### 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**

**Despite** means

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>because of</td>
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<td>B</td>
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1. **Ferocious means**
   |   |   |
   | A | joyful; excited |
   | B | cruel; violent |
   | C | sad; depressed |
   | D | gentle; tender |

2. **A threshold is**
   |   |   |
   | F | an entrance way |
   | G | a barrier |
   | H | a signpost |
   | J | a road map |

3. **Another word for obvious is**
   |   |   |
   | A | confusing |
   | B | attractive |
   | C | disturbing |
   | D | clear |

4. **Disgusted means**
   |   |   |
   | F | very passionate |
   | G | very displeased |
   | H | very painful |
   | J | very surprised |

5. To be **hysterical** is to be
   |   |   |
   | A | very emotional |
   | B | very interested |
   | C | very encouraging |
   | D | very intelligent |

6. **Speaking with authority means**
   |   |   |
   | F | making a thoughtful suggestion |
   | G | providing expert knowledge |
   | H | offering a random guess |
   | J | outright lying |

7. **Temporary means**
   |   |   |
   | A | unpleasant |
   | B | personal |
   | C | short-term |
   | D | long-term |

8. **Another word for complicated is**
   |   |   |
   | F | worldly |
   | G | simple |
   | H | confusing |
   | J | frightening |

9. **Something that occurs automatically does so**
   |   |   |
   | A | very slowly |
   | B | very quickly |
   | C | when you turn it on |
   | D | all by itself |

10. **Descended means**
    |   |   |
    | F | went around |
    | G | climbed up |
    | H | turned away |
    | J | came down |
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 saw the yellow Cadillac at the end of the block trying to make a left-hand turn, but our alley is too skinny and the car crashed into a lamppost.

In which sentence does the word block mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A Mom was so tired of that salesman bothering her that she had the phone company block his calls.
B Little Derrick put one block on top of another, trying to make the biggest tower ever.
C Terrell did his best to block the pass, but the football sailed over his head.
D All of the houses on our block are made of the same dirty-looking yellow brick.

11. We had to leave the flat on Loomis quick. The water pipes broke and the landlord wouldn’t fix them because the house was too old.

In which sentence does the word flat mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A I don’t know how Serena got into the choir, since she always sings a little bit flat.
B When we go to the city to visit our cousins, we always stay at my aunt’s flat downtown.
C After you iron the dress, please lay it flat on the bed.
D Jeremy won his race, finishing the course in two minutes flat.

12. In English my name means hope. In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting… It is the Mexican records my father plays on Sunday mornings when he is shaving, songs like sobbing.

In which sentence does the word records mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F The nurse records my little sister’s height and weight every time she has a checkup.
G Luis is such a great swimmer that we expect him to break a lot of school records this year.
H When I visit Aunt Elena, she always puts on these old LP records for us to dance to.
J Mama keeps our important family records in a metal strongbox to keep them safe.

13. People who live on hills sleep so close to the stars they forget those of us who live too much on earth. They don’t look down at all except to be content to live on hills.

In which sentence does the word content mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A My brother would be content to eat hot dogs and chips all the time if he could.
B The words of the poem are simple enough, but its real content is harder to grasp.
C The toy was taken off the shelves when its high lead content was discovered.
D The content of this course is challenging, so you should study every night to keep up.

14. I read somewhere in India there are priests who can will their heart to stop beating. I wanted to will my blood to stop, my heart to quit its pumping.

In which sentence does the word will mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F I will finish my homework after I watch this TV show.
G Mr. Sanders died without leaving a will, so the court will have to settle his inheritance.
H Uncle George wants to lose weight, but he says he doesn’t have the will power to do it.
J Maria is afraid of heights, so she had to will herself to climb up and rescue her cat.
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
Your abuelito is dead, Papa says early one morning in my room. Está muerto, and then as if he just heard the news himself, crumples like a coat and cries, my brave Papa cries.

Crumbles means-
A stiffens
B collapses
C screams
D sighs

15. A very fat lady crossing the street says, You sure got quite a load there.
Rachel shouts, You got quite a load there too. She is very sassy.

Sassy means--
A rude
B brilliant
C thoughtful
D timid

16. Cathy’s father built the house... Out front there are twenty-one steps, all lopsided and jutting like crooked teeth (made that way on purpose, Cathy says, so the rain will slide off).

Lopsided means -
F straight
G even
H slanted
J upside down

17. The special kids, the ones who wear keys around their necks, get to eat in the canteen... And these kids at lunch time go there because their mothers aren’t home or home is too far away to get to.

