

Name: _____ Class: _____

Everyday Use

By Alice Walker
1973.

Alice Walker is an African American novelist, short story writer, poet, and activist. Walker's novel The Color Purple won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. In this short story from Love & Trouble: Stories of Black Women, a daughter comes home to visit her mother and sister with a new understanding of her identity. As you read, take notes on the significance of the family heirlooms for each character.

- [1] I will wait for her in the yard that Maggie and I made so clean and wavy yesterday afternoon. A yard like this is more comfortable than most people know. It is not just a yard. It is like an extended living room. When the hard clay is swept clean as a floor and the fine sand around the edges lined with tiny, irregular grooves, anyone can come and sit and look up into the elm tree and wait for the breezes that never come inside the house.

Maggie will be nervous until after her sister goes: She will stand hopelessly in corners, homely and ashamed of the burn scars down her arms and legs, eyeing her sister with a mixture of envy and awe. She thinks her sister has held life always in the palm of one hand, that "no" is a word the world never learned to say to her. You've no doubt seen those TV shows where the child who has "made it" is confronted, as a surprise, by her own mother and father, tottering in weakly from backstage. (A pleasant surprise, of course: What would they do if parent and child came on the show only to curse out and insult each other?) On TV mother and child embrace and smile into each other's faces. Sometimes the mother and father weep; the child wraps them in her arms and leans across the table to tell how she would not have made it without their help. I have seen these programs.

Sometimes I dream a dream in which Dee and I are suddenly brought together on a TV program of this sort. Out of a dark and soft-seated limousine I am ushered into a bright room filled with many people. There I meet a smiling, gray, sporty man like Johnny Carson who shakes my hand and tells me what a fine girl I have. Then we are on the stage, and Dee is embracing me with tears in her eyes. She pins on my dress a large orchid, even though she had told me once that she thinks orchids are tacky¹ flowers.

1. Tacky (adjective): showing poor taste or quality

In real life I am a large, big-boned woman with rough, man-working hands. In the winter I wear flannel nightgowns to bed and overalls during the day. I can kill and clean a hog as mercilessly as a man. My fat keeps me hot in zero weather. I can work outside all day, breaking ice to get water for washing; I can eat pork liver cooked over the open fire minutes after it comes steaming from the hog. One winter I knocked a bull calf straight in the brain between the eyes with a sledgehammer and had the meat hung up to chill before nightfall. But of course all this does not show on television. I am the way my daughter would want me to be: a hundred pounds lighter, my skin like an uncooked barley pancake. My hair glistens in the hot bright lights. Johnny Carson has much to do to keep up with my quick and witty tongue.

- [5] But that is a mistake. I know even before I wake up. Who ever knew a Johnson with a quick tongue? Who can even imagine me looking a strange white man in the eye? It seems to me I have talked to them always with one foot raised in flight, with my head turned in whichever way is farthest from them. Dee, though. She would always look anyone in the eye. Hesitation was no part of her nature.

"How do I look, Mama?" Maggie says, showing just enough of her thin body enveloped in pink skirt and red blouse for me to know she's there, almost hidden by the door.

"Come out into the yard," I say.

Have you ever seen a lame² animal, perhaps a dog run over by some careless person rich enough to own a car, sidle up³ to someone who is ignorant enough to be kind to him? That is the way my Maggie walks. She has been like this, chin on chest, eyes on ground, feet in shuffle, ever since the fire that burned the other house to the ground.

Dee is lighter than Maggie, with nicer hair and a fuller figure. She's a woman now, though sometimes I forget. How long ago was it that the other house burned? Ten, twelve years? Sometimes I can still hear the flames and feel Maggie's arms sticking to me, her hair smoking and her dress falling off her in little black papery flakes. Her eyes seemed stretched open, blazed open by the flames reflected in them. And Dee. I see her standing off under the sweet gum tree she used to dig gum out of, a look of concentration on her face as she watched the last dingy gray board of the house fall in toward the red-hot brick chimney. Why don't you do a dance around the ashes? I'd wanted to ask her. She had hated the house that much.

- [10] I used to think she hated Maggie, too. But that was before we raised the money, the church and me, to send her to Augusta to school. She used to read to us without pity, forcing words, lies, other folks' habits, whole lives upon us two, sitting trapped and ignorant underneath her voice. She washed us in a river of make-believe, burned us with a lot of knowledge we didn't necessarily need to know. Pressed us to her with the serious ways she read, to shove us away at just the moment, like dimwits, we seemed about to understand.

Dee wanted nice things. A yellow organdy dress to wear to her graduation from high school; black pumps to match a green suit she'd made from an old suit somebody gave me. She was determined to stare down any disaster in her efforts. Her eyelids would not flicker for minutes at a time. Often I fought off the temptation to shake her. At sixteen she had a style of her own: and knew what style was.

2. unable to walk normally because of an illness or injury affecting the leg or foot
3. to get physically close

I never had an education myself. After second grade the school closed down. Don't ask me why: In 1927 colored asked fewer questions than they do now. Sometimes Maggie reads to me. She stumbles along good-naturedly but can't see well. She knows she is not bright. Like good looks and money, quickness passed her by. She will marry John Thomas (who has mossy teeth in an earnest face), and then I'll be free to sit here and I guess just sing church songs to myself. Although I never was a good singer. Never could carry a tune. I was always better at a man's job. I used to love to milk till I was hooked in the side in '49. Cows are soothing and slow and don't bother you, unless you try to milk them the wrong way.

I have deliberately turned my back on the house. It is three rooms, just like the one that burned, except the roof is tin; they don't make shingle roofs anymore. There are no real windows, just some holes cut in the sides, like the portholes in a ship, but not round and not square, with rawhide holding the shutters up on the outside. This house is in a pasture⁴, too, like the other one. No doubt when Dee sees it she will want to tear it down. She wrote me once that no matter where we "choose" to live, she will manage to come see us. But she will never bring her friends. Maggie and I thought about this and Maggie asked me, "Mama, when did Dee ever have any friends?"

She had a few. Furtive⁵ boys in pink shirts hanging about on washday after school. Nervous girls who never laughed. Impressed with her, they worshiped the well-turned phrase, the cute shape, the scalding humor that erupted like bubbles in lye.⁶ She read to them.

- [15] When she was courting Jimmy T, she didn't have much time to pay to us but turned all her faultfinding power on him. He flew to marry a cheap city girl from a family of ignorant, flashy people. She hardly had time to recompose herself.

When she comes, I will meet — but there they are!

Maggie attempts to make a dash for the house, in her shuffling way, but I stay her with my hand. "Come back here," I say. And she stops and tries to dig a well in the sand with her toe.

It is hard to see them clearly through the strong sun. But even the first glimpse of leg out of the car tells me it is Dee. Her feet were always neat looking, as if God himself shaped them with a certain style. From the other side of the car comes a short, stocky man. Hair is all over his head a foot long and hanging from his chin like a kinky mule tail. I hear Maggie suck in her breath. "Uhhnnh" is what it sounds like. Like when you see the wriggling end of a snake just in front of your foot on the road. "Uhhnnh."

