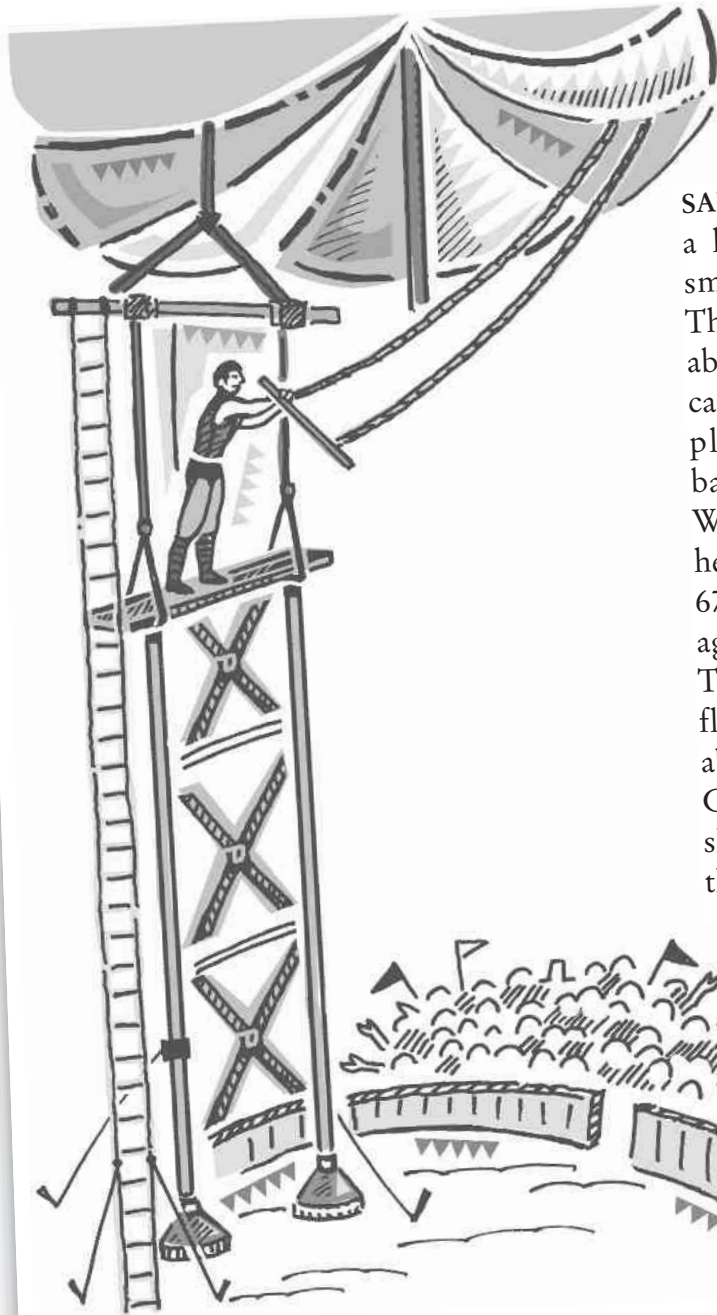


Directions: Read each selection. Choose the best answer to each question that follows.

New Book Takes Flight



SAN FRANCISCO, California—Over a hundred people squeezed into a small city bookstore last week. They came to hear Sam Keen talk about his new book. The book, called *Learning to Fly*, isn't about planes or gliders. It's not about balloons, kites, or birds. Give up? When Sam Keen talks about flying, he means the flying trapeze. Now 67, Keen took up the trapeze at the age of 61. Two things inspired him. The first was a childhood dream of flying. The second was a TV show about the San Francisco School of Circus Arts. Soon after seeing the show, Keen signed up for lessons at the circus school.

(continued on the next page)

Book Takes Flight *(continued)*

For hundreds of years, people have dreamed of flying. The first man to “fly” from a trapeze was a young Frenchman named Jules Léotard. (The tight-fitting outfit called a leotard was named after him.)

Jules Léotard was an acrobat. His father owned a public gym. At that time, in the 1850s, some gyms had a trapeze. But no one had ever swung from one trapeze to another. Léotard wondered if he could do just that. He hung a row of trapezes over the swimming pool in his father’s gym. This way, he could try out his idea safely. He practiced for a long time. Finally, Léotard was able to swing on one trapeze, fly

through the air, and grab the next trapeze.

In 1859, in Paris, Léotard performed the world’s first “flying trapeze” act. The young man’s daring stunned and amazed the crowd. He was a huge hit. By 1861, his act was even better. Léotard hung five trapezes right over the crowd. Not only did he “fly” from one trapeze to the next, but he also turned somersaults between them!

Trapeze acts are thrilling to watch and to perform. “Every day I have to face fear,” says Keen. His book, *Learning to Fly*, is selling well. It seems that reading about the trapeze is thrilling, too!



