Reading Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS
Choose the word that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE A
Immigrants are people who
A work on farms.
B move to a different country to live.
C live in the country where they are born.
D speak two or more languages.

1. Unintelligible means
A unbelievable
B not able to speak
C not smart
D not able to be understood

2. Prosperity is
F a friendly welcome
G wealth and success
H unemployment
J a good opportunity

3. Another word for malicious is
A malleable
B meticulous
C hateful
D hopeful

4. A fragile object is
F breakable
G intact
H broken
J drab

5. Obligations means the same as
A intuitions
B ideas
C dreams
D duties

6. To be prudent is to be
F impulsive
G ominous
H conventional
J wise

7. Benevolent means
A kind
B methodical
C boisterous
D shrewd

8. Vehemently means
F in a sneaky way
G with vigorous emotion
H with clever arguments
J in a lofty way

9. A perspective is
A a penalty
B a property
C a prediction
D a point of view

10. Auspicious means
F friendly
G fortunate
H mournful
J skeptical
DIRECTIONS
Read the sentence in the box, then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE B
We had heavy debts to pay off, including the cost of Father's ticket. And Mother and Grandmother had decided to invest the money Father sent us into buying more land and livestock. At any rate, there was no money to spare for Father's visit back home.

In which sentence does the word spare mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A The spare room in our house is reserved for overnight guests.
B Mrs. White asked Mother if she could spare me on Saturday to baby sit.
C If Lenny would listen to his father’s advice, it would spare him a lot of trouble.
D The lost campers survived on a spare diet of berries and any fish they could catch.

11.
I clutched my wooden box to my chest. It... had a cunning metal clasp with a ring at the end. I would hook my finger into the ring and pull it up and the lid would open almost noiselessly... I played with the catch now nervously, studying the men.

In which sentence does the word catch mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A Our team won the baseball game thanks to a fantastic catch by an outfielder.
B Momma says that if I do not wear my hat and gloves, I will catch a cold.
C The broken catch on the screen door allows the wind to blow it open.
D The fishermen brought in such a huge catch of fish that their boat floated low in the water.

12.
The Lord flew effortlessly, twisting his body in curls and spirals the way a skilled dancer can take a twenty-foot ribbon and make it form graceful designs behind her.

In which sentence does the word form mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F Sam filled out a long form at the bank when he wanted to borrow money for a new car.
G Lois was very proud of her slim form, clear skin, and shiny hair.
H The committee follows a strict form to conduct its meetings.
J The first-graders work hard to form their letters correctly.

13.
Father had told them that we would tighten our belts a bit over here and try to send some money to cover the mail expenses. In the meantime, we had done our best to match them letter for letter, so that they got their money’s worth in return.

In which sentence does the word match mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A Ted works to match his brother’s accomplishments with triumphs of his own.
B Rain caused the tennis match to be canceled.
C Willy could not find a match to light the candles, so we sat in the dark.
D The bride and groom are a perfect match for one another.

14.
Red Rabbit would not leave. He looked around at Father as if telling him to get back on the wagon.

In which sentence does the word back mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F When Jean tried to back into the driveway, she ran over the shrubbery.
G The entire student body came to the pep rally to back the football team.
H I will never go back to that shop!
J When he tried to lift the heavy box, Bill sprained his back.
DIRECTIONS
As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE C
The houses had almost no ornamentation and were painted in dull colors – when they were painted at all. The little boxlike houses seemed so drab to me... Ornamentation means--
   A distance
   B shrubbery
   C decoration
   D windows

15. It was Uncle who told me that the Peach Orchard Vow was a famous vow, taken by the man who became the god of war and his two sworn brothers, to serve the people and help one another.
   A vow is-
   A a promise
   B a threat
   C a secret
   D a belief

16. Whatever the reason, neither curses nor the whip, nor kicks nor slaps of the reins on Red Rabbit’s big rump could get him to move faster than his slow, deliberate pace... Deliberate means --
   F backward
   G careless
   H methodical
   J vigorous

