Sample Questions

The Rhinoceros

by Oliver Herford

So this is the Rhinoceros!
I wonder why he looks so cross.
Perhaps he is annoyed a bit
Because his clothing does not fit.
(They say he got it ready made!)
It is not that, I am afraid.
He looks so cross because I drew
Him with one horn instead of two.

Well, since he cares so much for style,
Let’s give him two and see him smile.

S1 How does the Rhinoceros look at the beginning of the poem?
A calm
B eager
C scared
D upset

S2 What would change the Rhinoceros’s feelings?
A giving him new clothing
B being afraid of his size
C drawing him with two horns
D showing off his new style
Claudia’s Collection

by Andrea Fitcha

1 Which word describes Claudia?
A daring
B frustrated
C honest
D organized

2 Why did Claudia not show her rock and shell collections to the class?
A Claudia wanted to show a collection the class had never seen.
B Claudia was too shy to talk in class.
C Mrs. Wilson would not let her go first.
D Mrs. Wilson did not want to see two collections that were alike.
Claudia’s Collection

by Andrea Fitcha

3 What is the meaning of the word *projects* as used in paragraph 4?
A coins  
B lures  
C activities  
D surprises  

4 In paragraph 7, what does Marcus mean when he says to Claudia, “Bring one of your collections. You’ve got a million of them!”?
A Claudia should share all of her collections with the class.  
B Claudia should be concerned since she has no hobby.  
C Claudia has several collections from which to choose.  
D Claudia would have to borrow a collection from a friend.
Claudia’s Collection

by Andrea Fitcha

5 Which word completes the graphic organizer?

- A telescope
- B feathers
- C jump ropes
- D wagon

6 What do Claudia and Annie have in common?

- A Both collect coins.
- B Both collect feathers.
- C Both collect rocks.
- D Both collect seashells.
Claudia’s Collection

by Andrea Fitcha

7 At the end of the story, what was Mrs. Wilson’s reaction to Claudia’s hobby?

A She thought it was the best collection of collections.
B She thought it was the biggest rock collection of all.
C She was surprised paper money came in many colors.
D She was surprised that the seashells were so different.
Camels

by Elaine Landau

8. What is the main idea of the selection?
   A. There are songs and films about camels.
   B. There are two types of camels in the world.
   C. A camel’s most unusual feature is its hump.
   D. A camel adapts well to life in the desert.

9. According to the text, what is the camel’s strangest feature?
   A. thick eyelashes
   B. closed nostrils
   C. humped backs
   D. bushy eyebrows

10. What is the purpose of a camel’s hump?
    A. to keep it from sweating
    B. to store water for many weeks
    C. to provide energy when there is no food
    D. to help its body temperature stay low
Camels

by Elaine Landau

11 According to the selection, why are camels well-suited for sandstorms?
   A They have long, thick eyelashes.
   B They enjoy hot, dry weather.
   C They sweat similar to humans.
   D They feed on dew-dampened plants.

12 According to the selection, why are the camel's bushy eyebrows important?
   A to help it see the desert better
   B to help shade its eyes from the sun
   C to protect its breathing ability
   D to keep sweat out of its eyes

13 In paragraph 3, how would “dew-dampened” plants help the camels go for weeks without water?
   A “Dew-dampened” plants provide shade for camels.
   B “Dew-dampened” plants provide a source of water for camels.
   C “Dew-dampened” plants help the camels store fat in their humps.
   D “Dew-dampened” plants help the camels lose weight.
Camels

*by Elaine Landau*

14 In paragraph 3, what is the meaning of the word *distress*?
A  sadness
B  suffering
C  fear
D  sleep

15 What is the similarity between paragraphs 3 and 4?
A  They both describe how camels look.
B  They both describe where camels live.
C  They both explain why camels are well-suited for running.
D  They both explain why camels can go without water for long periods.

16 In paragraph 4, what does the word *conserve* mean?
A  build
B  form
C  help
D  save
Freddie

by Phil Bolsta

17 According to the poem, what makes the speaker happy?
A playing outside
B taking a bubble bath
C not going to school
D not doing homework

18 What is the meaning of bore in line 2?
A calm
B tire
C excite
D help
Freddie

by Phil Bolsta

19  In line 5, what does the word *greets* mean?
   A  barks
   B  catches
   C  welcomes
   D  surprises

20  What is the meaning of line 8?
   A  The speaker loves that Freddie can read.
   B  The poem is about doing homework.
   C  The speaker likes being at home.
   D  The poem takes place during winter.
Freddie

by Phil Bolsta

21 Based on the poem, why are the speaker’s parents happy?
   A  They like having a pet.
   B  Their child’s grades have improved.
   C  They taught Freddie a new trick.
   D  Their child now does his own homework.

22 Which phrase supports the happy feeling of the poem?
   A  “I don’t like doing homework,”
   B  “I know that it will bore me.”
   C  “I think that’s pretty cool!”
   D  “Like history and math.”
Masters of Verse

*by Kassandra Radomski*

23 Which statement summarizes the selection?

A Two men with different backgrounds became famous writers of children’s books.

B Two men met and decided to write a series of children’s books as partners.

C Two men became famous poets after discovering that they both liked the same subjects.

D Two men wrote books on the same topic after meeting in school and becoming friends.

