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| Generation Date: | **03/08/2012** |
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| Figurative Meanings | |
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| Chen was the school's superstar. Today, he was playing in front of a national audience. He was going to represent the little town of Hyattville. Chen was going to leave his mark, and the world was going to see it. His parents cheered for him with teary eyes and encouraging smiles.      Everybody eagerly waited for Chen to give the performance of his lifetime. The curtains were drawn like clouds revealing the sun. The spotlight was on Chen now. People in the auditorium held their breaths as if they were swimming under water. He played the piano as if his fingers were butterflies jumping on flowers. And, the music echoed like raindrops falling on the windowpane. | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | How does the author show the beauty of Chen's performance? | |  |

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|  | **A.** | by showing how the audience eagerly awaits his performance |
|  | **B.** | by showing the reaction of his teary-eyed and cheering parents |
|  | **C.** | by describing the importance of his performance for his hometown |
|  | **D.** | by describing the music as raindrops falling on the windowpane |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | The phrase "held their breaths as if they were swimming under water" implies that | |

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|  | **A.** | the performance is a part of a tight competition. |
|  | **B.** | Chen risks his reputation on his performance. |
|  | **C.** | the audience seem to wait with great anticipation. |
|  | **D.** | people hold their breaths to maintain silence. |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | The author describes Chen's playing the music as "butterflies jumping on flowers" to show | |

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|  | **A.** | how swiftly and gracefully he plays the piano. |
|  | **B.** | how randomly the musical notes jump around. |
|  | **C.** | how his fingers are soft and like an infant's. |
|  | **D.** | how his hands appear colorful in the stage light. |

Write your response here:

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| That was it. The day had arrived when Katja had to give shape to her ideas. After months of thinking hard and reading diligently, Katja had to write the essay that would sum up her identity. After all, many wise pairs of eyes were going to look at a piece of paper and decide if Katja was worthy enough for their prestigious program.      Katja sat down in front of the computer with a cup of hot cocoa. The steam was rising into the air like ocean tides attracted to the moon. She could not drink it just yet, just like she could not start writing right away. She had never before felt so nervous. Katja was a stray kitten in the thunderstorm, shivering for lingering moments. She was her own resource, so she calmed herself down. The web spun by defeating thoughts in her head finally gave away.      Katja knew she was deserving of the scholarship and the admission. She just had to write it on the paper. It was not about the vocabulary now. It was about the delivery of her life story. And, Katja knew she could do it. When the cocoa had become lukewarm, Katja took the first sip and typed in her first word. | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **4.** | How does the author show Katja's anxiety? | |  |

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|  | **A.** | by describing the prestigious program |
|  | **B.** | by showing the many wise pair of eyes |
|  | **C.** | by describing her as a shivering kitten |
|  | **D.** | by showing Katja as her own resource |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **5.** | The phrase "steam was rising into the air like ocean tides attracted to the moon" | |

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|  | **A.** | effectively describes an ordinary detail with beauty. |
|  | **B.** | shows the reader the thought process of writers. |
|  | **C.** | helps the reader picture Katja's nervous feelings. |
|  | **D.** | poetically shows the words Katja is thinking of writing. |

Write your response here:

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| Pritee's eyes were glow worms in the dark. She could see the best in every situation. The year she broke her leg before the cheerleading competition, she showed up for practice every morning wearing her cast in order to support her team. Then, she walked like a pendulum. But, she made it to the gym wearing a smile wider than the football field. And, who could forget the time she started a fundraiser for Alzheimer's awareness when her grandmother started to forget her own name? Pritee was an inspiration for all of us at Memorial High. | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **6.** | The author uses the phrase "glow worms in the dark" to show Pritee's | |  |

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|  | **A.** | athletic abilities. |
|  | **B.** | love for her grandmother. |
|  | **C.** | optimistic nature. |
|  | **D.** | support for her friends. |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **7.** | Which of these is an example of a figurative language in this passage? | |

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|  | **A.** | an inspiration for all of us |
|  | **B.** | see the best in every situation |
|  | **C.** | a smile wider than the football field |
|  | **D.** | started to forget her own name |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **8.** | Why does the author compare Pritee to a pendulum? | |

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|  | **A.** | to show that time passes slowly during cheerleading |
|  | **B.** | to describe the effect of Pritee on her friends and family |
|  | **C.** | to show how beautifully and rhythmically Pritee walks |
|  | **D.** | to describe the slow and difficult motion of the injured Pritee |

