

Place Contestant ID Label HERE  
BEFORE Contest Begins.



# Vocabulary

## DISTRICT Contest

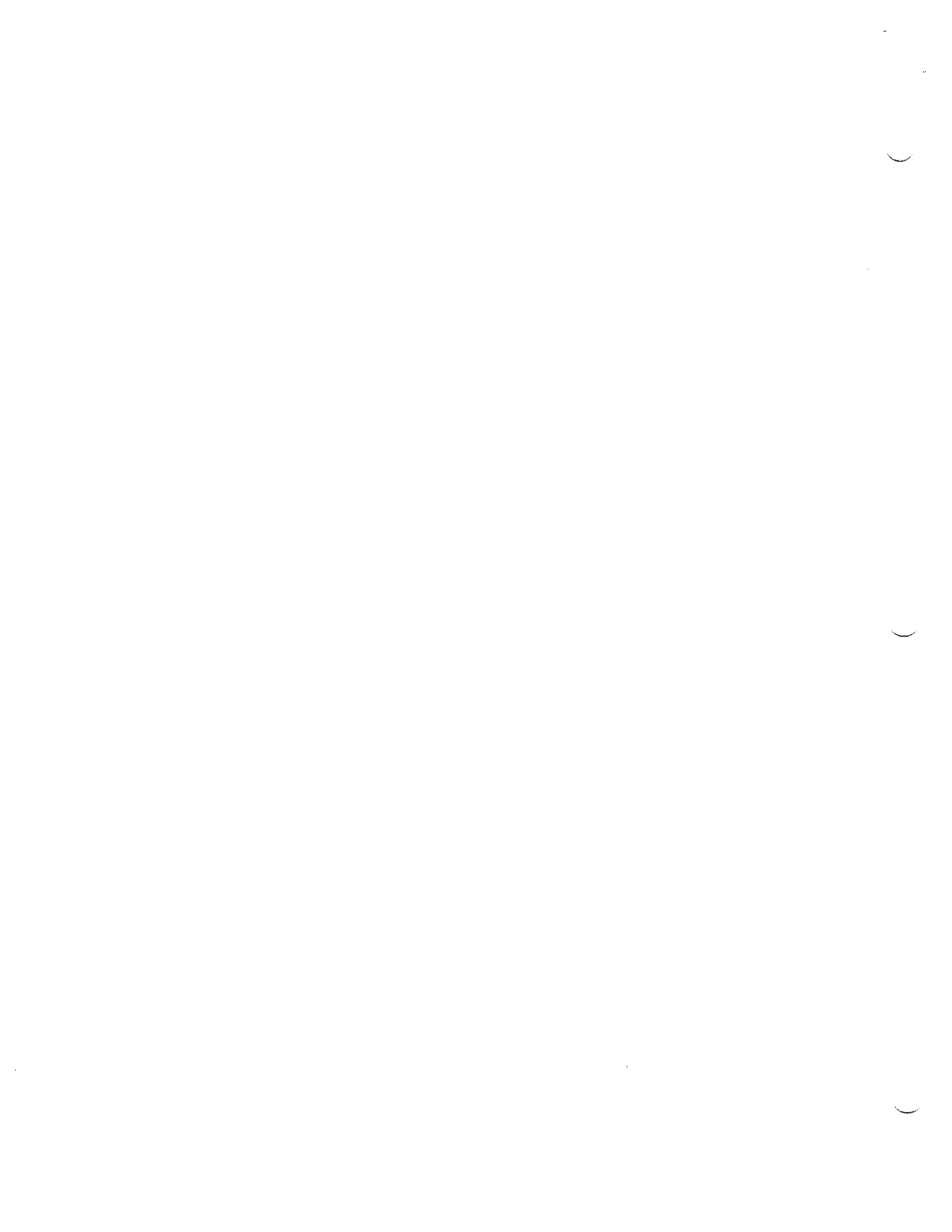
### Grades 5, 6, & 7/8



2018

FINAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please do not open test until the signal is given to begin.)



## Vocabulary Contest DISTRICT - 2018

**Sentence Completion Instructions:** In the sentences below, one or two words or groups of words have been omitted. For each question, select the answer choice, labeled A through D, which best fits into the meaning of the sentence.

