The passage below is adapted from a 1911 novel that tells the story of a man whose dreams have been defeated by an unexpected turn of events.

I had the story, bit by bit, from various people, and, as generally happens in such cases, each time it was a different story.

If you know Starkfield, Massachusetts, you know the post-office, and you must have seen Ethan Frome drive up to it, drop the reins on his hollow-backed bay and drag himself across the brick pavement, and you must have asked who he was.

It was there that, several years ago, I saw him for the first time; and the sight pulled me up sharp. Even then he was the most striking figure in Starkfield, though he was but the ruin of a man. It was not so much his great height that marked him, for the “natives” were easily singled out by their lank longitude from the stockier foreign breed: it was the careless powerful look he had, in spite of a lameness checking each step like the jerk of a chain. There was something bleak and unapproachable in his face, and he was so stiffened and grizzled that I took him for an old man and was surprised to hear that he was not more than fifty-two.

“He’s looked that way ever since he had his smash-up; and that’s twenty-four years ago come next February,” said Harmon Gow, who had driven the stage from Bettsbridge to Starkfield in pre-trolley days and knew the chronicle of all the families on his line.

The “smash-up,” I gathered, had, besides drawing the red gash across Ethan Frome’s forehead, so shortened and warped his right side that it cost him a visible effort to take the few steps from his buggy to the post-office window. He used to drive in from his farm every day at about noon, and I often passed him in the porch or stood beside him while we waited on the motions of the distributing hand behind the grating. I noticed that, though he came so punctually, he seldom received anything but a copy of the Bettsbridge Eagle, which he put without a glance into his sagging pocket. At intervals, however, the post-master would hand him an envelope addressed to Mrs. Zeena-Frome, and usually bearing conspicuously in the upper left-hand corner the address of some manufacturer of patent medicine.

Everyone in Starkfield knew him and gave him a greeting tempered to his own grave bearing; but his taciturnity was respected and it was only on rare occasions that one of the older men of the place detained him for a word. When this happened he would listen quietly, his blue eyes on the speaker’s face, and answer in so low a tone that his words never reached me; then he would climb stiffly into his buggy, gather up the reins in his left hand and drive slowly away toward his farm.

“It was a pretty bad smash-up?” I questioned Harmon, looking after Frome’s retreating figure, and thinking how gallantly his lean brown head, with its shock of light hair, must have sat on his strong shoulders before they were bent out of shape.

“The worst kind,” my informant assented. “More than enough to kill most men. But the Fromes are tough. Ethan’ll likely touch a hundred.”

“Good God!” I exclaimed. At the moment Ethan Frome, after climbing to his seat, had leaned over to assure himself of the security of a wooden box, which he had placed in the back of the buggy, and I saw his face as it probably looked when he thought himself alone. “That man touch a hundred? He looks as if he was dead and in hell now!”

“Guess he’s been in Starkfield too many winters. Most of the smart ones get away,” said Harmon. “Why didn’t he?”

“Somebody had to stay and care for the folks. There weren’t ever anybody but Ethan. First his father—then his mother—then his wife.”

“And then the smash-up?”

Harmon chuckled sardonically. “That’s so. He had to stay then.”

“I see. And since then they’ve had to care for him?”

Harmon thoughtfully passed his tobacco to the other cheek. “Oh, it’s always Ethan done the caring.”

Though Harmon Gow developed the tale as far as his mental and moral reach permitted there were perceptible gaps between his facts, and I sensed that the deeper meaning of the story was in the gaps. But one phrase nevertheless stuck in my memory: “Guess he’s been in Starkfield too many winters.”

Before my own time there was up I would come to know what that meant.

The passage is primarily concerned with
A) describing life in a rural community.
B) comparing possible causes of a tragedy.
C) examining an unusual figure.
D) criticizing one man’s habits.
2. As used in line 16, “checking” most nearly means
   A) studying.
   B) halting.
   C) limping.
   D) verifying.

3. As revealed in the third paragraph (lines 11-20), the narrator’s attitude toward Frome is best characterized as
   A) startled and intrigued.
   B) dismayed and disapproving.
   C) bewildered and fearful.
   D) saddened and protective.

4. As used in line 54, “shock” most nearly means
   A) surprise.
   B) lack.
   C) clash.
   D) mass.

5. Harmon’s statement in line 77 primarily serves to
   A) speculate on a probable outcome.
   B) contradict a presumption.
   C) qualify a primary argument.
   D) justify a point of view.

