

Read the passage from the book *Swim Free*.

Passage from
Swim Free

by Anne Sibley O'Brien

1 His grandfather was gone, taken by a fever just a few days ago. Still, through the rush of rain and water, Yong-min heard the old man's voice calling him. It was impossible, but the voice was as clear as if Grandfather were there in the tiny kitchen, spooning millet and thin soup into tin bowls.

2 "Yong-min-ah! Get up! Get up!"

3 The thought of his grandfather woke the grief, like a creature clawing in his chest. He rolled out from under his covers, then busied himself folding the thin quilts into a neat stack in the corner.

4 Folding them was a waste of time if the water kept rising, but it was the first thing he and Grandfather had done each morning. In these first days, he still kept to their shared habits, not yet accepting the hole in his life. He felt stupid and slow, as if he were moving through the thick fog that sometimes rose off the river.

5 When he stepped down to the kitchen, water covered his bare feet. The cold of it, even in August, shocked him fully awake. He had to try to save himself, for his grandfather's sake if not his own.

6 Grandfather had left him a legacy—and a burden of responsibility—in his last whispered words: "Find your way to freedom." It was an impossible task, but he must honor his grandfather by at least staying alive, even if he never found that freedom.

Now read the passage from the book *The Day the Mountain Burst*.

Passage from
The Day the Mountain Burst

by Louise Herman

1 . . . The column of smoke got thicker and plumed at the top. The sky slowly darkened, and gray ash began to fall. Folks were afraid, and soon families with bundles began to leave the city by our gate.

2 Some men sent for their horses, but most of our neighbors waited and watched. The mountain has smoked before, they said. It won't last, it will come to nothing. The ash is light.

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3 Light it was, but it continued to fall. When an inch or two had accumulated,
Cousin Julius decided to remove his wife and children to their country house near
Nuceria.

4 Naturally Cousin Julius did not admit he was afraid. The ash meant nothing,
he insisted. It was merely unpleasant. They would leave until it ceased and the
slaves could sweep it away.

5 “You stay here, Marcus,” he said. “Take care of the horses. If there is civic
disorder, keep looters out of the house.”

6 He prepared two carts. Though he scoffed at the danger, I noticed he packed
bags of coins, his wife’s jewelry, and all their other gold and silver possessions.
While his sons harnessed horses to the carts, his wife and older daughters came
outside through the ash on tiptoe, with capes over their heads.

Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 through 5 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.
The questions relate to *Swim Free* and *The Day the Mountain Burst*.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 6 of *Swim Free*.

Grandfather had left him a legacy—and a burden of responsibility—in his last whispered words: “Find your way to freedom.”

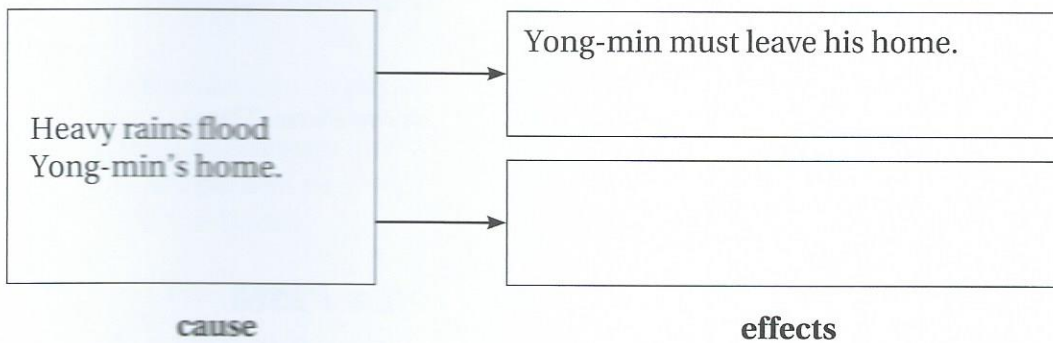
Which word from the sentence gives the BEST clue about the meaning of the word *legacy*?

