Edge Level C
Unit 7
Cluster 1
“The Jewels of the Shrine”

1. The play is illustrated with a number of pieces of artwork. Which artwork title best describes the main plot line of the play?

A. “The Return of the Drummers”  
B. “Hidden Agenda”  
C. “Baba Cheap Cheap”  
D. “Hidden Treasure”

LA.910.1.7.3
The correct answer is B. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they represent interpretations of the main idea.

**Option A** is incorrect because this artwork title does not convey the plot of the story. Although the painting is by Jimoh Buraimoh, a Nigerian artist, and reflects the colors and materials (beads) of the country, it does not relate to the plot of the story but to a detail in the play. As the reader learns in the Cultural Background section on page 665, “In traditional Nigerian culture, drumming and dancing play an important role in life events.” As the reader also learns on page 664, Arob “…called the drummers and the dancers.” to appear at the Grandfather’s funeral. The bead painting entitled “The Return of the Drummers” is found on page 641. **Option B** is correct because this artwork title refers to the secret motive behind the actions of the Grandfather. He knew that his grandsons were hiding under the bed to learn what their Grandfather was up to. He, on the other hand, kept his intentions and actions hidden from them. The symbolism continued to the hidden small box containing the old man’s will and the secret, or hidden, relationship between the Grandfather and the Stranger as well as the secret sale of the house. The idiom hidden agenda is defined by idioms.thefreedictionary.com as a secret plan; a concealed plan; a plan disguised as a plan with another purpose. The bead painting entitled “Hidden Agenda” also by Nigerian artist by Jimoh Buraimoh is found on page 649. **Option C** is incorrect because this artwork title does not convey the plot of the story. Although the grandsons acted in a cheap manner and did not spend any money for the care of their grandfather until they thought that he might be rich, the use of the word cheap in the painting’s title does not convey the plot of the story. Cheap is defined at dictionary.reference.com as stingy; miserly. The oil painting entitled “Baba Cheap Cheap” is found on page 652. **Option D** is incorrect because this artwork title does not convey the plot of the story. Although the Grandfather lets his grandsons overhear that he has become aware of his ownership of the Jewels of the Shrine, this hidden treasure is a detail in the play. The acrylic painting “Hidden Treasure” is found on page 661.

2. Why did the author write this play?

F. to illustrate the fact that today young people move from the country to the city seeking an easier life for themselves  
G. to entertain the reader with a story about how a hidden treasure gave peace to an old man
H. to describe the customs of caring for and burying old people in villages in Nigeria
I. to provide a moral lesson that young people should honor their elders and the traditions of their culture

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

**Option F** is incorrect because this is not the author’s purpose for writing this play. As the reader learns on page 667 about the grandfather’s feelings for his two grandsons, aged eighteen and twenty, “Shame on you, young men, who believe that because you can read and write, you need not respect old age as your forefathers did! Shame on healthy young men like you who let the land go to waste because they will not dirty their hands with work!” **Option G** is incorrect because this is not the author’s purpose for writing this play. The hidden treasure, the Jewels of the Shrine, did not exist. The only true treasure was, in fact, the old man and his wisdom which led to his use of trickery to ensure that he’d have the funeral he felt he deserved. As the reader learns on page 666, the grandfather says in his will, “Now, my grandsons, now that I have been respectably and honorably buried, as all grandsons should do to their grandfathers, I can tell you a few things. First of all, I have discovered no treasure at all. There was never anything like the Jewels of the Shrine.” **Option H** is incorrect because this is not the author’s purpose for writing this play. As the reader learns on page 664, the grandfather was respectably buried with honor which included drummers, dancers, and the shooting of guns. **Option I** is correct because this is the author’s purpose for writing this play. According to websters-online-dictionary.org a moral is a message conveyed or a lesson to be learned from a story or event. Throughout the history of recorded literature, the majority of fictional writing has served not only to entertain but also to instruct, inform or improve their audiences or readership. The grandfather went to great lengths to ensure that his last days and his burial were according to the tradition of his village.