Dee next. A dress down to the ground, in this hot weather. A dress so loud it hurts my eyes. There are yellows and oranges enough to throw back the light of the sun. I feel my whole face warming from the heat waves it throws out. Earrings gold, too, and hanging down to her shoulders. Bracelets dangling and making noises when she moves her arm up to shake the folds of the dress out of her armpits. The dress is loose and flows, and as she walks closer, I like it. I hear Maggie go "Uhhnnh" again. It is her sister's hair. It stands straight up like the wool on a sheep. It is black as night and around the edges are two long pigtailed that rope about like small lizards disappearing behind her ears.

4. a field for raising animals

5. **Furtive (adjective):** attempting to avoid notice or attention

6. a chemical solution used for making soap

[20] "Wa-su-zo-Tean-o!" she says, coming on in that gliding way the dress makes her move. The short, stocky fellow with the hair to his navel⁷ is all grinning, and he follows up with "Asalamalakim, my mother and sister!" He moves to hug Maggie but she falls back, right up against the back of my chair. I feel her trembling there, and when I look up I see the perspiration falling off her chin.

"Don't get up," says Dee. Since I am stout, it takes something of a push. You can see me trying to move a second or two before I make it. She turns, showing white heels through her sandals, and goes back to the car. Out she peeks next with a Polaroid. She stoops down quickly and lines up picture after picture of me sitting there in front of the house with Maggie cowering behind me. She never takes a shot without making sure the house is included. When a cow comes nibbling around in the edge of the yard, she snaps it and me and Maggie and the house. Then she puts the Polaroid in the back seat of the car and comes up and kisses me on the forehead.

Meanwhile, Asalamalakim is going through motions with Maggie's hand. Maggie's hand is as limp as a fish, and probably as cold, despite the sweat, and she keeps trying to pull it back. It looks like Asalamalakim wants to shake hands but wants to do it fancy. Or maybe he don't know how people shake hands. Anyhow, he soon gives up on Maggie.

"Well," I say. "Dee."

"No, Mama," she says. "Not 'Dee,' Wangero Leewanika Kemanjo!"

[25] "What happened to 'Dee'?" I wanted to know.

"She's dead," Wangero said. "I couldn't bear it any longer, being named after the people who oppress⁸ me."

"You know as well as me you was named after your aunt Dicie," I said. Dicie is my sister. She named Dee. We called her "Big Dee" after Dee was born.

"But who was she named after?" asked Wangero.

"I guess after Grandma Dee," I said.

[30] "And who was she named after?" asked Wangero.

"Her mother," I said, and saw Wangero was getting tired.

"That's about as far back as I can trace it," I said. Though, in fact, I probably could have carried it back beyond the Civil War through the branches.

"Well," said Asalamalakim, "there you are."

"Uhhnnh," I heard Maggie say.

7. belly button

8. **Oppress** (*verb*): to keep others down through cruel and unjust power

[35] "There I was not," I said, "before 'Dicie' cropped up in our family, so why should I try to trace it that far back?"

He just stood there grinning, looking down on me like somebody inspecting a Model A car. Every once in a while he and Wangero sent eye signals over my head.

"How do you pronounce this name?" I asked.

"You don't have to call me by it if you don't want to," said Wangero.

"Why shouldn't I?" I asked. "If that's what you want us to call you, we'll call you."

[40] "I know it might sound awkward at first," said Wangero.

"I'll get used to it," I said. "Ream it out again."

Well, soon we got the name out of the way. Asalamalakim had a name twice as long and three times as hard. After I tripped over it two or three times, he told me to just call him Hakim-abarber. I wanted to ask him was he a barber, but I didn't really think he was, so I didn't ask.

"You must belong to those beef-cattle peoples down the road," I said. They said "Asalamalakim" when they met you, too, but they didn't shake hands. Always too busy: feeding the cattle, fixing the fences, putting up salt-lick shelters, throwing down hay. When the white folks poisoned some of the herd, the men stayed up all night with rifles in their hands. I walked a mile and a half just to see the sight.

Hakim-a-barber said, "I accept some of their doctrines,⁹ but farming and raising cattle is not my style." (They didn't tell me, and I didn't ask, whether Wangero—Dee—had really gone and married him.)

[45] We sat down to eat and right away he said he didn't eat collards, and pork was unclean. Wangero, though, went on through the chitlins¹⁰ and corn bread, the greens, and everything else. She talked a blue streak¹¹ over the sweet potatoes. Everything delighted her. Even the fact that we still used the benches her daddy made for the table when we couldn't afford to buy chairs.

"Oh, Mama!" she cried. Then turned to Hakim-a-barber. "I never knew how lovely these benches are. You can feel the rump prints," she said, running her hands underneath her and along the bench. Then she gave a sigh, and her hand closed over Grandma Dee's butter dish. "That's it!" she said. "I knew there was something I wanted to ask you if I could have." She jumped up from the table and went over in the corner where the churn stood, the milk in it clabber¹² by now. She looked at the churn and looked at it.

"This churn top is what I need," she said. "Didn't Uncle Buddy whittle it out of a tree you all used to have?"

"Yes," I said.

9. **Doctrine (noun):** a belief or set of beliefs held by a group
10. the small intestine of a pig
11. a phrase meaning "to speak rapidly and excitedly"
12. curdled or sour

"Uh huh," she said happily. "And I want the dasher,¹³ too."

[50] "Uncle Buddy whittle that, too?" asked the barber.

Dee (Wangero) looked up at me.

"Aunt Dee's first husband whittled the dash," said Maggie so low you almost couldn't hear her. "His name was Henry, but they called him Stash."

"Maggie's brain is like an elephant's," Wangero said, laughing. "I can use the churn top as a centerpiece for the alcove table," she said, sliding a plate over the churn, "and I'll think of something artistic to do with the dasher."

When she finished wrapping the dasher, the handle stuck out. I took it for a moment in my hands. You didn't even have to look close to see where hands pushing the dasher up and down to make butter had left a kind of sink in the wood. In fact, there were a lot of small sinks; you could see where thumbs and fingers had sunk into the wood. It was beautiful light-yellow wood, from a tree that grew in the yard where Big Dee and Stash had lived.

[55] After dinner Dee (Wangero) went to the trunk at the foot of my bed and started rifling through it. Maggie hung back in the kitchen over the dishpan. Out came Wangero with two quilts. They had been pieced by Grandma Dee, and then Big Dee and me had hung them on the quilt frames on the front porch and quilted them. One was in the Lone Star pattern. The other was Walk Around the Mountain. In both of them were scraps of dresses Grandma Dee had worn fifty and more years ago. Bits and pieces of Grandpa Jarrell's paisley shirts. And one teeny faded blue piece, about the size of a penny matchbox, that was from Great Grandpa Ezra's uniform that he wore in the Civil War.

"Mama," Wangero said sweet as a bird. "Can I have these old quilts?"

I heard something fall in the kitchen, and a minute later the kitchen door slammed.

"Why don't you take one or two of the others?" I asked.

"These old things was just done by me and Big Dee from some tops your grandma pieced before she died."

[60] "No," said Wangero. "I don't want those. They are stitched around the borders by machine."

"That'll make them last better," I said.

"That's not the point," said Wangero. "These are all pieces of dresses Grandma used to wear. She did all this stitching by hand. Imagine!" She held the quilts securely in her arms, stroking them.

