

Connotation and Denotation

Question 1 .

The group hanging out in front of the movies cringed when Larry sauntered around the corner. His personality was so **forceful** that he could hardly keep from giving everyone a hard time.

Jimmy spoke up to greet him, "Hey, Larry. I liked your speech today in class. You were quite, um, **assertive** when you jumped in and took Harold's turn."

Henry chimed in, "Yeah, I thought that Harold was acting a bit too **modestly** to get on with it."

Larry answered back favorably, "Thanks, guys. Do you mind if I join you?"

"No, not at all," said George, the group's unofficial leader. He was **self-confident** enough to take charge in any situation, figuring he was the best man for the job whether or not anyone else agreed.

Larry got in line behind them, and when he stepped up to the counter to purchase his ticket, the young clerk at the window nervously rang up his ticket. She fumbled with his change.

"Don't mind her," grumbled the **deliberately paced** veteran from the back of the booth. "She's **new**, but I bet she'll get the hang of things in no time," he offered with a rather unconvincing wink.

What does the word **forceful** suggest about Larry's personality in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. He is effective.
- ☐ B. He is overbearing.
- ☐ C. He is strong.
- ☐ D. He is violent.

Question 2 .

"Hey, Shauna! What do you think of the new sports car?" Missy asked her friend excitedly. She pointed to the **gaudy** model on the showroom floor.

Shauna replied, "Oh, I suppose it's **adequate**."

"Are you out of your mind? That's a rather **firm** opinion to take with this well-engineered piece of machinery."

"I don't see the need to replace my current vehicle," Shauna defended herself. "The car I have is just fine."

"You're so **traditional** when it comes to buying things," Missy criticized. "You don't care at all about being in style, do you?"

What does Missy suggest of Shauna by using the word **firm** in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. Shauna is resistant to change.
- ☐ B. Shauna is tight and well-defined.
- ☐ C. Shauna is weak and uncertain.
- ☐ D. Shauna is strong-willed.

Question 3 .

Marla Tumbleduck was a rat of a girl, Nora thought. She had tried to steal Nora's boyfriend, she had tried to spread terrible lies about her, and she had made fun of Nora for taking classes like Portuguese Pottery, Medieval Architecture, and Nanotechnology for Ninnies. But Nora wouldn't let the evil Marla bother her today. *No way! NO way!* This was a golden day, and not even Marla's poison would ruin her rosy disposition.

The other presentations had been stiff, and Nora tried to swallow the yawns that bubbled from her throat as she watched from her seat on the stage. It was after Morris Vanderpop's slideshow on the hygiene of ancient Egyptians that Nora first noticed Marla saunter into the auditorium as if she was the very person who built it. *Grrrr... Marla! MARLA!* she thought. She could recognize that red nest of hair anywhere—even under the unmerciful oppression of stage lighting.

Snap out of it, Nora! Nora ordered herself. *No way! NO way! Not today! Marla Tumbleduck won't get under your skin!*

It was now Nora's turn to speak, and she sauntered to the podium as if she was the very one who built the auditorium, stage, *and* the podium! And before she spoke, she bowed slightly to the audience—a poetic gesture she was sure would win the audience's affections.

What does the word **poison** most likely refer to in the passage above?

- ☐ A. bad attitude
- ☐ B. deathly potion
- ☐ C. sickness
- ☐ D. problems

Question 4 .

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What does the word **oppression** suggest about the stage lighting?

- ☐ A. It was unjust.
- ☐ B. It was overbearing.
- ☐ C. It was cruel.
- ☐ D. It was too dark.

Question 5 .

"Hey, Shauna! What do you think of the new sports car?" Missy asked her friend excitedly. She pointed to the **gaudy** model on the showroom floor.

Shauna replied, "Oh, I suppose it's **adequate**."

"Are you out of your mind? That's a rather **firm** opinion to take with this well-engineered piece of machinery."

