1. Which is NOT a comparison that was made between Maudie Horton and her mother, Mrs. Dorothy Horton?

A. They are as alike as two pine needles.
B. Maudie was like a piece of her mother.
C. Mrs. Horton’s daughter Maudie was like her clone.
D. They seemed to be from the same source.

LA.910.1.7.7
The correct answer is A. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent similarities or differences drawn from the text but unrelated to the test question.

Option A is correct because this does not represent a comparison made between Albert Horton and his father, Mr. Stanley Horton. As the reader learns on page 495 the people of Wilmot used to say, “…But Albert now. Mr. Horton made him all by himself. They’re alike as two pine needles.” Option B is incorrect because this represents a comparison made between Maudie Horton and her mother, Mrs. Dorothy Horton. As the reader learns on page 494, “Maudie was…almost like a piece of herself (her mother).” Option C is incorrect because this represents a comparison made between Maudie Horton and her mother, Mrs. Dorothy Horton. As the reader learns on page 494, “Maudie was so like Mom that it was just as if she’d been cut out with a cookie cutter from the same dough.”

2. Read the sentence from the short story.

Albert was twelve then, and the nagging began to accelerate in earnest.

Which word is most opposite in meaning to the phrase in earnest?

F. lightly
G. determinedly
H. purposefully
I. persistently

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

The excerpt is found on page 496. Definitions are from macmillandictionary.com which defines in earnest as more seriously, or with more energy and determination than before. Option F is
correct because it is most opposite in meaning to the word being assessed. *Lightly* is defined as *in a way that shows you think something is not important or serious.* Option G is incorrect because it is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. *Determinedly* is defined as *showing that you are not willing to let anything prevent you from doing what you have decided to do.* Option H is incorrect because it is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. *Purposefully* is defined as *determined to achieve a goal.* Option I is incorrect because it is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. *Persistently* is defined as *continuing to do something in a determined way.*

3. Which does NOT reflect an attitude shown by a character in “Be-ers and Doers?”

A. Mr. Horton thinks that Christmas gifts should be pleasurable items.
B. Mrs. Horton thinks that a college education is not necessary for someone to be a success in life.
C. Adelaide feels that a man should be tender to those he loves.
D. Albert wants to make his own decisions about his future.

LA.910.2.1.5
The correct answer is B. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they represent inaccurate interpretations of character, point of view, plot development, setting, conflict, or theme.

**Option A** is incorrect because this is an attitude held by Mr. Horton. As the reader learns on page 499, “Dad gave Mom a ring with a tiny sapphire in it, although she’d asked for a new vacuum cleaner... ‘We’ll get the vacuum cleaner in January,’ he said, ‘That’s no kind of gift to get for Christmas. It’s a work thing.’” **Option B** is correct because this is not an attitude held by Mrs. Horton. As the reader learns on page 499, “Mom had intensified her big campaign to have him (Albert) go to Acadia University in the fall. ‘Pre-law,’ she said, ‘or maybe teacher training. Anyways, you gotta go. A man has to be successful.’” **Option C** is incorrect because this is an attitude held by Adelaide. As the reader learns on page 500, “Albert was the best one to watch, though. To me, anyway. He was sitting on the floor in his striped pajamas, holding Jennifer, rocking her, and singing songs to her in a low, crooning voice. Tender, I thought, the way I like a man to be.” **Option D** is incorrect because this is an attitude held by Albert. As the reader learns on page 502 when Albert says to his mother, “‘I ain’t gonna be what you want.’ His voice was starting to quaver now, and he was trembling all over. ‘I’m gonna be me. And it seems like if that’s ever gonna happen, it’ll have t’be in some other place...’”

4. Which foreshadows the fact that Albert was injured fighting the fire?

F. On page 501 the author writes, “Everyone opened windows and doors, and before too long, even the smoke was gone.”
G. On page 502 the author writes, “He was white now, like death, and he made a low and terrible sound.”
H. On page 501 the author writes, “Albert just stood there, smiling quietly, but very pale. His hands were getting red and sort of puckered looking.”
I. On page 501 the author writes, “Then Albert was suddenly still, hands hanging at his sides with the fingers spread. He smiled shyly. ‘It’s out,’ he said.”
LA.910.2.1.7
The correct answer is **H**. Options F, G, and I are incorrect because they represent inaccurate interpretations of character, point of view, plot development, setting, conflict, or theme.

