

Week 1 Assessment

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

1. "It rained so hard, so long and so *incessantly* that the thought of a period of no rain provoked a mild wonder."

In the sentence above, the word *incessantly* most closely means

- A. Buggy.
 - B. Loudly.
 - C. Nonstop.
 - D. Wetly.
2. Arjun decides to work at the tannery because
- A. He hates farming, and thinks tanning sounds interesting.
 - B. He is angry that he has to share a room with his sister.
 - C. He is very hungry; the family never has enough to eat.
 - D. If he does not, the landlord will take Nathan's farm away.
3. As read in the sentence, "so I had to be content without him; but *contentment* cannot be forced, and Nathan noticed my preoccupation," the best antonym for the word *contentment* would be
- A. Confusion.
 - B. Fullness.
 - C. Happiness.
 - D. Unhappiness.
4. Change Requires _____.
- A. Action.
 - B. Fortitude.
 - C. Effort.
 - D. Wholeness.
5. Ira's husband returned her to Rukmani and Nathan because
- A. He could not afford to feed her.
 - B. She cheated on him.
 - C. She could not have children.
 - D. She was a very bad cook.

Character Based Literacy Program Assessment Name _____
Nectar in a Sieve

6. Kenny helps Rukmani by
- A. Babysitting Ira so that Rukmani can get more work done.
 - B. Providing medical treatment to allow her to have more babies.
 - C. Teaching her how to read and write.
 - D. Working in the fields when Nathan is sick.
7. Place the following events in chronological order, in the order in which they appear in the novel.
- 1. A new tannery is built in the village.
 - 2. Ira is married.
 - 3. Nathan's crops are destroyed in a massive storm.
 - 4. Rukmani and Nathan are married.
 - 5. Rukmani has her first child, a daughter.
- A. 3, 4, 5, 1, 2
 - B. 4, 5, 3, 2, 1
 - C. 4, 5, 1, 2, 3
 - D. 5, 4, 1, 2, 3
8. Rukmani believes that the tannery
- A. Is a wonderful thing for the village, and will provide great opportunities for her children.
 - B. Is bad for the village, as it raises prices and takes their sons away.
 - C. Should expand as soon as possible, to provide more jobs for the community.
 - D. Will quickly fail, and the workers will soon be homeless.
9. The marriage of Rukmani and Nathan was considered a bad match because
- A. He was much too old for her; he was thirty, and she was only twelve.
 - B. Nathan was extremely handsome, and Rukmani was ugly.
 - C. Rukmani was the daughter of a headman, and Nathan was a poor tenant farmer.
 - D. They married for love, against the wishes of their parents.
10. The setting of *Nectar in a Sieve* is
- A. Arabia over 100 years ago.
 - B. India in the mid-twentieth century.
 - C. India in the sixteenth century.
 - D. Rural California in the mid-twentieth century.

Week 2 Assessment

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

1. “You may think of it later, and try to get *compensation*.”

In the sentence above, the word *compensation* most closely means

- A. Closure.
 - B. Compound sentences.
 - C. Payment.
 - D. Truth.
2. According to the tannery officials, Raja was killed
- A. By his own brother in a fight over a woman.
 - B. In a terrible factory accident.
 - C. When he jumped off the building, crazed with hunger.
 - D. When the officials tried to stop him from stealing.
3. After her husband leaves her, Ira is very depressed until
- A. Kenny cures her, and her husband agrees to take her back.
 - B. Rukmani has a new baby, Kuti, and Ira loves him as her own.
 - C. She has her first child, a little boy named Kuti.
 - D. She meets a handsome young man and gets engaged.
4. In the sentence, “He looked tired but very calm, with the signs of suffering taken from his *countenance*,” the word that most closely means *countenance* is
- A. Blanket.
 - B. Body.
 - C. Face.
 - D. Stomach.