3. What is the central conflict in this play?

A. the sibling rivalry between Arob and Ojima for their grandfather’s affection
B. the struggle between Okorie and Bassi over who should dig for the treasure
C. the clash between the generations—the grandfather and his grandsons
D. the frustration between the grandsons and the stranger who now owns “their” house

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

**Conflict** is the main problem faced by the protagonist in a story or play. The protagonist may be involved in a struggle against nature, another character (usually the antagonist), or society. The struggle may also be between two elements in the protagonists’ mind (page 893, Literary Terms). **Option A** is incorrect because this is not the central conflict of the play. As the reader learns, the two grandsons, Arob and Ojima, are friendly brothers with similar interests and goals. But all this changes, and they become rivals and even fight with each other when they think that their inheritance may depend on how they individually helped their grandfather (see pages 663 and 664). **Option B** is incorrect because this is not the central conflict of the play. This is a minor
incident in the play as the grandfather tricks his grandsons into actually doing physical labor in the thought that they could find and keep a hidden treasure. The incident showcases the old man’s age and just how much Bassi cares for him. As the reader learns on pages 646 and 647, Bassi says, “But, Grandfather, it will kill you to go out in this cold and darkness. You must get someone to do it (dig for the treasure) for you. You cannot lift a shovel. …If you wish, I myself will dig up the whole farm for you.” **Option C** is correct because this is the central conflict of the play. Throughout the play, the reader learns of the disrespect shown the grandfather by his grandsons—how they mock him to his face and how they have let his physical care deteriorate. The struggle culminates in their hiding to learn the grandfather’s “secrets” and their deceit to show that they “care” for him. As the reader learns on page 667 the grandfather writes in his will, “When I was a child, one of my duties was to respect people who were older than myself. But you have thrown away our traditional love and respect for the elderly person. I shall make you pay for it.” In the end, the grandfather “gets the last laugh.” **Option D** is incorrect because this is not the central conflict of the play. The grandsons are frustrated with the stranger; however, this is another event in the play, not the central conflict. As the reader learns on page 667 when a very angry Ojima says, “Stop it, Stranger, stop it, or I will kill you! I am undone. I have not got a penny left. I have used all I had to feed him and to bury him. But now I have not even got a roof to stay under. You confounded Stranger, how dare you buy this house?”

4. What does the grandfather feel is the cause of his grandson’s lack of respect for him?

   F. because they are educated  
   G. because they enjoy good health  
   H. because they are better farmers than he once was  
   I. because they go into town and get drunk

**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 this is a reason why the grandfather feels that his grandsons do not respect him. As the reader learns on page 643, the grandfather says to Bassi, “With all their education my grandsons lacked one thing—respect for age.” Later, the reader learns on page 667 the grandfather writes in his will, “Shame on you, young men, who believe that because you can read and write, you need not respect old age as your forefathers did!” **Option G** is incorrect because this is not a reason why the grandfather feels that his grandsons do not respect him. In his will, the grandfather acknowledges that his grandsons are healthy, but there is no comparison made between their health and his old age. **Option H** is incorrect because this is not a reason why the grandfather feels that his grandsons do not respect him. The grandsons were not farmers. The grandsons show their lack of respect for their grandfather on page 644 when Ojima says, “Our good Grandfather might be thinking of his youthful days, when all young men were fond of farming and all young women loved the kitchen.” On page 649 Okorie says to his grandsons who are about to go and find the Jewels of the Shrine, “What are you doing with shovels? You were never fond of farming.” Later, the reader learns on page 667 the grandfather writes in his will, “Shame on healthy young men like you, who let the land go to waste because they will not dirty their hands with work!” **Option I** is incorrect because this is not a reason why the grandfather feels that his grandsons do not respect him. This is a detail in the play. As the
reader learns on page 663 as Arob and Ojima begin to argue, Arob says, “When I sat day and night watching Grandfather in his illness, you were away in town, dancing and getting drunk.”

5. Read the set directions from Scene IV of “The Jewels of the Shrine.”

All in this scene are dressed in black. AROB, OJIMA, and BASSI are sitting around the table. There is one extra chair. The bed is still there, but the mat is taken off, leaving it bare. The shovel with which OKORIE dug out the treasure is lying on the bed as a sort of memorial.

The shovel could be used to symbolize many details in the play. Which is NOT a detail symbolized by the shovel?

A. Bassi’s expression of her devotion and care for Okorie
B. Okorie’s ability to trick his grandsons into a hunt for a non-treasure
C. the honorable, respectable burial that Arob and Ojima arranged for Okorie
D. a tool the stranger would need to make the farm successful once again

LA.910.1.7.3

The correct answer is D. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because they represent incorrect inferences or conclusions based on details found in the text.

