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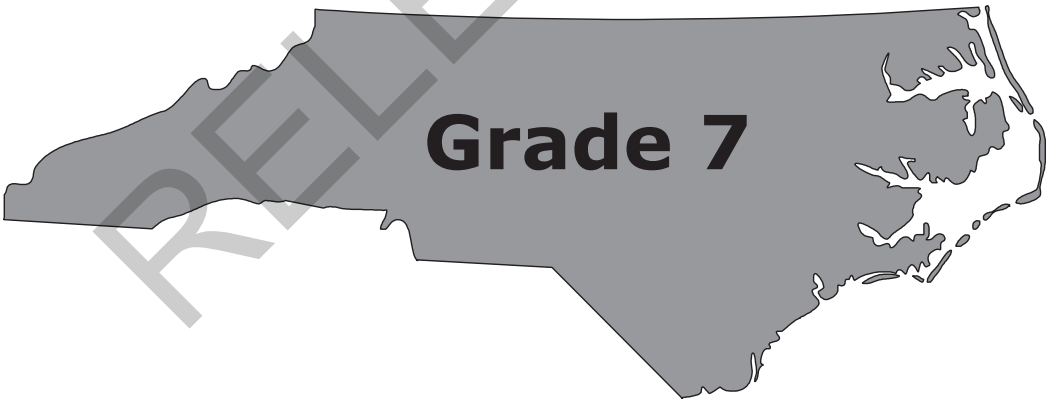
North Carolina READY End-of-Grade Assessment English Language Arts/ Reading



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Student Booklet

Academic Services and Instructional Support
Division of Accountability Services

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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.

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,
And the small birds cry again;
And the hawthorn hedge puts forth its buds,
And my heart puts forth its pain.

*__frore:__ frozen

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S1 What can be inferred from line 5?

A The speaker's heart is cheerful.

B The speaker's heart is afraid.

C The speaker's heart is paralyzed.

D The speaker's heart is extremely warm.

S2 In the second stanza, how does the poet's choice of words impact the meaning of the poem?

A The words tell the differences between the types of birds.

B The words describe how cold it gets when seasons change.

C The words explain how the speaker views all of the seasons.

D The words emphasize the despair the speaker feels.

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STOP

Ski Tracks on Silver Bell

by Jean Heyn

Slipping from the chairlift at the top of Mt. Werner, Chip felt sure he would win. He had worked hard on his slalom turns all week, and now they were smooth and fast. After a quick run down the mountain to warm up, he'd be ready for any and all competition in the slalom race down Howelsen Hill. Winning the race would make him Junior Champ of the Steamboat Springs Ski Club.

②
"I bet I could win with only one ski," he said to his younger brother, Roger.

③
"You'll win," said Roger, "the way you've been practicing."

④
They skied along the gentle slope from the lift to the headwall above Elk Meadows. Below them, the white flank of the mountain fell away steeply. On either side of the trail stood spruce laden with quilts of sparkling white. The bare branches of aspen, velvety with frost, looked like deer antlers in early spring. There was no sound. Nothing moved in all the vast expanse of snow and forest. The brothers were alone on the mountain.

"Come on! Let's go!" Chip said. He pushed hard on his poles and took off. Roger was close behind, and they dropped rapidly, making short, tight turns.

Before they reached Elk Meadows, Chip turned off onto Silver Bell, a little-known shortcut that ran steeply down through the trees. Halfway down, he saw the tracks—odd tracks that ran off the edge of the trail into the woods, making deep marks in the soft snow. He checked his downward plunge with a quick turn, skidding to a stop.

"Look out!" Roger yelled. But he was too close. The next moment they were down in a snowy tangle of skis, legs, and poles.

"What's the big idea?" Roger said as they sorted themselves out.

"Didn't you see those tracks? They headed straight into the woods. We'd better take a look."

"You don't have time, Chip. It's still a long way down."

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Go to the next page.

"Just the same, we ought to see what's at the end of those tracks."

"Not me." Roger's voice quavered. "Let's get out of here. It's spooky way out here in the woods."

"You wait, then—I'll just be a minute," Chip said. He sidestepped back to the place where the tracks left the trail. Then he slid cautiously along them.

"What is it, Chip?" Roger called.

