Student Team Literature
Standardized Reading Practice Test

The Call of the Wild
(Puffin Books, 1994)

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

1. Another word for intolerable is
   A  unbearable
   B  monotonous
   C  fatal
   D  transient

2. Malignant means
   F  dominant
   G  formidable
   H  evil
   J  pompous

3. Something that is conspicuous is
   A  easy to see
   B  well hidden
   C  made on purpose
   D  impossible to correct

4. Rampant means the same as
   F  chaotic
   G  uncanny
   H  unchecked
   J  incoherent

5. Another word for feigned is
   A  serious
   B  infected
   C  fatal
   D  faked

6. Taut means
   F  stretched tight
   G  bold
   H  slack
   J  timid

7. Something potent is
   A  powerless
   B  peppery
   C  powerful
   D  perpetual

8. A coy gesture is
   F  sly
   G  callous
   H  shy
   J  cautious

9. Incoherent means
   A  confused
   B  clear
   C  impending
   D  coded

10. To usurp is to
    F  lap up greedily
    G  take over
    H  surrender
    J  exploit
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
During the four years since his puppyhood, he had lived the life of a sated aristocrat; he had a fine pride in himself, was ever a trifle egotistical, as country gentlemen sometimes become because of their insular situation.

In which sentence does the word trifle mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A For dessert we had a raspberry trifle and tea.
B Mona said she would not become upset over such a trifle.
C A dog will never trifle with its owner’s love.
D Don’s sister is a trifle fussy when it comes to clothes.

11.
In one run they made a sixty-mile dash from the foot of Lake Le Barge to the White Horse Rapids.

In which sentence does the word dash mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A I don’t want to dash your hopes, but you’re not likely to win a million dollars in the lottery.
B When he saw the bus at the corner, Tony made a mad dash to get there before it left.
C A dash separates the main ideas in this sentence.
D A dash of salt would improve the taste of this dish tremendously.

12.
The camp was suddenly discovered to be alive with skulking furry forms – starving huskies, four or five score of them, who had scented the camp from some Indian village.

In which sentence does the word score mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F The trumpet score for the school song had disappeared from the music stand.
G Do you know the score of last Saturday’s soccer game?
H A person who is forty years old has lived two score years.
J Score the top of the bread loaf with a sharp knife before baking it.

13.
Buck led the pack, sixty strong, around bend after bend, but he could not gain.

In which sentence does the word pack mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A Mom said that if I did not behave, she would pack me off to military school.
B Lisa forgot to pack her lunch this morning.
C Conner looked forlorn with an ice pack on his wounded head.
D The pack of howling hounds raced across the meadow after the terrified fox.

14.
He worked along to a right angle in the bank which the men had made in the course of mining, and in this angle he came to bay, protected on three sides and with nothing to do but face the front.

In which sentence does the word bay mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F The dogs chased the fox to bay, cornering it so that it could not escape.
G The view of the ocean from the bay window caught every visitor’s attention.
H Separated from his mother and littermates, our new puppy decided to bay all night.
J A bay is similar to a gulf, but it is generally smaller.
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
Why were they keeping him pent up in this narrow crate? He did not know why, but he felt oppressed by the vague sense of impending calamity.

Impending means--
A upcoming
B intolerable
C terrible
D impossible

15 Billee’s one fault was his excessive good nature, while Joe was the very opposite, sour, introspective, with a perpetual snarl that never left his face and a malignant eye. Perpetual means--
A confused
B constant
C intermittent
D muffled

16 It was because nothing daunted him that he had been chosen for government courier. He took all manner of risks...

Daunted means--
F ruled
G fatigued
H frightened
J influenced

17 Mercedes cried when the clothes-bags were dumped on the ground and article after article was thrown out. She cried in general, and she cried in particular over each discarded thing.

Discarded means--
A animated
B trashed
C transient
D necessary

18 That winter, at Dawson, Buck performed another exploit, not so heroic, perhaps, but one that put his name many notches higher on the totem-pole of Alaskan fame.

Exploit means--
F daring deed
G exercise
H clever trick
J trifling act

19 Down the neck and across the shoulders, his mane, in repose as it was, half bristled and seemed to lift with every movement, as though excess of vigor made each particular hair alive.

Vigor means--
A laziness
B youth
C wiliness
D energy

20 Buck hurried on, swiftly and stealthily, every nerve straining and tense, alert to the multitudinous details which told a story – all but the end.

Stealthily means--
F sheepishly
G secretly
H carelessly
J slowly
**SAMPLE**

**From chapter 2: The Law of Club and Fang**

Buck’s first day on the Dyea beach was like a nightmare. Every hour was filled with shock and surprise. He had been suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization and flung into the heart of things primordial. No lazy, sunkissed life was this, with nothing to do but loaf and be bored. Here was neither peace nor rest, nor a moment’s safety. All was confusion and action, and every moment life and limb were in peril.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>“Buck’s first day on the Dyea beach was like a nightmare” is an example of</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>metaphor.</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>simile.</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>symbol.</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>characterization.</td>
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<th>2</th>
<th>Life in “the heart of things primordial” is</th>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>peace and rest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>lazy and sunkissed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>civilized and formal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>all confusion and action.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From chapter 2: The Law of Club and Fang

And not only did he learn by experience, but instincts long dead became alive again. The domesticated generations fell from him. In vague ways he remembered back to the youth of the breed, to the time the wild dogs ranged in packs through the primeval forest and killed their meat as they ran it down. It was no task for him to learn to fight with cut and slash and the quick wolf snap. In this manner had fought forgotten ancestors. They quickened the old life within him, and the old tricks which they had stamped into the heredity of the breed were his tricks. They came to him without effort or discovery, as though they had been his always. And when, on the still cold nights, he pointed his nose at a star and howled long and wolflike, it was his ancestors, dead and dust, pointing nose at star and howling down through the centuries and through him. And his cadences were their cadences, the cadences which voiced the woe and what to them was the meaning of the stillness, and the cold, and the dark.

