

tongue is dry, a piece ham. But they will tell me, and I will believe them, if I forget the law."

-43. According to Morris, the nature of his law, consists of moral principles which, on the surface, sound simplistic in the extreme: "This means to do what is right, to be honest, to be good. This means to other people. Our life is hard enough. Why should we hurt somebody else? For everybody should be the best, not only for you or me. We ain't animals. 'This is why we need the Law. This is what a Jew believes."
-*... '44. At Morris' burial, a mysterious rabbi echoes the grocer's morality and dignifies it with oratory: "Morris Bober was to me a true Christian because he lived in the Christian experience, which he remembered, and with the Christian heart."
- 45. On careful reading, it seems Bernard Malamud implies that in universe to win is to lose. To suffer out of love and principle is to see the ego die and the self dissolve in the terror of complete dispossession.
- ...`.....46. In terms of redemption, we can safely say that Morris Bober suffers for all. He is a receptacle of pain which "humanity would suffocate with a single cry."
-47. Indeed, if God exists anywhere in The assistant, He is in Morris Bober's soul. That is why Frankie has finally converted.
- 48. When Morris explains Nick Fusco what a Jew believes, Nick replies : "I think other religions have those ideals too."
-49. Throughout the novel, the young Italian's conversion to Roman Catholicism is indistinguishable from his conversion to the saint of Catholicism. If he is circumcised in the final paragraph, he is St. Francis "dancing out of the woods" in the penultimate one.
-50. Though Morris dies in winter, he reappears in the form of the son become the father. Taking over the store completely,

- Frankie struggles against the lingering claims of the "old self."
-51. At times Nick succumbs, but finally he reasserts the truth of his transformation: "I am not the same guy I was."
-52. Ida, sitting in her living room, rarely descends the stairs; and Helen is locked for long months in the terror of her indecision and she is ashamed of Frankie because she is pregnant now.
-53. As Frankie completes through his own efforts the transition of romantic, egotistic love into nutritive love. Reborn and re-integrated, Frankie bears without shame the emblem of his impurities.
-54. In terms of the Biblical allusion and myth, not only the father, Frankie becomes the new lover, the lover for whom the "other" exists not as an extension of his ego, but as a unique being for whom he is responsible.
- 55. In order to emerge himself from the solipsism, Frankie at the end sends Helen to college.
- 56. The spring is not only important for Helen and Morris, it is important for Frankie too. In the spring there is consummation: "One day in April Frankie went to the hospital and had himself circumcised."
-57. Nick Fusco's final conversion brings all the readers to the Russian tradition of redemptive suffering.
-58. From **The Assistant**, the reader will be aware of Bernard Malamud's pessimism towards life.
-59. **The Assistant** reveals us of its author's belief concerning a full measure of despair, of the futility of human values in the face of contemporary reality.
-60. In **The Assistant**, Bernard Malamud succeeds in echoing the avenues of old romantic redemption-nature, romantic love, power, individuality.

-61. One of the most important features of Bernard Malamud's success lies in his delights in portraying the self in battle with an amorphous public world that turns the self into an absurd posturing Quixoticism.
-62. By all means, the reader will realize that the writer himself is an affirmative writer. He believes in the mystery of the human personality and its power to remake itself, even in the face of the law of history and science.
-63. The force of the tension, mirrored in the conflict of technique, is expressible only in irony; and nowhere in **The Assistant** is that irony so clear as in the conclusion. The final paragraph which recounts Frankie's conversion and circumcision is underscored by a tone so fiat, is so clearly an anti-climax, that the affirmation is immediately in doubt.
-64. Concerning Frankie's circumcision, it is comparable to an act of symbolic castration, for Ida used to cry, "Dog-uncircumcised dog!" Her cry still echoes to the last moment of the novel.
-65. Although Frankie Alpine is the hero of saintly redemption-the son who manages to say "yes" to life by saying "no" to self- his **success** is woven through with the texture of triumph.
-66. As for **The Assistant**, if the setting in its drab evocation is reminiscent of the social tracts of the 1930's, there is always the persistent feeling that the Bober store is on the point of fading away.
-67. **The Assistant** will certainly remind the reader of the Dreiserian mode, "the realism" is suffused not only with psychological acuteness **but** with an equally persistent if enigmatic sense of Dostoevskian mysteries that enlarge human potential.
-68. All characters- Breitbart. the watchman; AI Marsus, the paper-bag salesman; the old Polish lady who comes daily for

her three-cent roll-- are like ghosts weaving together the moral texture of the story.

