

Name: _____

Date: _____

1.

A graph shows the amount of rainfall in a particular area for each month of the year. The information in the graph could be used to

- A. compare the amount of rainfall with the previous year.
 - B. determine the exact amount of rainfall during the next year.
 - C. calculate the average daily rainfall for the previous three years.
 - D. find the difference between the greatest and least amounts of rainfall.
-

2.

A chart is a good way to

- A. write an essay.
 - B. diagram a sentence.
 - C. make an outline for a research paper.
 - D. organize information into categories.
-

3.

Photographs are mainly used in science textbooks to

- A. give readers a break from words.
 - B. add visual appeal to the page.
 - C. add further meaning to the text.
 - D. fill in extra space on the page.
-

4.

Eric was very *morose* after getting the results of his algebra test, but Donovan was very pleased.

You can tell from the sentence that *morose* means

- A. pleased.
 - B. irritated.
 - C. happy.
 - D. gloomy.
-

5.

Many schools are *heterogeneous* with students from different cultural, social, racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

The word *heterogeneous* means

- A. differing in kind.
 - B. of the same kind.
 - C. high-achieving.
 - D. low-achieving.
-

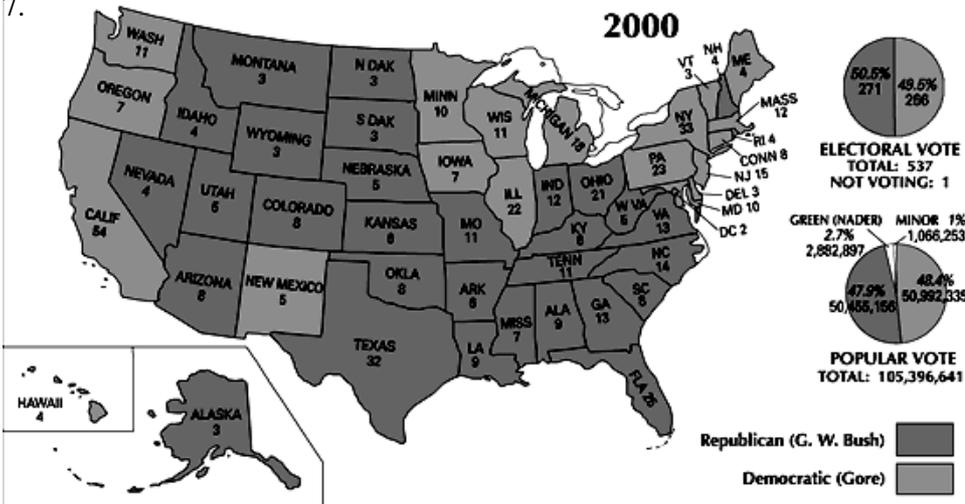
6.

There are so many opportunities for free education in the United States today, and there is no reason for any citizen to be **illiterate**.

The prefix *il-* means

- A. all.
- B. before.
- C. not.
- D. very.

7.



According to the charts associated with this map, how many electors did NOT cast a vote in the 2000 election?

- A. 537
- B. 271
- C. 266
- D. 1

8.



Experience and Knowledge
Will Light You
To Success

1864. 1903.

J. WALTER THOMPSON CO.
NEW YORK CHICAGO BOSTON
ADVERTISING.

Forceful Advertising

The strength of the copy often measures the pulling power of the ad. In the preparation of copy we have had nearly forty years of practical experience.

We can prepare copy for you that will be strong, forceful, convincing.

We can place the copy in publications best suited to your business.

We can take your advertising appropriation and make of it a profitable investment, instead of a speculation.

Shall we show you how we do it?

J. Walter Thompson Co

The Rookery, Chicago

New York Boston

Using information from the images, how long had this company been in business at the time this advertisement appeared?

- A. 39 years
- B. 1903 years
- C. 1864 years
- D. 104 years

9.

