To escape seal hunters in the early 1800s, Indians of Ghalas board a ship to leave the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Twelve-year-old Karana is left on the island to survive alone. In this excerpt Karana has wounded a wild dog in protecting herself. Read the excerpt from the novel Island of the Blue Dolphins and answer the questions that follow.

**Island of the Blue Dolphins**

by Scott O’Dell

1. There were no tracks after the rain, but I followed the trail to the pile of rocks where I had seen them before. On the far side of the rocks I found the big gray dog. He had the broken arrow in his chest and he was lying with one of his legs under him.

2. He was about ten paces from me so I could see him clearly. I was sure that he was dead, but I lifted the spear and took good aim at him. Just as I was about to throw the spear, he raised his head a little from the earth and then let it drop.

3. This surprised me greatly and I stood there for a while not knowing what to do, whether to use the spear or my bow. I was used to animals playing dead until they suddenly turned on you or ran away.

4. The spear was the better of the two weapons at this distance, but I could not use it as well as the other, so I climbed onto the rocks where I could see him if he ran. I placed my feet carefully. I had a second arrow ready should I need it. I fitted an arrow and pulled back the string, aiming at his head.

5. Why I did not send the arrow I cannot say. I stood on the rock with the bow pulled back and my hand would not let it go. The big dog lay there and did not move and this may be the reason. If he had gotten up I would have killed him. I stood there for a long time looking down at him and then I climbed off the rocks.

6. He did not move when I went up to him, nor could I see him breathing until I was very close. The head of the arrow was in his chest and the broken shaft was covered with blood. The thick fur around his neck was matted from the rain.

7. I do not think that he knew I was picking him up, for his body was limp, as if he were dead. He was very heavy and the only way I could lift him was by kneeling and putting his legs around my shoulders.

8. In this manner, stopping to rest when I was tired, I carried him to the headland.

9. I could not get through the opening under the fence, so I cut the bindings and lifted out two of the whale ribs and thus took him into the house. He did not look at me or raise his head when I laid him on the floor, but his mouth was open and he was breathing.
The arrow had a small point, which was fortunate, and came out easily though it had gone deep. He did not move while I did this, nor afterwards as I cleaned the wound with a peeled stick from a coral bush. This bush has poisonous berries, yet its wood often heals wounds that nothing else will.

I had not gathered food for many days and the baskets were empty, so I left water for the dog and, after mending the fence, went down to the sea. I had no thought that he would live and I did not care.

All day I was among the rocks gathering shellfish and only once did I think of the wounded dog, my enemy, lying there in the house, and then to wonder why I had not killed him.

He was still alive when I got back, though he had not moved from the place where I had left him. Again I cleaned the wound with a coral twig. I then lifted his head and put water in his mouth, which he swallowed. This was the first time that he had looked at me since the time I had found him on the trail. His eyes were sunken and they looked out at me from far back in his head.

Before I went to sleep I gave him more water. In the morning I left food for him when I went down to the sea, and when I came home he had eaten it. He was lying in the corner, watching me. While I made a fire and cooked my supper, he watched me. His yellow eyes followed me wherever I moved.

That night I slept on the rock, for I was afraid of him, and at dawn as I went out I left the hole under the fence open so he could go. But he was there when I got back, lying in the sun with his head on his paws. I had speared two fish, which I cooked for my supper. Since he was very thin, I gave him one of them, and after he had eaten it he came over and lay down by the fire, watching me with his yellow eyes that were very narrow and slanted up at the corners.

Four nights I slept on the rock, and every morning I left the hole under the fence open so he could leave. Each day I speared a fish for him and when I got home he was always at the fence waiting for it. He would not take the fish from me so I had to put it on the ground. Once I held out my hand to him, but at this he backed away and showed his teeth.

On the fourth day when I came back from the rocks early he was not there at the fence waiting. A strange feeling came over me. Always before when I returned, I had hoped that he would be gone. But now as I crawled under the fence I did not feel the same.

I called out, "Dog, Dog," for I had no other name for him.

I ran toward the house, calling it. He was inside. He was just getting to his feet, stretching himself and yawning. He looked first at the fish I carried and then at me and moved his tail.

That night I stayed in the house. Before I fell asleep I thought of a name for him, for I could not call him Dog. The name I thought of was Rontu, which means in our language Fox Eyes.

1. What is the main action that takes place in paragraphs 2–4 of the excerpt?
   A. The girl prepares to kill the dog.
   B. The girl discovers that the dog is alive.
   C. The girl watches the injured dog.
   D. The girl climbs on the rocks for a better view.

2. In paragraph 12, what is the effect of including the words “my enemy”?
   A. It indicates that there is another person on the island.
   B. It helps the reader sympathize with the dog.
   C. It reminds the reader that the dog is wounded.
   D. It clarifies the girl’s attitude toward the dog.

3. Which sentence from the excerpt supports the idea that the dog is not able to put complete trust in the girl?
   A. “But he was there when I got back, lying in the sun with his head on his paws.”
   B. “He looked first at the fish I carried and then at me and moved his tail.”
   C. “Once I held out my hand to him, but at this he backed away and showed his teeth.”
   D. “In the morning I left food for him when I went down to the sea, and when I came home he had eaten it.”

