Test Prep

Know the News: Kids at War

Read the article on pp. 4-9, then answer the questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the article?
   A. As a child soldier, Grace fetched water and gathered firewood.
   B. Tens of thousands of kids around the world are recruited and used as child soldiers.
   C. Aid groups are pressuring world leaders to crack down on countries that use child soldiers.
   D. Rebel forces tried to overthrow the president of South Sudan in 2013.

2. Based on the description in the first section, how would you describe Grace’s family?
   A. aggressive
   B. indifferent
   C. relaxed
   D. poor

3. Which of the following statements best supports your answer to question 2?
   A. “Two years later, the rebels were still clashing with government troops.”
   B. “With no electricity—much less a TV, radio, or phone—in their small mud-and-grass hut . . .”
   C. “A bloody civil war had been raging in the central African country.”
   D. “She helped look after her 4-year-old sister.”

4. How did Grace become a child soldier?
   A. She signed up to serve in her government’s official military.
   B. She volunteered to fight in exchange for food and money.
   C. She was kidnapped by soldiers.
   D. Her community joined an armed group in exchange for protection.

5. Which of the following statements is an opinion?
   A. Nearly 1,000 child soldiers have been freed in the past two years.
   B. Enlisting kids younger than 15 to fight is a war crime.
   C. Many child soldiers are kidnapped.
   D. World leaders should do more to prevent kids from being recruited as child soldiers.

6. What does the chaos refer to in the following sentence? “Despite the chaos swirling around her, Grace kept attending school.”
   A. the civil war being fought in Grace’s country
   B. the soldiers forcing Grace to hurt others
   C. Grace’s hours of schoolwork and babysitting
   D. Grace’s days stealing supplies from other villages

7. Why do some former child soldiers face discrimination from their communities?
   A. They were separated from their families.
   B. They have not received counseling.
   C. They were associated with an armed group.
   D. They do not know how to fight.

8. Why might the author have included the minimum age for people to enlist in the U.S. military?
   A. to question why the minimum age for U.S. troops is not lower
   B. to encourage armed groups in South Sudan and other countries to stop recruiting children
   C. to contrast the age of U.S. troops with the age of children used as soldiers in other countries
   D. to prove why militaries are important

9. How does the sidebar “I Try to Keep Them at the Front of My Mind” on p. 7 contribute to the article?
   A. It offers examples of how U.S. kids can help child soldiers.
   B. It details the daily life of child soldiers.
   C. It shows where child soldiers are common.
   D. It persuades readers to start after-school clubs.

10. What can you conclude based on this article?
    A. Kids are no longer in danger from armed groups in South Sudan.
    B. It is difficult to stop armed groups from recruiting child soldiers.
    C. There is nothing aid workers can do to help former child soldiers.
    D. Most child soldiers are not affected by their experience.