The canteen is --
A an auditorium
B a gym
C a cafeteria
D a classroom

18. One day you wake up and they are there. Ready and waiting like a new Buick with the keys in the ignition. Ready to take you where?

The ignition is -
F the trunk lock
G the door lock
H the glove compartment
J the starter

19. And maybe if the surgeon would’ve come, maybe if [Geraldo] hadn’t lost so much blood, if the surgeon had only come, they would know who to notify and where..

To notify is to --
A disturb
B inform
C question
D recommend

20. I make a story for my life, for each step my brown shoe takes. I say, “And so she trudged up the wooden stairs, her sad brown shoes taking her to the house she never liked.”

Trudged means --
F plodded heavily
G skipped lightly
H strutted proudly
J dashed fearfully
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
[from “The House on Mango Street”]
...By the time we got to Mango Street we were six—Mama, Papa, Carlos, Kiki, my sister Nenny and me.

The house on Mango Street is ours, and we don’t have to pay rent to anybody, or share the yard with the people downstairs, or be careful not to make too much noise, and there isn’t a landlord banging on the ceiling with a broom. But even so, it’s not the house we’d thought we’d get.

We had to leave the flat on Loomis quick. The water pipes broke and the landlord wouldn’t fix them because the house was too old. We had to leave fast. We were using the washroom next door and carrying water over in empty milk gallons. That’s why Mama and Papa looked for a house, and that’s why we moved into the house on Mango Street, far away, on the other side of town.

They always told us that one day we would move into a house, a real house that would be ours for always so we wouldn’t have to move each year. And our house would have running water and pipes that worked. And inside it would have real stairs, not hallway stairs, but stairs inside like the houses on T.V. And we’d have a basement and at least three washrooms so when we took a bath we wouldn’t have to tell everybody. Our house would be white with trees around it, a great big yard and grass growing without a fence. This was the house Papa talked about when he held a lottery ticket and this was the house Mama dreamed up in the stories she told us before we went to bed.

But the house on Mango Street is not the way they told it at all. It’s small and red with tight steps in front and windows so small you’d think they were holding their breath. Bricks are crumbling in places, and the front door is so swollen you have to push hard to get in. There is no front yard, only four little elms the city planted by the curb.

1. Which of the following best describes the mood or tone of this selection?
   A enthusiastic
   B disappointed
   C angry
   D suspenseful

2. Which of the following can we not infer from this selection?
   F The family ended up in the house on Mango Street because they did not have enough money for something better.
   G The family ended up in the house on Mango Street because they did not have enough time to look for something better.
   H The narrator is glad that her family has a house that belongs to them.
   J The narrator is glad that her family has a house that fulfills all their dreams.
[from “Hips”]

I like coffee, I like tea
I like the boys and the boys like me.
Yes, no, maybe so. Yes, no, maybe so...

One day you wake up and they are there. Ready and waiting like a new Buick with the keys in the ignition. Ready to take you where?

They’re good for holding a baby when you’re cooking, Rachel says, turning the jump rope a little quicker. She has no imagination.

You need them to dance, says Lucy.

If you don’t get them you may turn into a man. Nenny says this and she believes it. She is this way because of her age.

That’s right, I add before Lucy or Rachel can make fun of her. She is stupid alright, but she is my sister.

But most important, hips are scientific, I say repeating what Alicia already told me. It’s the bones that let you know which skeleton was a man’s when it was a man and which a woman’s.

They bloom like roses, I continue because it’s obvious I’m the only one who can speak with any authority; I have science on my side. The bones just one day open. Just like that. One day you might decide to have kids, and then where are you going to put them? Got to have room. Bones got to give.

But don’t have too many or your behind will spread. That’s how it is, says Rachel whose mama is as wide as a boat. And we just laugh.

What I’m saying is who here is ready? You gotta be able to know what to do with hips when you get them, I say making it up as I go. You gotta know how to walk with hips, practice you know—like if half of you wanted to go one way and the other half the other.

That’s to lullaby it, Nenny says, that’s to rock the baby asleep inside you. And then she begins singing seashells, copper bells, eevy, ivy, o-ver.

I’m about to tell her that’s the dumbest thing I’ve ever heard, but the more I think about it...

You gotta get the rhythm, and Lucy begins to dance. She has the idea, though she’s having trouble keeping her end of the double-dutch steady.

It’s gotta be just so, I say. Not too fast and not too slow. Not too fast and not too slow.

We slow the double circles down to a certain speed so that Rachel who has just jumped in can practice shaking it.

I want to shake like the hoochi-coochie, Lucy says. She is crazy.

I want to move like heebie-jeebie, I say picking up on the cue.

I want to be Tahiti. Or merengue. Or electricity.

Or tembleque!

