

MSP

Measurements of Student Progress



Reading Grade 5

**Sample Reading Materials
Student Edition
2012**

Student's Name _____

Date _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Sap’s Running!” by Stephen R. Swinburne, © 2004 by Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is committed to equal opportunity in all programs, activities and employment, and to full compliance with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, military status, age or disability.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Sap's Running!

by Stephen R. Swinburne

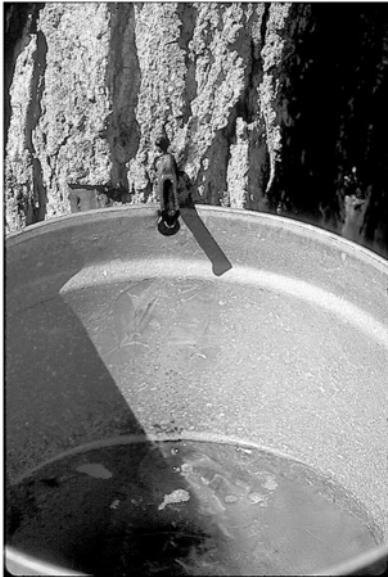
1 The Coleman brothers—Nelson, Ralph, and Harold—step out their front door in Vermont. They feel the wind. They feel the sun on their faces. “Sap could be running this morning,” says Nelson.

2 As they pass 75-year-old sugar-maple trees, they hear it. *Ping, ping, ping.* Sap drips from holes in the trees into metal buckets. They know for sure. Today will be a good day for sugaring.



These are some of the 75-year-old maple trees on the Coleman farm. Metal buckets hanging on the trees collect the sap.

3 Sap from sugar maples looks like water, but tastes sweet. That's because it has sugar in it. It also contains minerals from the soil. A 50-foot-high sugar-maple has nearly two hundred thousand leaves. All these leaves drink in summer sunshine and make sugar. During winter, sugar is stored in the tree. Running sap in the spring contains the sugar that was made in the tree the summer before.



Sap looks like clear water as it flows into each bucket.

4 Every spring, the Colemans tap holes into sugar-maple trees, then hang a bucket under each hole to catch the sap. To make syrup, the sap is heated in big open pans so that most of the water will boil away. The Colemans say it takes about thirty-five gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup.

5 More than a hundred years ago, scientist Charles Darwin wrote that sap flow was a “most mysterious subject.” Since then, many people have studied how sap flows. Much of the research has been done at the University of Vermont, where sap is still being studied.

GO ON 

- 6 Nelson Coleman and his brothers have made maple syrup all their lives. It is a family tradition. They don't worry too much about why the sap is running in their trees this morning. They're just glad it is.



The sap buckets are emptied into a large horse-drawn container.

- What Makes Sap Run?**
- 7 For years, people have thought that sap rises from the roots of the sugar-maple tree. It doesn't. "During the time when sap flows from tap holes, the bulk flow of sap is downward," says Dr. Tim Perkins. He is a scientist at the University of Vermont.
- 8 How does sap flow? During cold nights, maple trees freeze solid. That's when water rises into the trunk and branches. The water forms frost inside tiny hollow spaces within the tree. In the morning, this frost melts and becomes sap, which flows down the tree.
- 9 Scientists say that anyone who cuts down a sugar-maple tree in freezing weather can see this is true. When the weather warms up, sap will flow from the cut end of the trunk—not from the stump.

The Iroquois Legend of Woksis and Maple Syrup

According to legend, an Iroquois chief named Woksis yanked his tomahawk out of a maple tree one spring day. A bowl sat by the trunk of that tree. As the day warmed, sap dripped from the gash into the bowl. When Woksis's wife saw the sap in the bowl, she thought it was water. She used it to cook their meal. The sap boiled away, leaving maple syrup. When Woksis tasted the sweetened meat, he loved it. So, boiled sap to make maple syrup began.

GO ON 

- 1 What is the main idea of the selection?
- A. Tree sap freezes solid in winter.
 - B. Syrup is made from maple tree sap.
 - C. Collecting sap is a family tradition.

- 2 Imagine that you work for the Colemans. Explain to a visitor how people make maple syrup. Use **two** details from the selection in your explanation.



3 Which idea is included in the text box **The Iroquois Legend of Woksis and Maple Syrup**?

- A.** Syrup sweetens meat.
- B.** Sap contains minerals.
- C.** Maple leaves make sugar.