6. Based on the passage, which of the following most accurately describes Ethan Frome?
   A) Rigid and reticent
   B) Rude and imposing
   C) Decrepit and ignorant
   D) Generous and friendly

7. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
   A) Lines 4-12 (“If you . . . man”)
   B) Lines 33-50 (“I noticed . . . farm”)
   C) Lines 59-67 (“Good god . . . Harmon”)
   D) Lines 69-77 (“Somebody . . . caring”)

8. The passage suggests which of the following about Harmon Gow?
   A) He is originally from Bettsbridge.
   B) He does not stay in Starkfield for the winters.
   C) He knows more about Ethan’s story than he feels it is his place to say.
   D) He works at the Post Office in Starkfield.

9. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
   A) Lines 21-25 (“He’s looked . . . line”)
   B) Lines 51-58 (“It was . . . hundred”)
   C) Lines 66-67 (“Guess . . . Harmon”)
   D) Lines 78-83 (“Though Harmon . . . winters”)

10. Which of the following can best be inferred from the narrator’s statement “and I saw . . . in hell now” (lines 62-65)?
    A) The narrator believes that Ethan would be angry if he knew anyone was watching him.
    B) The narrator feels guilty for spying on Ethan.
    C) The narrator presumes that Ethan wears a different face in public than in private.
    D) The narrator believes that Ethan is older than Harmon Gow thinks he is.
Answers and Explanations

1. C Throughout the passage, the narrator is describing his impressions of Ethan Frome. Find an answer that is consistent with this overview. Choice (A) is incorrect since it is too broad. Although the passage does imply a tragedy, there is never any comparison of such causes, so eliminate choice (B). Choice (C) fits, so keep it. Eliminate choice (D) since the passage is not critical. Choice (C) is the best answer.

2. B Go to the second to last sentence of paragraph 3 and cross out the word checking and replace it with your own word. A good replacement would be “slowing,” since his walking is described as lameness and the phrase jerk of a chain implies he’s being held back by something. Eliminate choices (A) and (D) as they do not mean “slowing” in any way. Choice (C) almost works. While he may be limping, the word limping gives a description of his walk and does not work in the sentence in the same way as the word checking. Choice (B) is the best answer.

3. A In the third paragraph, the narrator refers to Frome as striking and that he was surprised that he was as young as he was. Use POE to find the answer that best matches these descriptions. Choice (A) fits, so keep it for now. Eliminate choice (B) since he’s not disapproving. Choice (C) is incorrect since the narrator is not fearful, nor is he saddened; eliminate choice (D) as well. Choice (A) is the best answer.

4. D Go to the second to last sentence of paragraph 7 and cross out the word shock and replace it with your own word. A good replacement would be “large amount.” Choice (A) is the trap, since it matches the primary definition of shock. No evidence suggests Frome is losing hair, so eliminate choice (B). Choice (C) doesn’t match “large amount,” so eliminate it. Choice (D) best fits the “large amount,” so it is the best answer.

5. B In the previous paragraph, the narrator asks if Frome’s family has to take care of him, but Harmon replies that it’s the other way around. Choice (B) matches this description. Eliminate choice (A) since no outcome is discussed. There isn’t much of an argument, so get rid of choice (C) as well. Choice (D) is incorrect because the Harmon is not trying to justify anything. Choice (B) is the best answer.

6. A Use POE to find an answer choice that is most consistent with the information in the passage. Choice (A) fits since reticent means “not revealing one’s feelings” and rigid means “not willing to change.” Paragraph 6 discusses his taciturnity and habit of only picking up the Bettsbridge Eagle. Eliminate choices (B) and (D) because none of those descriptions fit Frome. While he is decrepit, he is the opposite of imposing, so eliminate choice (C). Choice (A) is the best answer.

7. B The sixth paragraph mentions that one of Frome’s characteristics is his taciturnity and also states that when at the store he rarely takes anything but the same newspaper, the Bettsbridge Eagle. These descriptions match the correct answer from the previous question. Therefore, choice (B) is the best answer. Choices (A), (C), and (D) do no coordinate with any answers in the previous question and are, therefore, incorrect.
8. **C** Use POE to find an answer choice that is most consistent with the information in the passage. There is no evidence that Harmon was born in Bettsbridge, so eliminate (A). The only mention of winter is that Frome always stays during the winters, but no mention is made of Harmon, so choice (B) is incorrect. Keep choice (C) because the second to last paragraph states that Harmon’s story has gaps and that the deeper meaning of the story was in the gaps. It is stated that Harmon drove the stage coach from Bettsbridge to Starkfield in the past, but there is no evidence to support that Harmon worked for the post office, so eliminate choice (D). Choice (C) is the best answer.

