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| **First Lines of Books – (name the novel which opens with these words)** | | |
| **Questions** | | **Answers** |
| 1. | Renowned curator Jacques Sauniere staggered through the vaulted archway of the Museum’s Grand Gallery. | The Da Vinci Code – Dan Brown |
| 2. | The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon. | Lord of the Flies – William Golding |
| 3. | At the age of fifteen my grandmother became the concubine of a warlord general. | Wild Swans – Jung Chang |
| 4. | Far out in the uncharted backwaters at the unfashionable end of the western spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun. | The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy - Douglas Adams |
| 5. | It was a pleasure to burn. | Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury |
| 6. | All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. | Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy |
| 7. | The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there. | The Go-Between – L. P. Hartley |
| 8. | All children, except one, grow up. | Peter Pan – J. M. Barrie |
| 9. | You better not never tell nobody but God. | The Color Purple – Alice Walker |
| 10. | The year 1866 was signalized by a remarkable incident, a mysterious and inexplicable phenomenon, which doubtless no-one has yet forgotten. | Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea – Jules Verne |
| 11. | It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness…. | A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens |
| 12. | As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect. | Metamorphosis – Franz Kafka |
| 13. | I was set down from the carrier’s cart at the age of three; and there with a sense of bewilderment and terror my life in the village began. | Cider with Rosie – Laurie Lee |
| 14. | Marley was dead: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. | A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens |
| 15. | When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. | The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett |
| **Vive la Différence! True or False…….** | | |
| **Questions** | | **Answers** |
| 1. | Women make more fuss than men about minor and imaginary ailments | True – in a study of over 5000 men and women it was found that women had a greater tendency to exaggerate all types of ailments |
| 2. | Men tend to be more self-centred than women. | False. Psychologist have found that women are the more self-centred sex. Studies have shown that they have fewer outside interests than men, and are more pre-occupied with personal concerns and problems. |
| 3. | Women talk more about men than men talk about women. | True. University investigators found that women talked about men more often than any other subject – except other women! Men’s conversations tended towards business, money – and other men! |
| 4. | Men are more truthful. | False. Psychological tests showed that, although women were no less evasive than men, where outright lies were concerned, men led the field. |
| 5. | Women are more easily bored than men. | False. Studies show that men are more restless by temperament than women and more easily bored by repetitive action. Maybe because women are disposed to introspection and day-dreaming? |
| 6. | Men are fussier about their food. | False. University studies show that women are far more finicky about what they eat than men, and dislike more foods. |
| 7. | Women tend to be more cheerful and optimistic than men. | False. Studies by university psychologists show that women are more subject to feeling depressed and “down in the dumps” than men. |
| 8. | Men can manage on less sleep than women. | True. Authorities find that the average woman requires appreciably more sleep than the average man. |
| 9. | Wives understand their husbands better than husbands understand their wives. | False. In a study of married couples, psychologists found that husbands had far better insight into their wives’ characters and were able to predict mush more accurately how they would react under specific conditions. |
| 10. | Husbands are generally more intelligent than their wives. | True. Studies show that women tend to be attracted to men they can look up to intellectually. Men tend to shy away from women who are more intelligent than they are. |
| **‘Tis a puzzlement…….** | | |
| **Questions** | | **Answers** |
| 1. | A woman is 12 years old plus half her age – how old is she? | 24 |
| 2. | A couple have five sons. Each son has one sister. How many children does the couple have? | Six |
| 3. | Mr. Smith weighs 40kg more than Mrs. Smith. Together they weigh 130kg. How much do they each weigh? | Mr. Smith weighs 85kg and Mrs. Smith weighs 45kg |
| 4. | A man says “Everything I say is False”. Is he telling the truth? | This statement is false |
| 5. | I had ten pence and a pound. I bought a horse and a hound. The horse cost a pound more than the hound. What did the hound cost? | 5p – the horse cost £1.05 |
| 6. | Add the senses to the Great Lakes – total? | 5 + 5= 10 |
| 7. | Add the Prime Minister’s residence to the sides of a triangle – total? | 10 + 3= 13 |
| 8. | Add the freezing point (Fahrenheit) of water to Love in tennis – total? | 32 + 0 = 32 |
| 9. | Add fourscore to a basketball team – total? | 80 + 5 = 85 |
| 10. | Add Bluebeard’s wives to the square root of 81 – total? | 7 + 9 = 16 |
| 11. | Three women each have 2 daughters. All go to a restaurant . There are only seven vacant seats but each has a seat to herself. Explain. | The family is a grandmother, her two daughters and each daughter’s two children. |
| 12. | A doctor in London has a brother in Manchester who is a lawyer. But the lawyer in Manchester does not have a brother who is a doctor in London. Explain. | The doctor in London is a woman. |
| 13. | Mom and dad have four sons. Each son has one sister. How many are in the family? | Seven – mom, dad, four sons and one daughter – who is sister to all four boys. |
| 14. | The name of which film star is an anagram of “Old West Action”? | Clint Eastwood |
| 15. | What is the only anagram of the word “Monday”? | Dynamo |
| **Present Laughter** | | |
| **Questions** | | **Answers** |
| 1. | Under what name does comedian Allen Stewart Konigsberg write? | Woody Allen |
| 2. | What is the name shared by the twin servants in Shakespeare’s play “The Comedy of Errors”? | Dromio |
| 3. | Who wrote “Noises off”, a frenetic farce about staging a frenetic farce, which was first staged in 1982? | Michael Frayn |
| 4. | What is the name of the farm which gives the title to Stella Gibbon’s clever skit on the rural novel? | Cold Comfort Farm |
| 5. | Which playwright wrote “The Philanthropist” which first entertained audiences in 1970? | Christopher Hampton |
| 6. | In which northern town have most of Alan Ayckbourn’s plays been premiered? | Scarborough |
| 7. | On which American magazine did James Thurber work following his return to the US from Paris in 1926? | The New Yorker |
| 8. | Who is the author of the comedies “Barefoot in the Park2, “The Odd Couple” and “The Real Thing”? | Mike Nichols |
| 9. | Who, in 1926, dedicated one of his books “To my daughter Leonora, without whose never-failing sympathy and encouragement this book would have been finished in half the time?” | P. G. Wodehouse |
| 10. | Which comic novel of the mid-1950s owes much to the University of Leicester? | “Lucky Jim” – Kingsley Amis |