

**Select Readings, Second Edition**  
**Intermediate, Chapter 7 Test**

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

**A Special Place**  
by Michael Hainsbury

I grew up in a small farming town in the American Midwest. It was the 1970s, and my family lived in an old three-story house on an acre or so of land on a quiet, tree-lined street. It was one of those small towns where everyone knew each other, and people seldom even bothered to lock their doors.

There was nothing special about my childhood. It was the childhood of thousands of other kids, growing up in a small town in the rural U.S. My friends and I ran barefoot all summer long. We swam in the creeks and ponds, and played hide-and-seek in the woods. It was a safe, simple, and peaceful way to grow up.

In my teens, I started to realize that there was a whole world outside of our little town. The more I learned about that world, the more I craved to leave, to go out on my own, explore, and create my own story. After graduating from university, I did just that. I packed my bags, traveled halfway around the world, and never looked back.

I have lived in Tokyo, Japan, for over twenty years now. For the most part, it has been an amazing adventure, and I am thrilled every day to wake up and know that I am a part of one of the world's biggest and most exciting cities.

Over the years, I have only returned to Ohio a few times for weddings, funerals, or the occasional side trip when I happen to be in another part of the U.S. for business or some other reason. It is always wonderful to catch up with family and old friends, to eat my mother's cooking, and fill my lungs with the fresh air of the countryside.

I returned to my hometown this past summer. The trip was only ten days long, and besides visiting family and friends, it was pretty uneventful as usual. But as I looked around the place where I had grown up, I realized something. Even though I have traveled thousands of miles over the years, even though I now spend my days using a language my family cannot understand, and even though I now call a place on the other side of the planet 'home,' there will always be a part of that quiet, little Ohio town in me. Somehow, just knowing that feels really great.

1. Which of the following is not true about the writer's childhood?
  - A. He grew up in the 1970s.
  - B. He grew up in an old house on an acre of land.
  - C. He grew up on a quiet, tree-lined street.
  - D. He grew up in a large, Midwestern American town.
2. What can we infer about the phrase "people seldom even bothered to lock their doors" in paragraph 1?
  - A. The town had a lot of crime.
  - B. The town was very safe.
  - C. No one went out at night in the town.
  - D. People didn't have locks on their doors.
3. Which of the following is not mentioned as a favorite childhood activity of the writer?

- A. Playing hide-and-seek
  - B. Running barefoot
  - C. Swimming in creeks and ponds
  - D. Playing with thousands of other children
4. When did the writer start to think about leaving his hometown?
- A. After university
  - B. When he was a teenager
  - C. When he was out on his own
  - D. When he was halfway around the world
5. In paragraph 3, “craved” is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. imagined
  - B. considered
  - C. desired
  - D. excited
6. In paragraph 4, we can infer that the writer \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. feels he made a great decision to leave when he did
  - B. wishes he had chosen somewhere closer to his hometown
  - C. regrets his decision, but has learned to live with it
  - D. was unsure at first if he would like living abroad
7. Which of the following does the writer use to describe living in Tokyo?
- A. Wonderful
  - B. Quiet and uneventful
  - C. An amazing adventure
  - D. Really great
8. Which of the following does the writer not mention doing when in Ohio?
- A. Doing business
  - B. Visiting family and friends
  - C. Enjoying fresh air
  - D. Eating his mother’s cooking
9. What did the writer say he realized during his last trip to his hometown?
- A. He no longer speaks the same language as his family.
  - B. He calls Tokyo his ‘home,’ even though he wasn’t born there.
  - C. Life in Ohio is pretty uneventful, despite his long time away.
  - D. Even though he no longer lives there, he still feels a connection with Ohio.
10. What is the overall tone of the reading?
- A. Personal and narrative
  - B. Serious and informative
  - C. Funny and entertaining
  - D. Sad and depressing