1. Read the sentences from the short story.

   In the morning we were all at the shop early…. Teruo was there early. “Hello,” he greeted us cheerfully, as we came in. He was unusually high-spirited, and I couldn’t account for it. He was there before us and had already filled out the eight o’clock package for me.

Teruo had many reasons to cheerfully come to work early EXCEPT

A. He knew it was payday and he wanted the wages he had earned.
B. He had decided to be true to his beliefs when selling flowers.
C. He knew it would be his last day working at the Morning Glory Flower Shop.
D. He enjoyed doing special things for his customers.

LA.910.1.7.4
The correct answer is A. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent incorrect rationales and/or interpretations of implied causal relationships.

The quotation is found on page 452. Option A is correct because it was not payday. The only mention of wages is found on page 455 when the reader learns that after firing Teruo, “Mr. Sasaki rolled out several bills from his pocketbook. ‘Here’s your wages for this week. Now get out,’ he said.” Teruo was only paid because as the reader learns on page 455, “‘You’re fired! Get out!’ Mr. Sasaki spluttered. ‘Don’t come back to the store again.’” Mr. Sasaki only wanted to pay Teruo for the time he had worked. Option B is incorrect because Teruo’s actions on his last day in the flower shop showed that he wanted to give customers the freshest flowers and prettiest arrangements because he thought that’s the way customers should be treated. Option C is incorrect because Teruo knew that his boss, Mr. Sasaki, would fire him because Teruo intended to continue to sell the fresh flowers against the wishes of his boss. As the reader learns on page 452, after selling the fresh flowers from the back of the shop, “…Mr. Sasaki said, ‘I don’t want to fire you. You’re a good boy, and I know you need a job, but you’ve got to be a good clerk here or you’re going out.’” Option D is incorrect because Teruo liked making the customers happy. As the reader learns on pages 453 and 454, he first gave an old lady fresh flowers, but more flowers than she had paid for, next a woman who wanted to purchase the orchid in the window was talked into taking three of the biggest gardenias from the back, and then Teruo gave a boy $24 worth of roses for his 25¢. His final transaction was to give away a dozen fresh white roses to a young lady.
2. In order to make the flower arrangements look as pretty as possible, various pieces of greenery was added to them EXCEPT

F. Brake fern  
G. Belmont  
H. Maidenhair  
I. Asparagus fern

**LA.910.1.7.3**  
The correct answer is **G**. Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent correct details from the passage.

**Option F** is incorrect because brake fern was added to arrangements. As the reader learns on page 452, “He was almost through with the funeral frame, padding it with wet moss and covering it all over with brake fern…” **Option G** is correct because Belmont is a flower and not greenery added to flower arrangements. As the reader learns on page 454, “…I’ll show you some of the nicest gardenias in the market today. We call them Belmont and they’re fresh today.” **Option H** is incorrect because maidenhair fern was added to arrangements. As the reader learns on page 453, “…Teruo used an extra lot of maidenhair because the old lady was appreciative of his art of making bouquets.” **Option I** is incorrect because asparagus fern was added to arrangements. As the reader learns on page 455, “We watched him (Teruo) come back, take down a box, place several maidenhairs and asparagus fern, place the roses neatly inside, sprinkle a few drops, and then give it to her.”

3. Which is NOT one of the ways that the clerks in the Morning Glory Flower Shop told their customers that the flowers were fresh?

A. “Our flowers are always fresh, madam.”  
B. “You bet they are! Just came in a little while ago from the market.”  
C. “These flowers’ll keep good.”  
D. “Maybe you can call them old at the wholesale market, but they’re not old in a flower shop.”

**LA.910.1.7.3**  
The correct answer is **D**. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because they represent correct details that support the main idea.

