

Student Team Literature
Standardized Reading Practice Test

Holes

(Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux, 1998)

Reading Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS

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

SAMPLE A

A strenuous task is

- A easy
- B enjoyable
- C tiring
- D short

1. To comprehend is to
 - A want
 - B understand
 - C own
 - D contain
2. Defiance means
 - F defense
 - G loyalty
 - H obedience
 - J rebellion
3. Adjacent means the same as
 - A vast
 - B blank
 - C absent
 - D next to
4. A hastily performed task is done
 - F quickly
 - G angrily
 - H carefully
 - J wearily

5. A humiliating experience is
 - A refreshing
 - B embarrassing
 - C amusing
 - D exhausting
6. Obstacle means
 - F barrier
 - G stubborn
 - H curse
 - J urgency
7. Previously means the same as
 - A lately
 - B sparingly
 - C before
 - D after
8. A refuge is a
 - F shelter
 - G hole
 - H mirage
 - J shaft
9. Something that is distinctive is
 - A stinky
 - B awesome
 - C ordinary
 - D unusual
10. To recede is to
 - F absorb
 - G lessen
 - H agree
 - J attack

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

There was a band of sweat around Stanley's wrist where the handcuff had been.

In which sentence does the word band mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- A Tim had to stay after school today to rehearse with the marching band.
- B The children decided to band together so that the bullies would not bother them.
- C The snake had a red band around its neck just behind the head.
- D A small band of soldiers went into the village to ask for water.

11

Stanley had to figure out how to teach Zero to recognize each letter.

In which sentence does the word figure mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- A Dad scratched his head as he tried to figure out how to repair the bicycle.
- B My sister is on a diet because she wants to keep a slender figure.
- C The math problem asked us to examine a figure and estimate its area.
- D Martin Luther King was the leading figure of the civil rights movement.

12

Stanley printed a capital A, and then Zero copied it on his sheet of paper.

In which sentence does the word capital mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- F The capital of New Jersey is the city of Trenton.
- G In order to start her new business up, Aunt Jen had to borrow some capital from the bank.
- H I wrote "KEEP OUT" in large capital letters and tacked the sign to my door.
- J Capital offenses are crimes for which a lawbreaker may be sentenced to death.

13

The Warden told Mr. Pendanski, "I want you to destroy all of Zero's records."

In which sentence does the word records mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- A The new swimming champion set five world records at last year's Olympic games.
- B The video camera records the best and the worst moments of the game.
- C My grandmother has a collection of old phonograph records of the Beatles and the Jackson Five.
- D All of the students' school records are kept in a big file cabinet in the office.

14

As the sun rose, the lizards moved lower in the hole, keeping mainly in the shade.

In which sentence does the word shade mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- F Liza's new dress is a very unusual shade of purple.
- G Ben stretched out in the shade of the big oak tree to read his new library book.
- H The teacher directed us to shade in the circles beside the answers that were correct.
- J "That boy is just a shade too smart for his own good," Mr. Popovsky declared.

DIRECTIONS

As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE C

The mountains were only visible a short while before they disappeared behind the haze of heat and dirt.

Visible means -

- A tall
- B able to be seen
- C able to be climbed
- D frightening

15 Because of the scarcity of water, each camper was only allowed a four-minute shower.

Scarcity means -

- A shortage; lack
- B large amount; abundance
- C cold temperature
- D pollution

16 Stanley was afraid to drink from his canteen. He hated to think what kind of vile substance Mr. Sir might have put in it. Vile means -

- F ordinary
- G interesting
- H delightful
- J disgusting

17 Kate could see the woman rummaging through the cabin, dumping drawers and knocking things from the shelves.

Rummaging means -

- A tidying up
- B tiptoeing
- C searching
- D crawling

18 Back at the compound, the boys had dug in a systematic order, row upon row, allowing space for the water truck. Systematic means -

- F logical
- G random; confusing
- H senseless; crazy
- J creative

19 Stanley stood in a field of greenish white flowers that seemed to extend all the way around Big Thumb.

Extend means -

- A to disappear
- B to stretch
- C to attract insects
- D to stay in a small area

20 Stanley and Zero didn't dip their socks into the hole, afraid to contaminate the water.

Contaminate means -

- F to sweeten
- G to evaporate
- H to make dirty or unsafe
- J to make available to others

Reading Comprehension

DIRECTIONS

Read each passage. Then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the best answer. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE—from Chapter 4

“Take a good look around you,” Mr. Sir said. “What do you see?”

Stanley looked out across the vast wasteland. The air seemed thick with heat and dirt. “Not much,” he said, then hastily added, “Mr. Sir.”

Mr. Sir laughed. “You see any guard towers?”

“No.”

