection of 20 previously unseen texts (SIGHT PASSAGES)
that are meant to challenge the students' interest and curiosity.
Recommended for students of English at secondary schools
(INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED).**

W. Eichenlaub, M.A.

A LOVE LETTER OF A DIFFERENT KIND (1)

• Complete this letter written by a young man to the woman of his dreams by deciphering all the clues provided.

Ice (northwards)on a (clock), (sense organ) was lonely, look(gerund) 4 somebody like me in every (road); so that V2 had something in com(first half of a weekday) 2 do and say. Then I found U 1 (24 hours) and said: “ U will B my friend 4ever. U made me so ha-P, U bright-END (opposite of down) my life. V got along so (source of water) and had lots of fun. And now I just can (knot) imagine what I would have done without U, 4 U R so 1derful, funn-E and (candy) U R my dream-come-true So, dear friend, say U will always B there 2 share in my good and bad times.

POOR LITTLE RICH BOY?

A wealthy family man took his son on a trip to the country in order to make him see how poor country people live. They stayed for one day and one night in the home of a very humble farmer. After they had returned back home, the father asked his son: “What did you think of the trip?” – “ Very nice”, he replied. – “What did you learn and did you notice how poor they were? – “ I learned that we have one dog in our house and they have four. Also we have a fountain in our garden, but they have a stream that seems to have no end. We have imported lamps in our garden, but they have the stars. They have the entire horizon as their backyard.”

At this point the father was speechless. Finally the boy said, “Thank you Dad for showing me how poor we really are.”

• Select from the word list provided below the word that best fits the meaning of this narrative.

Although this anecdote appears to be somewhat _____, it shows quite _____ that happiness is rarely a function of someone’s social _____.

In other words, one can be _____ happy and content with very modest _____.

Obviously, the father’s attempt to _____ his son of the advantages of _____ wealth, failed miserably.

Moreover the story’s implied _____ seems to be that the beauty of _____ is superior to acquired _____.

*convince / message / simplistic / material / sophisticated / rank / clearly / riches
nature / complex / perfectly / means / outlandish / obscurely / guard / spiritual /*

• Pinpoint in the above text the words that basically mean ...

well-heeled / folks / modest / outing / at a loss for words / making me see /

• Select in each statement the word that makes contextual sense.

RICH OR POOR ? – It all seems to be a matter of (choice / perspective / decision). Happiness and riches are often mutually (exclusive / conclusive / abusive) Obviously, father and son differ (slightly / secretly / radically) in terms of their perception and appreciation of wealth.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED ! (2)

NOT SO LONG AGO ...

An application was for employment

A program(me) was a TV show

A cursor used profanity

A keyboard was a piano

Memory was something that you lost with age

A CD was a bank account

And if you had a broken disk,

It would hurt when you found out.

Compress was something you did to the garbage,

Not something you did to a file

And if you unzipped anything in public

You'd be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to a fire

Hard drive was a long trip on the road

A mouse pad was where the mouse lived

And a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife

Paste you did with glue

A web was a spider's home

And a virus was the flu.

VOCABULARY CHECK

• Identify the words that correspond (more or less) to these terms.

person using swear words

refuse; litter

support

foul language

disclosed

dresser

mental capacity

incarcerated

sticky material

cause pain

supply with firewood

intricate network

expose to pressure

dwelling place (slang)

weaving expert

• Complete these sentences in an appropriate fashion, using your own active vocabulary.

The basic _____ of these somewhat witty remarks could be summarized as follows:

Words no longer _____ what they originally used to signify.

_____ technology has taken them over to _____ new parts and concepts .

Instead of _____ entirely new words, existing terms were chosen instead.

This goes to show that words can often _____ more than just one meaning,

an amazing _____ of language, our primary means of _____ interaction.



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