.....69. One day when Karp, stricken by cancer, explains to Frankie why he goes on laboring, he says: "If I stay home, somebody in a high hat is gonna walk up the stairs and put a knock on my door. 'This way let him at least move his bony ass around and try and find me."

.....70. "What kind of winter can be in April?" asks Karp on the final day of his life just to deflect his pain and sorrow.

.....71. "I remember when you were a little baby."
She kissed his hand.
"I want the most you should be happy."
"I will be." Her eyes grew wet. "If you only knew all the good things
I'd like to give you, papa."
"You have me."
"I'll give you better."
Here is a sincere and heart-felt dialogue between Helen and Frankie.

....., 72. Concerning the grocery store, Morris said to himself. "In thirty-one years the store had changed little. Twice he had painted all over, once added new shelving. The old-fashioned double windows at the front a carpenter had made into a large single one"

..... 73. Generally speaking, The **Assistant** has brought to literature something long absent : a sense of awe both for man's capacity to endure and for his enigmatic powers to create himself anew.

.....74. Helen has a brother named Ephariam who is now living in England. He told her that he would not come back to New York.

-75. At the end of the story, Frankie married Helen and became the owner of the grocery store. Ida died of cancer one year later.
-76. Nick Fuso, who shared the flat with the Bobbers, raped Helen and killed her one night while she 'was alone.
-77. Frankie has himself circumcised at the hospital because he wants to marry Helen.
-78. After Morris' death, the grocery store becomes prosperous. Frankie has to work hard to take care of all customers.
-79. Still thinking of Nat Pearl who raped Helen. Frankie, one day, went to see Nat Pearl and murdered him.
-80. The Assistant is of course the portrayal of Frankie's development from despair to hope.
-81. 'The Assistant is the story of Frankie Alpine's slow, bitter self-subjection to his former victim.
-82. Though Frankie is an Italian, there is nothing particular about him except for the fact that he understands the preparation of minestone and pizza.
-** 83. Ward Minoque. Frankie's accomplice, is finally killed by one of the hooligans while he is walking along the road in New York.
-84. According to Frankie, the Jew are the most patient and bravest of all men in the world.
-85. Frankie holds his traditional belief that the Jew are born prisoners. That is the reason why the Bober have to work hard all the time and gain nothing.
-86. Though he dislikes Morris, Frankie secretly loves Morris as his own father.

-87. Ida wants her daughter Helen to marry Nat because she does not want her daughter to be miserable like her life.
-88. Nat Pearl really loves Helen very much because he follows her into the subway one day.
-89. The relationship between Morris and Frankie is the heart of the book-**The Assistant**.
-90. At the beginning Morris dismisses Frankie from the grocery store because he does not want Frankie to become miserable and unhappy as he is facing them now.
-91. At heart, Frankie is decent, but whatever he touches turns to ashes; because he cares, he exposes himself continually to rebuffs, absurdities, and humiliation.
- 92. One day Morris said. "I've been close to some wonderful things-jobs. for instance, education, women. but close is as far as I go. Don't ask me why. but sooner or later everything I think is worth having gets away from me in some way or other."
-Y3. Frankie said once. "I work like a mule for what I want. and just when it looks like I am going to get it I make some kind of stupid move. and everything that is just about nailed down blows up in my face I want the moon so all I get is cheese what I mean to say is that when I need it most something is missing in me, in me or on account of me."
-94. "I always have this dream where I want to tell somebody something on the telephone so bad it hurts, but then when I am in the booth, instead of a phone being there, a bunch of bananas is hanging on a hook," said Frankie to Morris.
-95. Morris, the grocer, has never altered his fortune, unless degrees of poverty means alterations, for luck and he are. if not natural enemies, not good friends.