4 According to the selection, which sentence explains why the Colemans boil sap?

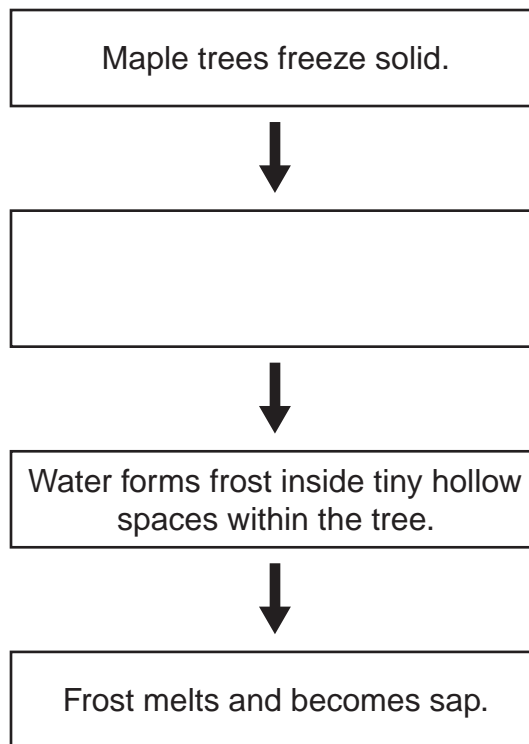
- A.** Boiling sap makes the syrup runny.
- B.** Boiling sap produces minerals.
- C.** Boiling sap removes water.

5 What is the meaning of the word *running* in paragraph 6?

- A.** To race
- B.** To flow
- C.** To work

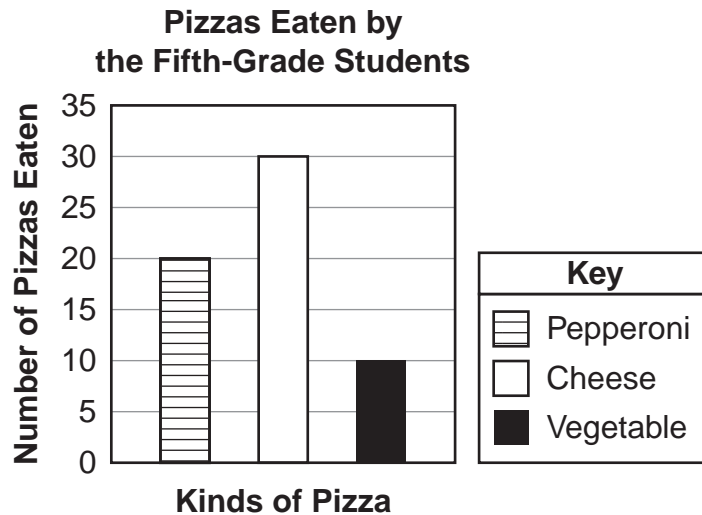


- 6 Use information from the selection to fill in the empty box with **one** detail to complete the order of how sap is formed.



Questions 7 and 8 are not connected to a passage.

7 Read the graph below.



What information does this graph give a student?

- A. When the students participated in eating pizza
- B. Why students chose certain pizza toppings
- C. What kinds of pizzas were eaten

8 Which statement is a fact?

- A. Athletes participate in sports.
- B. Athletes win every game.
- C. Athletes are always tall.



MSP

Measurements of Student Progress



Reading Grade 5

**Sample Reading Materials
Student Edition
2011**

Student's Name

Date

9

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Climbing Techniques” by Bill Lund, “Rock Climbing” © 1996 by Capstone Press, an imprint by Capstone. All rights reserved. “Woman climbing” by Ray Roper, © Ray Roper/iStockphoto # 14712601. “Male Rock Climber” by Bob Ingelhart, © Bob Ingelhart/iStockphoto # 13075896.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is committed to equal opportunity in all programs, activities and employment, and to full compliance with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, military status, age or disability.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Climbing Techniques

by Bill Lund

- 1 Rock climbing can be very enjoyable. But it can also be dangerous. Climbers must know what they are doing.

Finding Holds

- 2 Rock climbers must find spots where they can fit a hand or a foot. These spots for hands and feet are called holds. Holds allow climbers to pull or push themselves up.
- 3 A hold must be two things. It must be big enough for the climber's foot or hand to fit into it. It must also be secure enough to hold the climber's weight.
- 4 Rock climbers look for any kind of knob, outcropping, or ledge. A large hold is called a bucket. A very small hold is called a finger because a finger is all that will fit there.
- 5 Sometimes climbers cannot find any holds. Then they look for a long vertical crack. If they find one, they force part of their body into the opening. This is called jamming. Climbers can work their way up the cliff by jamming their bodies higher and higher in the crack.
- 6 Balance is important in rock climbing. Climbers try to position their body weight directly above their feet. Climbers can see and reach footholds and handholds best when they are in a balanced position.



