1 Which words are missing? For each sentence, choose a, b or c.

1 When traveling, Macon always wore ...
   a  __ jeans  
   b  __ a suit  
   c  __ shorts  

2 When Sarah first met Macon, he was planning to be ...
   a  __ a poet  
   b  __ a vet  
   c  __ a journalist  

3 For Christmas, Julian bought Rose ...
   a  __ a hat  
   b  __ a ring  
   c  __ a book  

4 Macon’s handwriting was ...
   a  __ neat  
   b  __ untidy  
   c  __ big  

5 Muriel sent Macon ...
   a  __ some tickets  
   b  __ a photograph  
   c  __ a calendar  

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

a  __ Macon has two brothers.  
   b  __ Muriel often goes to expensive shops.  
   c  __ Sarah is older than Muriel.  
   d  __ They make screwdrivers at the Leary factory.  
   e  __ When she first met Macon, Muriel was still married.  

3 Fill in the gaps using: basement, turkey, leash, allergic, crutches.

a  Alexander said he was _____________ to pizza.  
   b  Rose cooked a _____________ for Thanksgiving dinner.  
   c  Macon broke his leg, and had to use _____________ .  
   d  Edward didn’t like going downstairs to the _____________ .  
   e  Macon let go of the _____________ , and the dog ran towards Alexander.  

4 Who said this in the story? Who did they say it to? 
Muriel, Macon, Rose, Julian, Sarah.

a  ‘You can keep the house. You never did like moving.’  _____________ to  _____________  
   b  ‘Do you take dogs? I need to leave Edward somewhere for a week.’  _____________ to  _____________  
   c  ‘Pick up the phone and just talk. Don’t you ever feel like doing that?’  _____________ to  _____________  
   d  ‘You’ll have the book by September fifteenth. All right?’  _____________ to  _____________  
   e  ‘How can I plan meals when you are so disorganized?’  _____________ to  _____________  

5 Complete these sentences about people in the story.

a  Everything in Rose’s kitchen cupboards was arranged in _____________ .  
   b  Usually Muriel charged $10 a lesson, but for Macon  _____________ .  
   c  Muriel has never broken a leg, but once she  _____________ .  
   d  After her son’s long stay in hospital, Muriel took a cleaning job to help  _____________ .  
   e  For Christmas, Macon bought Alexander a box full  _____________ .  

Total marks
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Setting

Choose the best answer.

1 Macon Leary wrote guidebooks for American business people who ______.
   a preferred staying at home  b enjoyed travelling round the world
   c liked travelling round the USA  d occasionally had holidays

2 Macon and Sarah’s son, Ethan, ______.
   a died when he was a baby  b was killed in a car crash
   c was murdered at a burger bar  d died when he was ten

3 Sarah left Macon because he ______.
   a didn’t love her  b was boring  c was no comfort to her  d was angry

4 Macon ______.
   a always ate breakfast  b didn’t eat real meals any more
   c often went to his neighbours for meals  d had a good appetite

5 The Veterinary Hospital didn’t want to take Edward, because ______.
   a had bitten an attendant  b Macon had been slow to pay a bill
   c was difficult  d his legs were too short

6 Macon advised business people to take a ______ as protection against strangers.
   a magazine  b laptop  c newspaper  d book

7 Muriel Pritchett was good at training ______.
   a dogs that bark  b veterinary assistants
   c animals  d dogs that bite

8 Macon and Sarah had met at a party when they were ______.
   a at university  b seventeen years old
   c working  d in their twenties

9 Macon told his boss, Julian Edge, that he would finish his new book in ______ weeks.
   a six  b four  c two  d eight

10 Macon broke his leg by ______.
    a falling down steps  b falling over Edward
    c putting one foot in his wheeled clothes basket  d tripping over the cat in the garden

Characters

Choose the best answer.

11 Macon was very ______.
   a changeable and disorganized  b systematic but liked surprises
   c energetic and liked travelling  d systematic with fixed routines

12 Ethan had ______.
   a been a quiet, thoughtful boy  b had an open, friendly face
   c been a shy, serious boy  d always looked rather worried

13 Macon didn’t want to get rid of Edward because he had been ______.
   a Ethan’s dog  b a rescue dog  c a good guard dog  d a present

14 The Leary family had a habit of ______.
   a not talking to neighbours  b using the phone too much
   c not answering the phone  d making unnecessary jokes

15 Muriel had ______ hair.
   a straight black  b black frizzy
   c black curly  d blonde frizzy

16 Julian only visited his family to ______.
   a get ideas for a book  b criticize him more
   c observe their behaviour  d help them

17 Rose arranged everything in her kitchen cupboards in ______.
   a colour order  b alphabetical order
   c size order  d date order

18 Muriel thought that Macon ______.
   a had a soft heart  b was pretty uninteresting
   c was cold and heartless  d had a good sense of humour

19 Macon felt differently about Muriel when he ______.
   a knew she had once been married
   b listened to all her stories  c had met her mother
   d knew she had a little boy

20 He loved ______.
   a everything about Muriel  b the surprise of Muriel
   c Muriel much more than Sarah  d Muriel’s strange moods

Dialogue

Who or what do the underlined words refer to?

