**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rigorous means -</th>
<th>A simple</th>
<th>B lively</th>
<th>C challenging</th>
<th>D unpleasant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. **Mandatory means -**
   - A required
   - B encouraged
   - C unhelpful
   - D delicious

2. **A dilemma is -**
   - F an improvement
   - G a choice
   - H an opportunity
   - J a problem

3. **Asserted means -**
   - A denied
   - B questioned
   - C claimed
   - D imagined

4. **Another word for anticipated is -**
   - F expected
   - G desired
   - H unplanned
   - J satisfied

5. **Despondent means -**
   - A enthusiastic
   - B hopeless
   - C hopeful
   - D furious

6. **To succumb is to -**
   - F overcome
   - G pursue
   - H resist
   - J give in

7. **A transition is -**
   - A a change
   - B an obstacle
   - C a suggestion
   - D an order

8. **Another word for inquisitive is -**
   - F unhappy
   - G curious
   - H passionate
   - J determined

9. **Another word for chaos is -**
   - A surplus
   - B organization
   - C confusion
   - D ridicule

10. **Apathy means -**
    - F lack of interest
    - G lack of authority
    - H lack of respect
    - J lack of understanding

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*Student Team Literature*

**Standardized Reading Practice Test**

**We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success**
*(Puffin Books, 2006)*
**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**

One guy, a big guy with missing teeth, threw a punch at Rameck, who ducked, then darted back up, swung hard, and popped the kid in his face.

In which sentence does the word **punch** mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A  We served punch and cookies in the school gym after the concert.
B  Ms. Diggs let me borrow her three-hole punch so I could put my worksheets in my binder.
C  My little brother always giggles before the punch line when he tries to tell a joke.
D  The boxer’s punch to the ribcage caught his opponent by surprise and left him gasping for breath.

**11**

In the community where I grew up... we forged bonds with those who lived around us. We had no choice.

In which sentence does the word **bonds** mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A  Mr. Stewart invests in stocks and bonds so he will have some extra income when he retires.
B  The bonds of friendship among the band members are very strong.
C  This super glue bonds with most surfaces in less than a minute, so don’t let it touch your skin.
D  That convenience store also provides bail bonds, tax refund loans, and other financial services.

**12**

It’s amazing how much of a **positive** effect one teacher can have on the life of a student.

In which sentence does the word **positive** mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F  When the lab results came back, the doctor said I tested **positive** for strep throat.
G  I’m absolutely **positive** I put my keys on the counter, but I can’t find them anywhere now.
H  This music program has a very **positive** influence on young people in my school.
J  The **positive** end of the red magnet swung around to the negative end of the blue one.

**13**

“To make sure that the foot stays still and the bones grow right, we will put your foot in a cast.”

In which sentence does the word **cast** mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
A  After the play ended, everyone in the cast was invited to a big celebration.
B  The workers cast their ballots to elect a new union representative.
C  I couldn’t take a shower for the whole time I had a cast on my arm.
D  My grandma always makes griddle cakes in her old cast iron skillet.

**14**

Sampson and his friends split the money four ways and exulted in the ease and glory of it all.

In which sentence does the word **split** mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F  My brother and I split the last doughnut for a snack when we got home from school.
G  Dad ordered a banana split with chocolate sauce and whipped cream.
H  Gloria practiced hard every evening to perfect her split for cheerleading tryouts.
J  My sister’s prom gown has a split up the side of the skirt so she can walk and dance in it.
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
Dismayed at the thought of missing all the fun and freedom of summer, Sampson secretly cursed the concrete and his foot.
Dismayed means—
A overjoyed
B bored
C surprised
D upset

15 If we had thought about how daunting the task was that we were undertaking, we probably would never even have tried.
Daunting means—
A difficult
B foolish
C exciting
D simple

16 When they arrived at the school, dozens of kids were taken to the room where the test was administered. Administered means—
F graded
G conducted
H hidden
J destroyed

17 Rameck knew his mother was right, but his allegiance to his friends in the Plainfield neighborhood was too strong for even a mother to break up. Allegiance means—
A encouragement
B anger
C loyalty
D bitterness

18 Rameck and the others put their hands in their pockets and sauntered down the sidewalks of Plainfield, looking for trouble, looking for someone to beat up. Sauntered means—
F sneaked
G danced
H strolled
J shuffled

19 When I looked around at the other inmates, I realized that none of them was thinking about freedom or choices or even the bad food. They were resigned to this life, as if this was how life should be. Resigned to means—
A accepting of
B surprised by
C shocked at
D excited about

20 Back in his room, Rameck prayed silently, repentant but unable to change what had happened. Repentant means—
F defiant
G regretful
H enthusiastic
J disapproving
SAMPLE (from Chapter One: A Conversation with Doctor Sampson Davis)

... Hanging out with the older boys was always cool, and I loved being a part of [my brother’s] group, even though it sometimes got me into trouble.

