

Skills Assessment Supplement

**Focus on
English-Language Arts Standards**



FORM C

TEACHER MATERIALS

GRADE 6

Skills Assessment Supplement

Focus on Language Arts Standards

Preface

The *Skills Assessment Supplement: Focus on Language Arts Standards* has been developed to help teachers monitor student progress toward mastery of grade-level standards. Three forms (Forms A, B, and C) are available to Reading First school districts (www.calread.net). These forms may be used in any order and independently of each other, as each form provides different questions to test the same standards to assess student achievement.

Formal directions for the administration of the *Skills Assessment Supplement* have intentionally not been included, to allow flexibility in the use of the supplements for assessment and instruction. Time limits have not been suggested for any section. Individual districts or schools may develop their own administration guidelines. However, it is recommended that students independently read the directions and answer the questions prior to receiving teacher support. Additional instruction and practice should be provided for students who are unable to independently read and follow directions or have not mastered specific content standards.

READING

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1.2 Identify and interpret figurative language and words with multiple meanings.

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that has the same meaning as the underlined word.

1. He was on track to graduate from college in four years.

- A. We followed the wagon track until we reached the river.
- B. Investigators were not able to track the missing aircraft.
- C. Are you on the right track for solving the math problem?
- D. The sound track from that movie received an award.

2. The judge requested that the court return to order.

- A. It was the sailor's duty to carry out the admiral's order.
- B. Order was quickly restored by the new government.
- C. The shipping clerk checked the order when it arrived.
- D. We studied the origins of the religious order.

3. Abraham Lincoln will always have a special place in United States history.

- A. The library books are out of place on the shelves.
- B. She was elected to take the senator's place.
- C. The band played the national anthem while marching in place.
- D. Soldiers returned to the place where the battle had been fought.

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that correctly completes the sentence.

4. Cookies crumbled crazily on kitchen counters.

This sentence is an example of ____.

- A. alliteration
- B. hyperbole
- C. an idiom
- D. personification

5. The trees bowed and waved as the storm passed through the forest.

The underlined phrase means ____.

- A. their leaves fell to the ground
- B. the trees became human
- C. their trunks and branches swayed
- D. the trees put on a performance

6. The blazing sun was a giant ball of fire in the noon sky.

What is being compared with a ball of fire?

- A. a giant
- B. noon
- C. the sky
- D. the sun



1.3 Recognize the origins and meanings of frequently used foreign words in English and use these words accurately in speaking and writing.

Read each question and mark the correct answer.

7. Which word probably comes from the Italian word *volcao*, meaning “fire”?

- A. volcano
- B. volunteer
- C. vacation
- D. voltage

8. Which word probably comes from the French word *liber*, meaning “free”?

- A. freedom
- B. library
- C. liberty
- D. freeze

9. Which word probably comes from the Greek word *polis*, meaning “city”?

- A. pollution
- B. citation
- C. polish
- D. politics

10. Which word probably comes from the Latin word *civis*, meaning “belonging to a city”?

- A. resident
- B. citizen
- C. citrus
- D. residue

1.4 Monitor expository text for unknown words or words with novel meanings by using word, sentence, and paragraph clues to determine meaning.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Since the days of the bucket brigade, great strides have been made in firefighting. Today’s firefighters are professionals and even specialists. Among the most specialized are smokejumpers — those who fight forest fires.

The most important requirement for being a smokejumper is excellent physical condition. Endurance and strength are absolutely necessary. Trainees must also learn wilderness survival and advanced firefighting techniques.

Since they often land in thickly forested areas, smokejumpers face the perpetual problem of tangled parachute lines. Smokejumpers must also be able to work alone. While the city firefighter is backed by a whole fleet of support vehicles, a smokejumper patrols long stretches of forest on foot, carrying up to a hundred pounds of special equipment.

11. In the passage, the word *strides* means

- _____.
- A. to walk with long steps
 - B. an advance
 - C. a single long step
 - D. the distance traveled in a step

12. In the passage, the word *perpetual* means

- _____.
- A. ending
 - B. unlikely
 - C. continuing
 - D. changing



13. In the passage, the word *fleet* means _____.

- A. a group of vehicles
- B. moving swiftly
- C. a number of warships
- D. to vanish

1.5 Understand and explain “shades of meaning” in related words (e.g., softly and quietly).

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that means the same or about the same as the underlined word.

