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.
Ski Tracks on Silver Bell

by Jean Heyn

1 Which quote from the selection supports the theme?

A “Winning the race would make him the Junior Champ of the Steamboat Springs Ski Club.”

B “His skis bit the snow as he zigzagged through the gates—ten, fifteen, twenty.”

C “Though his knee hurt, he thought only of winning the race.”

D “‘You’re a fine skier, and you have a compassionate heart.’”

2 How are the characters in this selection affected by the setting?

A Chip becomes a stronger person because he helps a man in need during a snowstorm.

B Roger becomes scared and skis away by himself, leaving Chip alone in the woods.

C Big Matt is disappointed that Chip almost left a man alone in the woods to compete in a race.

D Chip crashes during the snowstorm and gives up his dream of skiing in the Olympics.

3 How does the conversation in paragraphs 2 and 3 impact the story’s plot?

A It foreshadows how Roger will easily win the race with no problems.

B It predicts that a conflict will prevent Chip from winning.

C It shows that Roger is jealous of Chip and will start a conflict.

D It demonstrates how arrogance can negatively affect anyone.
Ski Tracks on Silver Bell

by Jean Heyn

4 What is the effect of the author’s use of foreshadowing in paragraph 4?
A It hints that danger is approaching.
B It hints that happiness is in the air.
C It hints that a win is sure to happen.
D It hints that peacefulness will continue.

5 In paragraph 4, what does the figurative language below describe?
“On either side of the trail stood spruce laden with quilts of sparkling white.”
A coverings used to stay warm in cold weather
B a white light shining through the trees in the forest
C a thick blanket of snow covering the trees
D a snowfall that has weighed down the grass

6 In paragraph 20, what is the effect of comparing the skiers to springs?
A It shows that the skiers were eager and ready to ski.
B It shows that the skiers were wound around their skis.
C It shows that the skiers were bouncing up and down.
D It shows that the other skiers were angry that they had to wait.
Ski Tracks on Silver Bell

*by Jean Heyn*

7 Which quote from the selection shows the reason Chip nearly missed the race?

A “Before they reached Elk Meadows, Chip turned off onto Silver Bell, a little-known shortcut.”

B “Halfway down, he saw the tracks—odd tracks that ran off the edge of the trail into the woods.”

C “Suddenly, his injured knee buckled beneath him. He fell, tumbling over and over.”

D “He was taken to the clinic to have his knee strapped, then home to rest.”

8 Based on the selection, what can be inferred about slalom skiing?

A It is a form of racing on one ski that involves exploring little-known trails.

B It is a form of straight downhill racing on skis where the fastest time wins.

C It is a form of skiing that requires agility and speed in stopping to open and close gates.

D It is a form of racing on skis that involves rapid turns around carefully placed obstacles.
On This Day: Krazy George Henderson Leads First Crowd Wave

by findingDulcinea Staff

9 How does the first sentence affect the reader’s understanding of the rest of the selection?
A by beginning with the outright statement that George Henderson performed the wave first
B by capturing the reader’s attention with a startling statistic
C by giving the reader a detailed history of the wave
D by specifying the scientific reasoning for the wave’s origin

10 Why is “human wave” enclosed in quotation marks in paragraph 2?
A It is a direct quotation spoken by a character.
B It is the meaning of a specific nautical term.
C It is the name of a group of surfers well-known for their skills.
D It is the name for a specific fan activity at athletic events.

11 In the context of paragraph 5, what is the meaning of unveiled?
A wore a sweater
B removed a head covering
C not clearly seen
D revealed for the first time
On This Day: Krazy George Henderson Leads First Crowd Wave

by findingDulcinea Staff

12 Based on the context of paragraph 11, what is antagonism?
   A active hostility
   B energetic action
   C friendly gesture
   D open cooperation

13 According to the selection, why is there controversy over the creation of the wave?
   A ESPN’s Jim Caple claims to have created the wave in the 1970s.
   B Rob Weller and George Henderson both claim to have invented the wave in October of 1981.
   C The Oakland A’s lost their game, and the wave did not catch on.
   D The Husky fans continued to participate in the wave throughout the season.

14 Why did the author include the subheading “The Science of the Wave”?
   A to show that the wave is a unique event that merits scientific study
   B to show that scientists have studied the wave and understand how it works
   C to show that the wave gained popularity at the 1986 World Cup
   D to show that the wave can be started by as few as 35 people
On This Day: Krazy George Henderson Leads First Crowd Wave

*by findingDulcinea Staff*

15 What is the summary of the section “The Science of the Wave”?

A The human wave is a fad that is no longer popular in Mexico.
B There is a systematic way in which a human wave is produced.
C At any given sporting event, a human wave will be different.
D There are no consistent features in a human wave.