- A left
 B him
 C whispered
 D words

2. Which syllable or syllables in *accumulated* have long vowel sounds?

- A the first syllable only
 B the second syllable only
 C the first and fourth syllables
 D the second and fourth syllables

3. The chart below shows an event and one effect of this event. First, read the chart.



Which statement belongs in the empty box?

- A Grandfather dies of a fever.
 - B Yong-min decides to seek his freedom.
 - C Yong-min dreams about Grandfather's voice.
 - D Grandfather gives Yong-min a big responsibility.
4. What can you infer about Cousin Julius?
- A He is foolish and trusting.
 - B He cares about possessions.
 - C He is fearless and confident.
 - D He cares deeply about Marcus.
5. Which statement about the passages is true?
- A Both passages are works of fiction.
 - B Both passages are nonfiction articles.
 - C The first passage is a work of fiction and the second is nonfiction.
 - D The first passage is a work of nonfiction and the second is fiction.

Read the passage from the book *Moe Berg: The Spy Behind Home Plate*. Then answer questions 1 through 6.

Passage from
Moe Berg: The Spy Behind Home Plate

by John Perritano

A Dangerous Mission

1 At the end of 1941, the United States entered World War II after Japan bombed the U.S. Navy's fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Soon after, the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) asked Berg to take their oath of secrecy and come work for them. The OSS was the first government spy agency in the United States. It would later become the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). In 1944, the OSS sent Berg on the most dangerous of missions.

2 Germany, ruled by Adolf Hitler, was on the verge of collapse in World War II. Although the war was going well for the United States and its allies, U.S. leaders were still concerned that Germany was close to finishing work on the world's first atomic bomb. That's where Berg came in. Fluent in German and with a good understanding of nuclear physics, he was the perfect person to uncover how close the Germans were to building the bomb. Such a powerful weapon could change everything in the war.

3 Months of planning led Berg to a small lecture hall in Zurich, Switzerland, a country that didn't take sides and wasn't participating in the war. At the front of the room, Werner Heisenberg, Germany's top atomic-bomb scientist, was discussing his theories on nuclear physics with students.

4 Berg went to the talk pretending to be a student. His orders were clear: shoot Heisenberg if Germany was close to developing a nuclear weapon. Berg reached into his pocket and fingered a loaded gun. He knew he would not pull its trigger until he was sure about Heisenberg. He definitely wasn't going to kill on a whim.

5 Heisenberg spoke, but the gun stayed in Berg's pocket. Nothing the American heard made him believe Germany had developed a bomb.

6 But Berg needed to be certain. One night, he wormed his way to Heisenberg's dinner table and sat down. After dinner, the two went outside into the dark night. Berg peppered Heisenberg with questions and was satisfied that Germany would not develop an atomic weapon anytime soon. He must have been a good judge of character; many now believe Heisenberg didn't want his country to make an atomic bomb and was purposefully stalling the bomb's development.

Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 through 6 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of the passage.

Fluent in German and with a good understanding of nuclear physics, he was the perfect person to uncover how close the Germans were to building the bomb.

The word *fluent* means

- A filled with admiration.
 - B born in a particular place.
 - C speaking or writing easily.
 - D familiar with customs and manners.
2. What is the base word in the word *purposefully*?

- A purpose
- B purposeful
- C pose
- D fully

3. The chart below shows events in sequence. First, read the chart.



Which statement belongs in the empty box?

- A Berg attends Heisenberg's lecture.
 - B Berg takes the OSS oath of secrecy.
 - C Berg pretends to be a student from Switzerland.
 - D The OSS becomes the Central Intelligence Agency.
4. Based on the passage, what can you infer about Moe Berg?
- A He thinks before he takes action.
 - B He is eager to make new friends.
 - C He does not take sides in conflicts.
 - D He solves most problems by force.

