North Carolina READY End-of-Grade Assessment
English Language Arts/Reading
Grade 6
Student Booklet
Sample Questions

Song (1914)

*by Rupert Brooke*

All suddenly the wind comes soft,
And Spring is here again;
And the hawthorn quickens with buds of green,
And my heart with buds of pain.

5 My heart all Winter lay so numb
The earth is dead and frore,*
That I never thought the Spring would come,
Or my heart wake any more.

But Winter’s broken and earth has woken,
10 And the small birds cry again;
And the hawthorn hedge puts forth its buds,
And my heart puts forth its pain.

*frore:* frozen
S1 What can be inferred from line 5?
   A  The speaker’s heart is asleep.
   B  The speaker’s heart is afraid.
   C  The speaker’s heart is paralyzed.
   D  The speaker’s heart is extremely cold.

S2 In the second stanza, how does the poet’s choice of words impact the meaning of the poem?
   A  It gives the differences between Winter and Spring.
   B  It describes how cold it gets during Winter.
   C  It explains how the speaker views the different seasons.
   D  It emphasizes the despair the speaker feels about the loss of Spring.
Liam McLafferty’s Choice

by Alexis O’Neill

1. How does *endeavored* affect the meaning of paragraph 6?
   A. It explains that Liam’s mother struggled to assist him.
   B. It explains that Liam was afraid to make a decision.
   C. It shows that Liam became excited about decisions.
   D. It shows that Liam’s mother lacked the desire to help.

2. What does the author mean by saying that the old woman “tried to hobble up a narrow path”?
   A. The old woman was walking carefully.
   B. The old woman was enjoying walking.
   C. The old woman was walking briskly.
   D. The old woman was having difficulty walking.

3. What did the fairy queen do that Liam’s parents failed to do?
   A. She gave Liam love, care, and affection.
   B. She showed Liam the best way to make a decision.
   C. She asked Liam about the reasons for his choices.
   D. She offered to take Liam to the Galway fair.
Liam McLafferty’s Choice

by Alexis O’Neill

4. Why did Liam choose to sit beside Kieran at school?
   A. He wanted to please his teacher.
   B. He wanted to please his parents.
   C. He was afraid of Kieran.
   D. He felt sorry for Kieran.

5. What is the effect of the simile in paragraph 25?
   A. to show how surprised Liam was to see fairy queen
   B. to describe the speed of the old woman’s movements
   C. to explain how much the fairy queen liked Liam’s choices
   D. to illustrate that Liam was confused by the old woman

6. What is the meaning of *cringed* in paragraph 30?
   A. raised eyebrows questioningly
   B. moved forward confidently
   C. hunched shoulders anxiously
   D. laughed jokingly
Liam McLafferty’s Choice

by Alexis O’Neill

7 In paragraph 31, to what is the fairy queen referring?

A Liam’s cheerful personality
B Liam’s ability to make choices
C the fairy queen’s magical power
D the fairy queen’s good sense

8 In the selection, how does the town’s view of Liam change from the beginning to the end?

A The townspeople worship him and then disown Liam when they find out he is dishonest.
B The townspeople despise him and then regret how they treated Liam when he becomes famous.
C The townspeople mock him and then realize Liam is the one who makes the wisest decisions.
D The townspeople pity him and then betray Liam when they realize he helped a stranger.
Gustave Eiffel, Architect of the Eiffel Tower

by Lindsey Chapman

9 Which statement summarizes the selection?

A The Eiffel Tower, designed in 1889 by Gustave Eiffel, stands today as an iconic Paris landmark.

B Gustave Eiffel was an engineer who designed many bridges and structures, including the Eiffel Tower.

C Gustave Eiffel died in 1923 and is remembered for designing the “one-hit wonder” Eiffel Tower.

D Engineer Gustave Eiffel was indicted for fraud while building locks in the Panama Canal.

10 Which section of the selection summarizes the text?

A The Introduction

B Gustave Eiffel’s Early Days

C Eiffel’s Notable Accomplishments

D The Rest of the Story
Gustave Eiffel, Architect of the Eiffel Tower

by Lindsey Chapman

11 According to the selection, which statement is true?
A The Eiffel Tower was originally to be built next to the Panama Canal.
B Gustave Eiffel’s designs for the Eiffel Tower were original and widely accepted.
C Gustave Eiffel was sentenced to prison for fraud on his work on the Statue of Liberty.
D The Eiffel Tower was built to serve as a focal point for the Paris Centennial Exposition of 1889.

