Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 13.

I Have a Weird Name

I have a weird name. In fact, all three of my names are weird. It's not my fault. It's not exactly my mom's and dad's fault, either, although they did give me the names. It's really the fault of all of my relatives, if you want to know the truth of the matter. Just about all of them go crazy when anyone starts talking about our revered ancestors, and all of them keep lists and pictures of relatives and these things called "family trees" in their houses.

We have a lot of family picnics and stuff, and my relatives are always bringing up how this one married that one and had which kids. Some of them I recognize, and some of them I don't recognize. That's because I haven't met them all. We are a big family, and some of us live in different states around the country. Everybody's always emailing pictures and news about what's going on, especially the ones who don't live here.

I remember this going on when I was a little kid. Back then, I didn't understand much about it. In fact, some of it was really pretty confusing. For instance, I thought some of our family lived in trees. Or, really, I thought they lived in tree houses. This seemed like a really cool thing to me, so I was always looking up in the trees whenever we went to my relatives' houses, but as far as I could see, all of their houses were on the ground, just like ours. I couldn't understand why they were always talking about family trees when, as far as I could tell, no one lived in one.

Finally, I asked one of my cousins. He was in high school and pretty smart, so I thought he'd know which of our relatives lived in tree houses. He laughed at that, you can bet. Then, he told me what a "family tree" is. He said it is a sort of chart where all the relatives have their names. It starts with two relatives, and then it "branches out" to more relatives for each generation. That's why it is called a family tree.

Anyway, like I started out saying, I have weird names, and it's all because of this craziness my family has about relatives. See, they study these family trees and charts every time there is a baby coming. You never saw such a big deal made over what to name a kid. Everybody gets together and suggests names that have been handed down in our family, so the poor new kid is stuck with someone else's name. It's what they did with me and what they did with my sister and brother who were born before me.

They got lucky, though. My sister is named Scarlett Joanna because she was named after a great-aunt and a grandmother. She hates her names because she would rather be named Ashley or Brittany. I told her everybody is named Ashley or Brittany. She said that's why she wishes she were, too. Too bad, I say. My brother is named Albert Elmer, and he hates both of those names, too. He says Elmer sounds like glue. Too bad, I say.

Now you may think those names are weird, but compared to my name, they're perfectly fine. I mean, my sister is called Joanna, and my brother is called Al. Those are sort of normal names, if you ask me. I, on the other hand, have a right to complain about my name. I mean, if you look at my first name you can't tell if I'm a girl or a boy. Teachers can never pronounce any of my names. People laugh when they hear them, and they are all hard to spell. How would you feel if you were named Derry Shermetta Schwendimier?
1. What is this passage primarily about?
   A. how people get their names
   B. someone who is unhappy with her name
   C. names that are popular today
   D. none of the above

2. Why did the author ask a cousin about family trees?
   A. The cousin was a lumberjack.
   B. The cousin was an ancestor.
   C. The cousin was smart.
   D. none of the above

3. Who was born first?
   A. the author
   B. the author's sister
   C. the author's father
   D. none of the above

4. What is the main difference between a tree and a family tree?
   A. One is an oak, and the other is a pine.
   B. One is tall, and the other is short.
   C. There is no difference.
   D. none of the above

5. What caused the author to be confused about where some relatives lived?
   A. the kinds of trees they talked about
   B. the picnics all the family members attend
   C. people talking about family trees
   D. none of the above

6. What can you infer about some people's attitudes toward naming babies?
   A. They want to name babies after other people in the family.
   B. They want to name babies after movie stars and singers.
   C. They think babies should pick their own names later.
   D. none of the above
7. From information in this passage, you could conclude that a family tree:
   A. can be useful for shading picnic tables
   B. could fall on a house in a storm
   C. is good for keeping family records
   D. none of the above

8. The passage explains that the family talks about “revered ancestors.”
   What does ancestor mean?
   A. a relative who is no longer alive
   B. a flower that blooms in the spring
   C. someone who hasn’t been born yet
   D. none of the above

9. The third paragraph was written to:
   A. explain where the author’s names came from
   B. explain where the author’s family lives
   C. explain where the author was born
   D. none of the above

10. The best summary of this passage is:
    A. Some teachers make fun of students’ names.
    B. Some names are hard to spell and pronounce.
    C. Sometimes we get stuck with names we don’t like.
    D. none of the above

11. The main idea of the sixth paragraph is to:
    A. explain why the author’s brother and sister hate their names
    B. explain why the author’s mother has a weird name
    C. explain why the author’s name is hard to spell
    D. none of the above

12. Contrast where the author thought some relatives lived with where they really lived:
    A. The author thought they lived in trees, but they really lived on the ground.
    B. The author thought they lived out of town, but they really lived nearby.
    C. The author thought they lived in Canada, but they really lived in America.
    D. none of the above

13. Where would you look for a word that means almost the same as “weird?”
    A. in a ghost story
    B. in a thesaurus
    C. in an atlas
    D. none of the above
Naval Hero John Paul Jones

John Paul Jones was born in Scotland in 1747. His name at that time was John Paul. He went to sea on a British ship at age 12. He had his own command by the age of 22. He sailed his ship to the West Indies. There, he punished two of his men. Both of them died. After that, he had a reputation as a murderer and a war criminal.

