**“Selma” by Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Practice Selection Test**

**Directions:** One of the important aspects of answer comprehension questions is understanding what the question is actually asking you. Please follow the below steps to help you answer these questions:

1. Read each question.
2. Then, using the *common question meanings”* paper, decide what the question is asking and at the end of the question, write what the question is asking. Also, underline any words or phrase that help you better understand the question.
3. Once you have gone through each of the questions, answer each in complete sentences on a **separate** sheet of paper.
4. What is meant by the personification in the following quote “And in a real sense this afternoon, we can say that our feet are tired, but our souls are rested.”?
5. What affect does quoting Sister Pollard have on the speech?
6. Why does MLK say that, “It is not an accident that one of the great marches of American history should terminate in Montgomery, Alabama”?
7. What does MLK mean when he says, “Eradicate the stain of Birmingham”
8. What is MLK’s claim statement?
9. What does MLK mean when he says, “If the worst in American life lurked in its dark streets, the best of American instincts arose passionately from across the nation to overcome it.”
10. Why does MLK mention President Johnson in his speech?
11. Why does MLK mean when he says, “Wallace will make the funeral”?
12. Why is the Reconstruction Era and Populist Movement mentioned in this speech?
13. What impact does mentioning Jesus and Jim Crow have in the following lines:? “If it may be said of the slavery era that the white man took the world and gave the Negro Jesus, then it may be said of the Reconstruction era that the southern aristocracy took the world and gave the poor white man Jim Crow. “
14. What word best describes MLK’s tone in the following sentence: “I want to say to the people of America and the nations of the world, that we are not about to turn around.”
15. What effect does the repetition of “Let us march on ballot boxes”have on the audience?
16. What is the literary device being used when MLK makes references to the Bible? What is the impact?
17. What does the word ***inevitably*** mean in the following sentence*: “The road ahead is not altogether a smooth one. (*No*) There are no broad highways that lead us easily and* ***inevitably*** *to quick solutions.”?*
18. What is the symbolic meaning of “massive power” in the following sentence: “*The confrontation of good and evil compressed in the tiny community of Selma ) generated the massive power to turn the whole nation to a new course.”*
19. *What impact does the following selection have on the tone of the speech? What rhetorical device is most obvious in this passage?*

“Let us march on poverty (Let us march) until no American parent has to skip a meal so that their children may eat. (Yes, sir) March on poverty (Let us march) until no starved man walks the streets of our cities and towns (Yes, sir) in search of jobs that do not exist. (Yes, sir) Let us march on poverty (Let us march) until wrinkled stomachs in Mississippi are filled, (That's right) and the idle industries of Appalachia are realized and revitalized, and broken lives in sweltering ghettos are mended and remolded.”

1. Who are the *valiant heroes* in the following line: *“And I smiled to see in the newspaper photographs of many a decade ago, the faces so bright, so solemn, of our valiant heroes, the people of Montgomery”*
2. Why does MLK end his speech with the allusion, *“His truth is marching on”*