Foreshadowing is a hint that a writer gives about an event that will happen later in a story (page 895, Literary Terms). **Option F** is incorrect because this description does not relate to Albert’s physical appearance or condition—it addressed the condition of the atmosphere within the house after the fire. **Option G** is incorrect because this description does not relate to Albert’s physical appearance or condition—it is an effect of his mental condition of deep anger at his mother and her comment, “...Just imagine what you’re gonna be able to do with them king o’ brains! I’ll never rest until I see you educated and successful. Doin’ what you was meant to do...” (page 502). **Option H** is correct because this description of his face and his hands hints that something is not right. As the reader learns on page 502, “The firemen carted him off to the hospital, where he was treated for shock and second-degree burns.” **Option I** is incorrect because this description does not relate to Albert’s physical appearance or condition—it is a description of his surprise at what he had done and his relief at the fact that the fire had been put out.

5. With which statement would Budge Wilson most likely NOT agree?

A. The gulls over South Shore reminded one of Dorothy Horton.
B. Summertime in South Shore was like Dorothy preparing turkey stuffing.
C. Wintertime in South Shore was like the hand movements of Dorothy Horton.
D. Springtime in South Shore, Nova Scotia, was like the way Dorothy Horton swatted mosquitoes.

LA.910.1.7.2
The correct answer is **D**. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because they represent facts and details that support the author’s purpose or represent the author’s perspective.

**Option A** is incorrect because this is an accurate comparison—continual noise. As the reader learns on page 492, there are screeching gulls in South Shore and on page 492 Dorothy talked incessantly, “...All the time she was talking... Mom was fond of pointing out to us the things our father didn’t do...”. Although her talking was not high pitched like a screech, it was incessant and did grate on the ears of her family. **Option B** is incorrect because this is an accurate comparison—speed. As the reader learns on page 492, South Shore has “quick, grudging summers” and on page 499, “She started to break up the bread so quickly that you could hardly focus on her flying fingers.” **Option C** is incorrect because this is an accurate comparison—time. As the reader learns on page 492, the winters are grayer than doom and endless. Dorothy’s hands were always moving, endlessly, as the reader learns on page 492, “…she’d be knitting up a storm, or mixing dough, or pushing a mop—hands forever and ever on the move.” **Option D** is correct because this is an incorrect comparison—speed and lack thereof. As the reader learns on page 492, South Shore had “slow, laboring springs” and on page 495, “…her hands were always too busy...or just swatting mosquitoes.”
6. Which statement does NOT describe a character in “Be-er and Doers” or “My Moment of Truth?”

F. Wynton Marsalis is focused on playing, composing, and teaching jazz.
G. From age six to her early twenties, Dominique Dawes was focused on gymnastics.
H. Albert Horton was focused on reading for pleasure.
I. Maudie Horton was focused on playing schoolteacher with her sister Adelaide.

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

**Option F** is incorrect because Wynton Marsalis is always focused on jazz. As the reader learns on page 512, “Marsalis is jazz. He plays it, composes it, teachers it, and it’s always in his head…” **Option G** is incorrect because Dominique Dawes was a gymnast from age 6-24. As the reader learns on pages 509-510, “By the time she retired, following the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia…she had won more national championship medals that any other athlete…” **Option H** is incorrect because Albert loved to read. As the reader learns on pages 496-497, “By the time he got to high school, he spent almost as much time reading as he did staring into space.” And, as the reader learns on page 504, this love of reading continued as Albert became an adult, “…he bought a little run-down house close to Digby…He has a cow and a beagle and four cats—and about five hundred books.” **Option I** is correct because Maudie did not play schoolteacher with Adelaide; she played schoolteacher with Albert. As the reader learns on page 496, “Maudie used to drum that arithmetic into him night after night. She loved playing schoolteacher, and that’s how she eventually ended up.”

7. Characters in “Be-ers and Doers” and “My Moment of Truth?” were true to themselves. Which statement is NOT an accurate description of someone who was true to himself or herself?

A. Albert moved away from his mother and continued his love of language.
B. Dominique retired from gymnastics and tried to find out what she wanted to become.
C. Mr. Horton continued to live as a be-er despite his wife’s objections.
D. Maudie pursued being a teacher and was always kind to her students.