9. **D** The second to last paragraph justifies the previous answer because it suggests Harmon isn’t telling everything about Ethan Frome. The narrator suspects that the deeper meaning of the story was in the gaps. Therefore, choice (D) is the best answer. Choices (A), (B) & (C) do not coordinate with any answers in the previous questions, and are therefore incorrect.

10. **C** The narrator states that he saw his face as it probably looked when he thought himself alone, so look for an answer that suggests that this isn’t likely how Frome wants to be seen in public. Eliminate choice (A) since we don’t know if Frome is angry, as well as choice (B) since no mention is made of the narrator’s guilt. Choice (C) fits, so keep it for now. Choice (D) is incorrect since there is no evidence to conclude that Frome is sick. Choice (C) is the best answer.
The following is an adaptation of Barbara Jordan’s comments during the U.S. House Judiciary committee impeachment hearings in Washington, D.C. on July 25, 1974.

It is a misreading of the Constitution for any member here to assert that for a member to vote for an article of impeachment means that that member must be convinced that the President should be removed from office. The Constitution doesn’t say that. The powers relating to impeachment are an essential check in the hands of the body of the legislature against and upon the encroachments of the executive. The framers of the Constitutions were very astute to divide the two branches of the legislature, the House and the Senate, assigning to the one the right to accuse and to the other the right to judge. They did not make the accusers and the judges the same person.

We know the nature of impeachment. We’ve been talking about it awhile now. It is chiefly designed for the President and his high ministers to somehow be called into account. It is designed to “bride” the executive if he engages in excesses. “It is designed as a method of national inquest into the conduct of public men.” The framers confided in the Congress the power if need be, to remove the President in order to strike a delicate balance between a President swollen with power and grown tyrannical, and preservation of the independence of the executive.

This morning, in a discussion of the evidence, we were told that the evidence which purports to support the allegations of misuse of the CIA by the President is thin. We’re told that that evidence is insufficient. What that recital of the evidence this morning did not include is what the President did know on June the 23rd, 1972. The President did know that it was Republican money, that it was money from the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, which was found in the possession of one of the burglars arrested on June the 17th. What the President did know on the 23rd of June was the prior activities of E. Howard Hunt, which included his participation in the break-in of Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist, which included Howard Hunt’s participation in the Dita Beard ITT affair, which included Howard Hunt’s fabrication of cables designed to discredit the Kennedy Administration.

We were further cautioned today that perhaps these proceedings ought to be delayed because certainly there would be new evidence forthcoming from the President of the United States. There has not even been an obfuscated indication that this committee would receive any additional materials from the President. The committee subpoena is outstanding, and if the President wants to supply that material, the committee sits here. The fact is that on yesterday, the American people waited with great anxiety for eight hours, not knowing whether their President would obey an order of the Supreme Court of the United States. James Madison, from the Virginia ratification convention. “If the President be connected in any suspicious manner with any person and there be grounds to believe that he will shelter him, he may be impeached.”

We have heard time and time again that the evidence reflects the payment to defendant’s money. The President had knowledge that these funds were being paid and these were funds collected for the 1972 presidential campaign. We know that the President met with Mr. Henry Petersen 27 times to discuss matters related to Watergate, and immediately thereafter met with the very persons who were implicated in the information Mr. Petersen was receiving. The words are: “If the President is connected in any suspicious manner with any person and there be grounds to believe that he will shelter that person, he may be impeached.”

James Madison again at the Constitutional Convention: “A President is impeachable if he attempts to subvert the Constitution.” The Constitution charges the President with the task of taking care that the laws be faithfully executed, and yet the President has counseled his aides to commit perjury, willfully disregard the secrecy of grand jury proceedings, conceal surreptitious entry, attempt to compromise a federal judge, while publicly displaying his cooperation with the processes of criminal justice.

If the impeachment provision in the Constitution of the United States will not reach the offenses charged here, then perhaps that 18th-century Constitution should be abandoned to a 20th-century paper shredder! Has the President committed offenses, and planned, and directed, and acquiesced in a course of conduct which the Constitution will not tolerate? That’s the question. We know that. We know the question. We should now forthwith proceed to answer the question.

It is reason, and not passion, which must guide our deliberations, guide our debate, and guide our decision.
The position that Jordan takes is primarily that of
A) an academic authority providing a critical perspective.
B) a jurist providing a specific legal interpretation.
C) a critic discounting the position of the uninformed public.
D) a legal advocate defending the President's actions.

