Sweetness and Life

What no one ever expects is to complete reading comprehension assessments with some degree of pleasure because the texts are so entertaining or enlightening or useful. “Sweetness and Life” is likely one of the best examples of this that I have.

To try to “wear [Gail Caldwell’s] shoes” in her academic review of *Jim the Boy* could be one of the toughest shoe fittings of all time. The book itself seems awful, and the review is, well, just terrible. Studies clearly suggest that the interest level of the text has direct implications on a higher rate of success in reading comprehension assessment. The same studies report a dip in results when the texts are foreign or “boring.”

What does that tell us? That we have to force ourselves to appreciate every text we read. Essentially, no matter what, we have to *like* the texts in order to perform well.

I suggest that you preview the text. Compose a few questions that can be answered as you read this book review. Make a game of it. I’ve read this text so many times that I actually love it now.

Key:

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