

Tucson Unified School District

Instructions: It is time to begin. The scores of this test will help teachers plan lessons. Carefully, read each item in the test booklet. Pick the best answer: A, B, C, or D. Use a pencil. Mark your answer on the ANSWER SHEET. Fill in the bracket of your answer choice. Make sure the bracket is completely colored. Erase any extra pencil lines or changed answers. You may write on the test booklet unless your teacher gave you scratch paper. Review and check your answers after you have finished the test.



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2010-11 TUSD Comp. Reading 05 Gr. Pretest

"Saving the Birds"
by James Baldwin
(adapted)

One day in spring, three men were riding on horseback along a country road. These men were lawyers, and they were going to the next town to attend court. There had been a storm, and the ground was very soft.

As they were passing through a grove of small trees, they heard a great fluttering over their heads and a feeble chirping in the grass by the roadside.

"What is the matter here?" asked the first lawyer, whose name was Speed.

"Oh, it's only some old robins!" said the second lawyer, whose name was Hardin. "The storm has blown two of the little ones out of the nest. They are too young to fly, and the mother bird is making a great fuss about it."

The two men, as they passed, looked down and saw the little birds fluttering in the cold, wet grass. Then they rode on. In a few minutes, they had forgotten about the birds.

But the third lawyer, whose name was Abraham Lincoln, stopped. He felt pity for the little birds. He got down from his horse and very gently took the little ones up in his big warm hands.

"Never mind, my little fellows," said Mr. Lincoln. "I will put you in your own cozy little bed." Then he looked up to find the nest from which they had fallen. It was high, much higher than he could reach.

But Mr. Lincoln could climb. He had climbed many a tree when he was a boy. He put the birds softly, one by one, into their warm little home.

Soon the two lawyers who had ridden ahead stopped at a spring to give their horses water. In a few minutes Mr. Lincoln joined them. His shoes were covered with mud; he had torn his coat on the thorny tree.

"Hello, Abraham!" said Mr. Hardin. "Where have you been?"

"I stopped a minute to give those birds to their mother," he answered.

The two of them laughed heartily. They thought it so foolish that a strong man should take so much trouble just for some worthless young birds.

"Gentlemen," said Mr. Lincoln, "I could not have slept tonight, if I had left those helpless little robins to perish in the wet grass."

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Abraham Lincoln afterwards became very famous as a lawyer and statesman. He was elected president. Next to George Washington, he was the greatest American.

Baldwin, James. Fifty Famous Short Stories. New York: American Book Company, 1896.

1) from "Saving the Birds"

Read the sentences.

"The storm has blown two of the little ones out of the nest. They are too young to fly, and the mother bird is making a great fuss about it."

The word "fuss" has several meanings. What is the meaning of the word "fuss" in this sentence?

- A) a show of loving excitement and attention
 - B) an excited exchange of words, a fight
 - C) unnecessary concern over a silly problem
 - D) a fall from a very high place, usually a tree
-

2) from "Saving the Birds"

Read the sentence.

"He put the birds softly, one by one, into their warm little home."

Why did the author choose the words "softly" and "warm" in this sentence?

- A) to show that Mr. Lincoln was weak
 - B) to show Mr. Lincoln's kindness to the birds
 - C) to show Mr. Lincoln's anger at the men
 - D) to show that Mr. Lincoln didn't care about the birds
-

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3) from "Saving the Birds"

What is the main conflict in this story?

- A) whether the lawyers can get to court on time
 - B) whether Abraham Lincoln will become president
 - C) whether birds are helpless in the grass
 - D) whether the lawyers will help the birds
-

4) from "Saving the Birds"

What is the moral of this story?

- A) Important people don't have time to help birds.
 - B) You have to save a bird to become President.
 - C) Helping others is a sign of being a great person.
 - D) If you help birds, you can't catch up to your friends.
-

5) from "Saving the Birds"

Who is a minor character in this story?

- A) Speed
 - B) Lincoln
 - C) Lincoln's mother
 - D) Washington
-

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6) from "Saving the Birds"

Where did this story take place?

