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Forecast Student Test Results

Increasing Achievement for Schools, Teachers, & Students
Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 12.

Maya Lin

Maya Lin is a sculptor. She is Chinese. Her parents were born in China, but Maya was born in Ohio. Her parents were college professors.

Maya made good grades in school and went to college at Yale. She wanted to have a double major. This means she wanted to study two subjects. One was art. The other was architecture. The college would not let her do this. She liked building design, so she studied architecture, but she also took art classes. In those classes, she studied sculpture.

By 1980, the nation still had no memorial to the Vietnam War. Many people wanted to honor those who fought there. A contest was held to pick the best design. Maya’s teacher at Yale told his students to enter the contest. Maya was a junior in college at the time.

Over one thousand designs were entered in the contest. A year later the judges chose the winner. It was Maya Lin. No one knew who she was. A lot of people were mad when they found out she was a student. They wanted a famous artist to win. Other people were mad because she was a woman. Some were mad because she was Chinese. Many were mad because the design was not a statue of a soldier.

Maya’s feelings were hurt. She had done her best on the design. The judges had picked it fairly. She did not know what to think about so many angry people. She was proud of her design. It was two black granite walls in a V shape. On the walls were the names of all the men and women who died or were missing in the war.

The wall was built, and a statue of a soldier was put close to the wall. When the memorial was shown to the public, people gave speeches, but no one mentioned Maya’s name at the ceremony. Since then, millions of people have visited the monument. It is now thought of as one of the best war memorials ever. People say they cry when they see the list of names. They touch the wall, and they leave flowers and mementos at its base.

Maya is now well known as a sculptor. She has been asked to design other sculptures and buildings. Maya overcame bad times. She showed that she was strong. Now her name as an artist is secure, and her future is bright.

1. What is this passage primarily about?
   A. the Vietnam War
   B. a well-known artist
   C. the statue of a soldier
   D. none of the above
2. Which detail explains why people did not like Maya's sculpture at first?
   A. People did not like the war.
   B. Maya went to Yale.
   C. People wanted a famous artist to design it.
   D. none of the above

3. After Yale told Maya she could not study two subjects:
   A. she picked architecture
   B. she dropped out of school
   C. she switched her major to reading
   D. none of the above

4. People first felt one way about the sculpture, but now they:
   A. wish they had never seen it
   B. have tried to sell it on the Internet
   C. think it's one of the best war memorials
   D. none of the above

5. What caused Maya to enter the contest?
   A. All Chinese artists were asked to enter.
   B. The artist had to be from Ohio.
   C. Only college students could enter.
   D. none of the above

6. What can you infer about people's attitudes toward Maya Lin today?
   A. They are unfamiliar with her work.
   B. They respect her as an artist.
   C. They are glad she is Chinese.
   D. none of the above

7. From information in this passage, one could conclude that:
   A. not all people like the same art and sculptures
   B. not all people like wars
   C. not all people speak Chinese
   D. none of the above
Maya Lin

8. The passage explains that Maya chose to study **architecture**. What does the word **architecture** mean?
   A. auto design
   B. statue design
   C. building design
   D. none of the above

9. The fourth paragraph was written to:
   A. explain why people liked Maya’s design
   B. explain why people did not like Maya’s design
   C. explain how people felt about the war
   D. none of the above

10. The best summary of this passage is:
    A. Art classes are fun.
    B. War is not good.
    C. Yale was wrong not to let Maya study two subjects.
    D. none of the above

11. The main idea of the sixth paragraph is to show that:
    A. the public is not always right
    B. sometimes it is best to keep an open mind
    C. the memorial now means a lot to many people
    D. none of the above

12. Contrast Maya’s memorial with the statue of a soldier:
    A. One is pretty; the other is ugly.
    B. One is a wall; the other is a replica of a person.
    C. One is loved; the other is hated.
    D. none of the above
Read the following selection. Then answer questions 13 through 28.

The Birthday Present (A Play)

CHARACTERS: ASHLEY, a 14-year-old girl with long, red hair
JASON, ASHLEY's 17-year-old brother with short, red hair

ACT ONE

SCENE: The two-car garage of the Johnson home in the summer of 2005. To the left is a door leading into the house. In the garage is a green sedan.

