1. The space alien looked all around him with a frown on his face. What was all this? His ship had landed in a very strange place. Strange beings with tiny noses were riding in vehicles that rolled on large round circles. As he watched, the vehicles all screeched to a halt in front of him. The strange beings came out of their vehicle, some were yelling, others looked terrified!

Which sentence below gives you the best clue about where the alien had landed?
A. The space alien looked all around him.
B. He had a frown on his face.
C. His ship had landed in a very strange place.
D. As he watched, the vehicles all screeched to a halt in front of him.

2. The hunters crept slowly through the thick brush of the woods. They had already lost one of their party to the creature, they were determined not to lose anyone else. Jed was sweating, his hands shook. They had never experienced anything like this. The sound from the creature was like nothing they had heard before. Only its shadow had been seen. It was enormous. They knew there was only one creature. Why did they feel surrounded?

Which sentence tells you the problem may be bigger than the hunters think it is?
A. Jed was sweating, his hands shook.
B. Why did they feel surrounded?
C. It was enormous.
D. They knew there was only one creature.

3. A Greek myth tells a tale of Daedalus, a man who made his king very angry. He hurried home to tell his son, Icarus, that they must leave immediately. The only way to escape was to fly. Daedalus made wings for himself and his son, so they could fly away. He warned his son not to fly too close to the sun, because the wax used to hold the feathers would melt. But Icarus was foolhardy. He was more excited about flying than he was about escaping. Only Tragedy could result.

What can be inferred from this sentence: “But Icarus was foolhardy.”
A. Icarus was frightened.
B. Icarus was not smart enough to listen.
C. Icarus didn’t want to escape.
D. Icarus wouldn’t listen to his father’s warning.

4. Marc had worked for years to become a chef. He had gone to the best culinary schools available. He was at his first interview in a very nice restaurant when he was asked to make a chocolate cake. “This is a cinch,” he thought. He gathered his supplies and started baking. He only had a short amount of time to finish, so he was rushed. He needed sugar. He grabbed the container filled with white crystals and poured two cups into his batter. When the cake was done he gave it a taste. The taste of salt overtook him! “Oh no!” he yelled!

What can you infer happened?
A. The white crystals were salt, not sugar.
B. Marc didn’t follow the recipe.
C. It was supposed to taste salty.
D. The chocolate was filled with salt.
5. The dragon was perched
   On a hilltop high,
   The boy in his sight
   Was sure to die.

   But scary things
   May not scary be,
   The small boy smiled
   And the dragon did see.

   Dragon smiled back
   His toothy grin,
   From that day on
   A friend he did win.

   What is the theme of this poem?
   A. loyalty
   B. family
   C. friendship
   D. conformity

6. Zorro raced to the sound of the scream. He was just in time to see his friends disappear behind a cloud of smoke. There was no trace of them! Think, think, think, he had to think. What, or who, could have possibly done this? He calmed himself enough to consider every possibility. Finally he remembered that the king had hired a magician. He didn’t understand why at first, but now he knew. The king was using his friends to draw Zorro into a trap!

   How did Zorro react to the problem?
   A. He hired the magician.
   B. He hurried to his friends’ aid.
   C. He used his wits to figure out the problem.
   D. He decided not to help.

7. Blackbeard paced back and forth on the deck of his pirate ship. Things had not gone well lately. His treasure map was stolen, the king’s soldiers were after him, and his men were ready to throw him overboard. Why did his life have to be so hard? He wasn’t such a bad guy. A little stealing here and there, cheating a few suckers out of their money, burning a few ships, what’s the harm in that?

   What is the theme of the text above?
   A. anger is a problem
   B. evil deeds lead to misery
   C. self-respect is worth everything
   D. cooperation works

8. Mike had been blind since birth. His greatest hope was to become a history teacher. Everyone had always told him that his dream was impossible, but he knew better. He refused to listen to people who told him what he could not do. He worked hard to learn Braille, he got help when he needed it. Finally, only two years ago, he became a history teacher at his local high school. Mandy saw what Mike had accomplished. She wanted to be a dentist. She decided that she would not listen to her friends who told her she could never do it!

   What is the theme of this text?
   A. work hard to make money
   B. family is important
   C. perseverance is important to succeed
   D. power is very important
9. The twins, Emma and Emily, couldn’t have been more different. Emma loved sports, and was the team captain of both her soccer team, and the baseball team. Emily was not into sports at all. She loved computers. She learned how to program computers last year. Since then she had written a computer game that her friends loved to play, and helped many of her friends repair their computers. Emily never missed any of her sister’s games, and Emma always encouraged Emily to learn more about computers. The one thing they had in common, was cooking. They both enjoyed being in the kitchen.

