

## Assessment 1

Read the passage from *Arabian Nights* and answer the questions that follow.

from *Arabian Nights*

- 1 Then there came down upon us, from the top of the castle, a huge creature in the likeness of a man, black of color, tall and big of bulk, as he were a great date tree, with eyes like coals of fire and eyeteeth like boar's tusks and a vast big gape like the mouth of a well. Moreover, he had long loose lips like camel's hanging down upon his breast, and ears like two jars falling over his shoulder blades, and the nails of his hands were like the claws of a lion. When we saw this frightful giant, we were like to faint and every moment increased our fear and terror, and we became as dead men for excess of horror and affright. And after trampling upon the earth, he sat awhile on the bench. Then he arose and coming to us, seized me by the arm, choosing me out from among my comrades the merchants. He took me up in his hand and turning me over, felt me as a butcher feeleth a sheep he is about to slaughter, and I but a little mouthful in his hands. But finding me lean and fleshless for stress of toil and trouble and weariness, let me go and took up another, whom in like manner he turned over and felt and let go. Nor did he cease to feel and turn over the rest of us, one after another, till he came to the master of the ship.
- 2 Now he was a sturdy, stout, broad-shouldered wight, fat and in full vigor, so he pleased the giant, who seized him as a butcher seizeth a beast, and throwing him down, set his foot on his neck and brake it, after which he fetched a long spit and thrusting it up his backside, brought it forth of the crown of his head. Then, lighting a fierce fire, he set over it the spit with the rais thereon, and turned it over the coals till the flesh was roasted, when he took the spit off the fire and set it like a kobab stick before him. Then he tare the body, limb from limb, as one jointeth a chicken and, rending the fresh with his nails, fell to eating of it and gnawing the bones, till there was nothing left but some of these, which he threw on one side of the wall. This done, he sat for a while, then he lay down on the stone bench and fell asleep, snarking and snoring like the gurgling of a lamb or a cow with its throat cut, nor did he awake till morning, when he rose and fared forth and went his ways.
- 3 As soon as we were certified that he was gone, we began to talk with one another, weeping and bemoaning ourselves for the risk we ran . . .
- 4 As soon as evening fell the earth trembled under our feet and in came the blackamoor upon us, snarling like a dog about to bite. He came up to us, and feeling us and turning us over one by one, took one of us and did with him as he had done before and ate him, after which he lay down on the bench and snored and snorted like thunder. As soon as we were assured that he slept, we arose and taking two iron spits of those standing there, heated them in the fiercest of the fire till they were red-hot, like burning coals, when we gripped fast hold of them, and going up to the giant as he lay snoring on the bench, thrust them into his eyes and pressed upon them, all of us, with our united might, so that his eyeballs burst and he became stone-blind. Thereupon he cried with a great cry, whereat our hearts trembled, and springing up from the bench, he fell a-groping after us, blindfold. We fled from him right and left and he saw us not, for his sight was altogether blent, but we were in terrible fear of him and made sure we were dead men despairing of escape.

- (A) (B) (C) (D) 8. From paragraph 1, read the following sentence:

“When we saw the frightful giant, we were like to faint and every moment increased our fear and terror, and we became as dead men for excess of horror and affright.”

What grammatical construction is “when we saw the frightful giant”?

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| A. noun clause      | C. adverb clause |
| B. adjective clause | D. noun absolute |

## Assessment 1

- (A) (B) (C) (D) 13a. What is the meaning of “**wight**” as it is used in paragraph 2?
- A. chicken  
B. rock  
C. man  
D. boat
- (A) (B) (C) (D) 13b. Which of the following sentences from the excerpt justifies the meaning of “**wight**”?
- A. “When we saw this frightful giant, we were like to faint and every moment increased our fear and terror, and we became as dead men for excess of horror and affright.”  
B. “Nor did he cease to feel and turn over the rest of us, one after another, till he came to the master of the ship.”  
C. “Then he tare the body, limb from limb, as one jointeth a chicken and, rending the fresh with his nails, fell to eating of it and gnawing the bones, till there was nothing left but some of these, which he threw on one side of the wall.”  
D. “As soon as we were certified that he was gone, we began to talk with one another, weeping and bemoaning ourselves for the risk we ran.”
- (A) (B) (C) (D) 14. Which of the following devices in *Arabian Nights* create suspense?
- A. the chronological order from one day to the next  
B. the flashback that occurs before the last paragraph  
C. the parallel plots of the giant and the shipmates  
D. the personification of nature as an evil
- (A) (B) (C) (D) 15. From paragraph 4, read the first sentence:  
“As soon as evening fell the earth trembled under our feet and in came the blackamoor upon us, snarling like a dog about to bite.”  
Which type of figurative language is used?
- A. a metaphor describing the earth moving as a frightened person  
B. a metaphor comparing the giant to a dark-skinned person  
C. a simile comparing his snarling to a dog  
D. a hyperbole exaggerating the giant’s fierceness

Now consider both excerpts from *The Odyssey* and *Arabian Nights* to answer the following questions.

- (A) (B) (C) (D) 16. Which of the following is a theme of both excerpts from *The Odyssey* and *Arabian Nights*?
- A. Desperation will lose against violence.  
B. Temptation can lead to destruction.  
C. Fear can lead to inaction.  
D. Cleverness will win over strength.
- (A) (B) (C) (D) 17. Which of the following actions of the speaker in *The Odyssey* advance the theme identified in the previous question?
- A. He allows his men to be eaten.  
B. He poisons the giant’s wine.  
C. He stabs the giant in the eye.  
D. He escapes while everyone is sleeping.