“How about an electric fence?”

“No, Mr. Sir.”

“There’s no fence at all, is there?”

“No, Mr. Sir.”

“You want to run away?” Mr. Sir asked him.

Stanley looked back at him, unsure what he meant.

“If you want to run away, go ahead, start running. I’m not going to stop you.”

Stanley didn’t know what kind of game Mr. Sir was playing.

“I see you’re looking at my gun. Don’t worry. I’m not going to shoot you.” He tapped his holster. “This is for yellow-spotted lizards. I wouldn’t waste a bullet on you.”

“I’m not going to run away,” Stanley said.

“Good thinking,” said Mr. Sir. “Nobody runs away from here. We don’t need a fence. Know why? Because we’ve got the only water for a hundred miles. You want to run away? You’ll be buzzard food in three days.”

Stanley could see some kids dressed in orange and carrying shovels dragging themselves toward the tents.

“You thirsty?” asked Mr. Sir.

“Yes, Mr. Sir,” Stanley said gratefully.

“Well, you better get used to it. You’re going to be thirsty for the next eighteen months.”

1 Mr. Sir

- A wants to be a mother to Stanley.
- B seems to enjoy being cruel.
- C will do everything he can to keep Stanley from escaping.
- D loves nature.

2 The best title for this passage is

- F Camp Fun and Games.
- G No Escape from Camp Green Lake.
- H Mr. Sir Shoots a Yellow-spotted Lizard.
- J Stanley Meets the Boys.

From Chapter 25

... Sam claimed that Mary Lou was almost fifty years old, which was and still is extraordinarily old for a donkey.

“She eats nothing but raw onions,” Sam would say, holding up a white onion between his dark fingers. “It’s nature’s magic vegetable. If a person ate nothing but raw onions, he could live to be two hundred years old.”

Sam was not much older than twenty, so nobody was quite sure that Mary Lou was really as old as he said she was. How would he know?

Still, nobody ever argued with Sam. And whenever they were sick, they would go not only to Doc Hawthorn but also to Sam.

Sam always gave the same advice: “Eat plenty of onions.”

He said that onions were good for the digestion, the liver, the stomach, the lungs, the heart, and the brain. “If you don’t believe me, just look at old Mary Lou here. She’s never been sick a day in her life.”

He also had many different ointments, lotions, syrups, and pastes all made out of onion juice and different parts of the onion plant. This one cured asthma. That one was for warts and pimples. Another was a remedy for arthritis.

He even had a special ointment which he claimed would cure baldness. “Just rub it on your husband’s head every night when he’s sleeping, Mrs. Collingwood, and soon his hair will be as thick and long as Mary Lou’s tail.”

Doc Hawthorn did not resent Sam. The folks of Green Lake were afraid to take chances. They would get regular medicine from Doc Hawthorn and onion concoctions from Sam. After they got over their illness, no one could be sure, not even Doc Hawthorn, which of the two treatments had done the trick.

1 The speaker is probably

- A** a citizen of Green Lake.
- B** Doc Hawthorn.
- C** the narrator.
- D** Stanley.

2 The second paragraph contains an example of

- F** foreshadowing.
- G** irony.
- H** flashback.
- J** exaggeration.

3 The citizens of Green Lake

- A** were sure that onions could cure anything.
- B** thought Doc Hawthorn was a quack.
- C** consulted both Sam and Doc Hawthorn to be on the safe side.
- D** were all bald.

4 Sam

- F** was sure that his onions could cure anything.
- G** had been to medical school.
- H** tried to put Doc Hawthorn out of business.
- J** was older than Mary Lou.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

- 5 Which of the following is a fact?**
- A** Onion ointment cures baldness.
 - B** Mary Lou was fifty years old.
 - C** Doc Hawthorn treated illnesses with regular medicine.
 - D** Only Doc Hawthorn's treatments worked.

- 6 Based on this passage, we can reasonably infer that**
- F** Mr. Collingwood was bald.
 - G** Doc Hawthorn was jealous of Sam's popularity.
 - H** Mary Lou was really only about twenty years old.
 - J** No one else besides Sam believed in the healing powers of onions.

- 7 This passage, about the town of Green Lake 110 years before Stanley arrived at Camp Green Lake, is an example of**
- A** mystery.
 - B** foreshadowing.
 - C** flashback.
 - D** coincidence.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

From Chapter 40

... Stanley headed down the mountain. The sleep and the onions had done him a lot of good as well. He felt strong.

It was fairly easy to follow the trail he had made two days earlier. There were a few places where he wasn't sure he was going the right way, but it just took a little bit of searching before he found the trail again.

He went quite a ways down the mountain but still didn't find the shovel. He looked back up toward the top of the mountain. He must have walked right past it, he thought. There was no way he could have carried Zero all the way up from here.

