

CogAT Verbal

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Hot Vocab

You are going to master the following vocabulary in this packet.

abrupt: showing sudden change; unexpected.

accordance: an agreement.

adornment: an ornament; decoration; something or someone that adds beauty.

aggression: the first step in an attack or a quarrel; an unprovoked attack.

alloy: a metal made of mixing two or more metals.

applaud: to show approval by clapping hands or shouting; to approve; to praise.

awaken: to arouse, as emotion, interest, or the like.

blandish: to flatter; to persuade by gentle ways; to coax.

canter: a slow and easy gallop.

colleague: an associate in professional employment.

contract: to catch a disease.

delicacy: agreeable (to fine taste).

donate: to give; to contribute.

enrich: to make rich or richer.

foggy: misty; murky; obscure.

glimmer: shine unsteadily or faintly; twinkle.

humane: kind; merciful; not cruel or brutal.

influenza: flu; fever.

latitude: freedom from narrow limitations.

meddlesome: meddling; interfering.

nebulous: vague; hazy; misty.

opposite: radically different or contrary in action or movement.

perennial: something that is continuing and recurrent.

precision: exact; correct; accurate.

resemblance: similarity in quality or form.

scapegoat: someone who bears the blame for others.

sole: the only one; single; restricted.

sweep: far-reaching; extensive; wide-ranging.

torrent: rushing stream; heavy downpour.

various: several which are different.

Word List 1 * * * * *

- (A) abrupt
- (B) accordance
- (C) adornment
- (D) aggression
- (E) alloy

Definition Matching:

Choose the closest word from the previous list to match each definition. Spell it correctly!

1. an ornament. _____
2. showing sudden change. _____
3. an agreement. _____
4. a metal made of mixing two or more metals. _____
5. the first step in an attack or a quarrel. _____

Sentence Illustration:

Choose the best word from the previous list to fit in the sentences. Correct grammar is required!

6. He is a person of his words. What he did was in _____ with what he said.
7. She made an _____ stop when she heard her name get called on the intercom system.
8. Christmas trees were decorated with all the traditional _____.
9. The invading army has been accused of using sheer _____ against a small and defenseless country.
10. John spends more money on the _____ wheels than his car.

Word List 2 * * * * *

- (A) applaud
- (B) awaken
- (C) blandish
- (D) canter
- (E) colleague

Definition Matching:

11. to flatter. _____
12. a slow and easy gallop. _____
13. to arouse, as emotion, interest, or the like. _____
14. to show approval by clapping hands or shouting. _____
15. an associate in professional employment. _____

Sentence Illustration:

16. I _____ him to his responsibilities for his children.
17. One of my _____ will be leaving in August.
18. She _____ him out of his bad mood.
19. The audience _____ the singer several times during the concert.
20. The horse rider showed her grace and elegance when the horse went at a _____.

Word List 3 * * * * *

- (A) contract
- (B) delicacy
- (C) donate
- (D) enrich
- (E) foggy

Definition Matching:

- 21. misty. _____
- 22. to catch a disease. _____
- 23. agreeable (to fine taste). _____
- 24. to make rich or richer. _____
- 25. to give. _____

Sentence Illustration:

- 26. The growth of industry _____ the small town.
- 27. An anonymous businesswoman _____ one million dollars to the fund.
- 28. This region produces wines of great _____.
- 29. If it is cloudy, rainy, or _____, the water vapor in the air condenses.
- 30. He _____ an awful stomach complaint while he was traveling.

Word List 4 * * * * *

- (A) glimmer
- (B) humane
- (C) influenza
- (D) latitude
- (E) meddlesome

Definition Matching:

- 31. flu. _____
- 32. shine unsteadily or faintly. _____
- 33. kind. _____
- 34. meddling. _____
- 35. freedom from narrow limitations.

Sentence Illustration:

- 36. He is widely respected for his _____ and considerate treatment of the unfortunate.
- 37. On summer evenings we would watch the fireflies _____ in the dusky garden.
- 38. He felt his marriage was suffering because of his _____ mother-in-law.
- 39. David was still weak from his bout with _____.
- 40. I think you have permitted your son too much _____ in this matter.