Climbers find places to fit their hands and feet.



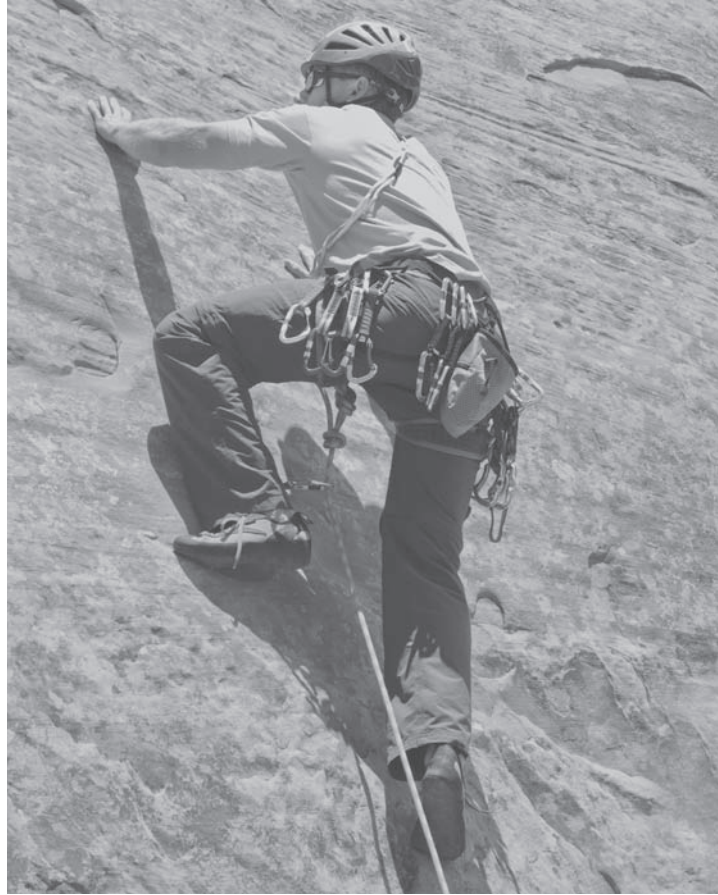
Smart Climbing

7 Smart climbers look ahead. They study the rock above them. They plan what their next moves will be.

8 Smart climbers move only one leg or one arm at a time. This helps them stay balanced. If they are balanced, they are less likely to fall.

9 Smart climbers test holds before they use them. They wiggle each new hold with their hand or foot. They put their weight on a hold slowly. They test holds to make sure they are secure.

10 Even experienced climbers can fall and injure themselves. Rock climbers should be well trained before they take on their first cliffs. Part of the challenge of rock climbing is being prepared.



Climbers try to position their bodies directly above their feet.



- 1 Which sentence shows the main idea of the selection?
- A. Rock climbers use holds to move themselves up a cliff.
 - B. Rock climbers look for spots where they can fit their hands.
 - C. Rock climbers need to know what they are doing to stay safe.
- 2 Which sentence from the selection is an opinion?
- A. “A large hold is called a bucket.”
 - B. “Rock climbing can be very enjoyable.”
 - C. “Holds allow climbers to pull or push themselves up.”

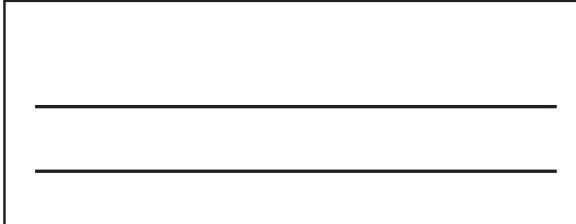


- 3 According to the section **Finding Holds**, what are **two** ways that climbers find holds in rocks?

- 4 Which of these resources would probably give the *best* information about safety equipment for rock climbing?
- A. A brochure describing what gear to pack for rock climbing
 - B. A flier announcing a sale for rock climbing tools
 - C. A poster advertising an upcoming rock climb



- 5 Use information from the selection to write the effect for the given cause.

Cause	Effect
Smart climbers only move one leg or arm at a time.	

