

Read the story below then answer the questions that follow.

Melpomene's Ambition (Excerpt)

Melpomene was born in the northeastern Hive tribe of Wildearth. As with many ancient tribes, they lived in their country for millennia as nomads in peace and independence. The young prince of the tribe, Melpomene, could not endure the monotony of existence. Imbrasus, the ruler of the Pygmy tribe, was acquainted with him during his trips through the deserts, where he frequently went adventuring. The two young men quickly became close friends, always spending time together and discussing anything that came to mind.

When the question of power was brought up, however, the courageous and aggressive Melpomene showed a desire for strength and might, feeling that wielding absolute power is the only way he can protect all he holds dear. Imbrasus, on the other hand, argued that neither violence nor power could ever solve their issues. Morality and justice were the only realities in his eyes. Despite this minor split, their friendship remained unaffected, and they continued to explore the deserts and wasteland with their own groups. However, these good times were short-lived. Already, ambition had stoked the embers of conflict. The fight began when the ruthlessly powerful Thornwolf tribe attempted to capture all of the western territories and become the region's merciless overlords.

Imbrasus and Melpomene led their people and those gathered from other tribes as a single front into combat against the fearsome Thornwolves to repel the invaders. Imbrasus joined the main forces to command affairs, while Melpomene joined the warriors on the front lines, each utilising their respective skills. As the conflicts raged on, Imbrasus rapidly won favour among the various tribes due to his exceptional skills, and he was eventually chosen to command their alliance. Melpomene was kept on the sidelines despite his consistent courage and battling spirit. Melpomene viewed the entire situation as a gross injustice, as he had always been the first to go into battle and had frequently returned covered in blood. Yet it was Imbrasus who won notoriety and the people's trust, with little attention given to him. Melpomene required an opportunity to demonstrate his equality with Imbrasus.

The allied tribes had accomplished a streak of successes, and in order to escape the impasse they were in, the Thornwolves released the old dictator Khufu from the Ruins of Tivacan. Khufu, now liberated, unleashed a terrifying sandstorm and advanced with his army of sand creatures behind him. The allied tribes were unprepared for such an event, and they viewed it as a terrifying catastrophe. Imbrasus was forced to make a split-second decision at a crucial juncture, and he prepared to lead the tribes as they evacuated to maintain their power. This was the chance Melpomene had been anticipating. To him, this demonstrated Imbrasus' lack of leadership and inner fear and gave him the opportunity to develop his own reputation. Melpomene exhorted the tribes to remain and confront the Thornwolf tribe and Khufu directly. Nonetheless, the other tribe chiefs disregarded Melpomene's call to action, which was a severe blow to Melpomene's pride. To prove that he was Imbrasus' equal, he abandoned all reasonable thought and refused to listen to Imbrasus' persuasion; instead, he led his own people into the endless desert.

The sand monsters they encountered in the unending desert approached them in waves. As he saw his kinsmen falling before him, Melpomene began to reconsider his conduct and felt guilt. Despite this, he insisted that his friend Imbrasus would undoubtedly lead his own warriors into the battlefield to assist

him. Melpomene's hope began to wane as the number of surrounding adversaries increased and the number of tribesmen decreased. His remorse and sadness filled his heart in their place. Finally, he was left with nothing but wrath and sorrow over his unjust fate.

Melpomene managed to escape the tight encirclement, aided by his companions who sacrificed their lives to protect him. Melpomene, however, could no longer trust anyone, and he walked south toward the enormous red he spotted high in the sky. He flung himself into the Abyssal Crack.

Melpomene, covered in blood, fell to his knees and offered his soul to the mighty Abyss. Thus, he was given a spear representing death and devastation, which appeared before him. The valiant and courageous desert warrior Melpomene ceased to exist thereafter. In his stead stood the icy and merciless Spear of Quiescence.

As a result of his descent into the Abyss, he lost everything. All that was left within him was his inherent pain and hatred. And he desired nothing more than to harness this pain's strength to destroy the Thornwolves, Khufu, and exact vengeance for his fallen brethren.

Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

1 How is the main character's behaviour different from the beginning to the end?

- A. Melpomene becomes more passive and less interested in power.
- B. Melpomene becomes more compassionate and less willing to use violence.
- C. Melpomene becomes more content with the monotony of existence.
- D. Melpomene becomes more ambitious and determined to prove himself to Imbrasus.

2 Based on the excerpt, what is Melpomene's main motivation?

- A. To gain power and might
- B. To seek adventure
- C. To defend morality and justice
- D. To protect his tribe

3 Which statement is NOT true based on the story?

- A. Melpomene and Imbrasus have different views on power.
- B. Melpomene and Imbrasus are good friends.
- C. Melpomene is the leader of the alliance.
- D. Melpomene is not a good leader and his actions lead to the death of many of his tribe members.

4 Which of the following lines presents the reason for the speaker's regret?

- A. "The sand monsters they encountered in the unending desert approached them in waves".
- B. "Melpomene managed to escape the tight encirclement, aided by his companions who sacrificed their lives to protect him".
- C. "Melpomene, however, could no longer trust anyone, and he walked south toward the enormous".
- D. "As he saw his kinsmen falling before him, Melpomene began to reconsider his conduct and felt guilt".

5 Which of the following best illustrates the lesson from the excerpt?

- A. Ambition can be a source of contention.
- B. The pursuit of personal glory can have negative consequences.
- C. Both friendship and loyalty are essential in one's life.
- D. Problems cannot be solved through the use of force or power.

Read the poem below then answer the questions that follow.

The Snow Man by Wallace Stevens

One must have a mind of winter
To regard the frost and the boughs
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,
The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,
In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land 10
Full of the same wind
That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow,
And, nothing himself, beholds
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is. 15

Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

6 The speaker regarded himself as "nothing" and sees "nothing that is not there and the nothing that is". What is he symbolically trying to emphasise?

- A. The misery in the sound of the wind.
- B. The beauty of the frost, pine-trees, and junipers covered in snow.
- C. The insignificance of the individual in the grand scheme of things.
- D. The sense of isolation and detachment in the snowy landscape.

7 In stanza one, what does the phrase "have a mind of winter" mean in the poem?

- A. One must be physically cold to understand winter.
- B. One's mind must be immune to the emotions and chaos of the world.
- C. The mind of someone should choose to appreciate winter.
- D. The mind of someone who can truly appreciate the beauty of winter.

8 What does the sound of the wind signify in the third and fourth stanza?

- A. The appreciation for winter
- B. The sound of the land
- C. The projection of human emotions
- D. The misery of a snowman

9 The following are emotions you can interpret from the speaker EXCEPT

- A. The speaker is feeling melancholic.
- B. The speaker is feeling joyful.
- C. The speaker is feeling wistful.
- D. The speaker is feeling nostalgic.

10 The first line used the pronoun "one". What type of pronoun is this?

- A. Impersonal pronoun
- B. Possessive pronoun
- C. interrogative pronoun
- D. Demonstrative pronoun

Read the article below then answer the questions that follow.

There are sentences that have been removed from the article. Choose the correct letter below that contains the sentence that best fits in the paragraph. Take note that there is an extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Your mute, emotionless goldfish may appear oblivious to you and its environment. However, aquatic creatures are more intelligent than they appear. Previous research has demonstrated that fish are fast learners, can retain information for up to five months, and can even distinguish their owner among a group of people. Some fish species have even acquired the use of tools, a capability formerly thought to be exclusive to humans and primates such as chimpanzees.

Now, a new study claims that fish may be educated to perform elementary mathematics. The study at the University of Bonn in Germany focused on the colourful zebrafish and the freshwater stingrays. Each of the two images presented to the animals contained four squares, circles, or triangles. **11**..... The fish were subsequently presented with two new images, one with five squares and the other with three.

The rules were elementary. If the photos had blue shapes, the fish received a food pellet if they swam toward the image with five shapes. This indicates that they were aware that one additional shape was added to the original image. **12**..... Over time, six of the eight zebrafish and four of the eight stingrays learnt to choose the correct hue, particularly when it came to adding, according to the researchers. Similar to most young toddlers, both animals found subtraction more difficult.

