

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn READING TEST

Name _____

- 1) What do Francie and Neeley do together as little kids to make spending money?
 - A. Sing songs on the street corner
 - B. Collect materials for recycling
 - C. Take care of people's yards
 - D. Make deliveries for the grocery store

- 2) What sight terrifies young Francie?
 - A. A dog chewing on a bone
 - B. A dress flapping on a tree branch
 - C. A workshop full of gears and spare parts
 - D. An old man waiting in a bakery

- 3) The narrator explains that the tree of the title likes...
 - A. Poor people.
 - B. High, dry places.
 - C. Blood and smoke.
 - D. Laughter, singing, and babies.

- 4) Most of Book One centers on a special day called...
 - A. St. Crispin's day.
 - B. Yom Kippur.
 - C. Mischief day.
 - D. Saturday.

- 5) To make her way in Brooklyn, young Francie must master...
 - A. Being invisible.
 - B. The art of insult.
 - C. Street fighting.
 - D. Transactions / making deals.

- 6) Mary Rommely tells her daughter that if she wants the children to have a better life, she must...
 - A. Show them discipline rather than love.
 - B. Leave Johnny.
 - C. Move to "the old country" (Europe).
 - D. Get them to read.

- 7) Who is narrating (telling) the novel?
 - A. Johnny Nolan (the father)
 - B. Francie Nolan (as a little girl)
 - C. Francie Nolan (as an adult)
 - D. Unknown being (not participating)

- 8) In relation to Book One, Book Two...
 - A. Goes back in time.
 - B. Jumps forward in time.
 - C. Happens at the same time.
 - D. Is narrated from a different point of view.

- 9) In order to date Johnny, Katie must...
 - A. Leave her husband.
 - B. Change her church.
 - C. Betray her best friend.
 - D. Lie about her age.

- 10) Francie's favorite thing to do is...
 - A. Make costumes.
 - B. Read.
 - C. Help elderly people.
 - D. Paint / draw.

- 11) In what way is Johnny talented?
 - A. Carving wood
 - B. Playing poker
 - C. Writing poetry
 - D. Singing and dancing

- 12) What does Francie's father do for a living?
 - A. Truck driver
 - B. Police officer
 - C. Waiter
 - D. Trick question! He does not work.

- 13) Katie is _____ whereas Johnny is _____.
 - A. Catholic / Jewish
 - B. Jewish / Catholic
 - C. Tough and practical / a dreamer
 - D. A dreamer / tough and practical

14) Why does the family decide to move for the second time?

- A. Johnny has found a new job opportunity.
- B. They move to escape their shame.
- C. They fail to pay rent and are evicted.
- D. Katie wants to be close to her mother.

15) In seventh grade Francie is honored when...

- A. The principal asks her to deliver a speech.
- B. She is selected for the lead role in a play.
- C. Her story is published in a magazine.
- D. The class elects her as president.

16) What kind of lessons do Katie, Francie, and Neely take together?

- A. Martial Arts
- B. Speech
- C. Cooking
- D. Piano

17) The family is terrified when the kids must...

- A. Meet with the school principal.
- B. Get shots from a doctor.
- C. Testify in a court case.
- D. Read from the Bible aloud in church.

18) Which character struggles with alcoholism?

- A. Katie Nolan (mom)
- B. Johnny Nolan (dad)
- C. Neely Nolan (brother)
- D. Sissy Rommely (aunt)

19) Francie and her father devise a plan to...

- A. Steal food from a restaurant.
- B. Get a young man to do Katie's work.
- C. Adopt a puppy.
- D. Transfer Francie to a different school.

20) Francie and Neely show their courage when they stand up to a...

- A. Flying Christmas tree.
- B. Flock of angry chickens.
- C. Woman with a water hose.
- D. Dancing horse.

21) It turns into a complete disaster when Johnny decides to...

- A. Run for public office (assemblyman).
- B. Start an illegal gambling business.
- C. Start a furniture moving business.
- D. Take the kids fishing.

22) The same day that Francie has her first period, she witnesses...

- A. A baby being thrown from a burning building.
- B. A sick man dying in his sleep.
- C. An old horse being butchered for meat.
- D. A woman being beaten with rocks.

23) How does Uncle Willie end up in the hospital?

- A. The cops beat him with clubs.
- B. A horse kicks him in the head.
- C. His wife (Aunt Evy) poisons him.
- D. He suffers a heart attack while shoveling.

24) Chapter 32 begins with excerpts (selected readings) from a(n)...

- A. Diary.
- B. Set of letters.
- C. Encyclopedia.
- D. Police report.

25) How does Francie escape from the rapist?

- A. She breaks a lamp on his head.
- B. She sets off the fire alarm.
- C. Her mom shoots him.
- D. Trick question! She does not escape.

26) How does Aunt Sissy convince her husband "John" to adopt a baby?

- A. She threatens to leave him.
- B. She promises to change the child's first name.
- C. She agrees to adopt a boy.
- D. Trick question! She lies and says it is his baby.