Which group of transitional words or phrases would be MOST effective in an essay using compare and contrast order?

- A. first, next, then, last
 - B. so, in order to, since, due to
 - C. therefore, thus, clearly, as a result
 - D. although, however, likewise, nevertheless
-

How to Bag a Bargain

Are you planning a shopping trip soon? Would you like to make your stash of cash buy as much as possible? Then plan your buying expedition ahead of time! Do not fall into impulse buying. Instead, decide what you want to buy and map out your itinerary before you go. In this way, you won't be tempted to purchase the first trendy item you see. Savvy shoppers use stores to their advantage. Follow these simple guidelines and proceed to START!

First, and foremost, make a list of anything you wish to purchase. Divide the list into sections, such as clothes, accessories, books, camping gear, and miscellaneous. Then rank order the sections. Decide which is the most important, and rank it number one. Then, if you run out of time, and/or money, you will have purchased the most important items.

Next, plot your strategy! If you plan to buy an important item of clothing, decide what style. A major department store is the best place to look for a high-ticket item, such as a coat or suit. Most department stores have extensive clearance sections located in the back of each section. Although the clothes might be from the previous season, usually they are close to the cutting edge in fashion. Remember, if you buy a coat in June, you will get a much better deal than if you purchase one in August or September. This holds true for all types of apparel. If you have the patience to wait a few months before wearing the item, you can save a bundle. If you live relatively close to the store, don't be shy about asking when the next markdown will occur. Salespeople often are more than happy to give you this information. They are anxious to make a sale, but they care even more about developing a client base. If you wish to solidify your relationship, ask the salesperson for a business card. In this way, you have a contact should you have a question, problem, or suggestion.

If department stores are not to your liking, shop the small boutiques that are often in clusters close to most downtown areas. However, remember that boutiques often must charge more for their merchandise in order to meet the rent! But, for individuality, they can't be beat! Again, follow the shopper's first rule: march past the new merchandise in the front of the store, and start looking at the reduced items in the back. Clearance items are not rejects. Often, they are gift returns, odd sizes or colors, or too trendy or not trendy enough designs. They might be just what you are seeking!

The same rule of merchandising holds true in bookstores, music marts, and shoe stores. The old adage "One person's junk is another person's treasure" certainly applies to shopping.

Many national chain stores have computerized lists of merchandise availability. If you cannot find your size or color, ask the salesperson. He or she might be able to bring it up on the computer, place the order, and have it delivered to your house. It is certainly worth a try!

If you dare to be different, you might visit a military surplus store or resale shop. Military stores have great deals on fatigues, military issue boots, hats, gloves, and accessories. Although a military surplus store might seem intimidating at first, it is often a living history lesson. You can learn a lot about the armed forces from their uniforms and gear.

Resale shops offer a wealth of items. The larger the city, the greater the chance you will find an item you can't live without, but never knew you wanted! Many people are devoted to secondhand sourcing, and some make a daily visit to their favorites. Be aware that not all merchandise is in perfect condition. However, a small flaw might mean a great deal! If you find an imperfection, point it out to the proprietor. You might reap a huge discount. Unusual finds can add pizzazz and personality to wardrobe. Do not hesitate to acquire a unique piece. Remember, many antique dealers and collectors frequent secondhand shops. Many items might be very valuable to the trained eye. If you see something you like, buy it! You can be sure you won't find it again!

Whether you are headed uptown, downtown, or across town, you can find a better buy! Resist the temptation to impulse buy, check out the clearance racks, and don't hesitate to seek out the unusual. Who knows, you might be the next trendsetter!

10. What is a synonym for the word *trendy*?

- A. attractive
 - B. flashy
 - C. tacky
 - D. stylish
-

A Create-Your-Own Yogurt Project

by Margaret Kenda and Phyllis S. Williams

Yogurt is a living organism. When you make yogurt, you are "growing" yogurt from a small amount of starter yogurt. The live yogurt bacteria ferment within milk to create more yogurt.

