“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson

Vocabulary

Give the part of speech and definition. Locate the word in the short story and underline or highlight it.

1. profusely: (NOUN) ________________________________
2. liberty: (NOUN) ________________________________
3. civic: (NOUN) ________________________________
4. scold: (NOUN) ________________________________
5. paraphernalia: (NOUN) ________________________________
6. preceded: (VERB) ________________________________
7. perfunctory: (ADJECTIVE) ________________________________
8. interminably: (ADVERB) ________________________________
9. disengaged: (ADJECTIVE) ________________________________
10. petulantly: (ADVERB) ________________________________

Reading Questions

1. What is the general mood of the townspeople prior to the lottery?
   a. excited  c. angry
   b. disappointed  d. scared

2. What does Old Man Warner believe will happen if they discontinue the lottery?
   a. He won’t have a chance to win.
   b. It will cause overpopulation.
   c. Young people will leave the town.
   d. It will cause chaos and destroy society.

3. How do Tess’s family and friends feel about her winning the lottery?
   a. They are excited for her.
   b. They are upset that her daughter didn’t win.
   c. They accept it without another thought.
   d. They are angry at Mr. Summers.

4. Which is an example of irony?
   a. The title
   b. The black box
   c. Old Man Warner
   d. Man vs. Man