Week 1 Assessment

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

1. How do the slaves keep track of their ages?
    a. They use calendars just like everyone else.
    b. They make notches in a stick for every summer.
    c. They measure their height and estimate their age that way.
    d. They draw marks in the dirt to keep track of the days and years.

2. What was the place where the slaves lived called?
    a. the barracks
    b. the dormitory
    c. the suites
    d. the quarters

3. Which of the following is NOT true about Sarny:
    a. She doesn't remember her real mother because she was sold away when Sarny was a baby.
    b. She doesn't know her own birthday, but she is about 12 years old.
    c. Her last name is Brown.
    d. She has to chew tobacco.

4. Where did the slaves eat from?
    a. One long table
    b. a trough
    c. Off the floor
    d. The fancy dining room

5. What did Sarny overhear the white women talking about through the window of the big house?
    a. That the South was going to win the war.
    b. That Waller bought a new slave man.
    c. That they were going to sell Sarny.
    d. That they were going to have to work harder and longer because the price of cotton was going down.

6. Why did Mammy put her head in the big kettle in the corner of the quarters sometimes?
    a. She wanted to pray without getting caught.
    b. She didn't want to hear the cries of the other slaves.
    c. She couldn't stand the smell in the quarters.
    d. She didn't want the children to see her cry.

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7. What did Sarny trade with Nightjohn for her first three letters?
    a. a piece of pork
    b. a piece of cornbread
    c. a pinch of tobacco
    d. a penny

8. What had Sarny once seen written on a feed sack that she copied into the dirt?
    a. Cow Chow
    b. 100 lbs.
    c. No preservatives
    d. 50 kgs

9. Which of the following is NOT a term used in the book for someone involved in forcing people into slavery:
    a. overseer
    b. spec'lators
    c. master
    d. abolitionist

10. Why did Nightjohn say white folks didn't like slaves learning to read and write?
    a. Because if the slaves start to learn and know things they will want what the white people have
    b. Because it just takes too much time that they could use working the fields.
    c. Because they don't have enough books to share
    d. Because they don't think reading is very important.

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Week 2 Assessment

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

1. Which of the following is NOT true about Nightjohn?:
    a. He cost a thousand dollars.
    b. Waller made him walk instead of ride in the wagon, and he was naked.
    c. He had bad scars on his back.
    d. He didn't get along with the other slaves.

2. Which is NOT a name of one of the slaves that tried to run away from Waller's plantation:
    a. Tyler
    b. Alice
    c. Pawley
    d. Jim

3. Why did Sarny say it was wrong to run?
    a. Because it was against the law
    b. Because it was a sin
    c. Because you would probably get caught.
    d. Because you would have nowhere to go

4. What is one thing NOT mentioned that Waller takes with him when he chases runaway slaves?
    a. a gun
    b. food
    c. other slaves
    d. dogs

5. What did Sarny compare Waller's skin to?
    a. snow
    b. rice
    c. cotton
    d. maggots

6. How many letters did Nightjohn teach Sarny for each pinch of tobacco?
    a. 2
    b. 3
    c. 5
    d. 8

7. What does the word 'cower' mean?
    a. to shrink with fear
    b. to herd cows into a pasture
    c. to fight back
    d. part of a cotton plant

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8. What had Nightjohn done before Waller bought him?
    a. Killed a white man.
    b. Just arrived on a slave ship from Africa
    c. Worked as a house servant.
    d. Ran away and reached safety, but came back to teach slaves to read

9. What was Sarny's first word?
    a. bag
    b. baby
    c. food
    d. corn

10. What did Waller catch Sarny doing that got her and Mammy in trouble?
    a. kissing a boy
    b. writing in the dirt
    c. sleeping on the job
    d. stealing food

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Week 3 Assessment

1. Why did Waller punish Mammy?
    a. Because she was caught praying
    b. Because she didn't wake up on time.
    c. Because he thought she was teaching Sarny to read.
    d. Because she tried to run away.

2. What did Nightjohn do when Waller was beating Mammy?
    a. He spoke up and said it was he who was to blame.
    b. He grabbed the whip from Waller and started beating him.
    c. He ran away because no one was looking.
    d. He got a blanket to cover Mammy with

3. When Waller told Nightjohn the punishment for teaching a slave to read was removal of an extremity, what did the word 'extremity' mean?
    a. clothes
    b. toes
    c. teeth
    d. hair

4. Why was it surprising that Nightjohn kept teaching Sarny to read?
    a. Because Waller cut off some of his toes for doing it.
    b. Because Sarny wasn't understanding the letters.
    c. Because there were no books for them to read
    d. Because Sarny was already a good reader

5. What did Mammy say when Nightjohn said he was going to run away?
    a. She begged him not to do it.
    b. She said she wanted to go with him..
    c. She said she already knew he was going to do it from the first day he arrived
    d. She said that was a good idea.