Still he headed downward, just in case. He came to a bare spot between two large patches of weeds and sat down to rest. Now he had definitely gone too far, he decided. He was tired out from walking *down* the hill. It would have been impossible to have carried Zero *up* the hill from here, especially after walking all day with no food or water. The shovel must be buried in some weeds.

Before starting back up, he took one last look around in all directions. He saw a large indentation in the weeds a little farther down the mountain. It didn't seem likely that the shovel could be there, but he'd already come this far.

There, lying in some tall weeds, he found the shovel and the sack of jars. He was amazed. He wondered if the shovel and sack might have rolled down the hill. But none of the jars were broken, except the one which had broken earlier. And if they had rolled down hill, it is doubtful that he would have found the sack and shovel side by side.

On his way back up the mountain, Stanley had to sit down and rest several times. It was a long hard climb.

8 In this passage Stanley is looking for

- F** Zero.
- G** the trail back to Camp Green Lake.
- H** the shovel and burlap sack.
- J** more onions.

9 Stanley was sure he had gone too far down the mountain because

- A** he could not have carried Zero such a long distance up the mountain.
- B** he came to the edge of Green Lake.
- C** he lost signs of the trail.
- D** he felt too tired to go further.

10 Stanley knew that the shovel and burlap sack had not rolled down the hill because

- F** they were lying in tall weeds.
- G** the shovel and burlap sack were side by side.
- H** one jar was broken.
- J** the shovel and burlap sack were covered with dirt.

11 Stanley had to rest several times on his climb back up the mountain because

- A** he had not eaten for days.
- B** he did not have the super-human strength that helped him carry Zero the same distance earlier.
- C** he lost his way.
- D** the shovel and burlap sack were heavier than Zero.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

12 The boxes below show some events that occur in this passage.

1	2	3	4
Stanley felt strong from sleep and eating onions.	He came to a bare spot between two patches of weeds and sat down to rest.		He saw a large indentation in the weeds a little further down.

Which event belongs in box 3?

- F** He ate some onions for more strength.
- G** He took one last look in all directions.
- H** He found the shovel and sack of jars.
- J** He did a bit of searching to find the trail again.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

From Chapter 50

...There was a small party at the Yelnats' house. Except for Stanley and Hector, everyone there was an adult. All kinds of snacks and drinks were set out on the counter, including caviar, champagne, and all the fixings for ice cream sundaes.

The Super Bowl was on television, but nobody was really watching.

"It should be coming on at the next break," Ms. Morengo announced.

A time-out was called in the football game, and a commercial came on the screen.

Everyone stopped talking and watched.

The commercial showed a baseball game. Amid a cloud of dust, Clyde Livingston slid into home plate as the catcher caught the ball and tried to tag him out.

"Safe!" shouted the umpire as he signaled with his arms.

The people at Stanley's house cheered, as if the run really counted.

Clyde Livingston got up and dusted the dirt off his uniform. As he made his way back to the dugout, he spoke to the camera. "Hi! I'm Clyde Livingston, but everyone around here calls me 'Sweet Feet.'"

"Way to go, Sweet Feet!" said another baseball player, slapping his hand.

Besides being on the television screen, Clyde Livingston was also sitting on the couch next to Stanley.

"But my feet weren't always sweet," the television Clyde Livingston said as he sat down on the dugout bench. "They used to smell so bad that nobody would sit near me in the dugout."

"They really did stink," said a woman sitting on the couch on the other side of Clyde. She held her nose with one hand and fanned the air with the other.

Clyde shushed her.

"Then a teammate told me about Sploosh," said the television Clyde. He pulled a can of Sploosh out from under the dugout bench and held it up for everyone to see. "I just spray a little on each foot every morning, and now I really do have sweet feet. Plus I like the tingle."

"Sploosh," said a voice. "A treat for your feet. Made from all natural ingredients, it neutralizes odor-causing fungi and bacteria. Plus, you'll like the tingle."

Everyone at the party clapped their hands.

13 Until Stanley's father invented Sploosh, Clyde Livingston's nickname "Sweet Feet" was an example of

- A** flashback.
- B** simile.
- C** exaggeration.
- D** irony.

14 Clyde Livingston is attending the Yelnats' Super Bowl Party because

- F** he has become a friend of the Yelnats family.

- G** he wants to get his sneakers back.
- H** he likes caviar and champagne.
- J** his television set is broken.

15 Which prediction is most likely?

- A** Clyde Livingston will become a talk show host.
- B** Stanley and Hector will no longer be friends.
- C** Sales of Sploosh will go up after the television commercial airs.
- D** Clyde Livingston's foot odor will return.