- 6 Which sentence best summarizes the selection?
- A. Rock climbers pull themselves up using holds.
 - B. Rock climbers carefully plan every move.
 - C. Rock climbers can injure themselves.



Questions 7 and 8 are not connected to a passage.

- 7 Carmen is writing a report about the rules of baseball. Which of these would be the *least* helpful source of information?
- A. A book about how to play baseball
 - B. An encyclopedia entry for baseball
 - C. A map to the Baseball Hall of Fame

- 8 Read the sentence below.

We were amazed at the *vast* number of birds flying overhead.

Which word from a thesaurus entry could replace *vast* in the sentence?

- A. Important
- B. Immense
- C. Innocent



MSP

Measurements of Student Progress



Reading Grade 5

**Sample Reading Materials
Student Edition**

Student's Name

Date 17

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Nature Photo Contest!” Used by permission of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

“Gerbils Morphing” by Dani Sneed, from *Highlights for Children*, May 2003, copyright © by Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. Used by permission. Photo of gerbil pups at one day and photo of gerbils at four days, copyright © May 2003 by Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. Used by permission. Photo of gerbils in cage, copyright © by Richard Hutchings/Corbis # 42-18274667.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is committed to equal opportunity in all programs, activities and employment, and to full compliance with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, military status, age or disability.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Nature Photo Contest!

*For beginning or experienced
photographers*

Send us your best photo of nature for a chance to win a new camera from Cam's Camera Supply!

- ❖ Grand Prize is a QuickPix 451 camera.
- ❖ Three runners-up each win a \$15 gift card to Cam's Camera Supply.

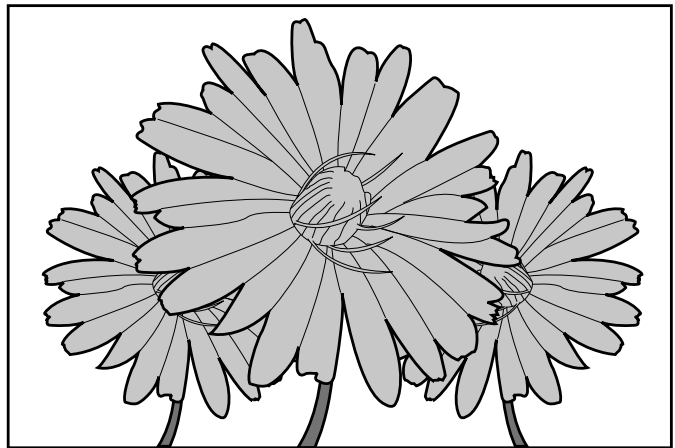


Photo Contest Rules

1. Each entry must contain only one printed photo, no larger than 8 x 10 inches.
2. Photos must be the original work of the person who is entering the contest.
3. An individual may enter up to three photos in the contest, but an entry form must be completed and taped to the back of each photo. Please do not staple or clip the photo to the entry form.
4. An individual may win only one prize.
5. Submit entries in one of two ways:
 - Drop off at the front desk of Cam's Camera Supply
 - Mail to Cam's Camera Supply at 319 Southwest First Street, Tacoma, WA 98499
6. Entries must be received by Saturday, June 20.
7. Photos submitted for the contest will be kept by Cam's Camera Supply.
8. Contest winners will have their photos posted in the window of Cam's Camera Supply for one month following the contest.

Additional Information:

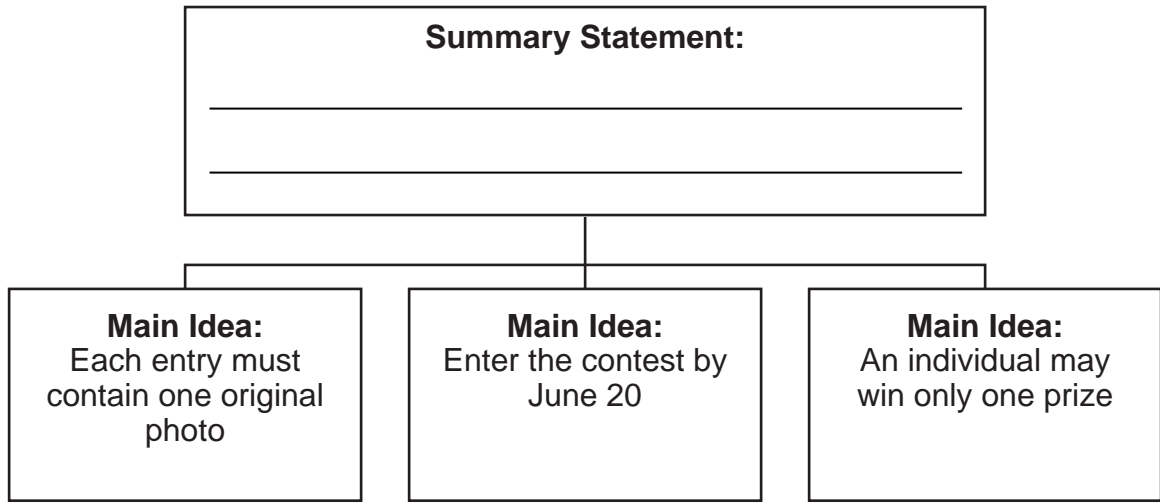
If you are interested in participating, please pick up a Nature Photo Contest entry form at any local grocery store or Cam's Camera Supply. Please complete the form and be sure a title is included with your photo. Participants will be notified by July 15 if their entry has been selected to hang in the window of Cam's Camera Supply.



- 1** Which idea is best supported by the information in the section **Additional Information**?
- A. Photos will be displayed for one month.
 - B. Pick up an entry form at a grocery store.
 - C. The entry form must be taped to the photo.
- 2** Based on information in the selection, which sentence explains why a person entering the contest might want to make an extra copy of his or her photo?
- A. Up to three photos per person may be submitted.
 - B. Photos submitted for the contest are kept.
 - C. Each entry form will include a photo.



- 3** Read the chart below. Write a summary statement to support the main ideas.



- 4** After reading the selection, people may want to convince others that Cam's Camera Supply makes entering the contest convenient. Support this statement with **two** details from the selection.



- 5** According to the selection, what will happen to the winning photos?
- A.** The photos will be given titles.
 - B.** The photos will be posted in the window.
 - C.** The photos will be used in advertisements.
-
- 6** What is most likely the author's purpose for writing the selection?
- A.** To inform the reader how to enter the photo contest
 - B.** To demonstrate how to take quality pictures of nature
 - C.** To describe the cameras available at a local camera store



Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Gerbils Morphing

by Dani Sneed

An odd squeak startled my son, Kyle, as he passed the gerbil cage. He lifted the screen lid and peered in at Rosey and Stinky.

To his surprise the squeaking came from beneath Rosey. She had a bunch of wiggling pink legs sticking out from under her.

“Mom, come quick!” yelled Kyle. “Rosey had babies!” Kyle pointed as I entered his room. “Look. They’re teeny. They don’t have fur.”



When the gerbil pups were one day old, they had no hair. They slept almost all the time.

I joined Kyle staring through the glass at the tiny creatures.

Several months before, we had gone to the pet store to buy one gerbil. The store owner explained that wild Mongolian gerbils are community animals. Gerbils are happier living together. Two boys would be happy living together, and so would two girls. We had picked a boy and a girl, hoping to raise baby gerbils. As the weeks rolled into months, we had given up on the idea of babies.

Surprise!

As Rosey left the nest, we gasped at the first sight of the baby gerbils. They lay in the soft bedding. I counted five pups.

One newborn was lying on his back. With his pink skin, he looked like a piglet. His eyes were not open yet, and two big black eyes showed through his eyelids.

Two bumps showed where his ears would soon grow. A curious white oval on the side of his tummy was a stomach full of milk. A tiny scab was a future belly button. We wanted to pick up the babies, but we didn’t. That might have alarmed the new mother.

After a few minutes, the baby surprised us by curling and straightening his body until he rolled to his feet. On unsteady legs he crawled until he bumped into a warm body. Then he cuddled up next to his brothers and sisters.

GO ON

“Let’s keep a log of the changes the babies go through,” I said.

Kyle found a notebook on his desk. “They will have to morph a lot to look like Rosey and Stinky.”

The next day Kyle brought me to the cage saying, “They are changing colors.”

Four of the babies had dark shadows on their backs. One was still pink. We guessed the shadow was fur growing underneath the skin. But why was one pink?



When the gerbil pups were four days old we could see the beginnings of their fur, and their “bumps” were growing into ears.

On the Move

Before they were a week old, their ears began to stick out. The pups also started wandering around the cage, sniffing, and feeling with their whiskers. Rosey put them back in the nest, where she and Stinky licked them clean. Straying from the nest can be dangerous for mammal babies because they need their mother’s milk and warmth.

