

Name:

Reading Check: *The 1619 Project* and *Notes From the Field*

1. Which of the following is the best definition of the word “maroon” as it is used in the following lines of Tyehimba Jess’s poem?

*Creeks called them Seminole
when they bonded with renegade Creeks.
Spaniards called them cimarrones,
runaways — escapees from Carolina
plantation death-prisons.
English simply called them maroons,
flattening the Spanish to make them
seem alone, abandoned, adrift —
but they were bonded,
side by side,
Black and Red,
in a blood red hue —
maroon.*

- a. A reddish color
- b. An independent black person who has liberated themselves
- c. On an island
- d. Both A & B

Use these lines from Jess’s poem to answer questions 2 & 3.

*They slipped out deep after sunset,
shadow to shadow, shoulder to shoulder,
stealthingly southward, stealing themselves,
steeling their souls to run steel
through any slave catcher who’d dare
try stealing them back north.*

2. Which kind of imagery is in line #2 of the excerpt above?
 - a. Olfactory imagery
 - b. Organic imagery
 - c. Kinesthetic imagery
 - d. Visual imagery

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3. Why does Jess make the choice in her diction to use the homonyms “steeling” and “stealing” in this excerpt?
- They slipped out deep after sunset,
shadow to shadow, shoulder to shoulder,
stealthingly southward, stealing themselves,
steeling their souls to run steel
through any slave catcher who’d dare
try stealing them back north.*
- It sounds good, but there is no meaning behind it
 - “Stealing” oneself to become free requires violence, like with “steel” or swords
 - There aren’t other words that can create the same meaning, so the homonyms are a coincidence
 - None of the above
4. Read the following line from “Just A Glance” and identify the type of imagery: “Have you ever been to a place where (six-second pause) you don’t feel tired—you tired of being tired. You know’m saying? Where you fed up. And it’s nothing else left. And you can’t get any lower?” (37)
- Visual imagery
 - Tactile imagery
 - Auditory imagery
 - Organic imagery
5. Read the following line from “Just A Glance” and explain what **trait** it reveals about the speaker: “But at the end of the day the leaders gonna make up their minds. They’re gonna do what they wanna do, you know what’m saying, so...we have to make it better, not wait around for them to make it better.” (38)
- Honest, hardworking
 - Lazy, pessimistic
 - Yearning, scared
 - None of the above
6. Read the following line from “Breaking the Box” and examine the **diction**: “Now, on April the twelfth at 8:39 in the morning, four officers on bicycles saw your son. And your son, in a subtlety of revolutionary stance, did something that black men were trained to—taught—know not to do. He looked police in the eye” (47). What is the impact of the word “revolutionary” here?
- It shows an angry tone
 - It shows a respectful tone
 - It shows a discouraging tone
 - It shows a credulous tone

7. Why does Smith include this line in “Tupac”: “I’m sorry, I always talk in stories; they really illustrate points” (54)? What does this line say about narrative?
 - a. People use stories to understand the world
 - b. Politicians are the best at using stories
 - c. People who connect to stories can’t use other kinds of information
 - d. None of the above

8. Read the following line from “Tupac” and explain how it characterizes young people: “Young people aren’t dumb, they—they might not have the fancy academic language, but they know that there’s not much opportunity” (55). According to this monologue, young people have which traits?
 - a. Poorly educated and unobservant
 - b. Intelligent and perceptive
 - c. Hopeful and optimistic
 - d. None of the above