Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Saving Books 'n' More

1 *Creeeak!* The heavy door of Books 'n' More announced Chandra's arrival. She stood in the doorway for a moment, enjoying the rich smell of fresh paper. The books sat on wide, wooden shelves in rows, their spines turned toward her like friendly, expectant faces.

2 "Hi, Chandra!" sang Mrs. Lee, the owner, from behind the cash register. "Looking to buy anything special today?"

3 "No, thanks. I just want to browse," Chandra answered. She felt like a kid in a candy shop. Her mouth was practically watering at the sight of all those books. Each one seemed to promise adventure and mystery.

4 She could not help but notice, however, that there was no one else in the store. The last four or five times she had stopped in here, she had also been the only customer. She glanced at Mrs. Lee and noticed tight little worry lines around her mouth. Chandra was sure they had not been there the week before.

5 At the cash register, Chandra commented on how quiet the store was. Mrs. Lee sighed. "Lately, every day is like this," she said. "If more customers don't come in, the store will have to close."

6 Chandra was first perturbed and then alarmed. Books 'n' More was the only bookstore in town. It was a necessary part of her life. After she stepped outside, she turned and looked back at the place where she had spent many happy hours. The store seemed to droop in the hot afternoon sun, like a plant that desperately needed watering.

7 That night at the dinner table, Chandra was unusually quiet. She was thinking about how much she would miss Books 'n' More if it closed. When her family asked what was wrong, she told them what Mrs. Lee had said. Her older brother Pete frowned. "You know, Chandra, one of my courses over at the community college is an advertising class. Maybe some of what I'm learning could help Mrs. Lee save Books 'n' More."

8 "Like what?" asked Chandra.

9 Pete said, "Mrs. Lee needs more people in her store. Once people go in, they'll probably buy books." He snapped his fingers. "I've got it! How about a book club? One evening a month, people could meet in the store to discuss a book they've all read. If they buy it at her store, they receive a discount. In fact, she could do several book clubs. One for kids, one for adults, one for mystery fans . . . you get the idea."

10 "That's great!" Chandra exclaimed. "And how about having some authors come and do a book signing? I even have an idea for the first author. My math teacher, Mr. Fletcher, writes children's books. I'm sure he would be willing to help Books 'n' More. I could put up fliers about the event at my school. Maybe someone could write about it in the school newspaper."

11 The next day was Saturday. Chandra went straight to Books 'n' More to share her thoughts with Mrs. Lee. Mrs. Lee seemed hesitant at first, but by the time Chandra finished, she was smiling. "I'll try your ideas. What do I have to lose? I'm going to need help, though. Someone will have to lead the book club discussions. I'll need help advertising these events because I've never been good at such things."

12 Chandra promised that she would help. The next week at school, she asked Mr. Fletcher if he would read and sign some of his books at Books 'n' More, and he happily agreed. A date was chosen, and Chandra threw herself into the preparations. She personally invited all her friends, the other teachers, and even the school principal.

13 Finally, everything was ready for the big night. At the back of the store, Mrs. Lee had set up several rows of folding chairs and a comfortable armchair for Mr. Fletcher. The chairs slowly filled with people. The time came to introduce Mr. Fletcher to the crowd.

14 Chandra noticed that Mrs. Lee looked nervous. "Are you all right?" she asked. "If you're nervous about speaking in public, I could do it for you."

15 Mrs. Lee smiled. "Thank you, but you've already done so much. I need to start taking more chances if my wonderful store is going to find the customers it deserves."

16 Mrs. Lee walked up the aisle and turned to face the crowd. "Tonight is the first of what I hope will be a series of visiting authors. Before I introduce tonight's author, though, there is someone I must thank. This exciting evening was mostly arranged by a terrific young lady named Chandra Phillips. If she were a little older, I would hire her as my advertising director." The crowd laughed and clapped. Mrs. Lee then introduced Mr. Fletcher. As he began to read from his latest book, *Harry's Haunted Hayride*, she took a seat next to Chandra.

17 "Did you really mean that? Could I really work here someday?" Chandra whispered. Mrs. Lee nodded. Chandra tried to listen to Mr. Fletcher, but her mind swam with even more ways to help Books 'n' More be successful. After all, she had to protect her future job!

1 In paragraph 3, the word <u>browse</u> means —

F examine carefully
G search for intently
H consider seriously
J look over casually

2 Read these sentences from paragraph 3.

> **She felt like a kid in a candy shop. Her mouth was practically watering at the sight of all those books.**

To what sense does the imagery of these sentences *most* appeal?

A Touch
B Hearing
C Smell
D Taste

3 What is the relationship in the following pair of words from paragraph 4?

Customer is to store as —

F reader is to library
G car is to wheel
H tree is to branch
J teacher is to student

4 Which question is answered in paragraph 9?

A How does Chandra help Pete?
B What advertising methods does Chandra know?
C How can Mrs. Lee attract more customers into her bookstore?
D How many more customers does Mrs. Lee need?

5 Read this sentence from paragraph 15.

> **"I need to start taking more chances if my wonderful store is going to find the customers it deserves."**

Based on the sentence, the reader may *best* conclude that —

F Mrs. Lee is used to having one type of customer

G the store is the only one of its kind in town

H Mrs. Lee is used to doing things the same way

J the store is popular with the customers it already has

6 In paragraph 16, the crowd's laughter and clapping suggest that they —

A are interested in Mrs. Lee's speech

B appreciate Chandra's efforts as well

C feel anxious for Mr. Fletcher to begin reading

D are amazed that Mrs. Lee would hire a young person

7 Based on the last sentence of the story, the reader may *best* conclude that Chandra —

F wants to own a bookstore of her own one day

G plans to do more for Mrs. Lee and her bookstore

H thinks Mrs. Lee was joking about hiring her

J plans to go to college and study advertising

8 Which quotation from the story *best* shows Mrs. Lee's appreciation?

A "Looking to buy anything special today?"

B "I'll try your ideas. What do I have to lose?"

C "I'll need help advertising these events because I've never been good at such things."

D "If she were a little older, I would hire her as my advertising director."

9 Which sentence marks the initiating event of the story?

F Chandra realizes her favorite bookstore might close.

G Chandra's brother makes some suggestions.

H Mrs. Lee agrees to Chandra's ideas.

J Mr. Fletcher agrees to attend the book signing.

10 Which words *best* describe Chandra?

A Timid and insecure
B Humble and shy
C Confident and helpful
D Joyful and amusing

11 According to the story, which statement is *most* accurate?

F Most bookstores have an advertising director.
G Children read more books than adults.
H Business is slow at most bookstores.
J Advertising attracts customers.

12 What may the reader *best* conclude about the future of Books 'n' More?

A As a result of Mr. Fletcher's talk, more books about math will be sold.
B Because of Pete, sales of advertising books will increase.
C Because Mrs. Lee decides to take chances, more authors will visit the store.
D With Chandra's assistance, more customers will visit the store.