Nectar in a Sieve

5. Ira becomes a prostitute so that she can
- A. Buy food to save Kuti's life.
 - B. Get pregnant and have a child of her own.
 - C. Meet a rich husband.
 - D. Save enough money to move out of Rukmani's house.
6. Place the events from the novel in chronological order:
- 1. Raja is killed at the tannery.
 - 2. Rukmani attacks Ira, mistaking her for an intruder.
 - 3. Rukmani finds out Nathan cheated on her with Kunthi.
 - 4. Rukmani's sons are fired from the tannery.
 - 5. The family sells their possessions to pay the rent.
- A. 1, 3, 2, 4, 5
 - B. 3, 4, 5, 1, 2
 - C. 4, 3, 5, 1, 2
 - D. 4, 5, 3, 1, 2
7. Rukmani attacks Ira because
- A. She believes Ira is trying to steal Kuti from her.
 - B. She is angry that she has become a prostitute.
 - C. She mistakes her for the thief, Kunthi.
 - D. She thinks Ira is stealing food from the family.
8. Rukmani looks down on Kunthi because
- A. Kunthi is a prostitute.
 - B. Kunthi is uneducated.
 - C. Kunthi's husband cheated on her.
 - D. Rukmani is jealous of Kunthi.

Nectar in a Sieve

9. Rukmani's sons leave the village because
- A. They are angry with their father, and want to punish him.
 - B. They get married and move in with their new wives' families.
 - C. They need to move elsewhere to find work.
 - D. They were arrested and sent to prison far away.
10. The author of *Nectar in a Sieve* is
- A. Bernard Evslyn.
 - B. John Steinbeck.
 - C. Kamala Markandaya.
 - D. Louis Sachar.

Week 3 Assessment

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

1. After Ira's child is born, Rukmani is upset because he is
 - A. An albino.
 - B. Crying all the time.
 - C. Obviously the child of Kenny.
 - D. Stillborn.

2. Nathan and Rukmani must leave their land because
 - A. Nathan is too old to farm any more.
 - B. Rukmani fought with the landlord, so he is kicking them out.
 - C. The tannery owners are buying it, and they are evicted.
 - D. They cannot pay the rent.

3. Nathan and Rukmani travel to the city by
 - A. Bullock cart.
 - B. Bus.
 - C. Foot.
 - D. Train.

4. On their first night in the city, Nathan and Rukmani sleep in
 - A. A cheap motel.
 - B. A temple.
 - C. The street.
 - D. Their son's employers' home.

Nectar in a Sieve

5. Place the following events from the novel in chronological order:

1. Ira has a child.
2. Nathan and Rukmani leave their land.
3. Nathan and Rukmani travel to the city to find their son.
4. Rukmani and Nathan's belongings are stolen.
5. Selvam agrees to look after Ira and her child.

- A. 1, 2, 5, 3, 4
- B. 1, 5, 2, 3, 4
- C. 4, 1, 5, 2, 3
- D. 5, 1, 2, 4, 3

6. Rukmani feels guilty about Old Granny's death because

- A. Nathan refused to help Old Granny with some extra food.
- B. Rukmani put a curse on Old Granny after Ira's failed marriage.
- C. Selvam had delayed the opening of the hospital.
- D. the old woman gave her last money to Ira's baby.

7. Rukmani's son Selvam decides to

- A. Go to New Delhi and become a lawyer.
- B. Leave the farm and work with Kenny in the new hospital.
- C. Leave the village and move to Ceylon for work.
- D. Stay with his parents and learn to be a good farmer.

8. Then it struck me as *ludicrous* that at this late stage I should walk with caution, and I went therefore to the whitewashed cottage on the fringes of the town, expectant, carrying a garland of roses and jasmine to welcome him, and a lime for good luck.

In the sentence above, the word *ludicrous* most closely means

- A. Cool.
- B. Lucky.
- C. Musical.
- D. Silly.

Nectar in a Sieve

9. When Kenny returns to the village, he reveals to Rukmani that
- A. He has always secretly been in love with her.
 - B. He is very lonely, and wishes his wife would join him.
 - C. His wife died, and his sons were adopted by their aunt.
 - D. His wife has left him, and his sons have forgotten him.
10. Which of the phrases below best represent Rukmani's attitude toward life?
- A. "A pink-eyed child is no worse than a brown-eyed one."
 - B. "It is no use whatsoever to suffer in silence."
 - C. "There is no grandeur in want – or in endurance."
 - D. "What profit to bewail that which has always been and cannot change?"

