

TEST A**Selection 3**

Directions: Here is a journal about a woman who learns to navigate a clipper ship during the 1800s. Read "The Journal of Emma Scars." Then answer Questions 17–24.

The Journal of Emma Scars

In the 1800s, sailing ships transported most raw materials and manufactured goods around the world. Whaling boats and tall-masted clipper ships crisscrossed the oceans, sometimes on journeys lasting as long as two years. Often, the wives of the ships' captains traveled with their husbands. Many of these women kept journals or sent letters home describing their adventures at sea.

This journal is called historical fiction. The author took real events from the past and built a fictional character and journal around the events.



May 10, 1849, South Pacific

I write from our cabin somewhere in the South Seas. I am so proud of Edward as he issues orders to trim the sails and bring the ship about. Our ship is quite glorious under sail.

I spend my days writing letters, reading novels, doing Edward's laundry, and supervising the cook. The weather has been lovely and we are making good progress. Most of the seamen are caring and hardworking, although rather rough sorts. They call our ship a "hen frigate," meaning that there is a woman on board. They are not pleased to have me aboard, as they think this will bring bad luck. However, I am determined to change their minds by befriending them, while keeping out of their way.

Why do you suppose that young women are not permitted to attend maritime academies to learn to navigate and command grand ships, such as Edward's? Such skills seem far more stimulating than darning socks and stitching samplers!

June 19, 1849, South Pacific

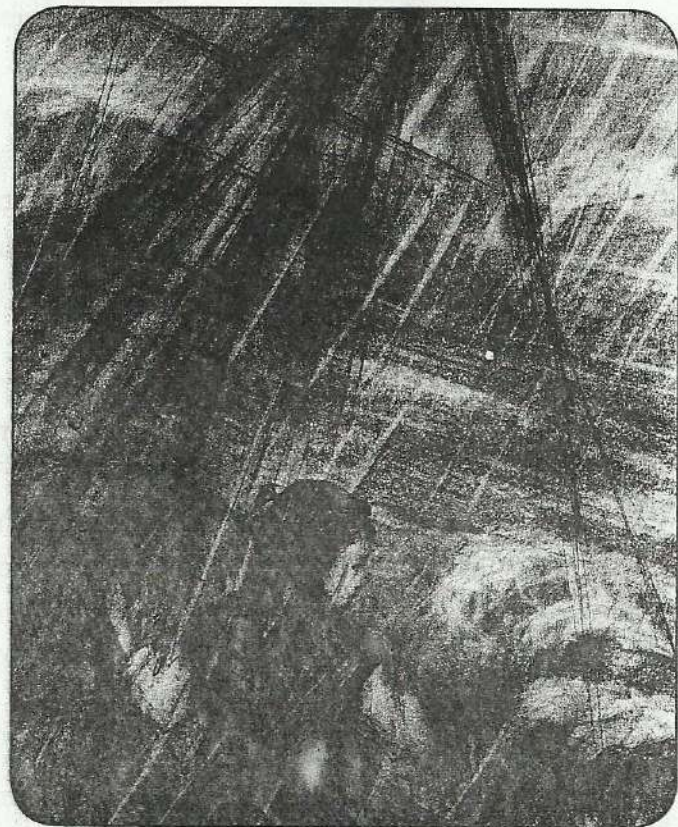
We have spent three days sitting in the Doldrums, which is a hot, airless calm. Since we have no wind or even a breeze, we cannot make any progress. Edward wears a fierce scowl, worrying constantly about the time we must make up to deliver our cargo.

The crew is bored and restless. To relieve the tedium, the men caught a shark and brought it on board, which entertained us for a few hours and raised the spirits of those on the ship. I still beg Edward to teach me navigation skills, and he has agreed, somewhat reluctantly. He does not think a woman needs to know these things, but he will teach me anyway. We take "sightings" of the stars on clear nights. To navigate, or set a course, for the ship, I must learn a great deal of mathematics and trigonometry, which I truly enjoy.

August 23, 1849. South Pacific

Two nights ago, I stayed up many hours nursing Edward, who is ill with a fever. I was bathing his forehead with a towel soaked in seawater when the first mate came in to announce the sighting of storm clouds. Without Edward to navigate, the men worried about becoming caught in the storm and losing our direction.

I entered the captain's bridge and began my calculation to help us navigate clear of the storm. I gave orders to adjust the sails to catch the breeze and then set our course. I was determined that we should make haste to leave this deadly calm and outrun the storm that chased us. To my amazement, none of the men refused or balked at my command! It was my good fortune to earn their trust and friendship early in the voyage.



Unfortunately, we could not outrun the storm. The main mast snapped with a fierce crack as thunder rolled and lightning struck all around us that night. The men pulled together under my command to shorten the canvas sails and steer us from the crest of one huge wave to the next. I tied myself onto the bridge so that the waves could not sweep me overboard. I have never been so frightened in my life, yet I did not let the men see, for I knew they would no longer heed my orders if they sensed any weakness.

It was exhilarating to be in command and using my brain! It seems clear to me now that all young women must have an education and an opportunity to exercise their mental powers through challenging labor. I am determined to raise my daughters to do so, and am resolved to spread this idea of education upon my return home.

Go On →

TEST A

Selection 3

17 What is the author's purpose in writing this journal?

- (A) to explain that many women who traveled kept journals
- (B) to inform readers about what life at sea was like during the 1800s
- (C) to describe Emma's experiences and show the importance of education
- (D) to persuade women to learn to sew

18 Which of following details happened last in the journal?

- (F) Emma learned to navigate the ship.
- (G) Emma commanded the ship through a storm.
- (H) Emma befriended the crew.
- (J) Emma nursed Edward, who was ill with a fever.

19 As a result of Emma's experience commanding the ship,

- (A) Emma hopes to command a ship again.
- (B) Emma feels strongly that her daughters should be educated.
- (C) the ship's crew senses Emma's fear and weakness.
- (D) Edward might lose his job as ship's captain.

20 Which of the following statements is a *valid generalization*?

- (F) Women in the past did not have as many opportunities for education as they have today.
- (G) Women are better sea captains than men.
- (H) Women are less skilled in mathematics than men.
- (J) All of the sea captains' wives who traveled with their husbands kept journals.

21 When Emma takes command of the ship, this reveals that Emma is

- (A) self-confident.
- (B) generous.
- (C) fearful.
- (D) arrogant.

22 From the information in the journal, you can conclude that

- (F) the men do not trust Emma to command the ship.
- (G) life at sea is always boring.
- (H) the men think that the storm results from the bad luck of having a woman on board.
- (J) the men believed in Emma's abilities.

23 How does the crew's attitude change from the beginning of the journal to the end?

- (A) At first, they are caring and hardworking; later, they are bored and lazy.
- (B) At first, they think Emma's presence is bad luck; later, they are willing to follow her orders.
- (C) At first, they are fearful of storms; later, they overcome their fears.
- (D) At first, they do not believe women should be educated; later, they change their minds about education for women.

24 How does being in the Doldrums affect the attitude of the ship's men?

- (F) It doesn't affect them; they continue to work as usual.
- (G) They are eager to use the time to teach Emma about navigation.
- (H) They become bored and restless because they cannot make any progress.
- (J) They are relieved to have a break from work.