

Questions 32-42. Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions.

Once a day a cheap, gaudy packet arrived upward from St. Louis, and another downward from Keokuk. Before these events, the day was glorious with expectancy; after they had transpired, the day was a dead and empty thing. Not only the boys, but the

(5) whole village, felt this. After all these years I can picture that old time to myself now, just as it was then: the white town drowsing in the sunshine of a summer's morning; the streets empty or pretty nearly so; one or two clerks sitting in front of the Water Street stores, with their splint-bottomed chairs tilted

(10) back against the wall, chins on breasts, hats slouched over their faces, asleep—with shingle-shavings enough around to show what broke them down; a sow and a litter of pigs loafing along the sidewalk, doing a good business in watermelon rinds and seeds; two or three lonely little freight piles scattered about the

(15) "levee"; a pile of "skids" on the slope of the stone-paved wharf, and the fragrant town drunkard asleep in the shadow of them; two or three wood flats at the head of the wharf but nobody to listen to the peaceful lapping of the wavelets against them; the great Mississippi, the majestic, the magnificent Mississippi, rolling its mile-wide tide along, shining in the sun; the dense forest

(20) away on the other side; the "point" above the town, and the "point" below, bounding the river-glimpse and turning it into a sort of sea, and withal a very still and brilliant and lonely one. Presently a film of dark smoke appears above one of those remote

(25) "points"; instantly a Negro drayman, famous for his quick eye and prodigious voice, lifts up the cry, "S-t-e-a-m-boat a-comin'!" and the scene changes! The town drunkard stirs, the clerks wake up, a furious clatter of drays follows, every house and store pours out a human contribution, and all in a twinkling the dead town

(30) is alive and moving. Drays, carts, men, boys, all go hurrying from many quarters to a common center, the wharf. Assembled there, the people fasten their eyes upon the coming boat as upon a wonder they are seeing for the first time. And the boat is rather a handsome sight, too. She is long and sharp and trim and pretty;

(35) she has two tall, fancy-topped chimneys, with a gilded device of some kind swung between them; a fanciful pilothouse, all glass and "gingerbread," perched on top of the "texas" deck behind them, the paddle-boxes are gorgeous with a picture or with the gilded rays above the boat's name; the boiler deck, the hurricane

(40) deck, and the texas deck are fenced and ornamented with clean white railings; there is a flag gallantly flying from the jack staff; the furnace doors are open and the fires glaring bravely; the upper decks are black with passengers; the captain stands by the big bell, calm, imposing, the envy of all; great volumes of the

(45) blackest smoke are rolling and tumbling out of the chimneys—a husbanded grandeur created with a bit of pitch pine just before arriving at a town; the crew are grouped on the forecastle: the broad stage is run far out over the port bow and an envied deck-hand stands picturesquely on the end of it with a coil of rope in

(50) his hand; the pent steam is screaming through the gauge-cocks:

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- the captain lifts his hand, a bell rings, the wheels stop; then they turn back, churning the water to foam, and the steamer is at rest. Then such a scramble as there is to get aboard and to get ashore, and to take in freight and to discharge freight, all at
- (55) once and the same time; and such a yelling and cursing as the mates facilitate it all with! Ten minutes later the steamer is under way again, with no flag on the jack-staff and no black smoke issuing from the chimneys. After ten more minutes the town is dead again, and the town drunkard asleep by the skids
- (60) once more.

—1883

32. The point of view indicated in the phrase "cheap, gaudy packet" (line 1) is that of
- (A) most of the town's early day inhabitants
 - (B) an objective narrator
 - (C) the author both as boy and as adult narrator
 - (D) the author as adult narrator
 - (E) the author as a river town boy
33. A major purpose of the statement "After all these years . . . just as it was then" (lines 5-6) is to make clear that
- (A) the narrator has photographic recall
 - (B) the passage is an exact re-creation of the past
 - (C) what follows is recollection, not fresh observation
 - (D) what follows will be objective reportorial prose
 - (E) the narrator is probably speaking ironically
34. The atmosphere established in the fourth sentence (lines 5-23) is mainly one of
- (A) picturesque tranquillity
 - (B) ironic mockery
 - (C) expectancy
 - (D) a threatened calamity
 - (E) civic disorderliness
35. Despite its length, the fourth sentence (lines 5-23) remains coherent chiefly because of its use of
- (A) parallel syntactic structure
 - (B) colloquial and idiomatic diction
 - (C) a series of prepositional phrases
 - (D) periodic sentence structure
 - (E) retrospective point of view
36. All of the following qualities are present in the scene described in lines 6-23 EXCEPT
- (A) brightness
 - (B) quiet
 - (C) indolence
 - (D) solitude
 - (E) desolation

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37. In the fourth sentence (lines 5–23), which of the following most suggests a humorous attitude on the part of the author?
- (A) “slouched” (line 10)
 - (B) “loafing” (line 12)
 - (C) “fragrant” (line 16)
 - (D) “majestic” (line 19)
 - (E) “lonely” (line 23)
38. In line 32, the use of “fasten their eyes” instead of “look” accomplishes which of the following?
- (A) It emphasizes the initial unwillingness of the observers to pay attention.
 - (B) It emphasizes the awe of the onlookers.
 - (C) As a slightly ridiculous image, it contributes a humorous tone to the description.
 - (D) It emphasizes the naïveté and silliness of the onlookers.
 - (E) It calls attention to the author’s tongue-in-cheek style.
39. In line 33, the author emphasizes “is” because he
- (A) wishes to poke fun at the townspeople’s perception
 - (B) is attempting to convince himself that the boat is handsome
 - (C) admits that this gaudy packet really has beauty
 - (D) wants to introduce a suddenly serious note
 - (E) ironically pretends to admire the packet himself
40. The packet’s use of pitch pine (line 46) suggests most strongly which of the following?
- (A) An ignorance of the effects of pollution on the river
 - (B) Carelessness in using the last of a scanty supply of fuel
 - (C) Skillful use of a natural resource
 - (D) The desire to look important and impressive to onlookers
 - (E) An inevitable desire to communicate with other people
41. The grandeur referred to in line 46 is called “husbanded” because it
- (A) has been held in reserve
 - (B) matches well with the ideals of the crew and townspeople
 - (C) is a well-kept secret
 - (D) produces a comic effect
 - (E) emphasizes the grandeur of the boat
42. All of the following antitheses may be found in the passage EXCEPT
- (A) expectancy and fulfillment
 - (B) youth and maturity
 - (C) torpor and movement
 - (D) tawdriness and grandeur
 - (E) pleasure and disappointment
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