Word List 5 *****

- (A) nebulous
- (B) opposite
- (C) perennial
- (D) precision
- (E) resemblance

Definition Matching:

- 41. exact. _____
- 42. radically different or contrary in action or movement. _____
- 43. vague. _____
- 44. similarity in quality or form. _____
- 45. something that is continuing and recurrent. _____

Sentence Illustration:

- 46. If you want to go to the station, you should be walking in the _____ direction.
- 47. A skilled engineer works with _____.
- 48. These plants are _____ and will bloom for many years to come.
- 49. Tom has not seen his grandma for more than 10 years, he had only a _____ memory of her face.
- 50. His nose is similar to his father's but there the _____ ends.

Word List 6 *****

- (A) scapegoat
- (B) sole
- (C) sweep
- (D) torrent
- (E) various

Definition Matching:

- 51. the only one. _____
- 52. rushing stream. _____
- 53. far-reaching. _____
- 54. several which are different. _____
- 55. someone who bears the blame for others. _____

Sentence Illustration:

- 56. Day after day of heavy rains had saturated the hillside until the mudslide ran downhill in _____.
- 57. After the Challenger disaster, NASA searched for a _____ on whom they could cast the blame.
- 58. The jailer is the _____ person to have a key to the prisoner's cell.
- 59. The company, which has been exploring _____ means of expansion, has decided to open 10 more restaurants.
- 60. The new CEO's promise to bring _____ change to the company basically means, "A lot of you had better be ready to get the ax."

Review List 1 * * * * *

- (A) abrupt
- (B) accordance
- (C) adornment
- (D) aggression
- (E) alloy
- (F) applaud
- (G) awaken
- (H) blandish
- (I) canter
- (J) colleague

Definition Matching:

- 61. an associate in professional employment.

- 62. an agreement. _____
- 63. unexpected. _____
- 64. an unprovoked attack. _____
- 65. decoration. _____
- 66. a metal made of mixing two or more metals. _____
- 67. to approve. _____
- 68. to arouse, as emotion, interest, or the like.

- 69. to persuade by gentle ways.

- 70. a slow and easy gallop. _____

Review List 2 * * * * *

- (A) contract
- (B) delicacy
- (C) donate
- (D) enrich
- (E) foggy
- (F) glimmer
- (G) humane
- (H) influenza
- (I) latitude
- (J) meddlesome

Definition Matching:

- 71. murky. _____
- 72. twinkle. _____
- 73. to make rich or richer. _____
- 74. merciful. _____
- 75. to contribute. _____
- 76. to catch a disease. _____
- 77. fever. _____
- 78. freedom from narrow limitations.

- 79. interfering. _____
- 80. agreeable (to fine taste). _____

Review List 3 *****

- (A) nebulous
- (B) opposite
- (C) perennial
- (D) precision
- (E) resemblance
- (F) scapegoat
- (G) sole
- (H) sweep
- (I) torrent
- (J) various

Definition Matching:

- 81. single. _____
- 82. similarity in quality or form.

- 83. someone who bears the blame for others.

- 84. hazy. _____
- 85. extensive. _____
- 86. correct. _____
- 87. something that is continuing and
recurrent. _____
- 88. heavy downpour. _____
- 89. radically different or contrary in action or
movement. _____
- 90. several which are different.

Synonym Replacement

Select the closest meaning to match the underlined word or phrase.

