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READING 1

A Howard Bloom, Author:

Even though most people are convinced that peak oil has already passed, to me, peak oil is just a hypothesis. There is a theory that carbon molecules can be found in interstellar gas clouds, comets and in space ice, and if this is the case, our planet could ooze oil for ever. And even if we stay earthbound, those who say we have raped the planet of all its resources are wrong. There's a huge stock of raw materials we haven't yet learned to use. There are bacteria two miles beneath our feet which can turn solid granite into food. If bacteria can do it, surely we creatures with brains can do it better. As far as the near future of energy is concerned, I believe the most promising alternative fuels are biofuels, such as ethanol. It's an alcohol made from waste products such as the bark of trees, woodchips, and other 'waste materials'. And that's not the only waste that can create energy. My friend in the biomass industry is perfecting an energy-generation plant which can run on human waste. We produce that in vast quantities, and it's already gathered in centralised locations.

B Michael Lardelli, Lecturer in Genetics at The University of Adelaide

Nothing exists on this planet without energy. It enables flowers and people to grow and we need it to mine minerals, extract oil or cut wood and then to process these into finished goods. So the most fundamental definition of money is as a mechanism to allow the exchange and allocation of different forms of energy. Recently, people have been using more energy than ever before. Until 2005 it was possible to expand our energy use to meet this demand. However, since 2005 oil supply has been in decline, and at the same time, and as a direct result of this, the world's economy has been unable to expand, leading to global recession. With the world's energy and the profitability of energy production in decline at the same time, the net energy available to support activities other than energy procurement will decrease. We could increase energy production by diverting a large proportion of our remaining oil energy into building nuclear power stations and investing in renewable forms of energy. However, this is very unlikely to happen in democratic nations, because it would require huge, voluntary reductions in living standards. Consequently, the world economy will continue to contract as oil production declines. With energy in decline, it will be impossible for everyone in the world to become wealthier. One person's increased wealth can only come at the expense of another person's worsened poverty.

C Jeroen van der Veer, chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell

People are understandably worried about a future of growing energy shortages, rising prices and international conflict for supplies. These fears are not without foundation. With continued economic growth, the world's energy needs could increase by 50% in the next 25 years. However, I do not believe that the world is running out of energy. Fossil fuels will be able to meet growing demand for a long time in the future. Taking unconventional resources into account, we are not even close to peak oil. The priority for oil companies is to improve efficiency, by increasing the amount of oil recovered from reservoirs. At present, just over a third is recovered. We can also improve the technology to control reservoir processes and improve oil flow. However, these projects are costly, complex and technically demanding, and they depend on experienced people, so it is essential to encourage young people to take up a technical career in the energy industry. Meanwhile, alternative forms of energy need to be made economically viable. International energy companies have the capability,

READING 3

Read the following newspaper article and then answer questions 1-6 on the next page. Give only one answer to each question.

HOME COMFORT

It was a lazy Sunday afternoon, the lull before the storm of Monday morning madness of alarm clocks, traffic jams and deadlines. The clock struck three and Rebecca's elbow still rested on the arm of the tapestry-covered sofa. With her fingertips she began caressing the rough piping that ran along its seams. Simultaneously, the toes of her left foot moved back and forth across the edges of the sheepskin rug. This action Rebecca found comforting; it reminded her of being at home as a child when she used to sit in the family sitting room, her toes playing with the fringes of another kind of rug. Her mother would snap at her to stop it, so of course she did it all the more.

Rebecca had a sudden whiff of the glue that Katy was applying to make one of her artistic creations. Her daughter was seated on a cushion right in the middle of the room, looking like an island, surrounded by a sea of cardboard cut-offs, sequins, felt-tip pens, and pristine sheets of white A4 paper that she had disobediently pinched from her father's study. She really should be working at the kitchen table, Rebecca thought, but I don't have the appetite for the outburst that might happen if my genius-daughter-at-work is disturbed. Every three minutes and 50 seconds Katy got up to replay Kylie Minogue's version of 'The Locomotion'.

"Why don't you listen to the CD all the way through, Katy?" her dad said, who was sprawled out on the other sofa. "You'd like the other songs as well." "Nah, too boring."

