



2024 Academic Challenge

ENGLISH TEST – REGIONAL

English Test Production Team

Melissa Ames (Author) – Eastern Illinois University
Angela Vietto (Reviewer) – Eastern Illinois University

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Please read the following instructions carefully. This is a timed test; any instructions from the test supervisor should be followed promptly.

The test supervisor will give instructions for filling in any necessary information on the answer sheet. Most Academic Challenge sites will ask you to indicate your answer to each question by marking an oval that corresponds to the correct answer for that question. One oval should be marked to answer each question. Multiple ovals will automatically be graded as an incorrect answer.

Be sure ovals are marked as  , not  ,  ,  , etc.

If you wish to change an answer, erase your first mark completely before marking your new choice.

You are advised to use your time effectively and to work as rapidly as you can without losing accuracy. Do not waste your time on questions that seem too difficult for you. Go on to the other questions, and then come back to the difficult ones later if time remains.

Time: 40 Minutes Number of Questions: 80

DO NOT OPEN TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO!

Academic Challenge
English Test (Regional) – 2024

In items 1-10, choose the standard spelling for each word.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. a. Hearsy b. Heresy c. Hersy d. Heresey</p> | <p>6. a. Remincient b. Remeniscent c. Reminiscent d. Reminesent</p> |
| <p>2. a. Enumerate b. Inumerate c. Ennumerate d. Enumorate</p> | <p>7. a. Indomnitable b. Endomitibel c. Indomitabel d. Indomitable</p> |
| <p>3. a. Gregerious b. Gregarious c. Gragerious d. Gregeirous</p> | <p>8. a. Deficit b. Defecit c. Deficet d. Deficeit</p> |
| <p>4. a. Cectarian b. Cecterian c. Secterian d. Sectarian</p> | <p>9. a. Exonnerate b. Exonerate c. Exhonorate d. Exhonerate</p> |
| <p>5. a. Enmity b. Eminity c. Enmityey d. Eminityey</p> | <p>10. a. Palpetations b. Palpitatons c. Palpitations d. Palpatations</p> |

In items 11-30, find the answer that best develops the meaning of the word in boldface.

11. The old lady had a penchant for exaggerating stories of her days of theatrical success.
- The old lady liked telling strictly truthful stories about her days as an actress.
 - The old lady enjoyed telling stories that embellished the glory of her days as an actress.
 - The old day became wistful when telling tall tales of stories about her days as an actress.
 - The old lady had a pendant that always sparked exciting stories of her days as an actress.

12. The professor was not fooled by the student's tangential response on the essay exam that attempted to mask the fact that they had not, in fact, read the assigned novel.

- a. The professor was not fooled by the extremely long response on the essay exam that attempted to mask the fact that the student had not read the novel.
- b. The professor did not find the student's humorous response on the essay exam amusing, nor did it distract from the fact they had not read the novel.
- c. The professor knew that the student submitted a purposely illegible response on the essay exam to try to hide the fact that they had not read the assigned novel.
- d. The professor was not fooled by the predominantly off-topic response on the essay exam that attempted to mask the fact that the student had not read the novel.

13. A pin could be heard in the townhall after the politician's tirade about his opponent's voting record.

- a. The crowd was silent after the politician's motivational speech about voting.
- b. The crowd was silent after the politician's meticulous overview of his opponent's voting record.
- c. The crowd was silent after the politician's angry critique of his opponent's voting record.
- d. The crowd was silent after the politician's disrespectful jokes about his opponent's voting record.

14. The weather forecaster described the 82-degree Halloween weather in the midwestern town as an aberration.

- a. The forecaster described the weather as magical like the holiday itself.
- b. The forecaster described the weather as out of the ordinary for that time of year.
- c. The forecaster described the weather as extremely lucky for that time of year.
- d. The forecaster described the weather as typical of what the aboriginal inhabitants of the area would have experienced at this time of year.

15. The teacher explained that the clocktower referenced in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* was anachronistic.

- a. The teacher explained the clocktower was chronologically misplaced.
- b. The teacher explained the clocktower was meant to symbolize the antagonistic relationship between Caesar and Cassius.
- c. The teacher explained the clocktower foreshadowed Caesar's death in the play.
- d. The teacher explained the clocktower was an aesthetic choice to enhance the setting of the play.

