Success in Literacy Reading Tests

UNDERSTANDING YEAR 5 COMPREHENSION

Excellent for all Students, Teachers, Coaches and Parents

SAMPLE

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Year 5 Comprehension Passages and Exercises

These tests include narratives, poems, procedures, recounts, explanations, descriptions, cartoons and reports. At the end of each test there is also a valuable and well explained literacy tip. 1

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"So it is with children who learn to read fluently and well. They begin to take flight into whole new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky."

William James

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SOME QUESTION FORMATS

Look at the nursery rhyme, **Mary had a Little Lamb**, as the text for a set of questions.

1. Mary had a little lamb
   Whose fleece was white as snow.
   And everywhere that Mary went,
   The lamb was sure to go.

2. It followed her to school one day
   Which was against the rules.
   It made the children laugh and play
   To ___(4)___ a lamb at school.

Many tests are based on multiple-choice responses. You are given a choice of four (sometimes three) possible answers (options) to choose from.

1. Who owned a little lamb?

A Mary
B some school children
C a teacher at the school
D Mary's parents



The question could have been framed so that you have to complete a sentence.

2. The lamb was owned by

A Mary
B some school children
C a teacher at the school
D Mary's parents

Some questions may have to do with word or phrase meanings.

3. Choose the word that could best replace *laugh* as used in the text.

A shout B giggle C cackle D joke

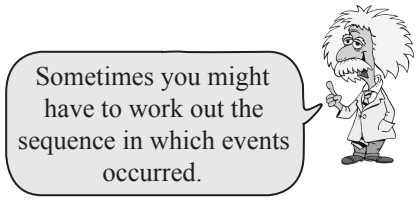
(Did you notice the different lay out of the options? They were across the page.)

4. Which word would best go in the space labelled (4) in stanza 2?

A chase B find C follow D see

5. Write the numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes to show the correct order in which events occurred in the rhyme. The first one (1) has been done for you.

1	Mary owned a lamb.
	The lamb followed Mary to school.
	Children at the school laughed at Mary's lamb.
	Mary went off to school.



Some questions are called free response questions. You will have to write an answer.

6. What colour was the lamb? Write your answer on the line? _____

…

Sometimes you might have to decide if something is TRUE or FALSE.

7. Tick the box to show if this statement is TRUE or FALSE.
Lambs were allowed at the school. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

There will be times when you will have to read the whole text and make a judgement.

8. You know that Mary was a kind person because she

A always went to school
B kept the lamb's fleece clean
C let the lamb follow her about
D played in the snow with her pet

9. There might be a question about the use of language in the text.
The phrase: *white as snow* (line 2), is an example of a

A metaphor
B simile

10. Sometimes you might have to decide if, according to the text, a statement is FACT or OPINION (no example available from the text).

Answers: 1. A, 2. A, 3. B, 4. D, 5. (1, 3, 4, 2), 6. white, 7. FALSE, 8. C, 9. simile

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Year 5 Comprehension Passages and Exercises

Each of the 40 passages has a set of eight questions - comprehension and language questions,based upon that text. Following the questions is a section called **Lit Tip** (short for Literacy Tips). These are gems of information that are intended to develop the child's responses to Language Conventions questions arising in texts and tests. They may also be beneficial when answering questions in Language Convention (Grammar) papers or when completing Writing assessment tasks.

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SAMPLE

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1 Read the narrative ***Those Poor Plants!***

Those Poor Plants!

"People poke fun at plants all the time," Dusty finally said, with a sigh.

I felt confused so I shrugged. I wondered if he was joking. Was there a great gap in my education? I was about to find out.

"It's how they talk about them," explained Dusty as if it was obvious. Not to me.

"Take the word 'lemon'," he explained. "People call anything badly made 'a lemon!' Especially cars. How do you think that makes a lemon feel?"

I hadn't really thought about it.

"Then there's 'couch potato'. Do potatoes like to be called lazy? No way!" Bindi chirped in.

"People say things without thinking. Corny, nutty, dill. It just goes on and on," Dusty sounded exasperated.

"Not to mention rhubarb! Rhubarb! Rhubarb! Rhubarb!" Bindi stated angrily.

"Listen for the sniggers when someone says 'leek'!" muttered Dusty, his head lowered.

"Hayseed!" growled Bindi.

"Cauliflower ear!" Dusty's turn.

Bindi: "Raspberry!" Followed by a juicy, rude raspberry splutter.

Dusty: "Sucker!"

Bindi: "Gooseberry."

Dusty: "Sour grapes!"

I was getting a stiff neck glancing from one to the other. It was like watching a tennis match.

"Wet-the-bed!" snapped Bindi. I hoped she wasn't talking to me.

Dusty came to my rescue. "The name for dandelions, would you believe?" It doesn't make you wet the bed!" he grinned.

"Not all the time!" muttered Bindi. Dusty and I both gave her a surprised glance.

'dandelions'



From: The Green Ambulance Caper by A. Horsfield Jojo Publishing 2014

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Understanding Narratives Circle a letter or write an answer for questions 1 to 8.

1. How does Dusty feel about the way plant names are misused?
He is

A amused B concerned C alarmed D miserable

2. Why did Bindi make a rude sound?

A she couldn't understand the conversation
B she didn't agree with Dusty's comment
C she was trying to make her point about raspberries
D she tried to explain what a cauliflower ear was

3. If you read the whole story from which the extract was taken, you would expect the story to be

A scary B informative C amusing D controversial

4. Which line from the text is an example of a simile?

A Dusty and I both gave her a surprised glance.
B Followed by a juicy, rude raspberry splutter.
C Was there a great gap in my education?
D It was like watching a tennis match.

