Student Team Literature
Standardized Reading Practice Test

To Kill a Mockingbird
(Warner Books, 1982)

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
Another word for tranquility is
A discussion
B activity
C stillness
D disturbance

1. Dispersed means -
A scattered
B shared
C replaced
D arranged

2. To elucidate is to -
F use long words
G make something confusing
H make something strong
J make something clear

3. Benevolence means -
A haughtiness
B kindness
C sternness
D cheerfulness

4. Another word for candid is -
F confident
G clever
H honest
J determined

5. An inquisitive person is -
A curious
B intelligent
C cautious
D creative

6. Impudent means -
F easy-going
G hot-tempered
H concerned
J disrespectful

7. Another word for integrity is -
A sensitivity
B honesty
C stubbornness
D passion

8. Spurious means -
F fake
G genuine
H high-quality
J worn-out

9. A person who is exhilarated is -
A determined
B discouraged
C thrilled
D unsettled

10. Another word for pensive is -
F painful
G proud
H thoughtful
J responsible
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
Calpurnia fished in her purse, drew out her handkerchief, and untied the hard wad of change in its corner. She gave a dime to me and a dime to Jem.

In which sentence does the word change mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A The actors hurried to change their costumes before the curtain went up again.
B The man grew taller and began to change into a dragon right before our eyes.
C Mama saves all her small change in a jelly jar in the kitchen.
D After my busy schedule all last term, I’m ready now for a change of pace.

Reverend Sykes said, “Brethren and sisters, we are particularly glad to have company with us this morning. Mister and Miss Finch. You all know their father.”

In which sentence does the word company mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A My dad got a new job with a packaging company over on the west side of town.
B Alicia is a member of the company now, but she hopes to be a principal dancer someday.
C My brother seems to be in with a bad crowd lately, so I worry about the company he keeps.
D Mom told us to set three extra places at the table for company.

The older citizens of Maycomb, the present generation of people who had lived side by side for years and years, were utterly predictable to one another: they took for granted attitudes, character shadings, even gestures, as having been repeated in each generation and refined by time.

In which sentence does the word refined mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F Nadia has mastered the basic technique, but her skill will be refined by months of practice.
G In ancient times, metal ores were refined in clay furnaces using high temperatures.
H Mr. Guilford is a good philosopher, but often his refined arguments are hard for students to follow.
J At the tea party, the little girls pretended they were refined ladies in fancy gowns.

Because its primary reason for existence was government, Maycomb was spared the grubbiness that distinguished most Alabama towns its size.

In which sentence does the word primary mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A Mr. Rolling won the nomination in the primary election, but now he must win the general election to become mayor.
B This artist uses primary colors to create bright, startling designs.
C Jamal’s primary motivation in going out for football was to make his dad happy.
D My friend Kunle attended primary school in Nigeria, then moved to the U.S. just last year.

It was a gala occasion. There was no room at the public hitching rail for another animal, mules and wagons were parked under every available tree. The courthouse square was covered with picnic parties sitting on newspapers, washing down biscuit and syrup with warm milk from fruit jars.

In which sentence does the word parties mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F My Uncle Jordan earns money by working as a clown at children’s birthday parties.
G Mom says my sister will not do well at college if she parties too much on weekends.
H Several other parties of four were waiting to be seated ahead of us at the restaurant.
J Both the Democratic and Republican parties have been strongly criticized for their position on this issue.
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
Jem seemed to have lost his mind. He began pouring out our secrets right and left in total disregard for my safety if not for his own, omitting nothing, knot-hole, pants and all.

Disregard means--
A lack of regret
B lack of concern
C lack of enthusiasm
D lack of pride

15 Jem hopped across the front yard. I followed in his tracks. When we were on the sidewalk in front of Miss Maudie’s, Mr. Avery accosted us. He had a pink face and a big stomach below his belt.
“See what you’ve done?” he said.

Accosted means--
A pursued
B amazed
C confronted
D avoided

16 Aunt Alexandra’s vision of my deportment involved playing with small stoves, tea sets, and wearing the Add-A-Pearl necklace she gave me when I was born; furthermore, I should be a ray of sunshine in my father’s lonely life.

Deportment means--
F behavior
G clothing
H attitude
J studies

17 If Mrs. Dubose was on the porch when we passed, we would be raked by her wrathful gaze, subjected to ruthless interrogation regarding our behavior, and given a melancholy prediction on what we would amount to when we grew up, which was always nothing.