14. Immigrants slept in close quarters on the ship.

- A. near
- B. obstructed
- C. crowded
- D. united

15. The doctor closed the wound immediately.

- A. completed
- B. bound together
- C. ended
- D. filled

16. His identity was closely held information.

- A. thoroughly
- B. temporarily
- C. permanently
- D. securely




2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials)

Structural Features of Informational Materials

2.1 Identify the structural features of popular media (e.g., newspapers, magazines, online information) and use the features to obtain information.


Use the **Bad Wolf Press** web page to answer questions 1, 2, 3, and 4.

ONLINE



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1. If you are not sure what kind of plays Black Wolf Press offers, click on _____.

- A. Community Theatres
- B. “The American Revolution: 1763-1789”
- C. What does it cost?
- D. See the Scripts and Hear the Music

2. If you want to see a play about a detective, click on _____.

- A. “The American Revolution: 1763-1789”
- B. Masterminding Math: A Sherlock Holmes Problem-Solving Play”
- C. Free Stuff
- D. Who is Black Wolf?

3. To order a catalog, click on _____.

- A. More
- B. Guarantee
- C. Dan@blackwolfpress.com
- D. School packs

4. Musical plays are available for _____.

- A. Grades K-9
- B. Grades 2-6
- C. Grades 3-8
- D. Grades 6-9



2.2 Analyze text that uses the compare-and-contrast organizational pattern.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

To most people, the ocean is a mysterious environment, inhabited by strange creatures we know little about. For this reason, many people think large sea creatures such as sharks and whales are very similar. Because they inhabit the same oceans, sharks and whales do have some similarities. But because sharks are fish, and whales are mammals, they are different in many ways.

One obvious similarity between sharks and whales is their shape. Both have highly streamlined bodies that allow them to swim with little effort. From a distance under water, the skin of both the whale and shark looks smooth. Actually, the shark's skin is covered with rough, toothlike scales. The whale's skin is smooth and rubbery.

Whales are warm-blooded — they always have the same body temperature. They have lungs and breathe air from the ocean's surface through a nostril on top of their head called a blowhole. Whales have poor eyesight and no sense of smell. Whales can hear a wide range of sounds and rely mainly on this sense. Since whales are mammals, they give birth to live young and usually to one calf at a time.

Sharks are cold-blooded — their body temperature changes with the water temperature. They get oxygen by filtering water through gills on each side of their head. Sharks have excellent hearing but rely mainly on their keen sense of smell. They can detect blood in the water a half mile away. Sharks' eggs are hatched inside the mother's body, and the mother gives birth to up to 60 young.

Although they inhabit the same environment, the shark and whale are very different. However, they are both magnificent creatures of the oceans.

5. In what way are sharks and whales alike?

- A. Both have skin covered with scales.
- B. Both rely mainly on their sense of hearing.
- C. Both sharks and whales have similar shapes.
- D. Both sharks and whales breathe through gills.

6. In what way are sharks and whales different?

- A. Sharks are cold-blooded and whales are warm-blooded.
- B. Sharks are mammals and whales are fish.
- C. Whales lay eggs and sharks give birth to live young.
- D. Sharks rely mainly on their sense of smell, and whales rely on their eyesight.

7. Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Sharks and whales breathe air through a blowhole.
- B. Sharks have no sense of hearing.
- C. Shark skin is smooth and rubbery.
- D. Whales rely mainly on their sense of hearing.



Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

2.3 *Connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics.*

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

As a boy, Henry Ford loved to tinker with machines. He spent most of the time in his workshop with tools and plans in hand. Eventually, Ford's love of machines and talent for mathematics paid off. With his invention of the "horseless carriage," he became one of the pioneers of the automobile age.

Henry Ford was born on his family's farm in Dearborn, Michigan, on July 30, 1863. Although Ford loved the farm, he was not destined to stay there. Milking the cows and plowing the fields bored him. He preferred to repair watches or redesign farm equipment.

One of the most exciting events for young Ford was the arrival of a steam engine that rolled into town. Excitedly, Ford fired questions about every detail of its workings. The engineer was impressed with the boy's knowledge and invited Henry to help run the machine.