- 1** You have read about many kinds of flights. Flying on a trapeze is most like which of these?
- (a) skydiving
 - (b) an eagle's flight
 - (c) flying a kite
 - (d) a slave's flight to freedom
- 2** Two things inspired Sam Keen. What does inspired mean?
- (a) taught something important
 - (b) created a desire to do something
 - (c) proved to be correct
 - (d) prevented someone from moving
- 3** Which detail best supports the idea that a lot of people are interested in the trapeze?
- (a) People have dreamed of flying for hundreds of years.
 - (b) In the 1850s, some gyms had a trapeze.
 - (c) The first flying trapeze act was seen in a circus in Paris.
 - (d) Sam Keen's book is selling well.
- 4** From this selection, what can you tell about people who learn trapeze?
- (a) They all live near Paris, France.
 - (b) They learn trapeze when they are young.
 - (c) They all have courage.
 - (d) They like to write books about their experiences.
- 5** Why did Léotard first set up trapezes over a swimming pool?
- (a) so he would not get hurt if he fell
 - (b) because he was a good swimmer
 - (c) so he would be high over people's heads
 - (d) because he dreamed of flying

- 6 Which detail best helps you visualize, or see in your mind, Léotard's 1861 trapeze act?
- a It took place in Paris, France.
 - b Before performing his act, he practiced for a long time.
 - c It was even better than his 1859 act.
 - d He turned somersaults in the air right over the crowd.
- 7 The young man's daring stunned the crowd. In this sentence, the word stunned means —
- a shocked and surprised
 - b hit on the head
 - c charged a high price
 - d taught a lesson
- 8 What kind of selection is this?
- a legend
 - b how-to article
 - c news story
 - d interview
- 9 What is this selection mainly about?
- a the history and appeal of the trapeze
 - b trapeze acts in Paris, France
 - c how to get started learning trapeze
 - d how to overcome fear
- 10 The author's main purpose in this selection is to —
- a persuade people to try the trapeze
 - b get people to attend the circus
 - c warn people about a dangerous sport
 - d tell about a book on trapeze artists



Bellerophon

and the Flying Horse



Long ago in ancient Greece, there lived a handsome young man. He had eyes as beautiful and as blue as the sea. His name was Bellerophon (buh LAIR uh fun). Poseidon, the sea god, was his father.

Bellerophon lived with his mother and had everything he needed. He should have been happy, but he was not. He cared nothing for friends, or gold, or even his mother. All he desired was to ride Pegasus, the great winged horse of the gods. But the gods did not share their things with men. Bellerophon was a man, not a god. No man could fly through the skies on Pegasus.

Every night, Bellerophon dreamed of the flying horse. In dreams, he saw Pegasus and his beautiful snowy wings. Yet even in dreams, he could not ride the majestic horse.

One night, Bellerophon had a different dream. He dreamed of the goddess Athena, who had tamed Pegasus long ago. In the dream, Athena spoke. "Take this golden bridle, and put it on Pegasus. I give you permission to ride him."

When Bellerophon woke, he was holding the bridle. Filled with joy, he ran to the field where Pegasus grazed. To his surprise, the horse seemed to welcome him. Bellerophon slipped the bridle over the horse's neck. He climbed on its back, and the powerful wings began to move. Suddenly both horse and man were aloft.

For many months, Bellerophon was the happiest man in Greece. He flew with Pegasus every day. Each time, he urged the horse to go farther and higher. Bellerophon's heart filled with pride. Before long, he forgot that he was only a god's son and not a god himself. One day he cried, "Pegasus, fly me up to Mount Olympus. I belong up there among the gods!"

But Zeus, the king of the gods, would not let a man live among the gods. He sent a little fly to bite Pegasus as he flew. Surprised, the mighty horse reared and kicked. Bellerophon could not hold on. Down, down, down through the sky he fell, away from Olympus and back toward the earth. He should have died, but Zeus was fond of him and let him live.

From then on, Bellerophon stayed on the earth. His days of flight were over.



- 11 What was Bellerophon's mistake?
- (a) He did not take care of his mother.
 - (b) He flew too high.
 - (c) He did not like his father.
 - (d) He fell into the sea.
- 12 For a long time, he could not ride the majestic horse. What does the word majestic mean?
- (a) mean and unfriendly
 - (b) frightening
 - (c) beautiful and dignified
 - (d) hard to find
- 13 Why was Bellerophon finally able to ride Pegasus?
- (a) He admitted he was not a god.
 - (b) Athena gave him a special bridle.
 - (c) Zeus was fond of him.
 - (d) He lived on Mount Olympus.
- 14 Which sentence should be included in a summary of the story?
- (a) It is not easy to tame a wild horse.
 - (b) In ancient Greece, people believed there were many gods.
 - (c) A fly bite can be quite painful.
 - (d) Bellerophon tried to go up to Mount Olympus.
- 15 He urged the horse to go higher and farther than before. The word urged means —
- (a) pushed someone to do something
 - (b) moved at great speed
 - (c) covered up or hid something
 - (d) pounded; hit

- 16** Which sentence best states the theme of this selection?
- (a) No horse can really fly.
 - (b) Men should not try to be like gods.
 - (c) It's good to follow your dreams.
 - (d) You can't trust the king of the gods.
- 17** Why did Bellerophon think he belonged among the gods?
- (a) He was the sea god.
 - (b) He was happiest when he was high in the sky.
 - (c) He missed Poseidon, his father.
 - (d) He grew too proud and forgot he was only a man.
- 18** What happened just before Bellerophon began to fall?
- (a) Bellerophon put the bridle on Pegasus.
 - (b) Athena appeared to Bellerophon in a dream.
 - (c) Zeus sent a fly to bite Pegasus.
 - (d) Bellerophon told Pegasus to take him higher.
- 19** What does the storyteller probably think of Bellerophon?
- (a) He was punished too harshly.
 - (b) He should live on Olympus.
 - (c) He was not punished enough.
 - (d) He really did nothing wrong.
- 20** Which sentence best retells the main events of the selection?
- (a) Pegasus offered Bellerophon a ride and then dropped him on purpose.
 - (b) Bellerophon went to Mount Olympus and asked for the winged horse.
 - (c) Athena and Zeus planned a way to get rid of Bellerophon.
 - (d) Bellerophon was allowed to ride the gods' horse until he became too proud.