

Reading Passage [1]

"The Death of the Hired Man" (Passage Description)*

"The Death of the Hired Man" is a narrative poem by Robert Frost. Primarily composed of a dialogue between Mary and her husband, Warren, the poem recounts the return of Silas, the hired man of the title, to their farm where he has worked intermittently over the years. In the course of their conversation, the reader learns about Silas' erratic work habits, his difficult familial relations, and his sense of the farm as home. The conversation revolves on Mary's and Warren's different perspectives of Silas' return. While Mary feels compassion for Silas, Warren still resents Silas for leaving during a busy haying season. Mary assures her husband that Silas won't leave him again for he has come home to die. After some discussion on the meaning of the word "home," Warren relents and goes into the house to speak to Silas. When he quickly returns, Mary questions him and Warren replies with a single word-"dead."

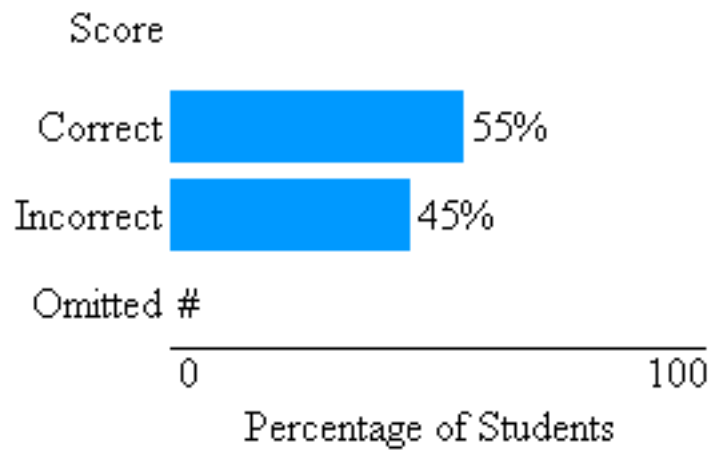
Question 1 refers to Reading Passage [1]

1. What does Mary mean when she says that home is "Something you somehow haven't to deserve"?
 - A. You have to work hard to be part of a family.
 - B. It is a place where people merely tolerate you.
 - C. You do not have to be related to someone to be accepted.
 - D. It is something you do not have to earn.

Key

D

NAEP national performance results in Reading at grade 12: 1992¹
Hired Man: "Somehow...Haven't to Deserve" - Not Earn



Rounds to zero.

NOTE: These results are for public and nonpublic school students. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

1 Accommodations not permitted.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992 Reading Assessment.

