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MSA

MARYLAND SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

GRADE

5



READING PUBLIC RELEASE

Release Date: March 2009

PEARSON



DIRECTIONS

Read the sentence in the box. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

1

She carefully explained each point to her father, hoping to persuade him to change his mind.

In which sentence does the word point mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) Winning the championship was a special point in his life.
- (B) The point of his speech was difficult to understand.
- (C) A colored pencil needs to have a sharp point.
- (D) It is not polite to point at other people.

2

A lack of money may force the library to close.

In which sentence does the word force mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) The storm could force us to stop the baseball game.
- (B) Pam struggled to force her foot into a shoe that did not fit.
- (C) Rick tried to force a smile even though he lost the contest.
- (D) The force of the wind blew her notebooks out of her hand.

3

The principal stood in the hall on the first day of school to direct students to their classrooms.

In which sentence does the word direct mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) Mr. Johnson will direct the band at the concert next week.
- (B) It was late, so I decided to take the most direct way to school.
- (C) The police officer stood near the curb to direct the busy traffic.
- (D) Direct contact with an electrical wire can cause a serious shock.

DIRECTIONS ▶ As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

4

Because we were hungry, we walked to a restaurant in the vicinity of the ballpark where our team had just won the game.

Vicinity means —

- (A) scene
- (B) background
- (C) attractive setting
- (D) surrounding area

6

The crowd was jubilant when the team won the championship.

Jubilant means —

- (A) calm
- (B) curious
- (C) polite
- (D) thrilled

5

Jason was not sure if the dog was friendly, so he approached it warily.

What does warily mean?

- (A) cautiously
- (B) directly
- (C) furiously
- (D) lazily

7

At first my parents would not allow me to go to the movie with my friends, but they relented when I promised to be home before dinner.

What does relented mean?

- (A) let go
- (B) argued
- (C) gave in
- (D) complained





**DO
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DIRECTIONS

Read this article about how some animals spend the winter. Then answer Numbers 8 through 14.

Snug in the Snow

What happens to animals when the days get shorter and the snow starts to fly? Many head for warmer climates. Others get ready for winter by putting on a thick coat of fur. Some animals head underground for a long winter's nap. This is called hibernation. These hibernators go into a deep sleep. If you saw a hibernating animal you might think it was dead.

Sleeping all winter takes preparation and animals that hibernate begin preparing for it in the fall. They try to put on as much fat as possible because they won't be eating much during the winter. Animals that hibernate also put on a special kind of fat, called brown fat. This special fat is found across the back and shoulders of hibernating animals, close to an animal's organs (brain, liver). Brown fat works fast to deliver quick energy to an animal coming out of hibernation.

Hibernation is still a bit of a mystery for scientists. How does an animal know when it's time to get ready for hibernation? How does their body know to slow down during hibernation? Scientists have found a special substance in the blood of hibernating animals. It's called HIT (Hibernation Inducement Trigger). If blood is taken from a hibernating ground squirrel in the winter and injected into an active squirrel in the spring, the active squirrel goes into hibernation. (Pretty weird, huh?)

There are different kinds of hibernation. The "true" hibernators sleep so deeply that they are almost impossible to wake up. Woodchucks, ground squirrels and bats are "true" hibernators. A woodchuck's heart rate goes from 80 beats a minute when active to 4 or 5 beats a minute when in hibernation.



The woodchuck is a "true" hibernator.



The bear is actually an "in-between" hibernator.

Its body temperature drops from 98 degrees Fahrenheit to 38 degrees Fahrenheit. And the woodchuck's incisors, which grow continuously and are kept short by all the gnawing it does, quit growing during hibernation. True hibernators do get up every few weeks to nibble on food, and in the case of the woodchuck, use an underground toilet room. When bats are ready to hibernate, they



must find a place that stays above freezing. They gather together in caves called hibernacula.

Bears are not “true” hibernators. They are one of the “light sleepers.” They are easily awakened from their winter slumbers. These in-between hibernators are simply taking long winter naps. Skunks, raccoons, and opossums are also in this group. These animals breathe a little more slowly and lower their body temperature a few degrees while sleeping, but they wake up to forage between winter snows.

- 6 Can you think of any other animals that hibernate? How about our cold-blooded friends—snakes, turtles, and frogs? Since cold-blooded animals can’t warm themselves up, they need to find a way to protect themselves from the cold. Frogs and turtles bury themselves in the mud below the frostline. They get oxygen from air trapped in the mud. In the spring when the sun warms the mud, out they’ll come. Some snakes head underground to hibernate; others gather together in sheltered places, like rotted out logs. Imagine walking in the woods on a spring day and coming across a bunch of snakes emerging from their wintering spot. What a sight that would be!

Hibernation is still somewhat of a mystery and an amazing animal adaptation.¹ The next time you’re sitting around the fireplace all snug, warming up after playing outside, think about all the animals that are sleeping, snug in the snow.

¹**adaptation** – a change in behavior to fit a special situation



Reading Comprehension

8

Which of these sentences would make the *best* opening sentence for a summary of this article?

- (A) Animals that hibernate begin preparing for hibernation in the fall.
- (B) Some animals spend the winter in a deep sleep called hibernation.
- (C) Hibernating animals put on a special kind of fat called "brown fat."
- (D) Hibernating animals have a special substance called HIT in their blood.



9

Explain what could be added to help a reader better understand this article. In your response, use information from the article that supports your explanation. Write your answer in your answer book.



Reading Comprehension

10

What is the *main* idea of paragraph 6 of this article?

- (A) Snakes, turtles, and frogs are cold-blooded animals.
- (B) Frogs cover themselves in mud to get out of the cold.
- (C) Cold-blooded animals hibernate because they cannot warm themselves.
- (D) Animals often hibernate in groups in sheltered places, like rotted-out logs.