ASHLEY: (standing beside the sedan) Jason, are you going to detail Mom's car for her birthday?
JASON: (digging through a toolbox) Yeah. I've got all the stuff right here.
ASHLEY: That's a great present. I wish I could think of something useful to do for her birthday, too, but it's sort of complicated.
JASON: How is deciding on a present complicated? I'm sure there are plenty of things you could do for her around the house, like, maybe, the ironing?
ASHLEY: (annoyed) Ironing? I mean, a real present, something special.
JASON: Having somebody do the ironing when you work full-time and are raising two kids can be pretty special. Concentrate, Ashley.
ASHLEY: (makes a face) I want to do something that only I could do for her.
JASON: (shrugs) I guess you'll just have to figure it out by yourself then.
ASHLEY: What if I bought her some of that perfume she really likes?
JASON: It's just a thought, but do you actually have any money? That stuff costs a whole lot more than your allowance, if I remember correctly.
ASHLEY: Could you loan me some money? I had to buy some stuff this week.
JASON: (laughs) Hold on! Am I to understand that you don't have any money and want me to loan you a bundle? When, exactly, do you plan to pay me back?
ASHLEY: I could pay you a little every week for a while. Besides, it's for Mom's birthday present, Jason. I could put your name on the card, too.
JASON: No way! (laughs and holds up a can of car wax) I'm working on my present to Mom right now. I'm not giving her perfume, and I don't need my name on your card.
ASHLEY: (sighs in exasperation) Well, if you won't help, what am I supposed to give her? It's not fair that you'll be giving her something cool, and I won't.
JASON: (frowning) You sound like a spoiled brat. Go in the house, and look around. I'm sure you will figure out some way to give Mom a hand with something.
ASHLEY: How am I supposed to know what to pick, and how am I supposed to know if she'll be happy with what I choose?
JASON: The best way is to stop thinking about what you want to do for her, and start thinking about what Mom might want.
ASHLEY: Exactly how am I supposed to do that?
JASON: I suggest that you go in the house, get a pen and a pad, walk around, and make a list of all the things Mom does for us. Then choose something from the list that you can do for her. After all, Ashley, it's Mom's birthday, not yours.
ASHLEY: (nods her head) You're right. Sorry I've been so slow to realize that. I'll go in, and I'll make a list right now. Thanks, Bro. (She exits left through the door into the house. The curtain comes down on the scene.)
13. This act from a play is mostly about:
   A. thinking of someone besides yourself
   B. how to detail a car
   C. why you should wash your mother’s dog
   D. none of the above

14. Which detail explains that Ashley has no money?
   A. She decides not to buy a present.
   B. She goes to the ATM to get some money.
   C. She tries to borrow some money from her brother.
   D. none of the above

15. What happened after Jason told Ashley to iron clothes?
   A. Ashley thought it was a good idea.
   B. Ashley got mad at him.
   C. Ashley helped him detail the car.
   D. none of the above

16. How are Jason and Ashley’s attitudes about presents for their mother different?
   A. He doesn’t believe in giving presents, and she does.
   B. She wants to give their mother perfume, and he doesn’t.
   C. He likes to spend a lot of money, and she doesn’t.
   D. none of the above

17. Why did Ashley say she would put Jason’s name on her card to their mother?
   A. She is scared of him.
   B. She wanted to borrow money from him.
   C. He said he did not have a card.
   D. none of the above

18. What can you infer about Ashley’s personality from her actions?
   A. She doesn’t mind saying she was wrong about something.
   B. She never changes her mind about anything.
   C. She does not like to do any kind of housework.
   D. none of the above
19. What conclusion can you draw about how Jason and Ashley get along?
   A. They don’t like each other.
   B. They fight a lot.
   C. They get along pretty well.
   D. none of the above

20. Ashley tells Jason that deciding on a present is “complicated.”
    What does complicated mean?
   A. not easy
   B. not fun
   C. not hard
   D. none of the above

21. Why does the author have Jason tell Ashley to concentrate?
   A. to use a big word
   B. to give her a reason to get mad at Jason
   C. to get her to think about what she should do
   D. none of the above

22. Which is the best summary of this play?
   A. Brothers and sisters never get along.
   B. Sisters should never listen to their brothers.
   C. Older brothers are bullies.
   D. none of the above

23. What inference can you draw about Ashley and Jason’s mother?
   A. that she is raising two pretty good kids
   B. that she likes red cars
   C. that she enjoys ironing
   D. none of the above
The Birthday Present (A Play)

24. Which detail belongs in a summary of this play?
   A. Jason telling Ashley to stop thinking about what she wants
   B. Ashley making a face at Jason
   C. the next-door neighbor visiting
   D. none of the above

25. Why did Jason tell Ashley to make a list?
   A. so she could ask for a bigger allowance
   B. so he could loan her some money
   C. so her decision would be easier
   D. none of the above

26. What was the author’s purpose for describing the garage?
   A. to show the room where Jason lives
   B. to set the scene of the play
   C. to make an automobile commercial
   D. none of the above

27. Ashley tells Jason she wants to give their mother something “special.”
   What does special mean?
   A. not usual
   B. not nice
   C. not old
   D. none of the above

28. What can you conclude about what Ashley will do when she goes in the house?
   A. She will make a list of things she doesn’t want to do.
   B. She will finish her homework.
   C. She will find something to do for her mother’s birthday.
   D. none of the above
Lighthouses

Lighthouses have a proud place in the history of sailing. For hundreds of years they have saved many ships from being wrecked. They did this by warning ships to stay away from dangerous places. Some of these places are rocky. Some of them are in areas of shallow water.