"Some of the pieces, like those lavender ones, come from old clothes her mother handed down to her," I said, moving up to touch the quilts. Dee (Wangero) moved back just enough so that I couldn't reach the quilts. They already belonged to her.

13. a plunger for churning cream

"Imagine!" she breathed again, clutching them closely to her bosom.

[65] "The truth is," I said, "I promised to give them quilts to Maggie, for when she marries John Thomas."

She gasped like a bee had stung her.

"Maggie can't appreciate these quilts!" she said. "She'd probably be backward enough to put them to everyday use."

"I reckon she would," I said. "God knows I been saving 'em for long enough with nobody using 'em. I hope she will!"

I didn't want to bring up how I had offered Dee (Wangero) a quilt when she went away to college. Then she had told me they were old-fashioned, out of style.

[70] "But they're priceless!" she was saying now, furiously; for she has a temper. "Maggie would put them on the bed and in five years they'd be in rags. Less than that!"

"She can always make some more," I said. "Maggie knows how to quilt."

Dee (Wangero) looked at me with hatred. "You just will not understand. The point is these quilts, these quilts!"

"Well," I said, stumped. "What would you do with them?"

"Hang them," she said. As if that was the only thing you could do with quilts. Maggie by now was standing in the door. I could almost hear the sound her feet made as they scraped over each other.

[75] "She can have them, Mama," she said, like somebody used to never winning anything or having anything reserved for her. "I can 'member Grandma Dee without the quilts."

I looked at her hard. She had filled her bottom lip with checkerberry snuff,¹⁴ and it gave her face a kind of dopey, hangdog¹⁵ look. It was Grandma Dee and Big Dee who taught her how to quilt herself. She stood there with her scarred hands hidden in the folds of her skirt. She looked at her sister with something like fear, but she wasn't mad at her. This was Maggie's portion. This was the way she knew God to work.

When I looked at her like that, something hit me in the top of my head and ran down to the soles of my feet. Just like when I'm in church and the spirit of God touches me and I get happy and shout. I did something I never had done before: hugged Maggie to me, then dragged her on into the room, snatched the quilts out of Miss Wangero's hands, and dumped them into Maggie's lap. Maggie just sat there on my bed with her mouth open.

"Take one or two of the others," I said to Dee.

But she turned without a word and went out to Hakim-abarber.

14. powdered tobacco

15. having a dejected appearance

[80] "You just don't understand," she said, as Maggie and I came out to the car.

"What don't I understand?" I wanted to know.

"Your heritage," she said. And then she turned to Maggie, kissed her, and said, "You ought to try to make something of yourself, too, Maggie. It's really a new day for us. But from the way you and Mama still live, you'd never know it."

She put on some sunglasses that hid everything above the tip of her nose and her chin.

Maggie smiled, maybe at the sunglasses. But a real smile, not scared. After we watched the car dust settle, I asked Maggie to bring me a dip of snuff. And then the two of us sat there just enjoying, until it was time to go in the house and go to bed.

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ANNOTATION GUIDELINES

“Everyday Use”

Highlight and make annotations (notes) using the guidelines below

PAGE 1

- Paragraph 1- Author's Purpose
 - Describe setting and highlight textual evidence
- Paragraph 2- Characterization
 - Describe Maggie and highlight textual evidence

PAGE 2

- Paragraph 4- Characterization
 - Mama
 - Dee (Indirect based on Mama's comments)
- Paragraph 5- Characterization
 - Mama
 - Dee
- Paragraph 6- Characterization
 - Maggie (indirect)
- Paragraph 8- Characterization
 - Figure of Speech
 - Maggie (indirect)
- Paragraph 9- Characterization
 - Maggie vs. Dee
- Paragraph 10- Characterization
 - Dee
- Paragraph 11- Characterization
 - Dee

PAGE 3

- Paragraph 12- Characterization
 - Mama
 - Maggie
- Paragraph 13- Characterization
 - Dee
- Paragraph 14- Characterization
 - Dee
- Paragraph 19- Characterization
 - Dee

PAGE 4

Characterization of Dee

- Paragraph 21
- Paragraphs 24-27

PAGE 5

Characterization of Dee

- Paragraphs 45-47

PAGE 6

- Paragraph 49-Characterization
 - Dee
- Paragraph 52- Characterization
 - Maggie
- Paragraph 53- Characterization
 - Dee
- Paragraph 55- Author's Purpose
 - What is the purpose behind this paragraph?

PAGE 7

- Characterization in the entire scene through paragraph 76 (another group will analyze 77)
 - Mama
 - Dee
 - Maggie
- Paragraph 77
 - Text Structure (Shift)
 - Diction that creates a certain tone

PAGE 8

- Characterization
 - Dee
 - Maggie

BIG QUESTIONS:

What is the author's tone...

- Toward Maggie?
 - How do you know that?
- Toward Dee?
 - How do you know that?

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the main theme of the text?
 - A. Sometimes adopting a new heritage can result in the rejection of a person's true heritage and family history.
 - B. A person must understand their family history before they can truly understand themselves.
 - C. The modern world often demands that people change, whether they want to or not.
 - D. Physical objects can often offer people a connection to their family history and family members who have passed.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "Pressed us to her with the serious ways she read, to shove us away at just the moment, like dimwits, we seemed about to understand." (Paragraph 10)
 - B. "You didn't even have to look close to see where hands pushing the dasher up and down to make butter had left a kind of sink in the wood." (Paragraph 54)
 - C. "These are all pieces of dresses Grandma used to wear. She did all this stitching by hand. Imagine!" (Paragraph 62)
 - D. "I didn't want to bring up how I had offered Dee (Wangero) a quilt when she went away to college. Then she had told me they were old-fashioned, out of style." (Paragraph 69)

3. PART A: What prompts the narrator to refuse to give Dee the quilts she wants?
 - A. She knows that Dee doesn't want the quilts to remember her grandmother.
 - B. She realizes that she has been neglecting Maggie.
 - C. She is tired of being pushed around by Dee.
 - D. She realizes that Maggie never gets what she deserves.

4. PART B: Which section from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "She had filled her bottom lip with checkerberry snuff, and it gave her face a kind of dopey, hangdog look." (Paragraph 76)
 - B. "She looked at her sister with something like fear, but she wasn't mad at her. This was Maggie's portion. This was the way she knew God to work." (Paragraph 76)
 - C. "When I looked at her like that, something hit me in the top of my head and ran down to the soles of my feet." (Paragraph 77)
 - D. "I did something I never had done before: hugged Maggie to me, then dragged her on into the room" (Paragraph 77)

5. What does the phrase "the scalding humor that erupted like bubbles in lye" suggest about Dee? (Paragraph 14)
 - A. Her sense of humor is hurtful.
 - B. She has a boring sense of humor.
 - C. She doesn't often show her funny side.
 - D. Her sense of humor is difficult to understand.



6. How does the following passage contribute to readers' understanding of Maggie? "Aunt Dee's first husband whittled the dash," said Maggie so low you almost couldn't hear her. "His name was Henry, but they called him Stash." (Paragraph 52)

7. How does Dee's perspective on the family's possessions compare to the rest of her family's?

Name: _____ Class: _____

Hello, My Name Is _____

By Jason Kim
2017

Jason Kim is an Asian American screenwriter and playwright. In this personal account, Kim discusses his experiences emigrating from Korea at a young age and his struggle to fit into American culture while maintaining his identity. As you read, take notes on how Kim's experiences shaped his feelings about his identity.

