

Name:

Date:

SELECTION TEST ➤ “Don’t Just Sit There Like a Punk”

Matt de la Peña

Comprehension

DIRECTIONS: Identify the choice that best answers the question.

- _____ 1. Which statement **best** describes the narrator in “Don’t Just Sit There Like a Punk”?
- a. a skilled basketball player who lacks confidence
 - b. an inexperienced basketball player who needs training
 - c. a successful basketball player who does not trust other players
 - d. an overconfident basketball player who needs a lesson in modesty
- _____ 2. Why does the narrator in “Don’t Just Sit There Like a Punk” come to the gym regularly during the summer?
- a. He plans to create his own team.
 - b. He wants to make new friends.
 - c. He hopes he will get to play.
 - d. He wants to find a mentor.
- _____ 3. In “Don’t Just Sit There Like a Punk,” what happens when Dante confronts the narrator?
- a. The narrator feels ashamed, and he apologizes to Dante and the others.
 - b. The narrator feels ashamed, and he begs Dante to let him play in a game.
 - c. The narrator says he wants to play, and Dante gives him his spot in a game.
 - d. The narrator says he wants to play, and Dante says he likes the narrator after all.

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- _____ 4. In "Don't Just Sit There Like a Punk," what happens as a result of Dante's challenge to the narrator?
- a. The narrator is given an opportunity to play varsity.
 - b. The narrator shows that he is the best player at the gym.
 - c. Others see the narrator's abilities and invite him to play.
 - d. Others see the narrator's weakness and take pity on him.

Concept Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: Identify the choice that best answers the question.

- _____ 5. Which of the following situations would **most likely** cause a person to be *stunned*?
- a. being chosen to meet a star after her concert
 - b. doing well on a test after studying for weeks
 - c. buying something special after saving up for it
 - d. attending a local performance of a favorite play
- _____ 6. If you found your way out of a maze by *instinct*, then which of the following **must** be true?
- a. You tried several paths.
 - b. You had a compass to look at.
 - c. You found the way without thinking.
 - d. You prepared by studying mazes for months.
- _____ 7. Which of the following **best** describes an *intense* look?
- a. clearly amused
 - b. somewhat angry
 - c. mildly distracted
 - d. extremely focused



Analyze the Text

DIRECTIONS: Identify the choice that best answers the question.

- _____ 8. In the following passage from “Don’t Just Sit There Like a Punk,” the narrator thinks about his exchange with Dante.

You’ll think this is the beginning of some meaningful mentorship, but it won’t be. In fact, Dante won’t say another word to you the rest of the summer. Not even when you ask him a direct question. But over time you’ll begin to see the power of his silence. And surprisingly, it will remind you of your old man’s silence.

Which message of “Don’t Just Sit There Like a Punk” is **best** supported by this passage?

- a. It is important to know your place.
 - b. Anyone can get better with practice.
 - c. You cannot expect people to change.
 - d. Actions are more important than words.
9. The following question has two parts. Answer Part A first, and then Part B.

- _____ **Part A** Which statement **best** describes Dante’s point of view in “Don’t Just Sit There Like a Punk”?

- a. Dante believes that it is important to challenge yourself.
- b. Dante believes that you have to make your own opportunities.
- c. Dante believes that talking makes it too hard for a person to think.
- d. Dante believes that experienced players should not help new players.

- _____ **Part B** Which quotation from “Don’t Just Sit There Like a Punk” **most clearly** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “Nobody thinks you’re good enough to play here, comprende?”
- b. “You wanna get in games, you don’t just sit there like a punk, right?”
- c. After the game you’ll climb the packed bleachers looking for him, but he’ll already be gone.
- d. Maybe words would just steal away your freedom to think for yourself.



10. The following question has two parts. Answer Part A first, and then Part B.

_____ **Part A** In "Don't Just Sit There Like a Punk," how does the narrator's opinion of his "old man" change after his experience with Dante?

- a. The narrator realizes his "old man" taught him to play better.
- b. The narrator realizes his "old man" has always been there for him.
- c. The narrator realizes his "old man" cares about how well he plays.
- d. The narrator realizes his "old man" wants him to stand up for himself.

_____ **Part B** Which sentence from "Don't Just Sit There Like a Punk" **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. You'll think this is the beginning of some meaningful mentorship, but it won't be.
- b. But over time you'll begin to see the power of his silence.
- c. You'll wave as you jog past him at halftime, but he won't wave back.
- d. Your old man will be there, though.