

Part 1: Complete the following paragraph with the correct word or words.

The novel is set in the state of (1) _____ in the year (2) _____. The main character (3) _____ is on her way to school with her brothers (4) _____, (5) _____ and (6) _____. As the children walk to school, they are joined by (7) _____ and his brother, (8) _____, whose family (9) _____ on Granger land. T.J. informs the Logans that the Berrys, a neighboring black family, were (10) _____ by white people. Then, a speeding bus raises the cloud of red dust and provides the (11) _____ inside with a good laugh. (12) _____, a white boy, attends Jefferson Davis County School, but he enjoys walking with the Logan children, who are bound for the (13) _____ Elementary and Secondary School. At school, Miss Crocker tells the kids exciting news: (14) _____. Then, Little Man gets angry because (15) _____. (16) _____ attempts to defend his behavior. Miss Crocker goes to see (17) _____ after school and explains to her what Little Man and Cassie did. Mama is also a (18) _____. Chapter 1 ends with Mama (19) _____.

Part 2: Read each question. Write the correct letter on the line provided for each question.

_____ 20. Which **point of view** is used in this novel?

- A. first person, through Cassie
- B. first person, through Little Man
- C. first person, through Big Ma
- D. third person, through an outside narrator

- _____ 21. How is the **point of view** used by the author effective?
- A. It allows the reader to know and understand Cassie's thoughts and feelings.
 - B. It allows the reader to know and understand Little Man's thoughts and feelings.
 - C. It allows the reader to know and understand Mama's thoughts and feelings.
 - D. It allows the reader to know and understand T.J.'s thoughts and feelings.
- _____ 22. Which detail from the novel **best** describes the **setting**?
- A. "Only Little Man, just beginning his school career, found the prospects of both intriguing."
 - B. "... attempting to keep the rusty Mississippi dust from swelling with each step and drifting back upon his shiny black shoes."
 - C. "When the fields ended and the Granger forest fanned both sides of the road..."
 - D. "As I returned from my trip to her desk..."
- _____ 23. Which sentence from the novel contains an example of **personification**?
- A. "Little Man hopped down from the bank."
 - B. "...sun-splotched road wound like a lazy red serpent dividing the high forest bank."
 - C. "Papa was again in Louisiana laying track."
 - D. "... and watched as a bus bore down on him spewing clouds of red dusk."
- _____ 24. What is the real reason why Papa brings Mr. Morrison home?
- A. to help on the farm
 - B. to help pay the taxes
 - C. to start a new crop
 - D. to protect the family
- _____ 25. Based on your knowledge of the setting, you can infer that the major **conflicts** in this story are probably going to be
- A. internal: man vs. self
 - B. external: man vs. man
 - C. external: man vs. nature
 - D. external: man vs. society
- _____ 26. Which word **best** describes Cassie?
- A. outspoken
 - B. patient
 - C. shy
 - D. friendly
- _____ 27. Which sentence from the novel contains a **simile**?
- A. "Or ifn we had a bus like theirs."
 - B. "The tat-tat of the rain against the tin roof changed to a deafening roar that sounded as if thousands of giant rocks were being hurled against the earth."
 - C. "Frowning as if he were doing this against his better judgement..."
 - D. "He sounded like Mama and I told him so."
- _____ 28. The Logan land was once part of the _____ plantation.
- A. Harrison
 - B. Avery
 - C. Montier
 - D. Granger

- _____ 29. Which sentence from the novel **DOES NOT** contain a **simile**?
- A. "I could see Mr. Morrison clearly, moving silently, like a jungle cat, from the side of the house to the road, a shotgun in hand."
 - B. "Caravan of headlights appeared suddenly... fast along the rain-soaked road like cat eyes in the night."
 - C. "At first the rain had merely splotched the dust,... and laughing at the heavy drops thudding against it."
 - D. "... said Mr. Morrison in a deep, quiet voice like the roll of low thunder."

Part 3: Write the letter of the answer that **best states the main idea**.

_____ 30. On page 43, read the paragraph beginning "If we had been faced only with the prospect of the rain soaking through our clothing each morning and evening..."

The main idea of this paragraph is

- A. The rain soaks through the children's clothes.
- B. The children are unable to relax as they travel to school in the rain.
- C. The forest banks are bald as a result of the constant rain.

_____ 31. On page 48, read the paragraph beginning "Little Man, chest-deep in water..."

The main idea of this paragraph is

- A. Little Man and the other children are humiliated by the bus driver and the white children on the bus.
- B. Little Man falls into the water.
- C. Little Man throws a mudball at the retreating bus.

