1 Which story do these sentences come from? *Ekaterina, Breaking Loose, Remember Atita, A Gathering of Bald Men.*

a In his dream the rebels attack his home and take him away from his mother. 

b She had stopped dancing and there were tears in her eyes.

c Ranger was clearly a bit crazy, but he was also intelligent and had a clever way with words.

d There was a circle of white star-like flowers in her long black hair.

e Again her fingers feel my face and the scar under my chin.

f He cried into his glass as he thought of Nothando and his daughters.

g It was her husband, of course, whom she had never seen.

h He opened the doors, pulled the two men out, and laid them on the road.

i Yasmin’s three brothers did not have this problem.

j I remember how she walked calmly away, with her head up.

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

a ___ Three of the walls of Daniel’s sitting room were covered with books.

b ___ Ranger has been a problem to the police for months.

c ___ Okema’s mother wants the rebels to take him away.

d ___ Ekaterina had married a South African that morning by proxy.

e ___ Caleb’s new company PHEW was not a success.

f ___ Laker remembers that Oyella was shot between the eyes.

g ___ Neil Gordon found Ekaterina’s name in the phone book.

h ___ Caleb was very miserable because he had discovered a bald patch.

i ___ Daniel did not go to the funeral of Yasmin’s father.

j ___ The LRA rebels only attack the villages.


a ‘I’m a foreigner, so I didn’t know that.’  

b ‘I used to be a taxi-driver.’  

c ‘Let’s drink to Savvas Athanassiades.’  

d ‘A man has got to live, hasn’t he?’  

e ‘I want her to remember me.’

4 Fill in the gaps using: *in, during, at first, about, and, what, between, now, sometimes, but.*

…………… the holidays Y asmin read …………… India. Here …………… Africa she was an Asian but up to …………… she had known nothing about India. …………… her search for her past put a distance …………… her and Akoto, the African. …………… this was …………… he had talked about – digging deep. …………… the old patterns were broken, …………… things changed.

5 Match the beginning of the sentence in A with the correct ending in B.

A  

1 ___ The doctor arrived late,  

2 ___ It was the man from the photograph,  

3 ___ When he opened his eyes and smiled,  

4 ___ Why had he chosen her,  

5 ___ As I sit beside Laker,  

B  

a but he was bald and old.  

b she touches the scar under my chin.  

c and by then Yasmin’s father was dead.  

d Nothando almost cried with happiness.  

e and would he want to see her again?
Setting

Choose the best answer.

1. The streets of Johannesburg were full of _____.
   a. rebels
   b. beggars
   c. blind men
   d. policemen

2. Daniel Akoto was a professor from _____.
   a. Asia
   b. India
   c. another African country
   d. The Matumbia

3. Ekaterina has _____ travelled on a plane before.
   a. often
   b. perhaps
   c. never
   d. sometimes

4. Every day Atita visits Laker _____.
   a. on the veranda
   b. in the hospital
   c. in the village
   d. in the street

5. Ekaterina was flying to South Africa to meet _____.
   a. Neil Gordon
   b. her family
   c. an American
   d. her husband

6. Caleb did not want to tell Ranger about his problems at work or about _____.
   a. his wife
   b. his daughters
   c. the money that he owes the bank
   d. his bald patch

7. Yasmin’s father had a shop which made _____.
   a. gramophones
   b. sandwiches
   c. boxes
   d. men’s clothes

8. Atita has an old black and white photo of _____.
   a. her old friends
   b. her grandfather
   c. Okema
   d. her husband

   a. nothing
   b. more
   c. a little
   d. a lot

10. Caleb met Ranger _____.
    a. in a bar
    b. at work
    c. at home
    d. at the hospital

Dialogue

Who said or wrote this?

