SAMPLE TEST
Reading/Literature
2011-2013

GRADE 7

Vocabulary
Read to Perform a Task
Demonstrate General Understanding
Develop an Interpretation
Examine Content and Structure: Informational Text
Examine Content and Structure: Literary Text

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DIRECTIONS

Read each of the passages. Then read the questions that follow and decide on the BEST answer. There are a lot of different kinds of questions, so read each question carefully before marking an answer on your answer sheet.

PUPPY LOVE

Read this true story about a dog who did some amazing things to help a friend.

ERIC SEAL THOUGHT THE scruffy puppy at his feet was perhaps five weeks old. Sometime during the night, the little mixed-breed female had been dumped at the Seals’ front gate.

“Before you ask,” he told Jeffrey, his wife, “the answer is an absolute no! We are not going to keep it. We don’t need another dog. When and if we do, we’ll get a purebred.”

As though she hadn’t heard him, his wife sweetly asked, “What kind do you think it is?”

Eric shook his head. “It’s hard to tell. From her color markings and the way she holds her ears in a half-lop, I’d say she’s part German shepherd.”

“We can’t just turn her away,” Jeffrey pleaded. “I’ll feed her and get her cleaned up. Then we’ll find a home for her.”

Standing between them, the puppy seemed to sense that her fate was being decided. Her tail wagged tentatively and she looked from one to the other. Eric noticed that although her ribs showed through a dull coat, her eyes were bright and animated.

Finally, he shrugged his shoulders. “Okay, if you want to fool with her, go ahead. But let’s get one thing straight: We don’t need a Heinz-57 mongrel.”

The puppy nestled comfortably in Jeffrey’s arms as they walked toward the house. “One other thing,” Eric continued. “Let’s wait a few days to put her in the pen with Tex. We don’t want Tex exposed to anything. He has
all the troubles he can handle.”

Tex, the six-year-old cattle dog the Seals had raised from a puppy, was unusually amiable for a blue-heeler, a breed established by ranchers in Australia. So, although he already shared his doghouse with a yellow cat, soon Tex happily moved over and made room for the new puppy the Seals called Heinz.

Not long before Heinz showed up, the Seals had noticed that Tex appeared to be losing his eyesight. Their veterinarian said he thought the dog had cataracts that might be surgically removed.

But when they brought Tex to a specialist in Dallas, he determined that the dog’s poor eyesight was only partially due to cataracts. He made an appointment for Tex at the local college’s veterinary laboratory.

Doctors there determined that Tex was already blind. They explained that no medical or surgical procedure could have halted or delayed Tex’s progressive loss of vision.

As they talked on their way home, the Seals realized that over the last few months, they had watched Tex cope with his blindness. Now they understood why Tex sometimes missed a gate opening or bumped his nose on the chain-link fence. And why he usually stayed on the gravel walkways traveling to and from the house. If he wandered off, he quartered back and forth until he was on the gravel again.

While the couple had been preoccupied with Tex’s troubles, Heinz had grown plump and frisky, and her dark brown-and-black coat glowed with health.

It was soon obvious that the little German shepherd crossbreed would be a large dog—too large to continue sharing a doghouse with Tex and the yellow cat. One weekend, the Seals built another doghouse next to the one the dogs had shared.

It was then they recognized that what they had assumed was puppy playfulness—Heinz’s pushing and tugging at Tex while romping with him—actually had a purpose. Without any training or coaching, Heinz had become Tex’s “seeing eye” dog.

Each evening when the dogs settled in for the night, Heinz gently took Tex’s nose in her mouth and led him into his house. In
the morning, she got him up and guided him out of the house again.

When the two dogs approached a gate, Heinz used her shoulder to guide Tex through. When they ran along the fence surrounding their pen, Heinz placed herself between Tex and the wire.

“On sunny days, Tex sleeps stretched out on the driveway asphalt,” says Jeffrey. If a car approaches, Heinz will nudge him awake and guide him out of danger.

“Any number of times we’ve seen Heinz push Tex aside to get him out of the horses’ way. What we didn’t understand at first was how the two could run side by side, dashing full speed across the pasture. Then one day, the dogs accompanied me while I exercised my horse, and I heard Heinz ‘talking’ — she was making a series of soft grunts to keep Tex on course beside her.”

The Seals were awed. Without any training, the young dog had devised whatever means were necessary to help, guide and protect her blind companion. It was clear that Heinz shared more than her eyes with Tex; she shared her heart.

