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Passage No. 16

Directions: Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. Some words/phrases are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Once upon a time there was a shy and quite octopus. He nearly always went about on his own because, although he wanted to have lots of friends, he was too self-conscious.

One day, the octopus was trying to catch a very slippery oyster. Before he knew it, he had tied himself into one massive knot, and he couldn't move. He tried with all his strength to wriggle free, but it was no good. In the end, despite the great embarrassment he felt at being seen in such a tangle, he had to ask for help from the passing fish. Many fish swam past, ignoring him, but one very kind little fish offered to help untie all those tentacles from all those suckers.

The octopus felt heartily relieved when he was finally set free, but he was so shy that he didn't dare talk to the fish and make friends with him. He simply thanked the fish, and quickly swam off. Later, the octopus spent the whole night thinking that he had wasted a great opportunity to make friends with that very kind little fish.

A couple of days later the octopus was resting between some rocks, when he noticed that everyone around was hurriedly swimming past. He looked into the distance and saw an enormous fish coming over to feed in that area. The octopus quickly hid; then, peeping an eye out from his hiding place, he saw that the huge fish was chasing the kind little fish who had untied him. That little fish really needed urgent help, but the big fish was so dangerous-looking that no one dared to go near. The octopus, remembering how the little fish had helped him, felt that he had to do whatever he could to come to his aid.

Without hesitating, the octopus shot out from the rocks, like a ray. He put himself right in the path of the giant fish, and before the fish could do anything about it, the octopus had shot out the biggest jet of ink of his life. He grabbed the little fish, and swam off back to hide in the rocks. Everything happened so fast that the big fish had no time to react. However, he soon recovered from the surprise. Off he went to the rocks, looking for the octopus and the little fish. Now he really wanted to gobble them down !

Soon, though, he began feeling a terrible itch; first in his gills, and then in his fins, and then all over his body. It turned out that this giant fish had a very sensitive skin and the octopus's dark ink had given him a terrible allergy !! So the big fish swam away, irritated all over.

As soon as he was gone, all the fish that had been hiding came and congratulated the octopus for being so brave. Then the little fish told them all how he had helped the octopus a few days earlier, but he had never known anyone to end up doing something so dangerous. Hearing this, the other fish discovered how nice the shy octopus was, and everyone around was keen to be friends with such a brave and honourable octopus.

Questions:

1. How did the octopus save the little fish?

- A. By asking the little fish to hide before the big fish could see him.
- B. By putting himself between the big fish and the little fish and shooting a jet of ink at the big fish.
- C. By shooting a jet of ink at the big fish and thus managing to kill it.
- D. By calling out for help from all the other fish and carrying the little fish to safety.
- E. By offering his life to the big fish instead of the life of the little fish.

2. Why did the octopus have to ask for help from the passing fish?

- A. He was bored of swimming alone and thus asked the fish to accompany him.
- B. He desperately needed to make friends and thus needed the fish to help him.
- C. Someone had tied him up in a knot and he could not get himself untied.
- D. He needed help in order to escape from the big fish that had come to eat him.
- E. He had gotten himself tied up in a knot trying to catch an oyster.

3. 'He nearly always went about on his own because, although he wanted to have lots of friends, he was too self-conscious.' How can this sentence be best reframed without changing its meaning?

- A. Having many friends, he was self-conscious despite being alone.
- B. Being alone, he had many friends despite being self-conscious.
- C. Being self-conscious, he went about alone despite wanting to have many friends.

- D. Being alone, he was self-conscious despite wanting to have many friends.
E. Having many friends, he went about alone despite being self-conscious.

4. Which of the following characteristics can be attributed to the little fish from the story?

1. Kind

2. Persuasive

3. Shy

- A. Only 1 and 3 B. Only 1 C. All 1, 2 and 3 D. Only 2 E. Only 2 and 3

5. 'The octopus, remembering how the little fish had helped him, felt that he had to do whatever he could to come to his aid.' What feeling of the octopus towards the little fish does this line signify?

- A. Revenge B. Suspicion C. Gratitude D. Compassion E. Repentance

6. 'Now he really wanted to gobble them down!' What emotion of the big fish does his sentence convey?

- A. Happiness B. Pleasure C. Anger D. Helplessness E. Fear

7. Why did all the fish congratulate the octopus?

- A. He had bravely saved the little fish from being eaten by the big fish.
B. He had successfully gotten himself untied all by himself.

- C. He had managed to kill the big lives of all the other fish.
- D. He had finally managed to make a large number of friends in the ocean.
- E. He had saved the little fish from the clutches of the oyster.

8. Which of the following can be the most appropriate title for the passage/story?

- A. The Brave But Shy Octopus
- B. The Tiniest Fish
- C. The Fishes of the Ocean
- D. The Big Hungry Fish
- E. The Dumb Octopus

9. Which of the following characteristics can be attributed to the octopus from the story?

- 1. Troublesome**
- 2. Noble**
- 3. Brave**

- A. Only 2 B. Only 1 C. Only 1 and 3 D. Only 2 and 3 E. All 1, 2 and 3

10. Why did the big fish swim away?

- A. He got scared looking at the huge octopus and decided not to attack the little fish.
- B. He was driven away by the other fish.