Melancholy means--
A cheerful
B frightened
C admiring
D gloomy

18 I wasn’t sure what Jem resented most, but I took umbrage at Mrs. Dubose’s assessment of the family’s mental hygiene. I had become almost accustomed to hearing insults aimed at Atticus. But this was the first one coming from an adult.

Took umbrage means--
F took charge
G took trouble
H took offense
J took thought

19 In later years, I sometimes wondered what made Jem do it, what made him break the bonds of “You just be a gentleman, son,” and the phase of self-conscious rectitude he had recently entered.

Rectitude means--
A stubbornness
B enthusiasm
C goodness
D courage

20 The jail was Maycomb’s only conversation piece: its detractors said it looked like a Victorian privy; its supporters said it gave the town a good solid respectable look.

Another word for detractors is--
F designers
G critics
H admirers
J observers
**Reading Comprehension**

**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 chapter 3)**
Catching Walter Cunningham in the schoolyard gave me some pleasure, but when I was rubbing his nose in the dirt Jem came by and told me to stop. “You’re bigger’n he is,” he said.

“He’s as old as you, nearly,” I said. “He made me start off on the wrong foot.”

“He didn’t have any lunch,” I said, and explained my involvement in Walter’s dietary affairs.

Walter had picked himself up and was standing quietly listening to Jem and me. His fists were half cocked, as if expecting an onslaught from both of us. I stomped at him to chase him away, but Jem put out his hand and stopped me. He examined Walter with an air of speculation. “Your daddy Mr. Walter Cunningham from Old Sarum?” he asked, and Walter nodded.

Walter looked as if he had been raised on fish food: his eyes, as blue as Dill Harris’s, were red-rimmed and watery. There was no color in his face except the tip of his nose, which was moistly pink. He fingered the straps of his overalls, nervously picking at the metal hooks.

Jem suddenly grinned at him. “Come on home to dinner with us, Walter,” he said. “We’d be glad to have you.”

Walter’s face brightened, then darkened.

Jem said, “Our daddy’s a friend of your daddy’s. Scout here, she’s crazy—she won’t fight you any more.”

“I wouldn’t be too certain of that,” I said. Jem’s free dispensation of my pledge irked me, but precious noontime minutes were ticking away. “Yeah Walter, I won’t jump on you again. Don’t you like butterbeans? Our Cal’s a real good cook.”

Walter stood where he was, biting his lip. Jem and I gave up, and we were nearly to the Radley Place when Walter called, “Hey, I’m comin’!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>This text is written from the point of view of</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>We can infer that Scout agrees not to fight Walter anymore because</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Jem</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>she is bigger than he is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>a third-person narrator</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>her dad and Walter’s dad are friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Scout</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>she doesn’t want Jem to be angry with her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Mr. Walter Cunningham</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>she is in a hurry to get home to lunch.</td>
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From chapter 4

... As for me, I knew nothing except what I gathered from Time magazine and reading everything I could lay hands on at home, but as I inched sluggishly along the treadmill of the Maycomb County school system, I could not help receiving the impression that I was being cheated out of something. Out of what I knew not, yet I did not believe that twelve years of unrelieved boredom was exactly what the state had in mind for me.

As the year passed, released from school thirty minutes before Jem, who had to stay until three o’clock, I ran by the Radley Place as fast as I could, not stopping until I reached the safety of our front porch. One afternoon as I raced by, something caught my eye and caught it in such a way that I took a deep breath, a long look around, and went back.

Two live oaks stood at the edge of the Radley lot; their roots reached out into the side-road and made it bumpy. Something about one of the trees attracted my attention.

Some tinfoil was sticking in a knot-hole just above my eye level, winking at me in the afternoon sun. I stood on tiptoe, hastily looking around once more, reached into the hole, and withdrew two pieces of chewing gum minus their outer wrappers.

My first impulse was to get it into my mouth as quickly as possible, but I remembered where I was. I ran home, and on our front porch I examined my loot. The gum looked fresh. I sniffed it and it smelled all right. I licked it and waited for a while. When I did not die I crammed it into my mouth: Wrigley’s Double-Mint.

When Jem came home he asked me where I got such a wad. I told him I found it.

“Don’t eat things you find, Scout.”

“This wasn’t on the ground, it was in a tree.”

Jem growled.

“Well it was,” I said. “It was sticking in that tree yonder, the one comin’ from school.”

“Spit it out right now!”

I spat it out. The tang was fading, anyway. “I’ve been chewin’ it all afternoon and I ain’t dead yet, not even sick.”

Jem stamped his foot. “Don’t you know you’re not supposed to even touch the trees over there? You’ll get killed if you do!”