1
What does the word **progressive** mean as it is used in the story?
A. Modern
B. Complete
C. Increasing
D. Encouraging

2
The two themes most strongly associated with this story would be
A. loyalty and friendship.
B. loss and loneliness.
C. bravery and loss.
D. friendship and ownership.
3
When the two dogs ran along the fence, Heinz placed herself between Tex and the wire to
A. make sure Eric saw her.
B. keep Tex from bumping it.
C. hide Tex’s blindness from others.
D. show how fast they could run.

4
The image of Heinz guiding Tex in and out of his house is included to show how
A. rough Heinz often is with Tex.
B. understanding Heinz is with Tex.
C. much Tex likes to be in his house.
D. Tex has no idea what his house is for.

5
Eric Seal wanted to wait a few days to put Heinz in the pen with Tex because he
A. didn’t want the strange dogs to fight.
B. wasn’t sure if they would fit.
C. didn’t think it was fair to the yellow cat.
D. didn’t want Tex exposed to anything.

NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

In this article, a veteran backpacker gives advice on how to deal with allergies on the trail.

DONNA GRIFFITHS MADE ALLERGY HISTORY when she was 12 years old. Starting in 1981, the British girl sneezed every few minutes for 977 consecutive days. Doctors estimate Griffiths ah-chooed 1 million times the first year; she eventually slowed to a sneeze every 5 minutes.

Fortunately for most of us, battling allergies is a mercifully short springtime affair. Still, there are few things as frustrating as finally getting on the trail only to have your vistas blurred by watery eyes and the smell of evergreens lost in your sniffles. And there’s plenty of it going around: Researchers at the American Academy of Allergies, Asthma, and Immunology estimate that allergic rhinitis, or hay fever, affects at least 36 million Americans each year. But
don’t despair. Doctors agree there’s no reason seasonal allergies should keep you from enjoying your favorite backcountry haunts. With the right mix of preparation, knowledge of when plants pollinate, and treatment options, you’ll be able to stop and smell the grasses without giving Griffiths a run for her record.

“The first thing you should do is find out what you’re allergic to,” advises Adela Taylor, M.D., a physician at the North Carolina-based Mountain Allergy Clinic. Although culprits differ regionally, the most common backcountry allergens include mold spores and pollens from grasses, ragweed, and trees, especially birch and oak. Contrary to popular belief, wildflowers probably won’t make you sneeze. Their pollen is too sticky and heavy, says Dr. Taylor, to float up your nose.

If you’re not sure what’s causing your reaction, a simple skin test by your doctor can pinpoint it. “Then you can determine what time of year you should or shouldn’t go camping,” Dr. Taylor says. Use this timeline as a rough guide.

- In the lower 48, grasses start to pollinate in May and June, but can continue through the summer at higher elevations.
- Sagebrush, ragweed, and tumbleweed pollinate in the fall.
- Trees release billions of pollen cells in early spring, often before leaves appear.
- Molds can release spores for much of the year if their habitat remains moist.

Short of searching the trail for pollen, specific grasses, or those wispy feathers from pollinating cottonwood trees, there’s not much you can do to assess allergen levels on your chosen route. You can check daily pollen counts at the National Pollen Network (www.allernet.com/DAILY), but “your eyes and nose will probably tell you first,” says Dr. Taylor.

If you get caught hiking in the wrong season, try one of these trail-proven tricks to mitigate your allergy symptoms.

- **Time hikes for mornings**, when plant pollens are heavy with dew.
- **Sit tight when the wind blows.** “Breezy days are going to be worse,” says Richard Honsinger, Ph.D., a clinical
professor at the University of New Mexico, “because pollens can drift in the wind for hundreds of miles.”

- **Pick trails and tent sites above treeline.** You’ll find the fewest irritants on rocky terrain.
- **Find a lake and pitch camp on the downwind side.** The water may collect allergens as the wind blows them across, says Kim Spence, M.D., a family physician and backpacker based in Carbondale, CO.
- **Avoid the irritants completely.** If you’re allergic to juniper, head east into forests of oak and elm. Does hickory make you sneeze? Hike in Washington’s Olympic National Park.
- **Load up on antihistamines.** Nondrowsy drugs such as Allegra, Claritin, and even the asthma medication Singulair can work wonders in stopping allergy symptoms. Ask your doctor.
- **Try saltwater.** Caught in the woods without your meds? Flushing your eyes and nose with saline removes the allergens and can dramatically improve your symptoms, says Dr. Spence.

