

READING

Task 1

Time: 45 minutes.

TEXT

Read the text about Alice Walker. For questions 1-10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Alice Walker makes her living by writing, and her poems, short stories, and novels have won many awards and fellowships for her. She was born in Eatonton, Georgia. She went to public school there, and then to Spelman College in Atlanta before coming to New York to attend Sarah Lawrence College, from which she graduated in 1966. For a time she lived in Jackson, Mississippi, with her lawyer husband and small daughter.

About *Langston Hughes, American Poet*, her first book for children, she says, "After my first meeting with Langston Hughes I vowed I would write a book about him for children someday. Why? Because I, at twenty-two, knew next to nothing of his work, and he didn't scold me; he just gave me a stack of his books. And he was kind to me; I will always be grateful that in his absolute warmth and generosity he fulfilled my deepest dream (and need) of what a poet should be.

"To me he is not dead at all. Hardly a day goes by that I don't think of him or speak of him. Once, just before he died, when he was sick with the flu, I took him a sack full of oranges. The joy I felt in giving that simple gift is undiminished by time. He said he liked oranges, too."

1. What is the main topic of the passage?

- A Alice Walker's reflections on Langston Hughes.
- B The influence of Alice Walker on the writing of Langston Hughes.
- C Langston Hughes' book about Alice Walker.
- D A comparison of the childhoods of Alice Walker and Langston Hughes.

2. In the passage, Alice Walker is described as

- A a research fellow at Spelman College.
- B a professor at Sarah Lawrence College.
- C a prize-winning writer of prose and poetry.
- D an author of plays for children.

3. Before attending college, Alice Walker went to school in

- A Atlanta, Georgia.
- B Eatonton, Georgia.
- C Jackson, Mississippi.
- D Lawrence, Massachusetts.

4. The word "vowed" in line 8 is closest in meaning to which of the following?

- A Confided.
- B Believed.
- C Denied.
- D Promised.

5. It can be inferred from the passage that Alice Walker was twenty-two years old when

- A she moved to Jackson, Mississippi.
- B she moved to New York.
- C she first met Langston Hughes.
- D Langston Hughes died.

6. It can be inferred from lines 10-13 that Alice Walker's first impressions of Langston Hughes were derived mostly from
- A talking with his friends.
 - B reading his autobiography.
 - C studying his poetry.
 - D meeting him.
7. The word "dream" in line 12 is closest in meaning to
- A nightmare.
 - B expectation.
 - C sleep.
 - D misconception.
8. What does Alice Walker imply when she says Langston Hughes "is not dead at all" (line 14)?
- A Langston Hughes believed in eternal life.
 - B She had not been informed of Langston Hughes' death.
 - C For her, Langston Hughes had never really existed.
 - D Langston Hughes is still present in her thoughts.
9. The word "undiminished" in line 17 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
- A Not exaggerated.
 - B Not lessened.
 - C Disappointed.
 - D Unequaled.
10. According to the passage, what did Alice Walker give Langston Hughes before he died?
- A A job.

- B An award.
- C Some oranges.
- D A stack of books.

TASK 2

Read the text. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (8-13). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

On the whole, Cambridge is much quieter than Oxford, although what really sets it apart from its scholarly rival is 'the Backs', providing exquisite views over the backs of the old colleges. At the front, the handsome facades of these same colleges dominate the layout of the town centre, lining up along the main streets. Most of the colleges date back to the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. Many of the buildings are extraordinarily beautiful, but the most famous is King's College, 8.

There are thirty-one university colleges in total. Each one is an independent, self-governing body, proud of its achievements and attracting a close loyalty from its students, 9.

During the nineteenth century, the university finally lost its ancient privileges over the town, 10. The university expanded too, with the number of students increasing dramatically. More recently, change has been much slower, 11. The first two women's colleges were founded in the 1870s, but it was only in 1947 that women were actually awarded degrees. In the meantime, the city and university had been acquiring a reputation as a high-tech centre of excellence. Cambridge has always been in the vanguard of scientific research, 12.

Cambridge is an extremely compact place, and you can walk round the centre, visiting the most interesting colleges, in an afternoon. A more thorough exploration

covering more of the colleges and a leisurely afternoon on a punt will, however, take at least a couple of days. If possible you should avoid coming in high summer, 13. Faced with such crowds, the more popular colleges have restricted their opening times and have introduced admission charges.

- A. whose alumni have garnered no less than ninety Nobel prizes
- B. amongst whom privately educated boys remain over-represented
- C. because of the development of industry
- D. whose magnificent chapel is one of the greatest statements of late Gothic architecture
- E. which was expanding rapidly thanks to the arrival of the railway
- F. particularly when it comes to equality of sexes
- G. when the students are replaced by crowds of sightseers