Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“The Scarlet Ibis”**

by James Hurst

**Part 1.** Fill in the blank. Choose from the word bank below, correctly applying each word.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| imminent | infallibility | precariously | reiterated | doggedness |

1. A bird the size of a chicken, with scarlet feathers and long legs, was perched \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the topmost branch.

2. “I did. I did,” Doodle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. With success so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we decided not to tell anyone until he could actually walk.

4. Once I had succeeded in teaching Doodle to walk, I began to believe in my own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I prepared a terrific development program for him.

5. The excitement of our program had now been gone for weeks, but we still kept on with a tired \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Part 2.** Multiple choice. Select the most appropriate answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. What does the narrator think of his brother in the early months of his life?

1. He worries about him.
2. His is disappointed.
3. He thinks he is crazy.
4. He thinks he will like him.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Doodle becomes part of the family when he…

1. Talks
2. Walks
3. Crawls
4. Smiles

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. The narrator says Doodle went with him everywhere, even though…

1. Their mother said he could not go.
2. People laughed at him.
3. The narrator did mean things to Doodle.
4. The weather was horrible.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. The older brother surprised the family by showing that Doodle could…

1. Walk
2. Talk
3. Swim
4. Ride

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. What does the narrator say has two sides -- a good one and a bad one?

1. Love
2. Family
3. Pride
4. Wealth

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. What happened to the scarlet ibis?

1. It dies beneath the bleeding tree.
2. IT lands in the tree and the boys accidentally shoot it.
3. It becomes the pet of the family.
4. It continues living in the bleeding tree for the rest of its life

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. The narrator tells this story.

1. As the events are happening.
2. Many years after the events happened.
3. Immediately after Doodle dies.
4. To Doodle as he is dying.

**Part 3.** Matching. Match the theme to the relevant passage.

1. People can be cruel, especially to those they love.
2. Pride can lead to both good and bad things.
3. The narrator really loved his fragile, sensitive brother.
4. The narrator wanted to share beauty with Doodle, his companion.

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. “For a long, long time, it seemed forever, I lay there crying, sheltering my fallen scarlet ibis from the heresy of rain.”

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. “Doodle was my brother, and he was going to cling to me forever, no matter what I did, so I dragged him across the burning cotton field to share with him the only beauty I knew, Old Woman Swamp.”

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. “But all of this must have something or someone to be proud of, and Doodle had become mine. I did not know then that pride is a wonderful, terrible thing, a seed that bears two vines, life and death.”

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. “There is within me (and with sadness I have watched it in others) a knot of cruelty borne by the stream of love, much as our blood sometimes bears the seed of our destruction, and at times I was mean to Doodle.”