16. The patrons were typically able to cajole the baker into giving out additional free samples of his pastries.

- a. The patrons heckled the baker until he gave out additional free samples.
- b. The patrons harassed the baker into giving out additional free samples.
- c. The patrons begged the baker until he gave out additional free samples.
- d. The patrons flattered the baker into giving out additional free samples.

17. The teenagers rolled their eyes at the didactic nature of their principal's speech about the addictive nature of screen culture.
- The teenagers thought the principal's views were old-fashioned.
 - The teenagers thought the principal's speech was excessively instructive or preachy.
 - The teenagers thought the principal's speech was captivating.
 - The teenagers thought the principal's speech was overly detailed.
18. The judge ruled that the record of the offense would be expunged when the juvenile served his sentence and reached the age of eighteen.
- The judge announced the ruling would be reversed when the conditions were met.
 - The judge decided the sentence would be reduced when the conditions were met.
 - The judge ruled that the remainder of the sentence could be served at a different facility when the conditions were met.
 - The judge ruled that the records concerning the offense would be erased when the conditions were met.
19. She soon learned ostracism is a common fate of memoirists who reveal all their family's dirty secrets.
- The author faced a lawsuit when she published her family's dirty laundry.
 - The author's family no longer spoke to her after she published her memoir revealing their secrets.
 - The author received harsh criticism from Internet trolls for revealing her family's secrets.
 - The author's popularity soared because readers are fascinated by seeing into the secret lives of famous families.
20. The Internet moderator worked furiously to try to take down all of the pejorative comments in the community chatroom because it went against their standards for creating a safe and respectful online space.
- The internet moderator tried to take down all the negative comments.
 - The internet moderator tried to take down all the humorous comments.
 - The internet moderator tried to take down all the slanderous comments.
 - The internet moderator tried to take down all the soliciting comments.
21. When talking to the customer about the selection of bedroom nightstands their store offered, he was sure to hype up the utilitarian ones (which also came with a higher price tag).
- The store clerk tried to sell the customer on expensive nightstands that were part of larger units.
 - The store clerk tried to sell the customer on expensive nightstands that served multiple purposes.
 - The store clerk tried to sell the customer on expensive nightstands that were slim and sleek in design.
 - The store clerk tried to sell the customer on expensive nightstands that were well-constructed.

22. Captured in cartoonish design, the smirk of the wily bank robber displayed on the “Most Wanted” poster looked out at the FBI agents as if mocking them for having not yet been able to apprehend him.
- The bank robber’s expression portrayed his dangerous nature.
 - The bank robber’s expression reveals his playful personality.
 - The bank robber’s expression suggests he’s proud of having been able to evade arrest through his talented acts of deception.
 - The bank robber’s expression suggests he is over-confident and careless despite his luck in evading arrest.
23. Ice cream counters with a plethora of choices can be overwhelming.
- Ice cream counters with strange flavor options can be overwhelming.
 - Ice cream counters with too few choices can be overwhelming.
 - Ice cream counters with too many choices can be overwhelming.
 - Ice cream counters with complicated ordering instructions can be overwhelming.
24. Racism was rife in the medical field during that time period.
- Racism was illegal in the medical field during that time period.
 - Racism was abundant in the medical field during that time period.
 - Racism was decreasing in the medical field during that time period.
 - Racism was subtle in the medical field during that time period.
25. His college roommate might have been a bit of a reprobate, but they certainly had some fun together in those days!
- He remembers that his roommate often lacked moral discipline but they had a lot of fun.
 - He remembers that his roommate was often prone to arguing but they had a lot of fun.
 - He remembers that his roommate was often late paying rent but they had a lot of fun.
 - He remembers that his roommate was sometimes a bit conservative but they had a lot of fun.
26. The explosion of online retail sounded the death knell for box stores around the globe.
- The rise of online retail caused alarm bells to chime as people predicted the closing of box stores.
 - The rise of online retail caused the box stores to evolve.
 - The rise of online retail sounded like a good idea to everyone but box store enthusiasts.
 - The rise of online retail brought about the death of the box stores.
27. An injunction issued by the county judge prevented the development company from moving ahead with the scheduled demolition while the legal dispute was ongoing.
- The judge issued a ruling that temporarily prohibited the development company from moving ahead on their project.
 - The judge ruled that the development company could not demolish the property to complete their project.
 - The judge interjected into the legal dispute ruling against the development company.
 - The judge presiding over the legal dispute ruled in favor of the development company.

