

Name _____ Date _____

Reference Materials

The Birchbark House
Vocabulary Strategies:
Reference Materials

Read the definitions in the box below. Then write TRUE or FALSE next to each statement.

A **dictionary** tells you the definition of a word and how it is pronounced and spelled. It also tells you what part of speech the word is: noun, verb, adjective, or adverb.

A **thesaurus** tells you synonyms and antonyms for a word.

A **glossary** defines a word used in a book. Glossaries are usually found in the back of the book.

1. A dictionary includes a list of antonyms. _____

2. You would use a thesaurus to find synonyms.

3. A glossary only defines words used in a certain book.

4. Definitions are found in a thesaurus. _____

5. A dictionary includes parts of speech. _____



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Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Answer Numbers 1 through 10 on your Answer Sheet. Choose the best answer for each question.

- 1 What does the word *deserted* mean in the sentence below?

Mr. Smith cared for the chicks after they were deserted by their mother.

- A. abandoned
- B. captured
- C. frightened
- D. prompted

- 2 What does the word *nerve* mean in the sentence below?

Amanda lost her nerve to sing in front of an audience.

- F. courage
- G. fear
- H. pain
- I. shame

- 3 What does the word *astonish* mean in the sentence below?

The shooting stars streaking across the night sky will astonish the visitors.

- A. construct
- B. distress
- C. enclose
- D. surprise

- 4 What does the word *margins* mean in the sentence below?

Pedro took notes in the margins of the story.

- F. questions about the print
- G. spaces between lines of print
- H. borders around a printed page
- I. blank pages before the print begins

- 5 What does the word *reasoned* mean in the sentence below?

Naomi reasoned that she could walk the dog and play basketball before it got dark outside.

- A. admitted
- B. concluded
- C. hoped
- D. panicked

- 6 Read the dictionary entry.

bind \bɪnd/ *verb* 1. to tie 2. to combine with 3. to protect 4. to bandage

Which definition represents the meaning of *bind* as it is used in the sentence below?

The students will bind the bundle of newspapers with some twine.

- F. definition 1
- G. definition 2
- H. definition 3
- I. definition 4

- 7 Read the dictionary entry.

craft \kraɪt/ *noun* 1. skill in making or planning something 2. a piece of art 3. a boat, ship, or aircraft *verb* 4. to make by hand

Which definition represents the meaning of *craft* as it is used in the sentence below?

We boarded the craft in Galveston and sailed across the ocean.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

- 8 Read the thesaurus entry.

grant *verb*: admit, give, transfer
noun: gift

Which word from the entry could be used in place of the word *grant* as it is used in the sentence below?

Harry applied for a grant to pay for summer camp.

- F. admit
- G. gift
- H. give
- I. transfer

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- 9 Read the thesaurus entry.

select *adjective:* favored *verb:* choose, elect, pick

Which word from the entry could be used in place of the word *select* as it is used in the sentence below?

April was one of a select group of students who were invited to the ceremony.

- A. choose
- B. elect
- C. favored
- D. pick

- 10 Read the glossary entries.

agriculture farming

climate the weather in an area over a period of time

crops plants, such as grains, vegetables, or fruit

drought a period of dry weather

Which word from the entries refers to weather without rainfall?

- F. agriculture
- G. climate
- H. crops
- I. drought

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The Birchbark House

Comprehension

Comprehension

Answer Numbers 1 through 10 on your Answer Sheet. Base your answers on the passage "The Birchbark House."

- 1 Read these sentences from the passage.

She would pop the whole thing into her mouth. All at once! This would save problems. Aaaaah.

Why did the author most likely choose to use the word *Aaaaah* instead of simply writing *She sighed*?

- A. to confuse the reader
- B. to make the sigh truer to life
- C. to save space in the paragraph
- D. to show that Omakayas uses formal language

- 2 Read this sentence from the passage.

She grinned, thinking that she'd allow her sister to return with her to plunder them, but only if Angeline changed her ways.

The author chose *plunder* as a more precise word for

- F. grow.
- G. see.
- H. take.
- I. watch.

- 3 The illustration of the bear cubs tumbling toward Omakayas portrays the girl as being

- A. angry.
- B. disrespectful.
- C. startled.
- D. unaware.

- 4 The first illustration of the mother bear on page 677 makes the bear appear

- F. depressed.
- G. fierce.
- H. gentle.
- I. tall.

- 5 Based on the illustrations on pages 679 and 680, how does Omakayas most likely feel about the mother bear?

- A. She is bored by the mother bear.
- B. She is annoyed by the mother bear.
- C. She is angry at the mother bear and wants to fight.
- D. She respects the mother bear and wants to show that she means no harm.

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Comprehension

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- 6 What does Omakayas learn from her moment with the mother bear?
- F. humor
 - G. kindness
 - H. respect
 - I. selfishness
- 7 You can tell that the bear cubs respect their mother because they
- A. give the berries back to Omakayas.
 - B. bite on a stick that Omakayas wiggles.
 - C. attack Omakayas when she cuts their mother's fur.
 - D. leave Omakayas when their mother guides them away.
- 8 What will the bear cubs most likely do the next time they see a person?
- F. go home with the person
 - G. stay away from the person
 - H. lead their mother to the person
 - I. expect the person to feed them berries
- 9 Omakayas will most likely
- A. realize that Angeline is always right.
 - B. get in trouble with a mother bear again.
 - C. be more careful when she is dealing with nature.
 - D. try to find the bear cubs she thinks of as brothers.
- 10 What is the theme of this passage?
- F. A true friend will always share.
 - G. Good things come to those who wait.
 - H. Family and friends come before adventure.
 - I. It is important to respect the rules of the wild.