Kids often make mistakes and do things that are sometimes foolish or dangerous. Most of the time, just like me, they don’t plan to get in trouble—it just happens. My mother, even though she acted like she was very angry with us, was probably really worried that I was seriously injured. When I got home from the hospital, I was treated like a little prince, with extra privileges and freedom from chores.

Some say there is a reason for everything. Breaking my foot was the first time I had the opportunity for an in-depth encounter with a doctor. Of course, I couldn’t know it at the time, but that experience planted the seeds of interest in emergency medicine. Years later, when I became a doctor, those seeds grew and blossomed.

1. The statement “I was treated like a little prince” is an example of
   A characterization
   B a text feature
   C a simile
   D author’s embellishment

2. The phrase “planted the seeds of interest in emergency medicine” suggests that
   F the doctor treated Sampson’s injury with herbs and medicinal plants.
   G the doctor gave Sampson some seeds to swallow like medicine.
   H Sampson immediately decided that he wanted to become a doctor too.
   J Sampson was interested in what the doctor did and later decided to become a doctor.
from Chapter Seven

The doors swung open, and Reggie—tall, broad-shouldered, and powerfully muscled—greeted them with a large smile. “Welcome, young brothers,” he began. He lined up the boys, then showed them different kung fu moves and how to relax by closing their eyes and breathing deeply.

Sampson inhaled and listened carefully as Reggie spoke. “Calm your mind,” he said quietly. “Forget about outside problems. Concentrate your thoughts on a positive flow of energy.”

“You gonna teach us how to fight?” Razor asked.

“No,” Reggie replied. “I’m going to teach you how to live.”

Sampson and his friends loved to watch martial arts TV shows and movies. After watching one of those, they all practiced their jumps and kicks and fake karate attacks on each other. He thought maybe Reggie would teach them how to knock down ten people with one whirling jump and kick, like they did on TV.

“Any fool can fight,” Reggie said calmly. “It takes a man to know when to use his mind instead of his body. Repeat after me;” he continued. “Toughen my sinews, harden my bones, strengthen my mind.”

Sampson repeated it with feeling. This Reggie dude seemed to have it all together. He was big and strong, and Sampson was sure that Reggie could win in any fistfight, but Reggie’s strength seemed to come from someplace other than his fists.

Every Sunday Sampson and his friends went to the graveyard to listen to Reggie’s Newark-style Chinese philosophy and to practice the ancient art of kung fu. They learned body stances like the Black Crane and the Praying Mantis, as well as body-strengthening techniques. Sampson loved it.

“Consider a single drop of water,” Reggie said one day when it was pouring rain. “Alone, it is harmless, gentle, and powerless. But everyone respects the power of the sea. You are an ocean. Pull together each drop of your energy to find yourself. No one can destroy the ocean.”

After the lesson that afternoon, Sampson said to Reggie, “I know what you’re saying, man, but sometimes I feel like I’m under the ocean, you know what I mean? Like I’m drowning and can’t get out.”

“Little Man, I like your questions—you’re a deep thinker, and you ask like a man. The only way to save yourself from the drugs and the temptation and the violence all around you is to find the strength within yourself,” Reggie replied. Sampson liked the fact that Reggie had given him that nickname.

“What if I can’t find any strength?” Sampson asked quietly.

Reggie told Sampson, “You have unbelievable intelligence and potential. Instead of letting stuff overpower and drown you, you have to use your brain to BE the ocean. Find others with goals like yours, and stick with them. You see what I’m saying, Little Man?”

Sampson nodded and sighed, but he really had no idea how to fit all this cool-sounding kung fu philosophy with dealers who offered him two hundred dollars just to run some drugs across town. Getting in trouble was so much easier than pretending to be the ocean.