28. They erected enormous statues to extol the bravery and sacrifice of the fallen soldiers.
- They built the statues to document the bravery and sacrifice of the fallen soldiers.
 - They built the statues to honor the bravery and sacrifice of the fallen soldiers.
 - They built the statues to exaggerate the bravery and sacrifice of the fallen soldiers.
 - They built the statues to educate people about the bravery and sacrifice of the fallen soldiers.
29. It really was fortuitous that you arrived when you did.
- It was unfortunate that you arrived when you did.
 - Arriving when you did filled me with a sense of foreboding.
 - It was lucky that you arrived when you did.
 - You took a gamble arriving when you did.
30. The effects of the hegemony of American popular culture can be witnessed around the globe.
- American popular culture is both homogenous and global.
 - American popular culture dominates the market globally.
 - American popular culture helps perpetuate biases across the globe.
 - American popular culture is effective at attracting global viewers because of its diversity.

In items 31-35, select the sentence that has no errors in grammar, punctuation, or mechanics.

- 31.
- The students gathered around there teachers desk: anxiously waiting as their team's scores were tabulated.
 - The tension was in the air as the teacher prepared to announce the winner of the class competition; a single pencil could be heard if it dropped to the floor.
 - The highlight of most everyones day was hearing the results of the weeks-long class competition.
 - The teacher called the class to attention, the students too excited to hear continued talking among themselves nervously predicting which team would be the victor of the long awaited class-competition reveal.

32.

- a. In the audience a proud mother sat looking at the cover of the playbill for *Peter Pan*, nervously wondering – not for the first time – just how they were going to safely pull off the magical feat of making it look like her son was flying off to a magical land.
- b. From behind the curtain, the actor playing *Peter Pan* watched his mother nervously twist her playbill from the first row of the audience, he could almost read her mind, imagining her worrying about him forgetting his lines, tripping over a prop, or falling during the flight scenes.
- c. The storyline of *Peter Pan* may involve a bunch of Lost Boys who think they don't need their mothers but the auditorium on the night of that very performance was full of sons who, indeed, still very much needed their mothers and mothers who indeed needed their sons.
- d. The opening night performance of "Peter Pan" was a grand success and the actors were rewarded with a standing ovation at the end of the night; When the principal character looked up he saw his mother beaming from the front row clapping vigorously, a tattered playbill dangling from under one arm.

33.

- a. In small town football-loving towns, they say everything's connected; the schools, the businesses, the team, etc.
- b. During the early fall months, the Pizzeria inserted football-themed pizza specials into their menus and, hung banners across the storefront cheering the local team on.
- c. On Friday nights the pizzeria across from the high school was always busy due to the pre- and post-football game crowds that frequented the establishment (in better moods if they won, in poorer moods if they lost).
- d. Years after graduating from High School the star quarterback would always associate a slice of greasy pepperoni pizza with his glory days of being a king on the football field.

34.

- a. In the woods, passed a abandoned barn, is the most spectacular treehouse you have ever seen.
- b. No one knew who originally built it although there were many stories about its origin – some fantastical, some reasonable.
- c. The most recent regular inhabitants of the treehouse were a group of neighborhood kids who spent as much time arguing in the treehouse as they did playing there.
- d. Distracted by yet another fight, the children didn't know whom to blame when the tree houses ladder fall to the ground leaving them stranded high above ground.

- 35.
- a. The bookstore was having its best sale of the year. Half-off books were flying off the shelves.
 - b. Strategically arranged book displays lure customers deeper in to store, Once there they are more likely to buy more than just the discounted books that brought them in in the first place.
 - c. Apparently, though, the one thing you're not allowed to do is actually sit on the floor in the book store and read a book from cover to cover, that's like stealing. Or, so I'm told.
 - d. Half-price, full-price, straight from the book display, or half-read on the storeroom floor, there's nothing better than walking out of a bookstore with a book you can't wait to read (or re-read)!