6

Which of the following statements from the article is an opinion, rather than a fact?

A. “Their pollen is too sticky and heavy, says Dr. Taylor, to float up your nose.”
B. “Still, there are few things as frustrating as finally getting on the trail only to have your vistas blurred by watery eyes…”
C. “Starting in 1981, the British girl sneezed every few minutes for 977 consecutive days.”
D. “Researchers at the American Academy of Allergies, Asthma, and Immunology estimate that allergic rhinitis...affects at least 36 million Americans each year.”

7

As used in this selection, the word **mitigate** means

A. agitate.
B. intensify.
C. lessen.
D. remove.
Each of the following is identified by the author as a way to avoid serious allergy problems EXCEPT
   A. preparation, or finding out what you’re allergic to.
   B. knowledge of when plants pollinate.
   C. remaining indoors during hot, humid weather.
   D. using one or more treatment options.

Information in the “timeline” provided as a guide for when you should and shouldn’t go camping leads to the conclusion that people with allergies should camp
   A. in areas free of sagebrush and ragweed in the fall.
   B. in high elevations in the summer.
   C. before leaves appear in the spring.
   D. at places and times based on their specific allergy.

The author probably wrote this article so readers
   A. will be more aware of allergies caused by plants.
   B. will find out what they’re allergic to.
   C. know what specific plants cause allergies.
   D. know how to deal with allergies while hiking.

Which “trail-proven trick” suggests flushing your eyes with saline?
   A. Try saltwater
   B. Load up on antihistamines
   C. Time hikes for mornings
   D. Avoid irritants completely
CONSERVING THE SEA

In the Pacific Northwest, we often hear news reports dealing with the problem of fairly managing the resources of the sea. By reading this article, you’ll see that similar issues are being experienced across the world.

HOW MUCH CAN WE TAKE from the sea? How much can the sea take? Bigger boats, with bigger nets and better electronics, plow the ocean for fish. The global harvest soared from 17 million metric tons in 1950 to 78 million tons in the mid-1980s and has leveled off at that figure. In addition, an enormous amount is wasted as bycatch—unwanted species that are caught along with the target. Each year an estimated 20 to 40 million dead fish are thrown back.

TROUBLED WATERS

1. Heavily fished Alaska pollock, often sold as imitation crab meat, is also favored by endangered Steller sea lions. Regulations seek to reduce competition in U.S. waters.

2. Seabirds, including the rare and endangered short-tailed albatross, become entangled and die on longline hooks of the North Pacific fishery.

3. Dynamite and cyanide fishing damage reefs. Climate change may spur high temperatures that bleach the Great Barrier Reef.

4. Sold as Chilean sea bass, Patagonian toothfish draw fleets to the Antarctic. Illegal landings exceed the 14,500-ton limit by at least 7,000 tons.

5. The bite of longline hooks threaten even great white sharks. They are protected off Australia, the Maldives, southern Africa, and parts of the U.S.

6. Off New England, tough restrictions on Georges Bank are bringing back haddock and yellowtail flounder fisheries.
12
What food do endangered Stellar sea lions favor?
   A. Yellow-tail flounder
   B. Short-tailed albatross
   C. Patagonian toothfish
   D. Alaskan pollock

13
What is the result of the situation known as “bycatching”?
   A. Countries start “fish wars” because of unclear boundaries.
   B. The cost of fish goes up for everyday customers.
   C. Companies catch more of the fish than they can sell.
   D. Dead and dying fish are thrown back into the ocean.

14
By using the map and the accompanying key, you can tell that the Great Barrier Reef is located in the
   A. Northwest Pacific.
   B. Western Central Pacific.
   C. Southeast Pacific.
   D. Northeast Atlantic.

A STICKY SITUATION

The Watson brothers are scraping the ice off the family car on a cold winter day in weather-bound Flint, Michigan. When big brother Byron gets in a “sticky” situation, it’s up to Kenny to save the day. In the end, all is well thanks to the bonds of love and humor that surround this funny family.

   BYRON WAS LEANED OVER the outside mirror, looking at something in it real close. Big puffs of steam were coming out of the side of the mirror.
   I picked up a big, hard chunk of ice to get ready for Byron’s trick.
   “Keh-ee! Keh-ee! Hel’ me! Hel’ me! Go geh Mom-ma! Go geh Mom-ma! Huwwy uh!”
   “I’m not playing, Byron! I’m not that stupid! You’d better start doing your side of the car or I’ll tear you up with this iceball.”
He banged his hand against the car harder and started stomping his feet. “Oh, please, Keh-ee! Hel’ me, go geh Mom-ma!”