- The advertisement made \_\_\_\_\_ claims about a miracle weight-loss product.  
A. kinetic  
B. mendacious  
C. limpid  
D. palmary
- Be careful around that \_\_\_\_\_-looking dog; he looks calm, but he is \_\_\_\_\_ and might bite at any time.  
A. blithesome . . . gentle  
B. sophomoric . . . mean  
C. amiable . . . irascible  
D. prodigious . . . renascent
- The actress was known for her quick wit and \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. panache  
B. regalia  
C. proxy  
D. umbrage
- A distinguished \_\_\_\_\_ from our school's \_\_\_\_\_ of creativity represented our city at the state annual arts convention.  
A. drogue . . . esplanade  
B. dunderhead . . . forage  
C. hebdomad . . . tilth  
D. coterie . . . entourage
- Oscar Wilde, known for his plays, was also in demand as a gifted \_\_\_\_\_ around the turn of the century.  
A. soliloquy  
B. raconteur  
C. paddock  
D. pippin
- Norah had to exercise frequently to make sure her leg muscles didn't \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. constrict . . . atrophy  
B. aggrandize . . . soupçon  
C. undulate . . . truncate  
D. divagate . . . emaciate
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of racing, David explained, are such that athletes must train carefully for marathons if they expect to finish with a good time.  
A. emollients  
B. exigencies  
C. drogues  
D. innuendoes
- The speaker asserted that humans have such a strong natural tendency toward self-deception that the moral imperative to \_\_\_\_\_ this drive with respect for \_\_\_\_\_ is becoming more critical than ever.  
A. intensify . . . mendacity  
B. invalidate . . . umbrage  
C. rationalize . . . restitution  
D. counterbalance . . . veracity
- Like people, \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ and enjoy the company of family groups.  
A. hebdomads . . . notable  
B. nimrods . . . knackered  
C. pachyderms . . . gregarious  
D. snakes . . . sociable
- You can \_\_\_\_\_ your knowledge by using long vocabulary words in every speech.  
A. flaunt  
B. truncate  
C. typify  
D. ascertain
- \_\_\_\_\_ people to help you and having them volunteer to help are almost the \_\_\_\_\_ of each other.  
A. Getting . . . catachresis  
B. Coercing . . . antipodes  
C. Gathering . . . augmentation  
D. Leading . . . endorsement
- Bruce had to cook an enormous meal in order to satisfy the \_\_\_\_\_ appetites of our guests.  
A. miniscule  
B. lackadaisical  
C. nonesuch  
D. prodigious

# Vocabulary Contest

## DISTRICT - 2018

### • ANALOGY VERBAL REASONING

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The analogy questions that follow present a pair of related words or groups of words. From the four answer choices, select the pair that best illustrates a relationship most similar to that of the original pair.

13. VORACIOUS : HUNGER ::  
A. palmary : soliloquy  
B. exhausted : sleepiness  
C. frigorific : imminence  
D. artless : guile
14. BEGUILE : TRICKERY ::  
A. discern : ambiguity  
B. accuse : offense  
C. expunge : eraser  
D. acumen : analogy
15. SALVAGE : DESTRUCTION ::  
A. dispute : arbitration  
B. beleaguer : enemy  
C. recoup : loss  
D. instigate : accord
16. PASSÉ : OBSOLETE ::  
A. lambent : luminous  
B. opacity : clarity  
C. tittle : skinflint  
D. mickle : miniscule
17. MENDACITY : VERACITY ::  
A. moxie : courage  
B. panache : penchant  
C. vivacious : lackadaisical  
D. quaffed : drank
18. ENDORSE : CANDIDATE  
A. equivocate : enclave  
B. ratify : authorize  
C. hoodwink : zealot  
D. emend : manuscript
19. HAMLET : SOLILOQUY ::  
A. tilth : pedicure  
B. Shakespeare : monologue  
C. marsupial : mewling  
D. Edelweiss : discombobulated
20. APPREHENSIBLE : ENIGMATIC ::  
A. equitable : free  
B. cynicism : pessimism  
C. grievous : insipid  
D. gregarious : introverted
21. CHRYSANTHEMUM : CACHEPOT ::  
A. duvet : duplicity  
B. drogue : lake  
C. esplanade : grass  
D. cotton : emollient
22. HOODWINK : DECEIVE ::  
A. search : fossick  
B. galumph : lump  
C. insipid : tofu  
D. reminisce : sojourn
23. OVOID : EGG ::  
A. quarto : eight  
B. lachrymose : courage  
C. arboreal : forest  
D. cephalometry : geometry

### READING COMPREHENSION

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage below, and then answer the questions that follow. Questions may refer to what is stated or implied, or to any introductory information that may be included.