In items 36-45, select the sentence group that best revises any grammatical or punctuation errors or improves the style. If you see no error, select "no change necessary."

36. Whom told you that his brother would be at the party.
- a. Who told you that his brother would be at the party.
 - b. Whom told you that his brother would be the party?
 - c. Who told you that his brother would be at the party?
 - d. No change necessary
37. After a while, the arcades sounds and lights made the attendant's headache come back again.
- a. It didn't take long for the sounds and lights in the arcade to bring back the attendant's headache.
 - b. After awhile, the arcade's sounds and lights made the attendant's headache come back again.
 - c. The combination of sounds and lights, after a while, made the attendants headache come back.
 - d. No change necessary
38. The girl pondered over the many choices in the candy aisle unsure of which treat to select.
- a. The candy aisle had many candy options. The girl was unsure of which treat she should choose.
 - b. The girl pondered unsurely over her decision because of the many options in the candy aisle.
 - c. Pondering the many candy options, the girl was unsure of which treat to select from the aisle.
 - d. No change necessary

39. The two friends shook with excitement as they moved to the front of the line, for there turn to ride the high speed roller coaster.

- a. The two friends moved nervously and excitedly through the line to ride the roller coaster.
- b. The two friends shook with excitement as they moved to the front of the line for their turn to ride the high-speed rollercoaster.
- c. The two friends boarded the high speed roller coaster with excitement and nerves, shaking.
- d. No change necessary

40. The child's tears were inconsolable as she looked down at a melting puddle of mint chocolate chip ice cream sprinkles and a cherry splattered across the sidewalk and her shoes.

- a. The inconsolable child cried, as she looked down at the melting puddle of mint chocolate chip ice cream, sprinkles and a cherry splattered across the sidewalk, and her shoes.
- b. The child cried inconsolably as she looked down at a melting puddle of mint chocolate chip ice cream, sprinkles, and a cherry; splattered across the sidewalk and her shoes.
- c. The crying child was inconsolable as she looked down at the melting puddle of mint chocolate chip ice cream, sprinkles, and a cherry splattered across the sidewalk and her shoes.
- d. No change necessary.

41. The artist painted frantically, racing mother nature, trying to capture the beauty of the sunset before daylight slipped away, taking with it the model for his imagined masterpiece.

- a. The artist painted frantically, racing mother nature and trying to capture the beauty of the sunset before daylight slipped away (taking with it the model for his imagined masterpiece).
- b. The artist painted frantically. Racing mother nature, he tried to capture the beauty of the sunset before daylight slipped away, taking with it the model for his imagined masterpiece.
- c. The artist's painted frantically. Racing mother nature, he tried to capture the beauty of the sunset before daylight slipped away and the imagined masterpiece too.
- d. No change necessary

42. Bram Stoker, was the author of *Dracula*, one of the most famous vampire narratives. But he was not the first to write about these mythical creatures.

- a. Bram Stoker's *Dracula* is one of the most famous vampire narratives, but his was not the first written about these mythical creatures.
- b. Bram Stoker, the author of *Dracula*, one of the famous vampire narratives, is credited for being the first to write about these mythical creatures but he was not the first one to do so.
- c. Bram Stoker's *Dracula* is about mythical creatures, vampires: this narrative might be famous but it was not the first of its kind.
- d. No change necessary.

43. My grandmother leaned in and whispered to me, “the secret ingredient in my holiday pie is nutmeg.”

- a. My grandmother leaned in, and whispered to me, “the secret ingredient in my holiday pie is nutmeg.”
- b. My Grandmother leaned in and whispered to me: “the secret ingredient in my holiday pie is nutmeg.”
- c. My grandmother leaned in and whispered to me. “The secret ingredient in my holiday pie is nutmeg.”
- d. No change necessary

44. The valedictorians graduation speech caused the students to explode with laughter and the administration to shift uncomfortably in his seats.

- a. The valedictorians graduation speech, which caused the students to explode with laughter, also made the administration shift uncomfortably in their seats.
- b. The valedictorian’s graduation speech caused the students to explode with laughter and the administration to shift uncomfortably in their seats.
- c. The valedictorian’s speech at graduation caused explosive laughter and shifting in seats from the students and administration.
- d. No change necessary

45. Downtown was transformed into a kaleidoscope of colors, as the sidewalks became alive with the imaginative chalk art, created by the children artists competing in the annual contest.