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- C. He was unable to locate the octopus and the fish.
- D. He got a terrible itch all over his body from the octopus' ink.
- E. He decided that he would not be able to handle both the octopus and the fish together.

11. Choose the word/group of words which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word/group of words printed in BOLD as used in the passage.

MASSIVE

- A. Big B. Heavy C. Thin D. Frail E. Plenty

12. Choose the word/group of words which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word/group of words printed in BOLD as used in the passage.

REACT

- A. Emote B. Respond C. Replay D. Look E. Answer

13. Choose the word/group of words which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word/group of words printed in BOLD as used in the passage.

NEARLY

- A. Quietly B. Closely C. Next D. Almost E. Proximally

14. Choose the word/group of words which is **MOST OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word/group of words printed in **BOLD** as used in the passage.

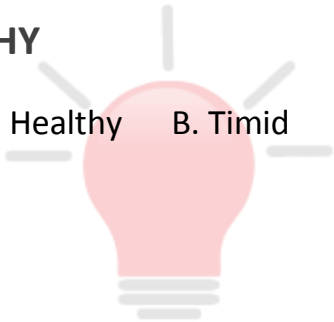
HURRIEDLY

A. Sickly B. Fast C. Quickly D. Palely E. Leisurely

15. Choose the word/group of words which is **MOST OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word/group of words printed in **BOLD** as used in the passage.

SHY

A. Healthy B. Timid C. Happy D. Polite E. Bold



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Correct Answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
B	E	C	B	C	C	A	A	D	D	B	B	D	E	E

Explanations:

1.

Kindly refer to the 2nd sentence of the 5th paragraph.

Hence, option B is correct

2.

The answer can be inferred from the first few sentences of the 2nd paragraph.
Hence, option E is correct

3.

The sentence explains that the octopus was self-conscious, and used to live alone though he wanted to have friends.

The sentence in Option C best describes the same.

Hence, option C is correct

4.

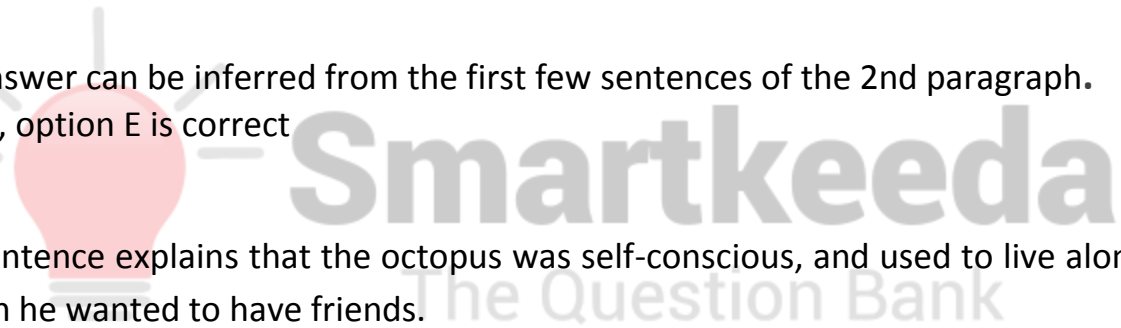
Kindly refer to the last sentence of the 2nd paragraph.

Hence, option B is correct

5.

It can be inferred from the passage that the Octopus was thankful to the little fish.

Hence, option C is correct



6.

The sentence clearly signifies anger.

Hence, option C is correct

7.

The answer can be inferred from the 6th and the last paragraphs.

Hence, option A is correct

8.

In the given context of the passage, the most suitable title for the story is 'The Brave but Shy Octopus'.

Hence, option A is correct

9.

In the given context of the passage, it can be inferred that the Octopus was both noble and brave as he risked his life to save the little fish.

Hence, option D is correct

10.

Kindly refer to the 2nd last sentence of the 6th paragraph.

Hence, option D is correct

11.

In the given context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Massive' is 'Heavy'.

Hence, option B is correct

12.

In the given context of the passage, the most similar word to 'React' is 'Respond'.

Hence, option B is correct



13.

In the given context, the most similar word to 'Nearly' is 'Almost'.

Hence, option D is correct

14.

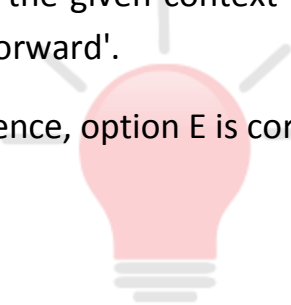
In the given context of the passage, the most opposite word of 'Hurriedly' is 'Leisurely'.

Hence, option E is correct

15.

In the given context of the passage, the most opposite word of 'Shy' is 'Bold' or 'Forward'.

Hence, option E is correct



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