5. You can conclude from the passage that

- A there were no spies before WW II.
- B there were no spies in Switzerland.
- C intelligence work involves only men.
- D intelligence work requires special skills.

6. How does the author make the passage suspenseful and exciting?

- A by describing details of Berg's personality
- B by explaining the history of the CIA in detail
- C by explaining in detail major events of the war
- D by describing details of Berg's thoughts and actions in the lecture hall

Now read the passage from the book *Dangerous Jobs*. Then answer questions 7 through 12.

Passage from
Dangerous Jobs

by Jean C. Lawler

7 . . . What drives people to work at dangerous jobs? For many, it's the money. Those who work at dangerous jobs are often paid more than they could earn at safer jobs. Some workers, such as soldiers, police officers, and firefighters, feel it's part of their duty as citizens to help keep people safe. Financial experts think that a poor economy might also be a factor. When jobs are hard to find, workers might take dangerous jobs that they wouldn't normally take if other jobs were available.

Feeding the World

2 Some farmers and fishers take surprising risks to get food to people's tables. Although not all fishing and farming jobs are dangerous, certain ones are especially hazardous.

Danger on the Sea

3 One dangerous food job is working as a king-crab fisher. This job is so dangerous that the Discovery Channel even created a TV show about it—"Deadliest Catch."

4 King-crab fishers can make a lot of money in a short amount of time, and many like being their own boss, but these fishers must work on cold and violent seas near Alaska. They risk their lives every day they are at sea.

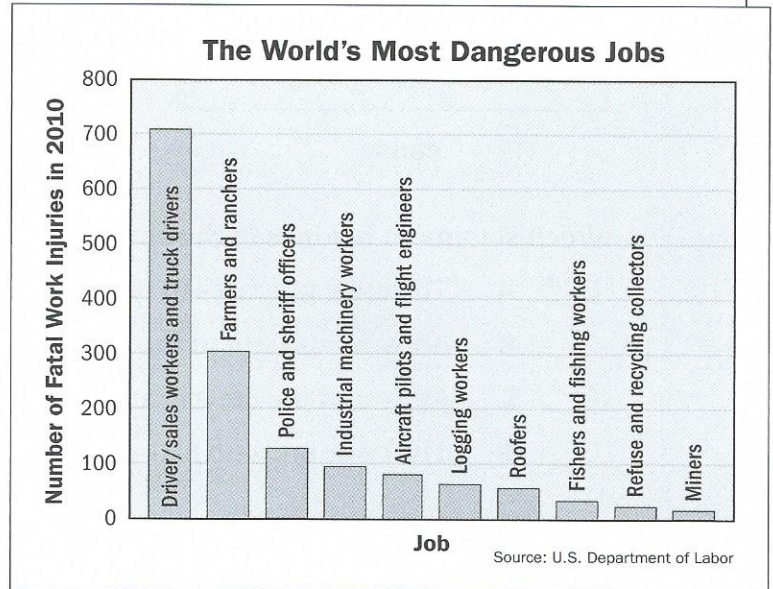
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A Day in the Life of a Fisher

5 Andy Hillstrand and his crew are king-crab fishers. One day as they worked, giant waves rocked the fishing boat, and high winds howled around everyone on the ship's deck. The boat moved slowly through the icy Alaskan waters.

6 Andy was soaking wet from the ocean spray, but he held tightly to the lines on deck. If a giant wave hit the boat, Andy and the crew could be swept overboard. In the freezing water, they would likely drown.

7 For nearly twenty hours, the crew pulled up 800-pound (363-kilogram) crab pots in terrible weather. Then they had to prepare the boat to return to port. They carefully put away the ropes and chains used for fishing on the slippery deck. Any accident would be terrible, because the ship was very far away from any hospital. Luckily, Andy and his crew made it back to land without any injuries.



Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 7 through 12 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

7. Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of the passage.

Although not all fishing and farming jobs are dangerous, certain ones are especially hazardous.

