

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

Elizabeth Zane

- 1 In the autumn of 1782, the British decided to attack Fort Henry, at Wheeling, in what was then northwestern Virginia. The fort had already withstood two previous attacks, in 1777 and 1781.



- 2 The afternoon sun was pleasant and warm on Elizabeth Zane's face. The 16-year-old was a recent arrival in Wheeling, but her brothers had written about it in glowing terms during her years at school in distant Philadelphia. She found herself enjoying the frontier wilderness, too, especially its contrast to the big city.
- 3 Suddenly, the drumming of hoofbeats shattered the silence. Close on its heels were shouts, angry voices, and then an odd bugling sound. "Ebenezer and Silas told me what that means, but I can't quite recall," she thought. Then, with a start, she remembered its meaning: *enemies advancing!* She jolted to her feet and sprinted toward Ebenezer's cabin.
- 4 The word "cabin," though, hardly did the place justice. Fashioned from enormous, ancient timbers, and fortified expertly, the thing rivaled the fort itself for security. Now, though, Elizabeth wasn't feeling very secure.
- 5 Her older brother, Colonel Ebenezer Zane, stood stoically in the doorway. Unlike everyone else in the village, he was not running for the fort. "Get to the fort, Betty. A couple of the boys and I are staying here."
- 6 "You will be safer here, then, rather than in peril at the fort with the rest of us." Elizabeth said tartly.
- 7 Her brother met her eye calmly and said, "We'd be safer there, but the rest of you wouldn't be. My cabin is a blockhouse: it's in position to protect the gates and provide a crossfire during an attack. But that means that some folks have to stay inside it."
- 8 Elizabeth hesitated for a moment, before a fresh outcry and the sounds of fighting went up from the edge of the village. Swallowing her objections, she dashed across the open field to the gates of the fort.



- 9 At first, things seemed promising. Elizabeth's other brother, Silas, was on duty in the fort when the alarm sounded. He reassured her, saying, "the British don't have enough soldiers to take the fort themselves, and their Indian allies have no taste for sieges. We're too tough a nut to crack, so they'll melt back into the forest, looking for an easier target."
- 10 Briefly, it looked as if Silas was right. The English had only about 40 men, and what appeared to be about 250 or more Indians with them. But then the British commander somehow convinced his allies to besiege the fort anyway.
- 11 Hours passed, and as night fell, the situation also grew darker and darker. Many of the defenders had been injured, and supplies of gunpowder were running low. It was a long and restless night, as everyone wondered what the morning would bring.
- 12 The morning's news was both good and bad. Colonel Zane and his volunteers still held the blockhouse, but the Indians had not melted away during the night, as many had still hoped they'd do. Then Elizabeth noticed Silas hurrying over for a quiet word with the fort's commander. Almost against her will, she leaned closer to hear his words.
- 13 "I'm telling you, sir, there's plenty of extra gunpowder in Ebenezer's blockhouse. We just need to get it back here where it can do some good!"
- 14 "All right, circulate word among the men that I'd like a volunteer for a desperate mission. The blockhouse is at least sixty yards away over open ground, and he'll be open to enemy fire for most of it," the commander replied.
- 15 Almost all of the defenders, even the wounded ones, volunteered. In fact, so many were convinced that they should be the one that a general argument broke out. Finally, Elizabeth stepped forward and said, "I'll go."
- 16 Quarrels and complaints stopped, as all eyes turned to the slender, young girl. "It's simple," she said, "I can't shoot, but you all can. You can do more on the walls than I, but I can get to my brother's cabin quicker and quieter than most of you."
- 17 The argument, already fierce, heated even further then, as man after man spoke passionately against the idea. In the end, though, the commander acknowledged the strength of Elizabeth's argument. During the next pause in the firing, around mid-day, Elizabeth snuck out the gate. For some reason, the attackers did not shoot at her, and she made it to the cabin safely.
- 18 Moments later, Elizabeth emerged with a small cask of gunpowder cradled in her apron. This time, the enemy opened fire as she sprinted across the field. Incredibly, she made it back through the gates unharmed.
- 19 With the fresh supply of gunpowder, the defenders easily held out until the following day. Then, the Indians finally prevailed upon the British to try their luck elsewhere. Elizabeth's brave and unexpected mission had helped to save her friends and family. It also earned her a place in history.



38 Which choice expresses a theme of the selection?

- F “She found herself enjoying the frontier wilderness, too, especially its contrast to the big city.”
- G “Quarrels and complaints stopped, as all eyes turned to the slender, young girl.”
- H “Elizabeth’s brave and unexpected mission had helped to save her friends and family.”
- J “It was a long and restless night, as everyone wondered what the morning would bring.”

39 Even though Elizabeth says to her brother, “You will be safer here, then,” the reader is aware that in reality —

- A he will be in greater danger in the cabin
- B Elizabeth does not care what happens
- C Elizabeth really wants him to stay in the cabin
- D she wants to stay in the cabin herself

40 What is the *most* likely reason that the enemy did not shoot at Elizabeth at first?

- F They thought she was carrying a message to them.
- G They thought she was coming to join them.
- H They could not see her through the trees.
- J They did not think of her as a threat.

41 Which word in this story has a root word that means “made or shaped”?

- A fortified
- B fashioned
- C prevailed
- D jolted

42 In the story, the author uses the character of Silas to —

- F suggest a way to resolve the problem
- G show that not all of the Zanes are courageous
- H add humor to a tense situation
- J explain why the enemy has attacked

43 Based on the information in the passage, the reader can conclude that the British finally agreed to leave because —

- A they and their Indian allies were running out of food
- B they and their Indian allies ran out of gunpowder
- C they received word that reinforcements were on their way to the fort
- D the fort did not appear to be running low on supplies

44 What is the initiating event for this story?

- F Ebenezer Zane decides to stay in his cabin.
- G The supply of gunpowder in the fort runs low.
- H Elizabeth hears hoofbeats and a bugling sound.
- J Elizabeth volunteers to get more gunpowder.

45 What is meant by the author’s statement that “close on its heels were shouts”?

- A There were sounds of heels on the floor and shouting.
- B Shouting came from someplace close by.
- C Shouts followed immediately after the hoofbeats.
- D Shouting came just before the hoofbeats.

46 Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

- F Elizabeth Zane had recently moved from Philadelphia, where she had been attending school, to Wheeling, where her brothers lived.
- G Fort Henry comes under attack by the British and their Indian allies, and it is up to the heroic Zane family to save the Americans.
- H When Fort Henry runs low on gunpowder, Elizabeth Zane saves the fort from the British by making a dangerous dash outside the walls to get more.
- J Elizabeth Zane did not know how to shoot, but she could run quicker and quieter than most of the men and boys in Fort Henry.

47

glowing — *adj.* **1.** bright, shining. **2.** ruddy, flushed. **3.** happy, radiant. **4.** heartfelt, warm.

According to the thesaurus entry, which synonym could best be used in place of glowing in paragraph 2?

- A radiant
- B warm
- C flushed
- D shining