91. The holiday crowds littered the park.
 (A) dirtied
 (B) filled
 (C) cleaned
92. In last year's Grand Prix, two cars overturned, severely injuring both drivers.
 (A) flipped over
 (B) boiled over
 (C) collided
93. The criminal was utterly convinced of his innocence.
 (A) finally
 (B) hardly
 (C) completely
94. Shooting stars are inappropriately named as they are not stars at all.
 (A) quaintly
 (B) unsuitably
 (C) indiscreetly
95. Tenants should generally pay about twenty-five percent of their take-home pay on rent.
 (A) usually
 (B) always
 (C) rarely
96. It is not easy to remain tranquil when events suddenly change your life.
 (A) serene
 (B) severe
 (C) serious
97. Because of propitious economic forecasts, the great stock market fall of 1989 was totally unexpected.
 (A) rain
 (B) depressing
 (C) auspicious
98. In September 1935, Darwin's vessel arrived at the Galapagos Islands.
 (A) assistant
 (B) Ship
 (C) cargo
99. The horse finally came to a halt on the very rim of the cliff.
 (A) slope
 (B) top
 (C) edge
100. Woodrow Wilson became a college president at a relatively young age.
 (A) relevantly
 (B) extremely
 (C) comparatively
101. The aim of the Montreal Protocol was to reduce chlorofluorocarbon emission in the atmosphere by 50 percent.
 (A) command
 (B) goal
 (C) draft
102. Sea water contains minute plant life called algae.
 (A) variable
 (B) diverse
 (C) tiny
103. Urban planners hope to convert many dilapidated houses of the inner cities into low-income housing.
 (A) old
 (B) run-down
 (C) empty

104. The mule, noted for its stubbornness, is a result of crossbreeding.
(A) a transient
(B) an indigent
(C) a hybrid

105. Because it is utterly relaxing, Yoga is often recommended for those who face a great deal of stress.
(A) completely
(B) ,finally
(C) hardly

Reading: In the early 1970s, whale

Line	In the early 1970s, whale watchers in Mexico were surprised to find California gray whales playfully nuzzling their boats. Some even came close enough to be petted by the whale watchers. But relations weren't always this good between whales and people. For centuries, people hunted whales for their meat and oil.	Line
5	California gray whales migrate 12,000 miles each year from Alaska to the warm lagoons of Baja California, Mexico. There the babies are born. In 1857, a whaling captain named Charles Scammon found these whale nurseries. He soon led others to them.	5
10	California grays became easy targets for whaling ships. Hunters <u>harpooned</u> defenseless baby whales in order to catch the mothers. Mother whales tried to save their young by crashing 12-foot wide tails down on the whaling boats, breaking them into pieces. Lagoons were filled with the blood of thrashing whales and injured hunters. No wonder the whales were frightened of people and wouldn't come near them.	10
15	Since then, whales have become friendlier. No one knows why, though. Along with many other countries, the United States has stopped hunting whales. Perhaps these intelligent animals have learned that people no longer want to hurt them. Some scientists think the whales just like the sound of boat motors. Until the whales can tell us themselves, we will just have to guess why they are now so friendly.	15

106. Gray whales are born in
- (A) California
(B) Hawaii
(C) Alaska
(D) Mexico
107. Which word in paragraph 3 means "helpless against attack"?
- (A) defenseless
(B) easy
(C) injured
(D) thrashing
108. Which paragraph tells how far gray whales migrate?
- (A) 1
(B) 2
(C) 3
(D) 4
109. motor : boat = tail :
- (A) ship
(B) harpoon
(C) whale
(D) sail
110. Which word does not belong in the following group?
- (A) ocean
(B) lagoon
(C) water
(D) target
111. The word "harpooned" [line 10] means
- (A) killed
(B) caught
(C) lured
(D) fed

Reading: In 1991, a painting by Frida

Line	In 1991, a painting by Frida Kahlo sold for \$1,650,000. The price set a record for a work by a Latin American artist. Yet the painting isn't huge or fancy. In fact, it looks almost like folk art. Its shapes are simple, and its colors are bright. It shows a Mexican woman with long, loose, dark hair and strong features. She seems to be looking right into the viewer's eyes. Her gaze is intense and direct.	Line
5	The picture is a self-portrait, and the artist was as strong as she painted herself. Frida Kahlo spent years painting while in constant pain.	5
10	As a teenager in Mexico, Frida was badly hurt in an accident. Doctors placed her broken body in a rigid cast. The young woman couldn't move anything except her hands. So she began to paint. Frida never completely recovered, and the pain lasted the rest of her life. But so did her interest in painting.	10
15	During her life, Frida did not get much recognition. She had a few shows, but the art world was much more interested in her husband. Diego Rivera was already a famous artist when they married.	15
	Frida died in 1954. Since then, her work has slowly become better known. Today, Frida Kahlo's paintings are so valuable that they have been declared Mexican national treasures.	

