

Student's Name:

Date:

Total: _____/27

1. In the bunker, what does the boy suggest they do before they eat?

- a) Wash their hands with soap and hot water.
- b) Say grace, thanking God for the food.
- c) Say something thanking the people who had left the food.

2. What does the father do to make sure they are safe in the bunker?

- a) He reloads the pistol with the ammunition they find in the footlocker.
- b) He drags some of the furniture from the house onto the lawn, putting an old mattress on the hatch leading to the bunker.
- c) He moves everything from the bunker into the house.

3. What is the father's perspective on having a look-out?

- a) "If trouble comes when you least expect it, then maybe the thing to do is to always expect it."
- b) "We don't have to be on the look-out all the time - if we find a good place, we should stay there."
- c) "I'm the only one who can be the look-out. I will never forget to be watchful."

4. When they leave the bunker, far does the man think they are from the coast, approximately?

- a) About 20 miles, as the crow flies (e.g. in a straight line).
 - b) About 200 miles, as the crow flies.
 - c) About 200 miles, according to the map.
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5. Who do they see at the end of the second day after leaving the bunker?

- a) A man with terrible burns.
- b) An old man with a peeled stick for a cane.
- c) The boy's mother, standing by the side of the road.

6. What does the boy want to do with the person they meet on the road?

- a) Share some food and a spoon.
- b) Offer a ride in the grocery cart.
- c) Steal the army rucksack to see whether there is anything good to eat inside.

7. Why doesn't the old man tell them his real name?

- a) He doesn't want them telling others about him - he doesn't trust them.
- b) He doesn't think there's a point in having names anymore.
- c) He doesn't remember his real name.

8. What happens to the small camp stove they took from the bunker?

- a) It falls off the grocery cart and is dented, so they cannot use it.
- b) The old man steals it.
- c) One of the valves is not turned off properly, so all the gas leaks out.

9. What phenomenon do they encounter when they cross the coastal plain?

- a) Sandstorms that make it difficult to breathe.
 - b) Firestorms that make it dangerous to come out of their shelter.
 - c) Wind-driven clouds of ash that make it difficult to see during the day.
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10. What does the boy find in the woods?

- a) a McDonald's restaurant
- b) a diesel train
- c) a downed aircraft

11. What is the meaning of the small cairns of rock by the roadside?

- a) They are warnings from roadagents to stay away from their territories.
- b) They are messages from survivors to loved ones, who are probably already dead.
- c) They are small caches of left-over food, that no-one has yet claimed.

12. According to the man, who holds the cities?

- a) The remains of the armed forces, existing on the last of the army rations.
- b) Soot-blackened looters who tunnel through the remains of buildings for food.
- c) Groups of cannibals feeding on children.

13. When they talk about finding the good guys, the father doubts that the boy believes him. The boy says,

- a) "I always believe you... I have to."
- b) "I want to believe you. But I don't have to."
- c) "You're right. I don't believe you."

14. What happens when they are confronted by three men as they enter a town?

- a) The man shows his pistol; then, they turn around and go back the other way.
 - b) The men allow them to pass through in exchange for some food from their cart.
 - c) The men try to grab the boy, so they run away and leave the cart behind - again.
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15. "[T]he value of the smallest thing predicated on a world to come." (187)

What does this mean?

- a) The littlest things are worth more or are important because we believe they will exist in the future, and that the world will always be the same.
- b) Things are worth something only at the moment - it doesn't matter what the future holds.
- c) If you predict that the world will end, the smallest things will be worth more.

16. How long does the man sick with a fever in the woods, and unable to travel?

- a) Four days.
- b) More than four days.
- c) Two weeks.

17. Which memory does the man NOT think about while he is sick?

- a) Watching a cat move under the awning of a cafe on a city street.
- b) Watching a group of men burn a den of snakes, in the belief that they were evil.
- c) Watching farmers slaughter calves for veal.

18. After the man is able to travel again, what does he know is different?

- a) There is a new kind of distance between the boy and himself.
- b) The boy is more ready to die than before.
- c) He and the boy have grown closer than before.

19. When they come upon the bodies melted into the highway, the boy

- a) allows his father to lead him, blindfolded, through the terrible scene.
 - b) is strangely untroubled, and helps his father take the cart around the mummies.
 - c) cries and runs until his father catches up to him.
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20. When they talk about the possibility of someone following them,

- a) the boy sounds more like an adult than before - he's starting to predict what his father will say.
- b) the boy wants to stop and wait to talk to the people, to find out if they are the 'good guys.'
- c) the boy is strangely untroubled - he doesn't say anything at all.

21. What is unusual about the group of people they see on the road?

- a) They have a small child with them.
- b) There is a heavily pregnant woman with them.
- c) They are leading a donkey and a cart, full of food.

22. Why does the man decide that they should investigate the smoke from a fire?

- a) He wants to know who will be following them, if they are all going the same way.
- b) He wants to see whether they have any food or water.
- c) He wants to ask if they will share their fire for the night.

23. What do they find when they come to the campsite?

- a) The people had seen them coming, and abandoned their food and fire.
- b) The people have a shelter, and offer them food and crackers.
- c) The people died by their fire, and there is no food.

24. The sight which is most upsetting to the boy is

- a) the evidence of a painful childbirth.
 - b) the evidence of cannibalism at its worst.
 - c) the sight of a mother comforting her child.
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25. When the boy asks about the dead infant they had seen, we learn that

- a) his father did not explain to him where babies come from.
- b) he was starting to become desensitized to the violence of his world.
- c) both of the above.

26. Approximately how long are they able to travel, consuming water alone, before becoming weak?

- a) Five days.
- b) Four days.
- c) Seven days.

27. What does the father find on the ground, as they move toward another house?

- a) A few quartz and flint arrowheads, and an old Spanish coin.
 - b) An iPod, earbuds, and a package of batteries.
 - c) Hotwheels cars and a Swiss Army knife.
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