The researchers then examined whether the fish could apply their newly acquired mathematical skills to untrained tasks. "We intentionally skipped several calculations during training to verify this," reveals study leader Verena Schluessel. "Specifically, $3+1$ and $3-1$. After the learning phase, these two tasks were presented to the animals for the first time. However, even on these exams, they frequently selected the correct response." To confirm that the fish did not just associate blue with more and yellow with less, the researchers devised a new test. **13**..... Again, the majority of fish chose the image with one more or fewer forms. This demonstrated their understanding of the rule for adding or subtracting one.

"Therefore, the animals had to simultaneously distinguish the number of things presented and infer the calculating formula from their colour," explains Schluessel. "When the original image was exchanged for two result images, they were required to store both in working memory. Then, they had to determine the correct outcome. Overall, it is an achievement that needs sophisticated cognitive abilities." **14**..... This region of the brain is responsible for cognitive complexity in mammals.

However, not everyone is convinced of fishes' mathematical abilities. **15**..... Instead, they choose the image that most closely resembles the one they have previously viewed. He says, "In the case of blue, the most similar but most numerous, but in the case of yellow, the most similar but fewest. There is no mathematics involved, only more, less, and equivalents." Schluessel and her team, though, stand by their interpretation. They feel that the difficulty of the problems the fish had to complete is a clear indicator that they had learned elementary mathematics. Schluessel argues, "It is definitely a plus or minus one decision, as opposed to a simple more or less decision." She believes that the findings will persuade "people to view fish as sentient beings like ourselves who deserve more respect."

Choose the letter of the correct sentence that best fits the missing lines in each paragraph.

- A.** Rafael Nez, a cognitive scientist at the University of California, San Diego, contends that fish are incapable of addition and subtraction.
- B.** They had five seconds to memorise the quantity and colour of the forms, which were either entirely blue or entirely yellow.
- C.** They gave the animals the option of adding or deleting one or two shapes based on whether they were shown blue or yellow visuals.
- D.** It was formerly believed that only humans and apes like chimpanzees were capable of tool use; nevertheless, certain fish species have learned to use them as well.
- E.** Given that fish lack a cerebral cortex, the study's findings, published in the journal Nature on March 31, 2022, are particularly striking.
- F.** In contrast, if the photos contained yellow forms, the fish was rewarded for selecting the image containing three shapes.

Read the extracts below then answer the questions that follow.

<p>A. A chicken sandwich has a boneless chicken fillet, bread, and different toppings. You can shred, deep-fry, roast, or grill the meat, and the sandwich can be served hot or cold. There are many ways to make a chicken sandwich, so there are also chicken wraps and open-faced versions.</p> <p>It is thought that the first chicken sandwich was made by an Atlanta restaurant owner named Truett Cathy in 1946. He wanted to make a sandwich that was different from the common hamburger. He put a boneless piece of grilled chicken on a bun and called it Chick-fil-A.</p> <p>Chick-Fil-A, a popular fast food chain, says that they invented the sandwich in the 1940s. However, most people today see this as a marketing ploy, since the first sandwich was made by Truett Cathy,</p>	<p>C. To make a fried egg sandwich, you put a half-cooked or fully cooked egg omelette between two pieces of different bread. You can add more things to the sandwich, like vegetables, cheeses, meats, sauces, pickles, and dips, depending on your taste or what the recipe says.</p> <p>Eggs have always been seen as a simple food that could be made into a meal quickly and easily. So, it's not possible to say for sure where the "fried eggs in bread sandwich" came from. Eggs, one of the most common ingredients in culinary arts, are used to make unique egg sandwiches in almost every state and culture.</p> <p>You can use any kind of egg to make a fried egg sandwich. Most of the time, though, chicken and duck are used. The eggs can be fried on both sides, used sunny side up, or half-fried in the sandwich. The fried egg is then put between different kinds of bread or</p>
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	<p>who started Chick-Fil-A but did not make the first sandwich until after the chain was already in business. No matter where it came from, the chicken sandwich is a popular treat that is enjoyed all over the world in many different ways.</p>		<p>buns with other fillings like ham, bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, etc.</p> <p>Martha Stewart, a famous chef, has listed a very popular fried egg sandwich with gammon and cheese on a bread roll.</p>
B.	<p>Most of the time, a fish sandwich is any kind of sandwich made with fish. People often use the term to talk about foods made with breaded and fried fish, which you can often find at fast food places.</p> <p>In 1968, McDonald's was the first place to ever offer a fish sandwich. Jim Delligatti, who owned and ran several McDonald's in Pennsylvania, came up with the idea for the sandwich. In 1965, it was the first thing on the menu that wasn't a hamburger.</p> <p>300 million Filet-O-Fish sandwiches are eaten every year. The sandwich quickly became a favourite at McDonald's, especially during Lent, a 40-day period when millions of Catholics don't eat meat. McDonald's sells about 300 million Filet-O-Fish sandwiches every year, and about a quarter of those are bought during Lent.</p> <p>Over the years, more restaurant chains have made their own Lenten menus to appeal to the 50 million Catholics in the U.S. and the growing number of people who want to eat something other than beef.</p>	D.	<p>Some versions of grilled cheese sandwiches have been around for hundreds of years, and recipes for them can even be found in books written by the Romans. When James L. Kraft got a patent for his method of cheese pasteurisation, which kept it from going bad during transport, things really started to heat up.</p> <p>By the time World War II was in full swing, cooks on navy ships had followed the instructions in government-issued cookbooks to make thousands of "American Cheese Filling Sandwiches." Most of these were open-faced sandwiches with cheese on top.</p> <p>Kraft changed the cheese world again in 1949 when it came out with "Kraft Singles," single slices of processed cheese that were individually wrapped. Around the same time, people started adding the second piece of bread, making the modern grilled cheese sandwich, which wasn't called that until the 1960s.</p> <p>Grilled cheese sandwiches are made today in ways that add more and more ingredients.</p>

Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description. Take note that the letters can be repeated accordingly.

Which extract mentions about...

16	a type of sandwich that was first sold at a well-known fast-food chain?
17	how cooks on naval vessels made loads of a certain kind of sandwich by following the directions in government-issued recipe books?
18	a type of sandwich which was created when a food place owner desired to create a sandwich that was different from a usual food item?
19	how the most prevalent component in cooking is utilised in nearly every single state and tradition to create a different version of a certain sandwich?
20	a famous snack that is eaten in several various ways across the planet?

Read the article below then answer the questions that follow.

Reflecting On The Life And Legacy of Civil Rights Icon John Lewis

American civil rights leader and U.S. Representative John Lewis passed away on July 17, 2020, following a seven-month battle with pancreatic cancer. The 80-year-old dedicated his life to building what he called "The Beloved Community" in America – first as a civil rights leader and then as a lawmaker advocating for reforms on issues from weapon control to health care.

"The world is a better place because John Lewis spent his life pursuing freedom, justice, opportunity, love, and peace for all of humanity," Democratic Rep. Sanford Bishop said during a House bipartisan remembrance for Mr. Lewis. "He inspired us as the conscience of Congress."

Republican Rep. Tom Graves added to the tribute, saying, "Our nation has indeed lost a giant. It's times like these that we must be reminded of the shoulders that we stand on, the shoulders of giants like John, I'm better off because of John Lewis. Our nation is so much better because of John Lewis."

Born in 1940 in rural Alabama, Mr Lewis was the son of sharecroppers – tenant farmers who gave a part of each crop as rent – during a time when African Americans were considered second-class citizens. Growing up, Mr Lewis aspired to be a preacher. However, inspiration from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK, Jr.) and anger at the Jim Crow laws.

Mr. Lewis's initial experience with law enforcement occurred in February 1960, during a peaceful demonstration against racial discriminatory policies. He, alongside several other students, were protesting by sitting at a lunch counter designated for white patrons only in a department store in Nashville. Unfortunately, the situation escalated, leading to an altercation with some of the patrons.

"I didn't necessarily want to go to jail," he recalled in a 1973 interview for the Southern Oral History Program. "But we knew...it would help solidify the student community and the Black community as a whole. The student community did rally. The people heard that we had been arrested, and before the end of the day, five hundred students made it into the downtown area to occupy other stores and restaurants. At the end of the day, ninety-eight of us were in jail."

The peaceful sit-ins worked as hoped. By April of that year, lunch counters in Nashville were open to all, but Mr. Lewis's efforts were just beginning.