"I don't see the need to replace my current vehicle," Shauna defended herself. "The car I have is just fine."

"You're so **traditional** when it comes to buying things," Missy criticized. "You don't care at all about being in style, do you?"

What does the word **gaudy** suggest about the car in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. It is tasteful.
- ☐ B. It is cool.
- ☐ C. It is showy.
- ☐ D. It is plain.

Question 6 .

Fred's usual sunny disposition had gone the way of the dodos. He had a black cloud hanging over his head. Throughout the week, he had encountered one problem after another. He wasn't looking forward to the next **challenge** that life would present him.

What does the word **challenge** suggest in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. claim
- ☐ B. dare
- ☐ C. obstacle
- ☐ D. dispute

Question 7 .

The election had been two days ago, and after the results were announced, Marina smiled weakly at her opponent and gave him a reluctant **civil** handshake. Her classmates could tell that she was upset though. Marina was somewhat **cold** to those in the room who she was sure voted against her. She was a **strong-willed** girl and did not show sadness about her defeat, but everybody knew that the results **killed** Marina.

What does the word **strong-willed** connote or suggest about Marina?

- ☐ A. Marina is stubborn.
- ☐ B. Marina is enjoyable.
- ☐ C. Marina is flexible.
- ☐ D. Marina is muscular.

Question 8 .

Joel, when I was your age, I was so energetic, and though you're only in your twenties, you're behaving like a **fossil**.

What is the connotative meaning of **fossil**?

- ☐ A. The word **fossil** connotes a clever person.
- ☐ B. The word **fossil** connotes a professor.
- ☐ C. The word **fossil** connotes an old person.
- ☐ D. The word **fossil** connotes a scientist.

Question 9 .

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Henry chimed in, "Yeah, I thought that Harold was acting a bit too **modestly** to get on with it."

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"No, not at all," said George, the group's unofficial leader. He was **self-confident** enough to take charge in any situation, figuring he was the best man for the job whether or not anyone else agreed.

Larry got in line behind them, and when he stepped up to the counter to purchase his ticket, the young clerk at the window nervously rang up his ticket. She fumbled with his change.

"Don't mind her," grumbled the **deliberately paced** veteran from the back of the booth. "She's **new**, but I bet she'll get the hang of things in no time," he offered with a rather unconvincing wink.

What does the word **self-confident** suggest about George's personality in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. He is modest.
- ☐ B. He is smart
- ☐ C. He is self-assured.
- ☐ D. He is conceited.

Question 10 .

The Art of Making Pizza

Pizza is a scrumptious and mouthwatering dish that requires no introduction. It is one of the most popular foods around the globe today. It is a dish that can be enjoyed as a snack and can also be eaten as a family meal. While everyone knows how delicious a pizza is, not everyone is aware of the effort that goes into creating this mouthwatering piece of art.

Pizza is said to have originated in Greece. However, the Greek pizza was more like a flatbread without any topping. The modern-day pizza, on the other hand, originated in Italy. The story goes that King Umberto I and Queen Margherita were on their way to Naples after the unification of Italy in 1861. They demanded a change from their usual meals and were presented with an assortment of pizzas. The type of pizza that Queen Margherita enjoyed the most had a topping of red tomatoes, green basil, and soft white cheese. This variety of pizza thus came to be known as pizza Margherita. However, the art of pizza making was little known beyond the borders of Naples. It was only after the 1940s that pizza making spread like wildfire, and different cultures across continents adopted it, adding their own flavors to make it more appealing to the local public. Pizza evolved from a simple flatbread with a melted cheese topping to a dish with several varieties and all kinds of toppings.

