Name: _____

Read the following passage and answer the related questions.

Pete vs. the Python (ReadWorks)

Some dogs track criminals. Other dogs sniff out quail. In Florida, National Park Service officials are training a beagle puppy, nicknamed "Python Pete," to locate 15-foot pythons.

For years, Burmese pythons, which are not native to Florida, have been threatening to overrun Everglades National Park. Exotic pet owners introduced the reptiles to the region by dumping them in the forests of southern Florida.

The beasts have been multiplying quickly, eating native mangrove, fox squirrels, wood storks, and other wildlife. National Park Service officials removed 52 Burmese pythons from the park from the mid-1990s through 2003. In 2004, they captured 61 pythons.

That's where "Python Pete" comes in. The dog's owner, Lori Oberhofer, who works for the National Park Service, has been training Pete to track pythons and to bark when he spots one. Park officials would then spring into action, capturing and removing the reptile. Oberhofer got the idea after reading about Jack Russell terriers that detect brown tree snakes in cargo at an airport in Guam, an island in the South Pacific. "I figured that if a terrier could be trained to sniff out brown tree snakes, then perhaps a beagle could be trained to sniff out pythons," Oberhofer told *National Geographic News.*

Twice a week, Oberhofer puts a live python in a bag and drags it through a field. She then drops the bag and Pete's favorite rope toy. Oberhofer hooks Pete up to a special harness so he knows that it's time to find a snake. "He continues to show improvement each time I take him out to train," she said. "It hasn't taken him long to figure out that smelling a python means playtime for him."

1. What kind of dog is "Python Pete"?
    a. bulldog
    b. Jack Russell terrier
    c. golden retriever
    d. **beagle**

2. The passage describes the problem of Burmese pythons threatening to overrun Everglades National Park. How is Lori Oberhofer trying to solve the problem?
    a. She is planning to teach dogs how to scare the pythons out of the park.
    b. **She is training her dog to track pythons so that they can be removed.**
    c. She is working with pet owners to stop them from buying pythons.
    d. She is trying to catch the pythons and ship them to Guam.

3. OMIT

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

    "Oberhofer got the idea after reading about Jack Russell terriers that detect brown tree snakes in cargo at an airport in Guam, an island in the South Pacific."

    In this sentence, the word **detect** means
    a. to lose sight of a goal
    b. to teach an animal new tricks
    c. **to discover the presence of**
    d. to reward for good behavior

5. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

    _____ Florida, officials are working to remove Burmese pythons from the park.
    a. Before
    b. For
    c. However
    d. **In**

6. The main idea of the passage is that
    a. Park officials have captured over 100 pythons.
    b. "Python Pete" plays with the snakes.
    c. **A park service worker trains her dog to look for pythons.**

d. Dogs are sniffing out quails.

7. The main idea of the second and third paragraphs is that

    a. Pythons have multiplied by eating wildlife.

    b. Lori Oberhofer got her idea from Jack Russell terriers.

    c. **Everglades National Park has too many pythons.**

    d. The beagle tracks the pythons by smell.

8. When the park officials "spring to action," they

    a. Begin work when warm weather comes.

    b. **Move quickly to start working.**

    c. Begin to work with "Python Pete."

    d. Dump the pythons into the forests

9. The beagle is learning to follow a python scent because

    a. **By following it, he will find his favorite toy.**

    b. He likes pythons

    c. He wants to please his owner

    d. He wants to be like a Jack Russell terrier

10. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage? Use details from the text to support your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Read the following poem and answer the attached questions.

"City Autumn"

By Joseph Moncure March

The air breathes frost. A thin wind beats

Old dust and papers down gray streets

And blows brown leaves with curled-up edges

At frightened sparrows on window ledges.

A snowflake falls like an errant feather:

A vagabond draws his cloak together,

And an old man totters past with a cane

Wondering if he'll see spring again.