Week 4 Assessment

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

1. "...but their concern was only *perfunctory* since they were after all lookers-on and not partakers..."

In the sentence above, the word *perfunctory* most closely means

- A. Caring.
 - B. Joyous.
 - C. Quick.
 - D. Uninterested.
2. According to the tannery officials, Raja was killed
- A. By his own brother in a fight over a woman.
 - B. In a terrible factory accident.
 - C. When he jumped off the building, crazed with hunger.
 - D. When the officials tried to stop him from stealing.
3. After her husband leaves her, Ira is very depressed until
- A. Kenny cures her, and her husband agrees to take her back.
 - B. Rukmani has a new baby, Kuti, and Ira loves him as her own.
 - C. She has her first child, a little boy named Kuti.
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- A. An albino.
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Nectar in a Sieve

5. As read in the sentence, “so I had to be content without him; but *contentment* cannot be forced, and Nathan noticed my preoccupation,” the best antonym for the word *contentment* would be
- A. Confusion.
 - B. Fullness.
 - C. Happiness.
 - D. Unhappiness.
6. At the end of the novel, Rukmani
- A. Dies in the city.
 - B. Leaves Nathan in the city and returns home.
 - C. Returns home with Nathan.
 - D. Returns home with Puli.
7. Change Requires _____.
- A. Action.
 - B. Fortitude.
 - C. Effort.
 - D. Wholeness.
8. For a while, Rukmani earns money by
- A. Buying and selling books.
 - B. Cooking for people in the temple.
 - C. Reading and writing letters.
 - D. Selling her body.
9. In the city, Nathan
- A. Died.
 - B. Found work and was able to buy a house for Rukmani.
 - C. Moved in with another woman.
 - D. Refused to help Rukmani work.

Nectar in a Sieve

10. Ira's husband returned her to Rukmani and Nathan because
- A. He could not afford to feed her.
 - B. She cheated on him.
 - C. She could not have children.
 - D. She was a very bad cook.
11. Nathan and Rukmani must leave their land because
- A. Nathan is too old to farm any more.
 - B. Rukmani fought with the landlord, so he is kicking them out.
 - C. The tannery owners are buying it, and they are evicted.
 - D. They cannot pay the rent.
12. Puli is
- A. A girl who stole all of their belongings.
 - B. A young street boy Rukmani and Nathan adopt.
 - C. Rukmani's grandson.
 - D. The overseer at the quarry, who throws rocks at Nathan.
13. Rukmani looks down on Kunthi because
- A. Kunthi is a prostitute.
 - B. Kunthi is uneducated.
 - C. Kunthi's husband cheated on her.
 - D. Rukmani is jealous of Kunthi.
14. Rukmani's son Selvam decides to
- A. Go to New Delhi and become a lawyer.
 - B. Leave the farm and work with Kenny in the new hospital.
 - C. Leave the village and move to Ceylon for work.
 - D. Stay with his parents and learn to be a good farmer.

Nectar in a Sieve

15. Rukmani's sons leave the village because
- A. They are angry with their father, and want to punish him.
 - B. They get married and move in with their new wives' families.
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 - B. Nathan was extremely handsome, and Rukmani was ugly.
 - C. Rukmani was the daughter of a headman, and Nathan was a poor tenant farmer.
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 - B. India in the mid-twentieth century.
 - C. India in the sixteenth century.
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 - D. His wife has left him, and his sons have forgotten him.

Nectar in a Sieve

20. When Nathan and Rukmani arrive at Murugan's home, they find

- A. Him living with a woman who is not his wife.
- B. That he abandoned his wife two years ago.
- C. That he does not want them to move in with him.
- D. That Murugan died, leaving his wife and child alone.

21. Which of the phrases below best represent Rukmani's attitude toward life?

- A. "A pink-eyed child is no worse than a brown-eyed one."
- B. "It is no use whatsoever to suffer in silence."
- C. "There is no grandeur in want – or in endurance."
- D. "What profit to bewail that which has always been and cannot change?"

Answer Key

Week 1

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

Week 2

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

Week 3

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

Week 4

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