- A) in Washington, D.C.
 - B) on a country road
 - C) in a city
 - D) at the beach
-

7) from "Saving the Birds"

Which of the following best describes the Speed and Hardin characters?

- A) They are both major characters in the story.
 - B) Speed is the major character in the story.
 - C) Hardin is not a character in the story.
 - D) They are both minor characters in the story.
-

8) from "Saving the Birds" From what point of view is this story told?

- A) first person from the point of view of Abraham Lincoln
 - B) first person from the point of view of Mr. Hardin
 - C) third person: the narrator cannot see into the mind of any character
 - D) third person: the narrator can see into the minds of all the characters
-

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"Saving the Birds Chart"	
Abraham Lincoln	Mr. Hardin and Mr. Speed
lawyer	lawyers
rode horse	rode horses
helped the bird	ignored the bird
became president	didn't become president

9) from "Saving the Birds" and "Saving the Birds Chart"

Study the graphic organizer. What did Abraham Lincoln have in common with Mr. Hardin and Mr. Speed?

- A) They were all doctors.
 - B) They all became president.
 - C) They all rode horses.
 - D) They all had pet birds.
-

10) Read the sentence.

The heart of the matter was that I wanted to see a comedy and she wanted to see a drama.

The word "heart" has several meanings. What is the meaning of the word "heart" in this sentence?

- A) a powerful organ
 - B) the main issue
 - C) love and friendship
 - D) the core of a plant
-

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11) Read the sentence.

He demolished his toy into a thousand pieces.

Which word is a synonym for "demolished" as it is used in this sentence?

- A) bought
 - B) fixed
 - C) broke
 - D) watched
-

12) Read the sentence.

I fell into the ditch next to my house where rain gathers.

Which word is a synonym for "ditch" as it is used in this sentence?

- A) drain
 - B) cover
 - C) boat
 - D) tire
-

13) Which of these sentences uses a euphemism to put the reader at ease?

- A) Students with low grades can still pass the class by completing extra credit work.
 - B) Passengers can use the motion sickness bag if they are feeling under the weather.
 - C) The fumes in the air are not as harmful as you may think they are.
 - D) We will close the case as soon as we have all the appropriate paperwork.
-

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"Coyote and the Tortillas" (an Akimel O'odham folktale)

It was southern Arizona, at the end of a long, dry summer. Monsoon season had finally arrived with its drenching thunderstorms. The river grew heavy with rain. Soon, it flooded its banks and spread across the land. It covered trails the people used to walk from town to their homes in the desert. A woman slogged through what was once the trail, in water up to her waist. But the woman was determined to complete her journey. She was heading home with dinner for her family, a basket of tortillas balanced carefully on her head.

As she passed under a large cottonwood tree, she heard a voice. Looking up, she saw Coyote in the tree. She knew all of Coyote's stories, and it was no secret that he was afraid of water. It was also no secret that he was lazy and almost always hungry. So she was not surprised to hear Coyote say, "Hey, come up here and give me some of your tortillas."

The woman said, "No, I cannot give them to you. They are for my family."

"Do you want me to eat you?" said Coyote then, and the woman knew it wouldn't be easy to escape from the old rascal.

She moved out of Coyote's sight for a moment, to a place where she would have an advantage before replying. Then she said, putting a note of fear in her voice, "I cannot climb trees, Coyote. You'll have to come down and get them."

Coyote came down the tree until he could see the woman. While deep water scared him, he could see that she was only up to her ankles in water. He looked up and down the flooded desert, and his stomach gave a big hungry growl. Thinking how easy dinner would be tonight, he jumped.

Splash! Coyote landed in the deep water and began to float away. As he looked back at the woman, he saw her laugh and step off a stump back into the water that rose to her waist. She continued walking towards home, laughing and thinking of the story she would tell.

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14) from "Coyote and the Tortillas"

Which of the following is the main conflict in this story?

- A) Coyote wanted to eat the woman's tortillas, and the woman didn't want to share.
 - B) The river was flooded by rain, and the trail was covered with water.
 - C) The woman stood under the tree, and Coyote stayed in the tree.
 - D) The stump was under the water, and Coyote could not see it.
-

15) from "Coyote and the Tortillas"

What is one of the themes of this story?