-96. In a way, Morris and Frankie are like pawns and counters in a contest of reproaches with the Deity.
-97. It is quite true to say that both Morris and Frankie epitomize man's condition-struggling, stumbling ahead, not winning, but not losing either.
-98. Between two men : Morris and Frankie, it is true to say that Frankie faces much of the trouble and misery.
-99. Though Frankie is low at the end of the novel, his new strength of purpose is clear. He has become a Jew and will eventually get the girl.
-100. Against the appalling forces of the world, Bernard Malamud seems to give us-the reader-the picture of Frank Alpine, who stands firm and holds his love and belief as the star of light.
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PART THREE. Put a check mark (✓) in front of the meaning of the item (a, b, c, or d) which best fits the numbered or underlined word according to the story.

1. The early November street was dark though night had ended, but the wind, to the grocer's surprise, already **clawed**
 - a) decreased
 - b) reduced
 - c) lowered
 - d) came

2. Turning the key in the lock he let her in. Usually he **lugged** in the milk and lit the gas radiators, but the Polish woman was impatient.
 - a) dragged roughly
 - b) opened up
 - c) bored
 - d) snatched

3. The total now came to \$2.30, which he never hoped to see. But Ida would **nag** if she noticed a new figure, so he reduced the amount to \$1.61.
 - a) blame
 - b) find fault with him
 - c) murmur
 - d) grunt

4. Years ago it was more a **delicatessen**; now, though he still sold a little delicatessen, it was more a poor grocery.
 - a) apartment
 - b) house to let
 - c) shop selling prepared food
 - d) bar where there are partners

5. **He trotted** around the corner and soon returned carrying a bag of groceries.

- a) dawdled
 - b) loitered
 - c) crawled
 - d) ran with short steps
6. The grocer gazed into the street. He wished **fleetingly** that he could once more be out in the open as when he was a boy- never in the house,
- a) carefully
 - b) thoroughly
 - c) diligently
 - d) quickly
7. **Yet** if he **miraculously** did, where would he go, where?
- a) wonderfully
 - b) hurriedly
 - c) 'slowly
 - d) gorgeously
8. There he stood in all kinds of weather, **drenched** in rain, and the snow froze on his head.
- a) wet all over
 - b) dry completely
 - c) ashamed
 - d) terrified
9. In the early days when he drove a horse and wagon, yes, but not since his first store. **In** a store **you** were **entombed**.
- a) put into human use
 - b) confined like being in a **tomb**
 - c) wrapped up
 - d) arrested
10. Breitbart, the bulb peddler, laid down his two enormous cartons of light bulbs and **diffidently** entered the back.
- a) without self-confidence
 - b) freely

- c) fiercely
d) in a rather awkward manner
11. The peddler eased himself into a chair, derby hat and coat on, and **gulled** the hot tea, his Adam's apple bobbing.
a) poured down
b) sipped slowly ,
c) cast
d) drank quickly
12. Finally he brought up a **gob** of phlegm and wiped his mouth with his handkerchief, then his eyes.
a) clot
b) lump
c) hole
d) both a and b are correct
13. She had waked that morning **resenting** the grocer for having dragged her, so many years ago, out of a Jewish neighborhood into this.
a) encouraging
b) feeling bitter and angry
c) disappointing
d) enjoyable
14. "So if you don't have, don't talk."
"A business for drunken **bums**"
a) loafers
b) urchins
c) peddlers
d) ruffians
15. "Something worries her."
"He said with **sarcasm**. "What worries her?"
a) happiness
b) bitter remarks
c) confidence
d) honesty