**Option A** is incorrect because this is one way the clerks said that the flowers were fresh. As the reader learns on page 447, “I laughed. ‘You don’t need to know that, Teruo,’ I told him. ‘When the customers ask you whether the flowers are fresh, say yes firmly. ‘Our flowers are always fresh, madam.’” **Option B** is incorrect because this is one way the clerks said that the flowers were fresh. As the reader learns on page 448, “You talk right to the customers, and they’ll believe you. ‘Our flowers are always fresh? You bet they are! Just came in a little while ago from the market.’” **Option C** is incorrect because this is one way the clerks said that the flowers were fresh. As the reader learns on page 450, “I heard the man plainly ask him if the flowers would keep good, and very clearly I heard Teruo reply, ‘Yes sir. These flowers’ll keep good.’” **Option D** is correct because this is not a way the clerks said that the flowers were fresh. As the reader learns on page 451, “‘Old flowers!’ snorted Mr. Sasaki. ‘I’ll tell him plenty when he
comes back. Old flowers! Maybe you can call them old at the wholesale market, but they're not old in a flower shop.’”

4. Read the sentences from the short story.

In the ensuing weeks we watched Teruo develop into a slick salesclerk, but for one thing. If a customer forgot to ask about the condition of the flowers, Teruo did splendidly. But if someone should mention about the freshness of the flowers, he wilted right in front to the customer’s eyes.

Which word is most opposite in meaning to slick as it is used in the sentence above?

F. smooth-spoken
G. amateurish
H. skillful
I. sharp

LA.910.1.6.8
The correct answer is G. Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect meanings (synonyms) of the word being assessed.

The excerpt is found on page 449. Definitions are from http://dictionary.reference.com which defines slick as smooth in manners, speech, etc.; suave. Option F is incorrect because smooth-spoken is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. Smooth-spoken is defined as speaking or spoken in a gently persuasive or competent manner. Option G is correct because amateurish is most opposite in meaning to the word being assessed. Amateurish is defined as characteristic of an amateur, esp. in having the faults or deficiencies of an amateur; inept. Amateur is defined as a person inexperienced or unskilled in a particular activity. Option H is incorrect because skillful is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. Skillful is defined as having or exercising skill. Skill is defined as the ability, coming from one's knowledge, practice, aptitude, etc., to do something well. Option I is incorrect because sharp is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. Sharp is defined as keen or eager.

5. Read the sentences from the short story.

Then one early morning the inevitable happened. While Teruo was selling the fresh flowers in the back to a customer, Mr. Sasaki came in quietly and watched the transaction.

Which word is most similar in meaning to inevitable as it is used in the sentence above?

A. unalterable
B. avoidable
C. preventable
D. escapable

LA.910.1.6.8
The correct answer is **A**. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent incorrect meanings (antonyms) of the word being assessed.

The excerpt is found on page 451. Definitions are from http://dictionary.reference.com which defines *inevitable* as *unable to be avoided, evaded, or escaped; certain; necessary; sure to occur, happen, or come; unalterable*. **Option A** is correct because unalterable is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. *Unalterable* is defined as *not capable of being altered, changed, or modified*. **Option B** is incorrect because avoidable is opposite in meaning to the word being assessed. *Avoid* is defined as *to prevent from happening*. **Option C** is incorrect because preventable is opposite in meaning to the word being assessed. *Prevent* is defined as *to keep from occurring; avert; hinder*. **Option D** is incorrect because escapable is opposite in meaning to the word being assessed. *Escape* is defined as *to succeed in avoiding*.

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**Edge Level C**  
**Unit 5**  
**Cluster 1**  
**“The Journey”**

6. Read the lines from the poem.

   though the voices around you  
   kept shouting  
   their bad advice—

What bad advice was a character given in “Say It with Flowers”?

F. Teruo was told to only use flowers from the front of the shop or he’d lose his job.
G. Clerks were told to look innocent and lie to the customers about the freshness of the flowers.
H. The other employees told Teruo how to make pretty flower arrangements and corsages.
I. A customer was told not to buy an orchid that was in the window.

**LA.910.1.7.3**  
The correct answer is **G**. Options F, G, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect inferences or conclusions based on details found in the text.