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>112. The subject of the \$1,650,000 painting is _____.</p> <p>(A) Frida Kahlo
 (B) an unknown person
 (C) a doctor
 (D) Diego Rivera</p> | <p>115. hands : movement = eyes :</p> <p>(A) feature
 (B) vision
 (C) body
 (D) gaze</p> |
| <p>113. Which word in paragraph 3 means "healed"?</p> <p>(A) hurt
 (B) placed
 (C) recovered
 (D) lasted</p> | <p>116. The word "record" [line 1] means</p> <p>(A) document
 (B) file
 (C) writing
 (D) the best amount ever reached</p> |
| <p>114. Which paragraph tells why Frida began painting?</p> <p>(A) 1
 (B) 2
 (C) 3
 (D) 4
 (E) 5</p> | |

Reading: A Book Review: The Transall

A Book Review: *The Transall Saga* by Gary Paulsen. Delacorte Press, 1998. 248 pages.

A tube of bluish-white light projecting skyward from a fallen fireball fascinates thirteen-year-old Mark Harrison, camped alone on a canyon floor in Gary Paulsen's most recent novel for young people, *The Transall Saga*. Mark, in the middle of a week-long survival trek across the desert, approaches the light, accidentally tumbles into its beam, and is instantly transported to a bleak, rust-colored world of howling creatures and quicksand.

The author, however, is on familiar ground. Having written exciting stories in lean, sure-footed prose about the trials of Brian Robeson in *Hatchet* and Russel Suskitt in *Dogsong*, both of whom find self-understanding in the wilderness, Paulsen once again places an adolescent boy in an unforgiving landscape and expects him to get moving.

Unfortunately, Mark never really does get moving. For some reason, Paulsen stacks the deck in his favor by telling us, "Hiking and backpacking were Mark's one obsession." Consequently, Mark does pretty well on his own: "Life was simple. Find food, scout the countryside, try to make new things, and sleep." Sounds easy enough, doesn't it?

Second, the author casts away the heart of all good young adult novels: Mark doesn't change-not a whit. Unlike Brian in *Hatchet*, who learned from his mistakes and built his virtues slowly on a foundation of sheer determination, Mark, after four years spent in the fierce world called Transall, seems to be the same-except that at 17 he looks like Conan the Barbarian.

In fact, the novel presses so heavily on the pedal of male fantasy-adventure that characterization gets left in the dust. Girls in particular don't come off well. Mark, called Krakon by the people of Transall, is advised, "It is a dangerous thing to have women sew for you, Krakon. Next thing you know, they will be telling you to take a bath." Har-har!

The Transall Saga deposits Mark back in his own time after an absence of four years, but no one seems to care. Readers may not, either. A clue as to why may be because Paulsen published eight young adult novels in 1995 alone. Perhaps it's not how long Mark spent in Transall but how long the author spent putting him there.

- Charles J. Shields

117. Which of the following is true?
 (A) The author has written other books like *The Transall Saga*.
 (B) The author worked for several years on the book.
 (C) This is the author's first book.
 (D) The character, Mark Harrison, changes a lot in the book.
118. Who is the author of the book?
 (A) Charles J. Shields
 (B) Mark Harrison
 (C) Gary Paulsen
 (D) Delacorte Press

119. What is a summary of the plot of the book?
- (A) A young man is lost with only a hatchet to help him.
 - (B) A young man meets up with Conan the Barbarian.
 - (C) A young man is mysteriously transported to a different world.
 - (D) A young man resists being taken care of by women.
120. What is the writer's opinion of *The Transall Saga*?
- (A) Not very much happens in the book.
 - (B) It's one of the author's best.
 - (C) The title of the book is unclear.
 - (D) The author continues to be one of the best writers around.

More Reading Questions ...

Anthropology is the study of human beings. (Anthropo means humans and logy means study of.) It is concerned with all aspects of human development. Because of this broad approach, it is generally divided into two branches: cultural anthropology and physical anthropology.

Cultural anthropology is the study of people who are alive today, and it has traditionally focused on the societies of the world which have little (or at least less) technology. It is the study of the broad area of learned behavior occurring only among humans. A cultural anthropologist making a study of an Eskimo village, for example, would study clothing, food, religious practices, and a wide range of Eskimo behaviors.

