Everyday Use  Alice Walker

COMPREHENSION (40 points; 4 points each)
On the line provided, write the letter of the best answer to each of the following items.

____ 1. Maggie’s shyness arises mainly from —
   A  her fear of her sister
   B  the sudden attraction she feels toward Hakim-a-barber
   C  a trauma she suffered when the house burned down
   D  the ridicule her family heaps on her

____ 2. Dee probably changes her name because she —
   F  wants to get back at her family
   G  wants to connect with her African roots
   H  never liked the sound of it
   J  thinks a new name will enhance her career

____ 3. The mother is reluctant to let Dee have the quilts because the mother —
   A  has promised them to Maggie
   B  distrusts Dee and Hakim-a-barber
   C  knows the quilts have great monetary value
   D  is angry with Dee for leaving home

____ 4. Why does the mother finally decide to give the quilts to Maggie instead of to Dee?
   F  The mother thinks Dee will sell them.
   G  Hakim-a-barber makes insulting remarks about them.
   H  Dee changes her mind about wanting them.
   J  She is touched by Maggie’s vulnerability and deep sense of family.

____ 5. Dee and Maggie differ in that Maggie is —
   A  less practical than Dee
   B  closer to her mother than Dee is
   C  more educated than Dee
   D  better looking than Dee

____ 6. Which of the following traits does Dee share with her mother?
   F  Neither of them likes the family house.
   G  Both women are strong-willed.
   H  Both of them love their country.
   J  Neither of them went to high school.
7. Which of the following statements best describes the story’s main conflict?
   A Dee argues with her mother over the butter churn.
   B The mother wants Maggie to be more like Dee.
   C Dee wants the quilts, but her mother has promised them to Maggie.
   D The mother does not approve of Dee’s choice in men.

8. What happens at the end of the story?
   F The mother hugs Maggie for the first time.
   G The mother apologizes to Dee for not understanding her.
   H Maggie speaks up for herself for the first time.
   J Dee decides to make quilts herself.

9. Who has the quilts at the end of the story?
   A Dee
   B Maggie
   C Hakim-a-barber
   D The mother

10. When Dee tells her mother, “You just don’t understand,” the statement shows the reader that —
    F it’s actually Dee who doesn’t understand
    G Dee is cleverer than her mother
    H Dee thinks her mother is being mean
    J Dee understands her mother and Maggie

**LITERARY FOCUS**  (20 points; 5 points each)

On the line provided, write the letter of the best answer to each of the following items.

11. We learn about the mother in “Everyday Use” mainly through the story’s —
    A narration
    B dialogue
    C description
    D soliloquy

12. In her own mind the mother —
    F thinks she is a gifted writer
    G feels she has set a bad example for her daughters
    H accepts herself as a strong, capable woman
    J believes that her life lacks meaning and purpose
13. Which of the following lines of dialogue best shows how Dee feels about herself?
   A  “How do you pronounce this name?”
   B  “She did all this stitching by hand. Imagine!”
   C  “You know as well as I you were named after your aunt Dicie.”
   D  “I couldn’t bear it any longer, being named after the people who oppress me.”

14. In the mother’s dream about appearing on television, she —
   F  is tearfully reunited with Dee
   G  takes over the role of talk-show host
   H  kills a bull calf with a sledgehammer
   J  is afraid to look a strange white man in the eye

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT (20 points; 4 points each)
On the line provided, write the Vocabulary word that best completes each sentence.

   doctrines   rifling   furtive   oppress   cowering

15. Dee seems to live by ______________________ that are at odds with her mother’s beliefs.

16. There is nothing ______________________ or sneaky about Dee.

17. Dee begins ______________________ through the house for the things she wants.

18. Poverty and a lack of education still ______________________ many people.

19. The mother sees Maggie ______________________ fearfully in a corner as Dee exclaims over the two quilts.

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE (20 points)

20. Re-read the passage on page 78 beginning with “You’ve no doubt seen those TV shows” and ending with “Hesitation was no part of her nature.” Then, on a separate sheet of paper, describe what this passage tells you about the mother’s character. Support your ideas by referring to specific parts of the text.
He also brings all four sons with him every week even though the trip would surely be easier without them. Combined with this devotion is his trait of relative indifference to his own injuries. His nonchalance is shown in the way he smiles after examining the welts on his back. Both of the father’s traits are also reflected in the tone the narrator uses to describe him—a tone of awe directed at a hero. For example, more than once the narrator describes his father as expanding in size: a projection of the huge size the father attains in the sons’ minds. If not for the two combined traits, he would not have exposed himself to the full force of the hail as he did, and, thus, the ending of the story would have been completely different. The entire story is told in a flashback as one of his sons remembers the incident.

Collection 2

Collection 2 Diagnostic Test

Literature, Informational Text, Vocabulary, page 32

1. B  6. F
2. J  7. C
3. A  8. F
4. F  9. C
5. C  10. G

Everyday Use
by Alice Walker
Selection Test, page 34

Comprehension

2. G  7. C
3. A  8. F
5. B  10. F

Literary Focus

11. A  13. D
12. H  14. F

Vocabulary Development

15. doctrines  18. oppress
16. furtive  19. cowering
17. rifling

Constructed Response

20. Students’ responses will vary. A sample response follows:

The passage shows us that the mother knows the difference between who she is and who she would like to be. She knows that she is a good farmer and that she is physically strong and competent. On another level, she would also like to be the kind of person her daughter Dee wishes she were—poised, conventionally attractive, and quick of tongue. However, the mother seems to know that her own inner qualities are admirable. Just the fact that she can analyze her own dream so well implies that she is aware of her own intelligence. But she understands that she is the product of a simpler, more traditional way of life in which appearances aren’t that highly valued.

Interview with Alice Walker
by Roland L. Freeman

Interview with Nikki Giovanni
by Roland L. Freeman

“Thinkin’ on Marryin’”
by Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Allen

A Baby’s Quilt to Sew Up the Generations
by Felicia R. Lee

Selection Test, page 37

Comprehension

1. A  6. H
2. H  7. D
3. A  8. G
4. F  9. A
5. B  10. F

Answer Key