

**I -COMPRÉHENSION -EXPRESSION**

1. a) What sort of narrative is this?

It's a first-person narrative. The scene is seen through the eyes of the narrator. (14 words)

b) Find information about the narrator (gender, skin colour, origin). Justify your answer with elements from the text.

The narrator is a woman ("I (...) put on a dress" l. 27), with a brown or black complexion ("my skin was the color brown" l. 31) who probably comes from a poor country located in a tropical zone ("my house did not have a refrigerator" l. 17). (23 words)

2. Explain in what kind of place the narrator arrives at the very beginning of the passage. Quote the text.

At the very beginning of the passage, the narrator arrives in a big city, which may be the capital city of her country or another, richer country. "a famous building, an important street, a park, a bridge" (ll. 4-5) (27 words)

3. Say whether the following elements belong to:

the past	the night before	the morning
a day-dream I used to have	on the way in from the airport	I got up and put on a dress
my house did not have a refrigerator in it	now that I saw these places	the sun was shining but the air was cold
setting out for a day in the country	I slept soundly	

4. a) How did the narrator feel back home? Quote two elements from the text to justify your answer.

She felt bored, quite unhappy and like in a dead-end at home, which is probably why she decided to leave. ("lifeboats to my small drowning soul" l. 6) ; ("my past—so familiar and predictable that even my unhappiness then made me happy now" ll 35-36) (20 words)

b) How did the narrator use to cope with those feelings? Quote the text to support your answer. (20 words)

She coped with those feelings by day-dreaming about the wonderful places, far away from home, she might eventually go to. (20 words)

5. a) List the things that are new to the narrator in the second paragraph.

The things that are new to the narrator are using an elevator, living in an apartment instead of a house, eating fresh or cold food and enjoying comfort. (28 words)

b) Explain the narrator's first reaction to what is new. (40 words)

This is so new that she feels awkward, "unhappy and uncomfortable" in her own words, experiencing them. She even can't help grinning, maybe sensing it would not last forever and that she maybe shouldn't get used to it too much. (40 words)

6. l. 28 *"It was all wrong."*

a) What does the pronoun "it" refer to?

The pronoun "it" refers to "wearing a gay dress made of madras."

b) Explain the sentence. (20 words)

The narrator chose a dress that was inappropriate for the climate and mood of the place she now lived in. (20 words)

c) Why is this episode a revelation for the narrator? (30 words)

She realized she was no longer in her hometown but in a place where things were radically different and that there would be her life "before" and "after" that day. (30 words)

7. l. 6 *"all these places were lifeboats to my small drowning soul"*

l. 37 *"an overcast seascape on which rain was falling and no boats were in sight "*

Comment on the two images of boats. (50 words)

In the past, when she was still at home, her day-dreams of a better future elsewhere prevented her soul from drowning like a lifeboat is supposed to prevent passengers from dying on a sinking ship. Later, when the dream has come true, the lifeboats are missing. She won't be saved. (50 words)

8. How does the narrator feel about the past and the future at the end of the text? Give quotations from the text to justify your answer. (60 words)

Of course, the narrator was unhappy at home and was longing to leave her dull hometown. But as soon as she has settled in the country of her dreams she started cherishing even the unhappiest aspects of her past. The future seems so grim, unpredictable and devoid of heat, that she finds herself to be full of regrets for her past life. (62 words)

## II -TRADUCTION

**Translate from "I got into an elevator ..." l. 15 to "... anything else" l. 22**

J'utilisai un ascenseur, quelque chose que je n'avais jamais fait auparavant, et puis je me retrouvai dans un appartement, assise à une table en train de manger de la nourriture sortie du réfrigérateur.

A l'endroit d'où je venais d'arriver, j'avais toujours habité dans une maison, et dans ma maison, il n'y avait pas de réfrigérateur.

Tout ce que je faisais pour la première fois (faire un tour en ascenseur, me retrouver dans un appartement, manger de la nourriture achetée le jour même qui avait été rangée dans un réfrigérateur) était une idée tellement bonne que j'imaginai / que je pouvais imaginer que je m'y habituerais et que j'aimerais beaucoup cela, mais au début c'était si neuf que je devais sourire (tout) en grimaçant.

Je dormis à poings fermés cette nuit-là, mais ce ne fut pas parce que j'étais heureuse ou à l'aise. Plutôt le contraire, c'était parce que je ne voulais pas en supporter plus.