Kyle enjoyed the responsibility of caring for the new family. He couldn’t wait for the pups to be old enough for him to play with them.

When they were eight days old, their sleek soft fur came in. Four had black fur, and the pink one now had white fur.

Every night Kyle gave the parents fresh gerbil food and celery. He picked up Stinky to stroke his back. He made sure all the babies were in the nest.

Ready to Go

At three weeks old, the pups scurried with new speed. They had their eyes open.

Rosey had given up trying to put the pups back in the nest. Finally, they were old enough to come out to play. Kyle gently put them all in the





The gerbil pups went through many changes in just over a month.

dry bathtub with some boxes to explore. We laughed as they scampered around, dug holes through the cardboard, and tunneled through paper-towel rolls.

At thirty-five days old, the baby gerbils had made amazing changes. They now ran in the exercise wheel, ate seeds from the food bowl, and had even started gnawing on paper-towel rolls. These darling miniature gerbils were independent, playful, and ready for a new home.

Wow, what changes they had made in just a little more than a month!
Gerbils morphing!



- 7** Which idea does the author of the selection discuss first?
- A.** Gerbils open their eyes.
 - B.** Gerbils change colors.
 - C.** Gerbils grow soft fur.
- 8** Which sentence states the most important idea in the selection?
- A.** Baby gerbils go through many changes in their first month.
 - B.** Baby gerbils exercise in wheels by thirty-five days old.
 - C.** Baby gerbils grow fur when they are eight days old.



- 9 According to the section **On the Move**, what are **two** ways that Kyle cared for the gerbils? Include information from the selection in your answer.

- 10 What is the meaning of the word *morph* in the sentence “They will have to morph a lot to look like Rosey and Stinky.”?
- A. Exercise
 - B. Change
 - C. Groom



- 11** What is the difference between baby gerbils at birth and baby gerbils at 35 days old?
- A.** At birth they had soft fur; at 35 days their skin was dark pink.
 - B.** At birth their eyes were closed; at 35 days their eyes had opened.
 - C.** At birth they ate seeds and milk; at 35 days they ate celery and carrots.
-
- 12** Which sentence from the selection is an opinion?
- A.** He looked like a piglet.
 - B.** He bumped into a warm body.
 - C.** He cuddled up next to his brothers.



Questions 13 and 14 are not connected to a passage.

13 Natalya is writing a report about snakes. Which of these books would be the best source of information for her paper?

- A. A poetry collection titled *Mammals From A to Z*
- B. A science text titled *Reptiles All Around Us*
- C. A novel titled *Amphibian Invasion*

14 Read the sentence below.

When I forgot to turn in my homework, my dad lectured me about being a responsible student.

What is the effect in this sentence?

- A. I forgot to turn in my homework
- B. Being a responsible student
- C. My dad lectured me



WCAP

WASHINGTON COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



Reading Grade 5

Sample Items Student Materials

Student's Name _____

Date 31 _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Kids Are Inventors, Too” from *The Kids’ Invention Book* by Arlene Erlbach, copyright © 1997 by Arlene Erlbach. Used by permission of Lerner Publications Company, a division of Lerner Publishing Group. All Rights Reserved.

“You Probably Know This Guy” by Virginia Bennett, copyright (c) 2004 by Virginia Bennett. Used by permission of the author.

The Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction is committed to equal opportunity in all programs, activities and employment, and to full compliance with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, military status, age or disability.

Directions: Read the poem and answer the questions.

You Probably Know This Guy

by Virginia Bennett



He gets up in the mornin', way before dawn,
 Feeds the wood heater, turns a pot of coffee on,
 Tunes in the radio for the market report.
 He could stay in bed, but he's just not that sort.

- 5 He scrambles some eggs, while his family sleeps upstairs.
 Thinks over coffee 'til first light appears.
 He climbs into his coveralls when it's light enough to feed.
 Some folks wait 'til it's warmer, but he's not of that breed.

- The snow crunches as he walks, his breath rises in the cold air.
 10 Tiny icicles begin to form on his moustache hair.
 The cows beckon softly, the horses toss their heads and nicker
 And stamp their impatience when the tack room lights flicker.

- While most folks are asleep, he's out there loadin' up hay.
 He could do it blindfolded, since he does it twice every day.
 15 He pauses to stroke a barn cat, and listen to it purr,
 Tousles the ears of his cowdog, and pulls out a burr.

