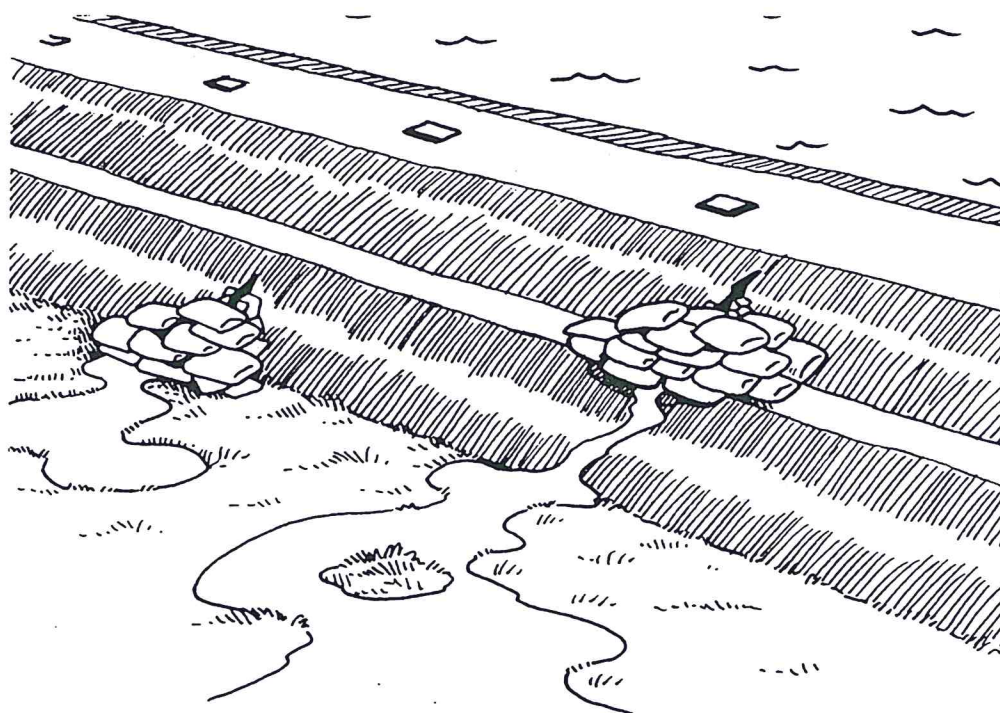


**PART 2: COMPREHENSION****READING SELECTION #1**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read Selection 1, **EXCITEMENT**. Then answer the questions that follow. Mark all your answers on your Unit 1 **ANSWER SHEET**.

**Excitement**

Marcy put the last book in its proper place and wheeled the empty cart to the checkout desk. "See you next Saturday, Mrs. Calhoun."

"I hope so, Marcy," the librarian said. "You never know. If it doesn't stop raining, we may be under water by then. They're saying levees are leaking in several places above town."

"My dad says that the levees here at Morganville are the most durable ones along the Mississippi. He's not worried." Marcy turned toward the front door.

"Just cross your fingers that the rain's over," Mrs. Calhoun said.

Going down the steps, Marcy thought, “Maybe I want it to rain more. A lot more. Then there might be some excitement in this pitiful little town. Why can’t life in Morganville be more like what happens in books?”

On this gloomy day, Marcy couldn’t wait to get curled up in bed with the novel she was reading. She had had to put it down earlier that morning to go do her volunteer shift at the library. She was probably the only twelve-year-old in town whose mom made her do community service work. “At least I don’t have to talk to anyone while I’m shelving books,” Marcy consoled herself. Given a choice, she always preferred being by herself.

On the walk home, she noticed how quickly the clouds were building up. But as soon as she was on her bed with her book, she forgot about the weather.

Suddenly, her brother threw open her door. Marcy had no idea how much time had passed. “Dad said to come to the high school right now!” David shouted.

“What?” It took a second for Marcy to return from nineteenth-century England to twenty-first-century Morganville. Then she noticed that her brother was soaked.