Which statement below tells you the most about the sisters’ character?
A. They both love sports.
B. They both love computer games.
C. They both support each other.
D. They both liked cooking.

10. Superheroes are very different. Superman could not only fly, but he had strength beyond any human on earth. Spiderman was bitten by a spider, and developed the ability to walk up walls, and swing long distances on his spider silk. Batman, on the other hand, did not have any super powers. He relied on technology and bravery to help him save people.

What is a major contrast between Batman and most other superheroes?
A. He did not have any super powers.
B. He was brave.
C. All other superheroes are from other planets.
D. He could fly.

11. Ed found himself in a very strange place under the city. It was dark and filled with unusual shapes. A strange man gave him juice to drink. After Ed drank the juice he was given, he felt weird. He didn’t know it, but he had become a zombie. He stumbled out into the lights of the city. As he stumbled forward he heard screaming all around him. People were running. What was going on?

What statement is true?
A. Ed was in a small town.
B. The entire paragraph takes place under the city.
C. Ed knew the man who gave him the juice.
D. The events in the paragraph took place in two different areas of the city.

12. Meg couldn’t decide which dog to choose! She had found two dogs at the animal shelter that would make great pets. One was sweet, but just laid in his pen. The other one was so busy, he spent most of his time running around his pen. They both seemed to like Meg, and came to her to be petted. This was going to be a hard choice!

Which statement below is false?
A. One dog seemed lazy.
B. Both dogs are in the same pen.
C. One dog might be too active.
D. Both dogs were friendly to Meg.
13. When Haley’s friend yelled at her for something she didn’t do, it was like a sword through her heart.

Which answer below best explains the meaning of, “like a sword through her heart”?
A. A sword hit her in the heart.
B. The words made her angry.
C. The words hurt her.
D. The words had no meaning.

14. Jack had practiced for his part in the play for weeks. Finally it was his turn to step onto the stage. Everyone he knew was in the audience. When the spotlight turned on him, he was like a fly caught in a spider’s web.

Which answer below best explains the meaning of, “like a fly caught in a spider’s web”?
A. He felt trapped on stage.
B. He was in a play about a spider.
C. He was excited about being on stage.
D. He was all alone on stage.

15. Jake and his best friend went to a comic book meeting in his town. They looked around. All of the people at the meeting were dressed like super heroes. “Birds of a feather flock together!” Jake whispered to his friend.

Which answer below best explains the meaning of, “Birds of a feather flock together”?
A. There were birds flying around the meeting.
B. People who are alike, like to get together.
C. Birds were scaring people at the meeting.
D. People who like birds get together.

16. Jill and Jose’ were running against each other for the school board in Athens. Jill knew Jose’ would only give the facts he wanted the voters to hear. During the debate, Jill said to Jose’, “You are cherry picking your facts!”

Which answer below best explains the meaning of, “cherry picking”?
A. Jose’ is presenting no facts.
B. All of the facts represent an impact on the cherry industry.
C. Jose’ is choosing only the facts that support a particular position.
D. Jose’ is giving too many facts about cherries.
17. Look at the following list of chapters in a book about a fairy godmother.
Chapter 1: I Have a Fairy Godmother?
Chapter 2: Three Wishes
Chapter 3: Be Careful What You Wish For
Chapter 4: The Final Wish
Chapter 5: Saying Good-by

Which answer below tells how the chapters are organized?
A. alphabetically
B. by cause and effect
C. by problem/solution
D. by sequence and order

18. Dark, quiet
Shadows fade,
Air is heavy,
The path is made.

Darker, darker
Eyes shut deep,
It's coming, it's coming
Finally, sleep!

How does the final stanza contribute to the reader's understanding of the poem?
A. It tells where it is happening.
B. It tells what is happening.
C. It explains about shadows.
D. It explains who is sleeping.

19. I sit at my desk
The spider keeps coming.

I start the test
The spider keeps coming.

I start to sweat,
The spider is here!

What does the last stanza tell you about the student?
A. The student is nervous about the spider.
B. The student loves spiders.
C. The spider is fast.
D. The spider doesn't bother the student.

