8th Grade Language Arts/ 9th Grade English Readiness Assessment

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Summer in Bermuda

(1) The summer I was eight, my parents spent the entire summer at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research (BBSR), and my brother and I went with them. (2) Mom and Dad are marine biologists, and Bermuda has a great location for marine research. (3) Bermuda is a tiny island nation about 650 miles due east of North Carolina in the middle of the Sargasso Sea. (4) BBSR is on the island of St. Georges, and it has laboratories, dormitories, a research boat, and many tropical plants.

(5) Every day while my parents studied the land crabs that swarm the beaches and golf courses of Bermuda, my brother Nate and me swam in the swimming hole and fed grass to the horse behind our house. (6) The sun was so hot and the water was so clear! (7) The temperature was always perfect—in the eighties during the day and cool at night, when the tree frogs sang a beautiful lullaby to serenade us to sleep. (8) One night my parents woke us up to go see the Night-Blooming Cereus that grew nearby. (9) A plant that only blossomed once a year, in midsummer, in the middle of the night! (10) Its fragrance was heavenly.

(11) On weekends, evenings, and afternoons when they wasn’t working, my parents took us for special field-trips around the islands. (12) We visited beautiful pink-sand beaches like warm, shallow Tobacco Bay and crowded Horseshoe Bay. (13) Two of my favorite things to do when I was not snorkeling or swimming were to visit the Crystal Caves or the Bermuda Dolphin Show. (14) The Crystal Caves were full of perfectly clear water and beautiful stalagmites and stalactites of limestone. (15) In the Dolphin Show, trained dolphins danced, swam, “talked,” and jumped through hoops for us.

(16) My favorite thing to do was to walk along the abandoned railroad line that followed the coast near the BBSR. (17) We often packed picnic dinners and walked the trail to the point at sunset, when the sun was sinking into the water. (18) The trail wound through thickets of wild grape and finally emerged at the point. (19) If the moon was right, we sat there and watched the watery fireworks of spawning ocean worms, which glowed in the dark and made sparkles and swirls of bright green light. (20) This is the kind of unusual entertainment you can expect if you’re parents are marine biologists.
1. Which change should be made to correct sentence 5?
   A  change Every day to Everyday
   B  change parents to parents’
   C  change me to I
   D  change swam to were swimming

2. Which change should be made to correct sentence 10?
   A  change It’s to Its
   B  change fragrance to fragrances
   C  change was to is
   D  change heavenly to Heavenly

3. Which change should be made to correct sentence 11?
   A  change wasn’t to weren’t
   B  change parents to parent’s
   C  change us to them
   D  change islands to Islands

4. Which change should be made to correct sentence 20?
   A  change This is to These are
   B  change kind to kinds
   C  change if to because
   D  change you’re to your

5. Which of the following is a fragment?
   A  (4) BBSR is on the island of St. Georges, and it has laboratories, dormitories, a research boat, and many tropical plants.
   B  (6) The sun was so hot and the water was so clear!
   C  (9) A plant that only blossomed once a year, in midsummer, in the middle of the night!
   D  (12) We visited beautiful pink-sand beaches like warm, shallow Tobacco Bay and crowded Horseshoe Bay.
6. Which of the following suggests that the writer enjoyed the summer?

A (1) The summer I was eight, my parents spent the entire summer at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research (BBSR), and my brother and I went with them.

B (7) The temperature was always perfect—in the eighties during the day and cool at night, when the tree frogs sang a beautiful lullaby to serenade us to sleep.

C (8) One night my parents woke us up to go see the Night-Blooming Cereus that grew nearby.

D (18) The trail wound through thickets of wild grape and finally emerged at the point.

7. How should sentences 1 and 2 best be combined to reduce wordiness and increase sentence variety?

A Spending the entire summer I was eight in Bermuda, my parents took us there—a great location for marine research: the Bermuda Biological Station for Research (BBSR).

B The summer I was eight, my parents, who are marine biologists, took my brother and me to spend the entire summer at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research (BBSR), a great location for marine research.

C A great location for marine research, the Bermuda Biological Station for Research (BBSR); my parents took my brother and me there for the whole summer I was eight.

D My parents took my brother and me, eight, to Bermuda, a great location for marine research at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research (BBSR) for the whole summer.
8. In sentence 19, why did the writer *most likely* include such phrases as "watery fireworks of spawning ocean worms" and "made sparkles and swirls of bright green light"?