Making a pizza may seem simple, but that is far from the truth. A good pizza isn't simply about kneading dough, adding toppings, and baking. To make a delicious pizza, one needs to be passionate about the process involved in creating it. One of the key factors in creating a delicious pizza is to use fresh ingredients. Pizza toppings should be farm fresh and tasty. No compromises should be made with the ingredients, especially the cheese. Cheese is what gives pizza its essential flavor, and only the best quality cheese should be used. The next important factor is the pizza dough, which needs to be at the right temperature and of the right quantity, and flattened correctly to make a smooth and even layer. The final and most important part of creating the perfect pizza is baking it at the right temperature. The result, if all goes well, is a perfectly cooked base topped with delicious melted cheese and garnished with a choice of ingredients. Ultimately, whether pizza is a thin crust, deep dish, or the New York slice, its history and the art of creating it remains marvelous.

What does the author's use of the word demanded in the second paragraph suggest about King Umberto I?

- ☐ A. He expected everyone to follow him.
- ☐ B. He expected his wife to be taken care of.
- ☐ C. He expected to get whatever he wanted.
- ☐ D. He expected all his food to be brought to him.

Question 11 .

The Extended Holiday

by J. Blue Spicer

The noisy plaza was bustling as people gathered around the store's display. It was after the holidays, but the oldest toy store in the city always decorated their enormous storefront at the beginning of each new year. The tradition began with the store's original owner, Margot Thistle, in her hope of keeping the youthful wonder and majesty of the holidays alive.

It was a jovial tradition passed down to her daughter. But she only saw the display as a financial boon, and soon the costly practice became a miserly experiment. The storefront was once lavishly decorated, making everyone feel childlike for a few weeks longer. However, Margot's daughter began to skimp on costs. She cheaply placed the hottest toys of the season on display as nothing more than a tactic to get kids to harass their parents for the toys they didn't receive during the holidays. The store lost business, fell into disrepair, and people began going to chain stores for toys.

Margot eventually took back control of the store. With the help of her grandson, Andre, they rebuilt the toy store into a fantastical delight. It took time to get the crowds to return, but nostalgia had a powerful allure that the townspeople could not ignore. It was a ragtag operation between Margot and Andre, but their love for the store and the city gave them the means to be creative despite having to be frugal. It began by using a black curtain to hide the display being set up. Even in the age of technology and rumor, that little black curtain became the talk of the town.

For the past five years, the displays had grown to be as great as they were in Margot's heyday, but this year Andre—having had a son of his own—was more excited than ever to make this the biggest event yet. As the sun set and became an orange spotlight on the town square, Margot and Andre prepared to pull back the curtain. And with one mighty tug, the new displays beamed out to the overcrowded square. Flashbulbs went off, social media began buzzing, and the two toy store owners smiled from ear-to-ear. While some, including Margot's daughter, called the spectacle immature, Margot and Andre saw it as an opportunity to remind the town that no matter what, they were still a community looking to experience a bit of their innocence for just a little while longer.

Directions: Select the correct location on the image.

Read the following sentence from the passage.

She cheaply placed the hottest toys of the season on display as nothing more than a tactic to get kids to harass their parents for the toys they didn't receive during the holidays.

Click on the correct definition of harass based on the context.

Question 12 .

"Hey, Shauna! What do you think of the new sports car?" Missy asked her friend excitedly. She pointed to the **gaudy** model on the showroom floor.

Shauna replied, "Oh, I suppose it's **adequate**."

"Are you out of your mind? That's a rather **firm** opinion to take with this well-engineered piece of machinery."

"I don't see the need to replace my current vehicle," Shauna defended herself. "The car I have is just fine."

"You're so **traditional** when it comes to buying things," Missy criticized. "You don't care at all about being in style, do you?"

What does Missy suggest of Shauna by using the word **traditional** in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. Shauna practices a certain faith.
- ☐ B. Shauna is outdated, not current.
- ☐ C. Shauna believes in a particular style.
- ☐ D. Shauna follows established customs.

Question 13 .

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"Don't mind her," grumbled the **deliberately paced** veteran from the back of the booth. "She's **new**, but I bet she'll get the hang of things in no time," he offered with a rather unconvincing wink.