11

Read this sentence from the last paragraph of this article.

Hibernation is still somewhat of a mystery and an amazing animal adaptation.

Explain whether the information in the article supports the ideas in this statement. In your response, use information from the article that supports your explanation. Write your answer in the box below.



Reading Comprehension

12

This article would be *most* useful to someone who —

- (A) builds animal shelters
- (B) lives in a very cold climate
- (C) volunteers at a nature center
- (D) studies the life patterns of animals



13

Explain how the title “Snug in the Snow” helps a reader understand an important idea in this article. In your response, use information from the article that supports your explanation. Write your answer in the box below.



Reading Comprehension

14

According to this article, which of these statements is true?

- (A) Caves are the best places to hibernate.
- (B) Woodchucks sleep longer than any other animal.
- (C) Animals have different ways of living during the winter.
- (D) Animals that hibernate are warmer than those that stay awake all winter.





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DIRECTIONS

Read this story about a trip to the movies. Then answer Numbers 15 through 24.

Teeth for Two

by Patricia McFadden



The strangest things can happen, and they usually happen to me. Take, for example, the time my little brother and I went to the Saturday matinee¹ and ended up leaving it on our hands and knees. Anybody else would go to a movie, eat a bag of popcorn, and go home—no problem. Not us.

Everything would have been all right if it hadn't been for that gum machine. It stood right inside the door, and Skippy noticed it as soon as we had paid for our tickets. "Look, Susie," he said, "that machine is almost empty." Everybody knows that when a gum machine is nearly empty you can get the best prizes,

¹**matinee** – an afternoon showing of a movie

sometimes two or three at a crank. So we stopped.

- 3 Skippy ended up with three pieces of gum, a pair of tiny binoculars, and a deck of inch-high playing cards. I got four pieces of gum and a set of miniature false teeth.

"Trade you my binoculars for your teeth," Skippy whispered as we went into the dim interior. I thought about it. "No deal. I'll trade for your cards, though."

"No deal . . . well, maybe. Let me see them."

I handed over the teeth and promptly forgot about them as the lights went out and the movie started. It was a really good movie, but I never found out how it ended. About three-quarters of the way through, I began noticing something strange going on in the next row.

"What are you doing?" someone asked.

"I'm looking for my sister's false teeth," a familiar voice answered.

"What?"

"I'm looking for my sister's false teeth. They fell on the floor." Snickers and giggles issued from the surrounding seats. My toes curled in embarrassment.

"How old is your sister?" a motherly voice inquired.

"Twelve." By this time Skippy had worked his way up another row.

“Poor little thing.” It was a fatherly voice this time. “Only twelve years old and wears false teeth. We’d better help you look.”

Before long, half the people in the theater were crawling around looking for those stupid teeth. The usher came to see what the commotion was about and joined the search. I decided that there was only one thing to do.

I slipped out of my seat and made my way, on my hands and knees, to Skippy, who by this time was nearly at the front of the theater.

“Come on,” I whispered, grabbing him by the collar. “Let’s get out of here.”

“What?” he said in surprise. “I haven’t found your teeth yet. Besides, the movie isn’t over yet.”

“It is for us,” I told him grimly. “Look around. If we don’t get out of here fast,

you may be hunting for your own teeth.”

He peered into the surrounding dark, noticing the mass of people shuffling on their knees, groping under chairs and down aisles for my elusive² false teeth.

“Oh.”

He had gotten my point. Quickly, still on our knees, we made our way up the aisle and out the door, then stood up and beat it across the lobby.

“Hey, sis, wait!” Skippy skidded to a halt by the ticket seller’s booth.

“What’s the matter, now?”

“Well, I just thought, as long as we’re going past,” he said, grinning. “Have you got any more change for the gum machine?”

²**elusive** – hard to get hold of

15

The illustration *mostly* helps a reader understand this story because it shows —

- (A) what is in the gum machine
- (B) how to use the gum machine
- (C) what a gum machine looks like
- (D) where the gum machine is located

16

Which of these sentences would make the *best* opening sentence for a summary of “Teeth for Two”?

- (A) Susie agrees to trade her false teeth for Skippy’s cards.
- (B) Susie and Skippy have an unusual experience at the movies.
- (C) Skippy notices a gum machine inside the door of the movie theater.
- (D) Susie and Skippy have to hide from the other people in the audience.



17

Read paragraph 3 of the story.

Skippy ended up with three pieces of gum, a pair of tiny binoculars, and a deck of inch-high playing cards. I got four pieces of gum and a set of miniature false teeth.

Details in this paragraph suggest that the false teeth are —

- (A) dirty
- (B) old
- (C) small
- (D) ugly

18

Details in this story suggest that the people in the audience are —

- (A) careless
- (B) cautious
- (C) cowardly
- (D) concerned



19

Explain how the setting affects the actions of the characters in this story. In your response, use details from the story that support your explanation. Write your answer in the box below.



20

The people in the audience are looking for the false teeth because they —

- (A) think that the false teeth are real
- (B) like Skippy and want to help him
- (C) are not really interested in the movie
- (D) cannot believe Susie wears false teeth

21

Which of these quotations is *most* important to the plot of this story?

- (A) "Look, Susie," he said, "that machine is almost empty."
- (B) "How old is your sister?" a motherly voice inquired.
- (C) "Poor little thing."
- (D) "Let's get out of here."



Reading Comprehension**22**

Compare Susie's and Skippy's feelings throughout this story. In your response, use details from the story that support your comparison. Write your answer in the box below.



23

Because Susie is the narrator of this story, a reader is better able to —

- (A) imagine Susie's appearance
- (B) understand Susie's feelings
- (C) predict Susie's movements
- (D) question Susie's actions





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