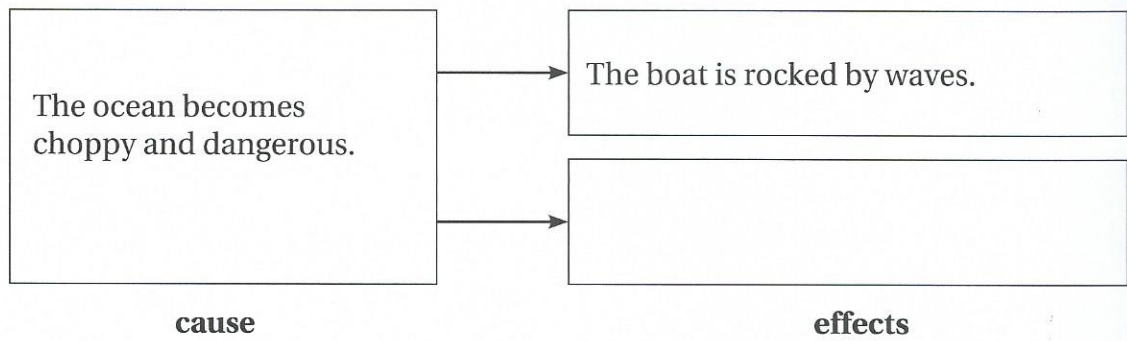
Which word below is a synonym for *hazardous* as it is used in the passage?

- A famous
- B unwise
- C perilous
- D unpopular

8. How does the suffix *-ial* change the word *finance*?

- A It changes the word from a noun to a verb.
- B It changes the word from an adjective to an adverb.
- C It changes the word from a noun or verb to an adjective.
- D It changes the word from the singular noun to a plural noun.

9. The chart below shows an event that causes other events. First, read the chart.



Which statement belongs in the empty box?

- A The crew prepares to return to port.
 - B Andy holds tight to the lines on deck.
 - C Andy and the crew return home safely.
 - D The crew pulls up 800-pound crab pots.
10. Which word BEST describes Andy and his crew?
- A reckless
 - B stubborn
 - C easygoing
 - D determined
11. What can you infer about people who watch "Deadliest Catch"?
- A They are big fans of seafood.
 - B They watch cooking programs regularly.
 - C They are experienced sailors and fishers.
 - D They enjoy programs about real-life situations.
12. Which sentence is a reasonable conclusion you can draw from the information in the graph?
- A Factories are the most dangerous places to work.
 - B Mining is a completely risk-free industry for workers.
 - C There are very few job openings for garbage collectors.
 - D Traffic accidents are responsible for many worker deaths.

Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 13 through 15 by filling in the circle next to the best answer. These questions relate to both passages.

13. Based on these passages, what do Moe Berg and Andy Hillstrand have in common?

- A They are courageous.
- B They are world travelers.
- C They are excellent students.
- D They are keen judges of character.

14. Based on both passages, what can you conclude about the people who do dangerous jobs?

- A They are interested only in making money.
- B They lack training required for more skilled jobs.
- C They are able to make good decisions under pressure.
- D They seldom understand the dangers that they may face.

15. Which statement about the passages is true?

- A Both passages are fiction.
- B Both passages are nonfiction.
- C The first passage is fiction and the second is nonfiction.
- D The first passage is nonfiction and the second is fiction.

Read the nonfiction passage “Terra Cotta Soldiers” and the nonfiction passage “Ashoka the Great.” Then answer questions 1 through 5.