When he was seventeen, Ford moved to Detroit. With over 900 factories, it was the perfect place for the young inventor. Ford became an apprentice at several machine shops. When he finished his training, a company hired him to set up steam engines for local farmers.

Ford later worked as an engineer for an electric company which gave him some valuable experience. Between 1893 and 1896, Ford perfected his plan for a horseless carriage driven by a gasoline engine. On June 4, 1896, he completed his work. In a light drizzle a few minutes before midnight, Ford drove his first automobile into the streets of Detroit.

8. **What is the main idea of this passage?**

- A. Henry Ford's early interest in machines helped him become a pioneer of the automobile age.
- B. Henry Ford was not destined to stay on the family farm.
- C. Henry Ford impressed many people with his knowledge of steam engines.
- D. Henry Ford's talent for mathematics eventually paid off.

9. **Which is the best summary of the fourth paragraph?**

- A. Ford lived in Detroit for seventeen years. He found over 900 factories there.
- B. Ford worked as an inventor for an electric company. Later, farmers hired him to set up steam engines.
- C. Ford moved to Detroit at seventeen. After his training, he worked for a steam-engine company.
- D. Ford discovered Detroit was the perfect place to live. He became an apprentice when the steam engine rolled into town.

10. **Which is the best summary of this passage?**

- A. Henry Ford lived on a farm in Dearborn, Michigan. He was always in his workshop or working on a steam engine.
- B. As a young boy, Henry Ford built a steam engine. He moved to Detroit and worked in a machine shop for many years.
- C. Henry Ford loved machines. He worked for several companies in Detroit and eventually invented a car powered by a gasoline engine.
- D. At seventeen, Henry Ford moved to Detroit and worked for several companies. In 1896, he perfected his plans for a steam engine.



2.4 Clarify an understanding of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.

Read the passage and the outline. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Skin diving is a sport that allows divers to enter a new world beneath the surface of lakes, oceans, and rivers. Breath-hold diving and scuba diving are the two basic kinds of skin diving.

Breath-hold diving requires no special equipment. However, most divers use some standard equipment. They usually wear a face mask, swim fins, and a snorkel — a short breathing tube that protrudes out of the water. A diver may also wear a wet suit. The small amount of equipment makes breath-hold diving inexpensive. However, divers can only descend 30 to 40 feet and must return to the surface in less than a minute.

In addition to the equipment of the breath-hold diver, the scuba diver uses tanks of compressed air, a demand regulator that controls the flow of air, and a weighted belt. The air tanks allow the diver to stay under water at about 40 feet for about an hour. But scuba diving can be dangerous. A serious injury can result if the pressure in a diver's lungs does not equal the water pressure.

- I. Breath-holding diving
 - A. Standard equipment
 - 1. mask
 - 2. _____
 - 3. snorkel
 - 4. wet suit
 - B. Advantage — inexpensive
 - C. Disadvantage — cannot descend deeply
- II. _____
 - A. Standard equipment
 - 1. breath-hold equipment
 - 2. air tank
 - 3. demand regulator
 - 4. weighted belt
 - B. Advantage — can remain underwater for many minutes.
 - C. _____

11. What is the second detail under the topic *Breath-holding diving*?

- A. short breathing tube
- B. swim fins
- C. 30-40 feet
- D. special equipment

12. What is the topic for *II*?

- A. skin diving
- B. 40 feet
- C. Scuba diving
- D. serious injury

13. What is the subtopic for *IIC*?

- A. Disadvantage — serious injury can result
- B. Serious injury
- C. Disadvantage — compressed air
- D. Scuba diving can be dangerous



2.5 Follow multiple-step instructions for preparing applications (e.g., for a public library card, bank savings account, sports club, league membership).

Read the following application. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Train Museum

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

1. _____
 Name _____

_____ Address _____ City, State, ZIP code _____

_____ Home telephone number _____ E-mail _____

_____ Social Security number _____ Age Under 18 Over 18

2. _____
Education: School most recently attended _____

3. _____
Employment: Special skills or training _____

_____ Computer skills _____

_____ Fluency in other languages (please specify) _____

4. Is there a specific department or program at the museum in which you would like to work? _____

Why do you want to volunteer at the Train Museum? _____

5. **Availability:** Please check the times you are available to volunteer.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.							
1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.							