Write your response here:

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| **Lightning on the Tracks** by Holly Torres       Six Flags Over Texas is my favorite amusement park. They have some of the most fun roller coasters. The Texas Giant is a wooden roller coaster that many people around the world consider to be one of the best wooden roller coasters. It is a thrilling 14 stories high and zooms along the tracks at speeds up to 62 miles per hour. Riding the Texas Giant, or any wooden roller coaster for that matter, is as bumpy as driving down a dirt road with a ton of pot holes.       Another great roller coaster to check out is the Titan. It has enough speed to launch a person into another galaxy! It travels up to 85 miles per hour. Thrill seekers may feel butterflies fluttering in their stomachs as the coaster drops from its highest point at 255 feet. Riders can even experience the Titan exerting an intense g-force as the train tears through a series of twisted turns. During my first voyage on the Titan, the g-force forced one of my eyelids down and one of them open. For a moment, I was a one-eyed pirate sailing on my ship through high-speed winds.       My favorite roller coaster at Six Flags Over Texas is definitely Batman: The Ride. Although its 80-foot drop isn't as large of a drop as the Titan's, it is still an exciting ride. The track is above riders, which makes it different from any of the other coasters in the park. This is by far the smoothest roller coaster I have been on. I love how my feet dangle in the air. Occasionally, park visitors may even witness a shoe flying off a foot like a rock being launched from a sling shot. Six Flags Over Texas has even more roller coasters throughout the park, but these three encompass my must-ride list for thrill seekers. | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **9.** | In the second paragraph of the passage, what does the phrase "fast enough to launch a person into another galaxy" refer to? | |  |

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|  | **A.** | the g-force from the Titan |
|  | **B.** | the speed of the Titan |
|  | **C.** | the Titan's trip into space |
|  | **D.** | how high the Titan climbs |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **10.** | Read the following sentence from the passage.  "Thrill seekers may feel butterflies fluttering in their stomachs as the coaster drops from its highest point at 255 feet."  What does the underlined phrase mean? | |

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|  | **A.** | People who ride the roller coaster may get nervous on the way down the hill. |
|  | **B.** | People who ride the roller coaster will feel like a butterfly flying through the air. |
|  | **C.** | People who ride the roller coaster could feel like they have butterfly wings. |
|  | **D.** | People who ride the roller coaster are high enough in the air to see butterflies. |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **11.** | Read the following sentence from the passage.   "For a moment, I was a one-eyed pirate sailing on my ship through high-speed winds."  What does sentence above mean? | |

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|  | **A.** | The narrator was a little scared on the roller coaster and was peeking out of only one eye. |
|  | **B.** | The narrator could see out of only one eye because there was something in the other eye. |
|  | **C.** | The narrator felt like he or she was a one-legged pirate guiding a ship through the ocean. |
|  | **D.** | The narrator could see out of only one eye while the wind was forcing the other eyelid down. |

Write your response here:

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| Arush took baby steps to school. He was returning after a month of staying at the hospital, and he had strangely missed everyone—even the sternest of teachers. For Arush, anything was more fun than those white walls and the hard bed at the hospital. He was torn between the feelings of excitement and anxiety.      On one hand, Arush was all better now; on the other hand, he had gained a lot of weight because of a long bed rest. He felt like an expansive balloon held to the ground by two fragile strands of threads. The doctors had told him he would be back in shape after exercising and eating better, but he was worried about how his friends would look at him. He had taken half an hour for a 10-minute walk because of his hesitation. Finally, he had arrived. There was no going back. He had seen the crowd.      Arush saw the banner, the balloons, and the party hats. His friends had prepared for a celebration to mark his return. The crowd swarmed at him with the speed of bees whose hive had been stoned. They took turns asking him how he felt and saying that he was missed terribly. Nobody mentioned his weight gain or looked at him differently. His friends were genuinely happy to have him back.      Gradually, Arush felt comfortable in his own skin. His feet felt more firmly on the ground. The negative ideas he had about himself shattered like pieces of broken glass. His mind was now a mirror that reflected things more clearly. He was indeed back. | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **12.** | The author uses the phrase "shattered like pieces of broken glass" to show that | |  |