Terra Cotta Soldiers

- 1 One spring day in 1974, a group of Chinese peasants digging a well came face to face with an army. They were more amazed than scared because this army was made of clay! The nearly life-sized soldiers and horses came from the tomb of Zhao Zheng (jou-jeng), the first emperor of China.
- 2 Through military might, Zheng united the six kingdoms of China. During his reign (246 B.C. to 210 B.C.) many beautiful palaces were built. Zheng also brought about advances in writing, math, and the minting of coins.
- 3 Later, Zheng ordered the manufacture of 8,000 terra cotta figures. They were crafted in large numbers, yet they are not all alike. They represent people from different walks of life, and their faces suggest real character and feeling, showing the skill of the people who made them.
- 4 Zheng’s army was buried with him. It remained in an underground city for centuries. Now, millions have viewed these statues. Raiders damaged some of them after Zheng’s death, yet there is so much left to see and admire.

Ashoka the Great

- 1 Ashoka (ə-SHOH-kə) the Great reigned over India from 265 b.c. to 238 b.c. Like most rulers, Ashoka waged war to expand his empire. In time, it far exceeded the size of other ancient kingdoms. After eight years of fighting, Ashoka ruled most of India as well as the lands now called Iran, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.
- 2 Ashoka also captured the great northeastern kingdom of Kalinga. However, when he saw what his armies had done to Kalinga, Ashoka was shocked. There was suffering and death wherever he looked. That experience changed the ruler’s way of thinking completely.
- 3 From this time on, Ashoka turned to Buddhism. Buddhist thought teaches that suffering can be overcome in this world. Those who think, speak, and behave generously lead blessed lives. Ashoka studied the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, and he began to live in a different way.
- 4 Ashoka helped to spread Buddhist teachings. He spoke out against war and preached truth and love. He ordered that these teachings be carved into stone pillars. The stones still stand where Ashoka’s empire once existed.

Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 through 5 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

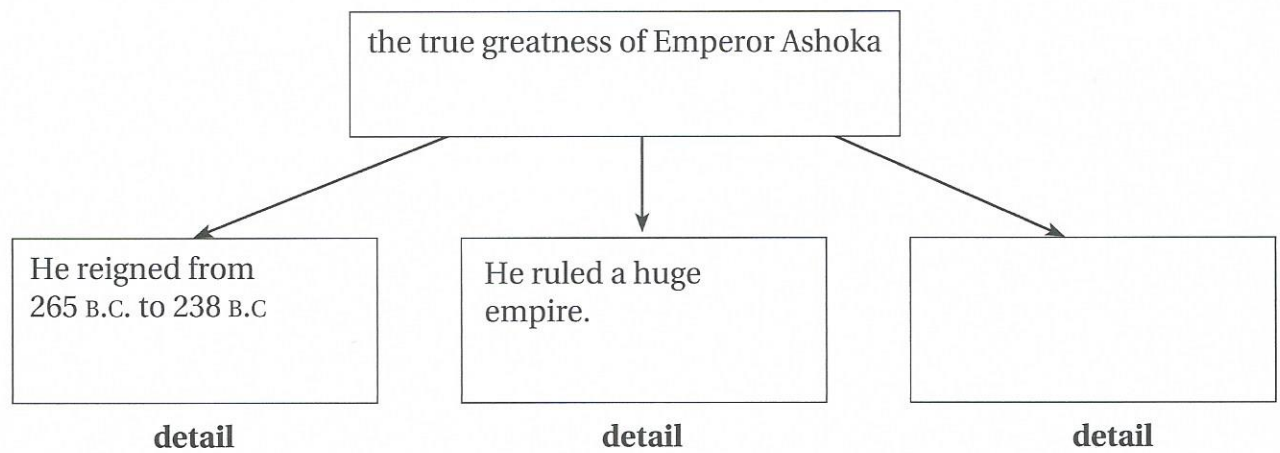
1. Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of “Terra Cotta Soldiers.”

Through military might, Zheng united the six kingdoms of China.

In this sentence, *might* means

- A may
 - B very
 - C power
 - D bullets
2. What is the correct way to divide the word *generously* into syllables?
- A ge-ner-ous-ly
 - B gen-er-ous-ly
 - C ge-ner-ously
 - D gener-ous-ly
3. The MOST LIKELY purpose of the terra cotta soldiers was to
- A display the talent of the emperor.
 - B protect the emperor in the afterlife.
 - C keep living human soldiers from getting hurt.
 - D show how ancient Chinese people used horses.

