

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

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| <p>1. How do Hal, Charles, and Mercedes attempt to solve the problem of their slow travel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ They pack the sled more neatly. Ⓑ They begin their travel earlier in the day. Ⓒ They let the dogs rest for a few days before starting on the trip. Ⓓ They feed the dogs larger portions of food. <p>2. What does the word callowness mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ cruelty Ⓑ immaturity Ⓒ wisdom Ⓓ respect | <p>3. What does Buck think of the new owners?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ He thinks they are kind and he tries to please them. Ⓑ He thinks they are mean and tries to undermine their authority. Ⓒ He thinks they are foolish and doesn't respect them. Ⓓ He thinks they are experienced and is eager to work with them. <p>4. How do the new dogs differ from Buck and the old team?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ The new ones are faster because they have just arrived and are not tired. Ⓑ The new ones are less experienced and do not adjust well to the trail. Ⓒ They new ones adapt more quickly to the trail because they are tougher. Ⓓ The new ones are more dependable because they know the trail well. |
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5. Which conflict drives the plot in this part of the story?

- Ⓐ The new owners are inexperienced and make many mistakes.
- Ⓑ The new dogs don't get along well with the others.
- Ⓒ The townspeople don't like Hal and Charles and mock them.
- Ⓓ The dogs wish they could return to the mail route.

6. Which word best describes Mercedes?

- Ⓐ dramatic
- Ⓑ uncaring
- Ⓒ strong
- Ⓓ shy

7. Which of the following is an effect of the new owners' poor leadership?

- Ⓐ Dub has a wrenched shoulder.
- Ⓑ The runners freeze.
- Ⓒ Buck trains the new dogs.
- Ⓓ The sled tips over.

8. What happens before Hal, Charles, and Mercedes leave town?

- Ⓐ Their sled tips over.
- Ⓑ They double the food rations.
- Ⓒ Hal shoots Dub.
- Ⓓ They cut the food rations in half.

9. Which of the following is a way the author establishes the new owners' incompetence?

- Ⓐ through a detailed description of their back stories
- Ⓑ through emphasizing their compassion for the dogs
- Ⓒ through dialogue between them and the townspeople
- Ⓓ through a physical description of Hal and Charles

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10. The dogs' arrival in Skaguay is best described as the _____ of this part of the story.
- Ⓐ introduction
 - Ⓑ rising action
 - Ⓒ climax
 - Ⓓ falling action
11. **Extended Response:** Compare the character traits that Hal and Mercedes demonstrate, and describe how their personalities contribute to the difficulties on the trail. Write a paragraph that explains your answer and uses evidence from the text to support it.
12. **Extended Response:** Write a response that explains your reaction to the new owners, including your judgment of their abilities as dog-sled drivers, and use details from the text to support your opinions. Then, explain why you think the author added these characters to the story.

1. Ⓓ *Problem and Solution*
2. Ⓑ *Vocabulary*
3. Ⓒ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
4. Ⓑ *Compare and Contrast*
5. Ⓐ *Analyze Plot*
6. Ⓐ *Analyze Character*
7. Ⓓ *Cause and Effect*
8. Ⓐ *Sequence Events*
9. Ⓒ *Analyze Character*
10. Ⓐ *Analyze Plot*
11. Answers will vary, but may use character traits such as immaturity, arrogance, unreliability, foolishness, sloppiness, or lack of discipline to describe the group, and compare how Hal and Mercedes display these traits. Answers should also mention specific problems in the story that are caused by such traits, such as poorly rationing the food, slow travel, misinterpreting the needs of the dogs, and several the dogs dying.
12. Answers will vary, but will describe the student's feelings about Hal, Charles, and Mercedes, and will support his or her ideas with details from the text. Answers will conclude with the student's thoughts on why the author included these three characters, such as the author wanting to increase the suspense, add some humor, show why Buck might be wise not to trust some people, and so on.