Lighthouses are built on these and other places where ships could wreck and sink. Lighthouses have been around for a long time. One of the first ones was in Egypt. It is still one of the most famous. In early times, there were no real lights. There was no electricity, so men had to set fires to warn ships to stay away.

Later, fires made of wood or coal were built on raised platforms so ships could see them better. Stairs were built to the platforms. Then walls were built around the platforms. The fires were built inside. Some lighthouses had oil lamps for lights. Metal sheets were used to make the lights seem brighter.

There are two kinds of lighthouses. One kind is a building made like a tower from brick, block, or stone. Some old lighthouses were wood, but wood does not last by the sea. The other kind of lighthouse is made from metal. This kind is only a frame of a building. Some of the metal lighthouses are built on rocks in the water. They do not have keepers living nearby. The keepers took boats out in the water to tend these lighthouses.

After electricity was discovered, lighthouses were built with flashing lights. They had roofs to keep rain off the wiring to the lights. Soon, men began living in the lighthouses to take care of them. They lived there to keep the warning lights working. For that reason, they were called lighthouse keepers.

Some of the keepers lived alone inside the towers, but many keepers had families, so the cities and states that owned the lighthouses built homes. These were for the families of the keepers. Some homes were built at the base of the lighthouses, and some were built close by.

Most ships now have devices to keep them safe. Keepers are no longer needed for running lighthouses. In fact, lots of lighthouses are now tourist attractions. Park Services run them, and people visit them on vacation.

29. What would be another good title for this passage?
   A. Coal Can be Used to Warn Ships
   B. Lighthouse Keepers Work Hard Today
   C. There are Two Kinds of Lighthouses
   D. none of the above
Lighthouses

30. Which detail explains why early lighthouses used fire to warn ships?
   A. Sailors knew the fires meant danger.
   B. Fire was less expensive than electricity.
   C. Lighthouse keepers liked to build fires.
   D. none of the above

31. What happened after lighthouses no longer needed keepers?
   A. Keepers continued living in them.
   B. Sailors took over the job.
   C. Tourists moved into the lighthouses.
   D. none of the above

32. What is the difference between block lighthouses and metal lighthouses?
   A. One has walls; the other doesn’t.
   B. One burns fires; the other has electricity.
   C. The Park Service runs one; the other is run by tourists.
   D. none of the above

33. Why were homes built near lighthouses?
   A. They were for visitors to the lighthouses.
   B. They were for the people rescued from shipwrecks.
   C. They were for the families of the lighthouse keepers.
   D. none of the above

34. How important were lighthouses to ships at sea?
   A. Lighthouses gave the sailors somewhere in which to dock.
   B. Lighthouses saved them from wrecking on the rocks.
   C. Lighthouses provided beautiful scenery for ship passengers.
   D. none of the above

35. What conclusion can you draw about the usefulness of lighthouse keepers today?
   A. They are helping the Park Service.
   B. They are mostly out of work.
   C. There are only a few left.
   D. none of the above
36. The passage reads, "... stay away from dangerous places..." What does dangerous mean?  
A. safe  
B. unsafe  
C. fun  
D. none of the above

37. The author wrote the fifth paragraph to:  
A. explain how lighthouse keepers got their jobs  
B. explain about electricity  
C. explain about the warning lights  
D. none of the above

38. A good summary of this passage is:  
A. The Park Service takes good care of lighthouses.  
B. Lighthouse keeping is a good job for the future.  
C. The sea is dangerous.  
D. none of the above

39. What happened after stairs were built to the platforms?  
A. Electricity was discovered.  
B. Walls were built around the platforms.  
C. The Park Service shut down the platforms.  
D. none of the above

40. The best summary of the first paragraph is:  
A. Shallow water is a fun place in which to play.  
B. Dangerous places can cause shipwrecks.  
C. Rocks can hurt you if you fall on them.  
D. none of the above
Lighthouses

41. Which book would help you to learn more about lighthouses?
   A. the World Almanac
   B. the "L" encyclopedia
   C. an atlas
   D. none of the above

42. Where in a book would you look for a chapter about lighthouses?
   A. in the glossary
   B. in the index
   C. in the table of contents
   D. none of the above

43. Where might you find the definition of the word lighthouse?
   A. in the "L" encyclopedia
   B. in a calendar of events
   C. in a dictionary
   D. none of the above

44. Where would be the best place to look for a map showing oceans of the world?
   A. a tourist guide book to lighthouses
   B. a copy of a sports magazine
   C. the TV Guide
   D. none of the above