- [1] I will never forget the day I picked a new name. I was standing in front of my class on my first day of school at Craig Elementary in St. Louis, Missouri. I had, only a day before, landed at Lambert airport after a 16-hour flight from Seoul, South Korea. I was 10 years old. I was nervous, terrified, and jet-lagged, and I was wearing a vest because I thought it was chic.

For my entire life, everyone, including me, had known me by my Korean name: Jun Hyuk. But here, in this new country, in a brand-new classroom full of foreign faces, I had to pick a new, easy-to-pronounce, American name.

Jason.

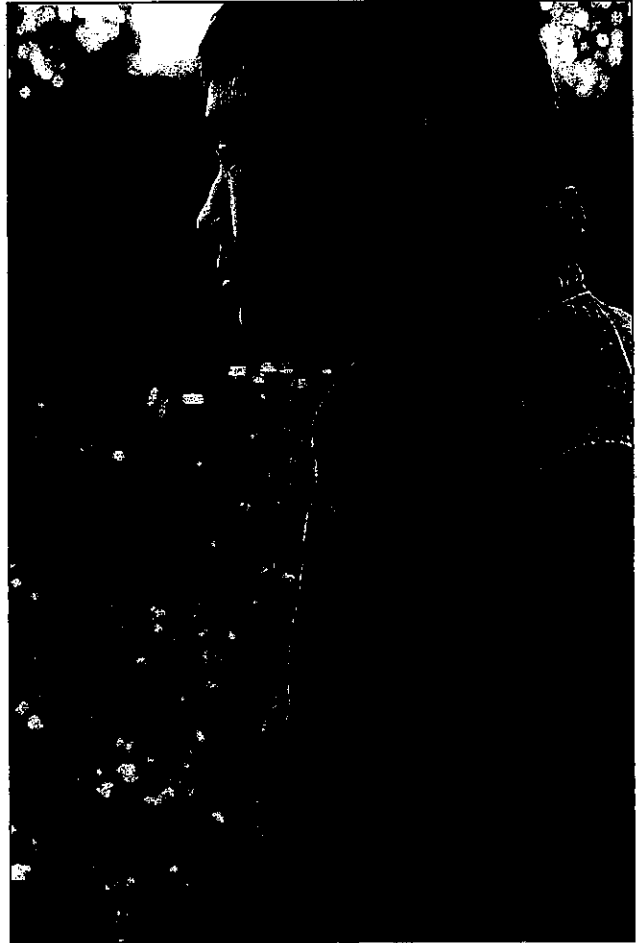
Jason Kim.

- [5] How did I settle on Jason? Because I didn't speak any English. Because my teacher didn't speak any Korean. And because it was either going to be Aladdin, from my favorite childhood Disney tale, or Jason, from the *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*.

I spent the next decade wanting nothing more than to look like a Larry Lorberbaum or a Garrett Kennedy. I still vividly remember my first time at recess; a confusing experience for several reasons, in large part because hanging off monkey bars and making each other cry during dodgeball were not educationally sanctioned¹ activities in Asia. What was so fun about waiting in line, running up the steps, and going down a tiny slide over and over again? What was the value in sprinting after your classmate like a person with rabies, screaming, "TAG!"

Why didn't anyone look, sound, or act like me?

1. to give official permission or approval



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I spent most days at recess sitting alone on the sidelines, eating the special snack that my mother had packed: The snack, a rice cake or a piece of candy from Korea, was always accompanied by a note, usually a joke, and sometimes embellished with a drawing, which often looked like an abstract painting when it was meant to be a sketch of our beloved deceased poodle.

A month had passed when a teacher finally tapped me on the shoulder.

[10] "Are you OK, sweetie?"

Before I could answer, another teacher rang out, "Maybe he likes sitting alone. Maybe that's the Asian way."

But in truth, I wanted to participate. I wanted to run up to Timmy like a crazy person and yell, "YOU'RE IT!" I just didn't know how.

Outside on the playground, sitting alone at recess, I learned to hate being Asian. I wanted desperately, more than anything, to be white.

I immediately forced my parents to stop calling me Jun Hyuk at home. I named myself after some guy in a live-action children's television series, and by God, they were going to call me by that name. I got rid of my fitted vests for loose-fitting basketball jerseys. I bought tickets to an Incubus concert and threw away my K-pop² CDs. I stopped reading Korean children's books in order to figure out what the hell was going on with James and his giant peaches.

[15] At the dinner table, I committed the two worst sins that a Korean son could possibly commit: I stopped speaking Korean and I stopped eating Korean food. My parents would try to talk to me over a bowl of kimchi stew, and I would pout and ask, in English, if we could order the Meat Lover's pie from Pizza Hut. For my 11th birthday, my mom made me my favorite Korean dish, oh jing uh bokkeum (spicy stir-fried squid), and I looked at her with disdain³ as I declared, "This is disgusting." The next day for dinner, she made me a cheeseburger. I promptly told her it tasted inauthentic and made her drive me to McDonald's. Oh, and no more special snacks either. Unless they were artificially flavored and made by Kraft. (I was a heinous⁴ child. Sorry, Mom.)

I graduated from high school and moved to New York City for college, where my primary goal was to blend in. But more and more, my new friends wanted to know about all the things that made me uncomfortable in the Midwest. To them, being an immigrant made me interesting. At dinner parties, people would fawn over the Korean food and ask for my mom's recipes. They even wanted to know about my childhood in Seoul. And at karaoke, people were genuinely excited that I could sing both Girls Generation and Natalie Imbruglia's "Torn." All of a sudden, being different was an asset, not a risk. In New York, I didn't have to be ashamed about being an Asian immigrant. I could just be ashamed about everything else in my life.

2. K-pop, also known as Korean pop, is a musical genre originating in South Korea.

3. **Disdain** (*noun*): the feeling that someone or something is unworthy of one's respect

4. **Heinous** (*adjective*): very bad, wicked, or evil

A year after I finished graduate school in playwriting, almost two decades after I'd landed at Lambert airport, Lena and Jenni⁵ cast me as an Asian American graduate student on the fourth season of *Girls*. Almost immediately after the episodes aired, I began receiving emails, tweets, and Facebook messages from young Asian American writers, actors, and performers, who were excited to see a fellow Asian face on TV.

I was shocked. How could this be? I appeared on the show for, like, a millisecond, and my Beyoncé sweatshirt was definitely doing more work than I did onscreen. It was genuinely baffling to think that anyone could look at my very Korean face and feel a sense of connection, much less react in a positive way to the very features I hated about myself for so long.

We are at the point in our culture where people are finally beginning to talk about Asian identities in the media. I have not been at the forefront of those issues. I have been crouching in the back, hiding in the corner, watching people like Margaret Cho, Daniel Dae Kim, Ali Wong, George Takei, Constance Wu, and Aziz Ansari courageously speak up about the various issues that Asian Americans face in Hollywood.

