Seabiscuit

Directions: Read the play Seabiscuit on page 20 of the April/May 2013 issue of Storyworks. Then select the best answer for each question.

1. When Red says, “I’ve got 27 cents to my name. I’m at the end of my rope,” you can infer that _____.
   A  his life is ending
   B  he has lost control of a horse’s reins
   C  he is in trouble and has run out of options
   D  his rope is falling apart

2. The play takes place during _____.
   A  the Great Depression
   B  World War II
   C  the 1920s
   D  the 1950s

3. Which character trait does Pa display when he says, “It doesn’t do no good to dream”?
   A  friendliness
   B  honesty
   C  selfishness
   D  hopelessness

4. Frankie can be described as generous. Which line from the play BEST demonstrates this?
   A  “I’ll take care of you, Dot.”
   B  “I can’t believe we’re here!”
   C  “It’s like Pa has given up or something.”
   D  “Here’s 25 cents, Pa. I made it in the field today.”

5. What is Red’s secret?
   A  He lost three fingers.
   B  He has never won a race before.
   C  He is blind in his right eye.
   D  He was injured riding another horse.

6. Red and Seabiscuit both _____.
   A  have the odds stacked against them
   B  endure injuries yet never give up
   C  give hope to the Oren family
   D  all of the above

7. Which literary device is in the sentence “If another rider bumps Red, his leg could snap like a matchstick”?
   A  metaphor
   B  personification
   C  alliteration
   D  simile

8. What is the main idea of the play?
   A  The Oren family made it to the Santa Anita Racetrack to watch Seabiscuit race.
   B  Seabiscuit inspired millions of Americans by proving that an underdog could succeed.
   C  Horse races drew large crowds in the 1930s.
   D  Poor families lived in migrant camps during the Great Depression.

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the play.

9. What character traits helped Red and Seabiscuit achieve their comeback?

10. In the end, Pa has tears in his eyes and hugs his children. In what ways does Seabiscuit’s victory encourage him?