

JOHNNY MNEMONIC – William Gibson

A) Comprehension (1–13)

1. How is Ralfi's awareness of his fate described in the opening of the passage?
2. What imagery is used to describe the method of Ralfi's death?
3. How does the "yo-yo trick" metaphor contribute to the depiction of the attack?
4. Why is there a delay in blood flow after the initial slicing?
5. How is the moment of Ralfi's death characterized in terms of sound?
6. What physical reaction does the narrator experience when raising the gym bag?
7. What does the environmental description (rain, geodesic rupture) add to the scene's tone?
8. Where do the narrator and Molly take cover, and why?
9. What is the significance of the "Volks module" in front of the Drome?
10. What is implied by the phrase "asking questions" in this context?
11. Why is the gym bag described as "scorched white fluff"?
12. What does Molly's explanation about the attacker's nervous system suggest?
13. How does Molly's emotional reaction contrast with the narrator's?

B) Vocabulary (14–20)

14. What does "dark crescents of sweat" metaphorically indicate?
15. What is meant by "geodesic" in architectural context here?
16. What does "convulsed" suggest about involuntary bodily response?
17. What does "jacked up nervous system" imply in cybernetic terms?
18. What does "factory custom" mean in relation to human augmentation?
19. What does "snicked out" describe in mechanical weapon activation?
20. What does "Nighttown" imply about the socio-cultural environment?

MOZART IN MIRRORSHADES – Bruce Sterling & Lewis Shiner

A) Comprehension (1–13)

1. How does Mozart's invitation to Rice frame their relationship at the beginning?
2. What does Rice suggest as a social activity for the evening?
3. How is Rice physically prepared for security threats before leaving?

4. What does Rice place in his pockets, and what does this suggest?
5. Why does Rice feel conspicuous in the environment despite attempting to blend in?
6. How is the club environment described in terms of architectural and social hybridity?
7. What does the audience's behavior during Mozart's performance suggest?
8. How is Mozart's musical style characterized in the performance scene?
9. What does the post-performance drug use suggest about social integration?
10. What question does Mozart ask Rice after the performance?
11. How does Rice describe his own future society?
12. What is Mozart's reaction to Rice's description of the future?
13. What contradiction does Mozart perceive in Rice's decision to travel back in time?

B) Vocabulary (14–20)

14. What does "sachertorte" indicate culturally in this context?
 15. What does "mesh body armor" suggest about personal security norms?
 16. What is meant by "giveaway consumer goods"?
 17. What does "aristo's townhouse" imply about social class?
 18. What does "sequenced choral motifs" refer to in musical structure?
 19. What does "Realtime" mean in the temporal framework of the story?
 20. What does "portal" signify in the context of time-travel infrastructure?
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INTERVIEW WITH THE CRAB – Jonathan Lethem

A) Comprehension (1–13)

1. How does the crab respond to accusations about artistic influences?
2. What does the crab reject in the narrator's interpretation of his career?
3. How does the crab characterize public perception of his success?
4. What does the crab claim about the duration of his early career struggle?
5. How does the crab describe his early performance venues?
6. What emotional emphasis does the crab place on his hardships?
7. How does the crab reinterpret "overnight success"?
8. What is the crab's attitude toward cultural critics?

9. How does the crab use physical gestures in speech?
10. What tension emerges between mythologized fame and lived experience?
11. How does the narrator attempt to frame the crab's legacy?
12. How does the crab resist symbolic classification?
13. What shift occurs in tone during the monologue?

B) Vocabulary (14–20)

14. What does “slugging it out on the circuit” imply?
 15. What does “paying my dues” suggest about professional legitimacy?
 16. What does “fershlugginer” express in tone and register?
 17. What does “lodge dinners and state fairs” indicate about venues?
 18. What does “overnight success” imply as a cultural myth?
 19. What does “coming up” refer to in artistic careers?
 20. What does “circuit” mean in performance economies?
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EL PEPENADOR – Benjamin Parzybok

A) Razumevanje (1–13)

1. How does Pico react after disabling the nacker?
2. What self-image does Pico construct after the fight?
3. Why does Pico hesitate to secure the nacker?
4. What object does Pico retrieve as evidence or trophy?
5. How does Pico address Mouse while she is unconscious?
6. What emotional contradiction appears in Pico's apology?
7. How is the dump described as accumulated material history?
8. What objects exist in the layered debris?
9. What time-of-day transition is approaching and why important?
10. What concerns does Pico have about discovery?
11. How does Pico interpret his family's perception of him?
12. What hope does Pico still maintain regarding Mouse?
13. How does Pico react when trying to listen for Mouse's heartbeat?

B) Vokabular (14–20)

14. What does “nacker killer” imply about self-mythologization?
 15. What does “roto” suggest about mechanical breakdown slang?
 16. What does “sweetwine” signify in the narrative economy?
 17. What does “dirt port” suggest about informal tech environments?
 18. What does “kek” refer to in subcultural language?
 19. What does “decomposition of generations of trash” imply temporally?
 20. What does “buzzing” suggest about sensory affect?
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DAVID MARUSEK – “GETTING TO KNOW YOU”

A) Vocabulary (1–7)

1. What is “Subterranean 40” in relation to APRT?
2. What does “depot level” refer to in the tower system?
3. What is a “crush hour” in this context?
4. What does “Applied People livery” indicate about commuters?
5. What is a “pedway” in APRT infrastructure?
6. What is a “Dixon consensus lift”?
7. What does “consensual ascent acceleration” imply about elevator control systems?

B) Comprehension (8–20)

8. Why is Zoranna traveling to Subterranean 40?
9. What problem does she encounter with the elevator system initially?
10. Why are the subfloor elevators offline?
11. What does Bug confirm about available elevators?
12. Why does Zoranna enter a crowded elevator despite inconvenience?
13. What does it mean that the elevator is a “consensus elevator”?
14. Why does Zoranna become frustrated with destination reshuffling?
15. What structural limitation of the Dixon lift causes delay?
16. Why is Zoranna the only passenger traveling to subfloors?
17. What physical effect does elevator acceleration have on her?

18. Why does Zoranna try to manipulate Bug?
19. Why does Bug refuse to falsify or modify data?
20. What does Bug's restriction on questions reveal about its design limits?