[20] The issues exist both in front of the camera and behind the scenes. There are barely any roles written for Asian actors. And in general, the roles that can be played by a person of any race do not tend to go to Asian actors. Worst of all, the few roles that should go to Asian actors — some very high-profile — are being portrayed by white actors. Behind the camera, there are equally few Asian American writers, producers, studio executives, authors, and editors, and while there are certainly a significant number of people struggling to make it, their efforts seem to go largely unrecognized.

I have always been terrified of speaking up on behalf of diversity, which to me means a state of inclusion — a choice to be aware of the vast and profound⁶ range of identities in this world, including your own.

I have been terrified because I grew up in a country without many visible Asian Americans in the culture, and I learned to hate every part of myself that felt foreign and strange. Unfortunately, years later, this is a problem that many young Asian Americans continue to face. How do you understand yourself in a diverse country that actively chooses to ignore your particular kind of diversity?

At one point during my 20s, I took a long, dramatic look in the mirror and realized, You will be Korean for the rest of your life. As a teenager growing up in the Midwest, that thought made me cringe. Now, it makes me happy and deeply proud.

My dream now as a 30-year-old is for our country to become a place where a cameo like mine would go completely unnoticed. And to see every third-grade teacher tell his or her students, "Keep your name. You don't have to change a thing."

"Hello My Name is _____: How I Learned to Stop Whitewashing Myself" from Lenny Letter by Jason Kim. Copyright © 2017 by Jason Kim. Used by permission of the author. All rights reserved.

5. referring to the show's writers, Lena Dunham and Jenni Konner
6. **Profound (adjective):** very great or intense

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the main claim Kim develops in the text?
 - A. Asian Americans should be encouraged to embrace and celebrate their identities in America.
 - B. The difficulty Kim experienced accepting his identity as a child was due to the lack of Asian American actors he saw on television.
 - C. Asian American actors continue to be denied opportunities in the media because of their Asian identity.
 - D. Kim pursued playwriting in college with the objective of increasing the presence of Asian American actors in entertainment.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "I spent most days at recess sitting alone on the sidelines, eating the special snack that my mother had packed." (Paragraph 8)
 - B. "At the dinner table, I committed the two worst sins that a Korean son could possibly commit: I stopped speaking Korean and I stopped eating Korean food." (Paragraph 15)
 - C. "We are at the point in our culture where people are finally beginning to talk about Asian identities in the media." (Paragraph 19)
 - D. "My dream... is for our country to become a place where a cameo like mine would go completely unnoticed. And to see every third-grade teacher tell his or her students, 'Keep your name. You don't have to change a thing.'" (Paragraph 24)

3. PART A: How does Kim's inclusion of his experiences as a child contribute to the text?
 - A. It shows how difficult it can be to adjust to a new school and make friends.
 - B. It encourages readers to celebrate the diversity of their peers.
 - C. It emphasizes how Kim felt ashamed of and rejected his Asian identity.
 - D. It depicts the strained relationship that Kim had with his family while growing up.

4. PART B: Which quote from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "I still vividly remember my first time at recess, a confusing experience for several reasons, in large part because hanging off monkey bars and making each other cry during dodgeball were not educationally sanctioned activities in Asia." (Paragraph 6)
 - B. "Before I could answer, another teacher rang out, 'Maybe he likes sitting alone. Maybe that's the Asian way.'" (Paragraph 11)
 - C. "My parents would try to talk to me over a bowl of kimchi stew, and I would pout and ask, in English, if we could order the Meat Lover's pie from Pizza Hut." (Paragraph 15)
 - D. "At dinner parties, people would fawn over the Korean food and ask for my mom's recipes. They even wanted to know about my childhood in Seoul." (Paragraph 16)

5. How did Kim's experience on "Girls" impact his views on Asian identities in the media?

Title: Conventions (Commas, Colons, & Semicolons) ~ Study Island Doc 2, Packet 1

1. The talent agency is looking for a short muscular tan bald male. Do you, or does anyone you know, fit this description?

What is the correct way to write the underlined part of the sentence?

- A. looking, for a short muscular tan bald male
- B. looking for a short, muscular, tan, bald male
- C. As it is
- D. looking for a short muscular tan bald, male

2. Simon has a deep fear of cows but he was able to conquer this fear when he was forced to walk through a cow pasture to get back home.

How is Simon has a deep fear of cows but he was able to conquer this fear correctly written?

- A. Simon has a deep fear, of cows but he was able to conquer this fear
- B. Simon has a deep fear of cows, but he was able to conquer this fear
- C. Simon, has a deep fear of cows but he was able to conquer this fear
- D. As it is

3. How is the following sentence correctly written?

Aimee has lived in several different cities, including Fort Worth, Texas, Atlanta, Georgia, Walnut Creek, California, and Des Moines, Iowa.

- A. Aimee has lived in several different cities, including Fort Worth, Texas Atlanta, Georgia Walnut Creek, California and Des Moines, Iowa.
- B. Aimee has lived in several different cities, including Fort Worth Texas Atlanta Georgia Walnut Creek California and Des Moines Iowa.
- C. Aimee has lived in several different cities, including Fort Worth, Texas, Atlanta, Georgia, Walnut Creek, California, and Des Moines, Iowa.
- D. Aimee has lived in several different cities, including Fort Worth, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; Walnut Creek, California; and Des Moines, Iowa.

4. What is the correct way to write the following sentence?

Kosmo tried to convince Jerry that his idea was normal by arguing, "Or is it so sane that I just blew your mind?"

- A. "Kosmo tried to convince Jerry that his ideas were normal by arguing," Or is it so sane that I just blew your mind?
- B. Kosmo tried to convince Jerry that his ideas were normal by arguing, Or is it so sane that I just blew your mind?
- C. As it is
- D. "Kosmo tried to convince Jerry that his ideas were normal by arguing, Or is it so sane that I just blew your mind?"

5.

Naiia's family has several New Year's Eve traditions; exchanging gifts, cleaning the house, and watching *The Irony of Fate*.

What change must be made to correct the error in punctuation?

- A. Change the period to a question mark.
- B. Add a comma after *New Year's Eve*.
- C. Change the semicolon to a comma.
- D. Change the semicolon to a colon.

6. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

- A. The rattling of heavy-duty industrial machinery could be heard, from a great distance.
- B. The rattling of heavy-duty industrial machinery, could be heard, from a great distance.
- C. The rattling of heavy-duty, industrial machinery could be heard from a great distance.
- D. The rattling of heavy-duty industrial machinery could be heard from a great distance.

7.

Rita and her mother baked pies, cakes, and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival, which would take place on October 17 2010.

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- A. Rita, and her mother baked pies cakes and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival, which would take place on October 17, 2010.
- B. Rita and her mother baked pies, cakes, and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival which would take place on October 17 2010.
- C. Rita and her mother baked pies cakes and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival, which would take place on October 17, 2010.
- D. Rita and her mother baked pies, cakes, and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival, which would take place on October 17, 2010.

8. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A. *Cloudy Day*, my favorite painting, is located on the third floor of the museum.
- B. *Cloudy Day* my favorite painting, is located on the third floor of the museum.
- C. *Cloudy Day*, my favorite painting is located on the third floor of the museum.
- D. *Cloudy Day* my favorite painting is located on the third floor of the museum.

