Week 1 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. Who is the main character of *Catfish and Mandala*? Why does he not want to read his birth fortune?

   a. Andrew Pham; He wants to determine his own fortune.
   b. Grandmother; She wants to live for the moment.
   c. Andrew Pham; He doesn't believe in old world traditions.
   d. none of the above

2. What is the purpose of a prologue in literature?

   a. to introduce a portion of literature
   b. to set the scene and setting
   c. to introduce a character's mindset
   d. all of the above

3. What person is the majority of the novel written in?

   a. first person
   b. third person
   c. second person
   d. none of the above

   Use the following passage to answer the questions that follow.

   "*Thong and Anh lived in a one-room shack, nailed together in a back alley of the fishing town. They were young, in love, and strong <u>but their hands were like old people's,</u> seasonally water-crinkled from mopping the concrete floor and tending the leaky roof. A baby girl, their first child, slept peacefully in her crib-a cardboard box on their bed. They were cheerful about their meager lot, joking that the heavens were so generous to their rainwater <u>cisterns</u>, they hadn't had to visit the village well in a month*" (pg. 21).

4. In stating, "*their hands were like old people's,*" what literary device is used?

   a. compression
   b. simile
   c. metaphor
   d. analogy

5. What word or phrase best describes the term *cistern?*

   a. a solid mass
   b. dipper or scoop
   c. sieve
   d. receptacle for holding fluids

6. The author uses *italics* to share stories about his family and their life before they fled. What literary term best describes this writing technique?

   a. foreshadowing
   b. personification
   c. flashback
   d. irony

7. What is the purpose of a flashback in literature?

   a. to reference well known events, people, and places
   b. to give hints and clues to suggest what will happen next in the story
   c. to give a non-human thing human characteristics
   d. to explain an earlier event

8. Brain says to Andrew, "The road is a wondrous place, go with_____."

   a. your eyes wide open
   b. an open heart
   c. much trust
   d. food and provisions to keep you safe and healthy

9. Put the following events in chronological order:
   1. Andrew apologizes to a Vietnam Veteran for the war and for his people.
   2. Andrew spends time in Japan as he prepares to go to Vietnam.
   3. Andrew leaves on another bike trip—this time to Vietnam.
   4. Andrew is riding his bike through the Mexican desert.

   a. 1, 2, 4, 3
   b. 4, 1, 2, 3
   c. 3, 2, 4, 1
   d. 4, 1, 3, 2

10. Many Vietnamese-Americans return to Vietnam because

    a. they lack cultural identity.
    b. they feel guilty for being the fortunate ones to have escaped.
    c. to learn about their history and culture.
    d. all of the above

Week 2 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. Andrew's grandmother used to say, "*A monkey in a princess gown is still a monkey*" (pg. 64). Which sentence or phrase best describes the meaning of the above statement?

   a. Monkeys look cute all dressed up.
   b. Some cosmetic changes have no lasting effect on personality.
   c. a rhetorical device
   d. none of the above

2. Courage is _____, not for a thrill.

   a. risk for a reason
   b. standing up for others
   c. risking for others
   d. all of the above

3. The main purpose of propaganda in any society is

   a. to manipulate public opinion.
   b. to mislead the public with partial truths.
   c. to create public panic.
   d. to publicize information or misinformation to create support for a cause.

4. Why was Andrew enrolled at the private school?

   a. He showed much potential.
   b. The school in his area was unsafe.
   c. He was the first born son and his parents felt he should have a good education.
   d. none of the above

5. What was Andrew seeking on his trip home?

   a. to justify his hardships
   b. to put together the pieces of his life
   c. answers about his past and his sister
   d. all of the above

6. The author of *Catfish and Mandala* is

   a. De Tran.
   b. Pearl S. Buck.
   c. Andrew Pham.
   d. John Steinbeck.

7. What is self-immolation?

   a. a protest against discriminatory treatment endured by Buddhist monks
   b. self-sacrifice by suicide
   c. violence against oneself
   d. all of the above

8. What do the *Fallen Leaves* sections of the novel represent?

   a. Andrew's trip to America
   b. Andrew's memory of his past
   c. Andrew's hopes and dreams
   d. none of the above

9. Andrew regrets

   a. avoiding his sister before her death.
   b. being engrosses in his own problems.
   c. not supporting his family.
   d. taking the trip to Vietnam.