- a. The downtown sidewalks were transformed into a kaleidoscope of colors, becoming alive with the imaginative chalk art created by the children who had competed in the annual contest.
- b. The children artists competing in the annual contest brought the downtown sidewalks alive, transforming them into a kaleidoscope of colors, when they created their chalk art.
- c. Downtown was transformed into a kaleidoscope of colors as the sidewalks became alive with the imaginative chalk art created by the children artists competing in the annual contest.
- d. No change necessary

In items 46-50, select the phrase that best describes the underlined words.

46. Swimming was the sport that earned her a college scholarship.

- a. Verb
- b. Gerund
- c. Past participle
- d. Infinitive

47. The toy on the top shelf caught the child’s eye.

- a. Adjective
- b. Adverb
- c. Preposition
- d. Conjunction

48. "Yikes! I forgot to pay that bill and it was due yesterday."
 a. Interjection
 b. Conjunction
 c. Adjective
 d. Subjunctive mood
49. The concert begins at five o'clock.
 a. Predicate
 b. Adverbial Prepositional Phrase
 c. Present Simple Tense
 d. Passive Voice
50. When the dinner was done cooking, the guests had left.
 a. Simple Past Tense
 b. Coordinating Conjunction
 c. Indicative Mood
 d. Perfect Past Tense

The Sedition Act of 1918 made it a criminal offense to "willfully utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of the Government of the United States." To side step this potential punishment, Sara Teasdale cleverly expressed her opposition to the U.S. involvement in World War I through this pastoral poem, "There Will Come Soft Rains." Read this poem and answer the corresponding questions.

- 1 There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
 2 And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;
- 3 And frogs in the pools singing at night,
 4 And wild plum trees in tremulous white,
- 5 Robins will wear their feathery fire
 6 Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;
- 7 And not one will know of the war, not one
 8 Will care at last when it is done.
- 9 Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree
 10 If mankind perished utterly;
- 11 And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,
 12 Would scarcely know that we were gone.

51. In line 3, "frogs in the pools singing at night" is an example of:
 a. Onomatopoeia
 b. Personification
 c. Irony
 d. Assonance

52. Depicting singing frogs and whistling robins suggests:
- Nature is oblivious to the absence of mankind
 - Nature is happier without mankind
 - Nature has an evil streak
 - Nature is partially to blame for the downfall of mankind
53. Which lines provide the clearest imagery of nature juxtaposed against the leftover artifacts of mankind?
- Line 1
 - Line 5
 - Line 6
 - Line 12
54. "Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree, if mankind perished utterly" can be interpreted as:
- In the larger scheme of things, mankind is rather insignificant
 - The natural world would move on without mankind if we destroyed ourselves
 - Being that mankind has had a negative impact on nature, nature may rejoice if mankind was to suddenly die out.
 - All of the above are valid interpretations
55. Nature is often personified as "Mother Nature." While this phrase doesn't appear in this poem, similar gendered personification appears in the following line:
- Line 3
 - Line 5
 - Line 7
 - Line 11
56. This literary device appears in both Line 2 and Line 5:
- Alliteration
 - Assonance
 - Allusion
 - Anachronism
57. Where does the author's message appear most directly within the poem?
- Lines 3 & 4
 - Lines 5 & 6
 - Lines 7 & 8
 - Lines 11 & 12
58. Which of the following is a true statement about the structure of this poem?
- This poem is comprised of six stanzas
 - This poem is comprised of six couplets
 - The poem's rhyme scheme is aabbccddeeff
 - All of the above are true

59. Which statement best describes the impact of the rhythm and rhyme used by Teasdale in this poem?
- The upbeat almost nursery rhyme feel of the poem, along with the beautiful imagery, stands in stark contrast to the harsh wartime critique she is providing about a manmade apocalyptic disaster.
 - The use of perfect rhyme makes it seem eerie, fitting for describing a post-apocalyptic world wherein nature exists without mankind.
 - The use of short sentences and rhyming couplets provides a more natural sound, allowing the personified animals and elements presented within the poem to serve as the poem's speaker.
 - The rhythm and rhyme of the poem shifts midway through the poem when the speaker arrives at her pointed critique of war and its role in bringing about the downfall of mankind.
60. How is first person used rhetorically in the closing line of Teasdale's poem?
- To persuade the reader to adopt the speaker's anti-war sentiments
 - To implicate the reader in the critiques against mankind and war presented in the poem
 - To heighten emotional response to the poem
 - To serve as a foil to Spring who is introduced in the line above