What does the phrase **deliberately paced** suggest about the veteran ticket taker in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. He is not clumsy.
- ☐ B. He is slow-moving.
- ☐ C. He is careful.
- ☐ D. He is reckless.

Question 14 .

The election had been two days ago, and after the results were announced, Marina smiled weakly at her opponent and gave him a reluctant **civil** handshake. Her classmates could tell that she was upset though. Marina was somewhat **cold** to those in the room who she was sure voted against her. She was a **strong-willed** girl and did not show sadness about her defeat, but everybody knew that the results **killed** Marina.

What does the word **civil** suggest in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. excitement
- ☐ B. politeness
- ☐ C. eagerness
- ☐ D. citizenship

Question 15 .

Mr. Larson was a **cheap** man who never ate dinner in a restaurant.

Which word could replace **cheap** to describe Mr. Larson positively?

- ☐ A. penny-pinching
- ☐ B. shabby
- ☐ C. thrifty
- ☐ D. miserly

Question 16 .

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What does the phrase **rat of a girl** suggest about Nora's attitude towards Marla?

- ☐ A. Nora thinks Marla looks like a mouse.
- ☐ B. Nora is jealous of Marla.
- ☐ C. Nora feels frightened of Marla.
- ☐ D. Nora finds Marla repulsive.

Question 17 .

Kent Molin couldn't understand why the rest of his family always complained when his grouchy Grandpa came to their house every summer. Sure, Grandpa could be a real **prune**, but that was just Grandpa! Kent figured if they'd just get to know him, his family would get to see the REAL Grandpa. Like he did one summer.

It had been a long day full of fun and sun, and by the time Kent finally got home, he'd been too tired to eat dinner. When midnight rolled around, Kent woke up with a start-and the munchies!

Grandpa didn't sleep much, and late at night, when the rest of the family was peacefully snoring, he would sneak into the kitchen for a little midnight snack. A bowl of ice cream. A slice of chocolate cake. Maybe even the last donut in the box, the one Kent's Dad had been saving for the next morning!

Creeping into the kitchen that night, Kent was surprised to see Grandpa munching away on the very last crumb of crumb cake. The piece of cake Kent was craving!

"Hi Grandpa," Kent whispered as the **crusty** old man jumped with a start. "Why you want to scare me like that?" was all Grandpa could ask.

"I didn't mean to scare you, Grandpa," said Kent. "I just woke up hungry."

"Well," frowned Grandpa. "I hope you weren't in the mood for crumb cake."

Kent shook his head and grabbed a nearby apple instead. "What are you doing up, Grandpa?" he asked. "It's pretty late."

"What?" asked the old curmudgeon. "Don't you like my company?"

Kent laughed. "I was just wondering why you weren't asleep is all," he replied. For once, the old man smiled.

"What would I be tired for?" he asked. "Your parents won't let me do anything for myself, and you're off running around with your friends. How's a man supposed to get tired sitting in an easy chair all day?"

Then the old man yawned. "Something in that cake," he said, "DID make me tired. Good night, Kent. Thanks for the company."

After Grandpa went to sleep, Kent thought about what the old man had said. Kent felt bad about leaving him behind to go play with his buddies all day. Then he got a brainstorm that sent him straight to bed. After all, he had to get up bright and early the next morning!

from The Metal Detector by Rusty Fischer

What is the word **prune** used to suggest in this story?

- ☐ A. passionate
- ☐ B. fruit
- ☐ C. grouch
- ☐ D. highlight

Question 18 .

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What does the word **cold** suggest about how Marina acted to her classmates?

- ☐ A. She acted unfriendly.
- ☐ B. She acted eager.
- ☐ C. She acted very hateful.
- ☐ D. She acted happy.

Question 19 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which word with the meaning **famished** has the **most** negative connotation?

