

Comprehension

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Ted Turner lived at Freeman's Falls, a sleepy little town on the bank of a small New- Hampshire river. There were cotton mills in the town; in fact, had there not been, probably no town would have existed. The mills had not been attracted to the town; the town had arisen because of the mills. The river was responsible for the whole thing, for its swift current and foaming cascades had brought the mills, and the mills in turn had brought the village.

Ted's father was a shipping clerk in one of the factories and his two older sisters were employed there also. Someday, Ted himself **10**.expected to enter the great brick buildings, as the boys of the town usually did, and work his way up. Perhaps in time he might become a superintendent or even one of the firm. Who could tell? Such miracles did happen. Not that Ted Turner preferred a life in the cotton mills to any other career. Not at all. Deep down in his soul he detested the humming, panting, noisy place with its clatter of wheels, its monotonous piecework, and its limited horizon. But what choice had he? The mills were there and the only alternative before him. It was the mills or nothing for people seldom came to live at Freeman's Falls if they did not intend to enter the factories of Fernald and Company. It was Fernald and Company that had led his father to sell the tumble-down farm in Vermont and move with his family to New Hampshire.

20. "There is no money in farming," announced he, after the death of Ted's mother. "Suppose we pull up stakes and go to some mill town where we can all find work."

And therefore, without consideration for personal preferences, they had looked up mill towns and eventually settled on Freeman's Falls, not because they particularly liked its location but because labour was needed there. A very sad decision it was for Ted who had passionately loved the old farm on which he had been born, the half-blind grey horse, the few hens, and the lean Jersey cattle that his father asserted ate more than they were worth. To be **30**.cooped up in a manufacturing centre after having had acres of open country to roam over was not an altogether joyous prospect. Would there be any chestnut, walnut, or apple trees at Freeman's Falls, he wondered.

Alas, the question was soon answered. Within the village there were almost no trees at all except a few sickly elms and maples whose foliage was pale for want of sunshine and grimy with smoke. In fact, there was not much of anything in the town save the long dingy factories that bordered the river; the group of cheap **40**.and gaudy shops on the main street; and rows upon rows of wooden houses, all identical in design, walling in the highway. It was not a spot where green things flourished. There was not room for anything to grow, and if there had been, the soot from the towering chimneys would soon have settled upon any venturesome leaf or flower and quickly shrivelled it beneath a cloak of cinders. Even the river was coated with a scum of oil and refuse that poured from the waste pipes of the factories into the stream and washed up along the shores which might otherwise have been fair **50**.and verdant.

Of course, if one could get far enough away there was beauty in plenty for in the outlying country stretched vistas of splendid pines, fields lush with ferns and flowers, and the unsullied span of the river where, in all its mountain-born purity, it rushed gaily down toward the village. Here, well distant from the manufacturing atmosphere, were the homes of the Fernalds who owned the mills, the great estates of Mr. Lawrence Fernald and Mr. Clarence Fernald who everyday rolled to their offices in giant limousines. Everybody in Freeman's Falls knew them by sight; the **60**.big boss, as he was called, and his married son and everybody thought how lucky they were to own the mills and take the money instead of doing the work. At least, that was what gossip said they did.

Unquestionably, it was much nicer to live at Aldercliffe, the stately colonial mansion of Mr. Lawrence Fernald, or at Pine Lea, the home of Mr. Clarence Fernald, where sweeping lawns, bright awnings, gardens, conservatories, and flashing fountains made a wonderland of the place. Troupes of laughing guests seemed always to be going and coming at both houses and there were **70**.horses and motor-cars, tennis courts, a golf course, and canoes and launches moored at the edge of the river. Freeman's Falls was

a very stupid spot when contrasted with all this jollity. It must be far pleasanter, too, when winter came to hurry off to New York for the holidays or to Florida or California, as Mr. Clarence Fernald frequently did.

Taken from Ted and the Telephone by Sara Ware Bassett

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is meant by "a sleepy little town"?
 - A. The people who lived there were always asleep.
 - B. It was a quiet town where nothing much happened.
 - C. It was a quiet town where people retired early.
 - D. The town was a hive of activity.

