

ENGLISH STD 8 Time: 1 hour 40 Mins

Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces numbered 1-15. For blank spaces choose the best alternative from the choices given

“Help! Help!” Went the desperate screams. 1 neighbours, knowing 2 to leave the safety of 3 homes, peeped unobtrusively through their windows. They 4 to see what was happening at the 5 houses. Others went on undisturbed by the screams.

Shikunzi the new neighbor, shot out of his house, heading 6 to the direction of the house carrying a machete. He made war cries 7, he ran 8 where all the men the neighbourhood 9. Wasn't that just a woman screaming?

Soon he 10 at the door, knocking loudly. When 11 answered the door, he turned the handle and walked in expecting to find 12 terrible mess. He was 13 unprepared for the sight that met him. A woman sat 14 on a couch, cuddling baby and smiling sweetly. „Where are they? Did they harm you? „Are you all right?“ Shikunzi 15 breathlessly.

The woman started blankly at Shikunzi, who turned and left the house.

- | A | B | C | D |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. The | Some | Other | All the |
| 2. good | Well | better | best |
| 3. their | the | there | they are |
| 4. enjoyed | liked | loved | wanted |
| 5. woman | woman's | womans'' | womans |
| 6. in | into | on | onto |
| 7. but | While | when | as |
| 8. thinking | wandering | wondering | reminiscing |
| 9. have been | were | are | had been |
| 10. was standing | is standing | will be standing | will stand |
| 11. anyone | Non | none | no one |
| 12. the | a | some | any |
| 13. quiet | Hardly | quite | also |
| 14. happily | anxiously | suspiciously | comfortably |
| 15. asked | replied | answered | said |

For question 16-18, choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blank spaces.

16. That was the ___ interesting story. I have ever heard.
A. much more
B. more
C. most
D. very
17. They walked ___ the standard 8 classroom and entered the staffroom.
A. pass
B. past
C. passed
D. passing
18. Since we have _____ hard, I think we shall win the dancing competition.
A. Practice
B. Practised
C. Practised

D. Practiced

For questions 19 and 20 arrange the given sentences to make a sensible paragraph.

19. i) I took off at a speed that could turn a cheetah green with envy.
ii) I was resting under a mango tree on sultry Saturday afternoon
iii) I did not wait to find out what the object was
iv) something that looked like a round object suddenly landed a few feet from where I was
v) Who knows, I could have saved myself from instant death
- A. ii, v, iii, i, iv
B. ii, iv, v, iii, i
C. ii, iv, iii, I, v

- D. ii, iv, I, iii, iv
20. i) His uncle glared at him
ii) When the lame man fell down he burst into laughter
iii) He was sorry for laughing at somebody's misfortune.
iv) It was then that he realized he had done something wrong
- A. i, iv, ii, iii B. i, iv, iii, ii
C. ii, I, iv, iii D. ii, i, iii, iv,

For question 21 and 22, give the appropriate ending of the given statement.

21. If you had apologized
- A. He should have forgiven you
B. He could have forgiven you
C. He might have forgiven you
D. He would have forgiven you
22. Nanzala is taller
- A. and her sister is also tall
B. of all the girls in her class
C. than any other girl in this class
D. that she can touch the top of the door

Select the alternative that means the same as the given sentence in each of the following.

Read the passage below to answer questions 26-38

By 2.00 a.m. we were all up. Our journey to Ileho would start at 4.00 a.m. The prefects and the boarding master did not need to supervise us to wash or pack our food and drinking water. Even those of us who hated cold baths, or never took baths, needed no arguing. However, we never left our school in Shihingo, Lubao, until 5.00 a.m. We had to drive back to pick a teacher and two pupils. They had been left behind when they got out of the bus after roll – call.