- 27) The bar owner, Mr. McGarrity, has a problem. What is it?
- A. The cops are on to his scheme.
 - B. He owes money to the wrong people.
 - C. His wife is forcing him to change his “evil ways.”
 - D. He is lonely and has no one to talk to.
- 28) The English teacher is disappointed in Francie because...
- A. Her writing is not realistic.
 - B. Her writing is too realistic.
 - C. She would rather be a writer than a wife.
 - D. She would rather be a wife than a writer.
- 29) What game does Katie play with the kids when times are hard?
- A. “The King and I”
 - B. “Arctic Explorers”
 - C. “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn”
 - D. “The Queen’s Carnival”
- 30) Francie observes that Aunt Sissy’s personality has changed since...
- A. Katie died.
 - B. Her husband left her.
 - C. She became a mom.
 - D. She lost all her money.
- 31) From whom does Francie receive flowers on her graduation day?
- A. Her father
 - B. Her mother
 - C. Her teacher, Mrs. Johnston
 - D. Mr. McGarrity
- 32) When Francie’s play is performed at graduation, it is...
- A. A complete success.
 - B. A complete disaster.
 - C. A success for the wrong reasons.
 - D. Trick question! Her play is not performed.
- 33) How does Katie come to own a piece of land?
- A. She inherits her father’s house.
 - B. The city gives her a vacant (empty) lot.
 - C. She buys a burial spot.
 - D. She buys a house.
- 34) What is Francie’s first real job?
- A. Lifeguarding at a pool
 - B. Taking tickets on a trolley car
 - C. Selling doughnuts in a baseball park
 - D. Assembling in a factory
- 35) What finally kills Johnny Nolan?
- A. He is shot by a police officer.
 - B. He gets sick (pneumonia).
 - C. He dies in a fire.
 - D. He dies in a fall (possibly suicide).
- 36) Francie’s second real job pays better and involves...
- A. Newspapers.
 - B. Animals.
 - C. Sick people.
 - D. Dead people.
- 37) Why does Katie decide that Neely will return to school rather than Francie?
- A. Neely gets better grades.
 - B. Neely is older and he is a boy.
 - C. Neely does not want to go to school.
 - D. Francie would rather work.
- 38) What does Francie buy herself for Christmas?
- A. Art supplies
 - B. Underwear
 - C. A tea set
 - D. A ticket to a play
- 39) What current event is everyone talking about in Book Four?
- A. World War I
 - B. The invention of the atomic bomb
 - C. The Moon Mission
 - D. The 1930 World’s Fair

40) Francie starts spending time in the big city and finds it to be...

- A. More magical than Brooklyn.
- B. Disappointing.
- C. Shocking and terrifying.
- D. Trick question! She has yet to leave Brooklyn.

41) Which choice describes the relationship between Francie and Neely as teenagers?

- A. They completely ignore one another.
- B. They despise one another and fight constantly.
- C. They are close and share their thoughts.
- D. Neely has become the father figure.

42) Who falls in loves and “gets widowed, divorced, married, and pregnant – all in ten days’ time”?

- A. Katie Nolan
- B. Gertrude McFarlane
- C. Aunt Sissy
- D. Francie Nolan

43) Francie tells her mother that her new plan for her education is to...

- A. Skip high school and go straight to college.
- B. Complete high school in one year.
- C. Forget schooling and travel the world.
- D. Sneak into classes and learn for free.

44) The 11th time Aunt Sissy gives birth is different because...

- A. She gives birth in a hospital.
- B. She gives birth in a church.
- C. The baby dies.
- D. She finally has a girl.

45) Francie regrets sleeping with Lee Rhynor because...

- A. He lied about his wife being dead.
- B. She realizes that she was not in love.
- C. She thinks that she is pregnant.
- D. Trick question! She did not sleep with him.

46) Which words best describe Mr. McShane’s marriage proposal to Katie?

- A. Honest and serious
- B. Silly and childish
- C. Passionate and crazed
- D. Trick question! She proposes to him.

47) Katie decides that she will not marry Mr. McShane because...

- A. He is broke and unreliable.
- B. He is not Catholic.
- C. She does not love him.
- D. Trick question! She will marry him.

48) Who helps Francie survive her first college classes?

- A. Ben, a fellow student
- B. Ms. Hinkler, the librarian
- C. Mr. Kelley, a janitor
- D. Sister Theresa, a nun

49) What does Francie do with her mementos (memory items)?

- A. She packs them away carefully.
- B. She throws them off the Williamsburg Bridge.
- C. She burns/melts them in the furnace.
- D. She buries them next to her favorite tree.

50) The tree of the title dies when...

- A. A bulldozer runs it over.
- B. It is crushed under snow and ice.
- C. Some women chop it up for firewood.
- D. Trick question! It lives.

51) The mood or feeling at the end of the novel is best described as...

- A. Angry and bitter.
- B. Optimistic and hopeful.
- C. Desperate and depressing.
- D. Romantic and passionate.