A to elaborate on their beautiful Fourth of July celebration
B to express surprise at seeing colorful worms
C to better explain the type of work marine biologists do
D to engage the reader’s imagination in visualizing the situation

9. Which sentence should be added to the final paragraph to emphasize the main idea of the selection?

A Ever since that summer in Bermuda, I am reminded of those worms every time I see fireworks.
B I have decided to become a marine biologist like my parents.
C I still remember all the beautiful, exciting, and interesting experiences of those summer months in Bermuda.
D Those sunsets closed another chapter of my life.
A Separate Peace

(1) In A Separate Peace, by John Knowles, the main character, Gene, as he grows up, experiences personal crises, adolescent troubles, and a friendship that is put to the test. (2) This novel is a good example of a coming-of-age genre that relates well to what teens are going through now. (3) As the story unfolds its conclusion, Gene's issues can be looked at objectively.

(4) The story unfolds with Gene and Phineas attending the summer session at Devon School. (5) At this point, Gene is described as being introverted and not very harmonious with his own talents as his friend Phineas is. (6) Whenever Phineas asks for something, Gene readily gives in—case in point, the tree. (7) There are five boys together, and as they look upon the majestic tree, Phineas climbs up and prepares himself for the jump. (8) To the applause of the others, Phineas lands easily and coaxes Gene into following. (9) This early in the book, we can see how innocent and loyal Gene is as a young man.

(10) As the story continues, Gene's troubles, such as his jealousy of Phineas's ability to talk himself out of anything, extends to the more personal issue of the fatal accident. (11) When Gene and Phineas are caught skipping dinner, the teacher reprimands them for their actions. (12) Even though Phineas's beautiful eloquence gets them out of trouble, we are left with the sense that the only reason for this rebellion is because of Gene's deep denial of conformity.

(13) Gene's personal evolution from naïve teen to an enlistee in the army are a lot like what adolescents sometimes experience now. (14) The most dramatic time of Gene's years in Devon School is when jumping out of the tree causes his best friend's first accident. (15) Though it may have been a blind impulse, Gene must now live through the guilt that threatens Gene's life. (16) However, the full blow of this action doesn't hit his friend until the trial, where Phineas encounters his fatal mishap. (17) After Phineas dies, Gene comes to a shocking revelation about his inner demons.

(18) Not all readers will have encountered the same kind of trauma. (19) For the ones who have, they, like Gene, may be able to look at life in a new light. (20) For Gene, understanding the true cruelty and justice of nature.

(21) He is able to look back and discover that a person's true worst enemy doesn't have a physical form; it takes its place as emotions of jealousy and pride.
10. Which change should be made to correct sentence 10?

A change continues to continued
B change troubles, to troubles
C change extends to extend
D change issue to issue:

11. Which change should be made to correct sentence 13?

A change Gene’s to Genes’
B change evolution to evolutions
C change enlistee to enlisting
D change are to is

12. Which of the following is a fragment?

A (4) The story unfolds with Gene and Phineas attending the summer session at Devon School.
B (6) Whenever Phineas asks for something, Gene readily gives in—case in point, the tree.
C (14) The most dramatic time of Gene’s years in Devon School is when jumping out of the tree causes his best friend’s first accident.
D (20) For Gene, understanding the true cruelty and justice of nature.

13. Which would best replace “unfolds” in sentence 3?

A states in
B progresses toward
C comes from
D twists around

14. How could sentence 5 best be rewritten to improve clarity and conciseness?

A Unlike his friend Phineas, Gene begins the story as introverted and uncomfortable with himself.
B In the beginning Gene is introverted and awkward; unlike his friend Phineas.
C Gene, in the beginning unlike his friend Phineas, is introverted and uncertain of his own identity.
D Gene is, at this point, unlike his friend Phineas; introverted and uncertain of his own identity.
Down with Viruses: Use a CompZone Computer

(1) In my family, we're computer rebels. (2) If you walk into my families study, you'll see gleaming, artistic-looking CompZone computers on each person's desk, not the ugly box of some other PC. (3) My older brother has a CompZone laptop to use in his college classes. (4) Last week, when the latest computer virus snarled the Internet, crashing other people's hard drives, and making major company executives tear their hair out, my family kept right on computing. (5) Everybody should switch to CompZone computers.