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|  | **A.** | the negative ideas have lost their grip on Arush. |
|  | **B.** | Arush feels that he misses the stern teachers. |
|  | **C.** | Arush understands the eagerness of the crowd. |
|  | **D.** | what Arush is thinking hurts his friends' feelings. |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **13.** | How does the author figuratively show that Arush's friends are thrilled for his return? | |

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|  | **A.** | by mentioning the banner, the balloons, and the hats |
|  | **B.** | by saying that they are genuinely happy for his return |
|  | **C.** | by comparing their motion to that of swarming bees |
|  | **D.** | by stating that they have prepared for a celebration |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **14.** | What does the author mean by "an expansive balloon held to the ground by two fragile strands of threads"? | |

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|  | **A.** | Arush is able to walk with little discomfort. |
|  | **B.** | Arush feels huge and weak at the same time. |
|  | **C.** | Arush is able to glide his way to the school. |
|  | **D.** | Arush still feels the side effects of the medicine. |

Write your response here:

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| Sarah stood staring at the whiteboard for an eternity. The class was over, and everyone had left for home. But, Sarah had lost the concept of time. She kept going back to the moment when she had overheard Betsy, her best friend, tell Raj that she had a crush on him.      "Betsy! Oh, Betsy! Did you forget how I felt about him?" Sarah gave words to her thoughts and buried her head in her hands. She was a wilted flower losing all hopes of spring. She hated the fact that it was a beautiful day. Buds were continuing their blooming, and birds were happily chirping on the tree outside the classroom. "Not fair!" she uttered the choked up words and felt like hiding from the world forever. That was when she felt a gentle tap on her back.      "There you are! I kept looking for you everywhere, girl," Betsy said. "Why do you look like a broken piece of a violin?"      "I heard what you said to him," Sarah responded without facing Betsy. She felt bees stinging at her eyes and volcanoes erupting from her heart. Sarah had never felt betrayal so strongly.      "Then you should be dancing," Betsy said, confused. "Raj was asking me if you had asked anyone out to prom yet because he has like the biggest crush in the universe on you! And, I told him you were waiting for him to ask. Was I not supposed to say that?" | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **15.** | The author uses the phrase "wilted flower losing all hopes of spring" to show Sarah's | |  |

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|  | **A.** | anger at Betsy. |
|  | **B.** | frustration with Raj. |
|  | **C.** | fading health. |
|  | **D.** | feelings of despair. |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **16.** | From the way it is used in the story, choose the phrase that is most similar to "broken piece of a violin." | |

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|  | **A.** | searching for a friend |
|  | **B.** | repeating one note |
|  | **C.** | physically bruised |
|  | **D.** | appearing destroyed |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **17.** | The author describes Sarah as feeling "bees stinging at her eyes and volcanoes erupting from her heart" to show | |

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|  | **A.** | how betrayal hurts Sarah. |
|  | **B.** | Sarah's upset stomach. |
|  | **C.** | how alone Sarah feels in class. |
|  | **D.** | the allergies Sarah feels. |

Write your response here:

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| **The Cold Hours** By A. Gautam   |  | | --- | | Between the two waves of the sea, she has lost her love for me. Maria surfs all day, and sulks after sundown. Maria will not speak to me. We lost something to the sea that stares at me with its wavy eyes. It splashes coldness, and swallows  Maria for hours. I wait with a blanket and sun block. Her straw hat drops from my arms, and only lets my heart beat louder. I hold her scarf like a Band-Aid, wrapped around my wrist instead of her willowy arms. | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **18.** | Why does the author compare Maria's scarf to a Band-Aid? | |  |

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|  | **A.** | to show that Maria likes to look pretty on the beach |
|  | **B.** | to show that the speaker uses scarves for first aid |
|  | **C.** | to show that the speaker is hurt by Maria's rejection |
|  | **D.** | to show that Maria makes the speaker hold it for her |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **19.** | What does the author mean by saying, "to the sea / that stares at me with its wavy eyes"? | |

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|  | **A.** | The sea creates waves just to please Maria. |
|  | **B.** | The speaker envies the sea that holds Maria. |
|  | **C.** | The speaker is afraid of swimming in the sea. |
|  | **D.** | The sea has a lot of waves on a windy day. |

Write your response here:

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| The basketball court was quieter than a cemetery at midnight. Rob sat on the bench staring at floor. The floor was golden brown and shiny like water under the sunlight. To Rob, nothing was more beautiful than the basket up high. The basket was the star he wished to shoot for, and the ball was his flying ship. He held the basketball in his arms like a newborn.      *What if I can't do it?* Rob thought about the scariest possibility. *What if Dad is actually right about my legs? Could I ever be the star he was?* He felt feverish in anguish. He got up slower than a sunflower's speed of growth and faced his fears.      *I broke my foot once, so what? I have weak knees, but I could do it*, Rob reassured himself. | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **20.** | From the way it is used in the story above, choose a phrase that is the most similar to "quieter than a cemetery at midnight." | |  |

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|  | **A.** | resided by ghosts |
|  | **B.** | confusing and lonely |
|  | **C.** | dark and frightening |
|  | **D.** | eerily noiseless |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **21.** | How does the author show the importance of playing basketball for Rob? | |

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|  | **A.** | by describing the clean and quiet state of the basketball court |
|  | **B.** | by describing the amount of pain Rob feels in his broken leg |
|  | **C.** | by comparing the basket to a star and the ball to a flying ship |
|  | **D.** | by showing how his knees may be too weak to play sports |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **22.** | After months of rain, the sky felt blue and clear like the ocean. The girls were laughing and playing on the velvety grass. They walked with cotton steps on the picnic ground. We watched them approach us and smiled from our hearts. They were here for a little while. They were only here for the sandwiches. Soon, they would flutter away to play.  From the way it is told in the passage, choose a phrase below that is most similar to "cotton steps." | |

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|  | **A.** | a dance on the picnic ground |
|  | **B.** | steady and predictable moves |
|  | **C.** | light and soft movements |
|  | **D.** | a flight on the green grass |

Write your response here:

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| **To Dear English Exam** By A. Gautam   |  | | --- | | When you test my memory from the event of three months ago, I sent a search committee to find the words,  to solve the mystery. Detective A finds a clue, which her assistant always rejects. My attorney can't defend it, he needs more evidence. It was about something that meant something else. I know who had done it, Dr. Robinson in a blue shirt and khaki pants. It was 9:30 on a Tuesday in the Emily Dickinson Hall. I was staring at the new kid with a beautiful face. She wore a polka dot skirt, and a shirt with laces. The wind was kissing her soft hair in a ponytail. Her smile was a dewdrop for my morning rose. I just don't remember  what a simile is. | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **23.** | Which lines from the poem makes something seem human? | |  |

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|  | **A.** | The wind was kissing her / soft hair in a ponytail. |
|  | **B.** | to find the words, / to solve the mystery. |
|  | **C.** | Dr. Robinson in a blue shirt / and khaki pants. |
|  | **D.** | Her smile was a dewdrop / for my morning rose. |

Write your response here:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **24.** | As Beth helped Joey and Ethan with their Social Studies work, she thought to herself, *this must be how Hermione Granger from* Harry Potter *feels*.   What is the above passage an example of? | |

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|  | **A.** | foreshadowing |
|  | **B.** | personification |
|  | **C.** | allusion |
|  | **D.** | idiom |

Write your response here:

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| Shrinee was the pickiest eater in the universe. She did not eat an apple unless its hue was the color of cherries on ice-cream sundaes. And, she ate pasta only if each strand appeared silky and smooth like her own flowing hair.      Her grandmother, Valerie, who grew up during the Great Depression, did not understand why Shrinee could afford to be so fussy about food that was perfectly cooked. Valerie had seen the worst of times. When she was Shrinee's age, she had once eaten a potato that looked as edible as a smashed bug.      One sunny afternoon, Valerie took her only grandchild, Shrinee, to her backyard where she had been doing some gardening. The ripe, red tomatoes were swaying in the air, and the coriander leaves were spreading their aroma. She then asked Shrinee to think about food as life's gift.      "Do you see how much it takes for a seed to grow into a plant? And, how easy it is to throw away food in the trash?" Valerie asked as she stroked Shrinee's silky hair. | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **25.** | The phrase "unless its hue was the color of cherries on ice-cream sundaes" shows that | |  |

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|  | **A.** | Shrinee eats apples with cherries. |
|  | **B.** | Valerie hates using canned cherries. |
|  | **C.** | Valerie grows fruits in her garden. |
|  | **D.** | Shrinee is selective of what she eats. |

Write your response here:

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