16 Which statement gives support to the assertion that George Henderson created the wave?

A “The wave became widespread in the 80s and early 90s . . .”
B “Rob Weller claims he led the world’s first wave on October 31, 1981, . . .”
C “‘The A’s season ended on October 15, 1981, and there I am on this video leading the wave.’”
D “‘The Wave was a very intimidating thing for awhile until everyone copied us.’”
Adapted from “Story-Time”

by Edgar A. Guest

“Tell us a story,” comes the cry
From little lips when nights are cold,
And in the grate the flames leap high.
“Tell us a tale of pirates bold,
Or fairies hiding in the glen,
Or of a ship that’s wrecked at sea.”
I fill my cup, and there and then
Gather the children round my knee.
I give them all a role to play—
No longer are they youngsters small,
And I, their daddy, turning gray;
We are adventurers, one and all.
We journey forth as Robin Hood
In search of treasure, or to do
Some deed of daring or of good;
Our hearts are ever brave and true.

We take a solemn oath to be
Defenders of the starry flag;
We brave the winter’s stormy sea,
Or climb the rugged mountain crag,
To battle to the death with those
Who would defame our native land;
We pitch our camp among the snows
Or on the tropics’ burning sand.

We rescue maidens, young and fair,
Held captive long in prison towers;
We slay the villain in his lair,
For we’re possessed of special powers.
And though we desperately fight,
When by our foes are we beset,
We always triumph for the right;
We have not lost a battle yet.
It matters not how far we stray,
Nor where our battle lines may be,

35 We never get so far away
    That we must spend a night at sea.
It matters not how high we climb,
    How many foes our pathway block,
We always conquer just in time

40 To go to bed at 9 o’clock.

17 How does the use of descriptive language affect the reader?
   A The reader wants to find out more about the adventures.
   B The reader will tell stories of adventures.
   C The reader will want to go on an adventure.
   D The reader can visualize the adventures.

18 In line 3, what does the phrase “the flames leap high” tell the reader?
   A There is a fire in the fireplace.
   B There is a building on fire outside.
   C The children are building a fire.
   D Firemen are putting out a fire.
19. Based on the context of lines 21–22, what is the meaning of *defame*?
   A. disgrace or damage
   B. make famous and noteworthy
   C. make sad and gloomy
   D. irritate or bother

20. In line 30, what is the meaning of the word *beset*?
   A. frightened
   B. defeated
   C. attacked
   D. angered

21. In line 39, how does the phrase "We always conquer just in time" affect the poem?
   A. It creates a sense of suspense for the reader.
   B. It explains how their foes were beaten in battle.
   C. It shows the reader how gallantly they have fought.
   D. It creates a sense of amusement in the flow of the story.
22 In the poem, how does the speaker know it is time to end his story?

A The villain has been slain.
B The maiden has been rescued.
C The children have to go to bed.
D The family has traveled too far away.
From Marbles to Machines

by Kerrily Sapet

23 Which quotation summarizes the central idea of this selection?
A “Early voters used simple, inexpensive objects to cast their votes.”
B “Many different styles of voting machines have been invented to make counting more accurate.”
C “Many communities around the world provide transportation to the polls.”
D “Whether a voter drops a marble into a drum or points and clicks on the Internet, voting is an important process all around the world.”

24 What is the reason the selection is named “From Marbles to Machines”?
A to show how voting is done in America
B to show how voting has changed over the years
C to show how people vote in Australia and Switzerland
D to show how many countries remind their citizens to vote

25 What is the purpose of the first paragraph?
A It helps the reader understand the humor in the topic.
B It gets the reader’s attention by asking thoughtful questions.
C It creates a mood of suspense by introducing a conflict.
D It provides a brief history of voting practices in different cultures.
From Marbles to Machines

by Kerrily Sapet

26 According to the selection, why is voting privately by paper ballot called “kangaroo voting”?

A It is the type of voting used by children.
B It involves putting the vote in a pouch similar to a kangaroo’s.
C It started in Australia, which is where kangaroos live.
D It is the way people voted in ancient Rome.

27 In the sentence below from paragraph 4, what does the word precise tell the reader?

“Machines are often used because they are faster and more precise than counting votes by hand.”

A People want the votes counted exactly.
B People want the votes counted quickly.
C People want the votes counted repeatedly.
D People want the votes counted slowly.

28 In paragraph 5, what does the phrase “tampered with or illegally adjusted” mean?

A Some workers might tell others how a person voted.
B Some workers might help a person with their voting process.
C Some workers might cheat by changing a person’s vote.
D Some workers might record a person’s vote for them on the ballot.
From Marbles to Machines

by Kerrily Sapet

29 In the selection, how are green paint, narrow Roman bridges, and purple ink similar?
   A  They help voters find polling places.
   B  They make the voting process safer.
   C  They are tools people use to vote.
   D  They ensure elections are fair.

30 In the selection, why do ballots in Afghanistan have stamp-sized pictures next to the names of candidates?
   A  The voters need to see what the candidates look like.
   B  The voters need to see which candidate is the best looking.
   C  Many voters are unable to read the candidates’ names.
   D  Many voters prefer to paint their arms.

31 Which sentence summarizes the election officials’ solution to the issue of voting rules?
   A  Each person votes by voice so the choices are known.
   B  Voters traveling long distances must be provided food and shelter.
   C  Even in distant locations, each person is allowed to vote only once.
   D  Only healthy, educated people are allowed to vote.
The Unexpected Swimming Lesson

by Aure Sheldon

32 Which is a summary of the selection?

A Two boys out exploring for sand dollars get trapped on a sandbar when the tide comes in.