1. The two ways in which Buck, the subject of this paragraph, learned were
   A through effort and discovery.
   B through fighting and howling.
   C through experience and instinct.
   D through domestication and training.

2. This passage indicates that
   F Buck was really a wolf.
   G Buck’s ancestors were similar to wolves.
   H Buck learned to howl from wild dogs.
   J Buck was homesick for his old life.

3. The author’s purpose in this paragraph is
   A to show how Buck learned to fight.
   B to show why Buck howled at the stars.
   C to show how Buck’s ties to his ancestors influenced his behavior.
   D to show how Buck’s ties to his master influenced his behavior.

4. The statement “In vague ways he remembered back to the youth of the breed...” refers to the memory of
   F the author.
   G Buck.
   H a wolf.
   J a wild dog.

5. The phrase “dead and dust” is an example of
   A poetry
   B symbol
   C alliteration
   D simile

6. In the last line of this passage, “cadences” most nearly means
   F rhythms
   G hungers
   H woes
   J instincts

7. In the line, “They came to him without effort or discovery, as though they had been his always,” the word “they” refers to
   A wild dogs
   B instincts
   C ancestors
   D old tricks

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
From chapter 5: The Toil of Trace and Trail

It was beautiful spring weather, but neither dogs nor humans were aware of it. Each day the sun rose earlier and set later. It was dawn by three in the morning, and twilight lingered till nine at night. The whole long day was a blaze of sunshine. The ghostly winter silence had given way to the great spring murmur of awakening life. The murmur arose from all the land, fraught with the joy of living. It came from the things that lived and moved again, things which had been as dead and which had not moved during the long months of frost. The sap was rising in the pine. The willows and aspens were bursting out in young buds. **Shrubs and vines were putting on fresh garbs of green.** Crickets sang in the nights, and in the days all manner of creeping, crawling things rustled forth into the sun. Partridges and woodpeckers were booming and knocking in the forest. Squirrels were chattering, birds singing, and overhead honked the wild-fowl driving up from the south in cunning wedges that split the air.

8. One characteristic of spring was
   F longer daylight.
   G earlier twilight.
   H longer darkness.
   J later sunrise.

9. This passage describes winter as
   A a time of awareness.
   B fraught with the joy of living.
   C a blaze of sunshine.
   D ghostly and silent.

10. The sentence “Shrubs and vines were putting on fresh garbs of green” is an example of
    F simile
    G personification
    H metaphor
    J symbolism

11. This passage describes spring as
    A a time of early twilight.
    B a time of awareness.
    C a time of awakening life.
    D a time when wild-fowl flew south.
12. The Venn diagram below shows the interrelated categories of sight, sound, and movement in this text. Which of the following statements belongs in the space marked “X”?

F Creeping crawling things rustled forth.
G Twilight lingered until nine at night.
H The sun rose earlier and set later.
J Crickets sang in the night.

SIGHT – SOUND – MOVEMENT

SIGHT
- a blaze of sunshine
- shrubs and vines putting on fresh garbs of green
- willows and aspens bursting out in young buds
- sap rising in the pines

SOUND
- ghostly winter silence
- wild-fowl honked and split the air in wedges
- partridges and woodpeckers booming and knocking
- birds singing
- wild-fowl honked and split the air in wedges
- great spring murmur of awakening life

MOVEMENT

X
From chapter 7: The Sounding of the Call

Night came on, and a full moon rose high over the trees into the sky, lighting the land till it lay bathed in ghostly day. And with the coming of the night, brooding and mourning by the pool, Buck became alive to a stirring of the new life in the forest other than that which the Yeehats had made. He stood up, listening and scenting. From far away drifted a faint, sharp yelp, followed by a chorus of similar sharp yelps. As the moments passed the yelps grew closer and louder. Again, Buck knew them as things heard in that other world which persisted in his memory. He walked to the centre of the open space and listened. It was the call, the many-noted call, sounding more luringly and compellingly than ever before. And as never before, he was ready to obey. John Thornton was dead. The last tie was broken. Man and the claims of man no longer bound him.

13. We can infer from this passage that Buck’s last tie with man was his loyalty to
   A the Yeehats.
   B Hans and Peter.
   C John Thornton.
   D someone in the forest.

14. According to this passage, what freed Buck to obey the call?
   F the death of John Thornton
   G the coming of night
   H the yelps growing closer and louder
   J the stirring of new life in the forest

15. The “call of the wild” was
   A the stirring of the Yeehats in the forest.
   B Buck’s inner urge to be free with the wolves.
   C a full moon rising high over the trees.
   D the breaking of all ties with man.