I raised the ice chunk over my head. “I’m not playing, By, you better get busy or I’m telling Dad.”

I moved closer and when I got right next to him I could see boogers running out of his nose and tears running down his cheeks. These weren’t tears from the cold either, these were big juicy crybaby tears! I dropped my ice chunk.

“By! What’s wrong?”

“Hel’ me! Keh-ee! Go geh hel’!”

I moved closer. I couldn’t believe my eyes! Byron’s mouth was frozen on the mirror! He was as stuck as a fly on flypaper!

I could have done a lot of stuff to him. If it had been me with my lips stuck on something like this he’d have tortured me for a couple of days before he got help. Not me, though, I nearly broke my neck trying to get into the house to rescue Byron.

As soon as I ran through the front door Momma, Dad and Joey all yelled, “Close that door!”

“Momma, quick! It’s By! He’s froze up outside!” No one seemed too impressed.

I screamed, “Really! He’s froze to the car! Help! He’s crying!” That shook them up. You could cut Byron’s head off and he probably wouldn’t cry.

“Kenneth Bernard Watson, what on earth are you talking about?”

“Momma, please hurry up!”

Momma, Dad and Joey threw on some extra coats and followed me to the Brown Bomber.

The fly was still stuck and buzzing. “Oh, Mom-ma! Hel’ me! Geh me offa ‘ere!”
“Oh my!” Momma screamed, and I thought she was going to do one of those movie-style faints, she even put her hand over her forehead and staggered back a little bit.

Joey, of course, started crying right along with Byron.

Dad was doing his best not to explode laughing. Big puffs of smoke were coming out of his nose and mouth as he tried to squeeze his laughs down. Finally he put his head on his arms and leaned against the car’s hood and howled.

“Byron,” Momma said, gently wiping tears off his cheeks with the end of her scarf, “it’s O.K., sweetheart, how’d this happen?” She sounded like she was going to be crying in a minute herself.

Dad raised his head and said, “Why are you asking how it happened? Can’t you tell, Wilona? This little knucklehead was kissing his reflection in the mirror and got his lips stuck!” Dad thought that was hilarious and put his head back on his arms.

Momma didn’t see anything funny. “Daniel Watson! What are we gonna do? What do y’all do when this happens up he-uh?”

Momma started talking Southern-style when she got worried. Instead of saying “here” she said “he-uh” and instead of saying “you all” she said “y’all”.

Dad stopped laughing long enough to say, “Wilona, I’ve lived in Flint all my life, thirty-five years, and I swear this is the first time I’ve ever seen anyone with their lips frozen to a mirror. Honey, I don’t know what to do, wait till he thaws out?”

“Pull him off, Dad,” I suggested. Byron went nuts! He started banging his hands on the Brown Bomber’s doors again and mumbling, “No! No! Mom-ma, doe leh him!”

Momma asked Dad, “What about hot water? Couldn’t we pour enough hot water on the mirror so it would warm up and he could get off?” She kept wiping tears off By’s cheeks and said, “Don’t you worry, Baby, we gonna get you off of this.” But her voice was so shaky and Southern that I wondered if we’d be driving around in the summer with a skeleton dangling from the outside mirror by its lips.
15
“The fly was still stuck and buzzing” describes
  A. the noise Byron makes while he awaits rescue.
  B. an insect circling Byron’s head.
  C. the noise the Watsons make in freeing Byron.
  D. the worried hum that Kenny makes while getting help.

16
The author includes the father’s dialogue mostly to show Dad’s
  A. sense of humor.
  B. frustration with Byron.
  C. attachment to his car.
  D. confusion about how to help.

17
Why does Kenny wonder if they’d be “driving around in the summer with a skeleton
dangling from the outside mirror by its lips”?
  A. Because he knows his father isn’t serious about getting Byron loose
  B. Because Momma seems so unsure about getting Byron free
  C. Because the winters in Flint are so long they never seem to end
  D. Because he wants everyone to see how silly Byron looks

18
Which statement is true about Kenny’s parents?
  A. Both parents have lived in this area most of their lives.
  B. Each parent has come to Flint after growing up somewhere else.
  C. This section doesn’t provide information about their backgrounds.
  D. Dad is a Flint native, but Momma is somewhat new to the area.