“You touched the house once!”

“That was different! You go gargle—right now, you hear me?”

“Ain’t neither, it’ll take the taste outa my mouth.”

“You don’t ‘n’ I’ll tell Calpurnia on you!”

Rather than risk a tangle with Calpurnia, I did as Jem told me. For some reason, my first year of school had wrought a great change in our relationship: Calpurnia’s tyranny, unfairness, and meddling in my business had faded to gentle grumblings of general disapproval. On my part, I went to much trouble, sometimes, not to provoke her.

1. Scout’s attitude about school in this passage can best be described as:
   A grateful
   B angry
   C disappointed
   D enthusiastic

2. On which paragraph of the text do you base your answer to Question 1?
   F the first paragraph
   G the second paragraph
   H the third paragraph
   J the fourth paragraph

3. We can infer from this text that the Radley Place makes Scout feel:
   A frightened
   B bold
   C fascinated
   D bored

4. Which paragraph supplies the information you need to answer Question 3?
   F the first paragraph
   G the second paragraph
   H the third paragraph
   J the fourth paragraph
5. At first, Scout is nervous about chewing the gum because of  
   A  the fact that the outer wrapper is missing.  
   B  where she found it.  
   C  the way it smells.  
   D  Jem’s rules about eating things you find.  

6. Which of the following is NOT a reason why Scout thinks the gum from the Radley tree will not hurt her?  
   F  It looks and smells all right.  
   G  Nothing happens when she licks it.  
   H  She plans to gargle after chewing it.  
   J  After chewing it all afternoon, she doesn’t even feel sick.  

7. According to this text, which of the following is a FACT?  
   A  The Maycomb County school system is no good.  
   B  The Radley Place is a danger zone for children.  
   C  Jem gets out of school later than Scout does.  
   D  Gargling is the best way to avoid accidental poisoning.
From chapter 10

Calpurnia rinsed her hands and followed Jem into the yard. “I don’t see any dog,” she said.

She followed us beyond the Radley Place and looked where Jem pointed. Tim Johnson was not much more than a speck in the distance, but he was closer to us. He walked erratically, as if his right legs were shorter than his left legs. He reminded me of a car stuck in a sandbed.

“He’s gone lopsided,” said Jem.

Calpurnia stared, then grabbed us by the shoulders and ran us home. She shut the wood door behind us, went to the telephone and shouted, “Gimme Mr. Finch’s office!”

“Mr. Finch!” she shouted. “This is Cal. I swear to God there’s a mad dog down the street a piece—he’s comin’ this way, yes sir, he’s—Mr. Finch, I declare he is—old Tim Johnson, yes sir... yessir... yes—“

She hung up and shook her head when we tried to ask her what Atticus had said. She rattled the telephone hook and said, “Miss Eula May—now ma’am, I’m through talkin’ to Mr. Finch, please don’t connect me no more—listen, Miss Eula May, can you call Miss Rachel and Miss Stephanie Crawford and whoever’s got a phone on this street and tell ’em a mad dog’s comin’? Please ma’am!”

Calpurnia listened. “I know it’s February, Miss Eula May, but I know a mad dog when I see one. Please ma’am hurry!”

Calpurnia asked Jem, “Radleys got a phone?”

Jem looked in the book and said no. “They won’t come out anyway, Cal.”

“I don’t care, I’m gonna tell ’em.”

She ran to the front porch, Jem and I at her heels. “You stay in that house!” she yelled.

Calpurnia’s message had been received by the neighborhood. Every wood door within our range of vision was closed tight. We saw no trace of Tim Johnson. We watched Calpurnia running toward the Radley place, holding her skirt and apron above her knees. She went up the front steps and banged on the door. She got no answer, and she shouted, “Mr. Nathan, Mr. Arthur, mad dog’s comin’! Mad dog’s comin’!”

“She’s supposed to go around in back,” I said.

Jem shook his head. “Don’t make any difference now,” he said.

Calpurnia pounded on the door in vain. No one acknowledged her warning; no one seemed to have heard it.

As Calpurnia sprinted to the back porch a black Ford swung into the driveway. Atticus and Mr. Heck Tate got out.

Mr. Heck Tate was the sheriff of Maycomb County. He was as tall as Atticus, but thinner. He was long-nosed, wore boots with shiny metal eye-holes, boot pants and a lumber jacket. His belt had a row of bullets sticking in it. He carried a heavy rifle. When he and Atticus reached the porch, Jem opened the door.

“Stay inside, son,” said Atticus. “Where is he, Cal?”

