

#### 4. *The Moon by Night* by Madeleine L'Engle (Excerpt)

**A** <sup>1</sup>It was a most peculiar feeling. <sup>2</sup>The solid ground under my feet gave a shudder. <sup>3</sup>I stood still. <sup>4</sup>It kept on feeling as though the ground were shivering. <sup>5</sup>Then suddenly there was a jerk under me. <sup>6</sup>It was something like when you go water skiing and someone cuts the motor and then suddenly speeds up again, trying to throw you.

**B** <sup>7</sup>The next jerk did throw me. <sup>8</sup>It was a much bigger jerk, and I fell flat on my face in the soft grass of the field. <sup>9</sup>Underneath me the ground seemed to heave the way your stomach does when you're terribly, terribly sick. <sup>10</sup>I clung to the grass because there wasn't anything else to cling to. <sup>11</sup>It was as though the whole earth, the whole planet, were jerking out in space, veering wildly out of course, and I was on its back clinging to its mane.

**C** <sup>12</sup>Behind me there was terrible noise. <sup>13</sup>It was louder than thunder and it seemed to keep on and on until I thought my head would burst. <sup>14</sup>Then the noise began to break into separate parts, a sound like thunder, a roar like the ocean in a storm, great crackings, crunchings, and finally all the noises got smaller and with spaces of quiet in between, and then they stopped. <sup>15</sup>The silence was so complete that it was as frightening as the noise had been. <sup>16</sup>I managed to turn my head, and the top of the mountain wasn't there any more. <sup>17</sup>It didn't seem to be anywhere.

**D** <sup>18</sup>Then I remembered the town of Frank in Alberta, the mountain that had fallen on the town. <sup>19</sup>I pressed my face into



the grass of the field, and, as the earth heaved beneath me, I thought I was going to throw up, too, from terror. <sup>20</sup>But I didn't.

**E** <sup>21</sup>I looked around again. <sup>22</sup>The top of the mountain was still gone. <sup>23</sup>Everything looked different. <sup>24</sup>I realized that most of the mountain had fallen into the field, because the mountain was much closer to me and the field was much narrower than it had been before.

**F** <sup>25</sup>I lay there, clutching the grass, not daring or even able to move, even if the rest of the mountain should fall on me. <sup>26</sup>But after a while I realized that the tremors were less violent, that the earth was becoming quiet again. <sup>27</sup>I staggered to my feet. <sup>28</sup>The ground seemed quite solid beneath them. <sup>29</sup>I looked for Zachary. <sup>30</sup>The pile of rock was still there, but it was a different shaped pile. <sup>31</sup>I didn't see Zachary.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose or write the best answer to each of the following questions using the evidence provided in the passage. When required, list specific sentence numbers or paragraph letters from the story to support your answer.

1. What probably caused the shivering mentioned in paragraph A?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Based on paragraph F, where is Zachary most likely to be found?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Fill in the following blanks to describe the metaphor used in sentence 11.

<b>Metaphor</b>	<b>Represents</b>
_____	: <u>the planet</u>
<u>The mane</u>	: _____

3. Explain what two things are being compared in the analogy given in sentence 6.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The narrative form of the passage could best be classified as

- A. humorous.
- B. tragic.
- C. suspenseful.
- D. fantastic.

5. In paragraph E, the words “the mountain was much closer to me” mean that

- A. she had moved towards the mountain.
- B. the mountain had literally moved towards her.
- C. she was speaking figuratively.
- D. the field had risen into a mountain.

Give the numbers of the 2 sentences that best support your answer. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which of the following most likely describes the narrator’s point of view?

- A. The earth is a monster she must tame.
- B. The earth is a partner; she is at ease with it.
- C. She is vulnerable to the earth’s terrifying forces.
- D. She is not affected by the natural forces of the earth.

8. Number the following events in the order of the narrator’s experience.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Looked for Zachary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Heard loud noises.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Felt like vomiting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clung to the grass.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Saw the mountain was closer.

9. How does the narrator compare herself to the earth in paragraph D?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Cause/effect

**An earthquake probably caused the shivering.**

Sentence 4 mentions the ground shivering, 9 says the ground heaves, and 26 mentions tremors, which are associated with earthquakes.

(Also acceptable: **a landslide**)

2. Figurative language

<b>Metaphor</b>	<b>Represents</b>
<b><u>A horse</u></b>	the planet
The mane	<b><u>the grass</u></b>

3. Literary device: analogy

**The jerk the narrator felt is compared to the feeling you get when you are water-skiing and the boat slows or stops then speeds up again.**

4. Literary form  
**C. suspenseful.**

The events described create tension and make us wonder if things will come out all right, so choice C is appropriate. We don't know that anything tragic has happened, so B is incorrect. Nothing is humorous, so choice A is incorrect. Though the events described are not typical, they could really occur and are therefore not considered fantasy.

5. Conclusion, inference

**B. the mountain had literally moved towards her.**

The mountain's being much closer made her realize that most of the mountain had fallen into the field (sentence 24).

Also, according to sentence 22, the top was gone.

6. Predict outcome

**under the rock pile**

2 best evidence sentences: **30, 31**

<sup>30</sup>The pile of rock was still there, but it was a different shaped pile.

<sup>31</sup>I didn't see Zachary.

7. Point of view

**C. She is vulnerable to the earth's terrifying forces.**

The description of the ground moving under her and her feelings of sickness (paragraphs A, B), her feeling like she was riding something veering out of course (sentence 11), and the fact that she felt terror (sentence 19) support choice C and contradict choices B and D. There is no evidence that she feels she should tame the earth, so A is incorrect.

8. Sequence events

**5** Looked for Zachary. (29)  
**2** Heard loud noises. (12)  
**3** Felt like vomiting. (19)  
**1** Clung to the grass. (10)  
**4** Saw the mountain was closer. (24)

9. Compare/contrast

**The earth heaves, and she also feels like heaving (throwing up).**