

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

At 8 o'clock a young man with a haggard look and the feverish gleam of unrest in his eye dropped a penny and picked up the top paper as he passed Giuseppe's stand. A sleepless night had left him a late riser. There was an office to be reached by nine, and a shave and a hasty cup of coffee to be crowded into the interval.

He visited his barber shop and then hurried on his way. He pocketed his paper, meditating a belated perusal of it at the luncheon hour. At the next corner it fell from his pocket, carrying with it his pair of new gloves. Three blocks he walked, missed the gloves and turned back fuming.

Just on the half-hour he reached the corner where lay the gloves and the paper. But he strangely ignored that which he had come to seek. He was holding two little hands as tightly as ever he could and looking into two penitent brown eyes, while joy rioted in his heart.

"Dear Jack," she said, "I knew you would be here on time."

"I wonder what she means by that," he was saying to himself; "but it's all right, it's all right."

A big wind puffed out of the west, picked up the paper from the sidewalk, opened it out and sent it flying and whirling down a side street. Up that street was driving a skittish bay to a spider-wheel buggy, the young man who had written to the heart-to-heart editor for a recipe that he might win her for whom he sighed.

The wind, with a prankish flurry, flapped the flying newspaper against the face of the skittish bay. There was a lengthened streak of bay mingled with the red of running gear that stretched itself out for four blocks. Then a water-hydrant played its part in the cosmogony, the buggy became matchwood as foreordained, and the driver rested very quietly where he had been flung on the asphalt in front of a certain brownstone mansion.

They came out and had him inside very promptly. And there was one who made herself a pillow for his head, and cared for no curious eyes, bending over and saying, "Oh, it was you; it was you all the time, Bobby! Couldn't you see it? And if you die, why, so must I, and --"

But in all this wind we must hurry to keep in touch with our paper.

A NEWSPAPER STORY. <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/1595/pg1595.txt>

(i) For each word given below, choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]

1. Haggard

- (a) Lively
- (b) Handsome
- (c) Tired and worn-out
- (d) Furious

2. Prankish

- (a) Playful in a mischievous way
- (b) Confused and clumsy
- (c) Frightened
- (d) Dull or listless

(ii) Which word in the passage is closest in meaning to the opposite of the word "careless"? [1]

- (a) Fuming
- (b) Promptly

(c) Perusal

(d) Recipe

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words: [2 × 4 = 8]

1. Why did the young man turn back after walking three blocks?
 2. What made him forget about the gloves and the paper when he returned?
 3. Describe the sequence of events that led to the buggy accident.
 4. What does the ending suggest about the identity of the woman who cared for the injured driver?
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(iv) In not more than 50 words, narrate the events from the moment the man dropped his newspaper till the woman found the injured driver. [8]

(i) Vocabulary Questions [2]

1. Haggard – (c) Tired and worn-out
 2. Prankish – (a) Playful in a mischievous way
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(ii) Antonym-Type Question [1]

3. The word closest in meaning to the opposite of *careless* is:
(b) Promptly

Explanation: "Promptly" implies being quick, alert, or responsible in action—opposite to being careless.

(iii) Short Answer Questions [8]

1. Why did the young man turn back after walking three blocks?

He turned back because he realized he had dropped his gloves and the newspaper, which had fallen out of his pocket at the corner.

2. What made him forget about the gloves and the paper when he returned?

He encountered a woman who lovingly addressed him and held his hands. Her presence and affectionate words overwhelmed him, making him forget his original purpose.

3. Describe the sequence of events that led to the buggy accident.

A gust of wind lifted the newspaper and flapped it against the face of the skittish horse. Startled, the horse bolted, and the buggy crashed into a hydrant, throwing the driver onto the street.

4. What does the ending suggest about the identity of the woman who cared for the injured driver?

It suggests she was the woman he had long loved. Her words indicate she had feelings for him all along and that they had misunderstood each other until this moment of tragedy revealed the truth.

(iv) 50-Word Narrative Summary [8]

The man dropped his gloves and newspaper unknowingly. On returning, he met a woman who joyfully greeted him, distracting him from the lost items. Meanwhile, the paper flew into the face of a horse, causing a crash. The injured driver was brought inside and lovingly recognized by the woman he loved.