

Reading Test — Segment X

The change that comes with progress is not always for the better. For Aaron, progress means losing the places that are dear to him. To learn how he is affected, read the following passage. Then answer questions 15–21. Some questions may ask you about certain paragraphs. The numbers are found on the left side of the paragraphs.

Progress

by Michael Demchszak

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- 1 I live in the same town where my parents and my grandparents grew up. In fact, most of the people and places that were part of my grandparents' and parents' lives are still here. My dad says that nothing much ever really changes around here, and I used to take him at his word. Now I'm not so sure.
 - 2 Not too long ago, Josh Rundberg came into Cooper's Grocery, where I was working my after-school job running the cash register. It must have been May; the snow was gone, but the hardwood trees hadn't shown their leaves yet.
 - 3 "Hey, Aaron, have you been down by the old Peterson farm lately?" he asked.
 - 4 "No. Why?"
 - 5 "Well, there are some big, yellow machines down there, and they're digging up dirt and pushing it around."
 - 6 The Peterson farm sat adjacent to Mallard Lake and had been sold years ago to some man down in the city. No one had ever seen him in the area. I guess everyone in town was lucky that he never did anything with the property—until now.
 - 7 I thought about what Josh said and decided to take a detour on my way home. Sure enough, as I stopped my bike and got off to look around, there was a bulldozer and a grader, and men were felling trees with chainsaws and burning piles of slash timber, leaving only a stumpy stubble where the forest once encroached on the farm. I stood straddling my bike and stared before slowly pedaling home.
 - 8 After seeing the carnage at the Peterson farm, I knew that I had to go to Mallard Lake. When my sisters and I were younger, Dad would take us on a trail that ran past the old Peterson farm and then through the thick woods to Mallard Lake. We visited the lake in every season. In the spring, we would revel in the soft greens of the evergreen forest and skip stones across the water. We would camp there in the summer and toast marshmallows over the fire as the moon rose in the night sky. In autumn, just as the sun was setting, it seemed as if the leaves of the hardwood trees had burst into flame. In

winter the bare branches of the birch trees were outlined in white against a crisp blue sky. It seemed like Mallard Lake had gone on this way for a thousand years and would continue for a thousand more.

- 9 It was nearly a month before I could find a free day. The day I went was one of those tourist-postcard days when lilacs perfume the whole town, the leaves are fresh and green, and sunlight dapples the forest floor.
- 10 When I reached the farm, it was early and the equipment was parked over on the west side of the property with not a worker in sight. I took the trail into the woods as I had done ever since I was a kid and began the near mile-long trek back toward the lake. It all seemed untouched and quiet and serene as ever. I wondered what the old farm was being turned into, but I contented myself with the thought that at least Mallard Lake would still be Mallard Lake.
- 11 As I walked, the memories kept coming back to me. I passed the large blackberry patch that had provided for many a pie and many a jar of jam, but it was too early for berries. Further on, I came to the granite outcrop where we used to stop and eat lunch. Realizing that I was hungry, I stopped and took out the food that I had brought, some biscuits and bacon left over from breakfast, and began eating. While I ate, looking at the familiar surroundings, a feeling of contentment spread through me. I knew the place and the place knew me. I felt like I was home.
- 12 I continued on the trail and began walking down the west shore, the sun now high overhead. Then a flicker of color moving against the greenery caught my eye. I stood and stared, frozen in place.
- 13 “No,” I whispered. Over by the lake, four wooden stakes topped with bright orange plastic tape were fluttering in the breeze. Someone was building a house on the shores of Mallard Lake. A passionate disappointment welled up inside me, and I slowly recognized that nothing remains the same forever. Everything has to change.

15. Why is Aaron unsure about taking his father at his word?
- A. Aaron found out his father sometimes told lies.
 - B. The things that were true for Aaron's father had changed.
 - C. Aaron had changed his opinion about his father.
 - D. The things Aaron's father told him were never true.

16. Which of these caused Aaron to stand frozen in place?
- A. He spotted a slithering snake.
 - B. He saw orange plastic tape.
 - C. He watched a giant bumblebee.
 - D. He observed parked equipment.

17. When Aaron saw four wooden stakes in the ground near Mallard Lake, he concluded that
- A. water in Mallard Lake was polluted and about to be cleaned up.
 - B. someone had left some trash on the shore of Mallard Lake.
 - C. the trail near the Peterson farm was about to be improved.
 - D. the development of the Peterson farm would extend to the lake.

18. Aaron's point of view in this passage
- A. forces him to do things alone.
 - B. is revealed in his emotional reactions.
 - C. makes it easier for him to adjust to change.
 - D. causes him to appreciate his family more.

19. In the passage, the author gains the interest and sympathy of the reader by
- A. concluding the story with action and suspense.
 - B. explaining the benefits of real estate development.
 - C. creating memorable but unfortunate main characters.
 - D. developing a plot about the demise of cherished places.

20. Read the following sentence from paragraph 5.

Well, there are some big, yellow machines down there, and they're digging up dirt and pushing it around.

Aaron's immediate reaction to this statement was to

- A. decide to take a detour home.
- B. ponder memories of the past.
- C. pack a snack to take on his hike to the lake.
- D. think Mallard Lake would still be the same.

Please write your response to question 21 on page 4 of your answer book.

21. Using details from the passage:

Part A Provide one change Aaron saw in the Peterson's farm and explain how it made him feel.

Part B Provide one change Aaron saw at Mallard Lake and explain how it made him feel.

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**Be sure to write your complete answer
in your answer book.**

It takes drive and determination to rise to the top of any profession. To learn about a remarkable woman who rose to the top of her chosen field, read the following article. Then answer questions 22–32. Some questions may ask you about certain paragraphs. The numbers are found on the left side of the paragraphs.