16. Meaning: the store, his health, that most of her **meager** wages went to keep up payments on the house ;
- a) effective
 - b) cautious
 - c) insufficient
 - d) adequate
17. "If she will only get married," Ida murmured.
"She will **get**."
"Soon." She was on the verge of tears.
- a) nearby \
 - b) remoteness
 - c) satisfaction
 - d) close or edge
18. He was half asleep, so pleasant was the **anticipation** Sleep was his one true refreshment.
- a) expect at ion
 - b) occupation
 - c) confistication
 - d) dominance
19. His store was always a **marginal** one, up today, down tomorrow- as the wind blew.
- a) risky
 - b) not constant
 - c) prosperous
 - d) stable
20. Yet even a year ago, staying open seven days a week.. sixteen hours a day, he could **eke** out a living.
- a) became rich
 - b) grew strong
 - c) make small supplies
 - d) grow in abundance,

21. Though Ida **pooh-poohed** his worries, Morris could not overcome his underlying dread.
- a) shouted
 - b) mourned,
 - c) dissatisfied
 - d) treated with contempt
22. "Wait, you'll see he'll bring you in customers. Morris groaned; he knew his fate.
- a) was excited
 - b) expressed with despair
 - c) expressed with vanity
 - d) put off his scheme
23. Yet as the days went by, the store still sitting empty- emptier, he found himself thinking may be the new business would never **materialize**.
- a) vanish
 - b) become fact or true
 - c) degrade
 - d) dream
24. Morris wanted to ask Karp if he had guessed right but could not bear to **humiliate** himself further.
- a) lower dignity
 - b) horrify
 - c) increase respect
 - d) accumulate evidence
25. For two months it stayed the same. and every night he went away reprieved.
- a) angry
 - b) suspected
 - c) relieved for a short time
 - d) reprimanded
26. Nat touched a gloved hand to a new hat. He was **cordial** but as much held back something- his future.

- a) contented
 - b) astonished
 - c) remedial
 - d) friendly
27. Both of the women beside her seemed stolidly deaf. One held a **rosary** in her heavy hand.
- a) boudoir
 - b) belt
 - c) a string of 165 beads for prayer
 - d) talisman
28. "No." The **offense** was hers against herself.
"So what's the score?" Nat's voice was low his gray eyes annoyed.
- a) luck
 - b) sin
 - c) punishment
 - d) reward
29. She returned to hers, hiding her thoughts behind the antics of a madman until memory overthrew him and she found herself **ensnared** in scenes of summer
- a) eradicated
 - b) abolished
 - c) caught
 - d) forsaken
30. Enjoyment she had somehow had, felt very moving the freedom of fundamental **intimacy** with a man.
- a) relationship
 - b) gossip
 - c) exclamation
 - d) accessibility
31. Though she wished for more of the same, she wanted it without **aftermath** of conscience, or pride, or sense of waste.
- a) avoidance
 - b) result

- c) consequence
d) b and c are correct
32. Coming up the subway steps, she went into the park by a side entrance, and despite the sharp wind and her **threadbare** coat, took the long way home.
a) dirty
b) filthy
c) worn out or shabby
d) clean
33. When she reached, her block, a row of faded yellow brick houses, two stories squatting on ancient stones. Sam Pearl, **stiffling** a yawn, was reaching into his corner candy store window to put on the lamp.
a) rushing
b) trembling
c) selecting
d) holding back
34. He **snapped** the string and the dull glow from the fly-specked globe fell upon her.
a) snatched
b) robbed
c) joined
d) calculated
35. Sam, always **sociable**, a former cabbie, bulky, wearing bifocals and chewing gum, beamed at her but she pretended not to see.
a) warm
b) friendly
c) adorable
d) amorous
36. The Karpes, Pearls and Bobers, representing attached houses and stores, but otherwise detached, made up the small Jewish segment.
a) addition
b) parliament

- c) part
- d) division

37. None of them did well and were too poor to move elsewhere until Karp, who with a shoe store that barely made him a living. got the brilliant idea after Prohibition gurgled down the drain and liquor licenses were offered to the public.