"A man. He's unconscious, and his leg looks broken!" Chip called back, staring at the figure sprawled to one side of a tree. He stooped down and touched the man's shoulder. He didn't move.

Chip climbed back onto the trail and then slid down to Roger. "When we reach the bottom, we'll report the accident. It'll be all right."

Roger shoved off, dropping into the next hollow. Chip crouched, then straightened up again. The light had changed. A snowflake fell on his nose. "Roger!" he shouted.

Roger stopped and looked back. "What's the matter now?"

"I have to stay here, that's all. The Ski Patrol will never find those tracks if it's snowing. But tell them to hurry. Tell them halfway down Silver Bell."

20

With Roger gone, Chip felt terribly alone. He began to wonder if he was missing the race. About now the crowd would be gathering on either side of Howelsen Hill. The timers and judges would be in their places on the course. The other skiers would be wound up like springs, waiting only for the timer's signal to zing through the gates.

The snow was coming down fast now, and Chip could barely see the tips of his skis. He stamped his feet to keep them warm and beat his arms about his chest. All at once he thought he heard something. Was it a muffled shout . . . or only his imagination? "Hello!" he shouted. "Anyone there?"

"Hello-o! Where are you?" came the answering cry.

"Here. Halfway down Silver Bell."

In seconds, three members of the scarlet-jacketed Ski Patrol appeared. Big Matt was in the lead, dragging the first-aid toboggan. Big Matt was not only head of the Ski Patrol but also a one-time Olympic skier and idol of every skier in Steamboat Springs.

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"In there," Chip said, pointing.

"Good," said Big Matt, feeling for the downed skier's pulse. "Now, Chip, go on. The judges are trying to hold the race for you, but . . ."

Chip needed no coaxing. A jab of his poles sent him flying down the trail. The light was flat, making it hard to judge the terrain. He turned down Jack Rabbit Jumps, skiing hard and fast. The snow went by faster and faster. Suddenly, his skis flew out from under him. He fell hard. A stab of pain shot up his left leg. He lay in the snow until the pain eased a little, then he rolled onto his back, straightened his skis, and brought them down parallel to the slope. Gingerly, he pushed himself up with his poles and was off again.

At the bottom of Jack Rabbit Jumps, sun flooded the slopes. Through squinting eyes, Chip saw the slalom course stretching below him. A figure was streaking down the course. Chip gritted his teeth. Was he too late?

He skied to the top of the slalom course and slid to a stop.

"Well, Carson," the judge said, "you're just in the nick of time. Are you ready to race?"

"Yes, sir." Chip stepped into the starting position.

The judge nodded to the timer, who looked at his stopwatch and began the countdown. "Five, four, three, two, one . . . go!"

Chip zoomed down the course. His skis bit the snow as he zigzagged through the gates—ten, fifteen, twenty. There were fifty-five in all. Though his knee hurt, he thought only of winning the race.

His friends cheered as he maneuvered around a pole, cutting close but not touching. Above the others, Chip heard Roger. "Faster, Chip! Faster!"

He had lost count of the gates now. He just saw them coming at him . . . to the left, touch pole, shift weight . . . to the right. Suddenly, his injured knee buckled beneath him. He fell, tumbling over and over, taking several gates with him. Chip was disqualified.

He was taken to the clinic to have his knee strapped, then home to rest. He tried to watch TV, but he couldn't stop thinking about the race. He'd lost. He'd had the best time—and then he fell—and he'd lost.

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The doorbell rang. He heard his mother in the hall, then the stamping of heavy boots. A moment later, Big Matt was standing in the doorway. Chip struggled to get up.

"Stay there," Big Matt said, walking over to Chip's chair and putting his hand on his shoulder. "How's the knee?"

"Okay," Chip said, grinning a little.

"Can you walk?"

"Sure!"

"Come on, then." Big Matt held out his hand.

Hanging onto him, Chip got to his feet. They started slowly toward the door. "Many skiers win races," Big Matt said, "but you're a cut above. I'd like to see you in my kind of work when you're older. We need people like you on the Ski Patrol."

"The Ski Patrol? Me?"

"Sure. You're a fine skier, and you have a compassionate heart. Now we're going to the hospital to see a friend of yours."