17. “Don’t you see? We’re all tainted by it. As long as we keep quiet and let it go on, we’re as bad as they are.”
   Tainted means -
   A thrilled
   B upset
   C concerned
   D dirtied

18. Black Dog cut viciously at Father’s head, but Father had accurately judged the length of Black Dog’s swing and kept his head just an inch out of reach of the sword... Viciously means --
   F sluggishly
   G cruelly
   H spontaneously
   J smugly

19. I never heard of a ghost banished from the Middle Kingdom and made to forget so many things. But then she must have done something pretty bad...
   Banished means --
   A salvaged
   B conjured
   C exiled
   D rescued

20. Down the alley mouth, I could see the cobblestone street undulate and twist like a red-backed snake.
   To undulate means --
   F to lie perfectly straight
   G to branch off to both sides
   H to separate
   J to wiggle from side to side
DIRECTIONS
Read each passage, then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the best answer to
the question. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE

Chapter 1: The Land of the Demons (February – March 1903)

Mother usually said she was too busy to answer my questions. It was a fact that she was
overworked, for Grandmother was too old to help her with the heavy work, and she had to try to do
both her own work and Father’s on our small farm. The rice had to be grown from seeds and the
seedlings transplanted to the paddies and the paddies tended and harvested. Besides this, she
always had to keep one eye on our very active pig to keep him from rooting in our small vegetable
patch. She also had to watch our three chickens, who loved to wander away from our farm.

Any time I brought up the subject of the Golden Mountain, Mother suddenly found something
going wrong on our farm. Maybe some seedlings had not been planted into their underwater beds
properly, or perhaps our pig was eating the wrong kind of garbage, or maybe one of our chickens
was dirtying our doorway. She always had some good excuse for not talking about the Golden
Mountain. I knew she was afraid of the place, because every chance we got, she would take me
into the small temple in our village and we would pray for Father’s safety, though she would never
tell me what she was afraid of. It was a small satisfaction to her that our prayers had worked so
far. Mother was never stingy about burning incense for Father.

1. Mother prays often in the temple and
   burns incense because
   A she wants her son to remember his
       father.
   B she likes the smell of incense.
   C she is afraid for Father.
   D she wants to avoid talking about the
       Golden Mountain.

2. From this passage, you can infer that
   paddies are
   F fields flooded with water where rice is
     grown.
   G gardens flooded with water where
     vegetables are grown.
   H temples where incense is burned.
   J garbage pits.
Chapter 5: Windrider’s Claws (February 1904 – May 1905)

“But there’s another way to forget evil,” Black Dog said. We stopped for a moment in a doorway when the rain fell harder.

“Did you ever hear about how we got opium?” he asked finally.

“The British demons forced us to let them sell it in the Middle Kingdom,” I said.

“Ah, that’s what some people say who want to hide the truth, because they don’t want to give the poor man his due. He was a poor working man like you or me who, no matter how hard he worked, always wound up owing more and more to the bosses. The only thing that he owned outright was his ugly wife, maybe the ugliest woman alive. She was so repulsive that he beat her in the morning when he got up and beat her in the evening when he came home. The wife never complained, because she loved him dearly. But finally when she saw how much he hated her, she fell ill because she was so sad.

“On her deathbed, she called her husband to her and told him that after her death he would realize how much she loved him despite everything he had done to her. At once the poor farmer felt sorry for what he had done, but before he could tell her, she died. Ten days later, the poor farmer noticed a strange white flower growing from her grave. There was a little round fruit inside the flower. At first the poor farmer was afraid that his wife had turned into some poisonous flower. He could not sleep at night, thinking about the flower and what he had done to his wife. He could not work during the day, remembering the blows he had given her. ‘She has every right to hurt me,’ the poor farmer said, ‘for I have been a mean spiteful man.’