10. Place the following events in chronological order:
    1. Andrew meets Kim. They spend time together; she wants him to take her back to America with him.
    2. Andrew gives a young orphan girl money.
    3. Andrew mourns for his sister.
    4. Andrew's uncles show him their way of life. Andrew is disappointed.
    5. Andrew received a tour of his neighborhood from his "sister."

    a. 3, 1, 5, 2, 4
    b. 4, 5, 2, 3, 1
    c. 5, 3, 2, 1, 4
    d. 1, 5, 2, 4, 3

Week 3 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. Courage is risk for a reason, not for a thrill. Courage requires we moderate our _____ and our_____.

   a. caloric intake; sleep
   b. impulses; emotions
   c. anger; frustrations
   d. none of the above

2. The family was in prison in Indonesia because

   a. they were refuges caught trying to escape Vietnam.
   b. they were caught bribing government officials.
   c. they were low level criminals.
   d. all of the above

3. The Cu Chi Tunnel system was

   a. used to smuggle goods into and around North Vietnam.
   b. dug by the Viet Cong to combat a better supplied opponent.
   c. used to house troops.
   d. all of the above

4. Why did Andrew and his sibling's torture the Ho's in prison?

   a. They were rude neighbors.
   b. They lied to Andrew's parents.
   c. They tried to entice Andrew's siblings into their prostitution ring.
   d. They flaunted their riches.

Use the excerpt below to answer the questions that follow.

"*He tore up his corner, shredding his mattress, and with one sweep of his arm the shelves he had fashioned of salvaged bamboo exploded and all the fine stones he had polished and all the figurines he had cut* <u>*shrapneled*</u> *across the room. His fingers balled and formed a wild pair of hammers levered on his shoulders. Down went the hammer, the table shattered. Down went the hammer, the folding screen collapsed…"* (pg. 142).

The antonym for the term <u>shrapnel</u> can best be described as

a. clotted
b. bomb, mine, or shell fragments

c. a metal projectile filled with fragments used to cause havoc and pain
d. none of the above

5. *"His fingers balled and formed a wild pair of hammers"* (pg. 142). Which writing technique does the author use to describe Wong's hands?

a. overstatement
b. personification
c. sensory details
d. slang

6. Mr. Wong _____ in prison?

a. broke
b. was a successful artist
c. befriended the Pham family
d. none of the above

7. The role of The First Baptist Church of Shreveport was

a. to make sure the kids were enrolled in school.
b. to help find them jobs.
c. to sponsor the Pham family and ensure they were stable in their community.
d. all of the above

8. Place the following events in chronological order:
1. Andrew takes a bus to the prison. He is asked to help smuggle cigarettes.
2. A man tells Andrew about the major population explosion in Vietnam.
3. The prison was disappointing to Andrew, not like he remembered it.
4. Andrew decides to visit Hanoi. The station master does everything in his power to overcharge him. Three trains leave without him.
5. Andrew decided he needed to return to Minh Luong Prison.

a. 1, 4, 3, 2, 5
b. 2, 4, 5, 1, 3
c. 5, 1, 3, 2, 4
d. 5, 4, 1, 2, 3

9. "*Adventure is but a collection of detours. He asks me how I got the courage to go. I say I'd realized that the surest way forward was to burn all of the bridges behind"* (pg. 150).

What does Andrew mean when he claims, "*the surest way forward is to burn the bridges behind?"*

a. This is a deliberate way to make peace in his life.
b. He means to ensure he is able to live his life in the present, not the past.
c. He means to look back at his history and learn from it.
d. none of the above

Week 4 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. Courage leads me to consider the heroic journey in which people live for purposes bigger than _____and their _____.

   a. themselves; wants and needs
   b. other's; desires
   c. themselves; hopes and dreams
   d. none of the above

2. *"One of our white neighbors, Mr. Slocum, once asked dad, 'Why are you people killing yourself working around the clock like that?' Dad replied, 'How can you kill yourself when you are already in heaven?'"* (pg. 191).

   How does his father's response reflect his feelings about America?

   a. His father knows that the opportunities in America far surpass anything they knew in Vietnam and they are trying to take advantage of them.
   b. His father wants to ensure that his family is cared for.
   c. Compared to life in Vietnam, life in America is an easy place to live.
   d. all of the above

3. What details from the reading highlight the poverty in Vietnam?

   a. Peasants can only travel on cargo trains.
   b. Andrew's $45.00 equates to six weeks wages for his host.
   c. Children are forced to beg and work for hours for meager wages.
   d. none of the above

4. "*How funny American's don't like concrete. We love it. It is special. It's great for floors. We don't have it but my aunt does. Her sons bought her a concrete floor for her house. Concrete floors are very cool in the summer. Very nice for taking naps. In the rainy season, concrete floors are very clean, not like our dirt floor. Very easy to clean"* (pg. 206).