Physical anthropology is the study of the biological features of humans. Physical anthropologists trace and follow the development of the bones and skulls that they find to put together the fascinating story of human variation and human development. Their study can include people who are alive

today, but often it deals with people who lived and died long ago.

Because human beings are so complex, however, it is impossible to completely separate the subject matters of these two branches. The biocultural approach to anthropology, which combines the physical and the cultural features, offers the best overall look at human beings.

121. What is the topic of the selection?
- (A) cultural anthropology
 - (B) physical anthropology
 - (C) anthropology in general
 - (D) anthropologists
122. Physical anthropology is concerned with ...
- (A) all aspects of human development.
 - (B) the history of human biology.
 - (C) food and religious practices.
 - (D) the broad area of learned behavior.
123. The author takes the position that it is impossible to completely separate physical and cultural anthropology because ...
- (A) both branches deal with people who are alive today.
 - (B) both branches deal with people who left only bones to study.
 - (C) human beings are so complex.
 - (D) human beings always have a culture.
124. The author's purpose in this passage is to ...
- (A) establish a basis for considering both the physical and cultural branches of anthropology.
 - (B) restrict the topic to just the physical aspects of anthropology.
 - (C) restrict the topic to just the cultural aspects of anthropology.
 - (D) propose an entirely new way of looking at the science of anthropology.

125. In this passage, the term biocultural means...
- (A) an approach that stresses the physical aspects of anthropology.
 - (B) an approach that stresses the cultural aspects of anthropology.
 - (C) a combination of the traditional and modern approaches to anthropology.
 - (D) a combination of the physical and cultural approaches to anthropology.

Reading: The Great Garden Experiment

The Great Garden Experiment

By Linda Opp



We moved from our city apartment to the country shortly before planting time. Dad kept his accounting job, and Mom was going back to teach school in the fall. But my parents were hankering for life in the country and a chance to grow their own vegetables, so away we went.

Our new place was an old two-story house on an acre of land. Next door, to the east, lived Mr. Ballard. He raised pigs—a lot of pigs. It was all right, except when the wind blew from that direction. On those days, we tried to stay indoors.

After we got settled, our first shopping trip was to the Big Valley Hardware Store to pick out our garden seeds. Mom and Dad rummaged through the racks of seeds like kids in a toy store.

“Look, Stan,” Mom called to Dad. “Here are seeds for zucchini¹ squash. Let’s get some.”

¹ zucchini: a long, dark green member of the squash family

Dad looked at the picture on the front of the seed package. “I don’t like zucchini much,” he said.

Mom got a determined look in her eyes.

We bought the zucchini seeds. We also carried home seed potatoes, tiny tomato plants, and other packages of seeds—corn, peas, beans, and more.

While we were planting, Mr. Ballard stuck his head over the fence. “Howdy,” he said. “Nice garden you got.”

“Thanks,” Dad said. “We—”

“What’s that?” Mr. Ballard interrupted, squinting at the seed packet Mom was holding. “Zucchini?”

“That’s right,” Mom said, pleased.

“You didn’t plant the whole package, did you?” Mr. Ballard inquired. Mom looked puzzled. “Why, yes.”

“What’s wrong with that?” Dad asked, sticking up for Mom.

“Oh, nothing. Nothing at all.” Mr. Ballard disappeared, but we could hear him laughing.

Our garden grew fast, especially the zucchini. “Look at this, Allison,” Dad said one day. “These zucchini vines of your mother’s are choking my cucumber vines.” Andy and I were helping him weed the garden. We were in a hurry because there was an east wind that day.

Two weeks later, Mom picked the first zucchini. “I can’t wait to try some of the

recipes in my new zucchini cookbook,” she said proudly.

At first, it was interesting and kind of fun to see how many ways we could eat zucchini. But the fun was soon over.

There were two hundred recipes in that cookbook. We ate zucchini steamed, fried, baked, and stuffed. We ate zucchini-carrot cake, zucchini nut bread, and zucchini-oatmeal cookies. Slices and chunks of zucchini turned up in salads, soups, casseroles, and stews.