4. Which sentence from paragraphs 17 and 18 first indicates that the girl is concerned that the dog is gone?
   A. “On the fourth day when I came back from the rocks early he was not there at the fence waiting.”
   B. “A strange feeling came over me.”
   C. “Always before when I returned, I had hoped that he would be gone.”
   D. “I called out, ‘Dog, Dog,’ for I had no other name for him.”
5. What does the girl do that shows she finally trusts the dog?
   A. She tries to feed him.
   B. She sleeps in the house with him.
   C. She calls out for him.
   D. She spears a fish for him.

6. Which of the dog’s actions suggests his acceptance of the girl as a companion?
   A. showing his teeth as she feeds him
   B. watching her while she cooks supper
   C. moving his tail when he sees her
   D. refusing to take fish from her hand

7. What does the girl’s act of naming the dog suggest?
   A. She acknowledges the dog is worthy of friendship.
   B. She thinks he is dangerous and cunning like a fox.
   C. She wants the dog to remember that she saved his life.
   D. She knows the dog will stay with her if she gives him a name.

8. Read the sentence from paragraph 10 in the box below.
   He did not move while I did this, nor afterwards as I cleaned the wound with a peeled stick from a coral bush.

9. What part of speech is the word *peeled* as it is used in the sentence?
   A. verb
   B. noun
   C. adverb
   D. adjective
The title of the poem Lineage refers to our connections to our ancestors. Read this poem and notice how the speaker compares herself to her grandmothers. Answer the questions that follow the poem.

**LINEAGE**

My grandmothers were strong.  
They followed plows and bent to toil.  
They moved through fields sowing seed.  
They touched earth and grain grew.  
They were full of sturdiness and singing.  
My grandmothers were strong.

My grandmothers are full of memories  
Smelling of soap and onions and wet clay  
With veins rolling roughly over quick hands  
They have many clean words to say.  
My grandmothers were strong.  
Why am I not as they?

— Margaret Walker

*lineage* — refers to one's ancestors or line of descent

From THIS IS MY CENTURY: New and Collected Poems by Margaret Walker. Copyright © 1989 by Margaret Walker Alexander. Used by permission of the University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia.
1. Reread stanza 1. What feeling is the speaker expressing about her grandmothers?
   A. anger
   B. regret
   C. pride
   D. joy

2. What is the main purpose of stanza 1?
   A. to explain the grandmothers’ jobs
   B. to present the grandmothers’ strengths
   C. to show how difficult it was to work in the fields
   D. to tell about a time when life was harder than today

3. In line 10 of the poem, what does the phrase “clean words” most likely suggest?
   A. The grandmothers often argued with each other.
   B. The grandmothers were honest in their communication.
   C. The grandmothers talked about their household chores.
   D. The grandmothers did not believe in criticizing their children.

4. What is the effect of the speaker’s question at the end of the poem?
   A. The speaker is stressing her confusion about her grandmothers’ strengths.
   B. The speaker is revealing one of her strengths.
   C. The speaker is showing she does not understand her grandmothers.
   D. The speaker is emphasizing that she is different from her grandmothers.
How Obie Won His Medal

1. At 32,000 feet in the dark Texas skies, Air Force Lieutenant James Edward Obenauf made a split-second, life-and-death decision. Around him, his six-jet B-47 seemed to be falling apart: the right outboard engine was boiling with flame, scattering red-hot pieces of steel across the wing and fuselage. The navigator had bailed out of the nose compartment. So had the pilot. Copilot Obenauf, squeezing along the catwalk toward the nose, was ready to jump too. He looked down and froze: there, lying unconscious, his chute pack gone, was the navigator-instructor, Major Joseph B. Maxwell.

2. As the wind roared through the open trap door, “Obie” Obenauf hurriedly searched for Maxwell’s parachute. His body was weakened from lack of oxygen. He could not find the chute. He looked down at Maxwell again, felt an awful, strong urge to leave him. “Gee, I got my own battle to fight.” Then Obie, just turned twenty-three, five years out of high school, father of a ten-month-old boy, father-to-be of a second child, turned around and crawled back into his rear cockpit and took control of the airplane on the chance that he might be able to fly it to safety.

3. He hooked his mask into the life-saving oxygen system, dove the bomber toward a lower altitude so Maxwell would not die of anoxia. The Plexiglas canopy had been jettisoned in the first attempt at bail-out, so, as the plane knifed ahead at 400 knots, Obie’s face was seared by the sharp, –30° wind, by whipped dust, bits of wire and insulation. His eyelids rolled back in the fierce air torrent. He dropped his amber-tinted visor over his tearing eyes—but he could not read his instruments again without lifting it. His gloved hands froze to near helplessness. Under his seat was the armed, unexploded powder charge that had failed to fire his seat out of the cockpit in the early bail-out try. “You’re so numb, I don’t think there’s any fear at all. You’re just numb.”