9.

Even though Iolanthe is usually thrifty she decided to buy the expensive coat because it was pretty and warm.

What change, if any, should be made to this sentence?

A. Add a comma after **coat**.

B. Add a comma after **thrifty**.

C. Add a comma after **Iolanthe**.

D. No change is necessary.

10. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

A. Far off the beaten path, there were small streams; overgrown bushes; and hollow trees.

B. Far off the beaten path, there were small streams overgrown bushes and hollow trees.

C. Far off the beaten path there were small streams overgrown bushes and hollow trees.

D. Far off the beaten path, there were small streams, overgrown bushes, and hollow trees.

11. How is the following sentence correctly written?

Marie wants to make a blueberry pie, but she is missing some ingredients, such as flour, dark, ripe blueberries, nonstick pie pan, and sugar.

A. Marie wants to make a blueberry pie, but she is missing some ingredients, such as flour; dark, ripe blueberries; nonstick pie pan; and sugar.

B. Marie wants to make a blueberry pie, but she is missing some ingredients, such as flour, dark; ripe blueberries, nonstick pie pan, and sugar.

C. Marie wants to make a blueberry pie, but she is missing some ingredients, such as flour dark, ripe blueberries nonstick pie pan and sugar.

D. Marie wants to make a blueberry pie, but she is missing some ingredients, such as flour, dark, ripe blueberries, nonstick pie pan, and sugar.

12. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

A. There were daffodils tulips and violets, in the floral arrangement.

B. There were daffodils tulips and violets in the floral arrangement.

C. There were daffodils, tulips, and violets in the floral arrangement.

D. There were daffodils; tulips; and violets in the floral arrangement.

13. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

A. Miles and Juliet, like to stroll in the park on cold, sunny days.

B. Miles, and Juliet like to stroll in the park on cold sunny days.

C. Miles and Juliet like to stroll in the park on cold sunny days.

D. Miles and Juliet like to stroll in the park on cold, sunny days.

14. How should the sentence below be changed to correct the punctuation error?

The knight's horse tripped on a rock and fell during the joust fortunately, neither the horse nor the knight received injuries.

- A. change the comma after *fortunately* to a semicolon
- B. add a semicolon after *joust*
- C. add a semicolon after *fell*
- D. add a comma after *joust*

15.

Herlise had hoped to avoid meeting Tristan at school; unfortunately, he shared her geometry, English, and science classes.

What change, if any, should be made to the punctuation in this sentence?

- A. Change the colon to a semicolon.
- B. No change is necessary.
- C. Change the period to an exclamation point.
- D. Remove the comma after **unfortunately**.

16.

Wallace and Veronica, who work together at the Frostee Palace plan to attend the same college after graduation; however, Wallace will study English poetry, and Veronica will study criminal justice.

What is the best way to correct the punctuation in this sentence?

- A. Add a comma after **Palace**.
- B. Add a comma after **attend**.
- C. Change the semicolon to a colon.
- D. Change the period to an exclamation point.

17. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A. My friend Greg likes to bake cookies for the people in the office.
- B. My friend, Greg, likes to bake cookies for the people in the office.
- C. My friend, Greg likes to bake cookies for the people in the office.
- D. My friend Greg, likes to bake cookies for the people in the office.

18. Which sentence demonstrates correct punctuation?

- A. Last week, our class elected a new president, however; today she resigned from office.
- B. My car is in the shop due to faulty brakes; therefore, I will be taking the bus to school.
- C. When the principal called my name; I walked up to the podium and delivered my speech.
- D. I went to the theater with Dvida, my cousin, Paolo, my friend, and Zitska, my sister.

19. Which sentence demonstrates correct punctuation?
- A. The college's admissions board evaluates three things: attendance, community service, and grades.
 - B. The crowd gasped as the circus trapeze artists' acrobatically leapt from one rope to another.
 - C. The teacher told her students; "You must come to class prepared if you want to master this subject."
 - D. The drivers frequently disregarded the school zone: therefore, a police officer began giving tickets.
20. Which of these sentences is correctly written?
- A. I want to go to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, "Angela told her husband."
 - B. "I want to go to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee," Angela told her husband.
 - C. "I want to go to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, Angela told her husband."
 - D. I want to go to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, Angela told her husband.
21. How should the sentence below be changed to correct the punctuation error?

Carolyn was scheduled to arrive in Denmark, on May 6 2009.

- A. add a comma after *on*
 - B. The sentence is punctuated correctly.
 - C. add a comma after *6*
 - D. add a comma after *Carolyn*
22. What change, if any, should be made to the sentence below?
- Fierce peregrine falcons competed to capture Harvey, the woman's pet parakeet, who had escaped from his cage.
- A. change *Harvey, the woman's pet parakeet* to *Harvey the woman's pet parakeet*
 - B. change *the woman's pet parakeet, who had escaped from his cage* to *the woman's pet parakeet who had escaped from his cage*
 - C. change *Fierce peregrine falcons competed to capture* to *Fierce peregrine falcons competed, to capture*
 - D. no change

23.

After amazing everyone with her performance as Lady Macbeth, Ybara bowed to the audience and she waved happily to her friends waiting backstage.

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- A. After amazing everyone, with her performance as Lady Macbeth, Ybara bowed to the audience, and she waved happily to her friends, waiting backstage.
- B. After amazing everyone with her performance as Lady Macbeth; Ybara bowed to the audience, and she waved happily to her friends waiting backstage.

- C. After amazing everyone with her performance as Lady Macbeth Ybara bowed to the audience and she waved happily to her friends, waiting backstage.
- D. After amazing everyone with her performance as Lady Macbeth, Ybara bowed to the audience, and she waved happily to her friends waiting backstage.

24. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- A. Keep a look out for sharks, the old fisherman warned the teenagers swimming near the reef.
- B. "Keep a look out for sharks, the old fisherman warned the teenagers swimming near the reef."
- C. "Keep a look out for sharks," the old fisherman warned the teenagers swimming near the reef.
- D. Keep a look out for sharks, "the old fisherman warned the teenagers swimming near the reef."

25.

Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house, which was believed to be haunted; suddenly, a loud scream, and a resounding crash came from behind them.

How should the author revise this sentence to correct the error in punctuation?

- A. Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house which was believed to be haunted; suddenly a loud scream, and a resounding crash came from behind them.
- B. Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house, which was believed to be haunted, suddenly, a loud scream and a resounding crash came from behind them.
- C. Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house, which was believed to be haunted; suddenly, a loud scream and a resounding crash came from behind them.
- D. Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house; which was believed to be haunted; suddenly a loud scream and a resounding crash came from behind them.

Title: Conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Waiting for Gunov

(1) "What time is it" asked Olga for the hundredth time? (2) "I can't believe my car broke down again. (3) We were supposed to be at the museum at noon to meet our class."

(4) "My brother Gunov is on his way to pick us up," Ibrahim replied patiently. (5) "He drives as slowly as a turtle, so we may be here for a while."

(6) "He drives a Mini-Cooper, doesn't he?" Timofei asked. (7) "When he finally arrives, I hope we will all fit into his small, cramped car."

(8) "I should have bought a Mini-Cooper," said Olga. (9) "My father wanted me to have his ancient Toyota pickup truck for sentimental reasons however, it's always breaking down."