21. ‘The world is not ready for it.’
   a. Y asmin
   b. Daniel
   c. Y asmin’s father
   d. Y asmin’s mother

22. ‘I shall become President and end the war.’
   a. Atita
   b. Okema
   c. Oyella
   d. Laker

23. ‘People aren’t at their best at a funeral.’
   a. Y asmin
   b. Y asmin’s mother
   c. Y asmin’s father
   d. Daniel

24. ‘I’m the only one in my family too.’
   a. Atita
   b. Okema
   c. Oyella
   d. Laker

25. ‘Are you taking her to her husband?’
   a. Ekaterina
   b. The air hostess
   c. Neil Gordon
   d. The Italian passenger

26. ‘You’re looking very good today!’
   a. Nothando
   b. Caleb
   c. Ranger
   d. Marcia

Characters

Choose the best answer.

11. Y asmin’s _____ did not want her to be friends with a man who was not Asian.
    a. father
    b. brother
    c. mother
    d. friends

12. _____ has come back to Gulu to search for her friends.
    a. Atita
    b. Okema
    c. Oyella
    d. Laker
Dancing with Strangers: Stories from Africa

Retold by Clare West

Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

31 a sympathetic understanding of another person’s troubles
   a ☐ insurance b ☐ pity c ☐ suicide d ☐ instinct
32 the usual, accepted way of doing something in a society
   a ☐ custom b ☐ culture c ☐ sociology d ☐ funeral
33 surprised and confused
   a ☐ embarrassed b ☐ innocent c ☐ cheerful d ☐ bewildered
34 a man whose job is selling things to people
   a ☐ professor b ☐ salesman c ☐ gentleman d ☐ hangman
35 looking or sounding happy; making people feel happy
   a ☐ embarrassed b ☐ sexy c ☐ cheerful d ☐ innocent
36 a small area, which is different from the area around it
   a ☐ patch b ☐ scar c ☐ seesaw d ☐ stage
37 the study of human societies and social behaviour
   a ☐ culture b ☐ custom c ☐ sociology d ☐ literature
38 to say that you are sorry for something you have done
   a ☐ respect b ☐ spit c ☐ attack d ☐ apologize
39 ashamed; worried about what other people think
   a ☐ embarrassed b ☐ torn c ☐ ancient d ☐ blind
40 a person who is silly or acts in a silly way
   a ☐ beggar b ☐ gentleman c ☐ salesman d ☐ fool

Plot

Choose the best answer.

41 _____ knows what happened to Oyella.
   a ☐ Atita b ☐ Okema c ☐ Won Okech d ☐ Laker
42 Caleb gave Ranger his car keys because he _____.
   a ☐ was blind b ☐ wanted to drink c ☐ wanted to die d ☐ felt sick
43 Ekaterina was looking everywhere for ______.
   a ☐ yesterday’s Greek papers b ☐ a photograph c ☐ her passport d ☐ a fan
44 Yasmín was studying literature but she had not heard of ______.
   a ☐ new African writers b ☐ Soyinka c ☐ Achebe d ☐ African literature
45 Caleb felt miserable because of ______.
   a ☐ his daughters b ☐ his wife c ☐ his bald patch d ☐ his two dogs
46 _____ left Gulu after her grandfather died.
   a ☐ Okema b ☐ Atita c ☐ Won Okech d ☐ Laker
47 Yasmín’s mother was angry because Daniel _____.
   a ☐ came to the funeral b ☐ did not go to the end-of-year dance
c ☐ did not buy a gramophone d ☐ returned the books
48 Savvas was at the airport but he was ______.
   a ☐ very unhappy b ☐ sweet and warm c ☐ strong and handsome d ☐ bald and old
49 Caleb and Ranger appeared on television programmes talking about ______.
   a ☐ suicide b ☐ baldness c ☐ beggars d ☐ insurance
50 Daniel respects Yasmín because she ______.
   a ☐ is studying literature b ☐ went to the funeral c ☐ did not go to the end-of-year dance d ☐ is trying to find her own path in life

Total marks