**LA.910.2.1.5**
The correct answer is D. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because they represent inaccurate interpretations of character, point of view, plot development, setting, conflict, or theme.
Option A is incorrect because this is a true statement about the character Albert Horton. As the reader learns on page 503, “Albert left home as soon as he got out of the hospital.” and on page 505, “He writes pieces for The Digby Courier, and The Novascotian, and last winter he confessed to me that he writes poetry.” Option B is incorrect because this is a true statement about Dominique Dawes. As the reader learns on page 510, “When I finally retired (in 2000)—from gymnastics and from living for other people…I’m free to do what I like, and what I want.” Option C is incorrect because this is a true statement about the character of Stanley Horton. As the reader learns on page 503, he “…died of a stroke when he was sixty-six. ‘Not enough exercise,’ said Mom… ‘Too much sittin’ around watchin’ the lilacs grow…” Me, I ask myself if he just piled up his silent tensions until he burst wide open. Maybe he wasn’t all that calm and peaceful after all.” Option D is correct because this is not a true statement about the character Maudie Horton. As the reader learns on page 496, Maudie became a cross teacher, “She loved playing schoolteacher, and that’s how she eventually ended up. And a cross one.” However, it was Albert who was kind to children as the reader learns on page 505, “…he has the time of day for any kid who comes around to hear stories or to have a broken toy fixed.”

8. What would the authors say are “moments of truth?”

F. times of great personal strife
G. turning points that shape our lives
H. lessons we provide to those in need
I. times when we are surrounded by loved ones

LA.910.1.7.2
The correct answer is G. Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect interpretations of the author’s purpose or perspective.

Option F is incorrect because moments of truth are not times of personal strife. As the reader learns in the introduction on page 509, “Moments of truth often come in the guise of a challenge or even a crisis. Sometimes no great strife is involved at all.” Option G is correct because moments of truth are turning points that shape our lives. As the reader learns in the introduction to “My Moment of Truth” on page 509, “We all have them. Those moments that fundamentally change us. We may not always recognize them as they’re happening, be we look back and they are crystal clear—the turning points that shape our lives, alter our direction, offer us a deeper understanding of who we are or want to become.” Option H is incorrect because moments of truth are not lessons we provide to those in need, but are, instead, lessons we learn. As the reader learns in the introduction on page 509, “We are molded by specific events and experiences. The lessons they teach help and heal us.” Option I is incorrect because moments of truth come in all forms, when we are alone or with loved ones. As the reader learns on page 500 Mr. Stanley Horton loved having his family around him, but this did not lead him to a moment of truth, “Dad had that look on him that us used to get when all his children were in his house at the same time. Like he was in temporary possession of the best that life had to offer.”

9. Read the sentences from the introduction to the magazine article entitled “My Moment of Truth.”

We all have them. Those moments that fundamentally change us.
Which word is most opposite in meaning to fundamentally?
A. basically
B. superficially
C. necessarily
D. essentially

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

Definitions are from http://dictionary.reference.com which defines *fundamental* as serving as, or being an essential part of, a foundation or basis; basic; underlying. **Option A** is incorrect because this word is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. *Basically* is defined as fundamentally and *basic* is defined as of, pertaining to, or forming a base; fundamental. **Option B** is correct because this word is most opposite in meaning to the word being assessed. *Superficial* is defined as shallow; not profound or thorough. **Option C** is incorrect because this word is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. *Necessarily* is defined as a necessary, logical, or inevitable result and *necessary* is defined as being essential, indispensable, or requisite. **Option D** is incorrect because this word is similar in meaning to the word being assessed. *Essential* is defined as pertaining to or constituting the essence of a thing.

10. Writers use descriptive language to appeal to the five senses or figurative language to give them more effective ways of expressing what they mean than using direct, literal language. Which excerpt is not an example of descriptive language or figurative language used in either “Be-ers and Doers” or “My Moment of Truth?”

F. simile: “Unlike Dad’s, her blood must circulate like a racing stream…”
G. imagery: “I’ve seen the razzle-dazzle colors of the low-lying scarlet bushes in the fall, blazing against the black of the spruce trees and the bluest sky in the world.”
H. metaphor: “When I finally retired (in 2000)—from gymnastics and from living for other people—I felt like I had a 1,000 pound weight lifted off me.”
I. personification: “To me, though, those waves are leaping and dancing, wild with freedom and joyfulness.”

**LA.910.2.1.7**
The correct answer is **H**. Options F, G, and I are incorrect because they represent inaccurate interpretations of descriptive language or figurative language.

**Option F** is incorrect because the excerpt contains an example of simile. The excerpt is found on page 503. 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 G** is incorrect because the excerpt contains an example of imagery. The excerpt is found on page 503. Imagery is figurative language that communicates sensory experience (page 896, Literary Terms). **Option H** is correct because the excerpt does not contain an example of metaphor. The excerpt is found on page 897. Metaphor is a type of figurative language that compares two unlike things by saying that one thing is the other thing (page 897, Literary Terms). **Option I** is incorrect because the excerpt contains an example of personification. The excerpt is found on page 503. Personification is figurative language that describes animals, things, or ideas as having human traits (on page 898, Literary Terms).