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 A is incorrect because the shovel could symbolize Bassi’s devotion and care for Okorie. As the reader learns by reading this conversation on page 647: “BASSI. …If you wish, I myself will dig up the whole farm for you. OKORIE. Every bit of it? BASSI. Yes. OKORIE. And hand over to me all that you will find? BASSI. Yes.” Option B is incorrect because the shovel could symbolize the pretend treasure hunt that Okorie created by letting his grandsons overhear a made-up story about the hidden Jewels of the Shrine. The grandsons changed the way they treated their grandfather when they thought he had found a treasure and was wealthy. Option C is incorrect because the shovel could symbolize the burial of Okorie according to his wishes and the traditions of his village as arranged for and paid for by his grandsons, Arob and Ojima. Option D is correct because the shovel could not symbolize a farming implement for the stranger. The house the stranger bought from Okorie is not on the farm, and the stranger is not a farmer. As the reader learns on page 649, the farm is not located where the house is when Ojima says, “We intend to go to the farm early in the morning.” Later, the reader learns on page 665 that the stranger says, “I can read. I am a schoolteacher.”
6. Read the stanza from the poem.

At night we propped our feet by the fireplace
and laughed and showed photographs and the fire remembered
all the crackling music it knew. The night remembered
how to be dark and the forest remembered how to be mysterious
and in bed, the quilts remembered how to tuck up under our chins.
Sleeping in that house was like falling down a deep well,
rocking in a bucket all night long.

In this stanza the author uses

F. a metaphor to compare the house to a well
G. a simile to compare the night to a dark memory
H. personification to give the fire human qualities
I. symbolism with the quilt representing warmth and comfort

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 does not contain an example of metaphor. 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). The author compares sleeping in the house to falling
down a deep well; the comparison is not to compare the house to a well. **Option G** is incorrect
because the excerpt does not contain an example of simile. 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). The night is not part of a comparison. **Option H** is correct because the excerpt contains an example of personification. Personification is
figurative language that describes animals, things, or ideas as having human traits (on page 898,
Literary Terms). The author used personification to give human qualities to the fire by saying
that the fire could remember how to make crackling noises as it burns. **Option I** is incorrect
because the excerpt does not contain an example of symbolism. 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). The quilt is not used as
a symbol.

7. Read the sentence from the poem.
But the need of remembrance silenced me,
a ringing rising up out of the soil’s centuries, the ones
who plowed this land, whose names we do not know.

Which excerpt from “The Jewels of the Shrine” best expresses a meaning similar to this sentence?

A. “Our good Grandfather might be thinking of his youthful days, when all young men were fond of farming and all young women loved the kitchen.”
B. “So I told you that the treasure was in the farm, but in actual fact it was in the little garden behind this house, where the village shrine used to be.”
C. “When I was a child one of my duties was to respect people who were older than myself. But you have thrown away our traditional love and respect for the elderly person.”
D. “You know, woman, when I worshipped at our forefathers’ shrine, I was happy. I knew what it was all about.”

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

**Option A** is incorrect because this excerpt does not have a similar meaning to the excerpt from the poem. This excerpt is found on page 644 of “The Jewels of the Shrine.” **Option B** is incorrect because this excerpt does not have a similar meaning to the excerpt from the poem. This excerpt is found on pages 651 and 652 of “The Jewels of the Shrine.” **Option C** is incorrect because this excerpt does not have a similar meaning to the excerpt from the poem. This excerpt is found on page 647 of “The Jewels of the Shrine.” **Option D** is correct because both excerpts have a similar meaning. They both address the unknown but respected ancestors or forefathers who lived long ago. The excerpt is found on page 643. As the reader learns in the “In Other Words” section on page 643, worshipped at our forefathers’ shrine means prayed at the temple we built to honor the men who started this village. Forefather is defined by http://mw4.m-w.com/dictionary/forefather as a person of an earlier period and common heritage.

8. How do the old men in “The Jewels of the Shrine” and “Remembered” behave because they want to be honored and remembered after they die?

F. The grandfather in “The Jewels of the Shrine” pretended to have found a treasure and the old man in “Remembered” gave people things that he felt would remind them of him and his life.
G. The grandfather in “The Jewels of the Shrine” talked about how he was brought up to honor his elders and the old man in “Remembered” told stories of his life to his visitors.
H. The grandfather in “The Jewels of the Shrine” told Bassi about his life as a young man while the old man in “Remembered” wrote about episodes in his life to preserve them.
I. The grandfather in “The Jewels of the Shrine” sold his house so that his ungrateful grandsons could not live there while, on some days, the old man in “Remembered” could more easily remember his childhood than the immediate past.