- a) caught
- b) bluffed
- c) satired
- d) made a bubbling sound

38. The grocer, on the other hand, had never altered his fortune, unless degress of poverty meant **alterations**. for luck and he were, if not natural enemies. not good friends.

- a) changes
- b) adopt ions
- c) environments
- d) originality

39. He labored long hours, was the soul of honesty- he could not escape his **homesty**, it was bedrock.

- a) will
- b) will-power
- c) basic principles
- d) low foundation

40. . The harder he worked- his toil was a form of time **devouring** time-- the less he seemed to have.

- a) passing
- b) beginning
- c) slipping
- d) consuming

41. He dressed, combed his hair with a broken comb and **trudged** down-stairs.

- a) ran fast
 - b) walked wearily and heavily
 - c) looked in the mirror
 - d) untied his trousers
42. The grocer returned to the rear of his store and sat on the couch, letting the **diminishing** light in the yard fall upon the paper.
- a) accumulating
 - b) accelerating
 - c) increasing
 - d) becoming less
43. The house we bought too late. **so we** have still a big **mortgage** that it's hard to pay every month.
- a) bill
 - b) scholarship
 - c) necessity
 - d) motivation
44. She ate alone. It would be wonderful to sell out and move but the possibility struck her as **remote**.
- a) painful
 - b) widely separate
 - c) anxious
 - d) comfortable
45. She hated the **drab** five--room flat; a gray kitchen she used for breakfast so she could quickly get out to work in the morning.
- a) pleasing
 - b) very beautiful
 - c) dull
 - d) dark and lonely
46. With this he had to be satisfied. He still **conceded** her a future.
- a) confiscate
 - b) establish

c) granted

d) seized

47. In the evening there was a flurry of business. Morris's mood quickened and he exchanged pleasantries with the customers.

a) disaster

b) beauty

c) tumble

d) a sudden rush

48. Mr. Lawler averted his gaze and hurried along.

a) turned away

b) admitted

c) denied

d) submitted

49. He was short, pompous, a natty dresser in his advanced age.

a) delightful

b) showing self-importance

c) having no dignity

d) venerable

50. She was making amends for Nick's trip around the corner that morning. He cut her an extra slice of ham.

a) giving compensation

b) giving satisfaction

c) showing adoration

d) showing admiration

.....

PART FOUR. Answer the following questions in good English.

1. Write a short paragraph concerning Frank Alpine's life.

2. Is it justifiable to call Frank Alpine assistant? **Explain fully.** Use information in the book to support your answer.

3. Describe one of the following characters in detail.

Ida

Helen

Ward Minoque

Morris Bober

4. Why did Ida try to keep Helen far away from Frank? Is her act reasonable? Explain.

5. What relationship does Helen have with Louis and Nat? Explain fully.

6. How does Morris Bober treat Frank Alpine? Explain.

7. What did Ward Minoque often do to the girls when he was still young?
What happened TO him afterwards? Explain.

8. Both Morris and Helen are expecting and waiting for spring, what happens to both of them when spring really comes?

9. Describe Morris's grocery in detail.

10. How does St. Francis have an important role in Frank's life?
Explain.

11. As Frank is not a Jew, how does Helen treat him in the beginning?
Explain

12. What happened to Frank when he happened to see Helen naked in her room?

14. What suggestion did Morris give to Frank when he said, one day, he would become a grocer? Explain fully.

15. What is the real relationship between Morris and Frank? Quote certain lines to support your answer.

16. Eventually Frank is converted, is it worthwhile becoming a Jew? Explain fully.

17. Does Frank marry Helen at the end of the story? If not, why?

18. After having read **The Assistant**, what kind of man is a Jew? Explain fully.

19. Do you like the way the story ends or do you prefer it to end differently? Explain fully.

20. Which one do you feel more sympathetic-Helen Bober, Hester Prynne or Daisy Fay? Explain fully.