A minimum commitment of one year is required.

I have read a copy of "Volunteer Regulations and Procedure."

_____ Signature _____ Date _____



14. For how long must you agree to work at the Train Museum?

- A. two years
- B. one year
- C. six months
- D. three months

15. All of these are required on the application form except your _____.

- A. address
- B. telephone number
- C. date of birth
- D. signature

16. The purpose of section 5 is to find out _____.

- A. what hours the museum is open
- B. your computer skills
- C. what hours you can work
- D. where you attend school

Expository Critique

2.6 Determine the adequacy and appropriateness of the evidence for an author's conclusions.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Dear Editor:

The Twilight Theater is a historical and architectural treasure. It should not be torn down to make room for a parking garage.

Built in 1890, the Twilight Theater exhibits all the finest architectural achievements of that period. Its large Corinthian columns, grand staircases, and richly carved handrails give it the elegance of a New York theater.

Besides offering the best movies in town, the Twilight was a gathering place for important historical and political events. Politicians from every corner of the state stopped there to deliver their annual dose of campaign promises. Who could forget the families who waited on its steps to hear the latest news from World Wars I and II?

Our mayor insists that the Twilight Theater costs too much to maintain. Others say the Twilight must go to make room for progress. But a twenty-four story parking garage is not progress. We must remember that "progress" does not mean tearing down what we value and have worked so hard to achieve.

Admittedly, as our town grows, it will need more parking spaces. However, building a new parking facility on an empty lot makes more sense than tearing down our theater.

Sincerely,

Ellie Riesen

President, Thorton Historical Society



17. Which detail best supports the main idea of this passage?

- A. Our mayor insists the Twilight Theater must go to make way for progress.
- B. Built in 1890, the Twilight Theater exhibits all the finest architectural achievements of that period.
- C. A twenty-four story parking garage is not progress.
- D. Tearing down the theater will not make sense as the town grows.

18. What is the author's attitude toward progress?

- A. Progress should be made if it will result in more convenient parking.
- B. Progress should not be made.
- C. Progress should be welcomed if it results in financial gain.
- D. Progress should be made, but not at the expense of historical landmarks.

19. Based on this passage, which statement is most likely true?

- A. Members of the Historical Society are against progress.
- B. The progress of the town depends on the destruction of the theater.
- C. People sometimes destroy part of their history in the name of progress.
- D. Political events are always held in historical buildings.

2.7 Make reasonable assertions about a text through accurate, supporting citations.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Can you remember what you had for lunch last Friday? Unless it was a special day, such as your birthday, the chances are that you can't. On the other hand, you probably remember some events that took place years ago.

Though human memory isn't completely understood, scientists believe that information is stored in our brains as a result of physical connections made by brain cells. When something important or memorable happens, we replay it in our minds again and again. Each time we recall the event, new brain cell connections are made. Thus, the event is imprinted into our memory banks. Unimportant events are not recalled once they are over. Therefore, our brains never connect them to anything they already have in storage.

20. A conclusion you can make from this passage is _____.

- A. it is difficult to remember Friday's lunch
- B. events that took place years ago are not special
- C. repetition is an important factor in memory
- D. scientists know information is stored in the brain

21. If you wanted to remember last Friday's lunch, you could _____.

- A. write down what you ate and keep it in a safe place
- B. recall it several times during the week
- C. try not to remember what you ate on the other days
- D. eat something you don't like



22. Most people can recall their first day of school because _____.

- A. the event has been imprinted in their memory banks
- B. it is easy to remember important events
- C. they were very young when the event occurred
- D. the brain stores every experience as information

2.8 Note instances of unsupported inferences, fallacious reasoning, persuasion, and propaganda in text.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Some of the first mirrors were made from glass, but most were made from polished metal. In ancient Rome and Greece, bronze was the most common material used for mirrors. Later, mirrors made from silver and gold became the prized possessions of the wealthy. During the Middle Ages, people discovered a way to put silver backing on a piece of glass. This made mirrors more available to everyone.