*adapted from **Oliver Twist***

by Charles Dickens

The room in which the boys were fed, was a large stone hall, with a copper at one end: out of which the master, dressed in an apron for the purpose, and assisted by one or two women, ladled the gruel at mealtimes. Of this festive composition each boy had one porringer, and no more—except on occasions of great public rejoicing, when he had two ounces and a quarter of bread besides.

The bowls never wanted washing. The boys polished them with their spoons till they shone again; they would sit staring at the copper, with such **eager** eyes, as if they could have devoured the very bricks of which it was composed. Boys have generally excellent appetites. Oliver Twist and his **starving** companions suffered the tortures for three months: at last they got so **voracious** and wild with hunger, that one boy, who was tall for his age, and hadn't been used to that sort of thing, hinted darkly to his companions, that unless he had another basin of gruel per diem, he was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy who slept next him, who happened to be a weakly youth of tender age. He had a wild, **hungry** eye; and they implicitly believed him. A council was held; lots were cast who should walk up to the master after supper that evening, and ask for more; and it fell to Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves behind him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over the short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered each other, and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbors nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said: somewhat alarmed at his own temerity:

"Please, sir, I want some more."

The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralyzed with wonder; the boys with fear.

"What!" said the master at length, in a faint voice.

"Please, sir," replied Oliver, "I want some more."

The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle; pinioned him in his arm; and shrieked aloud for the beadle.

The board were sitting in solemn conclave, when Mr. Bumble rushed into the room in great excitement, and addressing the gentleman in the high chair, said,

"Mr. Limbkins, I beg your pardon, sir! Oliver Twist has asked for more!"

There was a general start. Horror was depicted on every countenance.

"For more!" said Mr. Limbkins. "Compose yourself, Bumble, and answer me distinctly. Do I understand that he asked for more, after he had eaten the supper allotted by the dietary?"

"He did, sir," replied Bumble.

"That boy will be hung," said the gentleman in the white waistcoat. "I know that boy will be hung."

As I purpose to show in the sequel whether the white waistcoated gentleman was right or not, I should perhaps mar the interest of this narrative (supposing it to possess any at all), if I ventured to hint just yet, whether the life of Oliver Twist had this violent termination or no.

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from The Metal Detector by Rusty Fischer

What does the word **crusty** suggest in this story?

- ☐ A. surly
- ☐ B. carefree
- ☐ C. overflowing
- ☐ D. gloomy

Question 21 .

The California Sea Lion

California sea lions are found along the western coast of North America. The notable differences between regular sea lions and California sea lions are that California sea lions do not have manes, their heads are doglike, and their necks are slenderer.

The bodies of California sea lions have several features that help them swim easily. They have short limbs with flippers. The flippers on their forelimbs help them swim well. They use the flippers on their back limbs as rudders, which gives them control over the direction they want to move. The body of a California sea lion tapers, which means it gradually thins out toward the tail. California sea lions have bulky, strong shoulders. While on land, the appearance of California sea lions may seem juvenile; however, they look graceful while swimming and using their powerful front flippers to propel themselves forward in water.

Males are usually brown in color, while females are golden brown. When California sea lions get wet, they display a darker shade or a black overtone.

California sea lions are social and ramble with each other, using different sounds and signals. Though some species of sea lions emit deep, harsh, guttural sounds, the California sea lions usually bleat, roar, or bark. California sea lions are known to be one of the noisiest among the fin-footed species.

What does the phrase ramble suggest in the fourth paragraph of the passage?

- ☐ A. The California sea lions move together in groups.
- ☐ B. The California sea lions stumble when they walk.
- ☐ C. The California sea lions hum beautifully together.
- ☐ D. The California sea lions chat randomly with each other.

Question 22 .

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What does the word **stiff** connote in the passage above?

- ☐ A. dead
- ☐ B. paralyzed
- ☐ C. boring
- ☐ D. unmoving

Question 23 .

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"No, not at all," said George, the group's unofficial leader. He was **self-confident** enough to take charge in any situation, figuring he was the best man for the job whether or not anyone else agreed.