"I don't have any friends in the hospital," Chip objected.

"Sure you do. Remember the man on the mountain? His leg is badly broken, and he's suffering from exposure. But he wants to thank the boy with the big heart who rescued him on the mountainside."

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Go to the next page.

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.

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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.

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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.

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On This Day: Krazy George Henderson Leads First Crowd Wave

by findingDulcinea Staff

On October 15, 1981, professional cheerleader Krazy George Henderson led the first audience wave at an Oakland Athletics game.

The First Wave

②
As a sold-out crowd in the Oakland Coliseum watched the Oakland A's and the New York Yankees in the 1981 American League Championship Series, professional cheerleader Krazy George Henderson decided to lead his fellow 47,301 fans in the world's first crowdwide "human wave."

"I started with three sections, and it went about five or six sections down," Krazy George told KPIX-TV in San Francisco. "I did it again, and it went 11 and then all the way around. It was insane."

The wave takes place when the fans, one section at a time, stand and sit with their hands in the air, moving sequentially around the packed rows over and over again in what appears to be a fluid, moving wave of people.

⑤
Krazy George invented the wave over a year before he unveiled it in Oakland and had been practicing it at various low-level sporting events. The original wave was created accidentally when he was leading a cheer for the Edmonton Oilers.

His job was to lead one side of the arena to jump and cheer and then have the other side respond. "One night in late 1980, there was a delayed response from one section of fans, leading to them jumping to their feet a few seconds later than the section beside them," writes Raygan Swan on NASCAR.com. "The next section of fans followed suit, and the first wave circled the Northlands Coliseum of its own accord."

The wave became widespread in the 80s and early 90s, and though its popularity has died down, it can still be seen at stadiums throughout the world. "The Wave that I created has become a worldwide sports phenomenon and certainly a piece of American pop culture," proclaims Krazy George on his personal Web site, KrazyGeorge.com.

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Biography: Krazy George

Krazy George Henderson is a professional cheerleader known for his drum banging, short-shorts, and curly tresses. He began his cheerleading career in the 1960s when he joined the San Jose State University cheerleading team. At one football game, a roommate handed him a drum that he began banging to the delight of the crowd.

After college, he continued cheering at various Bay Area sporting events while working as a shop teacher. Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt saw him and offered him money to appear at a Chiefs game, thus beginning Krazy George's career as a professional cheerleader.

He has worked for a wide range of professional and collegiate sports teams, including the Oakland A's, Houston Oilers, Minnesota Vikings, British Columbia Lions, San Jose Earthquakes, and the USA men's and women's national soccer teams.

11

Krazy George has occasionally stirred up trouble with his antagonism of opponents. Pittsburgh Steelers coach Chuck Noll tried to have him banned from the NFL, and several Boston Bruins tried to jump into the stands at him after he taunted Terry O'Reilly.

Who Really Created the Wave?

There is some controversy over who invented the wave. Former *Entertainment Tonight* host Rob Weller claims he led the world's first wave on October 31, 1981, while he was a University of Washington cheerleader.

"Despite claims by others, the Wave can trace its origin back to Husky Stadium," says GoHuskies.com, the official Web site of Washington athletics. "It was October 31, 1981, when former cheerleader Rob Weller (yes, the same Rob Weller who once co-hosted *Entertainment Tonight*) was back on the sidelines and instructed the Washington crowd to start in one section and make a human wave that rolled around Husky Stadium. The original Wave saw Husky fans remain standing until a full circle was completed in the stadium."

"The A's season ended on October 15, 1981, and there I am on this video leading the wave," Krazy George writes on his Web site. "Rob Weller and UW claim to have started it on October 31, 1981. Unless you can show me how the calendar in 1981 got screwed up and actually put the 31st before the 15th, then this argument is over."

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ESPN's Jim Caple, a Washington graduate who was in attendance for Weller's first wave, believes Krazy George's claim. However, he points out that Weller was working on a vertical wave back in the 1970s and that it was Washington's wave that inspired other fans to follow.

"The Wave didn't catch on after his Oakland game (mostly because the Athletics season ended that day in a 4-0 loss, not the sort of thing that builds momentum). It did, however, catch on after the Husky game because we continued to do it for the rest of the season and the next as well," he writes. "The Wave was a very intimidating thing for awhile until everyone copied us."