Dr. Joycelyn Elders: United States Surgeon General

by Nancy Beaulieu

- 1 A high-ranking physician in the United States Public Health Service heads the Office of the Surgeon General. The Office deals with public health emergencies. It also provides leadership to help improve the health of individuals in this country. This honored position was held not too long ago by the daughter of a poor farmer. Because doctors were hard to find and money was scarce, this future Surgeon General didn't even visit a doctor until she was 16 years old!
- 2 Joycelyn Elders was born in 1933 to a poor African-American family in Arkansas. The oldest of eight children, she picked cotton with her brothers and sisters during times when they were not in school. Elders' mother had only an eighth-grade education, but she knew that education was the best tool to help secure a better life. Another strong supporter of education was Elders' grandmother. When Elders won a scholarship to college at age 15, she wasn't sure she could go. Her father said he needed her help on the farm until Elders' grandmother convinced him otherwise. Soon after, Elders enrolled at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 3 Elders graduated from college and went directly into the United States Army as an officer. She worked as a physical therapist, but Elders knew she wanted to do more with her medical training. When she was discharged from the Army she made a decision to continue her education. Using the funds available to military personnel for her tuition, Elders enrolled at the University of Arkansas Medical School.
- 4 The year was 1956. Two years earlier the United States Supreme Court had made its ruling in the famous case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. In that case the Court ruled that the old doctrine of "separate but equal" facilities was not in keeping with the Constitution. Segregated educational facilities were ruled illegal. Troops were sent to support that decision in several states, including Arkansas. But even though the separation of races had been ruled illegal in education, the Supreme Court's decision did not change society overnight. Although Elders' application to medical school was accepted, she was the only African American in her class.
- 5 Despite these difficulties, Elders was not deterred from reaching her goals. In 1960, she graduated and went on to an internship at a medical center in Little Rock. Many of the patients she came in contact with at the medical center were young children and

teenagers. Her experience with these young people convinced her to specialize in pediatrics.

- 6 While completing her medical residency in 1961, her supervisors noticed her drive and skill and placed Elders in charge of other pediatric residents. At the time this was unusual since she was the only woman in the group and the only African American.
- 7 Over the next 20 years Dr. Elders devoted her career to various aspects of children's medicine. She wrote more than 100 papers and was recognized as an expert on juvenile diabetes. Drawing on her own experience, she tried to instill in her young patients a sense that they had a responsibility to take charge of their own lives. In 1976, she began teaching medicine at the University of Arkansas. In 1987, she became the Director of the Arkansas Department of Health. Then, in 1993, she was nominated by President Bill Clinton to serve as the Surgeon General of the United States.
- 8 Dr. Elders' term as Surgeon General was not a long one, but it was characterized by actions that were very much a part of her character. She had always been blunt and outspoken in her goal to improve people's healthcare and welfare generally. She maintained that candid style during her term of office.
- 9 Dr. Elders' record of achievement is an impressive one because it reflects a commitment to improving the lives of others. Drive and determination, two qualities she has in abundance, helped her achieve those goals.

22. In this article, the word segregated means
- A. students learning about medicine.
 - B. police required to be present.
 - C. races separated from each other.
 - D. officers learning about leadership.

23. What is the main idea of this article?
- A. Dr. Joycelyn Elders used her time as Surgeon General to improve people's lives by working for better medical schools.
 - B. Dr. Joycelyn Elders was accepted to the University of Arkansas Medical School and soon after was named Surgeon General.
 - C. Because of her father's financial support, Dr. Joycelyn Elders was able to become one of the first female African-American doctors.
 - D. Through hard work and determination, Dr. Joycelyn Elders overcame many obstacles to become Surgeon General.

24. In paragraph 6, the word residents refers to people who
- A. are training to be doctors.
 - B. live in a place permanently.
 - C. are traveling as part of a job.
 - D. come from a particular country.

25. How did *Brown v. Board of Education* affect Elders' education?
- A. It created a new medical school at the University of Arkansas, which she attended.
 - B. It provided money for people who had served in the military to attend school.
 - C. It gave African Americans an equal right to attend any public school in America.
 - D. It required all medical students in Arkansas to intern at a medical center in Little Rock.

26. What job did Elders hold immediately before becoming Surgeon General of the United States?
- A. Director of the Arkansas Department of Health
 - B. Professor of medicine at the University of Arkansas
 - C. Director of physical therapy in the United States Army
 - D. Pediatrician at a medical center in Little Rock
27. Which statement from the article is an opinion?
- A. "Elders won a scholarship to college at age 15. . . ."
 - B. "Dr. Elders' record of achievement is an impressive one. . . ."
 - C. "[S]he graduated and went on to an internship. . . ."
 - D. "Soon after, Elders enrolled at Philander Smith College. . . ."
28. The author organizes the information about Elders' life by using
- A. compare and contrast.
 - B. order of importance.
 - C. cause and effect.
 - D. chronological order.
29. According to the author, what influenced Elders to specialize in pediatrics?
- A. Her desire to give poor children opportunities
 - B. Her experience as the oldest of eight children in Arkansas
 - C. Her work with children during her internship
 - D. Her experience with juvenile diabetes patients

30. Joycelyn Elders was successful because she
- A. did not allow difficulties to discourage her.
 - B. served longer than any other Surgeon General.
 - C. did not say things that would anger people.
 - D. was encouraged by other female medical students.

31. Why was Elders uncertain about whether she would be able to accept her college scholarship?
- A. Her grandmother did not believe in college for women.
 - B. Her father needed her to help pick cotton on the farm.
 - C. She did not know if she would be successful.
 - D. She thought she needed to go directly into the military.