His commanding officers in the British Navy thought he was a bad captain and a liar. He ran away to the American colonies. There, he added Jones to his name. Soon, the colonies went to war against Britain. Jones joined the new navy of the colonies. Within a year, he had his own ship. It was called the Bonhomme Richard, or Poor Richard.

It was an old merchant ship. Jones fitted the ship with guns. He sailed it to Britain and took along four other ships. During the American Revolutionary War, the ships raided the coasts of England and Scotland. They sank many British vessels. In one battle, he tied the Bonhomme Richard to a larger British ship. He did this so the British ship could not get away. Then the men on his ship and the British ship fought each other.

The British commander demanded that Jones and his men give up. Jones kept on fighting. The Bonhomme Richard began taking on water. The British commander again asked Jones to give up, but Jones refused. It was then that Jones made his legendary remark, "I have not yet begun to fight."

Jones rammed the British ship. The British seamen fell and jumped overboard. The men from the Bonhomme Richard got onto the British ship. The Bonhomme Richard and the other ships from the colonies fought the British ships. The ships from the colonies won the battle.

After the American Revolutionary War, Jones went to Russia. He fought in the Russian Navy. The Russian naval officers were jealous of his success. They plotted against Jones. As a result, his ship was taken away. He was forced to remain on land where he was very unhappy.

In May of 1790, Jones went to Paris. He stayed there until he died in 1792. He was buried in Paris. In 1905, his remains were brought to the United States. In 1913, he was buried in the chapel of the U.S. Naval Academy. As time passed, John Paul Jones came to be thought of as an American hero.

14. This passage is mainly about:
   A. battles at sea
   B. the life of a naval hero
   C. the Russian Navy
   D. none of the above
15. Which detail explains that Jones was at sea most of his life?
   A. He died in Paris at age 45.
   B. He went to sea at age 12.
   C. He sailed to Britain at age 22.
   D. none of the above

16. What happened right after the British captain told Jones to surrender?
   A. Jones took his ship from him.
   B. Jones kept on fighting.
   C. Jones tied up to his ship.
   D. none of the above

17. Compare the Bonhomme Richard before Jones got it with what he made it into.
   A. It was a tugboat, and he made it a cruiser.
   B. It was a submarine, and he made it a destroyer.
   C. It was a merchant ship, and he made it a warship.
   D. none of the above

18. What caused the deaths of two of Jones’ sailors in the West Indies?
   A. They fell overboard.
   B. Jones punished them.
   C. The British killed them.
   D. none of the above

19. What can you infer about Jones from this passage?
   A. He was an excellent sailor.
   B. He did not like to fight.
   C. He was a war criminal.
   D. none of the above

20. What conclusion can you draw about the feelings of the Russian naval officers toward Jones?
   A. They wanted to be rid of him.
   B. They admired him.
   C. They did not like the way he fought sea battles.
   D. none of the above
21. The author writes that Jones "had a reputation as a murderer..." What does reputation mean?
   A. to be sent to prison
   B. to be described as
   C. to be disliked
   D. none of the above

22. Why does the author write about both the good things and the bad things that Jones did?
   A. to spread gossip about Jones
   B. to make the reader like Jones
   C. to give all the facts about Jones
   D. none of the above

23. Which is the best summary of this passage?
   A. All men from Scotland are good sailors.
   B. British ships are not as good as U.S. ships.
   C. Russian sailors are bullies.
   D. none of the above

24. What inference can you draw from the respect Jones was given by the U.S. Navy in 1913?
   A. The U.S. Navy did not accept him as a war hero.
   B. The U.S. Navy thought of him as a war hero.
   C. The U.S. Navy wanted him punished.
   D. none of the above

25. Which detail belongs in a summary of this passage?
   A. John Paul Jones spent time as a ship builder.
   B. John Paul Jones spoke French.
   C. John Paul Jones won a lot of sea battles.
   D. none of the above

The Bonhomme Richard in Combat
Naval Hero John Paul Jones

26. Why did John Paul add Jones to his name?
   A. He wanted a middle name.
   B. to get a fresh start in the American colonies
   C. so he could get a new ship from the British Navy
   D. none of the above

27. What was the author’s purpose for the fourth paragraph?
   A. to mention Jones’ legendary remark
   B. to mention that the Bonhomme Richard sank
   C. to mention that Jones decided to surrender
   D. none of the above

28. What does legendary mean?
   A. translated
   B. famous
   C. unknown
   D. none of the above

29. Which one is NOT true about Jones?
   A. He won a lot of sea battles.
   B. He had a bad temper.
   C. Sailing was not a great passion for John Paul Jones.
   D. none of the above

30. Where might one find facts about the American Revolutionary War?
   A. in an American history book
   B. in a calendar of events
   C. www.dictionary.com
   D. none of the above
Life in a Castle

How would you like to live in a castle? Think about how much room you would have! Think about how grand everything would be! Sounds great, right? Now, think about how hard it would be to keep it warm in the winter. Think about having no running water and about seeing rats and roaches everywhere. In some ways, life in a castle might not be so great after all.

