

Baccalauréat général – Session 2011

Anglais LV1 – Série L

I – COMPREHENSION – EXPRESSION

1. The narrator (l.1) “attended an Ivy League college » « after high school”, so we can guess he’s approximately 18 or 19 according to the average age people attend college in the US. He says he was then (l.7-8) “the only that year’s token poor kid, imported from a small New Hampshire mill town”: he comes from an economically modest family living in a small town of a small northern state.

2.

a. In October 1958, the narrator started (l.1) “[attending] an Ivy League College”.

b. But in December 1958, he decided to leave this college. He (l.9) “fled in the night”.

c. During the Christmas holidays of 1958, he was (l.19) “at home, working days and nights as a salesman”.

d. In January 1959, the narrator, fed up with the grievances of his family, (l.22-23) “turned up to St Petersburg, Florida, with seven dollars in [his] pocket”.

e. At the end of 1959, the narrator (l.2) “was married and living in central Florida”.

3. The narrator, who comes from a poor family, was (l.5) “rewarded” for his very good results in high school (l.5-6) “with an academic scholarship as fat as the starting quarterback’s at a Midwestern state university”.

4.

a. When he was at college, he felt excluded, because he was the only kid coming from a poor family, in the middle of a group of very, very wealthy kids, most of them sons of big industries’ CEOs, who were not really kind with him because of his socio-economic origins.

b. He decided to get away from this establishment without saying it to anyone: he (l.9-10) “fled in the night. Literally.”

c. All the people he knew in New Hampshire were either (l.19) “bewildered”, either (l.19) “distracted”,

either disappointed. In fact, the narrator even had the impression that people were angry at him, as if he had hurt them. We can imagine that this reaction is normal: the narrator had the chance to attend one of the best colleges in the world and have success but ruined it, while other people are stuck in a little town in New Hampshire, having very few chances to make something successful.

5.

a. When the narrator was still a little kid, his father left his family to get into a relationship with another woman.

b. After this abandonment of the family, all his relatives had big hope that he would have big success through studies in order to avenge this betrayal.

6. The narrator felt like he couldn’t do what he wanted to but had to do what people expected him to do: he had dreams, but couldn’t follow them. He was fed up with this situation and so decided to flee to Florida, to be free to do what he wants to do – in order, in fact, to live his own vision of “success”.

II – TRADUCTION

Durant une nuit neigeuse de décembre, seul dans ma chambre (ils n’avaient pas pensé qu’il serait approprié pour moi d’avoir un colocataire, ou peut être qu’aucun profil ne correspondait au mien), j’ai mis mes vêtements et quelques livres dans un sac de toile, attendu jusqu’à ce que toutes les lumières du campus soient éteintes, traversé le couloir, passé la porte de service et descendu la colline depuis les dortoirs en briques style XVIIIème siècle et les bâtiments de salles de classe jusqu’au large boulevard plus bas, où les grandes maisons néoclassiques des fraternités se succédaient sous des ormes anciens.