20. Look at the following list of chapters in a book about a lost puppy.
Then answer the question below.
Chapter 1: A puppy is adopted
Chapter 2: The vacation
Chapter 3: Left behind and lost
Chapter 4: The Great Puppy Hurt
Chapter 5: Finally Found
Chapter 6: Home at Last

Which answer below tells how the chapters are organized?
A. by cause and effect
B. by problem and solution
C. by topic
D. by sequence and order
21. Megan did not want to go to the homeless shelter. Her mom wanted her to go to help serve dinner to people who had nowhere else to go. Her stomach was in knots. What would she say to them? Would they be friendly? When they got there, Megan helped make vegetable soup and pies. As the people got into the line to eat, each one gave Megan a big smile. A very ragged man with a long beard said, “This is the nicest thing that has happened to me all day. Thank you so much!” Megan gave him a big smile. Now she could hardly wait to come to the shelter to work again next month!

**How did Megan feel at the end of the paragraph?**
A. frightened
B. sad
C. anxious
D. excited

22. Carla couldn’t believe that the cafeteria had made her favorite dish! They never served mashed potatoes, but today there they were! They looked delicious. When she got to her seat she tore into them! She chewed once, twice, then got a funny look on her face and swallowed hard. They were full of lumps! She hated lumps in her mashed potatoes! No wonder they didn’t serve mashed potatoes very often!!

**Why does the author tell the story from Carla’s point of view?**
A. to show how badly the potatoes were made
B. to describe the potatoes
C. to show how Carla’s day had gone
D. to show her disappointment

23. Rita had promised her sister, Ann, that she would go shopping with her Tuesday night. On Tuesday afternoon she found out that she would have a big test in math the following day. She really needed to study the material, or she would not pass. She hated to disappoint her sister, but if she didn’t pass, her grade for the grading period would be terrible. When she told her sister why she could not go shopping, her sister just smiled. “You study tonight, we can always go shopping on another day!”

**What does the last sentence tell you about Rita’s sister?**
A. how angry she was with Rita
B. Ann cared more for her sister than shopping
C. Ann didn’t want to go shopping after all
D. Ann had to study too

24. Everyone thought Nate was a mad scientist. He did some pretty crazy things. He made a drink to make him smarter, it only made him sick. He decided he could make a special formula that would grow more hair. It turned his scalp purple. He ate, drank, or used every new potion he cooked up. People in his neighborhood were afraid he would hurt himself one day.

**Which answer below tells why the narrator used the word “mad” to describe Nate?**
A. Nate is angry all of the time.
B. Nate has good friends.
C. Nate is reckless.
D. Nate made good potions.
25. Rembrandt was a famous painter who didn't just paint nice pictures. People who see his pictures feel emotions. Rembrandt was very good at pulling people into his paintings, and making them feel what was going on.

What emotion do you think Rembrandt wanted people to feel when they saw the painting below?
A. interest
B. fear
C. excitement
D. happiness

26. Chuck chicken was not the best friend you could have. He would not put up with anything he didn't like. He was always the first to complain and cause a fuss. It was no fun at all when he was mad at you.

How does the image add to the words in the text?
A. The image demonstrates how Chuck shows his emotions.
B. The image demonstrates what he says when he is upset.
C. The image demonstrates the kind of friend he is.
D. The image demonstrates Chuck's intent.

27. It started as a thunderstorm. I wasn't worried until the sky turned a strange shade of yellow. Then I saw it! Fear gripped me as I ran to warn my family to run to the basement!

What information does the image give you that the text does not?
A. why the narrator was suddenly frightened
B. why the narrator was in danger
C. why the narrator ran to the basement
D. all of the above

28. Pete the penguin loved his new balloon. It waved high above his head as he carried it around. He had no idea that the string had wrapped itself around his foot. Before he knew it, he felt himself being lifted off the ground! What was happening?

How does the image add to the understanding of the text?
A. The image shows the color of the balloon.
B. It shows us what Pete looks like.
C. It shows that the balloon will pop.
D. It shows how high the balloon took Pete.
29. Text 1: The detective had looked for clues. Four people had been robbed this week. He was afraid he had not done his best work on the other three robberies. In fact, he was no help at all. This time just had to be different!

Text 2: Jill had written mysteries for years. She was pretty good at it. But now that she was in the middle of a real mystery in her own life. She was afraid that writing about mysteries, and really solving them, were two totally different things.

Which statement is true in both texts:
A. Both narrators work for the police department.
B. Both narrators are not sure of their abilities.
C. Both narrators are detectives.
D. Both narrators are ill.

30. Text 1: Jack just knew he was the smartest kid in class. He told everyone how smart he was, and said no one could ever be smarter than he was. When the new kid, Ben, got a better grade than Jack did on the test, Jack decided to spread a nasty rumor about Ben. He said Ben had cheated on the test.

