

Stimulus Text: Below is a story by Ambrose Bierce published in 1913. As you read the story, consider how and when the author reveals information and then answer the question that follows.

A COLD GREETING  
by Ambrose Bierce

This is a story told by the late Benson Foley of San Francisco:

In the summer of 1881 I met a man named James H. Conway, a resident of Franklin, Tennessee. He was visiting San Francisco for his health, deluded man, and brought me a note of introduction from Mr. Lawrence Barting. I had known Barting as a captain in the Federal army during the civil war. At its close he had settled in Franklin, and in time became, I had reason to think, somewhat prominent as a lawyer. Barting had always seemed to me an honorable and truthful man, and the warm friendship which he expressed in his note for Mr. Conway was to me sufficient evidence that the latter was in every way worthy of my confidence and esteem. At dinner one day Conway told me that it had been solemnly agreed between him and Barting that the one who died first should, if possible, communicate with the other from beyond the grave, in some unmistakable way—just how, they had left (wisely, it seemed to me) to be decided by the deceased, according to the opportunities that his altered circumstances might present.

A few weeks after the conversation in which Mr. Conway spoke of this agreement, I met him one day, walking slowly down Montgomery Street, apparently, from his abstracted air, in deep thought. He greeted me coldly with merely a movement of the head and passed on, leaving me standing on the walk, with half-proffered hand, surprised and naturally somewhat piqued. The next day I met him again in the office of the Palace Hotel, and seeing him about to repeat the disagreeable performance of the day before, intercepted him in a doorway, with a friendly salutation, and bluntly requested an explanation of his altered manner. He hesitated a moment; then, looking me frankly in the eyes, said: "I do not think, Mr. Foley, that I have any longer a claim to your friendship, since Mr. Barting appears to have withdrawn his own from me - for what reason, I protest I do not know. If he has not already informed you he probably will do so." "But," I replied, "I have not heard from Mr. Barting." "Heard from him!" he repeated, with apparent surprise. "Why, he is here. I met him yesterday ten minutes before meeting you. I gave you exactly the same greeting that he gave me. I met him again not a quarter of an hour ago, and his manner was precisely the same: he merely bowed and passed on. I shall not soon forget your civility to me. Good morning, or—as it may please you—farewell." All this seemed to me singularly considerate and delicate behavior on the part of Mr. Conway.

As dramatic situations and literary effects are foreign to my purpose I will explain at once that Mr. Barting was dead. He had died in Nashville four days before this conversation. Calling on Mr. Conway, I apprised him of our friend's death, showing him the letters announcing it. He was visibly affected in a way that forbade me to entertain a doubt of his sincerity. "It seems incredible," he said, after a period of reflection. "I suppose I must have mistaken another man for Barting, and that man's cold greeting was merely a stranger's civil acknowledgment of my own. I remember, indeed, that he lacked Barting's mustache." "Doubtless it was another man," I assented; and the subject was never afterward mentioned between us. But I had in my pocket a photograph of Barting, which had been enclosed in the letter from his widow. It had been taken a week before his death, and was without a mustache.

Item Prompt: In the final paragraph, the author writes, "It had been taken a week before his death." Explain the irony in this statement and how it relates to the events in the story. Use details from the story to support your response.

Stimulus Text: Read the following passage then answer the question.

Mending Wall  
by Robert Frost

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,  
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;  
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.  
The work of hunters is another thing:  
I have come after them and made repair  
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,  
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,  
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,  
No one has seen them made or heard them made,  
But at spring mending-time we find them there.  
I let my neighbour know beyond the hill;  
And on a day we meet to walk the line  
And set the wall between us once again.  
We keep the wall between us as we go.  
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.  
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls  
We have to use a spell to make them balance:  
"Stay where you are until our backs are turned!"  
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.  
Oh, just another kind of out-door game,  
One on a side. It comes to little more:  
There where it is we do not need the wall:  
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.  
My apple trees will never get across  
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.  
He only says, "Good fences make good neighbours."  
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder  
If I could put a notion in his head:  
"Why do they make good neighbours? Isn't it  
Where there are cows?"  
But here there are no cows.  
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know  
What I was walling in or walling out,  
And to whom I was like to give offence.  
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That wants it down. I could say "Elves" to him,  
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather  
He said it for himself. I see him there  
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top  
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.  
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,  
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.  
He will not go behind his father's saying,

And he likes having thought of it so well  
He says again, "Good fences make good neighbours."

Item Prompt: Explain what effect the repetition of the phrases "something there is that doesn't love a wall" and "good fences make good neighbours" has on the meaning of the poem. Support your answer using details from the poem.

Stimulus Text: Read the following passages and then answer the question.

