

## TOEFL Junior : Reading Comprehension Test 7

Read the passage . 60 - 100 minutes

### Anastasia

One of the most intriguing stories of the Russian Revolution concerns the identity of Anastasia, the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II. During his reign over Russia, the czar had planned to revoke many of the harsh laws established by previous czars. Some workers and peasants, however, clamored for more rapid social reform. In 1918, a group of these people known as Bolsheviks overthrew the government. On July 17 or 18, they murdered the czar and what was thought to be his entire family.

Although witnesses vouched that all the members of the czar's family had been executed, there were rumors suggesting that Anastasia had survived. Over the years, a number of women claimed to be Grand Duchess Anastasia. Perhaps the most famous claimant was Anastasia Tschaikovsky, who was also known as Anna Anderson.

In 1920, 18 months after the czar's execution, this terrified young woman was rescued from drowning in a Berlin river. She spent two years in a hospital, where she attempted to reclaim her health and shattered mind. The doctors and nurses thought that she resembled Anastasia and questioned her about her background. She disclaimed any connection with the czar's family. Eight years later, however, she claimed that she was Anastasia. She said that she had been rescued by two Russian soldiers after the czar and the rest of her family had been killed. Two brothers named Tschaikovsky had carried her into Romania. She had married one of the brothers, who had taken her to Berlin and left her there, penniless and without a vocation. Unable to invoke the aid of her mother's family in Germany, she had tried to drown herself. During the next few years, scores of the czar's relatives, ex-servants, and acquaintances interviewed her. Many of these people said that her looks and mannerisms were evocative of the Anastasia that they had known. Her grandmother and other relatives denied that she was the real Anastasia, however.

Tired of being accused of fraud, Anastasia immigrated to the United States in 1928 and took the name Anna Anderson. She still wished to prove that she was Anastasia, though, and returned to Germany in 1933 to bring suit against her mother's family. There she declaimed to the court, asserting that she was indeed Anastasia and deserved her inheritance.

In 1957, the court decided that it could neither confirm nor deny Anastasia's identity. Although it will probably never be known whether this woman was the Grand Duchess Anastasia, her search to establish her identity has been the subject of numerous books, plays, and movies.

**INSTRUCTION:**

Read the questions carefully and refer to the text above then choose the best answer:

**1. Some Russian peasants and workers \_\_\_\_\_ for social reform.**

- A. longed
- B. cried out
- C. begged
- D. hoped
- E. thought much

**2. Witnesses \_\_\_\_\_ that all members of the czar's family had been executed.**

- A. gave assurance
- B. thought
- C. hoped
- D. convinced some
- E. Answer not available

**3. Tschaikovsky initially \_\_\_\_\_ any connection with the czar's family.**

- A. denied
- B. stopped
- C. noted
- D. justified
- E. Answer not available

**4. She was unable to \_\_\_\_\_ the aid of her relatives.**

- A. locate
- B. speak about
- C. call upon
- D. identify
- E. know

**5. In court she \_\_\_\_\_ maintaining that she was Anastasia and deserved her inheritance.**

- A. finally appeared
- B. spoke forcefully
- C. gave testimony
- D. gave evidence
- E. Answer not available

## Answers and Explanations

- 1. B:** To "clamor for" means to cry out for (something). It does not mean to long for (A) it, beg (C) for it, hope (D) for it, or think much (E) "for," of, or about it.
- 2. A:** To "vouch" means to give assurance. It does not mean to think (B), hope (C), or convince some (D).
- 3. A:** "Disclaimed" means denied, i.e. refused or declared untrue. It does not mean stopped (B), noted (C), or justified (D), i.e. substantiated or confirmed, the opposite of denied.
- 4. C:** She was unable to invoke, i.e. to call upon, the aid of relatives. To invoke does not mean to locate (A) or find; to speak about (B) or discuss; to identify (D), i.e. recognize; or to know (E).
- 5. B:** "Declaimed" means spoke forcefully. It does not mean finally appeared (A). Though she did also give testimony (C) in court, "declaimed" does not mean to testify; it describes the way she spoke while doing so. "Declaimed" also does not mean she gave evidence (D).