Larry got in line behind them, and when he stepped up to the counter to purchase his ticket, the young clerk at the window nervously rang up his ticket. She fumbled with his change.

"Don't mind her," grumbled the **deliberately paced** veteran from the back of the booth. "She's **new**, but I bet she'll get the hang of things in no time," he offered with a rather unconvincing wink.

What does Henry suggest of Harold by using the word **modestly** in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. Harold was reserved.
- ☐ B. Harold was bold.
- ☐ C. Harold was timid.
- ☐ D. Harold was humble.

Question 24 .

Marla Tumbleduck was a rat of a girl, Nora thought. She had tried to steal Nora's boyfriend, she had tried to spread terrible lies about her, and she had made fun of Nora for taking classes like Portuguese Pottery, Medieval Architecture, and Nanotechnology for Ninnies. But Nora wouldn't let the evil Marla bother her today. *No way! NO way!* This was a golden day, and not even Marla's poison would ruin her rosy disposition.

The other presentations had been stiff, and Nora tried to swallow the yawns that bubbled from her throat as she watched from her seat on the stage. It was after Morris Vandermop's slideshow on the hygiene of ancient Egyptians that Nora first noticed Marla saunter into the auditorium as if she was the very person who built it. *Grrrr... Marla! MARLA!* she thought. She could recognize that red nest of hair anywhere—even under the unmerciful oppression of stage lighting.

Snap out of it, Nora! Nora ordered herself. No way! NO way! Not today! Marla Tumbleduck won't get under your skin!

It was now Nora's turn to speak, and she sauntered to the podium as if she was the very one who built the auditorium, stage, *and* the podium! And before she spoke, she bowed slightly to the audience—a poetic gesture she was sure would win the audience's affections.

What does the word **poetic** connote in the passage above?

- ☐ A. popular
- ☐ B. gracefulness
- ☐ C. motivation
- ☐ D. beautiful writing

Question 25 .

adapted from Oliver Twist
by Charles Dickens

The room in which the boys were fed, was a large stone hall, with a copper at one end: out of which the master, dressed in an apron for the purpose, and assisted by one or two women, ladled the gruel at mealtimes. Of this festive composition each boy had one porringer, and no more—except on occasions of great public rejoicing, when he had two ounces and a quarter of bread besides.

The bowls never wanted washing. The boys polished them with their spoons till they shone again; they would sit staring at the copper, with such eager eyes, as if they could have devoured the very bricks of which it was composed. Boys have generally excellent appetites. Oliver Twist and his starving companions suffered the tortures for three months: at last they got so voracious and wild with hunger, that one boy, who was tall for his age, and hadn't been used to that sort of thing, hinted darkly to his companions, that unless he had another basin of gruel per diem, he was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy who slept next him, who happened to be a weakly youth of tender age. He had a wild, hungry eye; and they implicitly believed him. A council was held; lots were cast who should walk up to the master after supper that evening, and ask for more; and it fell to Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves behind him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over the short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered each other, and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbors nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said: somewhat alarmed at his own temerity:

"Please, sir, I want some more."

The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralyzed with wonder; the boys with fear.

"What!" said the master at length, in a faint voice.

"Please, sir," replied Oliver, "I want some more."

The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle; pinioned him in his arm; and shrieked aloud for the beadle.

The board were sitting in solemn conclave, when Mr. Bumble rushed into the room in great excitement, and addressing the gentleman in the high chair, said,

"Mr. Limbkins, I beg your pardon, sir! Oliver Twist has asked for more!"

There was a general start. Horror was depicted on every countenance.

"For more!" said Mr. Limbkins. "Compose yourself, Bumble, and answer me distinctly. Do I understand that he asked for more, after he had eaten the supper allotted by the dietary?"

"He did, sir," replied Bumble.

"That boy will be hung," said the gentleman in the white waistcoat. "I know that boy will be hung."

