

Read *The prize* and answer questions 7 to 13.

The prize

She said nothing of her plan at home but fell to work next day, much to the disquiet of her mother, who always looked a little anxious when 'genius took to burning'. Jo had never tried this style before, contenting herself with very mild romances for the *Spread Eagle*. Her theatrical experience and miscellaneous reading were of service now, for they gave her some idea of dramatic effect and supplied plot, language and costumes. Her story was as full of desperation and despair as her limited acquaintance with those uncomfortable emotions enabled her to make it and, having located it in Lisbon, she wound up with an earthquake as a striking and appropriate denouement. The manuscript was privately dispatched, accompanied by a note modestly saying that if the tale didn't get the prize, which the writer hardly dared expect, she would be very glad to receive any sum it might be considered worth.

Six weeks is a long time to wait, and a still longer time for a girl to keep a secret; but Jo did both and was just beginning to give up all hope of ever seeing her manuscript again when a letter arrived which almost took her breath away; for on opening it, a cheque

for a hundred dollars fell into her lap. For a minute she stared at it as if it had been a snake, then she read her letter and began to cry. If the amiable gentleman who wrote that kindly note could have known what intense happiness he was giving a fellow creature, I think he would devote his leisure hours, if he had any, to that amusement; for Jo valued the letter more than the money because it was encouraging, and after years of effort it was so pleasant to find that she had learned to do something, though it was only to write a sensation story.

A prouder young woman was seldom seen than she, when, having composed herself, she electrified the family by appearing before them with the letter in one hand, the cheque in the other, announcing that she had won the prize. Of course there was a great jubilee, and when the story came everyone read and praised it; though after her father had told her that the language was good, the romance fresh and hearty, and the tragedy quite thrilling, he shook his head and said in his unworldly way: 'You can do better than this, Jo. Aim at the highest and never mind the money.'

Miss Josephine Ma
Concord, Massachus
United States

No 233

COUNTY BANK

Pay One hundred dollars

\$ 100

7. In what way was Jo's new story different from the ones she had been writing for the *Spread Eagle*?
- (A) Her new story was of the romance genre.
(B) Her new story was written in the form of a play.
(C) The setting of her new story was a figment of her imagination.
(D) The emotions described in her new story were more intense and dramatic.
8. Which is **NOT** a possible reason for the words 'genius took to burning' being written in quotation marks?
- (A) They are words that are commonly used within the family.
(B) They are a quote from a book which the family uses to describe Jo.
(C) They are an expression coined by Jo's mother and always used by her.
(D) They are words used by Jo to describe herself in the note she sent with the manuscript.
9. Which word from the second paragraph is an adverb?
- (A) 'ever'
(B) 'which'
(C) 'kindly'
(D) 'though'
10. Jo's initial reaction when she received the letter was one of
- (A) happy delight.
(B) boastful pride.
(C) shocked surprise.
(D) uncontrollable excitement.
11. What did the narrator admire most about the gentleman who had sent the letter?
- (A) that he enjoyed making others happy
(B) that he had paid Jo the money straightaway
(C) that he had made the effort to write a supportive note
(D) that he knew Jo had worked on the story for many years
12. What was Jo's father's reaction to Jo winning the prize?
- (A) He encouraged her to develop her talent not just for its material benefits.
(B) Although he liked the story, he disapproved of her entering it in a competition.
(C) He was the only member of the family who thought her story was slow-moving.
(D) Knowing she had won the prize, he had unrealistically high expectations of her ability.
13. The narrator's attitude to the characters is
- (A) indifferent. (B) naive. (C) respectful. (D) affectionate.