Fortunately, the yogurt bacteria are good for us — and yogurt is a delicious treat, becoming more popular every day.

Here's what you need:

4 cups (1 quart) whole milk or 2%-fat milk

3 tablespoons plain yogurt to use as a starter

Hint: Look at the label to make sure the yogurt you want to use for a starter is "live" or "active." Or use yogurt from another homemade batch. Some grocery-store yogurt brands have been treated and flavored so that they won't do to start new yogurt.

Here's what you do:

1 Warm the milk.

You can pour the milk into a one-quart, heatproof glass container and heat it at low temperature in the microwave oven for about two minutes. Or heat it at low temperature on the stovetop.

2 Put a kitchen thermometer into the warm milk, and let the milk cool until it is 95°F to 100°F (35°C to 38°C).

3 Remove any skin that forms on top of the milk.

4 Gently whisk the yogurt with a spoon or fork, and pour it into the milk.

5 Now beat the yogurt mixture with an eggbeater until it is thoroughly mixed.

6 You will need four or five one-cup jars for your yogurt. (Electric yogurt makers come with them.) Make sure the jars for your yogurt are very clean. Before you use the jars, wash them in very hot water or in a dishwasher.

Heat the yogurt with one of these methods.

1 Use an electric yogurt maker. Pour the yogurt mix into the jars that come with the machine. Cover, and set them into the machine for about six hours. (Of course, follow the instructions that come with the machine.)

2 Use an electric frypan. Set the pan for about 100°F (38°C). Fill it with warm water. Pour the yogurt mix into one-cup jars. Cover, and set them into the warm water. Cover the frypan and let them sit for about six hours (or overnight). Your yogurt is finished when it is creamy and almost firm. Chill before eating.

You decide how to flavor your yogurt.

Gently stir *ONE* of these flavorings into each jar.

1 a couple of drops of vanilla extract and a sprinkle of cinnamon

2 1 tablespoon of fruit preserves

3 pieces of chopped fruit (Especially try strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, or peaches. Or stir in chopped apple, with a sprinkle of cinnamon.)

4 1 tablespoon pure chocolate syrup

5 1 tablespoon maple syrup

NOW YOU HAVE MORE THAN FOUR CUPS OF YOUR OWN SPECIAL YOGURT.

Cover each jar, and keep refrigerated.

Hint: Don't worry if the yogurt is still a little runny. It will firm up in the refrigerator. But if your finished yogurt is really runny, here is what to do. Soften 1 tablespoon (1 envelope) unflavored gelatin into $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cold water. Then heat the gelatin on high power in the microwave oven for about 30 seconds until the gelatin dissolves. Stir and add that mixture to the yogurt.

11. Which statement about making yogurt is true?
- A. Any yogurt from the supermarket can be used as a starter.
 - B. Yogurt does not need to be refrigerated.
 - C. Yogurt takes a long time to prepare.
 - D. The yogurt should be combined with an equal amount of flavoring.
-

*In this passage from *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, you will learn about a character named Mr. Jenson who is very important to the students at the school where he works. Read the passage and then answer the questions that follow.*

from *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*

by Betty Smith

Francie found that the different feeling in this school came mostly from the janitor. He was a ruddy white-haired man whom even the principal addressed as *Mister* Jenson. He had many children and grandchildren of his own, all of whom he loved dearly. He was father to all children. On rainy days when children came to school soaked, he insisted that they be sent down to the furnace room to dry out. He made them take off their wet shoes and hung their wet stockings on a line to dry. The little shabby shoes stood in a row before the furnace.

It was pleasant down in the furnace room. The walls were white-washed and the big red-painted furnace was a comforting thing. The windows were high up in the walls. Francie liked to sit there and enjoy the warmth and watch the orange and blue flames dancing an inch above the bed of small black coals. (He left the furnace door open when the children were drying out.) On rainy days, she left earlier and walked to school slower so that she would be soaking wet and rate the privilege of drying in the furnace room.