(6) For one thing, CompZone computers look better. (7) This might seem like a superficial qualification for a better computer, but it's good to have a computer that looks cool. (8) You can see how everyone loves the uPod, with its sleek shape and white or minty colors; CompZone computers have the same artistic flair. (9) While they are more expensive, they come standard with better features than you'll find on a PC off the shelf. (10) Plus, their prices are dropping, and they are now more affordable than ever. (11) The designers who work for CompZone spend long hours trying to make their products stand out, and it shows.

(12) What's even better, the quality of what's inside matches what is outside. (13) People who's PCs run other software have to install anti-virus software, spyware, and security patches every few days or their computers crash and die. (14) This is because some other software is too complex and contains too many loopholes for hackers. (15) CompZone software is simple and easy to use. (16) None of our CompZone computers have ever been infected by a virus or hacked by someone.

(17) Some people say that CompZone computers don't get viruses or hacked because too few people use them. (18) But I am a true computer nerd, and I can say that this is not the case. (19) CompZone computers don't get hacked because it is too hard to do. (20) Although CompZone releases its own security upgrades every now and then, in general, CompZone programs are more stable and secure. (21) Once, some Swedish friends hosted a "Crack a CompZone" computer contest in which they challenged the world to alter the web page they had put up using basic CompZone software and a CompZone server. (22) They offered thousand's of dollars in prize
money, but in two months not one person was able to hack into the web site. (23) The CompZone consistently outperforms its PC competition in security. (24) CompZone computers are a useful, attractive, and reliable addition to any household.

15. Which change should be made to correct sentence 2?
   A change walk to walked
   B change families to family's
   C change computers to Computers
   D change person's to persons'

16. Which change should be made to correct sentence 13? 
   A change who's to whose
   B change have to had
   C change patches to Patches
   D change their to his or her

17. Which change should be made to correct sentence 22?
   A change thousand's to thousands
   B change prize money to prize-money
   C change was to were
   D change able to unable

18. How should sentences 14 and 15 best be combined to improve clarity?
   A Being too complex and containing too many loopholes, hackers easily crash other software, but CompZone software's simplicity makes it easy to use.
   B The complexity and available loopholes make these measures necessary to keep hackers out of other software; CompZone software—simple and easy to use.
   C Unlike software that is complex and full of loopholes, CompZone software is safe from hackers because it is simple and easy to use.
   D This is because hackers find other software too complex and containing too many loopholes, but CompZone software is simple and user-friendly.
19. What is the writer indicating in sentence 1 by the term rebels?

A. The writer's family is fighting against the political authority of the country.

B. The writer's family differs from the majority of society in the computers they use.

C. The writer's family is dissatisfied with large computer corporations.

D. The writer's family supports people who work to improve computer security.

20. Which would make the best concluding sentence for the selection?

A. CompZone computers will always be the best-selling type of computer.

B. Perhaps someday a computer genius will hack into a CompZone computer, but that day is far off.

C. Computers have become an essential part of our everyday lives, especially CompZone computers.

D. I will never use a computer other than a CompZone computer.
Excerpt from “In the Old Valley”

by Lucy Maud Montgomery

The man halted on the crest of the hill and looked somberly down into the long valley below. It was evening, and although the hills around him were still in the light, the valley was already filled with kindly, placid shadows. A wind that blew across it from the misty blue sea beyond was making wild music in the rugged firs above his head as he stood in an angle of the weather-grey longer fence, knee-deep in bracken. It had been by these firs he had halted twenty years ago, turning for one last glance at the valley below, the home valley which he had never seen since. But thin the firs had been little more than vigorous young saplings; they were tall, gnarled trees now, with lichen-covered trunks, and their lower boughs were dead. But high up, their tops were green and caught the saffron light of the west. He remembered that when a boy, he had thought there was nothing more beautiful than the evening sunshine falling athwart the dark green fir boughs on the hills.

As he listened to the swish and murmur of the wind, the earth-old tune with the power to carry the soul back to the dawn of time, the years fell away from him, and he forgot much, remembering more. He knew now that there had always been a longing in his heart to hear the wind-chant in the firs. He had called that longing by other names, but he knew it now for what it was when, hearing, he was satisfied.

