

Read this passage and answer the question(s) below.

Stage Fright

I peeked out from behind the curtain. There they were, waiting like vultures to devour me. To hurl insults at me. To trample me underfoot. Yes, there they were. My audience.

Objectively speaking, they appeared harmless enough. It was a crowd of young families, many of whom I already knew from school. The expressions on their faces were expectant and eager. It was steaming hot in the auditorium, and I saw that some of the older people were using their programs as makeshift fans.

I saw some of my classmates squirming in their seats, impatiently waiting for the performance to begin. My friends Michael and Paul had assured me that I would do just fine, that I had nothing to worry about. *That's easy for them to say*, I thought bitterly. They might feel bored waiting for the show to start, but I was the one who had to stand backstage, anticipating the disaster to come. My role was a pretty small one, and I didn't even have to be onstage for very long, but I still wasn't looking forward to it.

I saw Daniel, one of my fellow performers. He looked absolutely green. "Are you all right?" I asked.

He smiled at me wryly. "Hey, Peter. I feel like I'm going to be sick." To tell the truth, he did seem pretty bad.

I started to get even more worried. Daniel was the lead in the play. If he couldn't go on stage, the whole evening would be ruined. And, I thought to myself, we'd have to do this all over again.

"It won't be so bad," I said, trying to reassure him.

"You don't think so?" Daniel didn't look very convinced. I could hear the music starting. The lights in the auditorium went dim; the performance would start any moment.

"Look, Daniel." I grabbed him by the shoulders. "It's time for you to go out there."

"I guess you're right," he said reluctantly. "The show must go on."

"That's the spirit!" I watched as Daniel tentatively made his way to the stage entrance. If he could do it, so could I.

27) How does the narrator know that the performance is about to begin?

- (a) He feels more nervous than ever.
- (b) He sees that the lights go dim.
- (c) He sees that Daniel looks green.
- (d) He grabs Daniel by the shoulders.

