Practice Text

Original practice text written for this lesson. NBE3U, Independent Study and Final, Lesson 5

Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions First

I had eleven questions on an index card, numbered, and my phone propped against a mug to record. The guest was Mr. Albrecht, a retired surveyor who had mapped half the township in the seventies. My history teacher said he would talk for hours if we let him.

He answered my first question in four minutes and my second in two. By the third, I noticed I wasn't listening to him at all. I was listening for the end of his sentences so I could read the next card.

At question six he stopped and asked me one. “Do you know why the road out by the quarry bends like that?”

I didn't. It wasn't on the card.

“Because the creek used to,” he said. “Before they straightened it. The road remembers the creek. Nobody else does.”

I put the card face down on the table. We talked for another hour. I asked maybe two of my questions. When I played the recording that night, the best part was a silence, nine seconds long, after he said the creek had a name long before it had ours, that he had never learned it, and that he was sorry about that now.

I wrote that down. Under it I wrote: Find out who would know. Ask them first.

Original text written for this course. The narrator, Mr. Albrecht and the township are fictional.

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Questions

Use the five-step routine. NBE3U, Independent Study and Final, Lesson 5

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1. Who is the narrator, and what is the situation? What point of view is used?

2. How does the index card show a change in the narrator? Quote.

3. What does “The road remembers the creek” suggest? Explain.

4. Why might the narrator call the silence “the best part” of the recording?

5. What might the final line suggest the narrator will do next? Explain with evidence.

6. Use context to explain the meaning of “surveyor.”

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