Name _____ Date _____

Allusion: References to Myths and Old Stories

Directions: Each question tells a little about an old story, then shows how a writer uses it. Read both parts carefully, then answer.

1. In a Greek myth, King Midas was granted a wish: everything he touched turned to gold. Read this sentence: "Aunt Rosa has the Midas touch: every bakery she opens becomes a hit." What does the allusion mean here?

A. She paints the walls of her bakeries gold.

B. She is very rich because she owns a lot of gold.

C. Everything she starts turns into a success.

D. She makes her bread by hand instead of using machines.

2. In Greek myth, the warrior Achilles could not be hurt anywhere on his body except one heel. Which statement explains the allusion in this sentence? "Our team's defense is strong, but free throws are our Achilles' heel."

A. Free throws are the team's greatest strength.

B. Free throws are the team's one big weakness.

C. The team plays like heroes from Greek myths.

D. Several players on the team have hurt their heels.

3. In a Greek myth, Pandora was told never to open a certain jar, which is often called a box. When she opened it, troubles flew out into the world. What does the writer suggest by saying, "When Dad asked Grandpa about the old family argument, he opened Pandora's box"?

A. Asking the question let loose a lot of new problems.

B. The question settled the old argument for good.

C. Dad gave Grandpa a present in a box.

D. Dad found a box of old photos in the attic.

4. In an old Greek story, soldiers hid inside a giant wooden horse. The city of Troy pulled the horse inside its walls as a gift, and that night the soldiers crept out. Why does the writer call the app a Trojan horse in this sentence? "The free game app was a Trojan horse: once it was on the tablet, it filled the screen with ads."

A. The game was about horses.

B. The app cost a lot of money.

C. The app was made in Greece.

D. It looked like a harmless gift but brought something unwanted inside.

5. In a Greek myth, Icarus flew on wings made of feathers and wax. His father warned him not to fly too close to the sun, but he kept climbing until the wax melted and he fell. What does the comparison to Icarus show about Leo? "Like Icarus, Leo kept adding tricks to his bike jump, even after his coach told him to stop, until he crashed."

A. Leo practiced slowly and safely until he succeeded.

B. Leo rode his bike on a very sunny day.

C. Leo kept taking bigger risks, ignored a warning, and fell.

D. Leo built wings for his bike.

6. In one of Aesop's fables, a slow tortoise beats a fast hare in a race by moving steadily while the hare stops to nap. What does calling Jada a tortoise tell you in this sentence? "Jada was the tortoise of the science fair: she worked a little every night for a month while her friends rushed at the end, and her project took first place."

A. She won because she rushed at the end.

B. Her project was about turtles.

C. Her slow, steady work beat her friends' last-minute rush.

D. She is slow at everything she does.

7. In one of Aesop's fables, a shepherd boy kept shouting that a wolf was coming, just as a joke. When a real wolf came, nobody believed him. What happened to Sam, according to the allusion? "Sam had faked being sick to skip practice three times, so when he really sprained his ankle, the coach didn't believe him. He had cried wolf once too often."

A. The coach is always unfair to him.

B. His earlier fake excuses made the coach doubt him even when he told the truth.

C. He saw a wolf near the practice field.

D. He cried because his ankle hurt so much.

8. In one of Aesop's fables, a fox cannot reach some grapes, so he decides they were probably sour anyway. What did Eli's friends mean in this sentence? "When Eli didn't make the jazz band, he told everyone the band was boring anyway, but his friends could tell it was sour grapes."

A. Eli didn't like the snacks at band practice.

B. Eli honestly never wanted to be in the band.

C. Eli was angry at his friends for making the band.

D. Eli was pretending not to want something he couldn't have.

9. In a Greek myth, Sisyphus was forced to push a huge boulder up a hill forever. Every time it neared the top, it rolled back down. Which situation could be called Sisyphean?

A. Opening a surprise gift at a birthday party

B. Picking up trash on a beach while the waves keep washing more ashore

C. Taking a long nap on a sunny afternoon

D. Winning a race after months of training

10. Here are four old stories.

• Rip Van Winkle fell asleep in the mountains for twenty years and woke up in a world that had changed.
• Scrooge, in a story by Charles Dickens, was a stingy old man who hated spending money.
• Cinderella went from being treated like a servant to being noticed by everyone at a royal ball.
• In *The Odyssey*, Odysseus spent ten years on a long, troubled journey home.

Match each situation to the story it calls to mind.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ After a month at a camp with no phones, Ana came home and had no idea what everyone was talking about.
2. _____ Mr. Pike, who owns the corner store, never gives away a free sample and complains about every penny.
3. _____ The backup goalie, who had sat on the bench all season, made the winning save in the championship.
4. _____ Getting home through the blizzard took nine hours, two detours and a flat tire.

Choices for question 10

A. Scrooge

B. Cinderella

C. Rip Van Winkle

D. The Odyssey