

Reading Selection 1

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.

A New Life in New Amsterdam

- 1 "Help! Help!" the woman cried as a group of boys grabbed her belongings and disappeared into the crowded marketplace. Eight-year-old Anna watched with horror as an older boy went dashing through the crowd, the woman's purse clutched to his chest as he overturned carts and knocked peddlers down onto the ground. Anna held her basket of vegetables tightly, wishing there were something she could do.
- 2 Anna and her mother had come to New Amsterdam from the Netherlands a year earlier, in 1648. They had arrived on this same dock with nothing more than a single suitcase in hand. Anna's father had passed away in the old country. Anna's mother thought that coming to the New World would bring them luck.
- 3 "There is no such thing as luck," Anna muttered, taking one last look at the woman who now stood on the dock, crying. Anna sighed and tried to focus on her work. "Vegetables for sale," she called to a man walking past. "Cabbage, parsnips, spinach . . ."
- 4 The man shook his head and hurried off. Today was not a good selling day; her mother would be upset.
- 5 Anna and her mother lived in a boarding house with three other Dutch families. For a fee, the owner allowed Anna's mother to plant a small garden behind the wooden house. Anna's mother grew the vegetables. Anna went to the docks to sell them.
- 6 "Fresh vegetables!" she called again, looking around to see who might buy.
- 7 "Oh, Claes. Whatever will we do?" A woman's sad voice came from behind Anna. "Our journey is a sour apple. We have lost everything."
- 8 "Be strong, Jannetie," the man said. "We will get new belongings. We will start a bold, new life." He grinned and then added, "There is a reason they call it New Amsterdam."
- 9 Anna turned to see who was speaking. It was the woman who had been robbed earlier. Suddenly Anna knew that she could do something to help this couple. She said, "I am sorry about your bag. Are you hungry?"

- 10 The woman nodded. "But we have no money to buy food."
- 11 "Please take these." Anna offered two carrots and a few radishes.
- 12 "Oh no," the woman protested. "We have no way to pay you."
- 13 "They are a gift," Anna replied.
- 14 The woman touched a locket around her neck. "Let me give you this in exchange. It is all I have left." She took off her locket and slipped it over Anna's head.
- 15 "This is too valuable," Anna said.
- 16 "Then consider it a loan," the man said kindly. "My name is Claes Van Rosenvelt. Keep my wife Jannetie's locket safe. We shall return for it one day. When I make my fortune, I will buy the locket back from you. I promise."
- 17 Anna hesitated. "I will keep it for you," Anna vowed. She told the couple her name and gave them directions to the center of town.
- 18 That evening, Anna returned home. Her mother was outside, hunched over her vegetable garden. Mrs. Cortlandt was a servant to her plants, and they were her master.
- 19 "How did the vegetables sell today?" she inquired.
- 20 "It was a hard day," Anna admitted as she went to hand the few coins she had earned to her mother.
- 21 Her mother counted the coins, then looked into Anna's vegetable basket and her eyes narrowed in disappointment. "Is this all?"
- 22 Anna explained that she had traded some food for the locket.
- 23 "We must sell the locket," said Mrs. Cortlandt. "We need to pay our rent."
- 24 "Please, Mama," Anna explained.
- 25 "I promised to keep it for the kind couple. I will work even harder and sell more vegetables tomorrow."
- 26 Anna saw the lines around her mother's eyes soften. "All right," Mrs. Cortlandt said. "You may keep the locket for one year. If they have not returned for it by next spring, we will sell it."
- 27 "Thank you!" cried Anna, smiling broadly. "Mother, this locket will bring us good luck. You will see!"
- 28 Every day as she sold vegetables, Anna watched the men and women walk past her on the docks. She searched their faces, wondering what had happened to Jannetie and Claes. Weeks passed, and then months.

- 29 For Anna and her mother, good luck did not come. Their harvest suffered from a fierce winter. In the spring, Mrs. Cortlandt told Anna that it was time to sell Jannetie's locket.
- 30 Mrs. Cortlandt made the arrangement. After the day's work, Anna was to meet her at the trading post. Anna was sad, but knew they needed the money.
- 31 "Fresh vegetables!" Anna stood by the dock selling her wares as usual.
- 32 "How much for that lovely locket?" asked a man with a playful grin. Anna's heart skipped a beat as she stared at the couple. She almost didn't recognize them in their fine clothes. Claes looked like a dashing gentleman and Jannetie looked fair in an elegant spring frock.
- 33 With a spring in her step, Anna ran to the couple and threw her arms around them.
- 34 "It is our turn to repay your kindness," Jannetie told Anna.
- 35 "Where is your mother?" Claes asked.
- 36 They met Anna's mother at the trading post.
- 37 "Come with us, please," Claes told the Cortlandts.
- 38 Anna and her mother exchanged perplexed glances. They followed the Van Rosenvelts a mile north to a large farm.
- 39 Standing at the edge of a blossoming field, Anna took off Jannetie's locket. "This belongs to you."
- 40 Jannetie slipped her locket around her neck and said proudly, "And this belongs to you." She motioned toward a small house on the edge of the farm. "It is our repayment for two carrots and some radishes."
- 41 "But I gave you so little," said Anna.
- 42 "No, you gave us a great deal," Claes explained. "You gave us kindness, freely. We now give you kindness back. I have not quite made my fortune in New Amsterdam, but I am on my way! We want you to live here and work with us."
- 43 Anna's mother looked overwhelmed but delighted. "You see, Mama," Anna said, "I knew the locket would bring us luck."
- 44 "The locket didn't bring us luck, Anna. You did."