“With that, he fell sick himself. But he had no money to pay the doctors, nor any offspring to care for him. And then one night during a feverish dream, he saw his wife. She told him that the flower on her grave had been woven from the strands of her soul. The strange fruit in the flower could heal him. He was to cut the fruit and harden the juice that would come out and smoke it. If he smoked it every day, he would become healthy. The very next morning he got up and did as his wife had told him, and no sooner did he take his first puff than he felt his illness leave him. So it was that he and his wife were closer in death than they were in life.”

Black Dog smiled ironically. “So it is those two lovers that I smoke, for the name of the ugly wife was Life and the name of the farmer was Everyman. The only good thing I ever got out of my ugly life was the flower.”

I did not understand his story at all. “But life isn’t all ugly,” I said.

“Don’t you think it’s ugly here? What kind of lives do we lead without wives and families?”

“There’s no money back at home.”

“But why sacrifice yourself just so others can get fat at home? All they ever understand is that they need more money.”

“Things will be better in the next life. Maybe we’ll be born as the sons of noble families. Maybe we’ll even finally find release from this world.”

Black Dog looked at me intently. “Why shouldn’t we get some pleasure in this life? Why later? Why not now?”

“Because we don’t owe things just to ourselves. There are others.”

1. **From this passage, you can infer that**
   A Moon Shadow uses opium.
   B Black Dog uses opium.
   C Black Dog is happy with his life.
   D Moon Shadow believes what Black Dog says.

2. **Paragraphs 4 through 6 include an example of**
   F an epilogue.
   G foreshadowing.
   H prediction.
   J a story within a story.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
3. The speaker telling the story of the origin of opium is
   A  Black Dog.
   B  the British.
   C  Everyman.
   D  Moon Shadow.

4. Which of the following is not a part of Black Dog’s beliefs about life?
   F  Having to send money home is not fair.
   G  Life is ugly.
   H  In the next life things will be better.
   J  He deserves pleasure in this life.

5. Which of the following best characterizes Moon Shadow’s belief about life?
   A  Life is beautiful.
   B  Life is ugly.
   C  Opium will make him happy.
   D  He has a responsibility to others.

6. Black Dog views opium as
   F  a cure for illness.
   G  a way to forget evil.
   H  a white flower.
   J  a gift from the British.

7. Which of the following is the best title for this passage?
   A  “Black Dog’s Anger; Moon Shadow’s Hope”
   B  “How the Chinese Got Opium”
   C  “The Poisonous White Flower”
   D  “Why the Farmer Beat His Wife”

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
Chapter 8: Earth, Wind, and Water (June – September, 1905)

“Here I gooooooo!” Robin shouted as she plunged down the dune, her legs lost in a cloud of sand. Half-stumbling, she raced down the dry stretch of sand to the darker sand where the sea rolled in and out. Her straw sailor hat flew off.

“Robin,” Miss Whitlaw shouted. But Robin was already a hundred feet away now, standing ankle deep in the surf. The line was already taut.

“Let go,” Father said. I did and the glider leaped out of my hands three feet into the air and hovered indecisively. Robin ran parallel to the surf line, her pigtails flying. The glider was one of Father’s earlier models, without the rudder controls. It was really like a big box kite in some ways. Suddenly the sea winds caught the glider and lifted it upward toward the sun, veering and soaring like a thing alive, pulling stubbornly at the string. Robin had stopped way down on the beach, a solitary little figure with the waves washing her legs.

Father cupped his hands about his mouth. “Give it more string,” he shouted to her. “Give it more string. It smells its home.”

And Robin did. She had to, or it would have been lost. Father went down then to fetch her hat. That long afternoon we took turns flying the glider. First Robin. Then me. Then even Miss Whitlaw. “Flying is a rather exhilarating experience,” she confessed to us. Her eyes were shining as a twist of her wrist sent the glider dipping and then rising.

By the end of the day it was Father’s turn. I remember how he stood on the beach, his pants rolled up as he high-stepped, whooping and shouting through the surf. Once he stumbled, and went down in the water, but he came right back up, laughing and spluttering and spitting out seawater. Triumphantly he held up the string to show us he had held on to the glider.