- Last year's calves chew their alfalfa as the rancher waters.
 He's proud of his cows that produced these sons and daughters.
 He checks for bad eyes and cows that are due.
 20 This herd needs him badly, and he needs them, too.

He does this every day, every winter, every year,
 But it's never monotonous, routine, boring or drear.
 To the rest of the world, those are just cows out by the shed
 But to this honest cowboy, they're his reason for gettin' out of bed.

GO ON 

- 1** What is the main idea of the poem?
- A. The cowboy wakes up early.
 - B. The cowboy enjoys his work.
 - C. The cowboy owns many cows.
- 2** What is the meaning of the word *monotonous* in line 22?
- A. Simple
 - B. Quiet
 - C. Dull



- 3** What do you think would be the best part of being the cowboy in the poem? Include information from the poem in your answer.

What do you think would be the worst part of being the cowboy in the poem? Include information from the poem in your answer.



4 Why does the cowboy wait until “first light appears” before he goes outside to work?

- A.** He likes to let the sunlight warm up the temperature outside.
- B.** He needs the sunlight to see while he feeds the animals.
- C.** He knows the sunlight will wake his family to help him.

5 Which phrase best describes the poet’s purpose for writing this poem?

- A.** To describe to readers the life of a cowboy
- B.** To inform readers about the problems cowboys face
- C.** To entertain readers with a humorous poem about a cowboy



Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Kids Are Inventors, Too
by Arlene Erlbach

1 Do you know what's unusual about earmuffs? They were invented by a kid!

2 Chester Greenwood wanted to keep his ears warm, so he invented earmuffs. They solved a problem for him. That's what inventions are supposed to do. Chester's invention made life easier for millions of other people.



Earmuffs can help you enjoy the outdoors during cold weather.

Anyone Can Invent

3 You may already be an inventor, too, without even knowing it. You're an inventor every time you find a way of doing something.

4 Have you ever made up new rules for a game? Or maybe you've wiped your mouth on your sleeve when you couldn't find a napkin. Your parents may not have been thrilled when they saw you do that, but you solved a problem for yourself.

5 Inventions are discoveries. An invention might be a new item, like the Koosh® Ball or Slinky® were when they first appeared in stores, years ago. Or an invention may improve something that already exists.

6 Think about your TV. You probably see color pictures on the screen. But the first TV sets showed only black-and-white pictures. The person who invented color television improved something that people were already using.

Chester's Invention

7 Let's go back to earmuffs. They were invented in 1873, when Chester Greenwood was only 15 years old.

8 Chester lived in Farmington, Maine, and he loved to ice skate. Anyone familiar with northeastern winters knows how hard they can be on your ears—even when you wear a hat. So Chester took a piece of wire and asked his grandmother to sew cloth pads on the ends.



- 9 At first Chester's friends thought his earmuffs looked weird, but they soon changed their minds. Chester could stay outside and skate longer than they did. His ears didn't get cold!



Chester Greenwood
1858–1937

10 Soon Chester's friends wanted earmuffs, too. So he started making earmuffs and selling them. He also applied for a patent. A patent is a document issued by the U.S. government. It protects an inventor's idea so nobody else can make money from it.

11 Chester began manufacturing earmuffs and eventually became rich. He became famous, too. Farmington, Maine, celebrates Chester Greenwood Day each December.

12 Lots of kids—about 500,000 each year—invent things. Most kids don't sell their inventions or become rich. But they do have fun creating things and seeing them work.



- 6** Which sentence states a main idea from the selection?
- A.** The inventor of earmuffs received help from his grandmother.
 - B.** Inventions solve problems or improve existing ideas.
 - C.** Few teenage inventors sell their creations.
- 7** Based on information from the selection, which sentence tells how the invention of earmuffs is different from the invention of color television?
- A.** Chester Greenwood invented earmuffs when he was an adult; the color television was invented by a teenager.
 - B.** The earmuffs were a new item; the color television was an improvement on something that already existed.
 - C.** Earmuffs were invented to make money; the color television was invented to solve a problem.
- 8** According to the selection, which idea does the author discuss first?
- A.** Inventions can be protected by patents.
 - B.** Inventions are sometimes new things.
 - C.** Inventions often make life easier.



- 9 How might the selection be helpful to someone who wants to become an inventor? Use **two** ideas from the selection in your answer.



