Charlie the Baker

Charlie the baker enjoys his work. He likes to make bread, muffins, and rolls for people. He thinks the fresh smells in a bakery are the most pleasant in the world.

He whistles as he pats the bread dough gently into the pan. While he waits for it to bake, he sweeps the kitchen floor. He sings a song for everyone to hear.

Later, when the bread is baked, he wraps it up. He ties a red ribbon around it. It looks as good as it smells. Charlie smiles his biggest smile and puts the bread on the shelf for everyone to see.

1. Charlie ties a red ribbon on his bread
   
   A. to cover it up
   B. to make it look as good as it smells
   C. to use up extra ribbon
   D. to show off his favorite color

2. One of the things Charlie loves about the bakery is
   
   A. that it is his store
   B. the way it looks
   C. sweeping the floor
   D. the way it smells

3. Which of the following does Charlie do after he ties a ribbon on his bread?
   
   A. wraps it up
   B. waits for it to bake
   C. puts it on the shelf
   D. pats the dough into the pan
4. When the author states that Charlie “sings a song for everyone to hear,” he probably means

   A. everyone likes to hear Charlie sing
   B. Charlie has a good voice
   C. Charlie sings loudly
   D. everyone knows the songs Charlie sings

5. Name two ways that Charlie shows that he enjoys his work.
This passage comes from the book Long Meg, by Rosemary Minard. Meg was a young English girl who disguised herself to serve as a foot soldier during the Battle of Boulogne in 1544. In this passage, Meg and the laundry women defend Boulogne against a French attack.

from Long Meg

by Rosemary Minard

“Good women! Good women!” Meg called to the astonished laundresses. “The French are attacking the city, and all our soldiers are sick. But I have an idea, and perhaps we can save Boulogne. Come inside with me and I will tell you my plan.”

The women followed Meg into the house. It was a single large room with several fireplaces. In each one steaming kettles of water hung bubbling over the fire. And on the long tables that took up most of the room, fat tubs of hot, soapy wash water sat waiting for the heaps and piles of sheets and shirts and breeches that lay scattered in between them.

Meg explained her plan, and the women quickly went to work. First they gathered up all the empty buckets they could find and filled them with the hot wash water from the tubs. And as soon as they had emptied a tub, they filled it again with the boiling water from the kettles, being careful to add great quantities of soap.

Then, each carrying a bucket of wash water in each hand, the women hurried after Meg to the city wall. And they got there just in time, for the French had raised their ladders, and on each one several soldiers were already on the way up.

Silently the women moved along the top of the wall and crouched behind the battlement. And beside each woman sat her two buckets of hot, soapy wash water.

6 Hardly daring to breathe, they waited without a sound while the scrape, scrape of the soldier’s boots on the ladders came closer and closer and closer…

Then, from somewhere on the wall, a whistle cut through the silence. And just as Meg had known they would, the startled men on the ladders jerked back their heads and looked up.
But they never saw a thing! For at that very moment each woman emptied her buckets, and each man received full in his face a tremendous gush of steaming hot wash water.

9Splat! went the water, and down went the men. And the first man on each ladder knocked the second man off, and the two of them landed smack on the head of the third man, and so on down the ladders they tumbled, plop, plop, plop, like rows of falling dominoes, till they hit the ground below.

What a jumble and tumble of men there was then on the ground outside the wall. The soldiers lay in wriggling heaps of arms, legs, heads, bodies, and feet. And with their eyes full of soapsuds, they couldn’t even see to get themselves untangled. Tears ran down their cheeks as they pushed and pulled and yanked and tugged, trying to get themselves free. But the problem was that in all the confusion no one could tell which leg was his, or which was his arm, or whose foot it was that had landed in his face.

Meanwhile, Meg and the washerwomen were busy up on the wall. As soon as the soldiers had fallen, they had dropped their buckets and gathered around the ladders. Pulling and working together, they drew each one up over the wall and stowed it safely inside the city. By the time the French had rubbed the soap from their eyes and could see again, their ladders had disappeared.

Boulogne was saved. Without their ladders, the French would never be able to get inside the city. All they could do was untangle themselves and slink back down the hillside as Meg and the sentries and the washerwomen cheered and cried and threw their arms around each other.
6. What was unusual about this battle?

A. It was fought by the sick soldiers.
B. It was won by laundry women.
C. It was won by soldiers on ladders.
D. It was fought by children.

7. Why did the women add “great quantities of soap” to the water?

A. to prepare to do the laundry
B. to make the water boil faster
C. to make the soldiers sick
D. to sting the soldiers’ eyes

8. Look at the underlined words in paragraphs 6 and 9. Why did the author put these words in italics?

A. They represent sounds.
B. They are names of people or places.
C. They are the most important words.
D. They are the topics of paragraphs.

9. Why did Meg blow the whistle?

A. to wake up the sick English soldiers
B. to make the French soldiers look up
C. to call the troops to breakfast
D. to announce the end of the battle

10. How does the author think the soldiers were like dominoes?

A. Each one knocked the next one down.
B. They all stood in rows.
C. They all fell down at once.
D. Each one made a different sound.

11. What had the women learned from their laundry work that helped them MOST to save Boulogne?
A. how to clean clothes  
B. how to use weapons  
C. how to work as a team  
D. how to breathe quietly  

12. What kind of person is Meg?

A. dishonest  
B. clever  
C. foolish  
D. cruel  

13. “Hardly daring to breathe, . . . .” in paragraph 6 means that the women were

A. quiet.  
B. excited.  
C. happy.  
D. unsure.  

14. Couldn’t is an example of a

A. contraction.  
B. synonym.  
C. proper noun.  
D. compound word.  

The soldiers lay in wriggling heaps . . .

15. The word wriggling means

A. moving.  
B. quiet.  
C. large.  
D. tall.  

Pulling and working together, they drew each up over the wall . . .

16. What does the word drew mean in the sentence above?

A. broke
B. pulled
C. pictured
D. threw
. . . being careful to add great quantities of soap.

17. In the sentence above, what does the word quantities mean?

A. good smells
B. large amounts
C. different types
D. many names

18. What word sounds the same as threw, but has a different meaning?