Though the true inventor of the wave may never be definitively known, Krazy George is most commonly credited. As he points out on his Web site, "*Hollywood Squares* asked the question: 'Who created The Wave?' The answer was (of course) 'Krazy George.' Put an X on that square!"

The Science of the Wave

In 2002, University of Budapest scientists studied waves at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico City, where the wave was so popular that it became known as "The Mexican Wave."

They determined that 25 to 35 people were needed to start a wave and that waves were typically started during flat periods of the game. They also found that an average wave moves at 12 meters (20 seats) per second at an average width of 6-12 meters (15 seats).

"It is generated by no more than a few dozen people standing up simultaneously and subsequently expands through the entire crowd as it acquires a stable, near-linear shape," said the scientists, who also found that waves usually move in a clockwise direction.

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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

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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

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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.' "

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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.

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It matters not how far we stray,
Nor where our battle lines may be,
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
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.

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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.

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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.

RELEASED

From Marbles to Machines

by Kerrily Sapet

People have dropped marbles into baskets, drawn X's by names, colored in dots, and pulled levers to elect their leaders during the past 2,000 years. Early voters used simple, inexpensive objects to cast their votes. Ancient Greeks, the first known voters, placed black and white pebbles into pots. Roman soldiers tossed small clay balls into their helmets. Early colonists in the Americas used colored beans and kernels of corn. Today's elections and terms have ancient roots. Voters now often mark ballots, or pieces of paper, to cast their votes. The term comes from the Italian word *ballotta*, meaning "little ball."

Today, people in countries around the world vote in many different ways. Some methods resemble early elections, while others are highly technical. Whether voters use beans or machines, the process is designed to be fair. Each person gets to cast only one vote, which must be accurately counted. Also important is the idea that a person's vote is private.

Ancient Romans sometimes voted out loud, or *viva voce*. In some areas, like Appenzell, Switzerland, people still gather in the town square to voice their votes, as they have done for hundreds of years. But some feel it can be intimidating to state your choices aloud, and therefore the individual may not express his or her true opinion. The idea of voting privately by paper ballot is said to have originated in Australia and is sometimes called kangaroo voting. Most people around the world, though, use secret ballots, marking their choices behind curtains or screens or inside voting booths.

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④

Whatever method voters use to make their choices, they want to know that their vote counts and that no one can change it. Many different styles of voting machines have been invented to make counting more accurate. They've featured mechanical levers, switches, buttons, and hole punchers. Today, computers can scan the voter's marks on a ballot and record the vote. Machines are often used because they are faster and more precise than counting votes by hand.

⑤

Mechanical voting machines can cause problems, though. Sometimes voters get confused by the directions. If they fill out the ballot incorrectly or even use a pen instead of a pencil, the machine won't count it. Machines can break down or jam, leaving the

Go to the next page.

final vote count unknown. People also worry that machines can be tampered with or illegally adjusted to change the results of the election.

Just as voters want to know that their vote counts, they also want to know that everyone has an equal say. Each person gets only one vote. For years, election officials around the world have devised ways to make sure no one votes more than once. In ancient Rome, voters walked one at a time across a narrow bridge. In many countries today, poll workers check off the voter's name before handing out a ballot. Other methods rely on sight and sound. Voters in a recent election in southwestern Africa had their arms painted green after they voted. Iraqis dipped a finger in a jar of purple ink. Gambian voters dropped a clear glass marble into a colored drum. When the marble fell, a bell sounded so officials could hear if a voter dropped in more than one marble. Because the bell sounded like a bicycle bell, they banned bikes near the polls.

Election officials around the world consider the needs of their voters when choosing a voting system. In many areas of the world, people can't read or write, so officials use more traditional methods. In Afghanistan, officials paste stamp-sized pictures next to the names of candidates. Indonesians vote by piercing a picture of the candidate with a nail. In many countries, voters make ink thumbprints or draw the letter X beside a candidate's name. Braille ballots, audio ballots, and ballots printed in different languages also help voters.