During the Italian Renaissance, craftsmen began to make glass mirrors on a commercial scale. More and more people began to buy mirrors. In Venice, they spread a mixture of tin and mercury over a piece of glass. When the mixture dried, it created a shiny, reflecting surface. This process helped change mirrors from merely decorative objects to tools used for scientific purposes in the 1700s; the making of microscopes and telescopes began.

When Baron Justus von Liebig found a new way to put silver on glass in 1840, he greatly reduced the cost of mirrors. First he covered the glass with a thin coat of silver nitrate. Then he added another chemical that changed the silver nitrate to silver. He then polished it to a very high gloss. Some improvements have been made since 1840, but Liebig's process is still the basis for making mirrors.

23. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Bronze was used by Greeks and Romans to make mirrors.
- B. Microscopes and telescopes were first made in the 1700s.
- C. Although most early mirrors were made from metal, some were made from glass.
- D. Coating glass with silver was an important step in the process of making mirrors.

24. Which statement is not supported by evidence in the passage?

- A. Before the Middle Ages, only the wealthy could afford mirrors.
- B. Using tin and mercury in mirrors led to the development of the microscope.
- C. During the Italian Renaissance, craftsmen began making mirrors on a commercial scale because more people were interested in science.
- D. Liebig's process made it cheaper to make mirrors.

25. Based on this passage, which statement is true?

- A. Liebig added another chemical to the silver nitrate to make mirrors for scientific purposes.
- B. In the Middle Ages, mirrors became available to everyone because they were cheaper to make.
- C. Baron von Liebig experimented with mirrors because he liked decorative objects.
- D. In the 1840s, mirrors were used for scientific purposes because tin and mercury were no longer available.



3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Structural Features of Literature

3.1 Identify the forms of fiction and describe the major characteristics of each form.

Read the following book titles and summaries. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

All Summer in a Day by Marilyn Wilhite. School children on Xylex await the appearance of the sun for the first time in ten years.

1. This book would be found in a collection of _____.

- A. fables
- B. folktales
- C. myths
- D. science fiction

Hidden Treasure by Molly O’Conner. Leprechauns lead villagers to the legendary pot of gold.

2. This book would be found in a collection of _____.

- A. folktales
- B. fables
- C. science fiction
- D. myths

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse by Aesop. The mouse cousins visit each other and share a meal; each learns a lesson about how the other lives.

3. This book would be found in a collection of _____.

- A. myths
- B. fables
- C. science fiction
- D. historical fiction



Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

3.2 Analyze the effect of the qualities of the character (e.g., courage or cowardice, ambition or laziness) on the plot and the resolution of the conflict.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Students rushed past Matt in the noisy hallway, but he didn't seem to notice the chaos or the crowd. Matt was looking at one of his campaign posters on the wall near the principal's office. Someone had drawn a moustache on his face and had blackened out his teeth. Matt quickly removed the poster.

Just then his friend Julie walked by. "Who did that?" she wondered aloud.

"I don't know," said Matt. "I just saw it."

"It must be Ben, your 'honorable' opponent in this election," said Julie. "Who else would have a reason to want you to lose the election?"

"I don't know," Matt said slowly. "I don't think he's that kind of person. Let's not jump to conclusions."

But Julie was furious. She wanted her friend Matt to win the election and become president of the senior class.

"I'll show Ben a thing or two," she thought. "I'll destroy a few of his posters and see how he likes it." She proceeded to do just that.

Soon the hallway was littered with posters of both Matt and Ben with missing teeth, moustaches, and scribbles. Ben was mystified, too. He was convinced Matt wouldn't do something so hurtful, but he wondered who was.

Finally, the teachers and principal put a stop to the vandalism by calling off the whole election. Everyone was very disappointed, especially Julie, who thought it was very unfair.

"They started it," she repeated angrily to anyone who would listen. Finally, people stopped listening.

4. What was Matt's goal in the story?

- A. to defeat Ben
- B. to get revenge for the destruction of his posters
- C. to become class president
- D. to have a friend become president

5. Which two characters seem the most alike?

- A. Matt and Julie
- B. Julie and Ben
- C. Julie and the principal
- D. Matt and Ben

6. What happened at the end of the story?

- A. Matt defeated Ben in the election.
- B. All the posters were destroyed.
- C. The election was called off.
- D. Ben drew on the posters.



