

## THE PEOPLE COULD FLY

**Selection Test B/C****Comprehension**

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.  
(6 points each)

1. The Master is compared to a hard rock pile because of his
  - A. chiseled features
  - B. practical nature
  - C. power and strength
  - D. refusal to be moved
2. When introducing readers to the young woman with the baby, the purpose of the narrator saying “Call her Sarah” is to
  - A. demonstrate that the narrator can no longer remember Sarah’s real name
  - B. indicate that Sarah’s real name cannot be mentioned in the story
  - C. show that Sarah is intended to represent many similar women
  - D. reveal that the narrator wants the reader to know what Sarah looks like
3. Which of the following details would you need to include in a summary of this folk tale?
  - A. The slave owner always carried a gun at his hip.
  - B. Toby said magic words that could help other slaves fly.
  - C. Sarah is a slave who carried her baby on her back.
  - D. The Driver whipped Sarah when her baby would not stop crying.
4. Which of the following sentences from the folk tale shows a nonstandard usage that matches how people might actually talk?
  - A. “Toby come over and spoke words to the fallen one.”
  - B. “They couldn’t take their wings across the water on slave ships.”
  - C. “The slaves labored in the fields from sunup to sundown.”
  - D. “She flew like an eagle now, until she was gone from sight.”
5. Toby laughs at the Master because Toby
  - A. is trying to comfort the other slaves
  - B. knows the Master can’t hurt him
  - C. takes pleasure in being threatened
  - D. is trying to further anger the Master
6. The narrator calls the magic words “the ancient words that were a dark promise.” What do these words promise?
  - A. freedom
  - B. justice
  - C. love
  - D. wealth

## SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

**Vocabulary**

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word. (6 points each)

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| <p>7. To <u>shuffle</u> is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. cause to move back and forth frequently or repeatedly</li><li>B. dance rhythmically without music, alone or with another</li><li>C. question the order in which objects are organized</li><li>D. slide the feet along the ground while walking</li></ul> <p>8. What does <u>glinty</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. bright</li><li>B. bubbly</li><li>C. sparkling</li><li>D. refreshing</li></ul> | <p>9. To <u>snag</u> is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. catch and tear</li><li>B. reach and miss</li><li>C. try and fail</li><li>D. trip and fall</li></ul> <p>10. What does <u>croon</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. whisper quietly</li><li>B. hold closely</li><li>C. sing softly</li><li>D. remember clearly</li></ul> |
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**Written Response**

**Short Response** On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the folk tale. (10 points each)

11. The first line of the story is “They say the people could fly.” Who are “they”? Why do “they” think the people could fly?
12. Why is Africa so important to the slaves?

**Extended Response** Answer one of the following questions based on your knowledge of the folk tale. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

13. Summarize the section of the story that tells about the slave Sarah and her child.
14. **Challenge** The narrator calls the owner “the one callin’ himself Master.” What does this tell you about the narrator’s feelings about the owner? What does it tell you about the owner’s relationship to his slaves?