4. The chart below shows a main idea and supporting details. First, read the chart.



Which sentence belongs in the empty box?

- A He waged a war against Kalinga.
- B His armies brought suffering to others.
- C He spread the message of peace.
- D His stone pillars are still standing.

5. Which important idea is found in both passages?

- A In ancient times rulers were kind.
- B Well-crafted artwork survives for centuries.
- C People should be careful when digging up the past.
- D Some ancient rulers made surprising decisions.

Read the fiction passage “Jayden Volunteers.” Then answer questions 1 through 6.

Jayden Volunteers

1 “We need volunteers for the beach cleanup on World Oceans Day,” Ms. Patel announced. Jayden was quick to raise his hand. The annual event raised awareness of the importance of keeping the world’s waterways and oceans clean. Unfortunately, the trash on beaches is blown by the wind into the ocean, where it presents a danger for marine animals. Jayden once saw a sea turtle get tangled up in a plastic shopping bag. Although he freed the animal, the incident made him realize just how dangerous litter can be for these creatures. After that experience, every year he volunteered to help clean up a stretch of beach.

2 On the day of the cleanup, Jayden and the other volunteers assembled on the shore. After litter bags were distributed, the volunteers got to work. Wearing gloves to protect his hands, Jayden began filling a garbage bag with everything from fishing line to dirty plastic bottles to old grocery bags. He was only an hour into the job when he saw two of his friends approach.

3 “Hey, Jayden, what are you doing?” Lucas inquired.

4 “I volunteered to clean up this beach for World Oceans Day,” Jayden replied, wiping the perspiration from his forehead.

5 “Lucas and I are going to play beach volleyball,” Ryan reported. “We could sure use you on our team.”

6 Jayden shook his head. “I can’t. I promised to work for another three hours.”

7 “Come on,” Lucas urged. “There are plenty of volunteers here, so you won’t even be missed.”

8 “Yeah,” Ryan chimed in. “We need you on the team. You’re one of the best players.”

9 Jayden was tempted to join his friends. He was tired of the tedious work, and he didn’t want to let the boys down by refusing. But then he surveyed all the litter polluting the beach. The work was important, and he had made a commitment. “Sorry, guys,” he finally said. “I’m staying to finish my shift.”

Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 through 6 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 9 of the passage.

But then he surveyed all the litter polluting the beach.

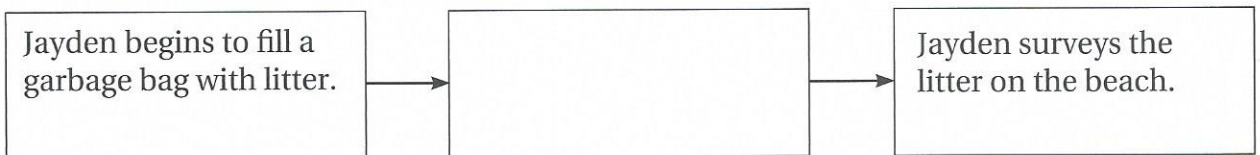
Which definition from the following dictionary entry fits the way *surveyed* is used above?

survey (sər vā´ for verb; sər´ vā for noun) 1 verb to look something over 2 verb to measure something precisely 3 noun a general look 4 noun an official study, poll, or inspection

- A definition 1
- B definition 2
- C definition 3
- D definition 4
2. What does the suffix in *awareness* mean?

- A that which is
- B the person affected
- C state or quality of being
- D something connected to

3. The chart below shows events in sequence. First, read the chart.



Which event belongs in the empty box in the chart?

- A Jayden volunteers for the beach cleanup.
- B Jayden's friends ask him to play beach volleyball.
- C Jayden tells his friends that he will finish his shift.
- D Jayden frees a sea turtle tangled up in a plastic bag.