*The passage is adapted from an excerpt from an article in Peterson's Master the SAT, 2003.*

On a July evening in the middle of the drought, my father took us for a drive through our California town. I remember pointing out the back seat window of our station wagon to the sky, "Look, a helicopter." An airplane emerged not far behind, then another helicopter. We pulled back into our driveway just in time to see a helicopter dump a load of water onto a nearby mountaintop. Smoke rose from the peak, unnaturally darkening the evening. The mountain, called Mt. Diablo, was burning. In the late afternoon a storm had accumulated across the hills. There had

## Vocabulary Contest DISTRICT - 2018

been wind and heavy clouds, augmented by lightning, but no rain. When lightning struck the mountaintop, like a spark in a tinderbox, the peak caught fire. The sage, border oaks and grasses, dead-dry from the lack of rain, carried the torrid flames across the mountain.

The old saying about nature being "in our backyard" sounds trite, but there it was, an uncontrollable wildfire, and we watched it from the comfort of our patio chairs. As the sun sets, the flames on the mountaintop became more visible. Neighbors gathered with coolers of soda, my father made popcorn, and my mother let me stay up late to watch the swaying, dance light on top of the mountain.

About a week after the fire, my family piled back into the big green station wagon, and we drove up to the Mt. Diablo State Park, or what was left of it. We were not the only ones who had come to see the destruction. A steady line of cars crept up the twisting mountain road, like a gleaming artery through the charred flesh of the mountain. The landscape was blackened, covered with a smooth, uniform layer of ash. Any trees left standing were bare, black, and livid against the cloudless sky. If not for the blue sky we could have been driving on the moon. The ranger station at the summit had been spared (whether by the efforts of the rangers or by luck, I don't know), and we parked there to get out of the car and take pictures. A homeless, indigenous raccoon traipsed around among the parked cars and sightseers. My sister took pity and tossed him a piece of her banana. And then we saw a tarantula - a big, furry, golden-brown spider, just divagating around as casually as the raccoon. It was as big as my father's hand. My dad took a picture of it, placing his sunglasses a few inches away from the spider to provide perspective. A formicary of ants had already formed. I don't remember being scared, just amazed, fascinated at the huge spider, the raccoon, and the ants, emergent from the dead landscape.

But, of course, the distinction between civilization and nature is a false one. Even in

the heart of Chicago, where I now live, nature cannot be vanquished. People think the steel and glass canyons of the city offer protection from nature's destructive power, but, as I once heard a Chicago TV meteorologist point out, the only thing that has kept a tornado from grappling with the Scars Tower is dumb luck. My relationship with nature has always been to keep this fact in mind, to allow myself to be fascinated not only by Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon, but also by the sidewalk weed and trashcan raccoon.

24. According to the passage, the cause of the fire was . . .
  - A. a spark from an airplane crash.
  - B. poor planning by forest rangers.
  - C. the combination of a drought and a storm.
  - D. a camp fire that got out of control.
  
25. The author mentions that he and his family watched the fire "from the comfort of our patio chairs" in order to . . .
  - A. condemn his family for failing to call for help.
  - B. emphasize the nearness of a natural force to the author's home.
  - C. point out the humor of the situation.
  - D. illustrate his family's general indifference to nature.
  
26. The word "false" in the final paragraph most closely means . . .
  - A. mistaken.
  - B. facetious.
  - C. dishonest.
  - D. inutile.

**Vocabulary Contest**  
**DISTRICT - 2018**

27. The author would most likely agree with which statement?
- A. The positive forces of nature will always overcome the negative forces of a habitat.
  - B. People can escape from nature's destructive power, but not from its beauty.
  - C. People in urban areas are not as removed from the forces of nature as they may think.
  - D. Urban environments are rapidly depleting natural resources.
28. The author describes the tarantula in order to . . .
- A. show that his family felt compassion for the displaced animals under duress.
  - B. demonstrate that nature exists even in hostile environments.
  - C. illustrate the horror that his family felt at the destruction of the mountain.
  - D. provide a contrast to the description of the raccoon that his sister fed.
29. The author mentions the "sidewalk weed and trashcan raccoon" in order to . . .
- A. compare their relative harmlessness to nature's more destructive forces.
  - B. dismiss the notion that nature can be enjoyed in the city.
  - C. show his distaste for city life.
  - D. include them in his appreciation of nature.
30. The author's attitude toward nature can best be described as . . .
- A. mocking
  - B. irascible
  - C. respectful
  - D. fearful