Our first stop was going to be at a place called Ingolomosio in Kambiri to see the famous crying stone. As we travelled through Kakamega and Kambi towards Kambiri, the beautiful green scenery changed to the rocky countryside that is common in Kambiri. Huge stones covered the hillsides. Some stones were bigger than a house and they looked as if they were just loosely attached to the hill. I feared to imagine what would happen to motorists and villagers down the valley were the huge boulders to detach themselves and roll down. I later learnt that the name Kambiri meant a place of stones.

Soon we got to Ingolomosio shopping centre. As we got out of the bus, there was a sight to behold! On a small hill near the centre, a huge stone that looked like a man with hunched square shoulders sat on of a man sat on the one with hunched shoulders. A small dried-up river appeared to have flowed from what could be called the man's neck, giving „him“ the appearance of a sad person crying.

We were eager to get closer to this wonderful sight. We walked quickly through a narrow path across a small stream. And there it stood – a huge, majestic – looking stone about fifty metres high! When we got closer, we noticed that there were numerous stones that surrounded the huge one. The locals have a story about the stone that it was once married to a wife who left after a disagreement with the husband, the weeping stone. That is why the stone cries. The wife, another smaller stone that stands about five hundred metres away, is said to have deserted the man and their many children, the numerous stones around the crying one.

23. No sooner had I arrived home than the phone rang.
- A. I arrived home as soon as the phone rang
B. The phone rang after I arrived home.
C. When the phone rang was ringing, I arrived home
D. The phone rang immediately I arrived home
24. The boy cried when he saw his mother leaving.
- A. The boy cried because he was leaving his mother
B. Leaving his mother made the boy cry
C. Seeing his mother leave made the boy cry
D. The boy started crying when his mother left
25. Shikanda wished he had reported the matter to the police.
- A. Shikanda may have reported the matter to the police
B. Shikanda may have reported the matter to the police
C. Shikanda hoped to reported the matter to the police
D. Shikanda regretted not reporting the matter to the police

The stone is said to cry every year in August and the tears flow from where the head rests. No other water trickles down the stone. It is amazing that even rainwater falls from the stone's head without trickling down the body to the ground.

Some people believe that the stone has some supernatural powers. They come to say their prayers and perform rituals at the stone.

Our next stop was the Webuye Paper Mills, and the rest of the journey was uneventful.

Adapted from the diversity of Ileho by Lunani

26. We can tell that the pupils in the story
- A. Never take a bath unless they are made to
 - B. Sometimes need supervision to take baths
 - C. Do not take baths all the time
 - D. Only take baths when going on a journey
27. At the start of the journey, the pupils
- A. Bathed, packed food and water, took roll call and left
 - B. Bathed, took roll-call, packed food and water and left
 - C. Bathed, packed food and water, left and took roll call
 - D. Bathed, left, took roll call and packed food and water
28. Which of the following is **false**
- A. The author was very observant
 - B. The authority was afraid the rocks would fall on people
 - C. The Kambiri countryside has many huge stones
 - D. The whole of Kambiri is covered with stones
29. 'Loosely attached' as used in the passage suggests that ____.
- A. the stones could easily jump out of the hill
 - B. the stones did not seem firm on the ground
 - C. the stones could roll down any moment
 - D. the stones had just been placed on the hill
30. The crying stone looked like a man because _.
- A. it was crying
 - B. it had a family
 - C. it had the features of a body and a head
 - D. it was left by the wife
31. The group from Ganjo first saw the stone
- A. when they stood next to it
 - B. when they were walking towards it
 - C. when they got out of the bus at ilesi
 - D. when they approached Ilesi
32. The crying stone is described as majestic because ____.
- A. It was huge, beautiful and impressive.
 - B. It was huge, kingly and wide
 - C. It was impressive, serious-looking and stood above other stones.
 - D. It was huge, powerful and impressive
33. From the story about the stone and its family, we can conclude that;
- A. The stones were people who changed into stones
 - B. People only imagined that others could change into stones
 - C. People could use natural features to explain social problems
 - D. The stone wept because it could not look after the children alone
34. From the appearance of the huge stone, what do you think makes the local people conclude that it weeps?
- A. The evidence of a small river
 - B. The small river flowing from its neck
 - C. The rainwater trickling from its head
 - D. The sadness on the stone's face
35. Which of the following is true about the local people's idea about marriage
- A. Men weep when they are left by their wives
 - B. Men and women must help one another in looking after children
 - C. Men do not know what to do when their wives leave them.
 - D. Men should love and care for their wives
36. What is the most amazing thing about the stone?
- A. Rainwater does not touch it
 - B. Only water from the small river touches the stone
 - C. No water ever touches the stone
 - D. The stone's head does not allow water to touch its body
37. From the passage we can tell that ____.
- A. The journey was going to be very long
 - B. The students were only visiting Ilesi
 - C. The writer was not enthusiastic about the other places they visited
 - D. Webuye did not have a crying stone.

