Chapter 8 Starting with a Story – “The Education of a Samurai”

Answer the following questions.

1. What does “Samurai” mean? Identify three facts about the purpose and length of training for a Samurai. (Page 248)
   ____________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________

2. How was a Samurai trained? Explain the meaning of the Bushido code. (Page 248)
   ____________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________

The Samurai’s Weapons

The sword was the essence of the samurai. In 1587, the shogun Toyotomi Hideyoshi prohibited anyone other than samurai from carrying a long sword. About 300 years later, the samurai had to give up this privilege when the feudal system ceased to exist. To the samurai, it was a dishonor to lose one’s sword or to have it destroyed. Sometimes, it was not necessary to use the sword. In those cases, the samurai might wield the tessen, a small metal fan used defensively in duels, or the hachiwari, an iron bar with a hook near its handle. This hook could catch the blade of the opponent’s sword and disarm him.

3. What two weapons would a samurai use when a sword was unnecessary? How were they used?
   ____________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________

4. What events will a young Samurai go through before the ceremony? (Page 249)
   ____________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________

5. Identify the sequence of activities a samurai goes through in his training. (Page 249)
   ____________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________

6. What does the young Samurai study at the end of the day? Why was this thought to be important? (Page 249)
   ____________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________

7. After the ceremony what must a samurai be prepared to do? Why must he be cautious? (Page 249)
   ____________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________