

Passage 5: “The French Do Buy Books. Real Books.”

Questions for Comprehension and Discussion

1. What is the purpose of the article?

Student A: **Druckerman, in this article, wants to complain about not being able to buy books on Amazon in France.**

[None of the paragraphs in this article has a main point about dissatisfaction with access to Amazon for book purchases. When the company *is* mentioned, it has to do with counterbalancing its influence in the book industry to create room for other players. When Druckerman *does* mention her preferences for online book shopping in ¶12, she is not complaining that she cannot shop, but that she wants both the electronic and physical options.]

Student B: **Druckerman writes this article to explain why French people buy physical books.**

[The response stops short of the main purpose. The key aim of the article seems to be, not merely saying *why* the French buy “real books” (ex. because they see “books as special” ¶9) but why they *can*—what makes it *possible* for them to have a variety of physical books to buy and a myriad shops from which to buy them.]

Student C: **Response.**

2. Explain why the writer was surprised to discover that her neighborhood is full of bookstores. [¶2–3]

Student A: **She is surprised because in the United States, having four bookstores within a block of each other is rare or impossible, let alone seven.**

Student B: **She is astonished because, even for a bookish neighborhood, having so many bookstores concentrated in such a small area is practically unheard of in the United States where discount online bookselling flourishes.**

Student C: **Response.**

3. According to the article, how does the Lang Law benefit the French reading public? [¶4–5]

Student A: **Response**

Student B: **Response**

Student C: **Response**

4. What can you infer about the writer’s nationality? How do you know? [¶5, 6]

Student A: **Druckerman is American.**

[Incomplete response: It does not explain how you have reached this conclusion.]

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

5. What are the results of fixing book prices in France? [¶7]

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

6. Explain what this means: “Here, there’s no big bookseller with the power to suddenly turn off the spigot.” [¶4]

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: *Response.*

Student D: *Response.*

7. What does France want to achieve by passing the so-called anti-Amazon law? [¶4]

Student A: *Response.*

Student B: *Response.*

Student C: *Response.*

Student D: *Response.*

8. How are paragraphs 7 and 8 related? [¶7–8]

Student A: *Response.*

Student B: *Response.*

Student C: *Response.*

Student D: *Response.*

9. According to paragraph 7, what are the two factors making Amazon books cheaper than those sold by local bookstores in Europe? Answer in your own words. [¶7]

Student A: *Response.*

Student B: *Response.*

Student C: *Response.*

Student D: *Response.*

10. According to the writer, why have the French book laws been passed easily without public opposition? [¶9]

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

11. What does Mr. Moni (¶4) see as a threat from online booksellers like Amazon?

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

12. Which of these words best describes the writer's feeling about book laws in France: ambivalent, disapproving, appalled, approving? Explain.

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

13. True or False? Give a piece of evidence from the text to support your answer.

a. F Amazon monopolizes online book sales in France.

Evidence:

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

[Look up the word *monopoly* in a good collegiate dictionary like [Merriam-Webster](#). Does Amazon's estimated "10 or 12 percent share of new book sales" and "70 percent of the country's online book sales" where "just 18 percent of books are sold online" (§14) qualify it as a monopoly?]

b. F The writer believes that because of the French book laws, online bookstores will not be able to compete with traditional bookstores.

Evidence:

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

14. What do the following refer to?

a. This (§12)

Student A: **All kinds of worthwhile ideas on matters larger than eating small bits of chocolate and tying scarves**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

b. we (¶13)

Student A: **The writer's compatriots**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

c. The new measure (¶14)

Student A: **The new law**

Student B: **A so-called anti-Amazonlaw**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

d. the industry (¶14)

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

e. they (¶12)

Student A: **Response.**

Student B: **Response.**

Student C: **Response.**

Student D: **Response.**

