

Selections for Practice

Selection 1

A Smile

by Henry Ward Beecher

Nothing on earth can smile but man! Gems may flash reflected light, but what is a diamond-flash compared to an eye-flash and a mirth-flash? Flowers cannot smile; this is a charm that even they cannot claim. It is the prerogative of man; it is the color which love wears, and cheerfulness, and joy—these three. It is a light in the windows of the face, by which the heart signifies it is home and waiting. A face that cannot smile is like a bud that cannot blossom, and dries up on the stalk. Laughter is day, and sobriety is night, and a smile is the twilight that hovers gently between both—more bewitching than either.

1. What does the simile that compares a face that cannot smile to a bud that cannot blossom suggest?

- A that smiling is difficult
- B that smiling is awkward looking
- C that smiling makes you resemble a bud
- D that smiling completes you

2. What does the author suggest by the simile that compares a smile to twilight?

- A that a smile and twilight are both vague and murky
- B that a smile and twilight come at the end of the day
- C that at twilight, the sky grows darker; similarly, a smile comes at the end of a laugh
- D that like twilight, a smile is soft and magical, neither too light nor too dark