Multiple Choice
Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. Identify the literary devices used the following passage.

   “An image that haunted many in Hiroshima was the horrific parade of victims on the streets. ‘They stagger exactly like sleepwalkers,’ said one survivor; ‘like walking ghosts’ said another. ‘They held their arms out in front of their chest like kangaroos,’ said a high school girl, ‘with only their hands pointed downward.’ Dr. Hachiya saw this as he was wobbling toward the hospital where he worked. ‘They moved as though in pain, like scarecrows, their arms held out from their bodies with forearms and hands dangling,’ he said. ‘These people puzzled me until I suddenly realized that they had been burned and were holding their arms out to prevent the painful friction of raw surfaces rubbing together ... One thing was common to everyone I saw – complete silence.’” (196)

   a. metaphor - imagery  
   b. hyperbole - simile  
   c. personification - metaphor  
   d. simile – imagery

2. Which text structures did Steve Sheinkin primarily use in writing Bomb?

   a. chronological  
   b. enumeration  
   c. flashback  
   d. compare and contrast  
   e. step by step  
   f. cause and effect

Completion
Complete each statement.

3. Bomb is written in the ____________________________ point of view.

Short Answer

4. In 1936, Robert Oppenheimer’s interests began to expand from simply physics to the country’s economic troubles, politics, and Adolf Hitler’s rise to power. In the following excerpt, how did the author use the literary device of foreshadowing?

   “Oppenheimer, who was Jewish, still had family in Germany, as well as Jewish friends from his student days. When he heard that Hitler was harassing Jewish physicists, Oppenheimer dedicated a portion of his salary to help them escape Nazi Germany. ... Just twenty years after the end of World War I, it looked like a second world was about to explode. Oppenheimer followed these terrifying events from his home in California, burning with what he described as ‘a continuing, smoldering fury’ toward Adolf Hitler. But how was a theoretical physicist supposed to save the world?” (12-13)

5. Chapter 2 is titled “Finding Einstein”. “Einstein was the world’s most famous scientist. If Einstein sounded the alarm about the danger of the atomic bomb, President Roosevelt might just listen.” (19) What relevancy did Einstein have to the United States entering the race to build the atomic bomb?
6. The denotation of the word race is “A situation in which individuals or groups compete to be first to achieve a particular objective”. (Oxford University Press http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/race) How does the author use the denotation effectively in the title as well as throughout the book? What is the negative connotation that the author has associated with the word race throughout the book?

7. Identify at least three of the text features Steve Sheinkin uses to relay information to the reader?

8. Throughout the book, the reader is given different descriptions or characterizations of Robert Oppenheimer. Characterize Robert Oppenheimer, using at least 3 supporting details.

9. When Oppenheimer’s team tested the plutonium bomb and it was a success, the participants showed a variety of moods to the reader. What two moods were overwhelmingly present in everyone and why?

10. Identify the two literary elements used in the following passage.

“This is the only friend you can rely on,’ said their instructor, holding up a pistol. ‘Treat him properly, and he’ll take care of you.’” (52)

11. Describe how the author effectively used a pun in the following passage.

“Oppenheimer introduced Serber and sat down. Serber looked down at his notes and began reading quietly, with a slight stutter. But he opened with a bang: ‘The object of the project is to produce a practical military weapon in the form of a bomb in which the energy is released by a fast-neutron chain reaction.’” (97)

12. Identify the text structure being used in the following passage.

“When Groves met with Uraum Committee members in Chicago, they told him it would take somewhere between ten and one thousand pounds of uranium to make an atomic bomb. The wide range infuriated Groves. It would be like trying to plan a wedding, he shouted, and telling the caterer ‘We don’t know how many guests are coming - maybe somewhere between ten and a thousand - but see to it that you have the right amount of food for them!’” (48)

13. Read the following passage and identify at least at three of the potential chains of reaction in the causal chain.

“The big question is this: Will any of these bombs ever be used? Most of the world’s atomic bombs are still in the hands of the United States and Russia. ... For now, at least, it’s hard to imagine a realistic series of events that could lead to a massive exchange of atomic bombs. But other dangers exist. One is the nightmare scenario of a terrorist group getting hold of an atomic weapon. Another is that an actual government - ... might just be crazy enough to lash out with atomic bombs. Or long-time enemies India and Pakistan could go to war ... and this time the shooting could escalate into a nuclear battle.
And if you think atomic explosions in Asia wouldn’t affect Americans, consider this. A study ... looked at the probable impact of a ‘small’ nuclear war, one in which India and Pakistan each dropped fifty atomic bombs. The scientists concluded that the explosions would ignite massive firestorms, sending enormous amounts of dust and smoke into the atmosphere. This would block some of the sun’s light from reaching the earth, making the planet colder and darker - for about ten years. Farming would collapse, and people all over the globe would starve to death. And that’s if only one half of one percent of all the atomic bombs on earth were used.” (236)

14. Throughout the book, there are three separate stories being told: “The Americans try to build a bomb The Soviets try to steal it, and The Allies try to sabotage the German bomb project” (243)

Analyze why the author chose to tell each of these stories housed together in one book.

15. What tone is being conveyed through Oppenheimer’s words in his conversation with President Truman?

“He lifted his trembling hands in front of Truman. ‘Mr. President,’ he said, ‘I feel I have blood on my hands.’

Truman’s eyes flashed disgust. ‘Never mind,’ he mumbled, ‘it’ll all come out in the wash.’

... Outside the Oval Office, Oppenheimer put on his hat and coat. He walked through the halls and out of the White House and toward the street. He was the father of the atomic bomb. But at that moment he knew his creation was completely - and forever - beyond his control.” (217)

16. Both Harry Gold and Ted Hall were spies for the Soviets. Below are their statements as to why they chose to become spies. How were their reasons both valid and dangerous?