In the Early Middle Ages, castles were home to people who had lots of money and big pieces of land. These people were lords and ladies of the royal courts. They were also known as members of the nobility. Each lord had his own army, many of whom lived in the castle, too. It was their job to defend the castle from the lord’s enemies.

Castles needed hundreds of servants, most of whom also lived inside the walls. They cooked and cleaned, as well as caring for the gardens and the livestock. The lord also had his personal servants to help him with the business of running his estate. This included keeping records and notification of when repairs needed to be made. The lady of the castle had her servants, too. They washed and laid out her clothes and helped her with the children.

The true function of a castle was to act as a fort. People lived in rooms inside the high, thick walls that formed the outside of a castle. These walls were made of stones, and they were built around an open courtyard in the center of the castle. Heavy wooden gates that took many men to open and close protected the people inside. It took hundreds of people many years to build a castle.

Often, ditches were dug around castles and filled with water. These were called moats. These moats were also part of the protection offered by a castle. When a castle had a moat, it also needed a drawbridge. This drawbridge had to be raised for protection and lowered for people entering and leaving the castle. It took many men to raise and lower the drawbridge.

Another way to protect the castle was to build round towers at the four-corners of the castle walls. These towers let the lord’s army defend the castle from attackers. The lord’s army stood in the towers and fired arrows down on the attackers. The castle walls were tall. This let the castle’s defenders pour boiling water or oil down on the attackers.

Inside the castle, life was not as we know it today. The bare stone walls were cold and damp all year. This meant that in cold weather everyone had to wear several layers of clothing and stay near the huge fireplaces to be warm. This also meant that mold grew on the walls. When it rained, there was no window glass to keep the water out. When it snowed, there was no way to keep ice from forming on the floors.

On the other hand, castle life could be very grand. Dozens of people came to the castle daily to do business or to meet with the lord. Many people came to dinner in the huge dining halls. There were visitors such as knights and even royalty to entertain. Of course, there was no television to watch, and there were no video games to play. Armies attacked the castle a lot, so even without reality shows and video games, life in a medieval castle was never boring!
31. What is this passage mainly about?
   A. the fun of having lots of visitors
   B. castle life in the Middle Ages
   C. the life of a castle servant
   D. none of the above

32. Which detail does NOT explain why living in a castle could be unpleasant?
   A. Royalty came to visit.
   B. Rats and roaches were everywhere.
   C. Mold grew on the walls.
   D. none of the above

33. What happened after a moat was built around a castle?
   A. The electricity was shut off.
   B. A drawbridge had to be built.
   C. Armies attacked the castle.
   D. none of the above

34. How was life in the Middle Ages different from life today?
   A. There were not as many video games in the Middle Ages.
   B. There were more television channels in the Middle Ages.
   C. Everyone lives in a castle today.
   D. none of the above

35. What happened when armies attacked a castle?
   A. The servants cooked a big meal.
   B. The drawbridge was lowered to let them inside.
   C. The defenders poured boiling oil on them.
   D. none of the above

36. Why was it important to have so many servants in a castle?
   A. The castle lord liked to brag about how many servants he had.
   B. The servants were needed to take care of everything.
   C. The servants shot arrows at attackers.
   D. none of the above
37. What can you infer from the passage about how hard it was to build a castle?
   A. Building a castle took a lot of people a long time.
   B. Building a castle took only a year or so.
   C. Building a castle did not take many people.
   D. none of the above

38. The passage reads, “The true **function** of a castle was to act as a fort.”
   What does **function** mean?
   A. purpose
   B. army
   C. battle
   D. none of the above

39. The author wrote the seventh paragraph to:
   A. explain about living inside a castle in the Middle Ages
   B. explain about the weather in the Middle Ages
   C. explain about windows in the Middle Ages
   D. none of the above

40. A good summary of this passage is:
   A. Having company was fun in the Middle Ages.
   B. Attacking a castle can be dangerous.
   C. It took a lot of time to keep a castle clean.
   D. none of the above

41. What happened right after visitors rode up to the castle?
   A. Electricity was invented.
   B. The drawbridge was lowered so they could enter the castle.
   C. The servants fed their livestock.
   D. none of the above

42. The best summary of the first paragraph is:
   A. Rats and roaches make good pets.
   B. It’s fun to carry water from the well.
   C. Fireplaces are better than heaters.
   D. none of the above
43. Where in a book would you look for a chapter about the Middle Ages?
   A. in the glossary
   B. in the table of contents
   C. in the index
   D. none of the above

44. What is an almanac?
   A. a reference book of facts
   B. a book of maps
   C. a list of names and addresses
   D. none of the above

I Have a Weird Name -- 5.5
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