“The levees are leaking, and everyone in town is in the high school parking lot patching them with sandbags. Everyone is there except you, of course.”

“Oh, David, you’re just being dramatic.” Still, Marcy’s heart started pounding.

She threw on a raincoat and ran to the high school. She couldn’t believe what she saw there. It seemed as though the entire population of Morganville had assembled. She heard the mayor’s voice blaring through a loudspeaker: “There’s another leak on the Number Three. We’ll need a hundred more sandbags for that levee.” The very young and very old were tying strings around the burlap bags that had been filled with sand. Her father and some other men were loading the filled bags into pickup trucks.

Marcy didn’t say anything. She just took the shovel her brother handed her and started shoveling sand. She had no idea how many hours went by. She was too busy working like a machine. It was dark when the last of the sand was in bags and all the bags were positioned along the levees.

“Let’s go home, kids,” her dad said. “We’ve done all we can.”

Walking home, Marcy studied each house as she passed. She couldn’t put her finger on why, but somehow Morganville seemed like a different place, a novel place.

## “Excitement”

## Questions 1–11

- 1 The thing that Marcy liked BEST about her volunteer work at the library was that
- A no one talked to her at work.
  - B she could get out of her house.
  - C she might come across an exciting book.
  - D her mother was pleased by her volunteering.
- 2 Before Marcy went to the high school, her brother David MOST LIKELY would have said that
- A it’s too bad that she spends so much time alone in her room.
  - B she’s right in thinking that Morganville is a boring place.
  - C she thinks she’s different from everyone else in Morganville.
  - D it’s great that she does volunteer work at the library.
- 3 Marcy lost track of time while she was reading a novel and while she was
- A running to the high school.
  - B walking from the library.
  - C shelving books.
  - D shoveling sand.
- 4 During her walk home from the high school, Marcy MOST LIKELY would have thought that
- A you can’t always judge a book—or a town—by its cover.
  - B two wrongs do not make a right—even when they happen in Morganville.
  - C slow and steady wins the race—or the levee-patching at Morganville.
  - D it takes a village—or a town called Morganville—to raise a child.

- 5 The idea that Marcy preferred the world of books to the real world is BEST supported by the fact that
- A she wished more exciting things would happen in Morganville.
  - B if she had a choice, she would choose an activity she could do alone.
  - C she had to stop reading her novel earlier that morning to go work at the library.
  - D it took her a second to return from nineteenth-century England to twenty-first-century Morganville.
- 6 It was MOST important to the plot that Morganville
- A had a small population.
  - B was easy to get around in without driving cars.
  - C was located on the Mississippi River.
  - D had a library in the town.
- 7 The rising action of the plot began with
- A David's entrance into Marcy's room.
  - B the cooperation of the townspeople patching the levees.
  - C Marcy's wish that the rain would not stop.
  - D the librarian's doubt that Marcy would be back on Saturday.
- 8 This story could have taken place in
- A 1893.
  - B 1973.
  - C 1993.
  - D 2003.
- 9 It was MOST important to the plot that
- A Marcy did not notice that clouds were building up.
  - B Marcy started shoveling sand when her brother gave her a shovel.
  - C Marcy told her brother that he was being dramatic.
  - D Marcy did volunteer work at the library on a Saturday.

- 10 By the end of the story, Marcy's feelings had changed MOST about
- A David.
  - B her town.
  - C reading books.
  - D doing volunteer work.
- 11 An example of foreshadowing was when
- A David told Marcy that everyone in town was at the high school.
  - B Marcy told the librarian that she would see her the following Saturday.
  - C Marcy could not wait to get home and continue reading her novel.
  - D the librarian said that the levees were leaking above town.

### **PART 2A: RESPONSE TO THE READING SELECTION**

**DIRECTIONS:** Write your answer to Question A on your Unit 1 ANSWER SHEET in the space provided. Base your answer on "Excitement."

- A How did the sand-bagging project change Marcy's feelings about Morganville?