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“Octopus” Quiz

Directions: Read the poem “Octopus” in the September 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. The main idea of this poem is to show how an octopus is

- a. similar to a human.
- b. a scary creature.
- c. smarter than a dolphin.
- d. a unique animal.

2. The poem describes all of the following things about an octopus EXCEPT

- a. its arms
- b. its color
- c. its children
- d. its size

3. According to the poem, what color does the octopus turn when it is scared?

- a. red
- b. white
- c. green
- d. brown

4. In the 20th line, what does the word “crevices” mean?

- a. dark caves
- b. sand pits
- c. tiny spaces
- d. sunken ships

5. What do most lines in the poem contain?

- a. factual information
- b. metaphors
- c. similes
- d. imaginary details

6. Why do you think the author wrote this poem?

- a. to criticize the octopus’s enemies
- b. to inform and entertain readers
- c. to protect the octopus’s environment
- d. to show that an octopus is a good pet

“The Man-Eaters of Tsavo” Quiz

Directions: Read the article “The Man-Eaters of Tsavo” in the September 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. What was the purpose of Colonel Patterson’s trip to Africa?

- a. to study lions
- b. to build a railroad
- c. to command an army
- d. to hunt wild animals

2. Where is the Tsavo forest located?

- a. present-day Kenya
- b. present-day Uganda
- c. India
- d. Great Britain

3. At first, Patterson didn’t believe the lions were responsible for the attacks because

- a. lions usually attack lone, vulnerable people.
- b. his workers often made up stories.
- c. lions are vegetarians.
- d. the camp was surrounded by lion traps.

4. What caused Patterson to change his mind and decide to kill the lions?

- a. a bad nightmare
- b. a letter from the workers
- c. boredom with his daily work
- d. Inghan Singh’s death

5. Which word best describes Patterson’s attitude toward catching the killer lions?

- a. vicious
- b. excited
- c. determined
- d. careless

6. Where could you see the lions preserved and on display today?

- a. Kenya
- b. London
- c. France
- d. Chicago

7. Which sentence describes the main problem addressed in the article?

- a. “It was backbreaking work, and there were constant food and water shortages.”
- b. “And they’d be cutting a path through a punishing African desert and snake-infested jungle.”
- c. “Two male lions began stalking and eating the men—one by one, night after night.”
- d. “The men became so terrified that they refused to work.”

8. When describing the night Patterson killed the first lion, the author uses details to make the reader wonder what will happen next. This makes the story

- a. predictable.
- b. suspenseful.
- c. difficult to understand.
- d. happy.

9. Scientists believe the man-eating lions were forced to eat people because they couldn’t get other food due to all the following reasons EXCEPT

- a. they had damaged teeth and jaws.
- b. there was a drought; other prey was scarce.
- c. people had hunted their natural prey.
- d. a disease called rinderpest had wiped out other prey.

10. What does the word “cunning” mean in the sentence “The lions behaved with such cunning that some of the workmen could not believe they were animals”?

- a. meanness
- b. laziness
- c. cleverness
- d. tameness

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“The Stars Below Me” Quiz

Directions: Read the story “The Stars Below Me” in the September 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. In the beginning of the story, how does Mara feel about moving to the city?

- a. excited
- b. fearful
- c. reluctant
- d. curious

2. What does Mara expect will be the only similarity between the country and the city?

- a. the kids
- b. the stars
- c. the school
- d. the wide open space

3. Who is Eta?

- a. a star
- b. an imaginary girl
- c. Mara’s best friend
- d. all of the above

4. Why is Mara upset on her first night in the city?

- a. She misses her friends in the country.
- b. The lights are too bright to see the stars.
- c. Her parents are too busy unpacking.
- d. It’s dark and rainy outside.

5. Chloe says to Mara, “Your mom was telling me you like astronomy.” What is astronomy?

- a. the study of buildings
- b. the study of human behavior
- c. the study of the universe
- d. a synonym for hot chocolate

6. Mara thinks Chloe and other city kids won’t like her for all of the following reasons EXCEPT

- a. She owns a telescope.
- b. She likes math.
- c. She doesn’t dress as well as they do.
- d. She likes animals.

7. Why does Mara go to Chloe’s apartment?

- a. to help her with math
- b. to show her the telescope
- c. to drink hot chocolate
- d. to listen to music

8. How could you describe the way Chloe treats Mara?

- a. rude
- b. welcoming
- c. strange
- d. snobbish

9. What are the different kinds of stars that Chloe shows Mara?

- a. the city lights
- b. twinkling planets
- c. reflections of stars in the river
- d. a mural of the sky

10. The main lesson that Mara learns in this story is about

- a. how to see stars.
- b. the difference between the country and the city.
- c. the power of friendship.
- d. fun things to do in the city.

