



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2025-26)  
CLASS – XI  
BRIDGE COURSE – READING COMPREHENSION

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: -**

Jeffrey brushed quickly past an elderly woman waiting on the platform ahead of him to get onto the subway. He wanted to be sure to get a seat to read his *New Economics Journal*. As the train screeched out of the station, he lifted his head from the business news and stared at the man directly across from him.

A fierce wave – a tsunami – of **antipathy** came over him. Jeffrey knew this man, knew him all too well. They had become bitter enemies.



Their eyes locked.

As the train reached full speed, the cacophony of speeding wheels against the winding rails and of the wildly vibrating subway car filled Jeffrey's ears. To this frenetic beat, Jeffrey listed in his head all the reasons that this man, whose eyes he gravely stared into, whose image seemed to appear nearly everywhere he went, had become **anathema** to him.

*He had climbed the upper echelons of the Wall Street firm using an **imperious** manner with his subordinates: issuing directives; ordaining idiosyncratic decrees; generally making certain everyone knew he was the boss.*

*Despite his impoverished upbringing, he had become **ostentatious**. Flush with cash from the lucrative deals he made on Wall Street, he had purchased a yacht and a home in Versailles. He used neither. But, oh, how he liked to say he had them. Meanwhile—Jeffrey knew—this man's father was on the verge of being evicted from his decrepit tenement apartment in the South Bronx.*

*What bothered Jeffrey most about this man was that he never even attempted to make amends for his evil ways.*

*Could this man change? Jeffrey did not know. But maybe, just maybe, he could try.*

The train screeched to Jeffrey's stop at Battery Park. He gave the man one last hard look. "See you around," he mumbled to himself. And he knew he would—the wrinkled brow, that part of graying hair, those cold metallic eyes in a subway window reflection—were his own.

It would take years of hard work and self-contemplation, but Jeffrey would once again encounter this man on the train, and marvel at what a kinder person he had become.

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1) Which best describes Jeffrey's attitude in this passage?

- A. anxious
- B. studied
- C. unfortunate
- D. self-aware
- E. self-pitying

2) A fierce wave – a tsunami – of antipathy *came* over him.

Given the imagery in this sentence, which word would be the best substitute for *came*?

- A. angled
- B. drizzled
- C. rained
- D. washed
- E. trampled

3) As used in paragraph 2, which word is the best antonym for **antipathy**?

- A. ambivalence
- B. desperation
- C. admiration
- D. infatuation
- E. happiness

4) Using the story as a guide, it can be inferred that

- A. Jeffrey has few friends
- B. Jeffrey likes to be the boss
- C. Jeffrey has had a difficult life
- D. Jeffrey is capable of change
- E. Jeffrey rides the subway frequently

5) "*As the train reached full speed, the cacophony of speeding wheels against the winding rails and of the wildly vibrating train filled Jeffrey's ears.*"

Which literary technique is used in the above sentence (from paragraph 4)?

- A. metaphor, a direct comparison between two things which does not use *like* or *as*
- B. analogy, an extended comparison showing the similarities between two things
- C. imagery, characterized by appealing to a sense or combination of senses
- D. irony, characterized by a contrast or incongruity between what is stated and what is meant
- E. personification, characterized by something being described as if it had human qualities

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6) Which of the following best describes the main conflict in this passage?

- A. man versus man
- B. man versus himself
- C. man versus society
- D. man versus machine
- E. man versus nature

7) As used in paragraph 4, **anathema** is best defined as a(n):

- A. curse
- B. vision
- C. embarrassment
- D. antagonist
- E. problem

8) As used in paragraph 5, to have an **imperious** manner means to be:

- A. ignorant
- B. stoic
- C. simpering
- D. unaffected
- E. domineering

9) As used in paragraph 6, which is the best synonym for **ostentatious**?

- A. assiduous
- B. extravagant
- C. modest
- D. miserly
- E. refined

10) What is made clear by the end of story?

- I. The man that Jeffery dislikes is himself.
- II. Jeffery was eventually able to become a better person.
- III. Jeffery's father lives in the South Bronx.

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. I and II
- D. II and III
- E. I, II, and III