



Name: _____

Assessment Week 1

1. "When they got home Mama Jean had *lectured* him on how important reading and writing were. He hadn't answered, just listened. There was nothing to say; he knew she was right."

In the context of the passage above, which of the below is the best synonym the word *lectured*?

- a. Agreed
 - b. Explained
 - c. Lied
 - d. Screamed
2. According to Jimmy, why does he keep skipping school?
- a. He is angry that the school uses him to raise their test scores.
 - b. He isn't sure; he just hasn't felt very well this year.
 - c. He isn't very smart, and so school makes him feel stupid.
 - d. The kids in the neighborhood have threatened to bet him up if he goes to school.
3. Crab has been in jail for
- a. beating up his wife, Jimmy's mother.
 - b. selling drugs.
 - c. shooting the guards in an armed robbery.
 - d. stealing money from his employer.
4. Crab lied to Mama Jean about having a job in Chicago. The truth is he
- a. doesn't have a job, and just wants to move out of New York.
 - b. escaped from jail, and is trying to prove his innocence.
 - c. has a job in LA, but knew she wouldn't let him take Jimmy that far away.
 - d. hates Mama Jean, and only wants to take Jimmy away to upset her.
5. When Jimmy goes to school in the beginning of the novel, he
- a. is given six days of detention for missing school.
 - b. is stabbed in a hallway by Basketball Billy.
 - c. isn't punished, and is sent to class to take a standardized test.
 - d. isn't punished, but has to talk to the school psychologist.

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6. “I was in for eight years this time, and I was supposed to serve two more before I was *eligible* for parole. I don't think I was going to make no parole.”

In the passage above, what does Crab mean when he says “I don't think I was going to make no parole?”

- a. He doesn't think the authorities would really release him in two years.
 - b. He has enemies in jail, and thinks someone will kill him before that.
 - c. He is sick, and thinks he will die sooner than two years.
 - d. He thinks he will go crazy by the time he is eligible for parole.
7. Based on the passage above, which of the below could be a synonym for the word *eligible*?
- a. Crazy
 - b. Elegant
 - c. Inappropriate
 - d. Suitable
8. In the beginning of the novel, Jimmy lives with Mama Jean, who is his
- a. dead mother's best friend.
 - b. grandmother.
 - c. great-aunt.
 - d. mother.
9. The author uses Mama Jean's job as a baby sitter to communicate what character traits with the reader?
- a. Ignorance and unwillingness to change.
 - b. Joyfulness and carelessness
 - c. Responsibility and generosity.
 - d. None of the above.
10. The first hint that Jimmy has that something is wrong is
- a. Crab has an argument with a police officer.
 - b. Crab steals breakfast at a diner.
 - c. Crab tells him his whole story as soon as they start driving.
 - d. Crab told Mama Jean they were going by bus, but he has a car.



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Assessment Week 2

1. Crab tells Jimmy about his brother. What happened to that brother?
 - a. He died from wounds received in Vietnam.
 - b. He died in jail.
 - c. He died in the shoot-out with the guards that Crab was jailed for.
 - d. He's still alive, but doesn't speak to family any more.
2. When they get to Chicago, Crab tells Jimmy he's going to earn some money by
 - a. getting his girlfriend, Mavis, to give it to him.
 - b. playing in band.
 - c. robbing a bank.
 - d. working at the railroad yard.
3. Jimmy has to use Mama Jean's money because
 - a. Crab finds it when he's sleeping, and spends it all on liquor.
 - b. Crab has gotten so drunk he can't walk, and needs a taxi home.
 - c. Jimmy decides to run away from Crab, and buys a bus ticket home.
 - d. Jimmy gets a taxi because Crab gets very sick while at a blues club.
4. Crab and Jimmy are headed to Arkansas for what reason?
 - a. Crab has another girlfriend in Arkansas, and wants to take her to meet Mama Jean.
 - b. Crab heard there aren't many police in Arkansas, so it's a good place to hide.
 - c. Crab wants to find someone to testify that he was innocent of his crime.
 - d. Crab's little brother lives there, and he wants to see him before he dies.
5. "When (Mama Jean) was feeling well she would walk with her head thrown back and her feet moving straight ahead.
"When Crab was feeling good he walked with his chin down and his legs stiff, as if he were walking against a strong wind."

The author uses the paragraph below to show the reader

- a. how observant and intelligent Jimmy is.
- b. how people walk when they are healthy.
- c. Nothing at all.
- d. the differences in character between Crab and Mama Jean.

