**Critical Reading**

In the blank, write the letter of the one best answer.

___ 1. Why do the villagers reject Long Arrow at the beginning of the story?
   a. They believe he is cruel and dangerous.
   b. They believe he is foolish and dull-witted.
   c. He is caught stealing food from people.
   d. He mistreats his sister.

___ 2. How would you interpret the following passage from “The Orphan Boy and the Elk Dog”?
   Good Running said, “They called you a stupid, crazy boy, but now that I think of it, the name you were given at birth is Long Arrow. I’ll see that people call you by your right name. Now come along.”
   a. Good Running feels that even though Long Arrow is dimwitted, he still should be called by his given name.
   b. Good Running wants Long Arrow to change his name.
   c. Good Running feels that Long Arrow is worthy of respect and he wants the villagers to respect him, too.
   d. Good Running feels that Long Arrow should have been given a different name at birth.

___ 3. Why does Good Running decide to adopt Long Arrow?
   a. Good Running begins to like Long Arrow, who seems alert and capable of becoming a good hunter and warrior.
   b. Good Running is no longer able to hunt, and he needs Long Arrow’s help.
   c. Good Running is pressured by his wife, who feels abandoning the boy is wrong.
   d. Good Running is lonely and has always wanted a son.

___ 4. What sets Good Running apart from other people in his village?
   a. He is a skilled hunter and warrior.
   b. He has a strong sense of compassion and is willing to look beyond people’s prejudices against Long Arrow.
   c. He is slow-witted and people take advantage of his kindness.
   d. He enjoys the company of children.

___ 5. Judging from details provided in the myth, what qualities in young men did the Blackfeet most value?
   a. sensitivity and compassion
   b. planting, cleaning, and cooking abilities
   c. a sense of humor and the ability to tell stories
   d. strength, knowledge, and hunting skills

___ 6. Why is Good Running at first reluctant to suggest that Long Arrow search for Elk Dogs?
   a. Good Running wants to find the Elk Dogs himself.
   b. He loves Long Arrow and does not want to lose him.
   c. He feels Long Arrow is not really strong or brave enough to search for Elk Dogs.
   d. He does not believe Elk Dogs really exist.
7. What is the significance of Long Arrow’s journey to find the Elk Dogs in “The Orphan Boy and the Elk Dog”?
   a. It is a chance for him to add some excitement to his life.
   b. It is an opportunity for him to prove to the villagers that Elk Dogs do not really exist.
   c. It is a chance for him to bring relief to the hardworking village dogs who were his only friends during the time he was an outcast.
   d. It is an opportunity for him to prove his worth to his fellow villagers and to make Good Running proud.

8. Where does Long Arrow have to go to find the mysterious Elk Dogs and the holy man who controls them?
   a. to the bottom of a deep canyon
   b. to a castle in the sky
   c. to the bottom of a lake
   d. to the top of a mountain

9. Which quality helps Long Arrow most as he faces each obstacle on his journey?
   a. his gentleness
   b. his bravery
   c. his physical strength
   d. his knowledge of animals

10. Which passage best shows Long Arrow as a “larger than life,” mythical character?
   a. Following Good Running’s advice, Long Arrow wandered southward. On the fourth day of his journey he came to a small pond, where a strange man was standing as if waiting for him.
   b. The beautiful boy took Long Arrow to a meadow on which some strange animals, unlike any the young man had ever seen, were galloping and gamboling, neighing and nickering.
   c. Long Arrow wandered on, walking for long hours and taking little time for rest. Through deep canyons and over high mountains he went, wearing out his moccasins and enduring cold and heat, hunger and thirst.
   d. Long Arrow thanked him and vowed to follow his advice. For four days the young man stayed in the spirit chief’s lodge, where he ate well and often went out riding on the Elk Dogs.

11. What is the chief’s attitude when Long Arrow catches a glimpse of his leg and hoof?
   a. He is angry and orders Long Arrow to leave the lodge immediately.
   b. He feels depressed that he has been unable to hide his embarrassing secret.
   c. He feels Long Arrow must have been fated to see it.
   d. He wants Long Arrow to become the new chief.

12. Which words best describe Long Arrow’s state of mind as he leaves the land of the spirit people?
   a. bold and proud
   b. timid and humble
   c. sad and disappointed
   d. angry and vengeful

13. What does Long Arrow’s decision to share his Elk Dogs with Good Running reveal about his character?
   a. He is fearful that Good Running will reject him.
   b. He is considerate and generous as well as strong and brave.
   c. The Elk Dogs are not important to him.
   d. His main concern is making the other villagers feel envious.

14. What is the most beneficial aspect of the journey for Long Arrow?
   a. It gives Long Arrow a chance to ride his own Elk Dogs.
   b. It proves once and for all Long Arrow’s worth to people in the camp.
   c. It gives Long Arrow a chance to offer his adopted grandparents a gift.
   d. It gives Long Arrow a chance to explore the countryside.
15. The main purpose of “The Orphan Boy and the Elk Dog” is to explain
a. how the Blackfeet came to have horses.
b. how the Blackfeet treated orphans.
c. the importance of bravery and determination.
d. the activities of young Blackfeet boys.

Vocabulary and Grammar

16. Which of the following sentences contains an error in its use of accept or except?
   a. People continued to except Long Arrow from the community.
   b. Long Arrow excepted a difficult challenge.
   c. Good Running was willing to accept Long Arrow into his home.
   d. Everyone except Good Running doubted the boy’s abilities.

17. Which of the following is the best meaning of the word surpassed as it is used in the following sentence?
   Long Arrow was a fast learner and soon surpassed other boys his age in knowledge and skills.
   a. enjoyed   b. taught   c. went beyond   d. fell behind

18. Long Arrow noticed that power seemed to be __________ from the holy man.
   a. emanating   b. stifling   c. relishing   d. surpassing

19. The holy man __________ Long Arrow into his lodge. The holy man looked like a normal human, __________ for the fact that he had the leg and hoof of an Elk Dog.
   a. excepted; except   b. accepted; except   c. excepted; accept   d. accepted; accept

20. Which of the following is the best meaning of the word stifle as it is used in the following sentence?
   Long Arrow tried to stifle his cry of surprise.
   a. sing   b. shout   c. exaggerate   d. hold back

Essay Questions

21. In an essay, explain why the journey to find Elk Dogs becomes so important to Long Arrow. What prompts him to go on the journey? What, in addition to Elk Dogs, is he hoping to find? How does he feel as he returns to the village with the Elk Dogs? Why does he feel this way?

22. In an essay, explain the character of Long Arrow. What personality traits does he exhibit in the story? In what way do some of these traits help him to find a place in the home of Good Running? In what way do some of these traits make completing his difficult task possible? How has his personality been shaped by the early events of his life?

23. In an essay, analyze “The Orphan Boy and the Elk Dog” as an example of myth. What is a myth? What characteristics of myth does this story have? Answer these questions using examples from the story.