“Why don’t you try giving some away?” I suggested.

“I have,” Mom said. “I’ve already given so many away that people lock their doors when they see me coming.”

“I am going to become malnourished,” Dad said. “My body is crying out for a tender tomato or some crisp green beans. And all I get is zucchini.” He glowered at Mom over his meatloaf, which he had cut into tiny pieces to be sure there was no zucchini in it.

Mr. Ballard thought this was hilarious. “How are the zucchini farmers today?” he would ask whenever he saw Dad. “You city folks are strange. Nothing but zucchini.”

“Maybe,” Dad said icily. “But I’d rather have a garden full of zucchini than a farm full of smelly pigs any day.”

Mr. Ballard shrugged. “Pigs are pigs,” he said.

One morning when Mom had gone out early to pick zucchini, I served Dad his breakfast omelette, which Mom had left in the oven to stay warm. Dad was delighted when I set it down in front of him.

He took a big bite. Then his fork clattered onto the table.

“No,” he said, standing. “I will not eat a zucchini omelette.” He took a swallow of juice and set his glass down with a gulp. “That does it. Zucchini-orange juice. She thought I wouldn’t notice.”

At that moment, there was a yell from the garden. Dad, Andy, and I ran outside. There stood Mom, holding the biggest zucchini I had ever seen. It was at least three feet long.

“Stan,” Mom whispered, “I don’t understand. They were only half this big yesterday.”

We stared at the zucchini patch. An army of green monsters gleamed in the sun. Mr. Ballard looked over the fence. “You folks got trouble?” he asked.

Dad put his arm around Mom and gave Mr. Ballard a frosty look. He didn’t want our neighbor to know how bad our trouble really was. “Nothing that concerns you,” he said.

“Oh, well,” Mr. Ballard said, scratching his head. “I guess I’ve got enough trouble of my own. Confounded worms ate my whole corn crop. Don’t know what I’ll feed my pigs until I can find some corn for sale.” He walked away, muttering to himself. Fortunately, I had an idea. I explained it to Dad and Andy.

“No, Allison,” Dad said when I told him what he would have to do. “Anything but that.”

“It’s the only way, Dad,” Andy said.

We finally got Dad to make the phone call. He handled it well, even though he was awfully embarrassed.

Then we got to work, urgently picking every zucchini. Mr. Ballard arrived with his truck and his hired hand and helped us load the zucchini. After that, Mr. Ballard got his tractor and plowed under the zucchini vines. That was part of the deal. I don’t know whether the

pigs liked the zucchini. I didn't ask them.



126. Which sentence BEST tells what the story is about?
- (A) A family gets tired of eating zucchini every day.
 - (B) A family moves to the country next to a pig farmer.
 - (C) A family plants a garden and grows too many zucchini.
 - (D) A family annoys a pig farmer but helps him solve a problem.

127. Read these sentences from the story.

After we got settled, our first shopping trip was to the Big Valley Hardware Store to pick out our garden seeds. Mom and Dad rummaged through the racks of seeds like kids in a toy store.

What word means almost the same as rummaged?

- (A) jumped
- (B) ran
- (C) saw
- (D) searched

128. Why does Mom continue to insist on serving zucchini at nearly every meal?
- (A) She wants to make the family miserable.
 - (B) She knows that zucchini is a healthy food.
 - (C) She does not want the zucchini to be wasted.
 - (D) She does not want to skip a recipe in her cookbook.

129. Why does Allison compare the zucchini to an army of green monsters?
- (A) The zucchini are numerous and overgrown.
 - (B) The zucchini are dangerous and frightening.
 - (C) Her parents have declared war on the zucchini.
 - (D) Her parents have lined the zucchini up in rows.

130. How is Dad's plan for the garden DIFFERENT from what actually happens?
- (A) He wants his children to do the weeding.
 - (B) He hopes to eat several kinds of vegetables.
 - (C) He hopes Mr. Ballard will give him advice.
 - (D) He wants to sell the zucchini to the neighbors.

131. Allison plans to get rid of the zucchini by
- (A) allowing the other crops to choke them.
 - (B) using them in recipes for the neighbors.
 - (C) feeding them to Mr. Ballard's hungry pigs.
 - (D) planting other types of seeds in the garden.

