It was the first of April. The night was dark; there was not a star to be seen; and a drizzling rain, falling at intervals, made me very uncomfortable. But my chief anxiety was concerning the balloon, which, in spite of the varnish with which it was defended, began to grow rather heavy with the moisture. I therefore set my assistants to working, and in about four hours and a half I found the balloon sufficiently inflated. I attached the car and put all my implements in it—a telescope, a barometer, a thermometer, an electrometer, a compass, a magnetic needle, a seconds watch, a bell, and other things. I had further procured a globe of glass, exhausted of air and carefully closed with a stopper, not forgetting a special apparatus for condensing air, a copious supply of water, and a large quantity of provisions, such as pemmican, in which much nutriment is contained in comparatively little bulk. I also secured a cat in the car.

It was now nearly daybreak, and I thought it high time to take my departure. I immediately cut the single cord which held me to the earth, and was pleased to find that I shot upward with unbelievable rapidity, carrying with all ease one hundred and seventy-five pounds of its leaden body and able to have carried as much more.

Scarcely, however, had I reached the height of fifty yards, when roaring and rumbling up after me in the most thundering and terrible manner, came so dense a hurricane of fire and gravel and burning wood and blazing metal that my very heart sunk within me and I fell down in the car, trembling with terror. Some of my chemical materials had exploded immediately beneath me almost at the moment of my leaving earth. The balloon at first collapsed, then furiously expanded, then whirled round and round with sickening velocity, and finally, reeling and staggering like a drunken man, hurled me over the rim of the car; and in the moment of my fall I lost consciousness.

I had no knowledge of what had saved me. When I partly recovered my consciousness, I found the day breaking, the balloon at a humungous height over a wilderness of ocean, and not a trace of land to be discovered far and wide within the limits of the vast horizon. My sensations, however, upon thus recovering, were so filled with agony as might have been expected. I drew up to my eyes each of my hands, one after the other, and wondered what occurrence could have given rise to the swelling of the veins and the horrible blackness of the fingernails.

B, C, B, A

D, D, A, B

D, C, A, B

A, D, A

| 1 | Why do you think the narrator felt uncomfortable about the weather?   1. It is dull and repetitive 2. **It is hopeless and feels melancholy** 3. It is wet and hard to travel in 4. Nobody likes the rain or dark | Inference |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2 | What does the narrator mean by ‘chief anxiety’ on line \_\_\_\_?   1. The current anxiety of the chief 2. A worry only chiefs can get 3. **The main worry** 4. Worries that only top people get | Understanding/ vocab |
| 3 | What is the narrator’s concern with the balloon?   1. It is varnished so it cannot be defended 2. **The varnish is not stopping water from getting through** 3. It is undefended from the varnish 4. It was too heavy for the varnish to go on | Inference  Moisture suggests water is getting through and being absorbed by the balloon |
| 4  Needs editing by me | Which one of these statements is false?   1. **The balloon was ready to take off after four and a half hours** 2. The narrator has been working alone 3. The narrator did not like the weather because it made travelling hard 4. In the car, there were over 13 things packed | It was only filled ‘just enough’. After that time, the writer spent time packing before taking off. |
| 5 | Which word would best replace the word ‘copious’ on line \_\_\_\_\_?   1. Tasty 2. Never ending 3. Fresh 4. **Plentiful** |  |
| 6 | Which word or phrase best describes the ‘drizzling rain’?   1. It rained heavily 2. It rained non-stop 3. It was freezing 4. **It was uneven** |  |
| 7 | What type of word is ‘implements’ on line \_\_\_\_\_?   1. **Noun** 2. Verb 3. Pronoun 4. Preposition |  |
| 8 | What does ‘much nutrient is contained in comparatively little bulk’ mean?   1. Compared to others, there are a lot of nutrients 2. **Compared to bigger items, there are more nutrients** 3. Bigger things have more bulk compared to smaller ones 4. The provisions contain bulkier nutrients when compared to others |  |
| 9 | What writing technique is ‘shot forward’ on line \_\_\_\_\_?   1. Personification 2. Imagination 3. Simile 4. **Metaphor** | It is describing the vehicle as a bullet/ gun |
| 10 | Which one of these statements is true?   1. The balloon was connected with more than a single cord 2. The balloon took off incredibly unhurriedly 3. **The balloon could have carried as much as it weighs** 4. It is carrying one hundred and seventy-five pounds |  |
| 11 | Which phrase best describes the writer’s opinion of taking off?   1. **Surprised and impressed** 2. As expected 3. Not as good as they thought 4. There are areas of improvement |  |
| 12 | What caused the accident to the balloon?   1. A hurricane 2. **There was an explosion** 3. There was a fire 4. It was never stated |  |
| 13 | What is the effect of the metaphor ‘hurricane of fire and gravel and burning wood and blazing metal’?   1. **It helps the reader picture how all the materials were burned and mixed together** 2. It makes it seem hotter than normal descriptions 3. It makes the description vivid so it is more memorable 4. The reader can imagine a similar situation that has happened to them |  |
| 14 | How did the narrator fall off the balloon?   1. A drunken man who was on board pushed him 2. They were furiously reeled off by somebody else nearby 3. They jumped off because it was too fast and they were scared 4. **The ship’s unstable movements caused them to lose balance and fall** |  |
| 15 | What is another word for ‘rim’ on line \_\_\_\_?   1. **Edge** 2. Door 3. Exit 4. Bottom |  |