He was a tall man with iron-grey hair and the face of a conqueror—strong, pitiless, unswerving. Eagle eyes, quick to discern and unfaltering to pursue; jaw square and intrepid; mouth formed to keep secrets and cajole men to his will—a face that hid much and revealed little. It told of power and intellect, but the soul of the man was a hidden thing. . . . Yonder below him was home—the old house that had sheltered him, the graves of his kin, the wild fields where his boyhood dreams had been dreamed.

Should he go down to it? This was the question he asked himself. He had come back to it, heartsick of his idols of the marketplace. For years they had satisfied him, the buying and selling and getting gain, the pitting of strength and craft against strength and craft, the tireless struggle, the exultation of victory. Then, suddenly, they had failed their worshipper; they ceased to satisfy; the sacrifices he had heaped on their altars availed him nothing in this new need and hunger of his being. . . . Were there not better things than these, things he had once known and loved and forgotten? Where were the ideals of his youth, the lofty aspirations that had upborne him then? Where was the eagerness and zest of new dawns, the earnestness of well-filled, purposeful hours of labor, the satisfaction of a good day worthily lived, at eventide the unbroken rest of long, starry nights? Where might he find them again? Were they yet to be had for the seeking in the
old valley? With the thought came a great yearning for home. He had had many habitations, but he realized now that he had never thought of any of these places as home. That name had all unconsciously been kept sacred to the long, green, seaward-looking glen where he had been born.

So he had come back to it, drawn by a longing not to be resisted. But at the last he felt afraid. There had been many changes, of that he felt sure. Would it still be home? And if not, would not the loss be most irreparable and bitter? Would it not be better to go away, having looked at it from the hill and having heard the saga of the firs, keeping his memory of it unblurred, than risk the probable disillusion of a return to the places that had forgotten him and friends whom the varying years must certainly have changed as he had changed himself? No, he would not go down. It had been a foolish whim to come at all—foolish, because the object of his quest was not to be found there or elsewhere. He could not enter again into the heritage of boyhood and the heart of youth. He could not find there the old dreams and hopes that had made life sweet. He understood that he could not bring back to the old valley what he had taken from it. He had lost that intangible, all-real wealth of faith and idealism and zest he had bartered it away for the hard, yellow gold of the marketplace, and he realized at last how much poorer he was than when he had left that home valley. His was a name that stood for millions, but he was beggared of hope and purpose.

21 Which detail from the selection supports the development of the central idea?

A  “It had been by these firs he had halted twenty years ago, turning for one last glance at the valleys below, the home valley which he had never seen since.”

B  “He remembered that when a boy, he had thought there was nothing more beautiful than the evening sunshine falling athwart the dark green fir boughs on the hills.”

C  “Yonder below him was home—the old house that had sheltered him, the graves of his kin, the wide fields where his boyhood dreams had been dreamed.”

D  “He understood that he could not bring back to the old valley what he had taken from it.”
24. Which statement summarizes the selection?
   A. The trees that were once only saplings are now full-grown and withered.
   B. The speaker misses his previous home, but realizes it would not be the same if he returned there after many years.
   C. The speaker remembers more of his previous home than he has forgotten.
   D. The thrill of the marketplace no longer satisfies the speaker.

23. According to the selection, what did the man seek from the valley?
   A. the feeling of hope and purpose
   B. the ability to observe nature
   C. the chance to see his family and friends
   D. the desire to borrow money

24. Based on the sentences below, what does *saffron* mean?
   "But high up, their tops were green and caught the saffron light of the west. He remembered that when a boy, he had thought there was nothing more beautiful than the evening sunshine falling athwart the dark green fir boughs on the hills."
   A. green
   B. yellow
   C. dark
   D. west
25 In the sentence below, what is conveyed by comparing the sound of the wind to a murmur?

“As he listened to the swish and murmur of the wind, the earth-old tune with the power to carry the soul back to the dawn of time, the years fell away from him, and he forgot much, remembering more.”

A The wind is rolling.
B The wind is frightening.
C The wind is gentle.
D The wind is powerful.

26 In the sentence below, why did the man feel foolish?

“It had been a foolish whim to come at all—foolish, because the object of his quest was not to be found there or elsewhere.”

A He realizes that he cannot solve his problems by coming home.
B He finally understands that coming home was a mistake.
C He discovers that his home is not as wonderful as he had thought.
D He believes that his life is better now than when he was young.

