

from I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

Selection Test B/C

Comprehension

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.
(6 points each)

1. Why is Marguerite upset when Momma greets Mrs. Flowers as “Sister Flowers”?
 - A. Marguerite thinks that “Sister” is a word reserved for young people.
 - B. Marguerite thinks that “Sister” is a religious title used in Momma’s church.
 - C. Marguerite knows that the two women are not related to each other.
 - D. Marguerite believes that Mrs. Flowers deserves a more respectful greeting.
2. Years after the events in this selection, the author realized that the only significant difference between Momma and Mrs. Flowers was that
 - A. Momma sewed her own clothes and Mrs. Flowers did not
 - B. Mrs. Flowers wore dresses, hats, and gloves and Momma wore denim clothes
 - C. Mrs. Flowers had more formal education than Momma did
 - D. Mrs. Flowers could spend more money than Momma could
3. Mrs. Flowers believes that the sayings of country people
 - A. are more important than school lessons
 - B. can be difficult to understand
 - C. should be written down and memorized
 - D. are based on generations of wisdom
4. Which trait makes Mrs. Flowers a good teacher of “lessons in living”?
 - A. She has a graceful beauty.
 - B. She sees potential in people.
 - C. She shares her belongings.
 - D. She smiles easily and often.
5. Which reason contributes the most to Marguerite’s improved feelings about herself?
 - A. She is thrilled that Mrs. Flowers trusts her enough to lend her a book.
 - B. She has learned that her teachers believe that she is a good student.
 - C. She is liked for who she is by someone she respects.
 - D. She has seen a place that her brother may never see.

SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

Vocabulary

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word. (6 points each)

6. What does sacrilegious mean?
- A. resentful toward people who flaunt expensive items
 - B. unappreciative of experiences that can enrich your life
 - C. suspicious of anyone who is powerful, famous, or admired
 - D. disrespectful toward a sacred person, place, or thing
7. To infuse is to
- A. inject
 - B. surround
 - C. shove
 - D. pierce
8. To leer is to
- A. look in a sly, evil way
 - B. open your eyes in surprise
 - C. wink as a way of flirting
 - D. stare aggressively
9. Illiteracy is
- A. confusion about a foreign language
 - B. an unwillingness to communicate
 - C. the inability to read and write
 - D. a lack of use of the English language
10. What does homely mean?
- A. sloppy
 - B. comfortable
 - C. average
 - D. simple

Written Response

Short Response Answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the selection. Write a sentence or two on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points each)

11. In the autobiography, Angelou states that Mrs. Flowers is “the aristocrat of Black Stamps.” Identify two details that the author includes to support this statement.
12. Why does Mrs. Flowers encourage Marguerite to read aloud? Support your answer with a detail from the selection.

Extended Response Answer one of the following questions based on your knowledge of the selection. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

13. How might Marguerite’s relationship with Mrs. Flowers have changed Marguerite’s relationship with her grandmother? Include details from the selection in your response.
14. **Challenge** In her autobiography, Angelou recognizes that Mrs. Flowers threw her a lifeline when she was a child. Explain what Angelou means, and give two examples of ways in which the lifeline helped her.