Election officials also consider where voters live and how easily they can get to polling places. Many communities around the world provide transportation to the polls. In rural Brazil, instead of taking voters to the polls, officials recently brought the polls to the voters. They canoed voting machines powered by car batteries up the Amazon River to reach voters in remote villages. Today, soldiers and other citizens overseas can vote by sending in special absentee ballots. Some countries are experimenting with voting over the Internet.

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. By giving people the opportunity to vote, countries make sure that their leaders reflect the people's true choice.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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.

RELEASED

The Unexpected Swimming Lesson

by Aure Sheldon

"Boy, we are early," said Craig sleepily. "There's not another person on the beach."

"Let's go out to that bar and look for sand dollars," Matt suggested.

③
At low tide, the sandbar was easy to get to and seemed much closer than it really was. Craig followed his cousin as he threaded his way between the shallow tide pools on the exposed sand flats, stopping from time to time to examine strange forms of sea life stranded by the tide. There were sea urchins, jellyfish, and a dozen different kinds of sea snails.

④
As the dunes dropped farther behind them, Craig became more uncomfortable, yet he dared not admit it for fear that Matt would think him babyish. He was not at all sure of himself here. Although he had taken swimming lessons last winter, a swimming pool was one thing and the ocean was another. Secretly, he envied Matt, who was a strong swimmer and liked nothing better than to romp in the surf and ride the big waves into the beach. Craig began to wish that he had stayed in bed this morning instead of letting Matt coax him out to the water.

"Here's one . . . two . . . three!" shouted Matt. "Look, lots of them!"

The discovery of the sand dollars went far to dismiss Craig's fears. "Let's pretend they're real dollars and see who can find the most."

"I'll be a millionaire before breakfast time!" Matt laughed.

⑧
Absorbed by the race to "get rich quick," Craig followed Matt still farther out onto the sandbar. "Come and see this starfish," he called. "It has only three arms."

Matt stared at the wiggling starfish. "It's been in a fight. Got a couple of them broken off."

"He can grow new ones though. That's some trick."

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With so many fascinating things to see, time passed quickly. After a while, Matt dropped to his knees and said, "Let's count our dollars now and see who won."

"My shirt is almost full. I must have a million of them." Craig dumped out his sand dollars and began to count.

Another half hour or more passed as they counted their "money" and made rows of sand dollars in the wet sand.

Finally Matt sighed. "I'm hungry. Let's go back to the cottage and see if the others are up yet."

"It's getting hot anyway and . . . " Craig stopped abruptly. "Matt, look!" There was nothing but water between them and the shore.

"Sure, the tide's coming in," answered Matt matter-of-factly.

Craig wondered how Matt could be so casual. "What are we going to do?" he cried excitedly.

"Just get to shore before the water gets any deeper, that's all," Matt replied calmly. He gathered up his sand dollars and waded out from the sandbar toward the shore.

"Wait! Wait a minute. I . . . "

Matt turned and said firmly, "No, don't wait. Come right now while you still can. I'll help you."

Craig was frozen to the spot. "I . . . I can't."

"Yes, you can," Matt reassured him. "Look, it isn't even knee-deep. But the longer you wait, the deeper it will be."

Try as he would, Craig couldn't bring himself to wade out into the water. "Matt, get my dad," he pleaded. "He can carry me across."

"What? By the time he gets here, that sandbar will be underwater too."

"Hurry, Matt!" Craig's voice cracked. "Please. I'm scared."

"All right, I'm going." Matt moved easily toward the shore, stopping only once to call back, "See? It's not even over my waist at the deepest part!"

RELEASED

Craig saw Matt reach the beach and set off on a dead run for the cottage, which nestled behind a low dune to the south. A flock of gulls flew low overhead, their hoarse cries sounding like mocking laughter.

He struggled for the courage to do as Matt had done. It had been so easy and so right. Yet he couldn't. If time seemed to stand still, the tide didn't. Anxiously, Craig watched the sandbar grow narrower. He cupped his hands around his mouth and shouted desperately for help, but there was no one to hear him.

As he scanned the shore, a thin column of smoke above the cove to the north caught his eye. Rapidly, it thickened and grew dark.

"The boathouse is on fire!" he gasped. "Oh my gosh, there are gasoline storage tanks and lots of boats in there. I've got to get to a phone."