27 What do the sentences below reveal about the character?

“He had lost that intangible, all-real wealth of faith and idealism and zest; he had bartered it away for the hard, yellow gold of the marketplace, and he realized at last how much poorer he was than when he had left that home valley. His was a name that stood for millions, but he was beggared of hope and purpose.”

A He would trade his fortune for happiness.
B He was very poor.
C He wanted to be a boy again.
D He did not miss his home greatly.
Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

Park Geology

Profile of a Barrier Island

Padre Island is one of a chain of islands that stretches along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States from Maine to Texas. These islands are barrier islands, so-called because they guard the mainland from the direct onslaught of storms. On many of these low-lying islands, man has left his mark: seaside homes, lighthouses, fishing villages, vacation resorts. But on Padre Island, it is not the work of man but the handiwork of nature that is most evident.

Padre Island, like all barrier islands, is a dynamic place where you can witness change:

- change wrought by the gentle touch of breezes,
- by the relentless crashing of waves,
- by the rhythmic coming and going of tides, and, most dramatically, by the violent battering of tropical storms and hurricanes.

The many environments of Padre Island—beach, dunes, grasslands, and tidal flats—are shaped and reshaped daily in response to these natural sculptors. You can see the signs of change everywhere: sand blowing in the wind, new seashells deposited by a wave, a washover channel cut into the island by the power of a great storm. Another more subtle change that is occurring, according to scientists, is the slow expansion of the entire island toward the mainland as winds and storms deposit sand on the island’s west side.

The plants and animals of Padre Island are well-adapted to the ever-changing nature of their native home. Sea oats, for example, thrive here. This wild shore plant is a pioneer species, one that moves into areas of loose, blowing sand where few other plants can grow and takes root. With the sand anchored by roots, other plants take hold and dunes grow, sometimes to heights of 30 or 40 feet. The dunes are held in place unless something destroys the plants. A particularly fierce storm can do it. People can do it, by trampling the grasses or driving over them; that’s why hiking and driving in the dunes are prohibited.

For years, legends have been told of great treasures hidden on Padre Island and just off its shores. The stories are of fortunes of gold and silver carried by Spanish galleons lost at sea and of vast sums of money and gems buried in the sand. Some of this wealth has
indeed been found, and more may be discovered in the future. Meanwhile, there are natural treasures just as great—perhaps even greater—to enjoy in Padre Island National Seashore. Located along the south Texas coast, this sparkling preserve by the sea embraces 80 miles of white sand-and-shell beaches, picturesque windswept dunes, wild landscapes of grasslands and tidal flats teeming with shore life, and warm offshore waters. The National Seashore is one of the longest stretches of primitive, undeveloped ocean beach in the United States. Throughout this coastal wilderness, you can enjoy the riches of relaxation and recreation.

- If you’re a beach-lover, the sun, sand, and surf of Padre Island are ideal for swimming and sunbathing almost all year.

- If you’re a fisherman, you can choose between the Gulf of Mexico and the shallow, extremely salty waters of Laguna Madre—both are renowned for their bounty of game fish.

For those who delight in the discovery of a seashell of exquisite design and color, or a peculiar piece of driftwood, there are miles of shoreline for beachcombing. Campers can awake to the sights and sounds of water and island birds such as gulls, herons, and ducks that live by the water’s edge. If it’s adventure and a chance to get away from it all that you seek, you can hike or drive a 4-wheel-drive vehicle along the long roadless Gulf beach. For those who like to poke around in the past, Padre Island has a history of small Indian tribes that once hunted and fished here, shipwrecks, hurricanes, cattle ranches, and oil and gas exploration. However you spend your time at Padre Island National Seashore, the rewards will be generous.

28 Based on the sentence below, how does the personification of nature emphasize the author’s point?

“But on Padre Island, it is not the work of man but the handiwork of nature that is most evident.”

A It shows that nature is the main force of change on the island.

B It shows that man has built many structures along the island.

C It shows the importance of lighthouses on rocky beaches.

D It shows the response of wildlife to the island.
29. Which event creates dramatic changes on Padre Island?
   A. "the gentle touch of breezes"
   B. "the relentless crashing of waves"
   C. "the rhythmic coming and going of tides"
   D. "the violent battering of tropical storms and hurricanes"

30. Which statement explains the sentence below?
    "The many environments of Padre Island—beaches, dunes, grasslands, and tidal flats—are shaped and reshaped daily in response to these natural sculptors."
   A. Natural elements constantly change the surface of Padre Island.
   B. The plants and animals of Padre Island have adapted to the natural changes to its environment.
   C. A large storm changed the environments of Padre Island.
   D. Padre Island is expanding toward the Texas mainland.