24 What does it mean to catch “the writing bug”?

A to look for different types of insects

B to choose to draw unusual insects

C to want to write, more than anything else

D to become ill from writing too much
Masters of Verse
by Kassandra Radomski

25 Based on paragraphs 3 and 9, how are Shel Silverstein and Dr. Seuss similar?
   A Both were born in the same year.
   B Both had difficulties with their first books.
   C Both were singers and writers for the U.S. Army.
   D Both had mothers who were writers.

26 In paragraph 4, what does the word *pronounce* mean?
   A to say
   B to define
   C to learn to spell
   D to learn to write
Masters of Verse

by Kassandra Radomski

27. How did Shel Silverstein react to someone saying he needed to edit a poem?
   A. He began writing songs instead.
   B. He became upset with the person.
   C. He only rewrote the necessary words.
   D. He rewrote the entire poem.

28. According to the text, why did many school libraries ban Shel Silverstein’s book *Where the Sidewalk Ends*?
   A. Parents thought the poems would cause children to disobey them.
   B. Parents thought the poems would cause children to make up stories.
   C. Parents thought the poems were too goofy for their children.
   D. Parents thought the poems were too long for their children.

29. Which sentence from the selection supports the idea that writing can be hard work?
   A. “He was also a folk singer and songwriter.”
   B. “It had taken him nearly 10 years to finish!”
   C. “He didn’t like to change the words or phrases in a poem once he had written them.”
   D. “When *Where the Sidewalk Ends* came out, many thought the silly rhymes in it were like Dr. Seuss’s.”
The Sticky-Sticky Pine

by Florence Sakade

30 What shows that the poor woodcutter is kind?
   A He is happy about his new wealth.
   B He gathers only the dead tree branches.
   C He takes sap only from the broken limbs.
   D He shares his money with the bad woodcutter.

31 In the section below, what is the meaning of **mended**?

   “Skillfully, he mended them, saying: ‘Now these tender twigs I’ll wrap, / And in that way stop the sap.’”
   
   A earned
   B escaped
   C repaired
   D attacked
The Sticky-Sticky Pine

by Florence Sakade

32 According to the text, what does a pine tree represent?
   A good fortune
   B bad luck
   C a winter holiday
   D a warm season

33 In paragraph 8, what is the meaning of grateful?
   A eager
   B careless
   C angry
   D thankful
The Sticky-Sticky Pine

by Florence Sakade

34 Which action shows that the bad woodcutter is greedy?
A He breaks off living tree branches.
B After seeing the money, he is angry.
C He steals the nice woodcutter’s money.
D After seeing the money, he runs to the pine tree.

35 In the sentence below, what was meant when the bad woodcutter said he wanted “a flood of gold and silver”?

“Oh, just what I want,” said the bad man, “a flood of gold and silver.”

A He wanted lots of money.
B He wanted it to rain for days.
C He wished for fine clothing.
D He wished for a new house.

36 According to the selection, what did the tree do to the bad woodcutter?
A The tree flooded him with sap.
B The tree showered him with coins.
C The tree fell over on him.
D The tree dropped its leaves on him.
Echoes . . . Echoes . . . Echoes . . . Echoes

37 In the first paragraph, what is the meaning of *spooky*?
A scary
B exciting
C interesting
D disappointing

38 Based on the text and the first illustration, what is an echo?
A another person answering a person who yells
B a person’s own voice answering back
C an experiment using a garden hose
D a fun game to play with friends

39 In paragraph 3, what is the meaning of *contains*?
A wipes
B leaks
C holds
D sprays
Echoes . . . Echoes . . . Echoes . . . Echoes

40 In the experiment, what step follows “Bring the two ends of the hose together”?
A Empty the water out of the hose.
B Find a garden hose 50 feet long or longer.
C Ask an adult to help with the experiment.
D Hold one end of the hose up to the mouth.

41 According to the text and the picture, what happens when “hello” is shouted into the hose?
A An echo “hello” travels through the water and into the ear.
B An echo “hello” travels through and down the mountain.
C An echo “hello” will be heard from the end of the hose at the ear.
D An echo “hello” will be heard in the next door neighbor’s backyard.

42 What is the main purpose of “The Science Secret” section?
A to tell a story about echoes
B to explain how to create an echo
C to describe why echoes are heard
D to persuade the reader to create an echo
Echoes . . . Echoes . . . Echoes . . . Echoes

43 According to the selection, how does sound travel?
   A through time
   B through a cave
   C through water
   D through the air

44 According to the selection, why would an echo be better if a 100-foot garden hose is used?
   A The sound would be louder.
   B The sound would travel farther.
   C The sound would go through more water.
   D The sound would go through a small opening.
This is the end of the English Language Arts/Reading test.

Directions:

1. Look back over your answers for the test questions.

2. Put all of your papers inside your test book and close your test book.

3. Stay quietly in your seat until your teacher tells you that testing is finished.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction wishes to express gratitude to the following authors and publishers, whose generous permission to reprint literary selections has made these tests possible. Every effort has been made to locate the copyright owners of material reprinted in this test booklet. Omissions brought to our attention will be corrected in subsequent editions.


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“Freddie” by Phil Bolsta used with permission of Phil Bolsta (philbolsta.com).


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**Item Types:**
MC = multiple choice

**Note about selections:**
Reading for literature texts can be stories or poems.
Reading for informational texts can be scientific, historical, economic, or technical.