It was unorthodox for Mr. Jenson to keep the children out of class to dry but everyone liked and respected him too much to protest. Francie heard stories around the school concerning Mr. Jenson. She heard that he had been to college and knew more than the principal did. They said he had married and when the children came, had decided that there was more money in being a school engineer than in being a school teacher. Whatever it was, he was liked and respected. Once Francie saw him in the principal's office. He was in his clean striped overalls sitting there with his knees crossed and talking politics. Francie heard that the principal often came down to Mr. Jenson's furnace room to sit and talk for a few moments while he smoked a pipeful of tobacco.

When a boy was bad, he wasn't sent to the principal's office for a licking; he was sent down to Mr. Jenson's room for a talking to. Mr. Jenson never scolded a bad boy. He talked to him about his own youngest son who was a pitcher on the Brooklyn team. He talked about democracy and good citizenship and about a good world where everyone did the best he could for the common good of all. After a talk with Mr. Jenson, the boy could be counted upon not to cause any more trouble.

At graduation, the children asked the principal to sign the first page of their autograph book out of respect to his position but they valued Mr. Jenson's autograph more and he always got the second page to sign. The principal signed quickly in a great sprawling hand. But not Mr. Jenson. He made a ceremony out of it. He took the book over to his big roll-top desk and lit the light over it. He sat down, carefully polished his spectacles and chose a pen. He dipped it in ink, squinted at it, wiped it off and re-dipped it. Then he signed his name in a fine steel-engraving script and blotted it carefully. His signature was always the finest in the book. If you had the nerve to ask him, he'd take the book home and ask his son, who was with the Dodgers, to sign it too. This was a wonderful thing for the boys. The girls didn't care.

Mr. Jenson's handwriting was so wonderful that he wrote out all the diplomas by request.

12. The **main** reason the children liked to have Mr. Jenson sign their autograph book was because he
- A. had such excellent handwriting.
 - B. always wrote something funny or interesting as well.
 - C. would also have his son, a baseball player, sign it.
 - D. was such a loved and respected person.
-

13. In paragraph 3, the word *unorthodox* means
- A. thoughtful.
 - B. unusual.
 - C. important.
 - D. unknown.
-

Greater Smithville Youth Baseball Program

All interested players — Ages 5–18

BASEBALL - SOFTBALL SIGN UP and TRY OUT



Saturday, April 17

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 18

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 24

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 25

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.



ELIGIBILITY

1. You must be five years old before August 1, 1998, and not nineteen before August 1, 1999. Bring proof of birth date with you.
2. All youth are expected to bring proof of age.

PLAYER'S FEES

T-Ball — \$40.00	11 & Above Girls' Softball — \$50.00
10 & Under Girls' Softball — \$45.00	7–12 Boys' Baseball — \$55.00
	13–18 Babe Ruth Baseball — \$60.00

*FAMILY PLAN

*Only two family members pay a fee. The two highest amounts will be collected. Other family members will be free.

NOTICE

FULL PLAYER'S FEE TO BE PAID AT TIME OF SIGN-UPS

(\$10.00 LATE FEE)

— NO REFUNDS —

\$15.00 of player's fee recoupable by selling all of your raffle chances.

— THE PLACE —

GRANITE SPORTS ARENA

14. According to this flyer, how can interested Smithville youths sign up for a sports program?

- A. telephone the coach of the team
- B. tell the teacher who handed out the flyer
- C. send an application to the Granite Sports Arena
- D. go in person to the Granite Sports Arena with proof of age

15. How does the Greater Smithville Youth Baseball Program help larger families pay their sports fees?

- A. Younger players pay less.
 - B. Twins each pay half the fee.
 - C. The third child signs up for free.
 - D. Better players play for free.
-

16. If a 10-year-old sold all of his raffle tickets, which would be his actual cost of playing baseball?

- A. \$35
 - B. \$40
 - C. \$50
 - D. \$55
-

17. For which sport could a Smithville youth expect to receive a flyer from the Smithville Youth Sports Program in the fall?