Text 2: Rebecca wanted the pencils that Jane had. They were sparkly, and the most beautiful things she had ever seen. She decided to steal them.

What theme do both passages demonstrate?
A. fear
B. justice
C. loyalty
D. jealousy

31. Text 1: Randy grabbed the gemstone from the statue and ran as fast as he could out into the desert. He knew once the gemstone was removed, the cave would collapse.

Text 2: Randy handed the gemstone to the head of the department at the museum. It would complete their collection of ancient gemstones.

How does the setting change from text 1 to text 2?
A. It goes from the desert to a museum.
B. It goes from the museum to the desert.
C. It goes from a cave to the desert.
D. It goes from the desert to a cave.

32. Text 1: The fire raged inside the building when a small voice could be heard calling for help. The fireman threw down his hose and ran into the building as fast as he could. He came out carrying a small child.

Text 2: Jack didn’t want to tell his teacher about what was happening. His best friend was bullying the new kid in school. He thought about it for a while, but knew the only thing he could do is tell his teacher, so the bullying would stop.

What theme do both passages demonstrate?
A. honesty
B. friendship
C. courage
D. need for change
33. The ship turned slowly as it headed toward Mars. It was slow, and anything but smooth. The mission had started out as a training mission for new graduates from the academy. Now it was something different. The attack had left the ship almost helpless. Now the graduates had to become the experts.

What is the setting of the passage?
A. the academy
B. the moon
C. space
D. Mars

34. Marvin had worked with snakes at the zoo for a decade. He thought he knew everything there was to know about snakes, and giving snake shows. At the snake show last week he put a gentle python snake around the shoulders of a lady sitting in the front of the room. The python was fine, but the lady fainted, and had to be taken to the hospital. Marvin realized that he may know a lot about snakes, but there was still more to learn about people.

Which of the following was NOT a problem Marvin had at the snake show?
A. Marvin thought he knew everything about snakes.
B. The woman fainted.
C. The snake was very dangerous.
D. Martin was a little overconfident.

35. Fred is a very responsible waiter in a local restaurant. Tuesday night didn’t go very well. Ralph and Susan called in sick, and he said he would be glad to cover their tables. He always tried to be a good employee. As the restaurant filled up, he realized he had 3 of his own tables, 6 of Susan’s, and 4 of Ralph’s tables. He rushed from one table to another, and glued a smile on his face the whole time. The problem came when he spilled a tray full of beverages on a woman, and gave three tables the wrong order!

What was Fred’s problem?
A. Fred wasn’t as good of waiter as he thought he was.
B. Fred had too many tables to serve.
C. Fred was running.
D. Fred was smiling instead of watching where he was going.

36. Cindy had wanted to be a veterinarian all of her life. Now she had her own veterinary clinic. She knew that what she wanted most of all, was to help dogs at the shelter. She also knew she would not get any money for that work. That worried her. She decided to donate one day a week at the shelter anyway. She was surprised to find that her favorite time during the week was working at the shelter. Loosing a little money didn’t seem all that important after all.

What is the theme of this passage?
A. kindness is its own reward
B. selfishness makes you happy
C. hard work is important
D. friendship is good
37. Herman had been trying to get outside for over an hour. Now he found himself captured by some sort of fabric thing. He buzzed and buzzed as he frantically tried to break free of the giant sheet. He could see outside, but some sort of hard material kept stopping him from getting out.

**Where is Herman?**
A. behind a curtain  
B. under a blanket  
C. inside of a bee hive  
D. behind a desk

38. Transformed by magic  
By its spell.  
Now in Egypt,  
Now with William Tell.

Within the pages  
Of a book,  
I can travel  
Live, and look!

**What is the theme of this poem?**
A. importance of books  
B. journey  
C. sense of self  
D. importance of history

39. The giant felt that the story of Jack and the Beanstalk was totally untrue. He never tried to eat that boy! What’s more, Jack was nothing but a little thief! The story was told only from Jack’s point of view. He lied! Why did giants always get all of the blame in fairy tales? It just wasn’t true!

**What statement is true?**
A. The giant is lying.  
B. The giant only wanted to eat Jack.  
C. The giant felt he was treated unfairly.  
D. The story took place in the wrong setting.

40. The flowers were like Easter eggs all over the yard!

**Which answer below best explains the meaning of, “Like Easter Eggs all over the yard?”**
A. There were a lot of flowers.  
B. The flowers were very colorful.  
C. There weren’t many flowers.  
D. The flowers were missing.