

Passages and Questions: English A

The K12 curriculum will teach your student to analyze literature and perform close readings of passages of text. He will learn to answer questions similar to the ones below, and he will be expected to write extended essay responses that reflect his knowledge. You can use this in your consideration of placement.

Mathilde suffered ceaselessly, feeling herself born to enjoy all delicacies and all luxuries. She was distressed at the poverty of her dwelling, at the bareness of the walls, at the shabby chairs, the ugliness of the curtains. All those things, which another woman of her rank would never even have noticed, tortured her and made her angry. The sight of the little Breton peasant who did her humble housework aroused in her despairing regrets and bewildering dreams. She thought of silent antechambers hung with Oriental tapestry, illumined by tall bronze candelabra, with two great footmen in knee breeches asleep in the big armchairs, made drowsy by the oppressive heat of the stove. She thought of long reception halls hung with ancient silk, of the dainty cabinets containing priceless curiosities, and of the little coquettish perfumed reception rooms made for chatting at five o'clock with intimate friends, with men famous and sought after, whom all women envy and whose attention they all desire.

How would you describe the setting of this story? When and where do you think it takes place?

Describe the images the author creates in the passage. What sort of mood do they suggest?



Based upon the above passage, what inferences can you make about Mathilde's character? Use textual evidence to support your opinion.