2. What came first – the river, the town, or the mills?
 - A. The cotton mill
 - B. The people of the town
 - C. The river
 - D. The town

3. How many of Ted's family were currently employed at the mill?
 - A. Four
 - B. Two
 - C. Three
 - D. None of the above

4. Which of these best describes the town?
 - A. Soot covered with rows of wooden houses, where hardly anything grows.
 - B. A picturesque town with flourishing foliage.
 - C. A mountainous region with a river running through it.
 - D. A bustling town with modern shops and houses.

5. How do we know that Ted does not want to work in the mills?

A. He would rather work on the farm.

B. It did not offer him the opportunity of becoming a superintendent.

C. He thought the mills were noisy, the work boring and offered very little opportunity.

D. He thought he was too over-qualified for any work in the mills.

6. What does "pull up stakes" mean?

A. Pack up all their belongings.

B. Pull out all the wooden stakes surrounding their house.

C. Pull ranks

D. Leave everything behind.

7. Why does Ted's family decide to move to Freeman's Falls in particular?

A. It was a family friendly area.

B. There was a need for labour there.

C. There was a lot of money to be made at Freeman's Fall

D. They had nowhere else to go.

8. Why did the maple and elm trees in the village have pale leaves?

A. They lack enough fresh air.

B. The trees are not frequently watered.

C. A layer of smoke prevented them from receiving enough sunlight.

D. There were too many trees and not enough sunshine.

9. In what way did the factories affect the river?

- A. The factories manufactured products used to clean the river.
- B. Factory workers and their families spent their leisure time on the river.
- C. Waste from the factories contaminated the river.
- D. Waste from the factories were transported by the river.

10. How would you describe the suburban area surrounding the town?

- A. Verdant with attractive scenery and an uncontaminated flowing river.
- B. A rocky, mountainous region with abundant pine and fir trees.
- C. A built up area with a dirty, polluted stream running through it.
- D. A flat grassy valley with an abundance of elm and maple trees.

11. What is the relation between Mr Clarence Fernald and Mr Lawrence Fernald?

- A. They are brothers.
- B. They are uncle and nephew.
- C. They are grandfather and grandson.
- D. They are father and son.

12. How do we know that the Fernalds do not live near the factories?

- A. They live 'well distant' from the manufacturing atmosphere.
- B. They drive to work.
- C. Bosses do not live in the same area as their employers.
- D. We are not told where the Fernalds live.

13. What is the name of Mr. Clarence Fernald's home?

A. Aldercliffe B. Adlerclife C. Pine Lea D. Pine Leaf

14. What did Clarence Fernald often do in winter?

A. Stayed at home since it was too cold to go anywhere.

B. Holidayed in Florida, New York or California.

C. Skied in the mountains.

D. Holidayed in the Caribbean.

15. What types of words are 'Fernalds' 'Aldercliffe' 'Freeman's Fall' 'New York'?

A. noun B. adjective C. proper noun D. verb

16. What is the meaning of 'gaudy' as used in the passage? Line 40

A. elegant B. stylish C. unattractive D. inexpensive

17. If something is 'verdant', it suggests it is:

A. not growing or flourishing. B. green and flourishing

C. covered in black soot.

D. lacking enough space

18. What type of noun is 'troupe' as used in the passage? Line 69.

A. abstract B. collective C. concrete D. proper

19. 'Not that Ted Turner preferred a life in the cotton mills to any other career.' Which of the above is a verb?

A. Life B. other C. preferred D. that

20. Which of these is a synonym of 'detested' as used in the passage?

A . admonished B. loathed C. tumultuous D. admired

21. Which of these is an antonym of 'lucky'?

A. fortunate B. bashful C. favoured D. hapless

22. Which of these is not a word which can replace 'seldom' as used in the passage?

A. Rarely B. hardly C. always D. infrequently

23. Something which is described as monotonous is which of the following?

A . exciting and full of fun B. humorous
C. extremely dangerous D. lacking in variety and interest

24. What literary technique is being used in the phrase 'personal preferences' and 'flashing fountains' ?

A. idiom B. pathetic fallacy C. simile D. alliteration

25. 'Unquestionably, it was much nicer to live at Aldercliffe, ...
Which of the above is a comparative adjective?

A. nicer B. unquestionably C. live D. much

Answer sheet

date _____

Mark your answer on the answer sheet by shading the correct option.

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21. A. B. C. D.
22. A. B. C. D.
23. A. B. C. D.
24. A. B. C. D.
25. A. B. C. D.

ANSWER

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| 12 | A | 25 | A |
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