- A. baseball
 - B. soccer
 - C. softball
 - D. T-ball
-

Bill Greenfield and the Mosquitoes

Back then, folks say, mosquitoes were bigger and fiercer than they are today. Nowadays, around Saratoga County, it's a rare occasion when you see a mosquito much bigger than a small crow.

There are still a few large ones around. I remember one night when I was camping out near Newcomb and woke up because I heard something. A couple of those big mosquitoes outside my tent were talking about whether they were going to eat me right there or carry me off into the woods. After hearing that, I didn't come out of that tent until daylight! But mosquitoes of that size are pretty rare now, not like back in Bill Greenfield's day.

One day Bill Greenfield was out skinning a cow that had died. He wasn't far from an old maple grove, so he'd parked his tools on a big metal syrup pot and started on the cow.

Bill hadn't gotten too far in skinning it when he heard a sound that made his blood run cold. If you heard that sound today, you'd think it was a squadron of helicopters, but back then, a sound like that could mean only one thing. It was a swarm of Saratoga County mosquitoes, and they were heading his way.

Bill looked around. There wasn't a building within a mile, and the only weapon he had was his skinning knife. Those mosquitoes would catch the scent of that cow any minute, and Bill knew he'd be a goner. That syrup pot was the only thing around, so Bill turned it over and crawled underneath.

Sure enough, those mosquitoes came swarming down, and the next thing Bill heard was the most awful slurping and crunching you could imagine. Those bugs ate that whole cow – hide, meat, hoof, horn, and bone.

Then things got real quiet. For a minute Bill thought the mosquitoes had gone away, but then a whirring noise started, and he knew what it was. Those mean old mosquitoes were drilling right through the iron pot. Before long, one of their stingers popped through, so Bill picked a stone off the ground and clinched it over. Then another one poked through, and Bill did the same thing. Soon every one of those mosquitoes had drilled its way through the pot, and every one of them got its stinger bent over and stuck! That made those monsters real angry. They started buzzing their wings like all get-out until the pot rose straight up in the air. The next thing Bill knew, the old iron pot and all those mosquitoes were flying off toward the northeast. Bill said they must have gone on until they hit the ocean, and then gotten so tired that they let the weight pull them in and drown them.

"And if you don't believe that's what happened," he'd say, "then how come you don't see any mosquitoes that big around here today?"

18. In paragraph 7, the meaning of the word *clinched* is

- A. bent down.
 - B. took off.
 - C. moved together.
 - D. brought closer.
-

Read the introduction and the story below from a collection of Bill Greenfield stories. Then answer the questions that follow.

Bill Greenfield Stories

retold by Joseph Bruchac

Some people are famous for the deeds they do and some are famous for the stories they tell. Bill Greenfield was famous for both.

Now I wouldn't say Bill was what you'd call a liar. A lie is meant to deceive someone, and Bill Greenfield was no deceiver. He just told what folks up here in the mountains call tall tales—stories that make you listen hard and think even harder, sometimes even laugh a little.

A tall tale, you see, is like the seed of a tree. Once you plant it and it gets rooted firm, the tale just keeps on growing. It can live on long after the one who planted it is gone. The stories Bill Greenfield told and the tales told about him are like the tall pines you still see in the Adirondacks—big and blowing in the wind.

Bill Greenfield, they say, was quite a man. He was a champion wrestler, a crack shot, a great hunter and logger, and a man with quick wits. Nothing could get the better of old Bill. Just read this story and you'll see.

BILL GREENFIELD and the Champion Wrestler

Bill Greenfield was the best wrestler ever seen in Saratoga County, and that's because he was so incredibly strong. What kept him in good shape, he'd say, was the everyday work around his farm— take plowing, for example.