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6. From the passage above, the reader can glean that
 - a. Mama Jean has integrity, and walks through life proudly.
 - b. Crab is stiff and formal, which is why he isn't close to Jimmy.
 - c. both Crab and Mama Jean are getting old.
 - d. sometimes an author uses descriptions just to make a story more interesting.
7. Crab and Jimmy start their journey to Arkansas in
 - a. a bus.
 - b. a car Crab rented with someone else's identity.
 - c. Mavis's car.
 - d. the back of a pickup; they're hitch-hiking.
8. When Jimmy asks Crab why Mavis and Frank aren't travelling to Arkansas with them, Crab says "Why should they come to Arkansas?" Why is this shocking to Jimmy?
 - a. Crab had told Jimmy that Mavis was coming because she was his girlfriend.
 - b. Jimmy likes Frank, and would feel more safe if he was there.
 - c. Jimmy thought Mavis was paying for the whole trip.
 - d. Mavis has all of Jimmy's clothes and money in her suitcase.
9. Which of the below is an example of Jimmy's integrity?
 - a. "He just walked away, knowing that his father was sad."
 - b. "He told himself that no matter what happened, ...he wouldn't steal anything."
 - c. "Jimmy didn't know why he told Crab that he liked to play football."
 - d. "Jimmy didn't say anything, even when Crab asked him for the aspirins."
10. Jimmy finds out that Crab's father was
 - a. a famous jazz musician.
 - b. a great dad who took his son fishing every weekend.
 - c. also a criminal, who died in jail.
 - d. rarely at home when Crab was growing up, and he hardly knew him.



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Assessment Week 3

1. "You walking in strength, Crab," High John said. 'But only you and the Good Lord know where you getting it from.'"

In the passage above, High John is telling Crab that

- a. Crab doesn't have much longer to live.
 - b. Crab is strong emotionally.
 - c. He knows Crab's been taking steroids.
 - d. Jimmy isn't his real son.
2. After Crab confronts Rydell, Rydell responds by
- a. crying and begging for Crab's forgiveness.
 - b. telling Jimmy that Crab is guilty.
 - c. telling Jimmy that Crab is innocent.
 - d. turning Crab into the police.
3. Crab tells Jimmy about growing up during segregation. Segregation was
- a. a local holiday celebrated every June with a parade.
 - b. a movement against the Vietnam War.
 - c. a series of laws outlawing rock music.
 - d. the separation of black and white people.
4. Crab wants to make Rydell tell the truth. As a result, he hopes that
- a. Crab will get a new trial and be released from jail.
 - b. Jimmy will believe in his innocence, and respect him as a father.
 - c. Mavis will let him move in with her.
 - d. Rydell will share the money from the robbery, so Jimmy can go to college.
5. Jimmy finally decides to
- a. become a doctor so he can help people like Crab.
 - b. go home to Mama Jean in New York.
 - c. stay in Marion and live with Miss Mackenzie.
 - d. travel to California and start a new life.

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6. Near the end of the novel, Crab
 - a. begs the judge to let him out to raise his son.
 - b. dies in the hospital.
 - c. recovers and goes back to jail to serve his time.
 - d. tells Jimmy he is not his real father, anyway.

7. The conjure man is
 - a. a magician.
 - b. a healer.
 - c. an old teacher of Crab's.
 - d. a drug dealer.

8. The novel falls into the Integrity Theme. *"Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent, and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult things not just easy and accustomed."* Based on that definition, which of the book's characters *least* represents integrity?
 - a. Crab
 - b. Jimmy
 - c. Mama Jean
 - d. Miss Mackenzie

9. When Crab thinks the police are after him, he plans to
 - a. fight them, so they will kill him quickly.
 - b. go quietly back to jail.
 - c. jump a freight train, and send Jimmy home to New York.
 - d. steal a car and drive as fast as they can to California.

10. Which of the below is an example of Jimmy's integrity?
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 - b. "He told himself that no matter what happened, ...he wouldn't steal anything."
 - c. "Jimmy didn't know why he told Crab that he liked to play football."
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11. "When (Mama Jean) was feeling well she would walk with her head thrown back and her feet moving straight ahead.
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The author uses the paragraph above to show the reader

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 - c. Nothing at all.
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 - b. playing in band.
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19. "I was in for eight years this time, and I was supposed to serve two more before I was *eligible* for parole. I don't think I was going to make no parole."
- In the passage above, what does Crab mean when he says "I don't think I was going to make no parole?"
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 - b. He has enemies in jail, and thinks someone will kill him before that.
 - c. He is sick, and thinks he will die sooner than two years.
 - d. He thinks he will go crazy by the time he is eligible for parole.
20. Based on the passage above, which of the below could be a synonym for the word *eligible*?
- a. Suitable
 - b. Inappropriate
 - c. Elegant
 - d. Crazy

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Answer Key

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
1.	B	A	A
2.	B	B	D
3.	C	D	D
4.	B	C	B
5.	C	D	B
6.	C	A	B
7.	D	B	B
8.	B	A	A
9.	C	B	C
10.	D	D	B
11.			D
12.			C
13.			B
14.			B
15.			C
16.			C
17.			A
18.			B
19.			C
20.			A