WASL - Washington Assessment of Student Learning

Reading Grade 5

2008 Released Items Student Edition



Dr. Terry Bergeson
State Superintendent of
Public Instruction

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Trail Mix” by Susie Post-Rust, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WORLD, January/February 2002, National Geographic Society, Inc. Photo of Kathleen Blevins © Susie Post Rust/Aurora Photos.

The Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction is committed to equal opportunity in all programs, activities and employment, and to full compliance with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, military status, age or disability.

2008 Reading Released Items

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Trail Mix by Susie Post-Rust

1 Lester Erhart's dogs are jumping and yelping, ready to go. Standing behind Colt, Ben, Cid, and Blazer on a sled, Lester adjusts his face mask so only his eyes show. The 13-year-old's misty breath escapes as he waits in the 15-below-zero cold.

2 "Five. Four. Three. Two. One. Go!" the announcer calls.

3 "All right!" Lester yells.

4 The team takes off with a jerk. "It's like you're floating on air," Lester says. He hears the wind rustling his jacket and the dogs' paws beating the snowy path. And, of course, the barking.

5 This is the 2001 Junior North American/International Federation of Sled Dog Sports Junior World Championships in Fairbanks, Alaska. Kids and sled dogs race down a snowpacked trail through the woods. There's only one musher per sled, but make no mistake: this is a team sport.



Kathleen Blevins, 15, heads for the finish line in the six-dog race.

Mush Pit

6 It's a tight friendship between dog and musher. Who else is a musher going to depend on if his sled tips over five miles into a lonely trail? The dogs—Alaskan huskies and hounds—depend on the mushers for daily feeding, cleaning, training, and love.

7 But no amount of bonding prepared Britni Browning, 13, for what happened to her. The best of her four dogs sat down in the middle of the race—*four* times!

8 "I knew I wasn't going to win," Britni says. "But I got off the sled, petted Whitey, and told him he was doing well. If he thought I was mad, he'd never get up!"

2008 Reading Released Items

Going to the Dogs

- 9 Britni knows that communication is important, but not just so the dogs understand commands. The mushers must understand their dogs as well. Who should be the lead dog? Does this dog run better hitched to the right or left? By the time of the race, most of the real work is already done.
- 10 The rest is teamwork, as Carey Erhart, Lester's 17-year-old sister, knows. She has fallen behind and wants badly to make up the time.
- 11 As Carey finishes, she kicks one leg behind her to push the sled. Her six dogs can tell she's working hard, so they run faster. Their tongues hang out, and icicles dangle from their whiskers.
- 12 Carey is breathing hard when she crosses the finish line, as if she's been running right alongside the dogs. She won, but she doesn't know it yet. She's just trying to breathe.
- 13 Suddenly her dogs pounce and cover her with slobber. They don't know that they won, either. And they don't care. All they know is that being part of this team keeps their trails—er, *tails*—wagging!

Location of Alaska



Fast Facts

- Alaska is the biggest U.S. state in area but ranks 48th in population.
- Sled dog racing is the official state sport of Alaska.
- No major roads lead to Juneau, the state capital. The only way in is by boat or plane.
- Careful! *Mukluks* are winter boots. *Muktuk* is a whale blubber snack.

2008 Reading Released Items

- 1 According to the selection, which idea does the author of the selection discuss first?
- A. Sled dog racing is a team sport.
 - B. Mushers train their dogs daily.
 - C. Dogs need to understand commands.
- 2 What is the meaning of the word *tight* in paragraph 6?
- A. Competitive
 - B. Careless
 - C. Close
- 3 What is the main difference between the way Britni's dogs ran in the race and the way Carey's dogs ran in the race?
- A. Britni's dogs won the race; Carey's dogs lost the race.
 - B. Britni's dogs ran fast; Carey's dogs licked her face.
 - C. Britni's dogs sat down; Carey's dogs won the race.

2008 Reading Released Items

- 4 The author’s purpose for writing the selection was to describe the importance of the relationship between the sled dogs and the musher in sled dog racing. Use **two** details from the selection that support this idea.

- 5 According to the “Fast Facts” text box, which statement is true?
- A. Mushers must be able to communicate with their dogs.
 - B. Alaska has the largest population of any U.S. state.
 - C. The only way in to Juneau is by boat or plane.

2008 Reading Released Items

- 6 Based on the information in the selection, predict what will most likely happen when dogs lose a race?
- A. The dogs will wag their tails and pounce on the musher.
 - B. The dogs will sit down in the middle of the trail.
 - C. The dogs will whine and refuse to eat.