As I purpose to show in the sequel whether the white waistcoated gentleman was right or not, I should perhaps mar the interest of this narrative (supposing it to possess any at all), if I ventured to hint just yet, whether the life of Oliver Twist had this violent termination or no.

Directions: Drag each tile to the correct location on the chart. Not all tiles will be used.

Match each word with its denotative meaning in the passage.

a private and formal event
among officials

showing tendency to behave in
a hostile manner

the way in which things are
put together

to move to an exciting place

something that follows an event
or continues a story

serious or formal in behavior
or expression

to do something new that
might involve risk

Question 26 .

Marla Tumbleduck was a rat of a girl, Nora thought. She had tried to steal Nora's boyfriend, she had tried to spread terrible lies about her, and she had made fun of Nora for taking classes like Portuguese Pottery, Medieval Architecture, and Nanotechnology for Ninnies. But Nora wouldn't let the evil Marla bother her today. *No way! NO way!* This was a golden day, and not even Marla's poison would ruin her rosy disposition.

The other presentations had been stiff, and Nora tried to swallow the yawns that bubbled from her throat as she watched from her seat on the stage. It was after Morris Vanderpop's slideshow on the hygiene of ancient Egyptians that Nora first noticed Marla saunter into the auditorium as if she was the very person who built it. *Grrrr... Marla! MARLA!* she thought. She could recognize that red nest of hair anywhere—even under the unmerciful oppression of stage lighting.

Snap out of it, Nora! Nora ordered herself. *No way! NO way! Not today! Marla Tumbleduck won't get under your skin!*

It was now Nora's turn to speak, and she sauntered to the podium as if she was the very one who built the auditorium, stage, *and* the podium! And before she spoke, she bowed slightly to the audience—a poetic gesture she was sure would win the audience's affections.

What does the word **golden** suggest in the passage above?

- ☐ A. expensive
- ☐ B. special
- ☐ C. shiny
- ☐ D. glittering

Question 27 .

from **Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Abe of Japan at Pearl Harbor**

President Obama, Commander Harris, ladies and gentlemen, and all American citizens: I stand here at Pearl Harbor as the Prime Minister of Japan.

If we listen closely, we can make out the sound of restless waves breaking and then retreating again. The calm inlet of brilliant blue is radiant with the gentle sparkle of the warm sun. Behind me, a striking white form atop the azure, is the USS Arizona Memorial.

Together, with President Obama, I paid a visit to that memorial, the resting place for many souls. It's a place which brought utter silence to me. Inscribed there are the names of the servicemen who lost their lives. Sailors and Marines hailing from California and New York, Michigan and Texas, and various other places, serving to uphold their noble duty of protecting the homeland they loved, lost their lives amidst searing flames that day, when aerial bombing tore the USS Arizona in two.

Even 75 years later, the USS Arizona, now at rest atop the seabed, is the final resting place for a tremendous number of sailors and Marines. Listening again as I focus my senses, alongside the song of the breeze and the rumble of the rolling waves, I can almost discern the voices of those crewmen. Voices of lively conversation, upbeat and at ease, on that day, on a Sunday morning. Voices of young servicemen talking to each other about their future and dreams; voices calling out names of loved ones in their very final moments; voices praying for the happiness of children still unborn. And every one of those servicemen had a mother and a father anxious about his safety. Many had wives and girlfriends they loved, and many must have had children they would have loved watch grow up. All of that was brought to an end. When I contemplate that solemn reality I am rendered entirely speechless.

"Rest in peace, precious souls of the fallen." With that overwhelming sentiment, I cast flowers, on behalf of Japanese people, upon the waters where those sailors and Marines sleep.

President Obama, the people of the United States of America, and the people around the world, as the Prime Minister of Japan, I offer my sincere and everlasting condolences to the souls of those who lost their lives here, as well as to the spirits of all the brave men and women whose lives were taken by a war that commenced in this very place, and also to the souls of the countless innocent people who became the victims of the war.