1. **Sampson, Razor, and their friends went to Reggie hoping to learn**
   A. how to improve their lives
   B. how to deal drugs
   C. how to pretend to be the ocean
   D. how to do martial arts

2. **In Reggie’s view, the ocean represents**
   F. a person’s inner strength and determination
   G. the strength of several people with similar goals encouraging each other
   H. the power of the drug dealers and criminal gangs
   J. both F and G

3. **When Sampson says “...sometimes it feels like I’m under the ocean,” the ocean stands for**
   A. the drugs and violence and temptation all around him
   B. his inner strength and determination
   C. the power of Reggie’s personality and philosophy
   D. the power of kung fu martial arts

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“Find others with goals like yours and stick with them.”
4. The box containing the words “Find others with goals like yours and stick with them” is called
F a pull quote
G a conclusion
H author’s embellishment
J characterization

5. What do you think is the author’s purpose in highlighting these words?
A to show what Newark-style Chinese philosophy is really about
B to show how young people can help each other overcome negative circumstances
C to focus on why drug dealing is bad
D to show how young people can succeed by relying on their individual strength
... Rameck and his friends were tossed into the back of a police car and taken down to the station. Rameck, who just a couple of hours ago had left a home full of the soothing smells of Thanksgiving dinner, was stuck in the back of a police car that smelled vaguely of sweat, urine, and disinfectant.

“That crackhead you beat up is critically injured,” a policeman told them when they arrived at the station. “He may die.”

Rameck shuddered in fear. “What does that mean?” he managed to ask.

The policeman didn’t blink an eye. “If he dies, you get charged with attempted murder.”

“Oh, my God,” Rameck whispered to himself. “Please don’t let this man die.”

“You want to call your mother?” the officer asked.

Rameck nodded, called his mother, and tried to explain to her what had happened. “We didn’t mean to hurt him. We just got carried away!” he said. He knew it sounded weak.

“Well, why don’t you just think about that for a while,” his mother snapped back.

“You’re not gonna come get me?” he asked.

“No, I’m not. You sit there for a while and see what jail is really like. Maybe this will teach you a lesson.” She hung up the phone.

Rameck was taken, in handcuffs, to a detention center in a nearby town. His mother, who decided at the last minute to come and rescue him, got there too late. Since it was a holiday weekend, Rameck would be forced to stay in jail until Monday.

He was placed in a cell with two other boys he didn’t know. The cell consisted of a toilet and two cots, both of which were occupied, so the officer told him to sleep on the floor. On Thanksgiving morning, instead of waking up in his own bed to the smells of Thanksgiving and the sound of football games and parades, Rameck woke stiffly on the cold concrete floor of a jail cell.

He spent four days in that detention center. He ate terrible food; endured embarrassment and humiliation as he used the toilet in front of his cellmates; and even heard, late one night, the horrifying but unmistakable sounds of a boy being raped. Rameck felt like a caged animal.

Some of the boys in the jail had been there many times. Many seemed to accept jail as part of their life, as their inevitable future. But Rameck bristled at the thought. “Never again,” he told himself. “I’m not going to waste my life this way.”

6. Rameck and his friends were taken to jail because
   F they were accused of beating a man up.
   G they were accused of killing a man.
   H they were accused of dealing crack.
   J they were targeted for being black.

7. Why do you think Rameck’s mom didn’t want to get him out of jail at first?
   A She didn’t care what happened to him.
   B She thought a few days in jail might help him make better choices.
   C She was too busy cooking Thanksgiving dinner.
   D She didn’t have enough money to get him out.

8. We can infer (guess) that Rameck and his friends were arrested on
   F Thanksgiving Day.
   G the day after Thanksgiving.
   H the day before Thanksgiving.
   J the Monday after Thanksgiving.

9. The statement “Rameck felt like a caged animal” is an example of
   A characterization
   B a simile.
   C author’s embellishment.
   D a pull quote.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
10. Look at the Venn diagram below, which compares Rameck’s experience with that of the other boys in the detention center. Which of the following belongs in the space marked “X”?

F Angry that his mom didn’t come to get him out
G Concerned for the man he beat up and almost killed
H Missing his friends who were sent to other centers
J Refused to waste his life in jail
from Chapter Twenty-One

[Sampson] felt really comfortable in emergency medicine. He liked the fast pace and variety of that department, where cases could vary from gunshot wounds to dog bites to upset stomachs.