**Passage 1** The following excerpt comes from a speech written in 1872 by women's rights pioneer Susan B. Anthony. Anthony was arrested after attempting to vote in the 1872 presidential election. After her conviction Anthony wrote this speech to make a constitutional argument for giving women the right to vote.

Our democratic-republican government is based on the idea of the natural right of every individual member thereof to a voice and a vote in making and executing the laws. We assert the province of government to be to secure the people in the enjoyment of their inalienable right. We throw to the winds the old dogma that government can give rights. No one denies that before governments were organized each individual possessed the right to protect his own life, liberty and property. When 100 to 1,000,000 people enter into a free government, they do not barter away their natural rights; they simply pledge themselves to protect each other in the enjoyment of them through prescribed judicial and legislative tribunals. They agree to abandon the methods of brute force in the adjustment of their differences and adopt those of civilization . . . The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the constitutions of the several States and the organic laws of the Territories, all alike propose to protect the people in the exercise of their Godgiven rights. Not one of them pretends to bestow rights.

All men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To secure these, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

**Passage 2** The following excerpt comes from the Second Treatise of Government by John Locke, published in 1690.

Sect. 22. The natural liberty of man is to be free from any superior power on earth, and not to be under the will or legislative authority of man, but to have only the law of nature for his rule. The liberty of man, in society, is to be under no other legislative power, but that established, by consent, in the commonwealth; nor under the dominion of any will, or restraint of any law, but what that legislative shall enact, according to the trust put in it. Freedom then is not what Sir Robert Filmer tells us, Observations, A. 55. a liberty for every one to do what he lists, to live as he pleases, and not to be tied by any laws: but freedom of men under government is, to have a standing rule to live by, common to every one of that society, and made by the legislative power erected in it; a liberty to follow my own will in all things, where the rule prescribes not; and not to be subject to the inconstant, uncertain, unknown, arbitrary will of another man: as freedom of nature is, to be under no other restraint but the law of nature.

Item Prompt: Identify the main idea of each passage and explain how Locke's treatise supports Anthony's argument.

Stimulus Text: Below is an excerpt of an article about estuaries. Read the article and answer the question that follows.

### **Estuaries**

Estuaries are areas of water and shoreline typically found where rivers meet the ocean. Many different types of plant and animal communities call estuaries home because their waters are brackish—a mixture of fresh water draining from the land and salty seawater. This unique combination of salt and fresh water creates a variety of habitats for the plants and animals to live in. Some common estuarine habitats are: oyster reefs, kelp forests, rocky and soft shorelines, submerged aquatic vegetation, coastal marshes, mangroves, deepwater swamps, and riverine forests. With so many places to live and so many niches to fill, it is no wonder why estuaries are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world.

### **Importance of Estuaries**

Estuaries are very important to the lives of many animal species. They are often called the “nurseries of the sea” because numerous animal species rely on estuaries for nesting and breeding. Most of the fish and shellfish eaten in the United States, including salmon, herring, and oysters, complete at least part of their life cycles in estuaries. Besides being a source for food, humans also rely on estuaries for recreation, jobs, and even our homes. Of the 32 largest cities in the world, 22 are located on estuaries.

### **Estuarine Principles and Concepts**

**Principle 1: Estuaries are interconnected with the world ocean and with major systems and cycles on Earth.**

#### **Concepts:**

- Estuaries are part of important biological, chemical, and physical cycles such as food webs, nutrient cycles, and hydrologic cycles. For example, estuarine salt marshes can sequester carbon and filter out toxic substances or nutrients from groundwater.
- Estuarine ecosystems are affected by changes in global systems and cycles such as climate and weather cycles. For example, sea level rise can inundate salt marshes, reducing the habitat available for resident species and eliminating the flood protection important to upland areas.
- Estuaries form an interface linking watersheds and oceans and receive groundwater and surface water from their entire watersheds. Estuaries are affected by air quality and precipitation from far beyond watershed boundaries.

**Principle 2: Estuaries are dynamic ecosystems with tremendous variability within and between them in physical, chemical, and biological components.**

#### **Concepts:**

- Estuaries have various geologic origins and morphology.
- Estuaries can change slowly over hundreds to thousands of years. For example, they are transformed by changes in sea level, precipitation and vegetation patterns within their watershed, and sediment movement.
- Estuaries can also change quickly, within hours or days. They are constantly shaped by water flowing from uplands as well as tidal cycles moving and mixing of fresh and salt water within the estuary. They can be dramatically changed by single, severe events such as a hurricane or the building of a levee.
- The dynamic nature of estuarine processes presents a challenge to the organisms living there. Organisms that reside in estuaries are adapted to the rhythm of change. For example, tides can change local sea level by several feet each day, leaving sessile organisms alternately inundated with

water or exposed to air.

Item Prompt: Explain why the author most likely provided general information about estuaries before the “Principles and Concepts” section. Support your answer using details from the passage.