In the passage, Jordan draws a distinction between
A) how tyrants and presidents take power of a nation.
B) grounds for impeachment and removal from office.
C) the actions of the President and his high ministers.
D) the nature of administration and maladministration.

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
A) Lines 1-5 (“It is . . . office”)
B) Lines 15-17 (“It is . . . account”)
C) Lines 19-24 (“The framers . . . executive”)
D) Lines 31-35 (“The President . . . the 17th”)

The passage suggests that a President would be impeachable for each of the following EXCEPT
A) Having a relationship with a criminal such that the President might shield him from prosecution
B) Engaging in the bribery of a judge on a federal appeals court
C) Consistently associating with a person who had previously been convicted of several felonies
D) Advising a member of his Cabinet to knowingly lie before a Senate committee

The author's attitude toward those who cautioned the committee can be best described as
A) skeptical.
B) suspicious.
C) amenable.
D) annoyed.

As used in line 17, “bridle” most nearly means
A) investigate.
B) check.
C) judge.
D) swell.

Jordan mentions Henry Peterson (line 64) primarily in order to
A) explain the importance of the citation of James Madison that follows.
B) name a witness who will likely appear in the future impeachment hearings.
C) concede that one particular charge against the President is unsubstantiated.
D) describe an interaction which might serve as evidence supporting impeachment.

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
A) Lines 42-45 (“We were . . . States”)
B) Lines 50-53 (“The fact . . . States”)
C) Lines 54-58 (“James . . . impeached”)
D) Lines 71-73 (“James . . . Constitution”)

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As used in line 82, “reach” most nearly means
A) cover.
B) arrive at.
C) grasp.
D) move toward.

The principal rhetorical effect of the phrase “If the impeachment . . . paper shredder!” can be best described as
A) a sincere suggestion about what the Congress ought to do with the 18th century legal document Jordan has mentioned.
B) a hyperbolic claim meant to emphasize the degree to which the evidence against the President fits the impeachment criteria.
C) show that Jordan believes the impeachment proceedings against the President to be entirely ridiculous.
D) caution the committee that they ought to continue to wait for more evidence from the President and his council.
**Answers and Explanations**

11. **B**  
Jordan devotes a good deal of attention to analyzing the legal concepts at play in this passage, including the legal definition of impeachment in lines 14-24. She describes the legal features of impeachment without criticizing or disputing them, so she is not providing a critical perspective. Therefore, (A) is not supported by the passage. As Jordan's focus is on matters of legal definitions and law-breaking, she is providing an interpretation of law, which supports (B). While Jordan does suggest that the President is presenting a false image to the public in lines 79-80, it is too extreme to say that the public is uninformed or disagrees with Jordan. Thus, (C) is not correct. Jordan suggests her suspicions of the President's involvement in illicit actions in lines 59-70, indicating that she does not support his actions. Therefore, (D) is incorrect.

12. **B**  
Jordan does draw a comparison between the actions of a tyrant and an overly powerful President in lines 19-24, but she does not discuss how tyrants take power of a nation. Therefore, (A) is not supported by the passage. Jordan explains the grounds for impeachment in lines 54-58, suggesting that there need be only evidence of the President's connection to suspicious matters in order to impeach, and she provides that evidence in lines 35-41. Jordan clarifies later that this evidence is sufficient for an impeachment while the question of removal from office remains to be seen; that distinction supports (B). Jordan's only mention of the high ministers is in lines 15-17, when she groups the high ministers together with the President and discusses their actions together. Therefore, (C) is incorrect. Jordan does not mention the concept of the nature of administration in this passage, so (D) is incorrect.

13. **A**  
The answer to the previous question states that Jordan draws a distinction between grounds for impeachment and removal from office. Choice (A) discusses this distinction, so choice (A) is the correct answer. Choices (B) and (C) discuss the nature of impeachment, but not the difference between impeachment and removal from office, so these choices are not correct. Choice (D) discusses the specific allegations against President Nixon, so choice (D) is incorrect.

