Half a mile from home, at the farther edge of the woods, where the land was highest, a great pine-tree stood, the last of its generation. . . . Sylvia knew it well. She had always believed that whoever climbed to the top of it could see the ocean; and the little girl had often laid her hand on the great rough trunk and looked up wistfully at those dark boughs that the wind always stirred, no matter how hot and still the air might be below. Now she thought of the tree with a new excitement, for why, if one climbed it at break of day, could not one see all the world, and easily discover from whence the white heron flew, and mark the place, and find the hidden nest? . . .

She forgot to think of sleep. The short summer night seemed as long as the winter darkness, and at last when the whippoorwills ceased, and she was afraid the morning would after all come too soon, she stole out of the house and followed the pasture path through the woods. . . .

There was the huge tree asleep yet in the paling moonlight, and small and silly Sylvia began with utmost bravery to mount to the top of it, with tingling, eager blood coursing the channels of her whole frame, with her bare feet and fingers, that pinched and held like bird’s claws to the monstrous ladder reaching up, up, almost to the sky itself: . . .

The tree seemed to lengthen itself out as she went up, and to reach farther and farther upward. It was like a great main-mast to the voyaging earth; it must truly have been amazed that morning through all its ponderous frame as it felt this determined spark of human spirit wending its way from higher branch to branch. . . .

Sylvia’s face was like a pale star, if one had seen it from the ground, when the last thorny bough was past, and she stood trembling and tired but wholly triumphant, high in the tree-top. Yes, there was the sea with the dawning sun making a golden dazzle over it. . . .

Sylvia could see the white sails of ships out at sea, and the clouds that were purple and rose-colored and yellow as they first began to fade away. Where was the white heron’s nest in the sea of green branches, and was this wonderful sight and pageant of the world the only reward for having climbed to such a giddy height? Now look down again, Sylvia, where the green marsh is set among the shining birches and dark hemlocks; there where you saw the white heron once you will see him again; look, look! A white spot of him like a single floating feather comes up from the dead hemlock and grows larger, and rises, and comes close at last, and goes by the landmark pine with steady sweep of wing and outstretched slender neck and crested head. And wait! wait! Do not move a foot or a finger, little girl, do not send an arrow of light and consciousness from your two eager eyes, for the heron has perched on a pine bough not far beyond yours, and cries back to his mate on the nest and plumes his feathers for the new day! . . .

She knows his secret now, the wild, light, slender bird that floats and wavers, and goes back like an arrow presently to his home in the green world beneath. Then Sylvia, well satisfied, makes her perilous way down again, not daring to look far below the branch she stands on, ready to cry sometimes because her fingers ache and her lamed feet slip. . . .
Here she comes now, paler than ever, and her worn old frock is torn and tattered, and smeared with pine pitch. Her grandmother and the sportsman stand in the door together and question her, and the splendid moment has come to speak of the dead hemlock-tree by the green marsh.

But Sylvia does not speak after all, though the old grandmother fretfully rebukes her, and the young man’s kind, appealing eyes are looking straight in her own. He can make them rich with money; he has promised it, and they are poor now. . . .

The murmur of the pine’s green branches is in her ears. She remembers how the white heron came flying through the golden air and how they watched the sea and the morning together, and Sylvia cannot speak; she cannot tell the heron’s secret and give its life away.


1. Over the course of the passage, Sylvia’s attitude shifts from
A) joy about a new experience to sorrow about having to end it.
B) apprehension about a difficult challenge to courage in facing it.
C) enthusiasm about obtaining knowledge to doubt about sharing it.
D) reservation about reaching for a goal to triumph after achieving it.

2. The main purpose of the first paragraph (lines 1-16) is to
A) introduce a plan.
B) describe a setting.
C) analyze a question.
D) challenge a perception.

3. The passage indicates that one of Sylvia’s most valuable characteristics is her
A) courage.
B) honesty.
C) patience.
D) resilience.

4. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
A) Lines 4-11 (“She had . . . below”)
B) Lines 11-14 (“Now she . . . world”)
C) Lines 17-19 (“The short . . . darkness”)
D) Lines 24-28 (“There was . . . frame”)

5. As used in line 55, “giddy” most nearly means
A) dizzying.
B) elated.
C) impulsive.
D) silly.

Answers: 1) C; 2) A; 3) A; 4) D; 5) A
Questions 1-3 are based on the following passage.

Apalachicola National Forest Restores National Historic Landmark

[1] The drive to Fort Gadsden’s Historic Site on the Apalachicola National Forest is something reminiscent of a nature documentary. [2] Towering pines line the highway while vibrant wildflowers blooming throughout the fields. [3] Local volunteers and Apalachicola National Forest employees are busily working in the stifling heat on a restoration project at this National Historic Landmark, the only one located in National Forest Service land in the Southeast. [4] The volunteers include a team of workers from Colorado called “HistoriCorps,” and a cadre from the Texas Conservation Corps at American Youthworks. [5] American Youthworks is a program that helps young people build knowledge and experience for their future while helping the communities around them.

1. A) NO CHANGE  
   B) blooms  
   C) bloom  
   D) bloomed

2. A) NO CHANGE  
   B) located around National Forest Service land  
   C) located on National Forest Service land  
   D) located upon lands administered by the National Forest Service

3. Which sentence should the author delete from this paragraph to make the paragraph more cohesive?  
   A) Sentence 2  
   B) Sentence 3  
   C) Sentence 4  
   D) Sentence 5

Answers: 1) C; 2) C; 3) D
1. In the figure above, \( \triangle BEC \) is an equilateral triangle and \( m \angle ABC = 130^\circ \). What is the measure of angle \( ADC \)?

A) 30°  
B) 50°  
C) 70°  
D) 120°

2. If \( x^2 \cdot x^5 = x^{25} \), what is the value of \( m \)?

A) 2.5  
B) 7.5  
C) 10  
D) 20

3. If \( x + 5y = -11 \) and \( 2x - 3y = 17 \), what is the value of \( x + y \)?

4. The larger of two numbers is 5 less than twice the smaller number. The sum of four times the larger and twice the smaller number is 100. If \( x \) is the smaller number, which equation below determines the correct value of \( x \)?

A) \( 2(2x + 5) + 4x = 100 \)  
B) \( 2(2x - 5) + 4x = 100 \)  
C) \( 4(2x + 5) + 2x = 100 \)  
D) \( 4(2x - 5) + 2x = 100 \)
Questions 5 and 6 refer to the following information.

The owner of a café is studying the effect of temperature on sales of hot cocoa. She measures the daily high temperature and daily hot cocoa sales on different days throughout the year and records them in the scatter-plot above. She then draws a line of best fit to the data.

5. Approximately what is the average decrease in hot cocoa sales, in dollars, per temperature increase, in degrees?
   A) -10
   B) -7
   C) -3
   D) -1

6. Based upon the scatter-plot and line of best fit to the data, approximately what will total hot cocoa sales be when the temperature is 10 °F?
   A) $700
   B) $750
   C) $850
   D) $900

Answers: 1) B; 2) C; 3) I; 4) D; 5) A; 6) D