The sunset was beautiful that day. The sun was a bright orange disc hovering over the sea, and the sunlight glittered on the surface like a web of light, or lace that ever changed its pattern. Clouds were coming in from the ocean now, and they were tinted a bright scarlet red as they bordered the sun; but the farther away they got, the more they showed a deep solemn purple, and beyond that . . . beyond that purple it was black. And in some patches you could see the stars, but I liked to think that they were not stars but the eyes of dragons watching us from above.

8. Which description of the glider is an example of personification?
   F “It was really a big box kite.”
   G “It was one of Father’s earlier models, without rudder controls.”
   H “A dip of the wrist sent the glider dipping and rising.”
   J “It was pulling stubbornly at the string.”

9. Which of the following phrases best describes Father’s character?
   A stiff and formal
   B happy and fun-loving
   C loud and bossy
   D clumsy and lazy

10. The final paragraph in this passage is an example of
    F description.
    G foreshadowing.
    H suspense.
    J a story within a story.
11. The sequence chart below show some events that occur in this passage. Which character is the actor in these events?
   A Miss Whitlaw
   B Robin
   C Moon Shadow
   D Father

12. Which event belongs in the box marked 2?
   F Taking turns flying the glider
   G Falling into the deep water
   H Hat blowing off in the wind
   J Twisting the wrist to make the glider dip and rise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 Plunging down the dunes</th>
<th>2 ?</th>
<th>3 Standing ankle deep in the surf</th>
<th>4 Running parallel to the surf line</th>
<th>5 Giving the glider more string</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
Chapter 11: Exile (May 1906 – September 1909)

Father worked as a handyman or an all-around mechanic when he could, but he would cut firewood or do almost anything so long as it was legal and it paid. I managed to get a job as a delivery boy for a grocer, but it meant I did not talk much with Father. By the time I got home, cooked dinner, and did my lessons and my chores, I would be so tired that I would go right to bed. Eventually I wound up running our household, or maybe our barnhold is a better word. Among other things, I planned our meals, washed our clothes, kept the barn as clean as I could under the circumstances, and oversaw the budget once Father showed me how to do it. That left Father all his free time to work on flying.

Somehow we managed to send some money home too. Once a month on a Sunday, I walked down into Oakland and rode the trolley to the ferry depot, where I would join a lot of other Tang men – houseboys and other dayworkers. From there, we would ride the ferryboat over to San Francisco. Father never went, because he did not want to waste any of his free time.

Once I was in the Tang people’s town, I would deposit our money with the district association and pick up letters. Sometimes there were notes from Hand Clap or White Deer (who would convey Lefty’s regards, since Lefty himself could no longer write). Then I would finish shopping and start the long trip back home, arriving late in the evening, usually to find Father bent over the table, working feverishly at the plans or finishing some model he was going to test.

13. The T-chart below lists Father’s activities and Moon Shadow’s activities. Which of the following best fits in the space marked 4?
   A. working on flying
   B. working on lessons
   C. picking up letters
   D. washing clothes

14. Which item fits best in the space marked B?
   F. working as a day worker
   G. working as a houseboy
   H. writing letters to Hand Clap and Lefty
   J. cooking dinner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father’s Activities</th>
<th>Moon Shadow’s Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. working as an all-around handyman</td>
<td>A. working as a delivery boy for a grocer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. working as a mechanic</td>
<td>B. ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. cutting firewood</td>
<td>C. planning meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. ?</td>
<td>D. keeping the barn clean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. working on plans</td>
<td>E. overseeing the budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. building models to test</td>
<td>F. shopping in San Francisco</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. From this passage, you can predict that
   A. Moon Shadow will tire of all his chores.
   B. Father will finally be able to fly successfully.
   C. Father will go to San Francisco with Moon Shadow.
   D. none of the above