

Question 4

Adapted from "Ramblings in Cheapside" by Samuel Butler (1890)

Walking the other day in Cheapside I saw some turtles in Mr. Sweeting's window, and was tempted to stay and look at them. As I did so I was struck not more by the defenses with which they were hedged about, than by the fatuousness of trying to hedge that in at all which, if hedged thoroughly, must die of its own defensefulness. The holes for the head and feet through which the turtle leaks out, as it were, on to the exterior world, and through which it again absorbs the exterior world into itself—"catching on" through them to things that are thus both turtle and not turtle at one and the same time—these holes stultify the armor, and show it to have been designed by a creature with more of faithfulness to a fixed idea, and hence one-sidedness, than of that quick sense of relative importance and their changes, which is the main factor of good living.

The turtle obviously had no sense of proportion; it differed so widely from myself that I could not comprehend it; and as this word occurred to me, it occurred also that until my body comprehended its body in a physical material sense, neither would my mind be able to comprehend its mind with any thoroughness. For unity of mind can only be consummated by unity of body; everything, therefore, must be in some respects both knave and fool to all that which has not eaten it, or by which it has not been eaten. As long as the turtle was in the window and I in the street outside, there was no chance of our comprehending one another.

1. The author's primary purpose in discussing a turtle in a shop window is to _____.

select mock shopkeepers in Cheapside

select demonstrate the inability of a human to truly understand another creature

select demonstrate the superiority of humanity

select convince the reader to buy a turtle as a pet

select mock a turtle's existence as an odd creature

2. The narrator's attitude toward turtles can be best summarized as _____.

select cynical about a turtle's ability to live without humans

select petulant and immature

select jovial about their odd quirks and habits

select full of wonder and intrigue

select looking down on a turtle's existence

3. What can be known from the passage about Cheapside?

Many turtles live there.

It is a disreputable place, where no one ever goes.

It has a commercial section with various stores.

Only pet stores exist there.

The stores are markedly inexpensive.

4. The passage assumes all EXCEPT which of the following?

The reader has looked through a store window before.

The reader understands how a turtle can hide in its shell.

None of the other answers.

The reader has never encountered a turtle.

The reader has an understanding of how stores operate.

5. "Fatuousness," as used in the second sentence, in context means _____.

sharpness and cleverness

excessiveness and extraneousness

solidity and perfection

uselessness and inanity

utility and purposefulness

6. The author's main argument in the passage is _____.

that a shop window is a useless diversion

that humans are superior to all other animals on Earth

that humans should treat other animals better

that a human and a turtle are so different that they cannot understand each other

that a shop window can hold any number of unusual creatures

7. The author's use of a turtle is _____.

as a scientific inquiry about the anatomy of turtles

necessary to his overall point, since no other animal could serve the same purpose in the passage

metaphorical and not dependent on the actual features of turtles

to demonstrate the difference between humans and other creatures

to mock and criticize turtles