“He oughta be here by now,” said Calpurnia, pointing down the street.

“Not runnin’, is he?” asked Mr. Tate.

“Naw sir, he’s in the twitchin’ stage, Mr. Heck.”

“Should we go after him, Heck?” asked Atticus.

“We better wait, Mr. Finch. They usually go in a straight line, but you never can tell. He might follow the curve—hope he does or he’ll go straight in the Radley back yard. Let’s wait a minute.”

“Don’t think he’ll get in the Radley yard,” said Atticus. “Fence’ll stop him. He’ll probably follow the road...”

I thought mad dogs foamed at the mouth, galloped, leaped and lunged at throats, and I thought they did it in August. Had Tim Johnson behaved thus, I would have been less frightened.

Nothing is more deadly than a deserted, waiting street. The trees were still, the mockingbirds were silent, the carpenters at Miss Maudie’s house had vanished. I heard Mr. Tate sniff, then blow his nose. I saw him shift his gun to the crook of his arm...
8. The mood of this selection could be described as
   F suspenseful
   G humorous
   H tragic
   J ironic

9. Calpurnia’s conversations with Mr. Finch and Eula May on the telephone are an example of
   A irony
   B an unreliable narrator
   C dialect
   D symbolism

10. We can infer from this passage that
    F mad dogs always foam at the mouth.
    G people in Maycomb think dogs generally go mad in the summer.
    H people in Maycomb do not care about their neighbors’ safety.
    J the Radleys are angry that Calpurnia came to their front door.

11. All the doors on the street are closed tight because
    A it is February and it is cold outside.
    B the neighbors do not want Calpurnia to bother them.
    C the neighbors received the warning that a mad dog is loose.
    D the neighbors are afraid of stray bullets from Mr. Tate’s gun.
From chapter 21
The old courthouse clock suffered its preliminary strain and struck the hour, eight deafening bongs that shook our bones.

When it bonged eleven times I was past feeling: tired from fighting sleep, I allowed myself a short nap against Reverend Sykes' comfortable arm and shoulder. I jerked awake and made an honest effort to remain so, by looking down and concentrating on the heads below...

But I must have been reasonably awake, or I would not have received the impression that was creeping into me. It was not unlike the one I had last winter, though the night was hot. The feeling grew until the atmosphere in the courtroom was exactly the same as a cold February morning, when the mockingbirds were still, and the carpenters had stopped hammering on Miss Maudie's new house, and every wood door in the neighborhood was shut as tight as the doors of the Radley Place. A deserted, waiting, empty street, and the courtroom packed with people. A steaming summer night was no different from a winter morning. Mr. Heck Tate, who had entered the courtroom and was talking to Atticus, might have been wearing his high boots and lumber jacket. Atticus had stopped his tranquil journey and had put his feet onto the bottom rung of a chair; as he listened to what Mr. Tate was saying, he ran his hand slowly up and down his thigh. I expected Mr. Tate to say any minute, "Take him, Mr. Finch..."

But Mr. Tate said, "This court will come to order," in a voice that rang with authority, and the heads below us jerked up. Mr. Tate left the room and returned with Tom Robinson. He steered Tom to his place beside Atticus, and stood there. Judge Taylor had roused himself to sudden alertness and was sitting up straight, looking at the empty jury box.

What happened then had a dreamlike quality: in a dream I saw the jury return, moving like underwater swimmers, and Judge Taylor's voice came from far away and was tiny. I saw something only a lawyer's child could be expected to see, and could be expected to watch for, and it was like watching Atticus walk into the street, raise a rifle to his shoulder and pull the trigger, but watching all the time knowing that the gun was empty.

A jury never looks at a defendant it has convicted, and when this jury came in, not one of them looked at Tom Robinson. The foreman handed a paper to Mr. Tate who handed it to the clerk who handed it to the judge...

12. The events described in this selection take place
   F on a summer morning.
   G on a summer night.
   H on a winter morning.
   J on a winter night.

13. The narrator compares the atmosphere in the courtroom to that of an earlier occasion because
   A the setting is similar.
   B the weather is similar.
   C there is a similar feeling of suspense.
   D all of the same people are involved.

14. This text, like several others in the novel, mentions mockingbirds. This is an example of
   F a motif.
   G an unreliable narrator.
   H an implied meaning.
   J irony.

15. Which of the following can we predict from this selection?
   A The jury will find Tom Robinson innocent.
   B The jury will find Tom Robinson guilty.
   C There will be a hung jury and a new trial.
   D The text does not give enough information to make a prediction.