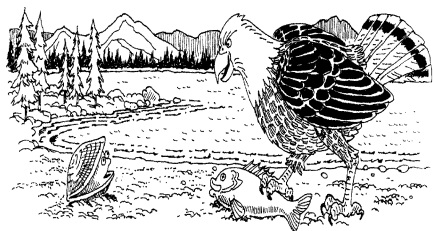
132. How are all of the foods that Mom makes from her new cookbook ALIKE?
- (A) The family refuses to eat them.
 - (B) They contain leftover garden seeds.
 - (C) They contain squash from the garden.
 - (D) The family feeds them to Mr. Ballard's pigs.
133. Why did the author write "The Great Garden Experiment"?
- (A) to explain the best way to plant vegetables
 - (B) to tell a story about an out-of-control garden
 - (C) to describe the problems of life in the country
 - (D) to discourage readers from planting zucchini

Reading: The Gossiping Clams

The Gossiping Clams

A Suquamish Native American Tale

¹Long, long ago, when the world was new and the animals could talk, clams were the most talkative of all. And no wonder, for their mouths stretched the full length of their bodies. The clams not only loved to talk, they told stories as well. Some of the stories were true and some were not.



²“Did you know,” said one clam to Eagle, who was eating a fish on the beach, “that Raven says he is a much better hunter than you?”

³Eagle’s feathers ruffled in annoyance. “Perhaps that is true,” scoffed Eagle, “if picking at carrion² can be called ‘hunting.’”

⁴Once when Otter came down to the beach to splash in the water, another clam said to him, “I don’t think you make yourself look foolish when you come down to play in the waves.”

⁵“Who said I look foolish?” demanded Otter.

⁶“I really shouldn’t say,” said the clam, “but you might go and ask Beaver. Beaver thinks that everyone should work as hard as she

² Carrion is the meat of other animals that are already dead.

does.”

⁷It wasn’t long before all the animals were quarreling with each other, and all because of the stories that the clams were spreading. Raven finally got so tired of all the gossiping that he called a council meeting and invited all the animals. Bear, Eagle, Mink, Otter, Wolf, and many others came. It was decided at that meeting that, in order to preserve the peace, a way must be found to put a stop to these unkind stories.

⁸“Beaver,” said Raven, “we cannot decide how to punish the clams. You are a good worker. We know that you will keep working until you discover a solution, so we have chosen you to rid us of this problem.”

⁹Beaver thought and thought, and at last she thought of a plan. She gathered up armloads of the clams—every last one of them—and carried them to the edge of the water.

¹⁰“What are you doing?” they asked in alarm.

¹¹“You shall see soon enough,” replied Beaver. “Never again will you spread your mean-spirited tales.”

¹²Beaver waited there until the tide went out and then, quickly, she buried each and every one of those clams in the sand. The clams were outraged! When Bear came down to walk along the beach, one of the clams opened its mouth to tattle on Beaver. But as soon as it did, sand and water ran in. The clam sputtered and spit out the water. Again it opened its mouth, but as soon as it did, the sand and water ran into it, and all the poor clam could do was spit out the water and close its mouth.

¹³Even today, if you walk along the beach at

low tide, you might see a little spurt of water squirting up from beneath the sand here and there. That is just a clam spitting out the water it swallowed when it opened its mouth to gossip!