The young activist rapidly emerged as one of the Big Six leaders of the civil rights movement – a group that included MLK Jr., James Farmer, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young. He rose to national prominence on March 7, 1965. On that fateful day, Mr. Lewis led more than 600 civil rights advocates on a 54-mile march from Salem, Alabama, to the state capitol in Montgomery to urge lawmakers to allow African American citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote. The peaceful demonstrators, however, were stopped by a row of state troopers at the end of the Edmund Pettus Bridge and ordered to return home. When they refused to budge, the officials used tear gas and batons, mercilessly injuring fifty activists including Mr. Lewis. However, their sacrifice did not go in vain. "Bloody Sunday", which was televised live, brought the nation's attention to the unjust law and instigated the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a landmark federal achievement of the civil rights movement.

Mr. Lewis's determination to bring reform to the country continued after he was elected the U.S. Representative of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District in 1986. The lawmaker, who was re-elected 16 times, spent his 33 years in Congress fighting for initiatives like better education and healthcare for the underprivileged, and weapon control reform. He also co-wrote a series of graphic novels about the civil rights movement, for which he won the National Book Award in 2016. Former President Barack Obama recognized Mr. Lewis's relentless pursuit of justice by bestowing him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honour, in 2011.

The civil rights icon will be laid to rest on July 30, 2020, at Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, following a six-day "celebration of life." The themed memorials will include stops in Troy, Selma – where Mr. Lewis will cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge one last time – and Montgomery, Ala., as well as Washington, DC. His casket will be available for public viewing at each location, allowing fans to pay their respects to the civil rights hero one last time.

To honour his legacy, many Americans and politicians are urging lawmakers to restore Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2013. It required states and localities with a history of discrimination against minority voters to get a "pre-clearance" from the federal government before making any changes to their voting policies.

Reverend C.T. Vivian, another civil rights leader and one of Mr. Lewis's collaborators, also died on July 17, 2020, at the age of 95. Known by many as "The Quiet Warrior," he was a close friend and confidant of MLK Jr. and spent his life campaigning for equality and justice. The clergyman, who was considered one of the greatest preachers of his generation, was laid to rest at Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, on July 23, 2020.

Though the activists may be gone, their fight for justice and equality for all must continue. As Mr. Lewis once said, "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble".

Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

21 How would you describe John Lewis?

- A. A Civil Rights Leader and U.S. Representative
- B. An advocate for weapon control reform
- C. A graphic novelist
- D. All of the above

22 After reading the article, what do you think inspired John Lewis to become a civil rights activist?

- A. The several encounters he had with law enforcement during his activism.
- B. His desire to be a preacher and his experiences as a sharecropper.
- C. The inspiration of a certain person and outrage over Jim Crow laws.
- D. He was heavily influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and was outraged by racial inequality and injustice.

23 Which of the following are what Lewis fought for in his 33 years in Congress?

- I. Environmental protection
- II. Weapon control reform
- III. Voting rights and voter accessibility
- IV. Better education for the underprivileged
- V. Mental health resources and support
- VI. Improved healthcare for the disadvantaged

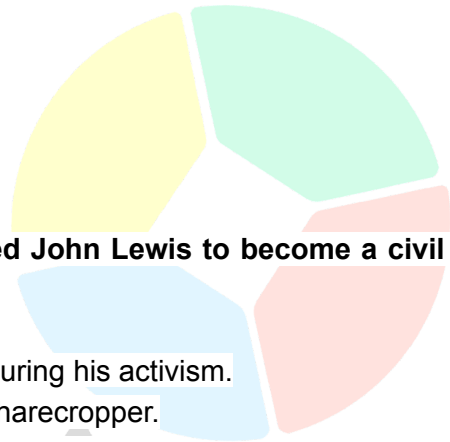
- A. I, III and V
- B. I, II and III
- C. II, IV and VI
- D. VI, V and IV

24 What is the main message of John Lewis' story?

- A. The sacrifices that are sometimes necessary for progress.
- B. The power of peaceful protest and activism in promoting social justice and equality.
- C. The power of a single individual to change society.
- D. The importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity.

25 Identify what type of text the article is:

- A. Informative
- B. Entertainment
- C. Argumentative
- D. Persuasive



Scholarly