4. Into the blood-stinging wind he flew. He called his “mayday!”2 SOS and got an instant response, first from an Air Force base at Altus, Oklahoma, two hundred miles away, then from another airborne B-47. Altus gave Obie a compass heading to come in on. His panel lights grew dimmer, his eyes burned like hot lead. He could see the compass needle but not the numbers. He turned his plane...

---

1. anoxia — absence of oxygen
2. jettison — to cast off
3. “mayday!” — an international signal for help, used by ships and aircraft in distress
to bring the needle toward the heading he wanted: his own field, the Strategic Air Command's Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene, 150 miles away.

The night now hung with bad weather: ceiling, 1500 feet; visibility, five miles; rain. Maxwell woke up, groggily plugged in his headset. Obenauf cut his speed to 200 knots to reduce the buffeting of the plane and the charge of the biting wind. "I think I said about fifty prayers. I thought about everything—the things I used to do when I was a kid, like playing ball, and my family. They were the ones I was really fighting for."

On the ground, a mighty communications system sparked into action. CAA\(^4\) stations, military bases, and air line offices monitored Obie's radio. In the dimly lit control room at Fat Chance, a Texas-based air-defense radar station, trackers picked up Obie's blip on their screen. Like a tiny translucent pearl on green glass, the blip moved toward its target, rolling to one side, then to another, now erratic, now steady, minute by minute, guided all the while by Fat Chance.

In the Dyess control tower Obie's boss, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Perna, got on the mike.

Perna: "You can make it. No sweat. The firefighters are standing by just in case."

Obie: "Colonel, I'm probably the only copilot who has soloed a B-47."

Then came the letdown to the field. It was a few minutes past midnight—two hours since the trouble had begun—when Obie turned into his final approach. He was too high, too far to the left of the runway. "I didn't have time to think. The GCA station was telling me to go around.\(^5\) The tower told me to go around—everybody in the world told me to go around. I didn't say one word. I just kept coming in. I felt I had used every bit of energy I ever had. I didn't have enough visibility. I couldn't make out anything. I don't think that if I had to go around we would have made it. Things were getting worse, instead of better. I could smell smoke in the cockpit."

Suddenly Obie saw two rows of lights. He banked sharply to the right, lined his plane up with the runway, and with power on poured straight for it. Firefighting crews, an ambulance, staff cars, and red-blinking emergency trucks shrieked down the runway in pursuit. Obie neatly kissed his plane down. "I flew it into the ground. I wasn't strapped to the seat. I was just sitting. I never made a better landing in my life. I couldn't make a better one in a hundred thousand years."

When the plane stopped, he jumped out. Shocked by momentary blindness, he ran and ran until they stopped him.

Less than thirty-six hours later, about eight hundred Air Force men and their families crowded into the Dyess base theater. Lieutenant James Edward Obenauf, twenty-three, one eye bandaged and the other kept closed against the bright lights, stepped out on the platform with his wife. He had performed far above and beyond the call of duty. And General Tom Power, boss of the Strategic Air Command, pinned a medal on Obie's chest. It was the Distinguished Flying Cross.

---

\(^4\) CAA — Civil Aeronautics Authority

\(^5\) GCA \dots around. — The ground-controlled approach station (GCA) observes a plane by radar and gives landing directions to the pilot over the radio. The GCA was telling Obie to circle the field.

© 1958 Time Inc. reprinted by permission.
This article would most likely appear in which of the following?
A. an encyclopedia
B. a collection of essays
C. an Air Force flight manual
D. a book about heroic deeds

Reread paragraphs 1 and 2. Why did Obie decide not to jump from the B-47?
A. He did not want to leave Major Maxwell.
B. His chute pack was gone.
C. His powder charge did not work correctly.
D. He was afraid.

What does the description of Obie in paragraph 3 reveal about the overall situation?
A. the difficulty of diving the plane
B. the trouble he had trying to breathe
C. the intensity of the harsh conditions
D. the condition of his air supply

According to the article, what was the main reason Obie had to fly the bomber at a lower altitude?
A. The airplane would be easier to fly.
B. Major Maxwell needed oxygen.
C. The outside air would be warmer.
D. Obie needed to see the ground for navigation.
5. What does the description in paragraph 6 tell the reader about Obie's piloting of the plane?
   A. Obie picked up speed as he got close to the base.
   B. Obie talked with several radar operators.
   C. Obie stayed confident throughout the flight.
   D. Obie had difficulty keeping the plane under control.

6. Based on the article, what did Obie's actions in the cockpit show about him?
   A. his determination
   B. his obedience
   C. his confusion
   D. his thrill-seeking nature

7. In paragraph 2, what is the purpose of the italicized statement?
   A. to indicate Obie's thoughts
   B. to indicate a conversation with Major Maxwell
   C. to show the motto of Obie's squadron
   D. to show a response from the Strategic Air Command

8. What is the meaning of the word *erratic* as it is used in paragraph 6?
   A. ordinary
   B. unsteady
   C. weak
   D. flowing
Write your answer to open-response question 9 in the space provided in your Student Answer Booklet.

*Response MUST be one and a half pages, MINIMUM!

From the moment his B-47 started to fall apart, Obie faced many challenges. Choose two challenges that Obie faced and explain how he overcame them. Use relevant and specific information from the article to support your answer.