



Exit Ticket January 13

Subject: English Language Arts

State: Tennessee

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School Name: _____

Read the passage from *Three Men on the Bummel*, by English author Jerome K. Jerome (1859-1927). Then, answer the questions.

Three Men on the Bummel

by Jerome K. Jerome

¹ Harris, in his early married days, made much trouble for himself on one occasion, owing to this impossibility of knowing what the person behind is doing. He was riding with his wife through Holland. The roads were stony, and the machine jumped a good deal.

² “Sit tight,” said Harris, without turning his head.

³ What Mrs. Harris thought he said was, “Jump off.” Why she should have thought he said “Jump off,” when he said “Sit tight,” neither of them can explain.

⁴ Mrs. Harris puts it in this way, “If you had said, ‘Sit tight,’ why should I have jumped off?”

⁵ Harris puts it, “If I had wanted you to jump off, why should I have said ‘Sit tight!’?”

⁶ The bitterness is past, but they argue about the matter to this day.

⁷ Be the explanation what it may, however, nothing alters the fact that Mrs. Harris did jump off, while Harris pedalled away hard, under the impression she was still behind him. It appears that at first she thought he was riding up the hill merely to show off. They were both young in those days, and he used to do that sort of thing. She expected him to spring to earth on reaching the summit, and lean in a careless and graceful attitude against the machine, waiting for her. When, on the contrary, she saw him pass the summit and proceed rapidly down a long and steep incline, she was seized, first with surprise, secondly with indignation, and lastly with alarm. She ran to the top of the hill and shouted, but he never turned his head. She watched him disappear into a wood a mile and a half distant, and then sat down and cried. They had had a slight difference that morning, and she wondered if he had taken it seriously and intended desertion. She had no money; she knew no Dutch. People passed, and seemed sorry for her; she tried to make them understand what had happened. They gathered that she had lost something, but could not grasp what. They took her to the nearest village, and found a policeman for her. He concluded from her pantomime that some man had stolen her bicycle. They put the telegraph into operation, and discovered in a village four miles off an unfortunate boy riding a lady’s machine of an obsolete pattern. They brought him to her in a cart, but as she did not appear to want either him or his bicycle they let him go again, and resigned themselves to bewilderment.

⁸ Meanwhile, Harris continued his ride with much enjoyment. It seemed to him that he had suddenly become a stronger, and in every way a more capable cyclist. Said he to what he thought was Mrs. Harris:

⁹ “I haven’t felt this machine so light for months. It’s this air, I think; it’s doing me good.”

¹⁰ Then he told her not to be afraid, and he would show her how fast he could go. He bent down over the handles, and put his heart into his work. The bicycle bounded over the road like a thing of life; farmhouses and churches, dogs and chickens came to him and passed. Old folks stood and gazed at him, the children cheered him.

¹¹ In this way he sped merrily onward for about five miles. Then, as he explains it, the feeling began to grow upon him that something was wrong. He was not surprised at the silence; the wind was blowing strongly, and the machine was rattling a good deal. It was a sense of void that came upon him. He stretched out his hand behind him, and felt; there was nothing there but space. He jumped, or rather fell off, and looked back up the road; it stretched white and straight through the dark wood, and not a living soul could be seen upon it. He remounted, and rode back up the hill. In ten minutes he came to where the road broke into four; there he dismounted and tried to remember which fork he had come down.

¹² While he was deliberating a man passed, sitting sideways on a horse. Harris stopped him, and explained to him that he had lost his wife. The man appeared to be neither surprised nor sorry for him. While they were talking another farmer came along, to whom the first man explained the matter, not as an accident, but as a good story. What appeared to surprise the second man most was that Harris should be making a fuss about the thing.

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1 Part A

Which phrase **best** describes the reaction of the Dutch farmers to Mr. Harris's situation in paragraph 12?

- (A) unsympathetic and somewhat amused
- (B) alarmed and openly defensive
- (C) intrigued and potentially judgmental
- (D) ingratiating and overly helpful

2 Part B

Which **two** quotations from paragraph 12 support the answer to Part A?

- (A) “. . . sitting sideways on a horse.”
- (B) “. . . explained to him that he had lost his wife.”
- (C) “. . . neither surprised nor sorry . . .”
- (D) “. . . another farmer came along . . .”
- (E) “. . . the first man explained the matter . . .”
- (F) “. . . not as an accident, but as a good story.”

3 The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

How do the interactions Mrs. Harris has with the Dutch characters in paragraph 7 help to advance the plot of the passage?

- (A) They deepen the excitement of the bicycle ride Mr. and Mrs. Harris have undertaken.
- (B) They provide comfort to Mrs. Harris while she is separated from Mr. Harris.
- (C) They delay the potential reunion of Mrs. Harris with Mr. Harris because of a misunderstanding.
- (D) They provide sly insights into the daily lives of ordinary Dutch people.

4 Part B

Which quotation from paragraph 7 **best** exemplifies the answer to Part A?

- (A) “They were both young in those days, and he used to do that sort of thing.”
- (B) “She had no money; she knew no Dutch.”
- (C) “They took her to the nearest village, and found a policeman for her.”
- (D) “He concluded from her pantomime that some man had stolen her bicycle.”