3.3 Analyze the influence of setting on the problem and its resolution.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

I am awakened by the sound of thunder. Quietly, I sit up in bed. I am all alone in the apartment. The air holds mysterious sounds. "Are you safe, Dimitri?" I ask myself. I see a shadow on the window! The sight of it scares me. I slip beneath my blanket. The room is dark except for the glow from the small lamp. I hear footsteps outside. Could they belong to some strange creature? I have never been this frightened before. Then I hear a tap on the door. "Who is it?" I whisper softly. What a comfort to hear Uncle Mike's voice.

7. Dimitri was awakened by _____.
 A. footsteps
 B. a knock on the door
 C. thunder
 D. a bright light
8. How did Dimitri feel at the end of the story?
 A. relieved
 B. tired
 C. apprehensive
 D. confident
9. This story takes place in _____.
 A. a cabin in the evening
 B. a house at midnight
 C. a tent at dawn
 D. an apartment at night

3.4 Define how tone or meaning is conveyed in poetry through word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, line length, punctuation, rhythm, repetition, and rhyme.

Read the poem. Mark the answer that correctly completes each sentence.

When breezes are soft and skies are fair,
I steal an hour from study and care,
And hie me away to the woodland scene,
Where wanders the stream with water of green,
As if the bright fringe of herbs on its brink
Had given their stain to the waves they drink;
And they whose meadows it murmurs through,
Have named the stream from its own fair hue.
– William Cullen Bryant

10. In good weather, the poet likes to _____.

- A. swim in the stream
 B. plant herbs
 C. go to the woods
 D. gaze at the sky

11. As used in line 2, *steal* means to

- A. move secretly
 B. take time out
 C. rob
 D. look quickly

12. The stream got its name from its _____.

- A. size
 B. location
 C. sparkle
 D. color



3.5 Identify the speaker and recognize the difference between first- and third-person narration (e.g., autobiography compared with biography).

Read each passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Passage A

Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to be important. Just being nice and lovable and hanging around the house never seemed sufficient. I felt the need for adventure, glamour, even danger, or at least a change.

On television I'd see programs about rescue dogs. My life seemed so dull by comparison. I crunch biscuits and forage under the table to see if anything interesting got dropped. I don't find people in avalanches or guide blind people through traffic.

Passage B

A handcuffed man plunged off a bridge through a hole in the ice into the freezing waters of the Detroit River. A huge crowd watched on that winter morning in 1906 in Detroit, Michigan. The man was Harry Houdini, a magician and escape artist. Houdini was famous for his underwater escape act, though he had never before tried going under the ice. Swimming up toward the ice-covered surface of the river, he quickly opened the handcuffs.

13. Passage A is _____.

- A. from a nonfiction article about dogs
- B. a third-person narration
- C. a first-person narration
- D. written by a speaker outside the story

14. Passage B is _____.

- A. an account of one's own personal experience
- B. a first-person narration
- C. written by a character in the story
- D. a third-person narration

15. Which statement is true?

- A. Both narrators present events from their personal experience.
- B. The narrator of Passage A tells the story from an animal's point of view; the narrator of Passage B is writing a biography.
- C. The narrator of Passage A is a fictional character; Passage B is a passage from a biography.
- D. The narrator of Passage A tells the story from the main character's point of view; Passage B is a passage from an autobiography.



3.6 Identify and analyze features of themes conveyed through characters, actions, and images.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Once upon a time, there was a man who had three sons. The first was proud and vain. The second was muscular and strong. The third was kind and much loved by everyone who knew him. One day, the man called his sons together. "You are grown now," he said, "and it is time for you to make your way in the world. I have a gift for each of you." To the first son, he gave a bag of gold. "Use it wisely," he said.

"Gold is the thing for me," said the first son. "I will buy some fine clothes so that I look as rich as a king." And he went on his way.

To the second son, the man gave a bag of silver. "Use it wisely," he said.

"I will use it to buy a sword and shield," said the son, "so that I will be strong in battle against anyone who challenges me." And he went on his way.

Then the man spoke to his beloved third son. "All I have left," he said, "is this empty bag. Use it wisely, and it will serve you well."

"An empty bag holds possibility," said the son. So he took it and set on his way.

