

## DIRK THE PROTECTOR

**Selection Test B/C****Comprehension**

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.  
(6 points each)

1. Which statement reveals that “Dirk the Protector” is told from the first-person point of view?
  - A. “There weren’t many boys willing to do the work but with so few alleys, it was still very hard to earn much money.”
  - B. “Because I was from ‘the wrong side of the tracks’ I didn’t think I could go to the authorities.”
  - C. “There bowling alley was on the second floor and had windows in the back of the pit area.”
  - D. “There were four of them, led by a thug—he and two of the others would ultimately land in prison—named, absurdly, ‘Happy’ Santun.”
2. Which of the following was the effect of Paulsen staying out late selling newspapers?
  - A. He made enough money to buy the dog Dirk.
  - B. He was too tired to study, so his grades in school went down.
  - C. He was on the street with the gangs, who attacked him.
  - D. He looked all over for odd jobs, but the good ones were all taken.
3. Which cause has more than one effect in this memoir?
  - A. There was drinking at Paulsen’s home.
  - B. Paulsen hunted and fished in the woods.
  - C. Paulsen was able to buy the clothes he needed.
  - D. Dirk was a mixed-breed dog.
4. What caused Paulsen to leave Dirk on the farm?
  - A. He did not need the dog anymore.
  - B. He knew that Dirk was happy on the farm.
  - C. He did not have the money to feed Dirk.
  - D. He and Dirk were not getting along well.
5. Based on the events in this memoir, readers can conclude that Paulsen is
  - A. very fond of animals
  - B. able to defend himself
  - C. solitary and lonely
  - D. determined and street-smart

## SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

**Vocabulary**

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word. (6 points each)

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| <p>6. What is the meaning of <u>conventional</u>?</p> <p>A. practical<br/>B. liberal<br/>C. realistic<br/>D. traditional</p> <p>7. A <u>predatory</u> animal is</p> <p>A. likely to steal from other animals<br/>B. able to be easily tamed<br/>C. used to migrating in winter<br/>D. inclined to be friendly toward humans</p> <p>8. What is a <u>forerunner</u>?</p> <p>A. the winner of a foot race<br/>B. a member of a street gang<br/>C. one who came before<br/>D. a candidate for political office</p> | <p>9. What is a <u>decoy</u>?</p> <p>A. a cure<br/>B. an order<br/>C. a payment<br/>D. a distraction</p> <p>10. If you are at an <u>impasse</u>, you are</p> <p>A. at a crossroads<br/>B. on a vacation<br/>C. on a steep slope<br/>D. in a deadlock</p> |
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**Written Response**

**Short Response** On a ~~separate sheet of paper~~ *the back sheet of paper*, answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the story. (10 points each)

- ~~11. Explain how "Dirk the Protector" would change if told from a different point of view.~~
12. Paulsen was attacked by the gang several times. Give two causes for these attacks.

**Extended Response** Answer one of the following questions based on your knowledge of the story. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

13. What evidence supports the idea that the author might have been fine even without Dirk to protect him? List two examples from the memoir to support your answer. *OK*
14. **Challenge** As described in this memoir, Paulsen had a difficult childhood. Why doesn't he complain about his parents, his hunger, his deprivation, or his other serious problems? Give two examples from the memoir to support your opinion.