14. **C**  
Jordan indicates that a President is impeachable if he may shelter a suspicious person in lines 54-58, which demonstrates that (A) is included in the passage and is not the correct answer. Jordan describes compromising a federal judge as an impeachable offense in line 78, and bribery is an act of compromising an official, which demonstrates that (B) is included in the passage and is not the correct answer. While Jordan indicates that the President may be impeachable if he shelters a criminal, she does not indicate that the President may not be associated with a criminal at all; this means that (C) is not included in the passage and is the correct answer. Among other impeachable actions, Jordan also references the President counseling his staff members to lie in lines 75-77, which demonstrates that (D) is included in the passage and is not the correct answer.
15. **A** Jordan describes those who cautioned the committee in lines 42-53. She indicates that their prediction, that the President would provide new evidence, is doubtful because the President has been given the opportunity to supply additional material and has not done so. She does not believe that the President will provide additional evidence, and her attitude toward those who cautioned the committee is disbelieving. **Skeptical** means the same as disbelieving, so (A) is correct. Choice (B) suggests that Jordan suspects ill intentions or foul play on the part of those who cautioned the committee, which is too extreme; (B) is incorrect. Choice (C) suggests that Jordan is friendly and accommodating toward those who cautioned the committee, which is not correct; (C) is not correct. Choice (D) indicates that Jordan is irritated with those who cautioned the committee or is angry toward them, which is too extreme; (D) is not supported by the passage.

16. **B** In the sentence in question, Jordan continues her discussion of the nature of impeachment and says that it is designed to **bridle the executive if he engages in excesses**. The use of the word **excesses** indicates that it is possible for the executive to go too far, suggesting that there are specific boundaries of the executive’s actions. This means that the executive must be kept within the boundaries of his acceptable actions, and he must be stopped from exceeding the boundaries. This means that **bridle** means **stop**, and the correct answer must match **stop**. Since **investigate**, **judge**, and **swell** do not match **stop**, you can eliminate (A), (C), and (D). Since **check** means **stop**, (B) is the correct answer.

17. **D** Jordan utilizes the citation of James Madison to explain the legal implications of the reference to Henry Peterson and its importance to the President’s impeachment, as in lines 54-58. She does not reference Henry Peterson to make the citation of James Madison more important. Therefore, (A) is not correct. Jordan does not reference witnesses who may appear in impeachment hearings, so (B) is incorrect. Jordan references Henry Peterson among other claims against the President’s innocence, as in lines 59-63. Therefore, she groups the accusation of misconduct with Peterson among other offenses she believes, so she does not think the accusation is unsubstantiated. Thus, (C) is incorrect. Jordan does describe the interaction with Henry Peterson among other claims of misconduct, and she immediately follows the statement with the reference to James Madison indicating that such claims are grounds for impeachment. Therefore, (D) is correct.

18. **C** Choice (A) discusses the possibility of formal impeachment trials, which were not discussed surrounding Henry Peterson; thus, (A) is not correct. Choice (B) expresses a claim against the President’s conduct that is critiqued in the same way that Jordan critiques the President’s conduct with Henry Peterson. However, Jordan does not reference Henry Peterson to prove that the President did not deliver new evidence; therefore, (B) is incorrect. Jordan explains that the President associated with Henry Peterson in a suspicious manner, and (C) is used by Jordan to explain that these actions are grounds for impeachment. Therefore, (C) is correct. Choice (D) explains a reason for the President to be impeachable, but that reason is not connected to the claims regarding Henry Peterson; thus, (D) is not correct.
19. **A** In the sentence in question, Jordan indicates that the impeachment provision in the Constitution should be shredded if it does not reach the offenses charged. This means she believes that the impeachment provision should reach the offenses charged. In the paragraph before the sentence in question, lines 71-80, Jordan describes various actions of the President that she considers impeachable. Jordan indicates that the impeachment provision should reach these charges and consider them impeachable. This suggests that the impeachment provision must address the charges as impeachable actions. A good word to replace reach would be address, and the correct answer must match address. Since arrive at, grasp, and move toward do not match address, you can eliminate (B), (C), and (D). Since cover means address, (B) is the correct answer.

20. **B** In the paragraph before the sentence in question, lines 71-80, Jordan indicates that the President’s actions are impeachable, which suggests that she believes they will be included in the Constitution’s impeachment provision. Therefore, she is not sincerely suggesting that the impeachment provision is useless and that the Constitution be destroyed, so (A) is incorrect. Jordan considers the President’s actions worthy of impeachment and therefore believes the impeachment provision to be true; she would not sincerely want to destroy it, so her suggestion to do so indicates her certainty that the impeachment provision includes the actions she has detailed, so that she will not have to make good on her threat to destroy it. Therefore, (B) is supported by the passage. Jordan has indicated with certainty that the case to impeach the President is strong, and she stands as one arguing in favor of impeachment. Therefore, (C) is not correct. Jordan describes the fact that the committee has been cautioned in lines 42-45, but she indicates that the committee was cautioned by another party, not by herself. Thus, (D) is not correct.