4. Which word BEST describes Jayden?

- A bored
- B carefree
- C responsible
- D adventurous

5. Which would be the BEST new title for this passage?

- A Fulfilling a Promise
- B Marine Animals
- C Playing Long and Hard
- D Beach Volleyball

6. Jayden's problem is solved when he

- A frees the sea turtle from a plastic bag.
- B volunteers to help clean up the beach.
- C begins to fill a garbage bag with litter.
- D tells his friends he will finish his shift.

Now read the fiction passage "A Bad Feeling." Then answer questions 7 through 12.

A Bad Feeling

1 Bella opened the door to greet Nicole, the last of her friends to arrive. Bella was thrilled that her parents allowed her to have her friends over while she babysat her little brother Sam. The only thing that her mom was strict about was that the girls stay close to home.

2 "Hi, everyone," Nicole called as she wandered into the den to join Abby and Grace. Bella brought in snacks, and the girls settled down to watch some television. She gave Sam a quick kiss on the forehead as he played with his toy truck on the floor. The advertisement flashing on the screen was announcing a big sale at a clothing store at the mall.

3 "That's a great sale," Abby remarked. "We should definitely go."

4 "Why don't we go now?" Grace asked.

5 Things were happening way too fast for Bella. "We can't. I promised Mom we'd stay close to home."

6 "Well, the mall is pretty close, so technically you're not going against your mom's wishes," Nicole noted.

7 Bella had a bad feeling, but she didn't want to disappoint her friends. "I guess it'll be okay," she agreed hesitantly.

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- 8 Once at the store, the girls happily occupied themselves trying on clothes. Bella kept a watchful eye on Sam, who was rolling his truck on the floor in front of the dressing room. She was distracted when Abby beckoned her to take a look at a cute outfit she'd found. Glancing at the price, Bella decided it was way too expensive even on sale and headed back to Sam. Her heart immediately sunk. The toy truck was there, but her brother was missing.
- 9 "Don't worry. We'll find him," assured Abby. The girls looked all over the store, calling his name, but the little boy seemed to have disappeared. Bella began to sob as her friends tried to console her and decide what to do next. Just then, a mall security guard strode into the store carrying Sam.
- 10 "I saw the little guy running out of the store and grabbed him before he got very far," the guard explained. "I assume he belongs to you." Bella reached out to take her brother and hugged him tightly. "You should take better care of him," the guard reproved.
- 11 "Yes," Bella responded, catching her breath. "I intend to."

Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 7 through 12 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

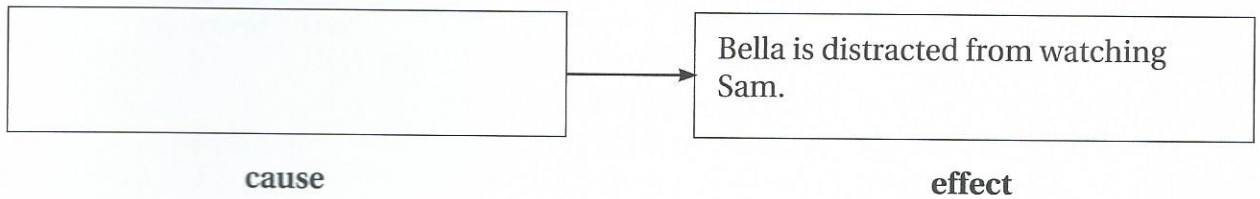
7. Read this sentence from paragraph 10 of the passage.

"You should take better care of him," the guard reproved.

What is a synonym for *reproved*?

- A praised
- B scolded
- C pleaded
- D confided
8. What is the suffix in *advertisement*?
- A ad
- B ver
- C isement
- D ment

9. The chart below shows an action that has a cause. First, read the chart.



Which statement belongs in the empty box?