11. What does the old man in the poem wonder?

    a. **<u>Whether he'll see spring again</u>**

    b. Whether he should help the vagabond

    c. Whether the sparrows are frightened

    d. Whether the streets need to be cleaned

12. In which part of the year is the scene in this poem set?

    a. Early spring

    b. Late summer

    c. Early winter

    d. **<u>Late autumn</u>**

13. Read these lines from the poem:

    And an old man totters past with a cane

    Wondering if he'll see spring again.

Based on these lines, what can you conclude about how the old man feels about winter?

    a. He probably likes autumn and winter better than he likes spring.

    b. He probably feels equally as positive about autumn and winter *as he does* about spring.

    c. <u>He probably feels uncertain that he will live long through the autumn and winter.</u>

    d. He probably feels excited about the autumn and the winter.

14. Where does this poem take place?

    a. <u>In a city</u>

    b. In a small town

    c. On a farm

    d. Inside a house

15. What is this poem mainly about?

    a. An old man who lives in a city

    b. The way dry, fallen leaves look

    c. <u>A cold autumn day in a city</u>

    d. A vagabond who lives on a city street

16. The poem begins with the sentence "The air breathes frost." Why might the poet have begun the poem with this sentence?

    a. <u>To establish the importance of the cold temperature in the scene.</u>

    b. To help the reader ease into the poem with an unimportant detail

    c. To set up a contrast between the weather at the start of the poem and at the end of the poem.

    d. To introduce the reader to a human character with the name "Air"

17. Read these lines from the poem.

A snowflake falls like an errant feather:

A vagabond draws his cloak together,

Why might the poet have used a colon (:) at the end of the first line?

a. <u>To show that there is a connection between the snowflake falling and the vagabond drawing his cloak together.</u>

b. To show that the vagabond drawing his cloak together caused the snowflake to fall like an errant feather

c. To make clear that the snowflake falling and the vagabond drawing his cloak together are events happening at different times

d. To contrast the falling snowflake and the vagabond drawing his cloak together

18. Look at the following line:

The air breathes frost.

What type of figurative language does the poet use?

a. <u>Personification</u>

b. Hyperbole

c. Alliteration

d. Metaphor

19. Look at the following line:

A snowflake falls like an errant feather:

What type of figurative language does the poet use?

a. Metaphor

b. Onomatopoeia

c. <u>Simile</u>

d. Hyperbole

20. What is the poem about? Use evidence to support your answer.

_____

_____

_____

Other Practice:

21. Firefighter : hose as builder :

Passages and related questions taken from:
- "Pete vs. the Python" (http://digital.readworks.org/?url=%2Farticle%2F9d3da395-8477-4e97-b87d-acd4449ead36%3Fsearch%3D%253Fg%253D22%2526k%253D33%2526s0%253D1%25252C33%23!articleTab%3Aquestionsets%2F#)
- "City Autumn" (http://www.readworks.org/passages/city-autumn)

a. Shed

b. **Hammer**

c. Building

22. Scent : smell as cost :

   a. Money

   b. **Price**

   c. Item

23. Ohio : United States as Earth :

   a. **Solar system**

   b. Star

   c. Venus

24. Dull : vibrant as _____

   a. huge : gigantic

   b. barking : dogs

   c. clarity : liquid

   d. **bored : enthusiastic**

25. Rock : heavy as _____

   a. car : fast

   b. **feather : light**

   c. large : giant

   d. rich : poor

26. Blue : sky as _____

   a. room : paint

   b. friend : foe

   c. pencil : write

   d. **brown : dirt**

27. Water : liquid as _____

   a. salt : ocean

    b. music : radio

    c. <u>bread : solid</u>

    d. tall : giraffe

28.

Important Things to Know:

- Bias - prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair. (AKA favoritism)

- Know your figurative language!!!

- Author's Purpose – why did the author write this? Was it to entertain, persuade, or inform?

- Make sure that you read everything CAREFULLY and return to the articles when you aren't sure!!!!