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“Yesterday & Today” Quiz

Directions: Read the “Yesterday & Today” article in the September 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. In 1895, why did *The Chicago Herald-Tribune* sponsor a car race?

- a. to find the country’s fastest driver
- b. to discover what vehicles would be like in the future
- c. to sell newspapers to the spectators
- d. to discourage people from using horses and carriages

2. What kind of engine did Frank and Charles Duryea’s car use?

- a. electric
- b. steam powered
- c. diesel
- d. gasoline

3. What does the word “grueling” mean in the sentence, “A grueling nine hours later, he had made it over the finish line, the winner of America’s first car race”?

- a. difficult
- b. boring
- c. enjoyable
- d. satisfying

4. What did the Duryea brothers do with the money they won?

- a. bought a new car
- b. started a car company
- c. bought a car for their parents
- d. donated it to charity

5. Today, professional car racing is the _____ most popular spectator sport in the United States.

- a. first
- b. second
- c. third
- d. fourth

6. When it comes to taking risks, you can infer that Kasey Kahne

- a. is overly cautious.
- b. preferred them when he was younger.
- c. loves the thrill of them.
- d. avoids them as much as possible.

7. Which of the following do Frank Duryea and Kasey Kahne have in common?

- a. They drove at speeds of 180 miles per hour.
- b. They owned car companies.
- c. They will be remembered for their racing accomplishments.
- d. They had hundreds of thousands of fans turn out for their race.

8. Which is an important lesson that you can learn from both Frank Duryea and Kasey Kahne?

- a. Car racing is too dangerous.
- b. Most important things have already been invented.
- c. It’s worth doing anything if you get a cash prize.
- d. You can achieve your dreams.

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“The Dark is Rising” Quiz

Directions: Read the play “The Dark is Rising” in the September 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. Which of the following events happens first in the play?

- a. A strange man stares at Will.
- b. Will buys a pendant for his sister.
- c. Merriman invites Will and his family to a Christmas Eve party.
- d. Will sees a man on a horse.

2. When Will sees the pendant in the store, it starts to glow. This is an example of

- a. metaphor
- b. foreshadowing
- c. allusion
- d. simile

3. What does the Rider want from Will?

- a. the Sign
- b. information about Miss Greythorne
- c. his shoes
- d. a secret

4. Where do Merriman and Miss Greythorne travel with Will?

- a. through time
- b. through the forest
- c. to a small English village
- d. to London

5. What does the stone inside the pendant prove for Will?

- a. The pendant is enchanted.
- b. The stone is made of glow-in-the-dark material.
- c. He is the Seeker.
- d. Merriman and Miss Greythorne are trying to trick him.

6. What is another way of saying “The Dark is rising?”

- a. Nighttime is approaching.
- b. Evil forces are coming to power.
- c. The tide is coming in.
- d. The Rider is leaping on his horse.

7. Why does the Rider heal Will’s ankle and then make him writhe in pain?

- a. to prove he’s a doctor
- b. to check what’s wrong with Will’s ankle
- c. to keep Will from running away
- d. to demonstrate his power

8. You can assume that the Walker is

- a. one of the Old Ones.
- b. a harmless old man.
- c. part of the Dark.
- d. in need of help.

9. Why does the play end right when the snakes are slithering toward Will?

- a. because the author never finished the story
- b. to encourage students to read the book
- c. because the rest might be too scary
- d. to make readers angry

10. What genre is this play?

- a. historical fiction
- b. realistic fiction
- c. fantasy
- d. nonfiction

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“A Circle of Sun” Quiz

Directions: Read the poem “A Circle of Sun” in the September 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. How could you describe the mood of this poem?

- a. somber
- b. curious
- c. joyous
- d. thoughtful

2. What do most of the verbs focus on?

- a. thoughts
- b. speech
- c. movement
- d. relaxation

3. What does the narrator most likely mean by the line “I’m Earth’s many colors”?

- a. I’m wearing colorful clothes.
- b. I can paint pictures in many colors.
- c. I have a colorful garden.
- d. I have many possibilities.

4. Which of the following lines is NOT a metaphor?

- a. I’m morning and night.
- b. I’m skipping about.
- c. I’m honey on toast.
- d. I’m a piece of the sky.

5. You can tell that the narrator of the poem is

- a. lazy
- b. energetic
- c. quiet
- d. anxious

6. The use of the word “I” in the poem shows that it is written from what point of view?

- a. first person
- b. second person
- c. third person
- d. first person plural