
Student's Name:

Date:

Total: _____/26

1. How do the protagonists go from having two bullets in the pistol, to only having one?

- a) They have an encounter with a mad dog, and shot it in self-defense.
- b) They accidentally run into one of the bad guys and he pulls a knife on the boy. The father shoot the bad guy to protect the boy.
- c) The boy shoots the gun off by accident, while his father is sleeping.
- d) They accidentally run into one of the bad guys and he pulls a knife on the father. The boy shoots the bad guy to protect his father.

2. "A single round in the revolver. You will not face the truth." (68) What is meant by this?

- a) A single bullet can only kill one person and so they both cannot commit suicide if needed.
- b) Less protection against bad guys.
- c) He thought they had more bullets than they actually do.
- d) All of the above.

3. What is the man's job?

- a) He is a doctor.
 - b) He builds the fire while the boy collects food.
 - c) He takes care of the boy by any or all means necessary.
 - d) He is a guide, taking the boy to his father.
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4. How long had it been since the man spoke with another human being, aside from his son?

- a) nine months
- b) eight years
- c) five years
- d) one year

5. What does the boy playing the flute symbolize?

- a) The last music on earth called up from out of the ashes of its ruin.
- b) The father's craftsmanship, as he had made the flute.
- c) Their loyalty to a road agent, who has promised to meet them in the south.
- d) The songs of the birds, who have all disappeared.

6. What do they find at the campsite of the truck people?

- a) A sick child, left behind to die.
- b) They do not stop to look - they continue moving south.
- c) A broken machete, covered in dried blood.
- d) The bones and innards of the man shot by the father.

7. What happens when they hear a dog barking?

- a) The man wants to kill it, but the boy doesn't want to hurt it.
 - b) The boy wants to kills it, but the man doesn't want to hurt it.
 - c) The man and the boy agree to not hurt it.
 - d) The boy wants to keep it for a pet.
 - e) The man thinks the boy is only hearing the memory of a dog they had seen before.
 - f) both c) and e)
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8. What does “carrying the fire” mean?

- a) Keeping a torch with them so that they have a fire everywhere they go.
- b) They are keeping faith, fighting for their lives, and doing so as “the good guys.”
- c) They have a lighter with them, so they can have a fire everywhere they go.
- d) They are carriers of a disease that burns their lungs, and are searching for a cure.

9. While the man is searching through an abandoned house, what does the boy see as he waits outside?

- a) A butterfly.
- b) A dog.
- c) A boy, about his own age.
- d) A bad guy.

10. McCarthy writes, “the names of things slowly following those things into oblivion.” What does this mean?

- a) The world is getting sucked into a black hole in space.
- b) New names for things are being made up as old names are forgotten.
- c) Things that were once common are becoming very rare, and people are forgetting about them.
- d) The names for things are being mixed up, because people can’t quite remember what they were for.

11. What warns them of death, if they continue traveling in the same direction?

- a) People with signs that say “Repent! The end is near!”
 - b) The appearance of more and more corpses in the fields.
 - c) Billboards with death messages, piles of intestines lying in the fields, and skulls propped on stakes.
 - d) All of the above.
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12. What is used to identify the large group of “bad guys” who appear near the orchard?

- a) They are dressed in camouflage army uniforms.
- b) They are all wearing yellow ball caps.
- c) They are all wearing red or orange scarves.
- d) They are all plucked bald and their skin is painted red.

13. Why does the boy ask where the neighbourhood is?

- a) He does not know what the term means - he was born after the end of the world, and has never seen a neighbourhood.
- b) There are no other people around their campsite.
- c) He wanted to clarify exactly how far his father would be going to collect firewood.
- d) There are no other houses around their campsite.

14. The trees begin to fall under the weight of the heavy snow. How does the father react?

- a) He pulls his son out into an open field, for a safer place to sleep.
- b) He decides to keep walking, with his son on his back, even though it's the middle of the night.
- c) He digs a hole under a fallen tree, to make a protective shelter.
- d) He and his son pile snow into a bank to make an igloo-like fort.

15. How does the man prepare them for a long walk in the snow?

- a) He makes skis out of fencing to turn the cart into a sled.
 - b) He makes protective footwear for them by cutting up a suit coat and a plastic tarp.
 - c) He fills their shoes with bunches of grass, to help keep their feet warm.
 - d) All of the above.
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16. “They were on the road all day, such day as there was. Such few hours.” (102) Why are there such few hours?

- a) The man feels that there is too much to do, and not enough time.
- b) As winter sets in, the days are getting shorter, and the constant cloud and ash already blocks out much of the sunlight.
- c) They stopped frequently for breaks, so they could walk farther after some rest.
- d) His watch is unreliable - he keeps forgetting to wind it up.

17. They come upon “a once grand house.” (105) What are the clues that the house is a trap?

- a) A cord running in from the grass and through a window, into the house.
- b) Odd noises coming from the cellar.
- c) There are footprints leading clearly to and from the house.
- d) The windows are all oddly broken.

18. What indicates that there have been a lot of people in the house?

- a) There is evidence that a party had been held - beer bottles and chip bags.
- b) There are dead bodies everywhere.
- c) There are dirty dishes in the kitchen.
- d) There is a heap of clothes, shoes, belts, and other items piled high in a corner of a room.

19. All these things he saw, and did not see.” (109) What does this mean?

- a) He is not paying close attention to the clues that the house is occupied.
 - b) He found it too hard to see in the semi-darkness, and did not understand the danger.
 - c) He cannot see clearly because he has lost his glasses climbing into the house.
 - d) The house is too crowded to take a good look at everything.
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20. What does the man lose in the house?

- a) His shoe.
- b) The boy's knapsack.
- c) His courage.
- d) His lighter.

21. Why does the man tell the boy how to kill himself?

- a) He does not want the boy around anymore - he asks too many questions.
- b) It is the only alternative to being captured by the cannibals.
- c) He knows the boy is too weak and frightened to fight off the cannibals.
- d) He wants to make sure the boy knows how, because he knows he is dying.

22. What is in the cellar of the house?

- a) Rows of shelves stacked with canned food and bottled water.
- b) Rows of shelves stacked with weapons and ammunition.
- c) People, starving and hurt.
- d) Boxes and boxes of clothing and shoes.

23. Where are "the bad guys" hiding?

- a) In the attic of the house.
- b) In the child's playhouse in the yard.
- c) In the bathroom of the house.
- d) In the garden shed behind the house.

24. What do they find in the barn and the farmhouse?

- a) A box cutter and extra blades.
 - b) A dead cow, but they are able to salvage some of the meat.
 - c) A blow-up mattress and a patch kit.
 - d) Some dried apples and clean water.
 - e) both a) and d)
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25. The boy says, "You did good, Papa." (124) Why is it important that he says this?

- a) He is giving his father encouragement to keep going.
- b) He is relieved that he is not in trouble.
- c) He is happy that his father had found useful resources for the first time on their trip.
- d) All of the above.

26. What is missing from the shelter they find?

- a) Blankets.
 - b) Knives.
 - c) Guns.
 - d) Bullets.
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