DIRECTIONS

Choose the word or group of words that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word. Then mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE A

Variety means —
A value
B collection
C assortment
D entertainment

Quantity means —
A length
B amount
C increase
D distance

Frequently means —
A often
B cheaply
C generally
D sometimes

Costly means —
A splendid
B extreme
C desirable
D expensive

A narrator is a —
A director
B sculptor
C performer
D storyteller

To employ is to —
A work
B yield
C hire
D engage
The Box in Lena's Cellar

Two weeks after the beginning of the school year, Lena's teacher announced that a crafts fair would be held at the end of September to display the rich heritage of different families in the community. During the next several days, the students in Lena's class interviewed family members and neighbors to locate objects for exhibit at the crafts fair. Each student was expected to give a brief history of the object. Lena's friend Maria brought to class a rebozo her grandmother in Mexico had given her. It was a beautiful, long scarf that Maria modeled by wrapping it around her head and shoulders. Lena's friend Derek brought in turquoise and silver ornaments that his family had collected during their trip to Albuquerque.

Lena was stumped. She couldn't think of anything she might contribute. Her mother had a green thumb, and her father liked to tinker with automobiles, but no one had thrown a pot, created a quilt, or even built a doghouse.

One afternoon, as Lena was rummaging through a trunk in the cellar, she found a box of curious objects carved from some kind of stone. Each object seemed as heavy as a brick, but each shape was as fluid and elegant as flowing water. She took the box to her mother, who explained that it had belonged to an Inuit relative from the Canadian Arctic. Her mother was unable to tell her any more than this, however.

Intrigued by her discovery, Lena decided to investigate the objects by searching the Internet. After a few false leads, she found a Web site that discussed Inuit carvings. She began to look carefully at the objects in the box and realized that some were animals. One was the figure of a falcon in flight. Another was a whale. A third was a polar bear with a family of cubs. In the bottom of the box was the dark, heavy figure of a shaman, a person who was believed to have healing powers and who could foretell the future. Lena learned that the sculptures were carved from soapstone, which is similar to marble.

When Lena brought the sculptures to class and delivered her report, Lena's teacher praised her imaginative research. The students crowded around Lena, asking if they might hold the objects. Lena's friends, Maria and Derek, said that they wanted to learn more about the Canadian Arctic and its culture.
1. The title suggests that the passage will be —
   A. a discussion of storage solutions
   B. a story about the contents of the box
   C. a history of houses with cellars
   D. an article telling how to clean a cellar

2. The sculpture described in most detail is of the —
   A. bears
   B. falcon
   C. shaman
   D. whale

3. The shapes are compared to flowing water because —
   A. they are fluid and elegant
   B. they are as heavy as bricks
   C. they are images of ocean scenes
   D. they are wet from the leaking cellar

4. The description of a shaman suggests this person is —
   A. a fisher
   B. a magician
   C. a hunter
   D. an elder

5. Based on the last sentence of the passage, what will Lena do next?
   A. Pack up and go to her next class
   B. Give away the Inuit sculptures
   C. Research how to wear the rebozo
   D. Show her friends an Inuit Web site

6. The expression “as heavy as a brick” is an example of a —
   A. metaphor
   B. milestone
   C. simile
   D. stanza
Reading Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS

Read the sentence in the box. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

1. When the football came loose, several players scrambled to get the ball.

In which sentence does the word scrambled mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

A. My essay is a scrambled mess.
B. Ricky likes to eat scrambled eggs.
C. After the piñata broke, Rosa and her friends scrambled for the treats.
D. I could not hear him on the radio because the signals were scrambled.

2. My dad helped smooth things over when my brothers argued.

In which sentence does the word smooth mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

A. It was a smooth ride along the winding road.
B. The model had beautiful eyes and smooth skin.
C. I still need to smooth out the problems in my report.
D. After I left my shirt on the floor, I had to smooth out the wrinkles.

3. Rate your choices by placing a star next to your favorite singer.

In which sentence does the word rate mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

A. The interest rate on my uncle's credit card was twelve percent.
B. Because his science project was first rate, Tim received a prize.
C. The motorcycle was going at a rate of fifty miles per hour.
D. On a scale from one to ten, I rate the movie a seven.

4. The tone of Greg's essay was humorous.

In which sentence does the word tone mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

A. Please tone it down; it is too loud in here.
B. Veronica used an orange tone to paint the flowers.
C. We were concerned by the serious tone of the meeting.
D. We knew that you were happy by the tone of your voice.