

International School of Monterrey



Junior High School

Trimester ____

____th Grade

Literature

Name _____ Date _____ List # ____ - ____

DIRECTIONS: Read the next passage, then answer the questions.

Questions 22-32

Amber is not a mineral but is used as, and called, a semiprecious stone. The oldest and most continuous use of it is for decoration. Although it is ancient tree resin, amber is not fossilized in the most commonly understood sense of the word. We often think of fossils as the remains of extinct organisms, like dinosaur bones, and impressions of
Line 5 ferns, leaves, and insect wings in rocks. Unlike these kinds of fossils, which are usually mineral replacements of the original structure, amber is entirely organic; its composition from the original tree resin has changed little over millions of years. Even the inclusions of tiny organisms in amber are strikingly intact. Exquisite preservation is a natural property of certain kinds of resins, although the process is not completely
10 understood.

Hundreds of deposits of amber occur around the world, most of them in trace quantities. Amber is found in places where the hardened resin of various extinct plants is preserved, but special conditions are required to preserve this substance over millions of years, and only occasionally has amber survived in quantities large enough
15 to be mined. Only about 20 such rich deposits of amber exist in the world, and the deposits vary greatly in age. It is a common misconception that amber is derived exclusively from pine trees; in fact, amber was formed by various conifer trees (only a few of them apparently related to pines), as well as by some tropical broad-leaved trees.

Amber is almost always preserved in a sediment that collected at the bottom of an ancient lagoon or river delta at the edge of an ocean or sea. The specific gravity of solid amber is only slightly higher than that of water; although it does not float, it is buoyant and easily carried by water (amber with bubbles is even more buoyant). Thus, amber would be carried downriver with logs from fallen amber-producing trees and cast up as
25 beach drift on the shores or in the shallows of a delta into which the river empties. Over time, sediments would gradually bury the wood and resin. The resin would become amber, and the wood a blackened, charcoal-like substance called lignite.

- ☐ 22. The passage mainly discusses the
- (A) difference between amber and mineral fossils
 - (B) places where amber can be found
 - (C) various characteristics of amber
 - (D) types of trees that produced amber

- ☐ 23. Why does the author mention dinosaur bones in the first paragraph?
- (A) To emphasize the age of fossils
 - (B) To explain why there are more mineral replacement fossils than organic fossils
 - (C) To compare them with amber as a different type of fossil
 - (D) To give an example of an object in which amber is commonly found

- ☐ 24. The word "intact" in line 8 is closest in meaning to
- (A) beautiful
 - (B) unusual
 - (C) obvious
 - (D) unchanged

- ☐ 25. The word "trace" in line 11 is closest in meaning to
- (A) unknown
 - (B) decreasing
 - (C) very small
 - (D) somewhat similar

- ☐ 26. According to the second paragraph, which of the following is true about deposits of amber?
- (A) There is a limited number of large deposits of amber in the world.
 - (B) Most deposits contain large quantities of amber specimens.
 - (C) The major amber deposits were formed at approximately the same time.
 - (D) The deposits were formed primarily by tropical broad-leaved trees.

- ☐ 27. The word "misconception" in line 16 is closest in meaning to
- (A) false belief
 - (B) known fact
 - (C) scientific theory
 - (D) subject of debate

☐ 28. The word "them" in line 18 refers to

- (A) deposits
- (B) pine trees
- (C) conifer trees
- (D) broad-leaved trees

☐ 29. The word "Thus" in line 23 is closest in meaning to

- (A) consequently
- (B) instead
- (C) moreover
- (D) initially

☐ 30. The word "bury" in line 26 is closest in meaning to

- (A) cover
- (B) color
- (C) fill
- (D) damage

☐ 31. It can be inferred from the passage that amber is most commonly used

- (A) to determine the age of other ancient materials that are found with it
- (B) as jewelry
- (C) to compare the characteristics of living trees to those of ancient trees
- (D) to preserve fossil impressions

☐ 32. Which of the following is NOT true of amber?

- (A) It is composed of an organic material.
- (B) It is basically the same as it was millions of years ago.
- (C) It may contain the remains of tiny animals.
- (D) It is made by a process of mineral replacement.

