1 Which story do these sentences come from?  
*The Rubbish Dump, Cardboard Mansions, Leaving.*  
\[a\] She began to think again about Stanger, and the past, and her friend Ratnadevi.  
\[b\] He saw Mazambezi sitting by the side of the pit looking down into it.  
\[c\] There were no fruit trees, no birds calling and flying in and out of the trees.  
\[d\] Some weeks later answers to the letters began arriving with big shiny prospectuses.  
\[e\] Near the house he stopped and hid the plane under his shirt.  
\[f\] That was the first time I saw her as a person, and not just as our mother.  
\[g\] All through the journey he stood by the window, with his nose against the glass.  
\[h\] It was a hard life, with five children and no husband.  
\[i\] Why did people vomit when they were flying in a plane?  
\[j\] She waited for the boy, pulling the end of her old green cotton sari over her head.

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?
\[a\] **T**  
\[b\] **T**  
\[c\] **T**  
\[d\] **T**  
\[e\] **T**  
\[f\] **F**  
\[g\] **T**  
\[h\] **T**  
\[i\] **T**  
\[j\] **T**

3 Fill in the gaps using: into, out, of, around, down.
\[a\] We moved to a quiet part **into** town.  
\[b\] The smells of the rubbish were all **out** them.  
\[c\] Mazambezi held **down** a toy plane.  
\[d\] Dadi-Ma sat **around** on the step to wait.  
\[e\] Aloo put all the papers **into** Mr Velji’s hands.

4 Who said this? Who did they say it to? *Mazambezi, Dadi-Ma, Joey, Aloo’s mother, Chotoo, Joey’s mother, Neela, Joey, Dadi-Ma, Aloo.*
\[a\] ‘I thought you had a terrible headache.’ **to** .......  
\[b\] ‘They say old man Naidoo going to throw us out.’ **to** .......  
\[c\] ‘And promise me that you will not smoke or drink.’ **to** .......  
\[d\] ‘Did all that come from the plane?’ **to** .......  
\[e\] ‘Sonny doesn’t beat you, that’s one good thing.’ **to** .......

5 Match a number from A with a letter from B to make complete sentences.
\[A\]
\[1\] **B**  
\[2\] **B**  
\[3\] **B**  
\[4\] **B**  
\[5\] **B**

\[B\]
\[a\] Aloo and I played card games with her.  
\[b\] pulling the boy close to her side.  
\[c\] with AIR RHODESIA written on the side.  
\[d\] when I was a young child.  
\[e\] with a lot of grey in his short black hair.
Changing their Skies: Stories from Africa

Retold by Jennifer Bassett

Setting

Choose the best answer.

1 Aloo’s mother sold the store and moved with her last two children to a quiet part of ______.
   a □ London  b □ Dar es Salaam  
   c □ Tanga  d □ America
2 Joey lived near an international ______.
   a □ school  b □ house  c □ airport  
   d □ plane
3 Aloo’s mother did not have the money to send him to an American ______.
   a □ store  b □ university  
   c □ scholarship  d □ prospectus
4 Dadi-Ma and Chotoo lived in a _____ house in Port Elizabeth.
   a □ wooden  b □ new  c □ large  
   d □ shanty
5 _____ was the centre of Chotoo’s life.
   a □ Sonny  b □ Mr Naidoo  c □ Neela  
   d □ Dadi-Ma
6 Aloo’s mother wanted him to study hard but she did not want to _____ him.
   a □ lose  b □ visit  c □ pay  d □ believe
7 The disease of tuberculosis killed Dadi-Ma’s _____ and three of her sons.
   a □ wife  b □ husband  c □ grandson  
   d □ friend
8 Mazambezi pushed the rubbish in his wheelbarrow from the airport to the ______.
   a □ pit  b □ plane  c □ house  d □ school
9 Aloo had a _____ at the university in Dar es Salaam but he did not want to study agriculture.
   a □ scholarship  b □ subject  
   c □ prospectus  d □ place
10 Flies _____ over the rubbish pit near Joey’s house, and big birds circled.
   a □ stepped  b □ looked  c □ buzzed  
   d □ ran

Characters

Choose the best answer.

11 Dadi-Ma hated living in the city and she did not _____ her time in Stanger.
   a □ forget  b □ think  c □ remember  
   d □ believe
12 _____ was in his last year at school and a clever student.

Dialogue

Who said this?

21 ‘If you don’t pay, you go.’
   a □ Chotoo  b □ Dadi-Ma  c □ Sonny  
   d □ Mr Naidoo
22 ‘You’ve been to that smelly rubbish pit!’
   a □ Joey  b □ Mazambezi  c □ Joey’s mother  
   d □ Joey’s father
23 ‘If you send him, you will lose your son.’
   a □ Aloo’s mother  b □ Aloo  
   c □ Mr Datoo  d □ Mr Velji
24 ‘We just sit out there, and talk and laugh.’
   a □ Chotoo  b □ Dadi-Ma  c □ Sonny  
   d □ Mr Naidoo
25 ‘Are we so unimportant to you?’
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Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

31 an official document to show that you can go into a country
a □ visa  b □ wheelbarrow  c □ novel
d □ rent
32 a long piece of very thin metal
a □ wheelbarrow  b □ yard  c □ pile
d □ wire
33 a container made of thin sticks; you use it for holding or carrying things
a □ cardboard  b □ bundle  c □ basket
d □ wheelbarrow
34 to take air in through your nose and mouth
a □ buzz  b □ breathe  c □ sob  d □ grunt
35 a book that tells a story about people and things that are not real
a □ exam  b □ document
 c □ prospectus  d □ novel
36 a light open shoe
a □ sandal  b □ sari  c □ balcony  d □ toy
37 to make a short rough sound, like a pig makes
a □ hang  b □ buzz  c □ grunt  d □ sob
38 knowing and understanding a lot about many things
a □ barefoot  b □ wise  c □ horrible
d □ lined
39 to make a picture of something in your mind
a □ believe  b □ vomit  c □ sob  d □ imagine
40 something that is not clean
a □ dirt  b □ bundle  c □ cardboard
d □ plastic

Plot

Choose the best answer.

41 Ratnadevi’s house in Stanger was pulled down ____.  
a □ three years ago  b □ when it was dark
c □ a long time ago  d □ in the future
42 Aloo’s mother went to Mr Velji for ____ about Aloo’s scholarship.
a □ money  b □ education  c □ college
d □ advice
43 Joey followed Mazambezi to the rubbish pit and ____, something horrible.
a □ fell into  b □ vomited  c □ visited
d □ opened
44 Sonny lost his job and there was no money for the ____. 
a □ factory  b □ rubbish  c □ street
d □ rent
45 Joey was afraid that ____ would find the toy plane.
a □ his father  b □ the white man
c □ his mother  d □ Mazambezi
46 Aloo began to think about his future because of Mr Datoo’s visit from ____.
a □ Tanga  b □ America
 c □ Dar es Salaam  d □ London
47 Dadi-Ma wanted ____ to do something with his life, to escape from life in the shanties.
a □ Mr Naidoo  b □ Sonny  c □ Neela
d □ Chotoo
48 Aloo wrote to universities in America, but his ____ did not take his plan seriously.
a □ sister  b □ uncle  c □ mother
d □ teacher
49 Mazambezi gave Joey a ____.  
a □ book  b □ toy plane  c □ meat can
d □ wheelbarrow
50 Dadi-Ma did not want ____ to see them and ask for his rent.  
a □ Mr Naidoo  b □ Sonny
 c □ Chotoo  d □ Neela