**Option F** is incorrect because this can be considered good advice since it would enable Teruo to keep his job. The other employees told Teruo to sell old flowers to the customers. As the reader learns on page 449, “Sometimes … he would take the customers to the fresh flowers in the rear and complete the sale. ‘Don’t do that any more, Teruo,’ Tommy warned him one afternoon after watching him repeatedly sell the fresh ones. ...First thing you know the boss’ll start losing money and we’ll all be thrown out.’” **Option G** is correct because this is bad advice. Teruo is told to lie to the customers as the reader learns on page 448, “You talk right to the customers, and they’ll believe you. ‘Our flowers are always fresh? You bet they are! Just came in a little while ago from the market.’” **Option H** is incorrect because this can be considered good advice because it would enable Teruo to work successfully in a florist shop. As the reader learns on
Hampton Brown	Edge Level C, Unit 5, Cluster 1

page 447, Tommy “…told Teruo what to do on telephone orders, how to keep the greens, fresh, how to make bouquets, corsages, and sprays.” Option I is incorrect because this was good advice that Teruo gave to a customer. As the reader learns on page 454, “‘If I were you I wouldn’t buy that orchid,’ he (Teruo) told her. ‘It won’t keep. I could sell it to you and make a profit, but I don’t want to do that and spoil your evening…’”

7. Which is NOT an example of figurative language found in “The Journey”?

A. simile, in lines 25 and 26, “the stars began to burn / through the sheets of clouds”
B. symbolism, in lines 21 and 22, “and the road full of fallen / branches and stones”
C. personification, in lines 6 and 7, “though the whole house / began to tremble”
D. hyperbole, in lines 8 and 9, “and you felt the old tug / at your ankles”

LA.910.2.1.7
The correct answer is D. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they represent inaccurate interpretations of descriptive language or figurative language.

Figurative language is the use of a word or phrase to say one thing and mean another. Figurative language is especially important in literature and poetry because it gives writers a more effective way of expressing what they mean than using direct, literal language (page 894, Literary Terms). Option A is incorrect because these lines contain a simile—sheets of clouds. Simile is figurative language that compares two unlike things by using a word or phrase such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems (page 900, Literary Terms). Option B is incorrect because these lines contain symbolism—branches and stones symbolize the obstacles encountered in finding “a new life.” A symbol is a word or phrase that serves as an image of some person, place, thing, or action but that also calls to mind some other, usually broader, idea or range of ideas (page 901, Literary Terms). Option C is incorrect because these lines contain personification—the house trembling to personify the fear one faces when making a life change. Personification is figurative language that describes animals, things, or ideas as having human traits (on page 898, Literary Terms). Option D is correct because these lines do not contain an example of hyperbole. The lines are referring to the pull of one’s conscience when making a life change, but they do not represent an exaggeration. Hyperbole is figurative language that exaggerates, often to the point of being funny, to emphasize something (page 896, Literary Terms).

8. How are Teruo in “Say It with Flowers” and the narrator in “The Journey” alike?

F. Both left where they were in order to be true to their beliefs and desires.
G. Both rejected the practice of having to tell lies to others.
H. Both were afraid of going off into an uncertain future.
I. Both found happiness when they left behind their “old lives.”

LA.910.1.7.7
The correct answer is F. Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect comparisons.

Option F is correct because both left where they were in order to be true to themselves. As the reader learns on page 456 Teruo said, “‘…I’ll go now. I feel fine. I’m happy. Thanks to you.’ …He walked out of the shop with his shoulders straight, head high, and whistling.” The reader
learns in line 33-36 that the poem’s narrator went “…into the world, / determined to do / the only thing you could do— / determined to save / the only life you could save.” Option G is incorrect because Teruo was asked to lie to the flower shop customers; the poem’s narrator was not asked to lie to anyone. Option H is incorrect because Teruo was not afraid of leaving, in fact he even refused to take his wages from Mr. Sasaki. The poem’s narrator overcomes fear as shown in lines 19-24 which seem to be reflected in the illustration on page 458—through the darkness into the sunlight. Option I is incorrect because Teruo was happy when he left the flower shop; however, the reader does not know what happened to him after that. As the reader learns on page 456, “He did not come back to see us again.” The reader does not know what happens to the poem’s narrator at the end of his/her quest either.

