

"The Rent Man"

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

Someone is knocking on Amanda's door.

Amanda is home, but she does not answer.

It is the **landlord** who owns the house where she lives.
His name is Mr. Campbell. Amanda calls him the Rent Man.

He has come by to get the rent money from his tenant.

Amanda does not have the money to pay him.

Amanda lost her job at the auto factory three weeks ago.

"I worked there for 15 years," Amanda thinks to herself. She is **bitter**. "But it took them just one day to take my job away."

Amanda has no idea when she will find another job. Lots of other people from her factory lost their jobs three weeks ago too.

She looks for work every day.

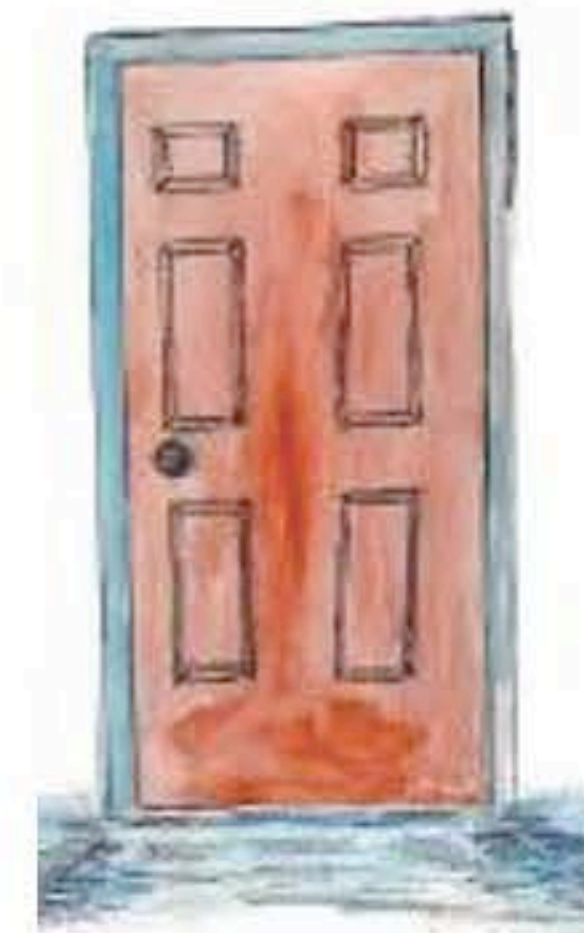
She looks for work at a restaurant. "You have never worked at a restaurant," the owner tells her. "This job is not for you."

She looks for work at the bookstore. "We don't have any jobs right now," the clerk tells Amanda.

She looks for work at the grocery store. "I will call you to let you know," the manager says.

Amanda is worried. She is running out of money quickly.

There is another loud knock at the door. Amanda sits quietly in her kitchen. She hopes the Rent Man will go away soon.



Questions:

- 1) Who is knocking at Amanda's door? 2) What does Mr. Campbell want?

A. the restaurant owner
B. the clerk
C. Mr. Campbell
D. the manager

A. a book
B. a car
C. a job
D. money

- 3) Why doesn't Amanda answer the door?

A. She is sick.
B. She is not home.
C. She has no money.
D. She doesn't hear it.

- 4) When did Amanda lose her job?

A. _____

- 5) If Amanda is **bitter**, how does she feel?

A. hateful and angry
B. happy and sure
C. hungry and tired
D. quiet and alone

- 6) What seems to be the reason Amanda lost her job at the factory?

A. She was bitter.
B. She was a bad worker.
C. She had worked there too long.
D. Business was slow.

- 7) Where does Amanda look for a new job?

▼ Check all that are correct.

A. ☐ a restaurant
B. ☐ another factory
C. ☐ a bookstore
D. ☐ a grocery store

- 8) Which job might Amanda get?

A. none of them
B. the restaurant job
C. the bookstore job
D. the grocery store job

Questions (continued):

9) Where is Amanda?

A. _____

10) What helpful thing could Amanda have said if she had opened the door?

- A. She could have told Mr. Campbell that she lost her job.
- B. She could have told Mr. Campbell to go away.
- C. She could have told Mr. Campbell to stop knocking.
- D. She could have told Mr. Campbell she was bitter.

11) What might Mr. Campbell do next? 12) Why does Amanda sit quietly?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. ☐ knock the door down
- B. ☐ come back another day
- C. ☐ offer Amanda a job
- D. ☐ call Amanda on the phone

- A. so she can think
- B. so she can hear the door
- C. so Mr. Campbell will not know she is home
- D. because Mr. Campbell told her to

Is Mr. Campbell a bad man? Why or why not?