B A young boy, on a hunt for sand dollars, overcomes his fear of swimming in reaction to an emergency.

C A houseboat fire strands two boys in the ocean while they are out looking for sand dollars.

D A young boy, looking for sand dollars, panics when the tide comes in, and is too afraid to swim to shore.

33 In paragraph 3, what does the phrase “stranded by the tide” mean?

A The water withdrew from the sand.

B The waves washed the creatures into the sea.

C The water drowned the sea creatures on the beach.

D The waves crashed roughly into the sand.

34 In paragraph 4, what is the meaning of the word *romp*?

A to dive deeply

B to run slowly

C to splash lazily

D to play excitedly
The Unexpected Swimming Lesson

by Aure Sheldon

35 According to the selection, why does Craig withhold his fears of swimming from his cousin, Matt?

A He wants Matt to think he is an expert swimmer.
B He thinks that Matt is afraid of the animals in the ocean.
C He is worried that Matt will ridicule him.
D He thinks that Matt will want to leave him alone.

36 In paragraph 8, what does the word absorbed tell the reader about Craig?

A He used his shirt to collect sand dollars.
B He was excited to be on the sandbar.
C He used a towel and had dried himself.
D He was focused on what he was doing.

37 In the selection, why was Matt frustrated with Craig?

A He knew he would be late if he waited for Craig.
B He could not understand why Craig was scared.
C He did not want to go look for more sand dollars.
D He knew that Craig was the better swimmer.
The Unexpected Swimming Lesson

by Aure Sheldon

38 In the selection, why does Craig enter the ocean and head for shore?
   A He thinks the tide will overpower him if he remains where he is.
   B He realizes he must warn people of a nearby danger.
   C He fears his father will arrive too late to help him.
   D He convinces himself it will be similar to swimming in a pool.

39 How does the setting affect the selection?
   A The setting causes Craig to become fearful.
   B The setting causes Matt to become fearful.
   C The setting causes Matt to learn to swim.
   D The setting causes Craig to learn to swim.
The Hottest Soup in New York

by Stephen Ornes

40. In paragraph 3, what does the word *zoomed* suggest happened to the atoms?
   A. They were blasted to pieces.
   B. They were magnified to appear larger.
   C. They were moved rapidly.
   D. They were viewed closely in focus.

41. According to the selection, what is the purpose of gluons?
   A. They bind the quark particles together.
   B. They separate the protons from the neutrons.
   C. They form the boundary of the nucleus.
   D. They help the quark particles to duplicate.

42. In paragraph 8, how is the word *anxious* used?
   A. to convey fear
   B. to convey excitement
   C. to convey fury
   D. to convey boredom
The Hottest Soup in New York

_by Stephen Ornes_

43. Which summarizes the information about quark-gluon plasma in paragraph 11?
   A. Its temperature is the lowest on record.
   B. Its temperature is indicated by color.
   C. It glows when heat is applied to it.
   D. It emits different colors of light.

44. What challenges hindered the researchers in measuring the temperature of the plasma?
   A. The plasma was too large to measure and too slow to demonstrate movement.
   B. The plasma was moving very fast and was too small to catch.
   C. The plasma was extremely small and only existed for a fraction of a second.
   D. The plasma was very thin and covered a small area of the thermometer.
The Hottest Soup in New York

by Stephen Ornes

45 In the last paragraph, why did the author include the quote from Chris Quigg?

A to support the claim that there is still much work to be done to understand the beginning of the universe

B to hook the reader into wanting to read more about the Brookhaven laboratory

C to help sell more issues of Science News magazine

D to outline future experiments that need to take place

46 In the last sentence of the selection, what does the phrase “this opens up many questions” mean?

A Many scientific questions are answered by careful research.

B Many scientists prefer asking questions to answering them.

C Many scientific discoveries create more things to explore.

D Many scientific projects require research into plasma temperatures.
The Hottest Soup in New York

by Stephen Ornes

47 Which statement from the selection supports the author’s claim that this breakthrough could help scientists better understand the origin of our universe?

A “That new record is 4 trillion degrees Celsius (that’s 7.2 trillion degrees Fahrenheit).”

B “The hot stuff produced at Brookhaven is a quark-gluon plasma, and it spills out like a soup made of quarks and gluons.”

C “The quark-gluon plasma is a new type of matter that’s unlike solid, liquid, or gas—but it kind of behaves like a liquid.”

D “The quark-gluon plasma may look a lot like the hot and heavy goo that existed in the universe right after the Big Bang.”

48 Based on the selection, what is the author’s attitude toward the new scientific record?

A He thinks it is fascinating, but not overly useful in real-life application.

B He thinks it is largely a waste of time in the study of physical science.

C He thinks it is an interesting observation that could be useful in classrooms.

D He thinks it is an important discovery that will help further scientific research.
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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“The Unexpected Swimming Lesson” by Aure Sheldon from In the Shadow of an Eagle and Other Adventure Stories compiled by the Editors of Highlights for Children. Copyright © 1992 Highlights for Children, Columbus, Ohio.

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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.