12 Based on the last sentence in the paragraph 4, what does the word barbarous emphasize?
A disapproval and negative feelings
B happiness and contentment
C gratitude for a job well done
D that an object is too expensive for what it is worth

13 Which quote from the selection is the example of Gustave Eiffel’s point of view?
A “Artists in Paris protested the tower, calling it ‘vertiginously ridiculous’ and ‘barbarous.’”
B “He couldn’t understand the criticism surrounding the project.”
C “‘I ought to be jealous of the tower, it is much more famous than I am.’”
D “‘The man behind the masterpiece gradually disappeared in the towering shadow of his creation.’”
Gustave Eiffel, Architect of the Eiffel Tower

by Lindsey Chapman

14. What did blogger Tony Wheeler mean by the phrase, “one-hit wonder” in the last paragraph?

A to only hit one home-run in baseball
B to be popular for one specific accomplishment
C to question who was responsible
D to judge someone by their strength and power

15. How does the author support her claim that Gustave Eiffel’s creations can be found on several continents?

A by naming every bridge that Gustave Eiffel built
B by listing all the masterpieces constructed by Gustave Eiffel
C by including structures such as St. Anne Mission and Pont Faidherbe Bridge in the selection
D by explaining the design for Philadelphia’s 1876 Centennial Exposition

16. How does the selection support the idea that Gustave Eiffel is best known for his tower?

A It describes Eiffel’s early work as a civil engineer.
B It contrasts Eiffel’s tower in Paris with the one planned in Philadelphia.
C It details how his career was damaged through constant scandal.
D It states that Eiffel’s name and the monument became one and the same.
Be a Friend

by Edgar A. Guest

Be a friend. You don't need money;
Just a disposition sunny;
Just the wish to help another
Get along some way or other;

Just a kindly hand extended
Out to one who’s unbefriended;
Just the will to give or lend,
This will make you someone’s friend.

Be a friend. You don’t need glory.
Friendship is a simple story.
Pass by trifling errors blindly,
Gaze on honest effort kindly,
Cheer the youth who’s bravely trying,
Pity him who’s sadly sighing;

Just a little labor spend
On the duties of a friend.

Be a friend. The pay is bigger
(Though not written by a figure)
Than is earned by people clever
In what’s merely self-endeavor.*
You’ll have friends instead of neighbors
For the profits of your labors;
You’ll be richer in the end
Than a prince, if you’re a friend.

*self-endeavor: an attempt to achieve
a goal or task on one’s own
17 What is the central idea of the poem?
   A Being a friend is easy, and the rewards are great.  
   B Being a friend is fun, and it takes very little time.  
   C Being a friend is boring, and it is too difficult.   
   D Being a friend is a big burden, and it takes a lot of time.

18 Based on the poem, what is the meaning of *unbefriended* in line 6?
   A someone having many enemies   
   B someone having many friends  
   C someone having no enemies  
   D someone having no friends

19 What is the meaning of line 10?
   A Being a friend is its own reward.  
   B Being a friend is a difficult task. 
   C Being a friend is not hard work.   
   D Being a friend is not forgotten.
20 How does line 11 contribute to the poem’s theme?
   A It suggests that being a friend means overlooking flaws.
   B It suggests that being a friend means giving up riches.
   C It suggests that being a friend means overcoming obstacles.
   D It suggests that being a friend means helping those in need.

21 Which statement describes how the first and third stanzas have similar central ideas?
   A Both suggest it is better to give than receive.
   B Both suggest wealth attracts the unbefriended.
   C Both suggest money comes between friends.
   D Both suggest friendship is the greatest wealth.

22 How is the third stanza different from the two previous stanzas?
   A The third stanza tells the reader how to be a good friend.
   B The third stanza tells the reader the benefits of being a friend.
   C The third stanza does not rhyme, but the other two stanzas rhyme.
   D The third stanza rhymes, but the other two stanzas do not rhyme.
Silk’s Superpowers

by Rachel Ehrenberg

23 Which statement summarizes the selection?

A Scientists have learned a great deal from their study of silkworms and silk.
B Spiders are fascinating and interesting arachnids.
C Scientists are just beginning to discover the many uses of spider and insect silk.
D Silkworm silk is far superior to that made by spiders.

24 What is the meaning of the word *mimic* as used in the sentence below?

“‘If you can mimic it, you can eliminate an awful lot of the problems you have with all the man-made fibers that are currently available.’”

A break
B stretch
C copy
D sell

25 Based on paragraph 8, what is the meaning of the word *diverse*?

A colorful
B different
C similar
D modern
Silk’s Superpowers

by Rachel Ehrenberg

26 What is the central idea of paragraph 12?
A It is important for spiders to use sticky silk to catch prey.
B Spiders must use a stronger silk for the outline of their web.
C It is important to have stiff silk to protect spider eggs.
D Spiders are capable of creating a variety of silks for different needs.

27 What is the main ingredient in silk?
A protein
B milk
C enzymes
D glue

28 According to the selection, why are scientists studying a variety of animal-produced silk?
A to find a way to make silk less sticky
B to produce a silk without the harsh chemicals in man-made fibers
C to discover a silk strong enough to pull a fish from water
D to find a way to make the spinning process shorter
Silk’s Superpowers

by Rachel Ehrenberg

29 How will the study of spider silk benefit human cells?
   A  It can be used to replace weak or damaged cells.
   B  It can provide a flexible, porous place for cells to move.
   C  It provides a temporary structure for cells to thrive.
   D  It provides a rigid and permanent home for cells.

30 What is the impact of paragraph 14?
   A  It allows the reader to imagine what a golden spider looks like.
   B  It allows the reader to realize how strong spider silk is.
   C  It informs the reader of the disadvantages of silk made by spiders.
   D  It informs the reader of the scientific name of the garden spider.