LA.910.1.7.4
The correct answer is F. Options G, H, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect rationales and/or interpretations of implied causal relationships.
Option F is correct because both old men took actions that they felt would ensure that their memory would live on. The grandfather pretended to become rich so that his grandsons would care for him and would honor him with a respectable funeral. The old man in “Remembered” gave visitors many gifts such as a handmade trunk, a tool box, a tea kettle, glass jars, and fig and berry jams. As the reader learns on page 673, “When we left he’d say, ‘Don’t forget me! You won’t forget me now, will you?’ as if our remembering could lengthen his life.” Option G is incorrect because although both men talk about their past, it is not solely to make sure that their memories live on. As the reader learns on page 643, the grandfather says, “…in my younger days things were different. Old men were happy. When they died, they were buried with honor.” As the reader learns on page 643, the old man in “Remembered” would “…lead us into the next room ready to show us something or curl another story into our ear.” Option H is incorrect because only the old man in “Remembered” takes concrete actions to ensure his memories are preserved. The reader does not know if the grandfather shares his memories with Bassi, the only one in his life who seems to really care for him. As the reader learns on page 644, his grandsons speak of their grandfather’s early life in an unkind manner, “Our good Grandfather might be thinking of his youthful days, when all young men were fond of farming and all young women loved the kitchen.” As the reader learns on page 673, the old man in “Remembered” “…scrawled the episodes out in elaborate longhand and gave them to a farmer’s wife to type.” Option I is incorrect because the grandfather did not sell his house so that he would be remembered, but more as revenge for the way his grandsons treated him. As the reader learns on page 666 and 667, the grandfather tricked his grandsons, “The house belongs now to the stranger who is reading this will to you. He shall take possession of this house two days after the will has been read. Hurry up, therefore, and pack out of this house. You young puppies, do you think I never knew that you had no love for me, and that you were only playing up in order to get the money which you believed I had acquired?” The old man in “Remembered” had memory problems as the reader learns on page 667, “Some days his brain could travel backwards easier than it could sit in a chair, right there.”

9. Which excerpt from “Remembered” contains an example of imagery?

A. “You said “Thank you” till your lips grew heavy with gratitude and swelled shut.”
B. “As if objects could listen. As if earth had a memory too.”
C. “A whole family of jams he made himself from the figs and berries that purpled his land.”
D. “I wanted to assure him, there will always be a cabin in our blood only you live in.”

LA.910.2.1.7
The correct answer is C. Options A, B, and D are incorrect because they represent examples of descriptive language or figurative language drawn from the text but unrelated to the question being asked.

Imagery is figurative language that communicates sensory experience (page 896, Literary Terms). Option A is incorrect because the excerpt does not contain an example of imagery; it contains an example of hyperbole. Hyperbole is figurative language that exaggerates, often to the point of being funny, to emphasize something (page 896, Literary Terms). The exaggeration is that the frequent need to express one’s gratitude makes one’s lips heavy. Option B is incorrect because the excerpt does not contain an example of imagery; it contains an example of personification. Personification is figurative language that describes animals, things, or ideas as
having human traits (on page 898, Literary Terms). Personification occurs when the author says that the earth has a memory like a person has a memory. **Option C** is correct because the excerpt contains an example of imagery: the purple from the figs and berries coloring the land itself. The excerpt is found on page 672. **Option D** is incorrect because the excerpt does not contain an example of imagery; the excerpt contains an example of metaphor. 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). The metaphor is a comparison between a place in our memory and a cabin in our blood.

10. What idea BEST describes the author’s purpose in writing this poem?

   F. to show the importance of giving to others
   G. to demonstrate the significance of writing down our memories
   H. to highlight the responsibility we have for caring for the elderly
   I. to illustrate the fleeting nature of life itself

**LA.910.1.7.2**

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

**Option F** is incorrect because this is not the author’s purpose in writing this poem. The fact that the old man gives away his possessions so that others may remember him is a main feature in the poem, but not the author’s purpose in writing the poem. **Option G** is incorrect because this is not the author’s purpose in writing this poem. The fact that the old man writes down episodes/stories from his life is a detail in the poem, but not the author’s purpose in writing the poem. **Option H** is incorrect because this is not the author’s purpose in writing this poem. The author does not emphasize the care of the old man; the old man seems to be able to care for himself. His concern, however, is for the memories of his life that remains after he is gone. **Option I** is correct because this is the author’s purpose in writing this poem. The old man wants to be remembered after he is gone, but the author points out that, no matter the efforts the living take, with the passage of time, the memories of those who have died do not survive.