Yes, tembleque. That’s a good one.

1. This passage is an example of
   A dialogue
   B apostrophe
   C irony
   D allusion

2. In the line, “One day you wake up and they are there,” the word “they” refers to
   F car keys
   G babies
   H hips
   J skeletons

3. We can infer that the speakers in this selection are
   A dancing
   B cooking
   C playing hopscotch
   D jumping rope

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4. “Hips” in this selection are symbolic of
   F the oppression of women
   G young women’s sexual maturing
   H women taking charge of their lives
   J motherhood

5. Esperanza, the narrator, admits she is
   “making it up as I go.” We can tell that she
   is
   A ashamed of her ignorance
   B angry with her sister Nenny
   C afraid of growing up
   D an unreliable narrator
[“Four Skinny Trees”]

They are the only ones who understand me. I am the only one who understands them. Four skinny trees with skinny necks and pointy elbows like mine. Four who do not belong here but are here. Four raggedy excuses planted by the city. From our room we can hear them, but Nenny just sleeps and doesn’t appreciate these things.

Their strength is secret. They send ferocious roots beneath the ground. They grow up and they grow down and grab the earth between their hairy toes and bite the sky with violent teeth and never quit their anger. This is how they keep.

Let one forget his reason for being, they’d all droop like tulips in a glass, each with their arms around the other. Keep, keep, keep, trees say when I sleep. They teach.

When I am too sad and too skinny to keep keeping, when I am a tiny thing against so many bricks, then it is I look at trees. When there is nothing left to look at on this street. Four who grew despite concrete. Four who reach and do not forget to reach. Four whose only reason is to be and be.

6. This selection is an example of a
   F dialogue
   G vignette
   H biography
   J third-person point of view

7. The speaker identifies the trees in front of her house with her own life. This is an example of
   A irony
   B allusion
   C symbolism
   D apostrophe

8. Which of the following does the speaker not identify as a similarity between herself and the trees?
   F They are skinny and raggedy.
   G They are growing despite difficult circumstances.
   H They are stuck in a place where they don’t seem to belong.
   J The four of them stick together to encourage each other.

9. The speaker most admires the trees for
   A their gentleness
   B their determination
   C their excitement
   D their wisdom

10. The speaker likes to look at the trees because
    F she feels they share her experience and can understand her.
    G they have succeeded in growing despite the harsh surroundings where they were planted.
    H they keep reaching for the sky no matter what happens.
    J All of the above
“Bums in the Attic”

I want a house on a hill like the ones with the gardens where Papa works. We go on Sundays, Papa’s day off. I used to go. I don’t anymore. You don’t like to go out with us, Papa says. Getting too old? Getting too stuck-up, says Nenny. I don’t tell them I am ashamed—all of us staring out the window like the hungry. I am tired of looking at what we can’t have. When we win the lottery… Mama begins, and then I stop listening.

People who sleep on hills sleep so close to the stars they forget those of us who live too much on earth. They don’t look down at all except to be content to live on hills. They have nothing to do with last week’s garbage or fear of rats. Night comes. Nothing wakes them but the wind.

One day I’ll own my own house, but I won’t forget who I am or where I came from. Passing bums will ask, Can I come in? I’ll offer them the attic, ask them to stay, because I know how it is to be without a house.

Some days after dinner, guests and I will sit in front of a fire. Floorboards will squeak upstairs. The attic grumble.

Rats? they’ll ask.

Bums, I’ll say, and I’ll be happy.

11. In this text, what is the main thing that makes Esperanza (the narrator) ashamed?
   A. She is ashamed that her father works as a gardener.
   B. She is ashamed of her family’s small house.
   C. She is ashamed to go staring at other people’s houses like a beggar.
   D. She is ashamed because her parents play the lottery.

12. We can infer that Esperanza stops listening to her mother because
   F. she knows how unlikely it is that her family will win the lottery.
   G. she is tired of hearing her mother’s foolish dreams about the lottery.
   H. Both F and G
   J. Neither F nor G

13. In this text, the speaker uses the term “people who sleep on hills” to mean
   A. country people
   B. city people
   C. wealthy people
   D. generous people

14. Which of the following is not something that Esperanza wants to achieve by owning her own home?
   F. dignity and respect
   G. security from danger
   H. a comfortable setting
   J. privacy from strangers

15. Why does Esperanza say that she will be happy to hear bums moving about in her attic?
   A. This will show that she has taken care of herself and is taking care of others also.
   B. This will show that she has taken care of herself and does not need to take care of others.
   C. This will show that she will always have someone to take care of her.
   D. This will show that she didn’t need to win the lottery to succeed in life.