31. Which phrase from the sentence below helps the reader determine the meaning of the word "subtle"?
    "Another more subtle change that is occurring, according to scientists, is the slow expansion of the entire island toward the mainland as winds and storms deposit sand on the island's west side."
   A. "entire island"
   B. "winds and storms"
   C. "slow expansion"
   D. "deposit sand"
32 Why are sea oats considered to be a pioneer species?
A They are native to the area.
B They adapt well and take root in sand.
C They are difficult to destroy.
D They can grow to heights of 30 or 40 feet.

33 Why does the author compare the natural beauty of Padre Island to the island’s legendary hidden treasures?
A The author believes the legends of hidden treasures are unrealistic.
B The author believes that hidden treasures are difficult to find because of the many huge sand dunes.
C The author believes future generations will continue to find treasures at Padre Island.
D The author believes the relaxation and recreation available at Padre Island are as valuable as treasures.

34 How are the bullet points used to further the author’s purpose?
A The bullet points break up the pattern of the selection.
B The bullet points highlight old legends.
C The bullet points place emphasis on important facts.
D The bullet points interrupt the flow of the information.
35 What was the author’s purpose in writing this selection?
   A to explain why sand dunes are important and must be preserved
   B to educate people and encourage tourism on Padre Island
   C to show that the hidden treasure of Padre Island is more valuable than its natural beauty
   D to demonstrate a need for national protection of all barrier islands

36 Which claim made by the author has insufficient evidence to support its accuracy?
   A “But on Padre Island, it is not the work of man but the handiwork of nature that is most evident."
   B “The many environments of Padre Island—beach, dunes, grasslands, and tidal flats—are shaped and reshaped daily in response to these natural sculptors."
   C “The plants and animals of Padre Island are well-adapted to the ever-changing nature of their native home."
   D “However you spend your time at Padre Island National Seashore, the rewards will be generous.”
A Pinch of Salt

by Robert Graves

When a dream is born in you
With a sudden clamorous pain
When you know the dream is true
And lovely, with no flaw nor stain,

O then, be careful, or with sudden clutch
You'll hurt the delicate thing you prize so much.

Dreams are like a bird that mocks,
Flirting the feathers of his tail;
When you seize at the salt-box,

Over the hedge you'll see him sail.

Old birds are neither caught with salt nor chaff:
They watch you from the apple bough and laugh.

Poet, never chase the dream.
Laugh yourself, and turn away.

Mask your hunger; let it seem
Small matter if he come or stay;
But when he nestles in your hand at last,
Close up your fingers tight and hold him fast.
37 Based on the first two lines, what can be inferred about the speaker's experience with dreams?
A  It has been agonizing.
B  It has been ecstatic.
C  It has been amusing.
D  It has been confusing.

38 What is the impact of line 6 on the meaning of the poem?
A  It encourages poets to write about pain and suffering.
B  It describes how painful dreams can be.
C  It highlights how special dreams are to a person.
D  It warns poets not to hold on to their dreams too tightly.

39 What does the simile in lines 7–8 mean?
A  Dreams are pretty like a bird's tail feathers.
B  Dreams are like a bird that talks too much.
C  Dreams are like birds that are arrogantly beautiful.
D  Dreams are like birds that pull out their tail feathers.
40. In the last stanza, who does "he" refer to?
   A. the poet's ideas
   B. the poet's dreams
   C. the poet's bird
   D. the poet's life

41. In the selection, how does the bird contribute to the theme?
   A. It symbolizes the hope that dreams can give to a person.
   B. It symbolizes how quickly dreams can be crushed.
   C. It symbolizes how dreams can escape a person.
   D. It symbolizes how clever dreams can be.

42. What is the meaning of the poem's extended metaphor?
   A. Dreams can be easily ruined with a pinch of salt.
   B. Dreams must be chased and attacked until one finally catches them.
   C. Many times one thinks one has a dream, but then it flies away.
   D. One must wait patiently and seize the proper moment to fulfill one's dreams.