- A The girls are trying on clothes.
- B A security guard strides into the store.
- C An advertisement flashes on the screen.
- D Abby beckons Bella to look at an outfit.

10. How does Bella feel when she agrees to go to the mall?

- A angry
- B eager
- C afraid
- D uneasy

11. What will MOST LIKELY happen next in the story?

- A Bella will take Sam home immediately.
- B Nicole will look after Sam while Bella tries on clothes.
- C Grace will blame the mistake on one of the other girls.
- D Abby will convince her friends to do some more shopping.

12. Which term names the genre, or type of text, of this passage?

- A fantasy
- B mystery
- C realistic fiction
- D real-life adventure

Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 13 through 15 by filling in the circle next to the best answer. These questions relate to both passages.

13. Which theme is present in both passages?

- A Helping others can make you feel good.
- B It is always wrong to disobey your parents.
- C Peer pressure can influence your behavior.
- D True friends help you out when you are in need.

14. How are Jayden and Bella different?

- A Bella is more helpful.
- B Jayden is more reliable.
- C Jayden is more experienced.
- D Bella is more understanding.

15. The conflict in both passages deals with the main character's struggle with

- A nature.
- B another person.
- C something unknown.
- D his or her knowledge of right and wrong.

Read the passage from the fiction book *Swim Free* and the passage from the fiction book *The Day the Mountain Burst*. Then answer questions 1 and 2.

Passage from
Swim Free

by Anne Sibley O'Brien

1 His grandfather was gone, taken by a fever just a few days ago. Still, through the rush of rain and water, Yong-min heard the old man's voice calling him. It was impossible, but the voice was as clear as if Grandfather were there in the tiny kitchen, spooning millet and thin soup into tin bowls.

2 "Yong-min-ah! Get up! Get up!"

3 The thought of his grandfather woke the grief, like a creature clawing in his chest. He rolled out from under his covers, then busied himself folding the thin quilts into a neat stack in the corner.

4 Folding them was a waste of time if the water kept rising, but it was the first thing he and Grandfather had done each morning. In these first days, he still kept to their shared habits, not yet accepting the hole in his life. He felt stupid and slow, as if he were moving through the thick fog that sometimes rose off the river.

5 When he stepped down to the kitchen, water covered his bare feet. The cold of it, even in August, shocked him fully awake. He had to try to save himself, for his grandfather's sake if not his own.

6 Grandfather had left him a legacy—and a burden of responsibility—in his last whispered words: "*Find your way to freedom.*" It was an impossible task, but he must honor his grandfather by at least staying alive, even if he never found that freedom.

Passage from
The Day the Mountain Burst

by Louise Herman

1 . . . The column of smoke got thicker and plumed at the top. The sky slowly darkened, and gray ash began to fall. Folks were afraid, and soon families with bundles began to leave the city by our gate.

2 Some men sent for their horses, but most of our neighbors waited and watched. The mountain has smoked before, they said. It won't last, it will come to nothing. The ash is light.

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3 Light it was, but it continued to fall. When an inch or two had accumulated, Cousin Julius decided to remove his wife and children to their country house near Nuceria.

4 Naturally Cousin Julius did not admit he was afraid. The ash meant nothing, he insisted. It was merely unpleasant. They would leave until it ceased and the slaves could sweep it away.

5 "You stay here, Marcus," he said. "Take care of the horses. If there is civic disorder, keep looters out of the house."

6 He prepared two carts. Though he scoffed at the danger, I noticed he packed bags of coins, his wife's jewelry, and all their other gold and silver possessions. While his sons harnessed horses to the carts, his wife and older daughters came outside through the ash on tiptoe, with capes over their heads.

Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 and 2 by writing your responses on the lines provided.

1. How does the memory of Grandfather help Yong-min? Use details from *Swim Free* in your answer.

2. In what ways are the situation of Yong-min and the situation of Marcus different? How are they alike? Use details from each passage in your answer.