Without hesitating another moment, he waded off the sandbar and made straight for shore. At the deepest stretch, where the water came up to his chest, he kicked off strongly with his feet and swam. His father and Matt, running down the beach, saw him.

"You're swimming!" shouted Matt happily. "That's great. Keep it up!"

Craig came stumbling and sputtering out of the surf. "Call the fire department! The boathouse is on fire!"

One glance in that direction told them there was no time to lose. "Both of you run to the house and telephone for help," cried Craig's father. I'll get over there and see what I can do."

The boys sped up the beach, Craig in the lead. He had always been a good runner, and he ran faster than ever now, for he knew he could do something else. He could swim. Anywhere.

RELEASED

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

RELEASED

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.

RELEASED

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.

RELEASED

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This article was published on March 3, 2010.

The Hottest Soup in New York

by Stephen Ornes

This winter has been a season of breaking records. Last month, athletes at the winter Olympic games in Vancouver broke sports records. A few weeks before that, record-breaking amounts of snow fell on the eastern and southern United States. And on February 15, scientists announced in Washington, D.C., that they had broken another record—for the highest temperature ever reached in a laboratory.

That new record is 4 trillion degrees Celsius (that's 7.2 trillion degrees Fahrenheit). By doing experiments at that temperature, scientists hope to study what happened just after the universe was born. Four trillion degrees Celsius is 250,000 times hotter than the hottest part of the sun, and probably close to the temperature of the universe right after the Big Bang, the birth of the universe.

③

The hot stuff is called a quark-gluon plasma, and scientists found it at the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, N.Y. Using a giant instrument called the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, or RHIC, the scientists zoomed two gold atoms through a ring that is 2.4 miles around and smashed the atoms together—and then watched to see what came out. There was so much energy in the crash that the atoms, in a way, melted.

As temperatures climb, most solids melt into liquids, and then the liquids become gas. (Some solids may go straight to gas if the conditions are right.) Ice becomes liquid water at 0º Celsius (32º Fahrenheit). At 100ºC (212ºF), liquid water boils into water vapor. Compared to other substances, water's melting and boiling points are mild: Tungsten, a material used in light bulbs, doesn't melt until 3,410ºC (6,800ºF).

That temperature is freezing compared to 4 trillion degrees C. At that temperature, atoms can break apart—and parts inside an atom can break apart—and then the tiny particles inside those parts can break apart. Think of an atom as a set of nesting dolls. When the largest, outer doll breaks apart, there's another, smaller doll inside. And when that doll breaks apart . . . surprise! There's another doll inside.

Similarly, at the center of every atom is the nucleus. Inside the nucleus are particles called protons and neutrons. And inside protons and neutrons are even smaller particles called quarks. Quarks are held together thanks to another kind of particle called gluons. (Gluons help to "glue" the particle together.)

RELEASED

Go to the next page.

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

8

"We are extremely anxious to find out how this works," Barbara Jacak told *Science News*. "Why is it a liquid?"

Jacak works at Stony Brook University in New York and is one of the scientists working on the project at Brookhaven. She helped take the plasma's temperature. That was a difficult task because it's hard to measure things that small. The plasma only existed for about one-trillionth of a trillionth of a second, and it was tiny, about one-trillionth of a centimeter across.

It was a very small piece of space that was super hot for a very short amount of time. In other words, you can't just put a thermometer in it, Jacak says.

11

To take the temperature, the researchers watched it glow. A hot iron rod changes color from red to yellow to white as it heats up. In a similar way, the colors of light coming from the plasma changed. Based on what colors of light the soup emitted, the team figured out that the substance had reached the 4-trillion-degree record.

By studying these kinds of super-hot temperatures, scientists hope to learn more about how the universe formed. The quark-gluon plasma may look a lot like the hot and heavy goo that existed in the universe right after the Big Bang.

Experiments such as those at Brookhaven may help us understand what happened at the very beginning of the universe. But there's a lot of work to be done, says scientist Chris Quigg of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill. "These are very early days," he told *Science News*. "Like many good observations, this opens up many questions."

RELEASED

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

RELEASED

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.

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

RELEASED

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.

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.

RELEASED

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.**

RELEASED

STOP

RELEASED

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