134. In which word does -ance mean the same as it does in the word annoyance?
 (A) ancestor
 (B) balance
 (C) disturbance
 (D) advance
135. The word scoffed in this story means —
 (A) retreated
 (B) discovered
 (C) chuckled
 (D) sneered
136. Which question does paragraph 7 answer?
 (A) Where was the council meeting held?
 (B) What did the wolf say at the meeting?
 (C) Why were all the animals quarreling?
 (D) How long did the animals' meeting last?
137. The beaver in this story is shown as the —
 (A) group leader
 (B) party giver
 (C) silent partner
 (D) problem solver
138. The author uses the term “mean-spirited” to show that the clams —
 (A) had strong ideas
 (B) wanted to cause problems
 (C) said things that had two meanings
 (D) showed unusual qualities
139. How did the animals solve their problem?
 (A) They asked the clams to quit talking so much.
 (B) They left the beach when the clams started talking.
 (C) They found a way to shut the clams up.
 (D) They told funny stories about the clams.
140. Which information from the story supports the idea that the clams thought they were being treated unfairly?
 (A) One of the clams opened its mouth to tattle on the beaver.
 (B) The clams talked with everyone who visited the beach.
 (C) One of the clams said something unkind about the raven.
 (D) The clams' mouths stretched the full length of their bodies.
141. The clams in this story are mostly shown as —
 (A) troublemakers
 (B) entertainers
 (C) caretakers
 (D) complainers
142. What is the most likely reason that the author wrote this story?
 (A) To encourage readers to listen to each other
 (B) To explain why readers should become storytellers
 (C) To tell readers how to take care of a problem
 (D) To teach a lesson about the harm of gossiping

Answer Key

Hot Vocab

1. (C) adornment
2. (A) abrupt
3. (B) accordance
4. (E) alloy
5. (D) aggression
6. (B) accordance
7. (A) abrupt
8. (C) adornments
9. (D) aggression
10. (E) alloy
11. (C) blandish
12. (D) canter
13. (B) awaken
14. (A) applaud
15. (E) colleague
16. (B) awakened
17. (E) colleagues
18. (C) blandished
19. (A) applauds
20. (D) canter
21. (E) foggy
22. (A) contract
23. (B) delicacy
24. (D) enrich
25. (C) donate
26. (D) enriched
27. (C) donated
28. (B) delicacy
29. (E) foggy
30. (A) contracted
31. (C) influenza
32. (A) glimmer
33. (B) humane
34. (E) meddlesome
35. (D) latitude
36. (B) humane
37. (A) glimmer
38. (E) meddlesome
39. (C) influenza
40. (D) latitude
41. (D) precision
42. (B) opposite
43. (A) nebulous
44. (E) resemblance
45. (C) perennial
46. (B) opposite
47. (D) precision
48. (C) perennials
49. (A) nebulous
50. (E) resemblance
51. (B) sole
52. (D) torrent
53. (C) sweep
54. (E) various
55. (A) scapegoat
56. (D) torrents
57. (A) scapegoat
58. (B) sole
59. (E) various
60. (C) sweeping
61. (J) colleague
62. (B) accordance
63. (A) abrupt
64. (D) aggression
65. (C) adornment
66. (E) alloy
67. (F) applaud
68. (G) awaken
69. (H) blandish
70. (I) canter
71. (E) foggy
72. (F) glimmer
73. (D) enrich
74. (G) humane
75. (C) donate
76. (A) contract
77. (H) influenza
78. (I) latitude
79. (J) meddlesome

- 80. (B) delicacy
- 81. (G) sole
- 82. (E) resemblance
- 83. (F) scapegoat
- 84. (A) nebulous
- 85. (H) sweep
- 86. (D) precision
- 87. (C) perennial
- 88. (I) torrent
- 89. (B) opposite
- 90. (J) various

Synonym Replacement

- 91. A
- 92. A
- 93. C
- 94. B
- 95. A
- 96. A
- 97. C
- 98. B
- 99. C
- 100. C
- 101. B
- 102. C
- 103. B
- 104. C
- 105. A

Reading: In the early 1970s, whale

-
- 106. D
 - 107. A
 - 108. B
 - 109. C
 - 110. D
 - 111. B

Reading: In 1991, a painting by Frida

-
- 112. A
 - 113. C
 - 114. C
 - 115. D
 - 116. D

Reading: A Book Review: The Transall

-
- 117. A
 - 118. C
 - 119. C
 - 120. A
 - 121. C
 - 122. B
 - 123. C
 - 124. A
 - 125. D

Reading: The Great Garden Experiment

-
- 126. C
 - 127. D
 - 128. C
 - 129. A
 - 130. B
 - 131. C
 - 132. C
 - 133. B

Reading: The Gossiping Clams

- 134. C
- 135. D
- 136. C
- 137. D
- 138. B
- 139. C
- 140. A
- 141. A
- 142. D