But he had waited until the last minute to file his paperwork, and no slots [for a residency] in emergency medicine seemed to be open. Faced with limited options, he applied for a position in internal medicine, but his heart was not in it.

...Glumly he went through the motions of finishing school. He felt despondent, unable to maintain any excitement about his future. He felt lost, in limbo. Finally, he called Carla Dickson. Carla was always there for him, as well as Rameck and George.

“I can’t do this,” Sampson told her. “I can’t spend the next year doing something I hate. I’d rather quit.”
“You’re not a quitter, Sam,” she told him. “What is it you really want to do?”
“Emergency medicine. But there were no matches, no openings.” He sighed.
“Follow your heart and pray, Sampson. The answer will come to you,” Carla told him with confidence.
“Why bother? It’s too late now anyway,” he said.
“It’s never too late. You can’t walk around in a pit for the next year. Go for it!”

Sampson, feeling hopeless, but somehow having too much persistence and determination to give up, suddenly had an inspiration.

Maybe I’ll just check the Internet and see what’s out there, he thought. For some reason, he felt a glimmer of possibility, as if the idea were divinely inspired.

He sat down at the computer and typed in RESIDENCY IN INTERNAL MEDICINE. The computer whirred a minute, then the name NEWARK BETH ISRAEL HOSPITAL appeared, with a contact number. The computer said all positions were filled.

This couldn’t be possible. How could Newark have a program and I didn’t know about it? No harm in calling, Sampson said to himself. But since I’m from Newark, maybe they can find a place for me...

He picked up the phone and made the call. “Hello. This is Newark Beth Israel Hospital. I’m Jacquie Johnson, Resident Coordinator. How may I help you?”

“My name is Sampson Davis. I’m a graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey — Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and I did not match in emergency medicine. I just discovered that you have a residency at Beth Israel, and I would desperately love to become associated with you if you have any openings.” He explained the whole story to her.

“You know, Dr. Davis, your life must be guided by divine intervention,” she said. “Just yesterday we had a cancellation in emergency medicine. We have an opening! Fax me your information right away.”

Overjoyed, Sampson sent the information, then waited for the phone call that would determine his future.

The phone rang. “Hello, Dr. Davis, this is Jacquie at Beth Israel. The program director is very interested in talking to you. Can you come for an interview on Wednesday?”

When Sampson walked through those hospital doors, he knew right away that Newark Beth Israel was the place for him... He would be returning as a doctor to the same hospital where he was born, the same hospital where he was taken when the rock crushed his foot, the same hospital where the seeds of his interest in medicine had been planted. Dr. Sampson Davis was going home.

11. Sampson applied for a residency position in internal medicine because

A that was the branch of medicine he felt most interested in.
B he found no openings in emergency medicine.
C Carla Dickson advised him to do it.
D it gave him the best chance of finding a job close to his home.

12. Which of the following is an opinion?

F Sampson filed his paperwork for a residency later than most of his peers.
G Emergency medicine is the most exciting branch.
H The residency at Beth Israel just opened up the day before Sampson called there.
J Sampson was going to serve as a doctor in the very hospital where he was born.
13. Which of the following words does NOT describe Sampson’s feelings when he saw on the computer that Newark Beth Israel had residencies in emergency medicine?

A  surprised  
B  hopeful  
C  despondent  
D  encouraged

14. Which of the following is probably NOT a reason why Sampson felt that Beth Israel was the right place for him?

F  He had a history of personal experience with that hospital.  
G  It was located in his home town, near his own neighborhood.

H  The pay and working hours at Beth Israel were the best available.  
J  He felt that God had guided him to the position in that hospital.

15. Look at the sequence chart below. Which of the following belongs in the spot marked “X”?

A  Beth Israel Hospital had a cancellation on a residency in emergency medicine.  
B  Sampson decided to check the Internet for openings in emergency medicine.  
C  Sampson was invited to interview for a residency in emergency medicine.  
D  Sampson called Carla Dickson to ask for advice about his situation.

Sequence Chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sampson applied for a residency in internal medicine.</td>
<td>Sampson called Beth Israel Hospital about a residency in emergency medicine.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Samson walked through the doors of Newark Beth Israel Hospital.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>