This was back in the days before tractors. To plow your field you'd hitch up the old iron plow behind your ox and then hold onto the reins and handles of the plow to guide it.

But an ox was too slow for Bill. To begin with, it took the ox too long to come out of its stall in the morning, so Bill just started picking it up and carrying it out to the field. But after he hitched the ox to the plow, it moved even slower, so Bill had to push on the plow to get the ox moving. He'd push so hard, the ox had to trot to keep from being run over by the plow. One day Bill just got so fed up with pushing the ox, he unhitched it and started plowing without it.

Word eventually got out around the state that Bill Greenfield was quite a wrestler. So a champion wrestler from Syracuse wanted to challenge Bill and came looking for him. He got as far as Saratoga County and was looking for someone to give him directions, when he spotted a man plowing the fields.

The wrestler leaned against the fence with his mouth open, marveling at the way that man plowed without an ox. He made it look as easy as sliding a knife through butter. Bill Greenfield finally took notice of the man and plowed his way over to the fence.

"Can I help you, stranger?" Bill asked.

"Well," said the man, "I'm a champion wrestler. I've heard there's a man around here named Bill Greenfield who's pretty strong, and I thought I might challenge him to a match." The wrestler looked at the heavy iron plow. "But I can see you're a strong man yourself. You must for sure be stronger than Bill Greenfield."

Bill shook his head. "No sir," he said, "I'm not stronger than Bill Greenfield. In fact, I can't see any way I could ever beat him in anything."

"Well," said the Syracuse wrestler, "then I guess it's Bill Greenfield I should be looking for. Can you tell me which way his house is?"

Bill Greenfield smiled and raised his arm to point. "Right over that way," he said.

The Syracuse wrestler stared at him, open-mouthed. Bill was holding the plow at arm's length, using it as a pointer!

"Thank you kindly," the Syracuse wrestler managed to say. Then he turned around and walked right back the way he'd come.

19. In the sentence, "He made it look as easy as sliding a knife through butter," the author is referring to Bill's ability to

- A. wrestle.
 - B. talk.
 - C. plow.
 - D. plant.
-

Cheating

by Susan Shreve

I cheated on a unit test in math class this morning during second period with Mr. Burke. Afterward, I was too sick to eat lunch, just thinking about it.

I came straight home from school, went to my room, and lay on the floor trying to decide what to do.

It wasn't even an accident that I cheated.

Yesterday Mr. Burke announced there'd be a unit test and anyone who didn't pass would have to come to school on Saturday—most particularly me, since I didn't pass the last unit test. He said that right out in front of everyone. You can imagine how much I like Mr. Burke.

But I did plan to study, just to prove to him that I'm plenty smart—which I am, except in math. I'd even be O.K. in that if I'd memorize my times tables. Anyway, I got my desk ready to study on, since it was stacked with about two million things. And just when I was ready to work, my brother Nicho came into my room with our new rabbit. It jumped on my desk and knocked my flash cards all over the floor.

I yelled for my mother to come and help me pick them up, but the baby was crying, and my mom said I was old enough to help myself.

So Nicho and I took the rabbit outside, but then Marty from next door came over, and before long it was dinner. After dinner my father said I could watch a special on TV if I'd done all my homework.

Of course I said I had.

That was the beginning. I felt terrible telling my father a lie about the homework, so I couldn't even enjoy the special. He didn't say anything, but I guessed he knew I was lying and was so disappointed he couldn't talk about it.

Not much is important in our family. Marty's mother wants him to look O.K. all the time, and my friend Nathan has to get good grades, and my other friend Andy has so many rules he goes crazy just trying to remember them. My parents don't make up a lot of rules. But we do have to tell the truth—even if it's bad. You can imagine how I didn't really enjoy the special.