6. What did Nightjohn make out of rawhide and leaves for his journey?
    a. shoes
    b. shorts
    c. a backpack
    d. a hat

7. What did Nightjohn put in his shoes to throw off his scent so the dogs couldn't track him?
    a. vinegar
    b. pepper
    c. salt
    d. chili powder

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8. What did Nightjohn say as he was leaving that Sarny knew was a lie?
    a. He would come back.
    b. He was in love with Mammy
    c. He had a family in the North.
    d. He was going to kill Waller.

9. How long did Waller look for Nightjohn?
    a. 12 hours
    b. 24 hours
    c. 2 days
    d. 2 weeks

10. What did Nightjohn do when he came back?
    a. He started an underground school.
    b. He kidnapped Sarny and took her to the North with him.
    c. He burned Waller's plantation.
    d. He got caught.

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Final Assessment

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

1. What war is taking place during the time of this story?
    a. The Revolutionary War
    b. The Civil War
    c. World War I
    d. Desert Storm

2. What happened to Sarny's biological mother?
    a. She died in child birth.
    b. She ran away.
    c. She was sold away.
    d. She died of tuberculosis.

3. How did Sarny first hear that Nightjohn was coming?
    a. Mammy told her.
    b. She heard Waller talking to the slave trader.
    c. She didn't know until she saw him coming.
    d. She overheard the white women talking about a new slave through the house window.

4. What is the word the slaves and slave owners usually use to mean a slave?
    a. hand
    b. foot
    c. helper
    d. master

5. What was the only thing Nightjohn was wearing when Waller brought him to the plantation?
    a. a collar
    b. underwear
    c. shoes
    d. shorts

6. What do the slaves mainly eat?
    a. potatoes
    b. cornbread and pork fat
    c. rice
    d. all the leftovers from Waller's family's dinners

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7. What is NOT something the slaves called the white folks when they were not around?
    a. dog droppings
    b. pig slop
    c. maggot
    d. master

8. What simile did Sarny use to describe how wonderful it was to listen to people talk about the free land to the north?
    a. like tinkling crystal
    b. like birds singing or the wind in the trees
    c. like the ocean waves
    d. like babies crying

9. What did Mammy hide her head in when she didn't want the white folks to hear her praying?
    a. the big kettle
    b. a paper bag
    c. a hole in the ground
    d. the feeding trough

10. Where did Sarny see the writing '100 lbs' and always remembered how it looked?
    a. the cotton scale
    b. a box of potaoes
    c. a bale of hay
    d. a feed sack

11. What does the word 'brambles' mean?
    a. bushes
    b. talking too much
    c. sweet berries
    d. a word game the slaves played

12. What did Sarny compare the color of her skin to?
    a. mud
    b. coffee
    c. sassafras tea
    d. chocolate

13. How many letters did Nightjohn teach Sarny for each pinch of tobacco?
    a. 2
    b. 3
    c. 5
    d. 8

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14. What could happen if a slave was caught teaching another slave to read?
    a. They could get their toes or fingers cut off.
    b. They would be put in solitary confinement.
    c. They would send them to college.
    d. They would be forced to do the accounting for the plantation.

15. Who was Alice?
    a. Waller's wife.
    b. a slave that ran away and got caught
    c. Sarny's sister
    d. Sarny's biological mother.

16. Where did Waller chain slaves when he whipped them?
    a. the wall of the spring house
    b. the big oak tree
    c. the side of the quarters
    d. the fence next to the field

17. How did Nightjohn get caught again after he escaped?
    a. Because he came back to teach the slaves to read.
    b. Because he tripped and injured his leg.
    c. Because he broke into someone's house when they were home
    d. Because he fell asleep and a hunter found him under a tree.

18. What phrase does Sarny use to mean someone is a little bit crazy?
    a. loco
    b. bonkers
    c. addled in the brain
    d. off the rocker

19. What is a 'spec'lator'?
    a. someone who shops for slaves
    b. someone who buys crops
    c. someone who watches sporting events
    d. someone who fights for slaves' rights

20. What term does Sarny use to mean a girl has started menstruation?
    a. cramps
    b. troubles
    c. crimson wave
    d. the rag

21. Why does Waller have a 'breeding shed' for the slaves?
    a. He wants them to breed so he can have more slaves.
    b. He respects their privacy.
    c. It's for the animals

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d. He wants them to have a place to relax.

22. What two crops grow on Waller's plantation?
    a. cotton and corn
    b. wheat and tobacco
    c. rice and cotton
    d. corn and wheat

23. What did John use to teach reading in his "pit school"?
    a. a textbook
    b. a chalkboard
    c. a store catalog
    d. a dictionary

24. What did Nightjohn want Sarny to help him do?
    a. Gather more people for the school
    b. Teach the other slaves the letters
    c. Bring him food when he was hiding.
    d. Kill Waller

25. Why did Nightjohn risk his life to teach slaves to read?
    a. Because the money was really good.
    b. Because he wanted people to read his book.
    c. Because he liked the thrill of being chased.
    d. Because he knew education was the key to their freedom.

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Answer Keys

Week 1 Assessment

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

Week 2 Assessment

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

Final Assessment

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

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