(10) "At least we have a nice cozy park bench to wait on" Ibrahim said. (11) "It could be snowing, or raining." (12) Before he finished his sentence, a rumble of thunder filled the air.

(13) "Hurry, lets get into the car!" Olga yelled. (14) She and her friends raced to the car as rain began pouring from the sky.

(15) "Does anyone want a snack"? asked Timofei when they were settled. (16) He pulled a box of Fig Newtons out of his backpack and began munching on a cookie.

(17) "Those look delicious," Ibrahim told his friend as he took several Fig Newtons.

(18) "I always bring three things with me wherever I go; a toothbrush, a book, and a snack," replied Timofei.

(19) "You're our hero," Olga said with a grateful smile. (20) She checked the time on the dashboard of her car and frowned. (21) Ibrahim who was sleepy after his snack smiled at her.

(22) "You shouldn't worry so much," he chided Olga. (23) "I told Gunov to pick us up at the corner of Marsh Lane and Regal Road." (24) Olga and Timofei stared at him in alarm.

(25) "That intersection is all the way across town," Timofei said. (26) "We're at the corner of Munich Lane and Royal Road."

(27) "You gave him the wrong address!" shrieked Olga. (28) "We'll never get to the museum now." (29) She began swatting Ibrahim on the arm with her newspaper as Timofei fell over laughing in the backseat.

(30) "I'll let someone else give directions next time," Ibrahim said sheepishly. (31) "In the meantime, I guess we're stuck waiting for Gunov to find us."

1. What is the **best** way to edit sentence 11?

- A. "It could be snowing, or raining".
 - B. "It could be snowing or raining"!
 - C. "It could be snowing or raining."
 - D. "It could be snowing, or raining."
-

2. Read sentence 1 from the passage.

"What time is it" asked Olga for the hundredth time?

How should this sentence be revised for correct punctuation?

- A. "What time is it" asked Olga for the hundredth time.
 - B. "What time is it," asked Olga for the hundredth time?
 - C. "What time is it!" asked Olga for the hundredth time.
 - D. "What time is it?" asked Olga for the hundredth time.
-

3. Which sentence from the passage contains a punctuation error?

- A. sentence 20
 - B. sentence 13
 - C. sentence 17
 - D. sentence 12
-

4. How should the author rewrite sentence 21 to correct the error in punctuation?

- A. Ibrahim who was sleepy, after his snack, smiled at her.
 - B. Ibrahim, who was sleepy after his snack smiled at her.
 - C. Ibrahim who was sleepy; after his snack, smiled at her.
 - D. Ibrahim, who was sleepy after his snack, smiled at her.
-

5. Which of the following changes should be made to sentence 9?

- A. Add a comma after **truck**.
 - B. Add a colon after **to**.
 - C. Add a semicolon after **reasons**.
 - D. Remove the apostrophe in **it's**.
-

6. Which of the following changes should be made to sentence 18?

- A. Change the semicolon to a colon.
 - B. Add a comma after **me**.
 - C. Change the period to an exclamation point.
 - D. Add a colon after **things**.
-

7. Which of the following sentences contains a punctuation error?

- A. sentence 7
 - B. sentence 2
 - C. sentence 14
 - D. sentence 10
-

8. What change, if any, should be made to sentence 31?

- A. Remove the comma after **meantime**.
 - B. No change is necessary.
 - C. Remove the apostrophe in **we're**.
 - D. Add a comma after **waiting**.
-

9. How should the author revise sentence 19 to correct the error in punctuation?

- A. "You're our hero" Olga said with a grateful smile.
 - B. "Youre our hero!" Olga said with a grateful smile.
 - C. "You're our hero?" Olga said with a grateful smile.
 - D. "You're our hero," Olga said with a grateful smile.
-

10. Which sentence from the passage contains a punctuation error?

- A. sentence 15
 - B. sentence 24
 - C. sentence 22
 - D. sentence 16
-

11.

"Why don't we go outside and play basketball?" suggested Kirill to his little brother Foma, who was lounging on the sofa.

What change, if any, should be made to this sentence?

- A. Remove the comma after **Foma**.
 - B. No change is necessary.
 - C. Change the question mark to a comma.
 - D. Add a comma after **Kirill**.
-

12.

Leonid asked his teacher, "When will final grades for the semester be posted"?

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- A. Leonid asked his teacher, "When will final grades for the semester be posted?"
- B. Leonid asked his teacher, "When will final grades for the semester be posted"?"
- C. Leonid asked his teacher "When will final grades for the semester be posted"?
- D. Leonid asked his teacher: "When will final grades for the semester be posted?"

13.

After borrowing her sister-in-laws new car to drive her friends to the mall, Polina returned to the parking lot to discover a large scratch in the bright red paint.

What change, if any, should be made to this sentence?

- A. Change the period to a question mark.
- B. No change is necessary.
- C. Change **sister-in-laws** to **sister-in-law's**.
- D. Change **friends** to **friend's**.

14.

Rita and her mother baked pies, cakes, and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival, which would take place on October 17 2010.

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- A. Rita, and her mother baked pies cakes and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival, which would take place on October 17, 2010.
- B. Rita and her mother baked pies, cakes, and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival, which would take place on October 17, 2010.
- C. Rita and her mother baked pies, cakes, and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival which would take place on October 17 2010.
- D. Rita and her mother baked pies cakes and candy treats in preparation for the Fall Festival, which would take place on October 17, 2010.

15. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

- A. Far off the beaten path, there were small streams; overgrown bushes; and hollow trees.
 - B. Far off the beaten path there were small streams overgrown bushes and hollow trees.
 - C. Far off the beaten path, there were small streams, overgrown bushes, and hollow trees.
 - D. Far off the beaten path, there were small streams overgrown bushes and hollow trees.
-

16.

Gerka finally left the library at midnight, and went home to get a few hours of sleep; he promised himself that he would return early the next morning to finish his research.

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- A. Gerka finally left the library at midnight and went home to get a few hours of sleep: he promised himself that he would return early the next morning to finish his research.
- B. Gerka finally left the library at midnight and went home to get a few hours of sleep; he promised himself that he would return early the next morning to finish his research.
- C. Gerka finally left the library at midnight, and went home to get a few hours of sleep; he promised himself that he would return, early the next morning to finish his research:
- D. Gerka finally left the library at midnight, and went home to get a few hours of sleep; he promised himself, that he would return early the next morning to finish his research.

17.

Sandomir was reluctant when his sister, and aunt asked him to accompany them to the opera, but soon he became enchanted by the lavish sets, and passionate singing.

How should the author revise this sentence for correct punctuation?

- A. Sandomir was reluctant when his sister and aunt asked him to accompany them to the opera, but soon he became enchanted by the lavish sets and passionate singing.
- B. Sandomir was reluctant when his sister and aunt asked him to accompany them to the opera but soon he became enchanted by the lavish sets and passionate singing.
- C. Sandomir was reluctant when his sister and aunt asked him to accompany them to the opera, but soon he became enchanted, by the lavish sets and passionate singing.
- D. Sandomir was reluctant when his sister and aunt asked him, to accompany them to the opera, but soon he became enchanted by the lavish sets, and passionate singing.