William Shakespeare penned 154 sonnets throughout his career. Although they cover a range of themes, they are typically divided into two groups: those that appear to address a male "Fair Youth" and those that appear to address a female "Dark Lady." Read the following poem, "Sonnet 71," and answer the corresponding questions.

1 No longer mourn for me when I am dead
 2 Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell
 3 Give warning to the world that I am fled
 4 From this vile world with vilest worms to dwell:
 5 Nay, if you read this line, remember not
 6 The hand that writ it, for I love you so,
 7 That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot,
 8 If thinking on me then should make you woe.
 9 O! if, I say, you look upon this verse,
 10 When I perhaps compounded am with clay,
 11 Do not so much as my poor name rehearse;
 12 But let your love even with my life decay;
 13 Lest the wise world should look into your moan,
 14 And mock you with me after I am gone.

61. A Shakespearean sonnet is comprised of three quatrains and a _____.
- Sestina
 - Stanza
 - Couplet
 - Doublet

62. Lines 13 and 14 provide an example of:
- Internal Rhyme
 - Slant Rhyme
 - Trochee Pentameter
 - Iambic Quantimeter
63. "When I perhaps compounded am with clay" - What would the best translation of this line be?
- When I am as gray as clay
 - When I am put into a clay tomb
 - When I become one with the clay earth
 - When I am as hard as a block of hardened clay
64. The speaker advises his love against doing all of the following except:
- Being sad about his death
 - Remembering him when he is gone
 - Crying out his name
 - Telling the world that he has passed away
65. Which lines best sum up what the speaker wishes for his love upon his passing?
- Lines 1 & 6
 - Lines 1 & 11
 - Lines 1 & 12
 - Lines 1 & 14
66. What oversimplified theme listed below best fits the message of this poem?
- Life is for the living
 - Love hard because life is short
 - Life, laugh, love
 - Love is eternal
67. "Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell" - What literary device is present in this line?
- Assonance
 - Alliteration
 - Onomatopoeia
 - Personification
 - e.

68. As is common with sonnets, the closing lines in this poem change course slightly. Here the speaker alters his argument and tries to convince his love of another reason why they might not want to mourn them after they die. Which of the statements below captures the argument presented in lines 13 & 14 best?

- a. "People will likely be mocking me when I'm gone and if you mourn me you're likely to get mocked by association."
- b. "Because of my lower social status, mourning me will make you fall from grace in society and you'll be labeled a fool."
- c. "Excessive mourning can cause people to question your mental state."
- d. "If you mourn me too much people will mock you and our love when I'm gone."

69. What line best explains why he wants his love to not mourn him after his death?

- a. Line 2
- b. Line 5
- c. Line 8
- d. Line 13

70. Which of the following accurately represents the rhyme scheme of this sonnet?

- a. AAAA BBBB CCCC DD
- b. AABB CCDD EEFF GG
- c. ABAB CDCD EFEF GG
- d. ABBA CDDC EFFE FF

Between 1840 and 1870 more than 350,000 pioneers migrated West across the United States settling in the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, and beyond. Families who cultivated a piece of land and then lived on it were called homesteaders. In “Too Soon a Woman,” Dorothy M. Johnson captures the struggles that many had on their quest to start these new lives out west. Read the following excerpt from this short story and answer the following questions.

We left the home place behind, mile by slow mile, heading for the mountains, across the prairie where the wind blew forever.

At first there were four of us with the one-horse wagon and its skimpy load. Pa and I walked, because I was a big boy of eleven. My two little sisters romped and trotted until they got tired and had to be boosted up into the wagon bed.

That was no covered Conestoga, like Pa's folks came West in, but just an old farm wagon, drawn by one weary horse, creaking and rumbling westward to the mountains, toward the little woods town where Pa thought he had an old uncle who owned a little two-bit sawmill.