_____ 32. On page 51, read the paragraph beginning "When we reached the place..."

The main idea of this paragraph is

- A. Little Man and Cassie believe Stacey has gone mad.
- B. The children use shovels to dig up the road.
- C. The children have borrowed tools from the church's toolshed.

_____ 33. On page 57, read the paragraph beginning "Later that evening..."

The main idea of this paragraph is

- A. The children do their homework under Mama's watchful eyes.
- B. The children prepare for school next day.
- C. The children relive the fall of the bus into their trap and enjoy the feeling of satisfaction.

_____ 34. On page 62, read the paragraph beginning "All's I can tell ya..."

The main idea of this paragraph is

- A. The bus driver has been discussing a situation with Mr. Granger.
- B. Fannie works for Mr. Granger.
- C. Big Ma's name is Caroline.

Part 4: Read each example of **characterization** from the novel. Write the letter on the line provided of the correct character that is described in the example.

_____ 35. *physical qualities:* yellow and buckeyed

character's actions: she rapped the desk with a ruler, although the room still

character's words: "I will have the pleasure of sprinkling your little minds with the first rays of knowledge"

A. Mama

B. Miss Crocker

C. Miss Davis

D. Mary Lou Welliver

_____ 36. *physical qualities:* towheaded boy, barefooted and pale

character's actions: he never rode the bus, no matter how bad the weather

direct comments: he was often ridiculed by the other children at his school and had shown up more than one time with wide red welts on his arm

A. Moe Turner

B. Claude Avery

C. T.J. Avery

D. Jeremy Simms

Part 5: Read each item. Write the letter on the line provided that tells *both* the method of **characterization**, and the **character trait**.

_____ 37. *(Little Man) lagged several feet behind . . . attempting to keep the rusty Mississippi dust from swelling with each step and drifting back upon his shiny black shoes:*

A. character's words: grumpy

B. physical qualities: angry

C. character's actions: meticulously neat

D. character's actions: tired

_____ 38. "Cassie, you better watch yourself, girl," Big ma cautioned . . . "I don't like y'all children climbin' them things."

A. character's words: concerned

B. physical qualities: angry

C. character's actions: happy

D. direct comments: tired

_____ 39. "Look on the bright side," said T.J. "Jus' think of the advantage you've got. You'll be learnin' all sorts of stuff 'fore the rest of us. . . . Like what's on all them tests."

A. character actions: happy

B. physical qualities: dishonest

C. character's words: dishonest

D. physical qualities: skinny

Part 6: Read each question. Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

_____ 40. Read the following sentence from page 3. “Always **meticulously** neat, six-year old Little Man never allowed dirt or tears or stains to mar anything he owned.”

Which word is an antonym for **meticulously**?

- A. precise B. careless C. fussy D. careful

_____ 41. Read the following sentence from page 4. “It seemed to me that showing up at school at all on a bright August-like October morning made for running the cool forest trails and wading barefoot in the forest pond was **concession** enough; Sunday clothing was asking too much.”

Which sentence uses the word **concession** in the same way as it is used in the above sentence?

- A. The **concession** stand at the baseball game was closed, so we could not eat dinner.
B. The students were given **concession** cards for all events.
C. He made no **concession** to caution.
D. The teacher offered not having to take the last CDT test as a **concession** for all their hard work.

_____ 42. Read the following sentence from page 29. ““They **disobeyed** you.””

Knowing the prefix “dis” helps the reader understand that the word “**disobey**” means to

- A. wrongly carry out a command
B. not carry out a command
C. carry out a command often
D. carry out a command again and again

_____ 43. Read the following sentence from page 31. “Miss Crocker, finding nothing else to say, turned **imperiously** and headed for the door.”

What does **imperiously** mean as it is used in the sentence?

- A. cooperatively
B. arrogantly
C. friendly
D. sickly

_____ 44. Read the following sentence from page 51. “And for once in his life, Little Man was happily **oblivious** to the mud spattering upon him.”

What does **oblivious** mean as it is used in the sentence?

- A. noticeable
B. unaware
C. careful
D. excited

_____ 45. Read the following sentence from page 64. *"I dashed onto the porch and **hastened** back to my own room, where I jumped under the bedcovers with my clothes still on."*

Which word is an antonym for **hastened**?

- A. lagged
- B. jumped
- C. scurry
- D. sprint

_____ 46. Read the following sentence from page 54. *"But instead of the graceful glide through the puddle that its occupants were expecting, the bus emitted a tremendous crack and **careened** drunkenly into our trap."*

What does **careened** mean as it is used in the sentence?

- A. charmed
- B. swayed
- C. stopped
- D. screamed