Reading Selection 2

The Law of Returns

Anonymous

Whatever you give away today
Or think or say or do
Will multiply about tenfold
And then return to you.

5 It may not come immediately
Nor from the obvious source,
But the law applies unfailingly
Through some invisible force.

If you speak about some person,
10 A word of praise or two,
Soon tons of other people
Will speak kind words to you.

Our thoughts are broadcasts of the soul,
Not secrets of the brain.

15 Kind ones bring us happiness,
Petty ones, untold pain.

Giving works as surely as
Reflections in a mirror.

If hate you send, hate you'll get back,
20 But loving brings love nearer.

Remember, as you start this day,
And duty crowds your mind,
That kindness comes so quickly back,
To those who first are kind!

25 Let that thought and this one
Direct you through each day . . .
The only things we ever keep
Are the things we give away!

1 The author of the story used the action scene in paragraph 1 to —

- A establish the time period
 - B establish the time of day
 - C hook the reader
 - D describe Anna
-

2 Judging from the elements of the first selection, the reader can conclude that it is an example of —

- A science fiction
 - B historical fiction
 - C literary nonfiction
 - D folktale
-

3 Read this sentence from paragraph 7.

Our journey is a sour apple.

The author uses this sentence to —

- A emphasize how all of the fruit Anna is selling has gone bad
 - B emphasize how sad Claes and Jannetie feel about their loss
 - C emphasize how disappointed and hopeless Jannetie feels about the robbery
 - D compare Claes and Jannetie's trip to rot
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4 Anna's mother was upset in paragraph 21 because —

- A Anna did not buy the right vegetables at the market.
- B Anna did not buy enough vegetables at the market.
- C Anna did not sell enough vegetables at the market.
- D Anna gave away vegetables for a locket at the market.

5 Anna almost doesn't recognize Claes and Jannetie in paragraph 32 because —

- A it has been a full year since she last saw them
 - B she doesn't know them very well to begin with
 - C she can barely see them in the crowd on the docks
 - D they are wearing much fancier clothes than when last they met
-

6 In paragraph 38, the word perplexed means —

- A happy
 - B complicated
 - C excited
 - D confused
-

7 To repay the Cortlandts for their generosity, Jannetie and Claes —

- A give them the two carrots and radishes they owed them
 - B finally pay them the money for the vegetables
 - C give them a home to live in and jobs on their farm
 - D pay for the vegetables with the locket
-

8 What theme do both the selection and the poem share?

- A One good turn deserves another.
- B Always pay your debts.
- C Always look on the bright side.
- D No act of kindness is ever wasted.

9 The mood of the poem is best described as —

- A chastising
- B melancholy
- C optimistic
- D antagonistic

10 Read these lines from stanza 4.

*Our thoughts are broadcasts of the soul,
Not secrets of the brain.
Kind ones bring us happiness,
Petty ones, untold pain.*

What does the speaker mean by this?

- A that everyone can read your thoughts, and good thoughts make others happy and bad thoughts make others sad.
- B that our thoughts affect our whole being, and kind thoughts make us happy and unkind thoughts make us sad.
- C that you cannot hide from bad thoughts, so think only good ones
- D that nice people bring us happiness, and mean people bring us pain

11 In stanza 4, the word petty means —

- A pretty
- B small-minded
- C fearful
- D destructive

12 The rhyming pattern in the poem is best described as —

- A** ABAB
 - B** AABB
 - C** ABCB
 - D** ABBA
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13 Which sentence best summarizes the message of the poem?

- A** You get what you give.
 - B** The law of giving is a force.
 - C** Kindness is never wrong.
 - D** Stay positive.
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14 One difference between the selection and the poem is that —

- A** the selection uses Anna’s story to teach people about being generous, while the poem offers advice directly to the reader.
 - B** the selection is only about the power of luck, while the poem is about the power of giving.
 - C** the selection is set in the past, while the poem is set in the future
 - D** the selection was written only to entertain people, not make them think, while the poem was written to persuade people to be kind
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15 In the selection, the reader can infer that Claes Van Rosenvelt is actually a colonial ancestor of —

- A** Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt
- B** Cornelius Vanderbilt
- C** George Washington
- D** Thomas Jefferson