It was nine o'clock when I got up to my room, and that was too late to study. So I lay in my bed with the light off and figured out what to do about Mr. Burke's test.

So, you see, the cheating was planned after all.

But at night, thinking about Mr. Burke—who could scare just about anybody I know, even my father—it seemed perfectly O.K. to cheat. It didn't even seem bad when I thought of my parents' big thing about telling the truth.

I'd go into class acting like things were just great, and no one, not even Mr. Burke, would suspect the truth. I'd sit down next to Stanley Plummer—he's so smart in math it makes you sick—and every once in a while I'd glance at his paper to copy the answers. It would be a cinch. In fact, every test before, I had to try hard not to see his answers because our desks are practically on top of each other.

And that's exactly what I did this morning. It was a cinch. Everything was O.K., except that my stomach was upside down.

The fact is, I couldn't believe what I'd done. I began to wonder about myself—really wonder—things like whether I would steal from stores or hurt someone on purpose or do some terrible thing I couldn't even imagine. I began to wonder whether I was plain bad to the core.

I've never been a wonderful kid who everybody in the world loves and thinks is great, like Nicho. I have a bad temper and I like to have my own way and I argue a lot. Sometimes I can be mean. But mostly I work hard, I stick up for little kids, and I tell the truth. Mostly I like myself fine—except I wish I were better at basketball.

Now all of a sudden I've turned into this criminal. And all because of one stupid math test.

Lying on the floor of my room, I start thinking that probably I've been bad all along. It just took this math test to clinch it. I'll probably never tell the truth again.

I tell my mother I'm sick when she calls me to come down for dinner. She doesn't believe me, but puts me to bed anyhow. I lie there wondering what terrible thing I'll be doing next, and my father comes in and sits down on my bed.

"What's the matter?" he asks.

"I've got a stomachache," I say. Luckily, it's too dark to see his face.

"Is that all?"

"Yeah."

"Mom says you've been in your room since school."

"I was sick there, too," I say.

"She thinks something happened today and you're upset."

That's the thing that really drives me crazy about my mother. She knows things sitting inside my head same as if I told her.

"Well," my father says. I can tell he doesn't believe I'm sick.

"My stomach is feeling sort of upset." I hedge.

"O.K.," he says, and he pats my leg and gets up.

Just as he shuts the door to my room I call out to him without even meaning to that I'm going to have to run away.

"How come?" he calls back, not surprised or anything.

So I tell him I cheated on this math test. To tell the truth, I'm pretty surprised at myself. I didn't plan to tell him anything.

He doesn't say anything at first, and that just about kills me. I'd be fine if he'd say something. Saying nothing can drive a person crazy.

And then he says I'll have to call Mr. Burke.

It's not what I had in mind.

"Now?" I ask.

"Now," he says and turns on the light.

"I'm not going to," I say.

But I do it. I call Mr. Burke, probably waking him up, and I tell him exactly what happened, even that I decided to cheat the night before the test. He says I can come in Saturday to take another test, and I thank him a whole lot for being understanding and all. He's not friendly, but he's not absolutely mean, either.

"I thought I was turning into a criminal," I tell my father when he turns out my light.

Sometimes my father kisses me good night, and sometimes he doesn't. I never know. But tonight he does.

20. Why didn't the narrator study for the unit test?

- A. He wasn't able to find his flash cards.
 - B. He was too angry at Mr. Burke.
 - C. He kept finding other things to do.
 - D. He thought he would do better by cheating.
-

21. How did cheating change the narrator?

- A. He worried about always being bad.
 - B. He began to lie all the time.
 - C. He thought of new ways to be bad.
 - D. He ran away from home.
-

Childhood of the Ancients

by Andrew Hudgins

Hard? You don't know what hard is, boy:
When I was your age we got up in pitch dark,
and walked five miles to school and ten miles back,
uphill both ways, and all we had for lunch
was a cold sweet potato and dry cornbread.
And when we got back home your grandma made us
chop cotton, slop the hogs, then milk the chickens
before supper, and all we had to eat
was chicken-fried pine straw and redeye gravy.
Maybe some turnip greens. Maybe some collards.
But what do you know? Shoot, you've always had
hot food plopped in front of you, like magic.
For you, it's all ice cream and soda pop.