Rebecca glanced at David and then said, "I could do with something to perk me up." Her words trailed off with a heavy sigh, and then a yawn. It was the first in a series of hints that she would like him to get up and make her a cup of tea.

On the lamp table next to the sofa, she noticed a letter that had been delivered a week ago, advertising exercises classes and a slimming club. She had kept it on the table as a reminder, or perhaps to conjure up the same kind of magical effect that people believe in when they splash out on membership to a fancy gym without going near the place more than once every two months.

"Have you seen this flyer?" she said to her husband. "Just the thought of going for a workout makes me want to go and lie down." Once more she didn't get a response. "Who's going to make the tea then?" was her third and most blatant attempt to get a drink before she died of thirst.

He stood up. "I suppose it's my turn. Again." He went off into the kitchen while Rebecca, the victor, snuggled a bit further into the sofa. Charlie, who'd been asleep on the sheepskin rug, now started up with his own brand of baby chatter. He was attempting to cover the whole repertoire of vowel sounds this afternoon, like a singer performing warm-up exercises. Then, occasionally, he jammed his fingers into his mouth to make a sound approaching an elongated 'w'. He lay underneath a baby gym, which consisted of a tubular frame in patriotic colours of red, white and blue and a top bar, from which dangled two clowns, one on a swing and one in a position that Rebecca thought was called a pike. (It was a long time ago that she had achieved her gold star award in the trampoline.) Once Charlie made eye contact with Rebecca, his happy babbling began to turn into a grizzle.

Does Charlie want feeding again?" Rebecca asked in the baby voice that irritated them all, herself included. She bent down to scoop her son up.

"Mum, he doesn't want feeding again. You've only just fed him," Katy said.

"I'll try – just in case he's hungry." In the kitchen she warmed through the mush of potatoes and broccoli that Charlie liked and took it back through to be with Katy.

Luckily, the baby was actually ready for a feed, which meant that Rebecca not only saved face with her daughter, but showed that she had no need to feel guilty about sending her husband to make the tea. David walked back in the sitting room that very minute, her cup of Earl Grey with its delicate scent of bergamot wobbling in its saucer. In his other hand he clutched a large mug. Rebecca gave him a warning look that dared him not to put the cups down on the oak blanket box that served as their coffee table. Its surface was already scarred by two rings where hot drinks had been carelessly placed directly onto it.

"Thanks. You're a treasure." She settled down to feed Charlie, knowing that her tea would be the perfect temperature to drink in one go by the time he had had enough.

"Where's Katy got to?" David said, after a few minutes. The answer came from upstairs as they heard the sound of their older child passing through the curtain in the doorway of her bedroom. It was like those beaded curtains that used to be in fashion when Rebecca was a child, but instead of beads this one was formed from a dazzling collection of pink, purple and silver shimmering plastic squares. She couldn't remember which one of them had named it the 'jingle-jangler' but it was very apt.

1. Rebecca's mood at the start of the story is

- A calm and reflective.
- B cross and irritable.
- C restless and agitated.
- D sad and upset.

2. What action does Rebecca take with her daughter?

- A She reprimands Katy for making a mess on the floor.
- B She asks David to speak to Katy.
- C She appeals to Katy to play a wider range of music.
- D She does nothing in order to avoid a fuss.

3. What is Rebecca's attitude to the letter lying on the table?

- A The adverb's claims are misleading.
- B She hopes it will prompt her to take up exercise.
- C It makes her feel more motivated.
- D She thinks the slimming club is good value for money.

4. When David first leaves the sitting room, Rebecca is

- A relieved that her baby is awake.
- B surprised to hear her baby chattering.
- C guilty that she's being lazy.
- D glad to have got her own way.

5. Rebecca is worried when her husband brings in the drinks because

- A he might trip over Katy's equipment.
- B he doesn't like the smell of her tea.
- C tea is dripping from the saucer.
- D he might damage an item of furniture.

6. The curtain referred to in Katy's bedroom

- A is identical in design to one from a previous generation.
- B makes a tinkling sound.
- C is made up of unusual colours.
- D keeps out the light at night.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

Reading 1

- 1- C
- 2- B
- 3- A
- 4- A
- 5- B
- 6- B
- 7- D
- 8- C
- 9- B
- 10- D

Reading 2

- 1. A
- 2. D
- 3. B
- 4. D
- 5. D
- 6. B