Two weeks we had been moving when we picked up Mary, who had run away from somewhere that she wouldn't tell. Pa didn't want her along, but she stood up to him with no fear in her voice.

"I'd rather go with a family and look after kids," she said, "but I ain't going back. If you won't take me, I'll travel with any wagon that will."

Pa scowled at her, and her wide blue eyes stared back. "How old are you?" he demanded.

"Eighteen," she said.

"There's teamsters come this way sometimes. I'd rather go with you folks. But I won't go back."

"We're pridin' near out of grub," my father told her.

"We're clean out of money. I got all I can handle without taking anybody else." He turned away as if he hated the sight of her. "You'll have to walk," he said.

So she went along with us and looked after the little girls, but Pa wouldn't talk to her.

On the prairie, the wind blew. But in the mountains, there was rain. When we stopped at the little timber claims along the way, the homesteaders said it had rained all summer. Crops among the blackened sumps were rotted and spoiled. There was no cheer anywhere, and little hospitality. The people we talked to were past worrying. They were scared and desperate.

71. In paragraph one, the phrase "where the wind blew forever" is an example of:

- Onomatopoeia
- Hyperbole
- Characterization
- Internal Rhyme

72. This dialogue is written to reflect regional or cultural elements, as well as pronunciation: “We’re prid’near out of grub.” This is an example of:

- a. Alliteration
- b. Onomatopoeia
- c. Dialect
- d. Phonics

73. The phrase “prid’near” can be translated as:

- a. pride and near
- b. pried nearly
- c. pretty near
- d. primarily

74. Why is the father resistant to allowing the teenage girl, Mary, to join them on their travels?

- a. He doesn’t believe she will be a good caretaker for his children
- b. He fears she’ll bring trouble since she’s run away from the teamsters
- c. He is ashamed that he finds her attractive
- d. He knows he does not have the resources to feed and care for another person

75. What does this line in the narrative, referencing the homesteaders they ran into along their travels, suggest? “There was no cheer anywhere, and little hospitality.”

- a. That the family will become emotionally hardened as they travel further westward
- b. That Pa’s reaction to Mary would not have been uncommon
- c. That the family will ultimately decide to return to the east
- d. That only children can be happy while migrating west

76. “I’d rather go with a family and look after kids,” she said, “but I ain’t going back. If you won’t take me, I’ll travel with any wagon that will.” These lines spoken by Mary suggest:

- a. That she’s fleeing from a bad situation that she does not wish to talk about and is determined to persevere with or without their help
- b. That she previously traveled with a family as a caregiver and wants a similar post
- c. That Mary has no formal education or skills that will help on the trails
- d. That Mary has been rejected by other families and they are her only hope

77. Which of the following sentences does NOT serve to help reinforce the narrative’s message about the difficulties of migrating westward?

- a. We left the home place behind, mile by slow mile, heading for the mountains, across the prairie where the wind blew forever
- b. At first there were four of us with the one-horse wagon and its skimpy load. Pa and I walked, because I was a big boy of eleven
- c. That was no covered Conestoga, like Pa’s folks came West in, but just an old farm wagon, drawn by one weary horse, creaking and rumbling westward to the mountains...
- d. He turned away as if he hated the sight of her

78. Overall this excerpt focuses on the negativity of the westward traveling experience. However, one single paragraph shows characters existing as generational foils finding naïve pleasure in the traveling experience, likely because they do not yet have to carry any of the burdens during the journey. In what paragraph can this contrasting imagery be found?

- a. Paragraph One
- b. Paragraph Two
- c. Paragraph Three
- d. Paragraph Four

79. The final paragraph of this excerpt is rich with description. What function does this play in the narrative?

- a. The bleak description of the setting mirrors the emotional state of the characters
- b. The imagery serves as foreshadowing of a negative event later in the narrative
- c. The descriptive words allow the short story to have a more poetic feeling
- d. The negative description of the land is meant to caution people against traveling there

80. Why were the homesteaders “past worrying”?

- a. Strong prairie winds had decimated their crops
- b. Among other challenges, a long rainy season had rotted their crops
- c. Tensions with the teamsters had escalated
- d. They had grown desensitized to the challenges of migrating west

Scratch Paper