

## ISEE Lower Level Reading Comprehension

Lower Level **Reading Comprehension** section contains five reading passages;. The passages include topics related to history, science, literature, and contemporary life. Some questions ask you to find a phrase or word in the passage; therefore, all passages show line numbers in the left margin. Each passage is followed by five questions about the passage.

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1 *"If a man walking in the fields finds any*  
2 *four-leafed grass, he shall in a small while after*  
3 *find some good thing."*  
4 *Sir John Melton, writing around 1620,*  
5 *reinforced a longtime folk belief. Then and*  
6 *now, many people think that four-leaf clovers*  
7 *bring good luck. Wealth, health, love, and*  
8 *adventure are supposed to follow the discovery*  
9 *of that tiny plant. Some people press and dry*  
10 *four-leaf clovers as keepsakes. Children have*  
11 *whiled away countless hours in the grass,*  
12 *searching for this rarity.*  
13 *For many people, the clover signifies faith,*  
14 *hope, love, and luck. Others associate it with a*  
15 *song: "I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover."*  
16 *The lyrics and familiar tune were written in*  
17 *1927 by Mort Dixon and Harry Woods. All the*  
18 *associations with the four-leaf clover are*  
19 *cheerful ones.*  
20 *How common are four-leaf clovers? As*  
21 *natural mutations, they are rare. About one in*  
22 *ten thousand clovers will have four leaves.*  
23 *Some scientists have tried to engineer them.*  
24 *That effort, however, displeases some believers*  
25 *who feel that an artificial four-leaf clover*  
26 *probably does not carry the same gift of luck.*  
27 *Nor do other plants that resemble four-leaf*  
28 *clovers. Oxalis deppei is the most frequent*  
29 *imposter that the person searching for four-leaf*  
30 *clovers will find. When in doubt, how can a*  
31 *person identify a real one? A genuine four-leaf*  
32 *clover's fourth leaf is generally a bit smaller*  
33 *than the other three.*  
34 *As of April 2005, George Kaminski held*  
35 *the world record in finding four-leaf clovers.*

36 According to the latest edition of the Guinness  
37 Book of World Records, he now has 72,927.  
38 Ed Martin has his heart set on toppling  
39 Kaminski. A retired heavy-equipment operator  
40 from Alaska, Martin tours the U.S. in a motor  
41 home. His goal is collecting clovers. Let's wish  
42 him good luck! Martin says the four-leaf  
43 wonders have already brought him bunches  
44 of it.

### Sample Questions

Directions: Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

1. The main purpose of this passage is to

- (A) compare four-leaf clovers to other similar plants.
- (B) explain why George Kaminski collects four-leaf clovers.
- (C) offer interesting information about four-leaf clovers.
- (D) prove that four-leaf clovers bring good luck to people.

2. In line 29, "imposter" most nearly means

- (A) example.
- (B) fake.
- (C) plant.
- (D) souvenir.

3. According to the passage, both George Kaminski and Ed Martin

- (A) live in Alaska.
- (B) collect four-leaf clovers.
- (C) tour the country in motor homes.
- (D) write for the Guinness Book of World Records.

4. Sir John Melton clearly believed that four-leaf clovers

(A) last longer when dried and pressed.

(B) are excellent keepsakes for collectors.

(C) bring good luck to those who find them.

(D) provide hours of entertainment for children.

5. Which statement about the four-leaf clover is supported by information in the Passage?

(A) It is larger than most other clovers.

(B) It is easy to find one in a grassy area.

(C) One of its leaves is smaller than the others.

(D) Usually lucky, they occasionally bring bad luck.