

Name:

Date:

GED READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE

Read each passage carefully and answer the questions.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "Nature always wears the colors of the spirit." This suggests that people experience the natural world differently depending on their emotions and inner states. For some, nature is like a mirror, reflecting their feelings, whether joyful, calm, or sorrowful. When people look at the changing colors of the sky or the landscape, their mood can shape the way they see these scenes, almost as if nature itself is sharing in their emotions. Throughout history, writers, philosophers, and artists have been fascinated by this connection between human feelings and the environment, searching for ways to understand how our moods can shape the world we see around us.

Consider a gray, misty morning with low clouds hanging over the hills and a steady drizzle falling across a quiet city. One person might find this weather somber and reflective, bringing up memories of difficult times. To them, the gray sky may seem to symbolize sadness or loneliness. Another person, however, may view the same scene with a sense of comfort, seeing the rain as peaceful and refreshing, almost as if nature is offering a cozy atmosphere to enjoy. For this person, the same gray sky feels soothing, a reminder to slow down and find calm in the quiet moments.

The contrast becomes even more striking when we consider two friends walking together through an autumn forest. The first friend is feeling happy and inspired, taking in the vibrant orange leaves, the crisp air, and the beauty of the season. For them, the bright colors of fall bring joy and energy. They see each leaf as unique, each tree as a part of nature's art. For the second friend, who may be going through a tough time, the same autumn forest might feel barren and lonely. The fallen leaves and bare branches might symbolize endings rather than beginnings, and the once-vibrant colors may seem muted. This friend sees the forest not as a place of beauty but as a reminder of life's challenges and losses.

Across different cultures, people have developed stories, symbols, and beliefs around this idea that nature can reflect our emotions. In literature and art, for example, the natural world often mirrors characters' feelings. A raging storm might symbolize inner turmoil or conflict, while a gentle spring morning could reflect peace and hope. Through these portrayals, readers and viewers can experience nature in a more meaningful way, understanding how characters feel even if they're not physically present in that environment.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

2. According to the passage, why might one person feel comforted by a gray day while another person feels lonely?

3. How does the happy friend view the autumn forest?