

PTE Reading Practice Test 31

Below is a text with blanks. Select the appropriate answer choice for each blank.

C. S. Lewis, or Jack Lewis, as he preferred to be called, was born in Belfast, Ireland (now Northern Ireland) on November 29, 1898. He was the second son of Albert Lewis, a lawyer, and Flora Hamilton Lewis. His older brother, Warren Hamilton Lewis, who was known as Warnie, had been born three years **(Select- ago/earlier/previously/subsequently)** in 1895.

Lewis's early childhood was relatively happy and carefree. In those days Northern Ireland was not yet **(Select- plagued/bothered/pestered/doubted)** by bitter civil strife, and the Lewises were comfortably off. The family home, called Little Lea, was a large, gabled house with dark, narrow passages and an overgrown garden, which Warnie and Jack played in and

(Select-watched/instigated/explored/inspired) together. There was also a library that was crammed with books - two of Jack's favorites were *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson and *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

This somewhat idyllic boyhood came to an end for Lewis when his mother became ill and died of cancer in 1908. Barely a month after her death the two boys were sent away from home to go to boarding school in England. Lewis hated the school, with its strict rules and hard,

(Select-unsympathetic/careless/desensitized/deliberative) headmaster, and he missed Belfast terribly. Fortunately for him, the school closed in 1910, and he was able to return to Ireland.

After a year, however, he was sent back to England to study. This time, the **(Select- essence/understanding/suffering/experience)** proved to be mostly positive. As a teenager, Lewis learned to love poetry, especially the works of Virgil and Homer. He also developed an interest in modern languages, mastering French, German, and Italian.