   Why does Andrew view concrete the way he does?

   a. He feels America is not attractive due to having too much concrete.
   b. He does not like that you have to go to a park to see dirt.
   c. Andrew feels that America has lost much of its beauty do to overbuilding.
   d. all of the above

5. Andrew is stopped by the police upon arrival in Hanoi. He is released by an older policeman. Why does the older man allow him to continue on his journey?

    a. He sees Andrew as a human being, not just from the north or south.
    b. He appreciates that Andrew is willing to discover his roots.
    c. He wants to show the younger officer that he is in charge.
    d. both a and b

6. When Andrew arrived in Hanoi he went searching for the "backpacker's area." Why did he want to be with other tourists?

    a. He knows he will be safe around them.
    b. Andrew realizes that he has lost his identity and tourists will not judge him as either an American or a Vietnamese.
    c. Andrew wants to be able to trade tales and information.
    d. He wants to enjoy the company of other people from faraway places.

7. What is ironic about Ho Chi Minh's life?

    a. He was educated in the west and went on to be a dictator in the east.
    b. He had many wives.
    c. He was raised a pacifist.
    d. none of the above

8. Andrew works as a janitor in high school to earn money to play tennis. What does his boss tell him he needs to do in order to sit at the big board room table? (pg. 238)

    a. study hard
    b. stop messing around
    c. listen to his fathers
    d. all of the above

Use the passage below to answer the questions that follow.

"This is a bad year for you, An, Mom told me. Nothing good will come of it. Don't go anywhere. Don't do anything. Keep your eyes out for omens. You are not American, you hear me? You're Vietnamese. You are not immune to the gods" (pg. 242).

9. What sentence, term, or phrase best describes the word omen?

    a. You must have courage in order to survive.
    b. a result
    c. a sign or prophecy
    d. exempt

10. What is An's mother trying to communicate with him?

    a. Being Vietnamese causes the gods to find you.
    b. She understands that An is caught between two countries—but he needs to respect his culture.
    c. She is warning him of the year to come.
    d. She wants him to start being and acting more traditional.

Week 5 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. Which definition most closely represents the term *mandala?*

   a. ritualistic geometric design most likely used to aid in meditation
   b. circular design symbolic of the universe and how things come full circle
   c. geometric design that is used by Buddhist and Hindus to aid in meditation
   d. all of the above

2. Based on the definition of mandala above what do you think the title of the novel *Catfish and Mandala* means?

   a. a journey home to learn about one's life and ancestry
   b. the joining of memories and present to better understand a person's future
   c. how people, regardless of culture or identity, are similar
   d. all of the above

3. How is Andrew expected to behave around his elders?

   a. bow, show respect, and occasionally grovel
   b. treat them like they are his equals
   c. act friendly
   d. none of the above

4. What did Andrew's family sacrifice in order to come to America?

   a. land and status in their country
   b. their sense of identity
   c. their professions
   d. their family
   e. all of the above

5. What lesson(s) about the war does Andrew gain from the soldiers he meets? (pg. 285)

   a. They understand they were victims of government propaganda and the government culture.
   b. Americans are living with the memories of the war, where the Vietnamese have had to make peace with their lives.
   c. They understand that the American's were young like them. They thought they were doing the right thing at the time.
   d. all of the above

6. "*'I could have gone to America, too,' blurts the soldier on my left…*
   'My sister went with her husband, but I stayed because of my parents. Because this is my country! My country, not yours!'" (pg. 311).

   Which letter best explains the animosity between the Vietnamese and Viet-Keiu?

   a. The Vietnamese feel like second class citizens compared to the Viet-Kieu.
   b. The Viet-Kieu have lost some of the customs and traditions of being Vietnamese.
   c. The Vietnamese know that they lost many opportunities by not being able to escape and are resentful.
   d. all of the above

7. Father describes the adage, *"When you're young you go looking for trouble. When you're old trouble comes looking for you"* (pg. 319). Which of the following best describes an adage?

   a. a proverb
   b. a quote
   c. a fable
   d. none of the above

8. What is Andrew is seeking on his journey?

   a. forgiveness
   b. understanding of his faults and shortcomings
   c. to put his roots in perspective so he can understand his present
   d. all of the above

9. As Andrew returns to the United States, he vows to become a

   a. better man.
   b. better American.
   c. more dutiful son.
   d. better brother.

10. What is the main idea of *Catfish and Mandala?*

   a. You don't have to give up one culture or identity to embrace another.
   b. Forgiveness of others allows you to move forward.
   c. Life's meaning can be found in various places.
   d. People have more similarities than differences.

Assessment Answer Key

Week One

1. A
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. D
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. D
10. D

Week Two

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. D
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. B

Week Three

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. D
9. C
10. B

Week Four

1. A
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. D
6. B
7. A
8. D
9. C
10. B

Week Five

1. D
2. D
3. A
4. E
5. D
6. D
7. A
8. D
9. B
10. A