16. Why does the first son want fine clothes?

- A. he has never had nice clothes
- B. he wants to look important
- C. he wants to look better than his brothers
- D. he doesn't need a sword and shield

17. What does the third son's response reveal about his character?

- A. There is a possibility he can fill the empty bag with gold and silver.
- B. He is jealous of his brothers.
- C. He is content with his gift.
- D. He would have preferred gold or silver.

18. Which of the following best states the theme of the passage?

- A. Be careful what you wish for.
- B. Make the best of what you are given.
- C. Gold and silver are more valuable than an empty bag.
- D. Older children receive better gifts.



3.7 Explain the effects of common literary devices (e.g., symbolism, imagery, metaphor) in a variety of fictional and nonfictional texts.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Hana loves to ride her bicycle on the path by Lake Michigan. It is always an interesting adventure, full of wonderful sights. The lake seems a million miles wide, so wide that Hana cannot see across it. She likes the clear, sunny days when the water is a sparkling sapphire of bright blue. On windy days, the lake is choppy and water splashes on the concrete path. Then Hana gets soaked, and her bike hisses as she rides over the wet concrete. Whenever she rides, she notices everything around her – joggers, skaters, picnickers, and even the city skyline that rises like an ancient pyramid against the sky.

19. In the passage, “seems a million miles wide” is an example of ____.

- A. symbolism
- B. metaphor
- C. hyperbole
- D. personification

20. In the passage, the author describes the water as ____.

- A. clear
- B. an adventure
- C. splashing
- D. a sapphire

21. Which of the following is used in a simile in the passage?

- A. pyramid
- B. choppy
- C. picnickers
- D. concrete

Literary Criticism

3.8 Critique the credibility of characterization and the degree to which a plot is contrived or realistic (e.g., compare use of fact and fantasy in historical fiction).

Read each passage. Then read each question and mark the answer that would be the most realistic plot for the story.

After leaving the trail to explore an abandoned mine, Pedro and Jose realize they are lost in the mountains. With no supplies or compass to guide them, they are running out of hope. Then as the sun set on the third day, ____.

22. A. they follow animal tracks that lead them back to their car
- B. they find a convenience store just off the trail
- C. they hear the distant calls of a rescue team
- D. they find a backpack with a cell phone

For as long as she could remember, Jan wanted to be a reporter for a national newspaper. She studied journalism in college and worked in the summer for the neighborhood newspaper. Then one day ____.

23. A. one of her stories suddenly appeared on the front page of the *New York Times*
- B. she decided to become a dancer instead
- C. one of her stories won a contest in the local newspaper
- D. she won the Nobel Prize for literature



WRITING

1.0 Writing Strategies

Research and Technology

1.4 Use organizational features of electronic text (e.g., bulletin boards, databases, keyword searches, e-mail addresses) to locate information

Read each question and mark the correct answer.

1. Look at the website addresses below. At which one would you expect to find information on where U.S. coins are minted?

- A. www.coincident.org
- B. www.dep.postal.com
- C. www.dep.treasury.gov
- D. www.moneycoin.edu

Use the sample browser window to answer question 2.



2. To see what a red-tailed hawk looks like you _____.

- A. click on the hawk picture
- B. click on www.allabouthawks.net
- C. click on All About Hawks!
- D. click here on "To see pictures of hawks click here."

3. To find information about the Appalachian Mountains in eastern North America, which key word is best?

- A. Appalachian
- B. mountains
- C. eastern
- D. North America



WRITTEN AND ORAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Sentence Structure

1.1 Use simple, compound, and compound-complex sentences; use effective coordination and subordination of ideas to express complete thoughts.

Read each question and mark the correct answer.