18.

Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house, which was believed to be haunted; suddenly, a loud scream, and a resounding crash came from behind them.

How should the author revise this sentence to correct the error in punctuation?

- A. Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house, which was believed to be haunted; suddenly, a loud scream and a resounding crash came from behind them.
- B. Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house; which was believed to be haunted; suddenly a loud scream and a resounding crash came from behind them.

- C. Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house, which was believed to be haunted, suddenly, a loud scream and a resounding crash came from behind them.
- D. Darya and her best friend Mike crept into the empty house which was believed to be haunted; suddenly a loud scream, and a resounding crash came from behind them.
-

19. Which sentence demonstrates correct punctuation?

- A. While babysitting for the Andersons, Chris wrote a paper and she finished her book.
- B. Kaylie told Martza that she needed: to wash the dishes, and finish vacuuming the den.
- C. Vladimir and Nadya traveled to Siberia on January, 1 to visit their aunt, and uncle.
- D. Dakhim wrote to the librarian; he wanted to express his appreciation for her hard work.
-

20.

How will you know what ingredients, besides flour and sugar, to add to the cake if you've lost the recipe.

What change, if any, should be made to this sentence?

- A. Change **you've** to **youve**.
- B. Change the period to a question mark.
- C. Remove the comma after **sugar**.
- D. No change is necessary.
-

21. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

- A. The rattling of heavy-duty industrial machinery, could be heard, from a great distance.
- B. The rattling of heavy-duty, industrial machinery could be heard from a great distance.
- C. The rattling of heavy-duty industrial machinery could be heard from a great distance.
- D. The rattling of heavy-duty industrial machinery could be heard, from a great distance.
-

22. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

- A. "In the thick of night, a raspy whisper cut through darkness saying," Beware of the eyes staring at you.
 - B. In the thick of night, "a raspy whisper cut through darkness saying, Beware of the eyes staring at you."
 - C. In the thick of night, a raspy whisper cut through darkness saying, Beware of the eyes staring at you.
 - D. In the thick of night, a raspy whisper cut through darkness saying, "Beware of the eyes staring at you."
-

23.

The new law library, named after Senator Nikita Smith, is located in Marsh, Texas, and it opened its doors on July 21, 2010.

What change, if any, should be made to this sentence?

- A. Change **its** to **it's**.
 - B. No change is necessary.
 - C. Add a comma after **July**.
 - D. Remove the comma after **Texas**.
-

EXERCISE 2

Context Clues

Lesson 9

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct vocabulary word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided; then write the vocabulary word on the line preceding the definition.

COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____

n. secret planning (usually unlawful or harmful); a plot or secret plan

_____ 12. word: _____

adj. deadly; causing or capable of causing death

_____ 13. word: _____

n. one who argues for a cause; a defender;
v. to support; recommend

_____ 14. word: _____

adj. contrary to nature, reason, or common sense; absurd; foolish

_____ 15. word: _____

v. to operate or control with the hands; to handle; to control or influence dishonestly, unfairly, or shrewdly; to trick

_____ 16. word: _____

adj. threatening; foreboding; sinister

_____ 17. word: _____

v. to misinterpret; misunderstand

_____ 18. word: _____

n. the peak; the highest point; the climax; the end result

_____ 19. word: _____

v. to claim or state without proof;
adj. unproven; questionable; so-called

_____ 20. word: _____

adj. mysterious; strange; weird

COLUMN B

- (A) Human beings have misunderstood the X-Men and have alleged that they are villains. In fact, these mutants are superheroes.
- (B) People who **misconstrue** the X-Men's activities say they are evil. Actually, the X-Men simply seek equal rights with human beings.
- (C) Professor X dreamed of showing society that mutants could play a useful role in society. The X-Men are the **culmination** of that dream.
- (D) Many of the X-Men have **lethal** powers, but they use them to protect human beings, not to kill and destroy them.
- (E) Various villains have tried to **manipulate** the X-Men into supporting their evil deeds, but the X-Men are not easily tricked.
- (F) The X-Men are known for their **uncanny** abilities. For example, Gambit can take any item and turn it into a projectile weapon.
- (G) The X-Men fight **ominous** villains, such as the evil Mr. Sinister.
- (H) The X-Men are aware that all who are different may be persecuted. Sometimes it seems that there is a conspiracy among the villains in X-Men comic books to destroy those who are different.
- (I) Although the idea of a group of mutants as superheroes may seem **preposterous**, fans don't think of their heroes as ridiculous.
- (J) The X-Men include both males and females and members of different racial and ethnic groups. They advocate human rights as well as supporting mutant rights.

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EXERCISE 3**Sentence Completion**

Directions. For each of the following items, circle the letter of the choice that best completes the meaning of the sentence or sentences.

21. Someone has _____ that Batman must be a criminal. Evidently, the accuser _____ Batman's mask and wrongly believes that it indicates dishonesty.
 (A) alleged ... misconstrues
 (B) culminated ... advocates
 (C) misconstrued ... manipulates
 (D) manipulated ... advocates
 (E) advocated ... culminates
22. It is easy to _____ Batman's motives because he doesn't explain himself.
 (A) propose
 (B) advocate
 (C) misconstrue
 (D) conspire
 (E) allege
23. Batman's crime-fighting activities are the _____ of the shock of his parents' death and his awareness of urban decay.
 (A) conspiracy
 (B) advocate
 (C) allegation
 (D) manipulation
 (E) culmination
24. As _____ of the court system, Batman never uses _____ techniques when fighting crime. He realizes that he does not have the right to kill even the most evil villain and that everyone deserves a fair trial.
 (A) an advocate ... alleged
 (B) a conspiracy ... uncanny
 (C) a manipulator ... conspiring
 (D) an advocate ... lethal
 (E) a culmination ... preposterous
25. Batman is a master of the martial arts and can _____ almost any situation to his advantage.
 (A) misconstrue
 (B) manipulate
 (C) advocate
 (D) allege
 (E) culminate
26. Batman chose to dress as the _____ bat because he believed that such a costume would make superstitious criminals fear him.
 (A) alleged
 (B) manipulative
 (C) preposterous
 (D) lethal
 (E) ominous
27. The _____ of his years of research into the criminal mind is Batman's _____ ability to predict the actions of even the most insane criminal.
 (A) conspiracy ... lethal
 (B) advocate ... uncanny
 (C) culmination ... uncanny
 (D) culmination ... preposterous
 (E) advocate ... alleged
28. In addition to battling _____ supervillains, Batman also fights political corruption and _____ in Gotham City.
 (A) ominous ... conspiracy
 (B) preposterous ... culmination
 (C) lethal ... culmination
 (D) alleged ... advocates
 (E) lethal ... advocates
29. Some fans of Batman think it is _____ to think of the superhero as simply an enemy of evil. They see a darker, more _____ side of Batman.
 (A) lethal ... uncanny
 (B) preposterous ... ominous
 (C) uncanny ... preposterous
 (D) preposterous ... alleged
 (E) lethal ... manipulative
30. Bruce Wayne, Batman's civic-minded alter ego, is a strong _____ of programs to help those who are less fortunate.
 (A) conspiracy
 (B) culmination
 (C) preposterous
 (D) advocate
 (E) lethal

