Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 860

1. According to the text, who was Ludwig van Beethoven?
   a. one of the best composers of all time
   b. one of the best singers of all time
   c. one of the best conductors of all time
   d. one of the best actors of all time

2. The text describes some major events in Beethoven's life. What started to happen when Beethoven was in his late twenties?
   a. He started to write music.
   b. He started to lose his hearing.
   c. He started to write Moonlight Sonata.
   d. He started to have unpredictable outbursts.

3. Beethoven created one of his musical masterpieces, Symphony no. 9 in D Minor, when he was almost completely deaf.

Which conclusion does this information support?
   a. Beethoven isolated himself more and more after he started to lose his hearing.
   b. Beethoven did not want to admit to his rival musicians that he was losing his hearing.
   c. Beethoven's musical genius was incredibly deep and intense.
   d. Beethoven had a bad temper and unpredictable outbursts.

4. How might Beethoven best be described?
   a. passionate but difficult
   b. talented but lazy
   c. kind but confused
   d. shy but intense

5. What is a main idea of this text?
   a. Losing his hearing was a devastating experience for Beethoven.
   b. In Beethoven's time, going to concerts was a hobby for many rich people as this was one of the few ways one could listen to music.
   c. Beethoven is one of the greatest composers ever who was able to create musical masterpieces even when he was deaf.
   d. Beethoven’s personality sometimes got in the way of his performances.
6. What did Beethoven’s hearing loss not stop him from doing?

**Suggested answer:** His hearing loss did not stop him from producing some of his finest musical works.

7. Explain why Beethoven’s musical career is especially impressive. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary but should be supported by the text. For example, students may indicate that not only was Beethoven an incredibly talented composer, but that he was able to produce some of his finest musical works when he had lost his hearing.

8. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

In the last decade of his life, Beethoven lost his hearing completely. ________ he could not hear, Beethoven could feel the vibrations of music.

a. Therefore  
   b. Even though  
   c. Because  
   d. As a result

9. Read the following sentence.

**Beethoven earned the respect of other famous composers in his day because he took his music and his performances very seriously.**

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. Who? Beethoven  
2. What did Beethoven do? *earned the respect of other famous composers in his day*  
3. Why? *he took his music and his performances very seriously*

10. **Vocabulary Word:** impulsive: acting on sudden feelings rather than by thoughtful reasoning.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.