As Gold said, ‘he had what he described as ‘an almost puppy-like eagerness to please.’ Here was a chance to do something nice for Black and help the Soviet people. The chemical processes Black wanted didn’t seem so secret, and if the information could really help the Soviets build a better society, why not share it? Who would it hurt? ‘And that,’ said Gold, ‘is how I began.’” (25)

Hall stated “‘I shared a common belief that the horrors of war would bring our various leaders to their senses and usher in a period of peace and harmony.’ But what if this didn’t happen? What if Americans succeeded in building atomic bombs and they were the only ones to have them? Would the United Stated be more likely to use atomic bombs, knowing no one else could strike back? Wouldn’t it be safer if a second major power also knew how to build atomic bombs? That way, neither country would use the bomb - knowing they’d have the bomb used on them. ‘It seemed to me,’ Hall said, ‘that and American monopoly was dangerous and should be prevented.’” (135)

17. How did Gold’s choice to become a spy irrevocably impact other decisions in his life?

“It wasn’t lack of passion she was sensing. It was fear, ‘Fear of exposure.’ Gold later admitted. ‘And fear not for myself, but a horror at the thought that the disastrous revelation might come after we had been married for three or four years, with children at home of our own.” (219)
“‘I am calm,’ he said during his prison term, ‘and my mind is at peace for the first time in more than a decade and a half.’” (229)

18. “Groves considered the idea. Kidnapping was not part of his job description, but he was ready to do whatever it took to win the race. He passed the suggestion on to a fellow general, asking the man to raise the subject with Army Chief of Staff, General George Marshall. Marshall’s reply came back: ‘Tell Groves to take care of his own dirty work.’ Groves took careful noted of the wording.” (116-117)

What inference can the reader make from this passage concerning Grove’s future plan?

19. “Like Fermi, much of Oppenheimer’s scientific dream team was European, many of them Jews who had escaped from Hitler. This gave America a huge advantage in its race with Germany…” (93)

What two conclusions can the reader make as to why having a scientific team of German scientists would give America an advantage?

20. Identify the literary element being used in the following passage.

“‘Even more fearsome was the sight on the ground below,’ said Tibbets. ‘At the base of the cloud, fires were springing up everywhere amid a turbulent mass of smoke that had the appearance of bubbling hot tar ... The city we had seen so clearly in the sunlight a few minutes before was now an ugly smudge.’” (197)

21. Adolf Hitler committed suicide on April 30. Days later Germany surrendered. The war in Europe was over. Scientists at Los Alamos celebrated - and for a happy moment thought their job was done. Their work had been driven by the absolute necessity of winning the bomb race with Germany. ‘For me, Hitler was the personification of evil, and the primary justification for the atomic bomb work,’ remembered the physicist Emilio Segre. ‘Now that the bomb could not be used against the Nazis, doubts arose. Those doubts, even if they do not appear in official reports, were discussed in many private discussion.’” (166)

What conclusion can the reader draw from this passage as to why the scientists were now having doubts about continuing the work on the atomic bomb?

22. Near the beginning of the book, we learn that Oppenheimer had been approached by the Soviets to help them, or spy for them. He declined their invitation, but “Oppenheimer chose not to tell General Groves that he’d been approached by the Soviets. It was a decision that would haunt him for the rest of his life.” (65)

In the epilogue, Robert Oppenheimer was serving as a scientific advisor to the government. “That’s where he got in trouble. ... Oppenheimer argued that now was the time to step back from the arms race, not to accelerate it. ‘We believe a super bomb should never be produced,’ Oppenheimer wrote on behalf of the scientists.” (231-232)

Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission “argued that Oppenheimer’s opposition to the H-bomb was an act of disloyalty to America. He suggested that maybe Oppenheimer had always been disloyal.” (233)

From this point forward, Strauss began investigating Oppenheimer, and using anything he could find on Oppenheimer to discredit his loyalty to America.
How can Oppenheimer’s statement from page 65 be relevant to the revocation of his responsibilities with the government?

23. Identify the problem and solution from this passage.

Truman and Churchill issued the Potsdam Declaration - a final demand that Japan end the fighting. There was no mention of the atomic bomb, but the document closed with a harsh warning: ‘We call upon the government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces ... The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.’

When the message reached Tokyo the next morning, Japanese leaders debated options. ... Political leaders were open to the idea of accepting the Potsdam demand. Military leaders urged immediate rejection. They especially feared unconditional surrender, which would allow foreign soldiers to take over their country with no conditions. This, they felt, was too disgraceful to even consider.

Prime Minister Baron Suzuki called reporters together. ‘As for the government, it does not find any important value in it,’ Suzuki said of the Potsdam Declaration. ‘There is no other recourse but to ignore it entirely and resolutely fight for the successful conclusion of the war.’” (189)

24. What does Frisch mean in the following passage when referencing the elephant?

“What if you had a twenty-pound lump of uranium? A fifty-pound lump? What if you were able to get all those atoms to split and release energy at the same moment? You’d have by far the most powerful bomb ever built.

‘I feel as if I had caught an elephant by its tail, without meaning to,’ Frisch wrote to his mother. ‘And now I don’t know what to do with it.’” (15)

25. “Oppenheimer thought of a line from the ancient Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad-Gita, a dramatic moment in which the god Vishnu declares: ‘Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.’” (185)

Oppenheimer made this statement after the bomb experiment and seeing their success in building the atomic bomb. What relevancy does his statement have to the now evident consequences of his actions in the book?