- A) Thunderstorms can make animals hungry.
 - B) Quick thinking can get you out of trouble.
 - C) A flooded river causes trouble for Coyote.
 - D) Always follow the trail set out for you.
-

16) from "Coyote and the Tortillas"

Which of the following events is part of the climax of the story?

- A) Coyote jumps in the water.
 - B) The woman stops to talk to Coyote.
 - C) The woman walks away laughing.
 - D) Coyote climbed up the tree.
-

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17) from "Coyote and the Tortillas"

From what point of view is this story told?

- A) first person from the point of view of Coyote
 - B) first person from the point of view of the woman
 - C) third person: the narrator can see only into the mind of the woman
 - D) third person: the narrator can see into the minds of all the characters
-

18) from "Coyote and the Tortillas"

Where does this story take place?

- A) at the woman's house
 - B) near a cottonwood tree
 - C) in the dry desert
 - D) along a mountain trail
-

19) In the library, you come across a magazine with these key words on its cover: addition, equation, and quadratic. For which class do you think this magazine would be the most helpful?

- A) science
 - B) English
 - C) social studies
 - D) math
-

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"Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Five types of tigers live in the wild. All of these tigers live in some part of Asia. Contrary to stories and popular belief, tigers never lived in Africa.

There are more Bengal tigers remaining than any other type of tiger. These big cats come from India. Every once in a while, a Bengal tiger is born without any color in its fur. These are the famous white tigers. They are the most beautiful tigers of all.

Another tiger group is the Siberian tiger. They live on the border between China and Russia. Sometimes weighing more than 600 pounds, these are the largest cats in the world. There are only about 400 left in the wild. In fact, more Siberian tigers live in zoos than in the wild. Zoos are great places to keep tigers.

The South China Tiger is the rarest of all. Little is known about these cats because only 70 remain: 30 in the wild and 40 in zoos. The few that are left are found in central and eastern China.

The Indochina Tiger lives in Thailand. There are just 2000 of these tigers still roaming the jungles. They need a lot of room to find food. One adult tiger needs ten square miles in order to survive.

The smallest tiger is the Sumatran. It only weighs around 200 pounds. They live on an island that is part of Indonesia. They also are threatened, as their homes are slowly destroyed. Two other Indonesian islands once had tigers, but those types have all died and no longer exist.

20) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Based on this text, what is happening to the tiger populations throughout the world?

- A) Tiger populations are staying at about the same level.
 - B) Tiger populations are increasing.
 - C) Tiger populations keep going up and then back down.
 - D) Tiger populations are decreasing.
-

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21) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Read the sentences.

"Another tiger group is the Siberian tiger. They live on the border between China and Russia. Sometimes weighing more than 600 pounds, these are the largest cats in the world."

What can you conclude from this quotation?

- A) Tigers that are found in the jungles of India tend to be larger.
 - B) None of the other kinds of tigers are larger than 600 pounds.
 - C) The larger the tiger, the more likely it will become extinct.
 - D) These tigers get bigger living in a zoo than in the wild.
-

22) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Which supporting detail from the text describes Sumatran tigers?

- A) They each need 10 square miles to survive.
 - B) There are only 2000 of them.
 - C) They weigh about 200 pounds.
 - D) There are only 400 remaining in the wild.
-

23) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

In what order were tigers discussed in this text?

- A) Bengal, Indochina, Sumatran, Siberian, South China
 - B) Bengal, Sumatran, South China, Siberian, Indochina
 - C) Bengal, South China, Indochina, Sumatran, Siberian
 - D) Bengal, Siberian, South China, Indochina, Sumatran
-

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24) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Which sentence from the text is an opinion?

- A) "Five types of tigers live in the wild."
 - B) "Zoos are great places to keep tigers."
 - C) "The South China tiger is the rarest of all."
 - D) "All of these tigers live in some part of Asia."
-

25) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Which supporting detail from the text describes all kinds of tigers?

- A) They live in Asia.
 - B) They live in Africa.
 - C) They have white fur.
 - D) They have short tails.
-

26) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Which sentence from the text describes Bengal tigers?