Read the poem below and answer question 39 – 50

The Parking Boy

In the lonely squalid alleys
I rummage among the rubbish bins
Searching for a dropped morsel, a coin
Nobody has been extravagant.

Christmas comes, the city is invaded
I peep through a toy-shop
A boy makes his choice
Holding hands, father and son walk out
With stretched hands, I follow.

With great effort, I restrain myself
From snatching and running off
I venture: *Saidia maskini*
Nobody pays heed to my plea
At the car park someone tosses a copper coin.

It rolls to the road and I chase
With a screech I hear a car stop
From it comes the word „bastard“
I pick up the coin and run off
My bare –bottom a testimony to my predicament.

I sit by the roadside and wish
Someone would say „eat with us tonight“
But no such invitation is forthcoming
All I get are suspicious stares
A quicker pace and claspings of bags.

(poem by Agnes Githumbi – Published in *Tender Memories*: Poems and short stories)

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| <p>38. The fact that the alleys are squalid means they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Look strangeB. Are dirtyC. Are uninhabitedD. Are frightening <p>39. ‘Searching for a dropped morsel...’ What does this tell us about the poet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. He was hungryB. He was lonelyC. He needed moneyD. He was unsuccessful <p>40. Why does the poet say that nobody has been extravagant?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Because people should not waste their moneyB. Because money cannot be found in rubbish bins | <ul style="list-style-type: none">C. Because he did not find any moneyD. Because he did not get the money he had hidden in the bins <p>41. Who invaded the city?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Beggars and other poor peopleB. Fathers and their sonsC. People travelling home for ChristmasD. People shopping for Christmas <p>42. The poet must have looked at the boy in the toy –shop?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. AngerB. EnvyC. ShockD. Disgust <p>43. The poet follow the father and son out of the toy-shop?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. He wanted the man to buy him a toyB. He wanted to see the toy betterC. He wanted to beg for alms |
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- D. He thought the man was his father
44. Why did the poet follow the father and son out of the toy –shop?
- A. He wanted the man to buy him a toy
 - B. He wanted to see the toy better
 - C. He wanted to beg for alms
 - D. He thought the man was his father
45. The first two lines of the third stanza show that
- A. the poet wasn't really a thief
 - B. the poet was born a thief
 - C. the poet should have snatched the toy
 - D. the poet was unable to snatch the toy
46. Why did the car suddenly stop?
- A. To allow the poet to cross the road
 - B. The motorist wanted to give money to the poet
 - C. To avoid knocking down the poet
 - D. To enable the poet to take his coin
47. The last line of the fourth stanza tells us that the poet
- A. Was always hungry
 - B. Had many problems
 - C. Needed fatherly love
 - D. Was clad in tatters
48. We can conclude that the poet was
- A. A street urchin
 - B. A thief
 - C. An orphan
 - D. A dangerous criminal
49. How best can the poet be described?
- A. Lazy, dirty and criminal
 - B. A lazy and hungry petty thief
 - C. Hungry, dirty and unloved
 - D. Dirty and hungry bastard
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