22. What is an antonym for the word *hard* as it is used in the first line?

- A. wobbly
 - B. complicated
 - C. kindly
 - D. easy
-

23. "Childhood of the Ancients" is classified as a poem because

- A. no quotation marks are used for direct speech.
 - B. words at the end of the lines rhyme.
 - C. it is written in verse form.
 - D. it is about a person's feelings.
-

24. The differences between the speaker's and the boy's childhoods focus **mainly** on the

- A. way they went to school.
 - B. food they ate.
 - C. time they woke up each morning.
 - D. homework they had.
-

Colin Powell

from *Meeting the Challenges: Biographies of African Americans*

by Mark Falstein

The general pointed at the pictures and maps. They showed where the 540,000 soldiers of the Iraqi army were dug in. It was January 1991, and Operation Desert Storm had begun. Millions of worried people turned on their TVs. They saw General Colin Powell explaining clearly how the war would be won. Most Americans knew little about this officer with the four stars on his shoulder. But they sensed that their sons and daughters were in good hands. This man was a tough, proud, and careful soldier.

Colin Luther Powell was born in New York City in 1937. He grew up in one of the city's roughest neighborhoods, the South Bronx. Colin did not plan to become a soldier. Even so, he joined the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). This is a program for young men and women who want to be military officers. "I never thought seriously about *staying* in the army," he has said. His idea was just to "get out of New York . . . and go out and have some excitement. My parents expected that, like most young men . . . I would serve for two years . . . and then go home and get a *real* job."

The army proved to be a real job and more. In 1963, Colin found himself in a war. He was wounded two times in Vietnam and won 11 medals there. One of them was for saving soldiers from a burning helicopter.

In 1972, Major Colin Powell was named a White House Fellow. This meant he could get on-the-job training for a top government job. His fine work was noticed, and from then on Colin Powell moved up quickly. He became a general in 1976 and took on more important jobs for the army.

In 1989, President George Bush named Colin Powell to be the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This is the highest rank in the armed forces of the United States. The man who had not meant to stay in the military was now the country's top soldier.

Operation Desert Storm made Colin Powell famous. Many people wonder if he might someday win the most important government job of all—that of President of the United States. General Powell shies away from such talk. But he is not shy about his role as an example to African Americans. He has said he wants people to think, "Hey look at that dude! He came out of the South Bronx. If he got out, why can't I?"

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25. In which city was Colin Powell born?

- A. Boston
 - B. Cincinnati
 - C. Philadelphia
 - D. New York City
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26. Why did the author write this passage?

- A. to show that the Army provides opportunities
- B. to give information about Colin Powell's career
- C. to prove that Colin Powell should be elected President
- D. to explain why Operation Desert Storm was successful

Answer Key

1. D) find the difference between the greatest and least amounts of rainfall.
2. D) organize information into categories.
3. C) add further meaning to the text.
4. D) gloomy.
5. A) differing in kind.
6. C) not.
7. D) 1
8. A) 39 years
9. D) although, however, likewise, nevertheless
10. D) stylish
11. C) Yogurt takes a long time to prepare.
12. D) was such a loved and respected person.
13. B) unusual.
14. D) go in person to the Granite Sports Arena with proof of age
15. C) The third child signs up for free.
16. B) \$40
17. B) soccer
18. A) bent down.
19. C) plow.
20. C) He kept finding other things to do.
21. A) He worried about always being bad.
22. D) easy
23. C) it is written in verse form.
24. B) food they ate.
25. D) New York City
26. B) to give information about Colin Powell's career