31 Which explains the author’s purpose in writing this selection?
   A  to inform the reader that silk might make good vests
   B  to inform the reader about the chemical composition of silk
   C  to inform the reader that different species of spiders spin silk differently
   D  to inform the reader about the different types and uses of silk
The Totem Pole Challenge

by The TaleWagger

32 Which statement summarizes the theme of this selection?
A Never read books and leave them unattended.
B Hard work done properly pays off in the end.
C Rushing through your work may sometimes be necessary.
D Do not discard books, as it takes too long to write them.

33 Which quote from the selection illustrates the central idea of the selection?
A “In that case, you’d better sit down and listen carefully.”
B “‘I have decided that we should leave the story of our lives for others to see.’”
C “‘Anybody can make a totem pole, it’s easy!’ they chanted.”
D “You see Mike, everything done properly is never as ‘easy’ as it first seems!”

34 In the selection, why did the Chief believe that the village should have a totem pole?
A The totem pole would be a record of the village history.
B The neighboring villages each had totem poles.
C The totem pole would make his sons famous.
D His sons needed to learn to find good totem pole wood.
The Totem Pole Challenge

by The TaleWagger

35 Based on the sentence below from paragraph 16, what does the word *adamant* tell the reader about how the sons felt?

“However, his sons were adamant.”

A  The sons were confused at the dilemma.
B  The sons were annoyed at their father.
C  The sons were firm in their opinions.
D  The sons were delighted at the challenge.

36 In the selection, what was the grandfather trying to teach his grandson by telling the fable?

A  No one should ever destroy another person’s property.
B  Writing a book is much more difficult than creating a totem pole.
C  People gain more appreciation for the value of something when they have tried to create it.
D  Books and totem poles are valuable and should be preserved and shared for historical purposes.
The Totem Pole Challenge

by The TaleWagger

37 In the sentence below, what does the word *inhospitable* mean?

“The third son traveled afar, through the deep snow of the inhospitable countryside, to seek out the wigwams of the totem pole makers.”

A unfriendly
B unimpressive
C unimportant
D unhealthy

38 What purpose is served by paragraph 25?

A It describes how the third son was thanked by the village for creating a totem pole.
B It explains that the first son was the last son to complete a village totem pole.
C It describes how the first son brought firewood to the village instead of creating a totem pole.
D It explains that the first son’s totem pole was a reflection of his preparation during the winter.
The Totem Pole Challenge

by The TaleWagger

39  Based on the selection, what does the American Indian culture value?
    A  the talent and commitment needed to create something lasting
    B  the ability to prepare for and complete a task quickly
    C  helping the community overcome challenges caused by nature
    D  helping senior citizens feel like they are a part of the community
Be a Fit Kid

40 According to the selection, when would be an exception to following the five rules?
A only when friends are around
B on certain special occasions
C only during the school week
D on days when school is out

41 Based on the information in the “Drink Water and Milk Most Often” section, what is the main concern for someone who consumes only soft drinks?
A That person will have cavities in their teeth.
B That person is getting a variety of nutrients.
C That person will maintain a healthy weight.
D That person is getting lots of extra calories.

42 Which statement summarizes the “Drink Water and Milk Most Often” section?
A Kids should drink water and milk each day to be healthy.
B Water is more important than any other drink.
C Kids need a lot less calcium in their diets than adults.
D Calcium-rich foods can replace drinking milk.
Be a Fit Kid

43 In paragraph 5, what are nutrients?
   A   healthy, fun activities
   B   delicious, sweet desserts
   C   exciting video games
   D   essential substances

44 According to the selection, how can kids contribute to their own health?
   A   Use the computer for the majority of their entertainment.
   B   Play as many video games as possible on weekends.
   C   Choose fun sports or games in which they can participate.
   D   Eat well during the week, but indulge over the weekends.

45 If a kid tries and then dislikes an activity, which would be a healthy response?
   A   Quit doing any physical activity.
   B   Become angry for wasting the time.
   C   Advise other kids not to do it.
   D   Choose a different activity to do.
Be a Fit Kid

46 Which sentence from the selection supports the assumption that parents have the most important role in keeping children healthy?

A “People who care (parents, doctors, teachers, and others) want to know how to help kids be more fit.”

B “You might even write down a list of fun stuff to do, so you can refer to it when your mom or dad says it’s time to stop watching TV or playing computer games!”

C “For instance, they can stock the house with healthy foods and plan physical activities for the family.”

D “Tell your parents about these five steps you want to take and maybe you can teach them a thing or two.”

47 Which states the author’s attitude toward physical activity?

A Kids should find a fun way to be active.

B Video games encourage kids to be active.

C Schools should limit students’ time on computers.

D Kids should do activities that are challenging.

48 How does the author encourage healthy eating?

A by warning the reader about the dangers of gaining too much weight

B by providing the reader with simple suggestions

C by comparing the nutritional information of healthy and unhealthy food

D by sharing success stories of kids in real life
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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**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.