Directions: Drag the tiles to the correct boxes to complete the pairs. Not all tiles will be used.

Match each word with its denotative meaning in the passage.

consider, think about

feeling of sympathy

very strong, intense

approach cautiously

make out, understand, hear

contemplate



discern



overwhelming



condolence



Question 28 .

The group hanging out in front of the movies cringed when Larry sauntered around the corner. His personality was so **forceful** that he could hardly keep from giving everyone a hard time.

Jimmy spoke up to greet him, "Hey, Larry. I liked your speech today in class. You were quite, um, **assertive** when you jumped in and took Harold's turn."

Henry chimed in, "Yeah, I thought that Harold was acting a bit too **modestly** to get on with it."

Larry answered back favorably, "Thanks, guys. Do you mind if I join you?"

"No, not at all," said George, the group's unofficial leader. He was **self-confident** enough to take charge in any situation, figuring he was the best man for the job whether or not anyone else agreed.

Larry got in line behind them, and when he stepped up to the counter to purchase his ticket, the young clerk at the window nervously rang up his ticket. She fumbled with his change.

"Don't mind her," grumbled the **deliberately paced** veteran from the back of the booth. "She's **new**, but I bet she'll get the hang of things in no time," he offered with a rather unconvincing wink.

What does Jimmy suggest of Larry by using the word **assertive** in the paragraph above?

- ☐ A. Larry was bold.
- ☐ B. Larry was weak.
- ☐ C. Larry was pushy.
- ☐ D. Larry was distinctive.

Question 29 .

The Cork Oak

The cork oak is an evergreen tree that is found in certain regions of southwestern Europe, namely Portugal, Spain, Italy, Sardinia, Sicily, France, and Corsica. This tree also grows in the North African countries of Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco.

Cork oak trees have thick bark and trunks. The trunks, which grow to around four feet in diameter, are of ample proportions and take on a round look when they develop. A light-brown substance known as cork is obtained from the outermost layer of the bark. This substance is made of the dead cells that grow densely, cramming themselves on the bark of these trees. Since cork oak has a formidable lifespan, cork can be harvested repeatedly from a single cork oak tree for about 150 years. The cork oak tree is one of the very few trees that is able to renew its bark, even after the old bark has been removed from the tree.

Cork is produced naturally and can be used to make many products. People commonly make bottle stoppers out of cork. The cork harvested from one tree can be used to make approximately 4,000 stoppers. Cork is also notorious for its hardness and is used to make strong and resistant flooring. Additionally, it is used in shoes and to line helmets.

In Portugal and Spain, people have been growing cork oaks since the Middle Ages. The people of ancient Greece also knew the value of cork and used the substance to make footwear and bottle stoppers. In certain regions, people used cork on roofs to keep the heat out in summer and the cold out in winter. Today, cork continues to be a valuable resource.

What is the connotative meaning of notorious in the third paragraph of the passage?

- ☐ A. terrible
- ☐ B. created
- ☐ C. well-known
- ☐ D. far-fetched

Question 30 .

Marla Tumbleduck was a rat of a girl, Nora thought. She had tried to steal Nora's boyfriend, she had tried to spread terrible lies about her, and she had made fun of Nora for taking classes like Portuguese Pottery, Medieval Architecture, and Nanotechnology for Ninnies. But Nora wouldn't let the evil Marla bother her today. *No way! NO way!* This was a golden day, and not even Marla's poison would ruin her rosy disposition.

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Snap out of it, Nora! Nora ordered herself. No way! NO way! Not today! Marla Tumbleduck won't get under your skin!

It was now Nora's turn to speak, and she sauntered to the podium as if she was the very one who built the auditorium, stage, *and* the podium! And before she spoke, she bowed slightly to the audience—a poetic gesture she was sure would win the audience's affections.

What does the word **nest** suggest about Marla's hair?

- ☐ A. It was tangled.
- ☐ B. It was up.
- ☐ C. It was brown.
- ☐ D. It was dry.