19
The author most likely chose the simile “He was as stuck as a fly on flypaper!” in
order to
  A. show how serious Byron’s situation is.
  B. provide a vivid humorous image.
  C. reveal Kenny’s low opinion of Byron.
  D. give hope that Byron can get loose.
IGUANADON

Dinosaurs have fascinated old and young alike since fossils of these creatures were first discovered in the 1800s. Read this passage about the first reported discovery of a dinosaur that came to be known as Iguanodon.

UNTIL THE 19TH CENTURY, no one had the slightest idea that dinosaurs once lived on earth. The first remains of such an animal were unearthed in a quarry in Oxfordshire, England, in 1822. The creature to which the remains belonged was named Megalosaurus, which means “big lizard.” (The word “dinosaur” means “terrible lizard.”)

Since then, over 800 fossils of the long-extinct dinosaurs have been discovered and studied. We now know that although some of the dinosaurs were fierce hunters, there were many others which were harmless plant-eaters.

Iguanodon is unearthed

In 1822, the remains of a plant-eating dinosaur were found in England by Dr. and Mrs. Gideon Mantell. The Mantells were traveling in Sussex, and made a stop near Cuckfield so that Dr. Mantell could attend to a patient. Mrs. Mantell wandered into the trees nearby, and noticed some teeth sticking out of the ground. She took them to show to her husband.

Although he was a keen fossil collector, he had never seen anything like them before. He sent them to an expert in Paris to find out which animal they came from.

Iguanodon gets its name

The expert identified them as being the upper front teeth of a rhinoceros. Dr. Mantell refused to believe this, and took the fossils to the Museum in the Royal College of Surgeons, in London. There, they were compared with the teeth of a South American iguana, a type of lizard. They were much larger than the iguana’s teeth, but the similarity was unmistakable. Dr. Mantell decided, therefore, to call his discovery “Iguanodon,” which means “iguana tooth.”
Reconstructing the monster

Dr. Mantell spent five years searching for more evidence of *Iguanodon*. Eventually he found part of a skeleton, and from it a life-size model was built and displayed. It was not until 1878 that the model was discovered to be completely wrong.

In that year, some Belgian coal miners found a pit into which 31 *Iguanodon* had fallen to their deaths millions of years before. Their skeletons helped scientists to reconstruct a more accurate model of *Iguanodon*.

About the exhibit

In 1851, life-size models of dinosaurs were exhibited in London. They were based on fossils, and *Iguanodon* was based on Dr. Mantell’s evidence. It was mistakenly shown walking on four legs. The horn placed on its snout was really a thumb-bone. Before the exhibition, a dinner was held inside the model’s stomach. Twenty-one scientists and other guests drank a toast to *Iguanodon*’s restoration.

20

“The first remains of such an animal were unearthed in a *quarry*...” The word *quarry* means

A. an open pit.
B. hunted prey.
C. an historical site.
D. a museum warehouse.

21

Where were the first true remains of a dinosaur found?

A. South America
B. Sussex, England
C. Oxfordshire, England
D. Belgium
22
Why would the people in charge of the exhibit hold the dinner inside the model’s stomach?
   A. To give the people a close look
   B. To get more people to attend
   C. To show off the dinosaur’s size
   D. To make the best use of the available room

23
The best synonym for unmistakable as it is used in this article would be
   A. lacking.
   B. identical.
   C. incorrect.
   D. obvious.

24
The author most likely wrote the first two paragraphs to
   A. establish that the focus of this article would be Megalosaurus.
   B. provide background information on dinosaurs.
   C. show why there was so much difficulty creating an accurate dinosaur model.
   D. establish that the setting of this story would be England.
Grade 7 Reading/Literature
SAMPLE TEST KEY 2011-2013

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**CONVERTING TO A RIT SCORE**

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</tbody>
</table>

*Likely to meet Grade 7 standards
**Likely to exceed Grade 7 standards
Oregon Reading/Literature Sample Test

Use number 2 pencil. Do NOT use ink or ball point pen. Make heavy dark marks that completely fill the circle. Erase completely any marks you wish to change.

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. A B C D
6. A B C D
7. A B C D
8. A B C D
9. A B C D
10. A B C D
11. A B C D
12. A B C D
13. A B C D
14. A B C D
15. A B C D
16. A B C D
17. A B C D
18. A B C D
19. A B C D
20. A B C D
21. A B C D
22. A B C D
23. A B C D
24. A B C D