Questions 33-42

Native Americans probably arrived from Asia in successive waves over several millennia, crossing a plain hundreds of miles wide that now lies inundated by 160 feet of water released by melting glaciers. For several periods of time, the first beginning
Line around 60,000 B.C. and the last ending around 7000 B.C., this land bridge was open.

5 The first people traveled in the dusty trails of the animals they hunted. They brought with them not only their families, weapons, and tools but also a broad metaphysical understanding, sprung from dreams and visions and articulated in myth and song, which complemented their scientific and historical knowledge of the lives of animals and of people. All this they shaped in a variety of languages, bringing into being oral
10 literatures of power and beauty.

Contemporary readers, forgetting the origins of Western epic, lyric, and dramatic forms, are easily disposed to think of "literature" only as something written. But on reflection it becomes clear that the more critically useful as well as the more frequently employed sense of the term concerns the artfulness of the verbal creation, not its mode
15 of presentation. Ultimately, literature is aesthetically valued, regardless of language, culture, or mode of presentation, because some significant verbal achievement results from the struggle in words between tradition and talent. Verbal art has the ability to shape out a compelling inner vision in some skillfully crafted public verbal form.

Of course, the differences between the written and oral modes of expression are not
20 without consequences for an understanding of Native American literature. The essential difference is that a speech event is an evolving communication, an "emergent form," the shape, functions, and aesthetic values of which become more clearly realized over the course of the performance. In performing verbal art, the performer assumes responsibility for the manner as well as the content of the performance, while
25 the audience assumes the responsibility for evaluating the performer's competence in both areas. It is this intense mutual engagement that elicits the display of skill and shapes the emerging performance. Where written literature provides us with a tradition of texts, oral literature offers a tradition of performances.

☐ 33. According to the passage, why did the first people who came to North America leave their homeland?

- (A) They were hoping to find a better climate.
- (B) They were seeking freedom.
- (C) They were following instructions given in a dream.
- (D) They were looking for food.

☐ 34. The phrase "are easily disposed" in line 12 is closest in meaning to

- (A) demonstrate reluctance
- (B) readily encourage others
- (C) have a tendency
- (D) often fail

☐ 35. The word "Ultimately" in line 15 is closest in meaning to

- (A) frequently
- (B) normally
- (C) whenever possible
- (D) in the end

☐ 36. The word "compelling" in line 18 is closest in meaning to

- (A) joyous
- (B) intricate
- (C) competing
- (D) forceful

☐ 37. What is the main point of the second paragraph?

- (A) Public performance is essential to verbal art.
- (B) Oral narratives are a valid form of literature.
- (C) Native Americans have a strong oral tradition in art.
- (D) The production of literature provides employment for many artists.

☐ 38. According to the passage, what responsibility does the audience of a verbal art performance have?

- (A) They provide financial support for performances.
- (B) They judge the quality of the content and presentation.
- (C) They participate in the performance by chanting responses.
- (D) They determine the length of the performance by requesting a continuation.

☐ 39. What can be inferred about the nature of the Native American literature discussed in the passage?

- (A) It reflects historical and contemporary life in Asia.
- (B) Its main focus is on daily activities.
- (C) It is based primarily on scientific knowledge.
- (D) It is reshaped each time it is experienced.

☐ 40. Which of the following is NOT true of the Native American literature discussed in the passage?

- (A) It involves acting.
- (B) It has ancient origins.
- (C) It has a set form.
- (D) It expresses an inner vision.

☐ 41. What can be inferred from the passage about the difference between written and oral literature?

- (A) Written literature reflects social values better than oral literature does.
- (B) Written literature involves less interaction between audience and creator during the creative process than oral literature does.
- (C) Written literature usually is not based on historical events, whereas oral literature is.
- (D) Written literature is not as highly respected as oral literature is.

☐ 42. What is the author's attitude toward Native American literature?

- (A) Admiring of its form
- (B) Critical of the cost of its production
- (C) Amused by its content
- (D) Skeptical about its origins