1. Which of the following sentences is a simple sentence?
- A. Joe had time, but he didn't finish weeding the garden.
 - B. White tables and chairs were under the green tents in the park.
 - C. I left; Marcy stayed at school.
 - D. Even though it was raining, Rachel walked to work.
2. Which of the following sentences is a compound-complex sentence?
- A. Pennsylvania was settled by William Penn, the son of a wealthy English admiral.
 - B. On the west coast, California borders Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon.
 - C. As the guide had warned us, the trail was steep, so we returned to camp.
 - D. Raul and Melissa will go to South America with the guide; Raul will photograph the volcano.
3. Which sentence combines the sentences below with a coordinating conjunction?
- Pedro studied hard for the test. He still didn't feel confident.*
- A. Although Pedro studied hard for the test, he still didn't feel confident.
 - B. Pedro studied hard for the test; he still didn't feel confident.
 - C. Pedro still didn't feel confident even though he studied hard for the test.
 - D. Pedro studied hard for the test, but he still didn't feel confident.
4. Which sentence combines the sentences below with a subordinating conjunction?
- New York is a border state. It has customs checkpoints along its northern boundary.*
- A. Since New York is a border state, it has customs checkpoints along its northern boundary.
 - B. New York is a border state with customs checkpoints along its northern boundary.
 - C. New York is a border state, and it has customs checkpoints along its northern boundary.
 - D. New York is a border state; it has customs checkpoints along its northern boundary.



Grammar

1.2 Identify and properly use indefinite pronouns and present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect verb tenses; ensure that verbs agree with compound subjects.

Read each question and mark the correct answer.

5. Which of the sentences is written correctly?

- A. No one in the class were listening to the speaker.
- B. Someone in the crowd are waving to us.
- C. Few of his songs was performed in concert.
- D. Neither of them was wearing a hat.

6. Which of these sentences correctly uses the future perfect tense of the verb *eat*?

- A. We will have eaten the brownies by midnight.
- B. We will have ate the brownies by midnight.
- C. We will eat the brownies by midnight.
- D. We would have ate the brownies by midnight.

7. Which of these sentences is written correctly?

- A. Olivia and her aunt goes to the farmers' market every Saturday.
- B. Do you and your friend has classes together?
- C. Were your mother and father in the audience?
- D. Our neighbors and friends down the streets writes movie scripts.

Punctuation

1.3 Use colons after the salutation in business letters, semicolons to connect independent clauses, and commas when linking two clauses with a conjunction in compound sentences.

Read each question and mark the correct answer.

8. Which salutation in a business letter is written correctly?

- A. Dear Mr. Rodriguez
- B. Dear Mr. Rodriguez:
- C. Dear Mr. Rodriguez,
- D. Dear Mr. Rodriguez;

9. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A. The sand at the beach was beautiful, it was perfect for building sand castles.
- B. The sand at the beach was beautiful; and it was perfect for building sand castles.
- C. The sand at the beach was beautiful: it was perfect for building sand castles.
- D. The sand at the beach was beautiful; it was perfect for building sand castles.

10. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A. The lake water was cold but: many people were swimming.
- B. The lake water was cold but, many people were swimming.
- C. The lake water was cold, but many people were swimming.
- D. The lake water was cold; but many people were swimming.



Capitalization

1.4 Use correct capitalization.

Read each sentence. Mark the sentence that uses correct capitalization.

11. A. Mrs. Bryant replied, "you'll have to make up that work by Monday."
 B. The exhibit in Independence hall will be open in september.
 C. Her father, dr. Martin, teaches at the University of california.
 D. Did you know there are Chinese, Italian, and Mexican restaurants downtown?
12. A. Last july, I began working at the Globe Theater.
 B. The title of my essay is "fifty Uses for Duct Tape."
 C. He photographed the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.
 D. "Where the sidewalk Ends" is a collection of amusing poems by Shel Silverstein.
13. A. The ruling by judge Quinn was printed in the *Los Angeles Times*.
 B. The committee decided the school's new teams would be known as the lincoln high partners.
 C. Mr. and mrs. Dawes helped organize the parade for Memorial day.
 D. To travel from Austin to San Antonio, go south on Interstate 35.

Spelling

1.5 Spell frequently misspelled words correctly (e.g., their, they're, there).

Read each sentence. Mark the sentence in which the underlined word is spelled and used correctly.

14. A. Right your answer on a separate sheet of paper.
 B. Did you loose your sweater at the game?
 C. We should find out whether practice is canceled.
 D. He fastened the rowboat to the pier with a square not.
15. A. Two sprinters streaked passed the finish line together.
 B. Name an animal that is faster then a cheetah.
 C. She waited in the emergency room with the other patience.
 D. We watched as workers moved the steel beams into place.
16. A. I used a special process for dyeing the fabric.
 B. Our coach expected the hole team to be at the game.
 C. The bear walls made the cabin feel empty.
 D. His costume for the play was very simple and plane.



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