5. What does the word *exasperated* mean as used in the text?

A doubtfully concerned B slightly confused
C pleasantly informed D highly irritated

6. Which character had the least knowledge of nasty names for plants?

A Bindi B Dusty C the narrator

7. The word *poke* in the first paragraph is

A a verb B a noun C an adjective D a conjunction

8. What did Dusty and the narrator think Bindi may have done?

A wet the bed
B picked dandelions
C forgotten the explanation
D lost interest in the conversation

Need to try another narrative passage? Check the contents page.

Lit Tip

Lit Tip 1 – Improve your literacy skills More precise words than said

It is easy to overuse the word said in story writing. More precise words are available which can improve your story writing.

Look at these three examples:

1. Jack said, "Go away." 2. Jack snapped, "Go away." 3. Jack groaned, "Go away."

Examples 2 and 3 give the reader some insight into Jack's feelings.

Find three better words than said from the text that help you understand how the speaker is feeling.
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

SAMPLE

2 Read the poem ***The City Dump.***

The City Dump

City asleep
City asleep:
Papers fly at the garbage heap.

Refuse dumped and
The seagulls reap
Grapefruit rinds
And coffee grinds
And apple peels.



The seagulls reel and
The field mice steal
In for a bite
At the end of the night
Of crusts and crumbs
And pits of plums.

The white eggshells
And the green-blue smells
And the grey gull's cry
And the red dawn sky . . .

City asleep
City asleep:
A carnival
On the garbage heap.

Felice Holman

SAMPLE

Understanding Poetry Circle a letter or write an answer for questions 1 to 8.

1. When the field mice look for food at the dump they

A scurry about excitedly
B sneak around quietly
C wait patiently until sunrise
D find scraps immediately

2. How do the animals at the city dump feel at night?

A They are desperate to find food.
B They are annoyed by the bad smells.
C They are having a great time.
D They are tired and ready to sleep.

3. Which word from the poem rhymes with *crumbs*?

Write your answer in the box. [ ]

4. What are the seagulls doing?

A flying in circles above the dump B looking for eggshells
C chasing the field mice D avoiding the flying paper

5. The field mice are most likely to leave the dump when

A no food scraps are left B the seagulls arrive
C the city goes to sleep D dawn breaks

6. Which word best describes how people in the city react to activity at the dump?

A annoyed B puzzled C unaware D interested

7. What would be another name for the pits of plums?

A nuts B seeds C stalks D holes

8. The poem, *The City Dump*, makes a contrast between the

A seagulls and the paper flying over the dump
B food and the smells at the dump
C way seagulls and mice scavenge in the dump
D sleeping city and the busy dump at night

Need to try another poem? Check the contents page.

SAMPLE

Lit Tip

Lit Tip 2 - Improve your literacy skills Unusual plurals

To make the plural form of most nouns you simply add an *s*: shoe / shoes
If the noun ends with a consonant + *y*, change the *y* to *i* and add *es*: baby / babies

There are some unusual plural forms. The plural of *mouse* is *mice* (as used in the poem).
Look at these singulars and their plural forms: tooth / teeth, sheep / sheep, man / men
child / children
Can you find the plural form for these nouns? goose _____,wolf _____

salmon _____,woman _____,cactus _____,medium _____

Answers Year 5 Comprehension Questions

No. Title Answers

1. Those Poor Plants: 1. B 2. C 3. C 4. D 5. D 6. C 7. A 8. A
2. The City Dump: 1. B 2. C 3. plums 4. A 5. D 6. C 7. B 8. D
3. Christmas Lights: 1. D 2. B 3. A 4. B 5. C 6. D 7. B 8. A
4. What is a Hammer? 1. A 2. C 3. B 4. D 5. C 6. B 7. club hammer 8. A
5. The Curtain Fig: 1. D 2. D 3. A 4. D 5. B 6. C 7. NO 8. B
6. A Japanese Folk Tale: 1. C 2. C 3. A 4. B 5. A 6. C 7. A 8. D
7. Sugar Cane Milling: 1. C 2. B 3. A 4. D 5. juice 6. C 7. B 8. D
8. Climb on Board: 1. C 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. (2, 4, 1, 3) 6. C 7. B 8. A
9. Ice Cream Van Flier: 1. C 2. B 3. A 4. D 5. C 6. B 7. D 8. A
10. What are Verbs? 1. D 2. A 3. B 4. ate 5. C 6. D 7. A 8. C
11. Dogs in Cars: 1. A 2. C 3. D 4. B 5. A 6. B 7. C 8. D
12. What Will You Be? 1. A 2. C 3. D 4. B 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. Toad
13. The Skateboard: 1. C 2. D 3. B 4. D 5. C 6. exclaimed, added, declared 7. A 8. A
14. What is a Quandong? 1. B 2. A 3. D 4. D 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B
15. Precious Gold: 1. C 2. B 3. A 4. B 5. A 6. D 7. silver OR nickel 8. B
16. Bat-winged Cannibal Fly: 1. A 2. two wings 3. B 4. D 5. A 6. False 7. B 8. C
17. Gone Phishing: 1. B 2. C 3. Example: phone 4. C 5. A 6. D 7. B 8. A
18. The Final Kombi: 1. 63 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. B 6. D 7. C 8. A
19. The Microbe: 1. A 2. C 3. D 4. B 5. C 6. B 7. D 8. A
20. Origin of Tea: 1. A 2. B 3. Szechwan 4. A 5. C 6. B 7. B 8. D

Continued on the next page...

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