“The Boston Molasses Flood of 1919” Quiz

Directions: Read the article “The Boston Molasses Flood of 1919” in the January 2014 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. The author mentions “motorcars” and “horse-drawn wagons” in the first paragraph. This is probably to show that _____.
   A. the events in the story took place long ago
   B. the story is mainly about transportation
   C. the people in Boston’s North End liked to travel
   D. Anthony di Stasio liked cars and wagons

2. The tone of the words “They were wrong” in the first section could best be described as ______.
   A. hopeful
   B. humorous
   C. dark
   D. teasing

3. Which word is a synonym for “grim” in the phrase “As if the North End weren’t grim enough already . . .”??
   A. cheerful
   B. gloomy
   C. poor
   D. cold

4. What can you infer was the reason USIA built its molasses tank quickly?
   A. The company was known for completing projects quickly.
   B. A lot of molasses was needed for making bombs once World War I started.
   C. Boston residents wanted it built quickly.
   D. Molasses was spoiling aboard ships.

5. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the text?
   A. Anthony’s family was from Italy.
   B. Molasses can be used to make alcohol.
   C. After the disaster, USIA went out of business.
   D. USIA lost the lawsuit.

6. The phrase “. . . some claim that the sweet scent of molasses rises up, like a ghost” contains ______.
   A. a metaphor
   B. hyperbole
   C. irony
   D. a simile

7. USIA’s actions in this story can best be described as ______.
   A. planned
   B. wise
   C. responsible
   D. irresponsible

8. The author’s purpose in writing this story was most likely to ______.
   A. inform readers about a little-known event in history
   B. warn readers against using molasses
   C. persuade readers to visit Boston’s North End
   D. instruct readers in the proper storage of molasses

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized paragraph. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the article.

9. List three examples from the article that show that Anthony’s family was poor.

10. The author calls the disaster “strange.” In what ways was it strange?