9. Look at the illustrations in “Say It with Flowers” and “The Journey.” Which illustration does NOT relate to the main idea of its selection?

A. The Ramble on page 458 symbolizes the notion that one may have to go deeper and deeper into the world to finally find oneself.
B. Florist on page 454 shows the joy and pride a florist can get when creating beautiful fresh flower arrangements.
C. Abundant Bouquet on page 445 symbolizes the one honest clerk (the white flower) in among other employees (the black flowers) who easily sell old flowers to customers.
D. MUNI Nap on page 448 shows a tired Teruo riding home after a long day’s work in the Morning Glory Flower Shop.

LA.910.2.2.1
The correct answer is D. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because they represent incorrect or irrelevant information drawn from text features.

“Say It with Flowers” can be summarized: Without any experience, Teruo is hired at a flower shop. He quickly wins the trust and respect of his boss and coworkers. But when Teruo realizes the shop is selling old flowers, he must decide between being honest and keeping his job. “The Journey” can be summarized: Sometimes, making the right choice in life can be difficult. Even knowing what the right choice is can be hard. This poem stresses the importance of setting aside the advice and demands of others and following your own heart. Option A is incorrect because the dark, shadow area of the painting suggests a fearful or mysterious mood while the sunny area suggests a more optimistic, happy mood. The painting could be interpreted to mean that one must travel through a fearful or uncertain period before finding the joy and happiness in one’s life. Option B is incorrect because the man in the painting seems calm and serene indicating that he has joy and peace in his heart as he creates a flower arrangement. Option C is incorrect because it was selected for its cultural reference. The illustration was selected because it is an example of origami which is the traditional Japanese folk art of paper folding. The Japanese theme is carried throughout the short story in the illustrations and in the Japanese characters shown behind the pull quotes on pages 447, 451, and 455. Option D is correct because this illustration shows a young man who seems to be resting or relaxing while riding a bus or train. The reader does not know who this young man is – he could be Teruo or Tommy or anyone.
10. Read these lines from “The Journey.”

into the world,
determined to do
the only thing you could do

Characters in “Say It with Flowers” did “the only thing you could do” EXCEPT

F. the narrator who trained Teruo how to make flower arrangements using the freshest flowers
G. Teruo who quit his job at the flower shop in order to be true to his own values and beliefs
H. Mr. Sasaki who knew he had to sell all his flowers in order to make a profit and stay in business
I. Tommy who learned how to lie to the customers in order to keep his job

LA.910.2.1.5
The correct answer is F. Options G, H, and I are incorrect because they represent facts, details, or ideas drawn from the text but unrelated to the question being tested.

Option F is correct because the narrator did not train Teruo nor were the freshest flowers used in arrangements. As the reader learns on page 447, “Tommy eagerly went about showing Teruo the florist game. Every morning for several days Tommy … told Teruo how to make bouquets, corsages, and sprays.” Option G is incorrect because Teruo quit his job at the Morning Glory Flower Shop because he could not pass off old flowers as fresh flowers. As the reader learns on page 451, “…Teruo followed me. ‘Gee, I feel rotten,’ he said to me. ‘Those flowers I sold won’t last longer than tomorrow. I feel lousy. I’m lousy…”’ Later, Tommy says of Teruo, “…‘He says he feels rotten selling the old flowers.’… ‘He feels guilty fooling the customers,’ Tommy explained.” Option H is incorrect because Mr. Sasaki needed to sell his entire inventory and not be forced to throw away old flowers. As the reader learns on page 451, “‘You’ve been selling fresh flowers and leaving the old ones go to waste. I can’t afford that, Teruo,’ Mr. Sasaki said. Option I is incorrect because Tommy has learned to lie to the customers in order to keep his job. As the reader learns on page 449 as the employees talk about lying about the freshness of the flowers, “‘I don’t like it,’ Teruo said. ‘Do we like it? Do you think we’re any different from you?’ Tommy asked Teruo. ‘You’re just a green kid. You don’t know any better, so I don’t get sore, but you got to play the game when you’re in it. You understand, don’t you?’”