21 ‘I just can’t live with you any more.’
   a Rose  b Macon  c Sarah  d Muriel

22 ‘It’s hard to pull a comb through it.’
   a Alexander’s hair  b Edward’s coat
   c Porter’s hair  d Muriel’s hair

23 ‘Couldn’t you just once invite me to a family dinner?’
   a Muriel  b Sarah  c Julian  d Macon

24 ‘Don’t you ever, ever do that again!’
   a be horrible to Alexander  b follow
   Macon to Paris  c sew sheets together
   d hang Edward by his collar
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25 ‘Listen – you’ve got to get me out of here.’
   a ☐ the pantry in the Learys’ house
   b ☐ Ethan’s summer camp  c ☐ a skyscraper in New York  d ☐ Rose’s new home
26 ‘Every day I tell myself it’s time to be getting over this.’
   a ☐ Ethan’s murder  b ☐ fear of flying  
   c ☐ boredom with travel books  d ☐ missing Sarah
27 ‘She’s everything that most modern girls are not.’
   a ☐ Muriel  b ☐ Rose  c ☐ Sarah  d ☐ Muriel’s mother
28 ‘Wouldn’t live anywhere else for the world.’
   a ☐ London  b ☐ Paris  c ☐ Baltimore  d ☐ San Francisco
29 ‘What was all that about?’
   a ☐ children being mean to Alexander  
   b ☐ Edward running after Alexander  
   c ☐ Alexander being mean to older children  d ☐ Edward making Alexander cry
30 ‘Getting a telegram like that would make me wild with anger!’
   a ☐ Lots to tell you. Harpo.  b ☐ Nobody understands me. Harpo.  c ☐ I’m the funniest one. Harpo.  d ☐ No message. Harpo.

Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.
31 sticks you put under your arms to help you walk if you’ve hurt your leg
   a ☐ pins  b ☐ crutches  c ☐ twins  d ☐ legs
32 a long piece of leather used to control a dog
   a ☐ leash  b ☐ faucet  c ☐ rope  d ☐ collar
33 putting medicine into the body with a syringe
   a ☐ insertion  b ☐ injection  c ☐ intonation  d ☐ introduction
34 a room below ground level
   a ☐ loft  b ☐ attic  c ☐ shed  d ☐ basement
35 a small room in a house, used for storing food
   a ☐ cupboard  b ☐ porch  c ☐ pantry  d ☐ cellar
36 an agreement to get married
   a ☐ wedding  b ☐ goddammit  c ☐ engagement  d ☐ thanksgiving
37 very tightly curled
   a ☐ furry  b ☐ Rossy  c ☐ flaky  d ☐ frizzy
38 words that show admiration
   a ☐ praise  b ☐ confetti  c ☐ honey  d ☐ comfort
39 to put your arms around someone and hold them
   a ☐ kiss  b ☐ cluck  c ☐ hug  d ☐ stroke
40 to walk with difficulty because one leg is injured
   a ☐ howl  b ☐ moan  c ☐ growl  d ☐ limp

Plot

Choose the best answer.
41 Muriel first taught Edward to _____.
   a ☐ sit  b ☐ bark  c ☐ heel  d ☐ stop biting
42 Sarah wanted to meet Macon to discuss _____.
   a ☐ money  b ☐ an official separation  c ☐ the family  d ☐ getting back together
43 Macon rang Muriel from New York partly because _____.
   a ☐ his brother wanted to have Edward shot  
   b ☐ Julian was paying Rose too much attention  
   c ☐ Rose was dead  d ☐ he was upset
44 Muriel insisted on telling Macon _____.
   a ☐ everything about dog training  b ☐ how to bring up children  c ☐ all about her life history  
   d ☐ he should get over Ethan’s death
45 Macon felt at peace _____.
   a ☐ travelling  b ☐ thinking  c ☐ living at Singleton Street  d ☐ visiting big cities
46 Macon helped _____ see that he didn’t really have many allergies.
   a ☐ Charles  b ☐ Edward  c ☐ Julian  d ☐ Alexander
47 Macon went back to Sarah _____.
   a ☐ on the anniversary of Ethan’s death  
   b ☐ because she was practical  c ☐ when Muriel talked about marriage too much  
   d ☐ because he couldn’t live with Alexander
48 Rose returned home after her wedding because _____.
   a ☐ Julian criticized her  b ☐ she didn’t love  
   c ☐ Julian was disorganized  d ☐ her brothers couldn’t feed themselves
49 Macon was _____ when Muriel followed him to Paris.
   a ☐ delighted  b ☐ indifferent  c ☐ irritated  d ☐ sad
50 In the end, Macon returned to Muriel because _____.
   a ☐ he and Sarah had no future together  
   b ☐ Sarah only wanted their old home  
   c ☐ Alexander missed him  d ☐ he missed her cooking

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