- A) "Little is known about these cats because only 70 remain: 30 in the wild and 40 in zoos."
 - B) "These big cats come from India."
 - C) "There are only about 400 left in the wild."
 - D) "Two other Indonesian islands once had tigers, but those types have all died and no longer exist."
-

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27) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

How many Indonesian islands originally had tigers?

- A) 1
 - B) 2
 - C) 3
 - D) 4
-

28) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Which sentence from the text is an opinion?

- A) "They are the most beautiful tigers of all."
 - B) "The smallest tiger is the Sumatran."
 - C) "These big cats come from India."
 - D) "They need a lot of room to find food."
-

29) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Why did the author write this text?

- A) to inform people that tigers are dangerous
 - B) to inform people about the funny things tigers do
 - C) to inform people about the eating habits of tigers
 - D) to inform people about different types of tigers
-

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30) from "Kinds of Tigers in the World"

Which tiger is the smallest?

- A) South China
 - B) Sumatran
 - C) Bengal
 - D) Indochina
-

31) John went for a hike with his parents. He described the experience to his friends. Which of John's statements is an example of literal language?

- A) "I am so hungry I could eat a horse."
 - B) "It is so hot that I think I am going to melt."
 - C) "My feet hurt so much I think they are going to fall off."
 - D) "I hope I can go hiking again soon."
-

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“The Painting Project”

Have you ever wanted to paint your walls a new, fun color? Well, now you can! If your parents give you permission, and if they will help you get a few supplies, then you can paint your room yourself. As there are many different types of paint, have your parents help you pick out the right kind for your room.

In order to paint your room, here’s what you will need:

- paint
- paintbrushes
- painting tape
- a ladder or step ladder
- paint rollers
- a paint tray
- an old rag
- drop cloths
- a paint stirrer

Before you start painting, you will need to prepare your room. Take out any furniture you can and remove pictures from the walls. If you need to leave the furniture in the room, then cover it with a blanket or drop cloth. Since painting can be messy, you’ll want to be sure that none of your furniture or personal items are exposed. After you have finished removing or covering the items in your room, spread the drop cloths over the floor. Make sure that they cover all of the flooring.

Next, you’ll need to prepare the room by putting up tape. For example, if you are painting the walls but not the ceiling, place tape along the edge of the ceiling. That way, if your paintbrush touches the edge of the ceiling, the tape will get painted, but the ceiling will not. You can also apply tape around doorways and on the trim near the floor.

After you have finished taping, it’s time to start painting! If your walls are white, you are ready to go. If they are a darker color, you may need to apply primer. Ask your parents if you will need to apply primer. If not, open the can of paint with a screwdriver, and, using the paint stirrer, stir until the paint is mixed well. Then, pour some of the paint into the paint tray. Take your roller and roll it in the paint tray until it is covered with an even amount of paint. Apply the roller to the wall in an even motion. Roll up as high as you can go and as close to the floor as possible. Stand on the step ladder to reach high places.

Once you have covered your entire room with paint, it’s time to do the finishing touches. You might notice that there are places near the ceiling, in the corners of the room, and near the floor where there is no paint. You’ll want to take a paintbrush and apply the paint by hand. If you are painting the edging around the

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doors and the floorboards, you'll want to use a paintbrush for those places, too. Make sure that you paint evenly.

While you were painting, you may have dripped some paint on yourself. That's okay! You can dip the old rag in a little bit of water and gently wipe the paint off. Try to do this within the first few minutes of any paint spills. If you wait too long, the paint will dry and it will be more difficult to remove.

You now have a beautiful new room! Allow the paint to dry over the next several hours. You may want to use a fan in the room. If the weather permits, open a window to get some fresh air in the room. Since paint fumes are not good for you, you'll want to ventilate the room as best you can. Finally, enjoy your new room!

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32) from "The Painting Project"

Which statement is supported by the text?

- A) Painting unevenly will cause the room to look bad.
 - B) Cleaning up wet paint is time-consuming.
 - C) Some paintbrushes are better than others.
 - D) Drop cloths are made out of high-quality material.
-

33) from "The Painting Project"

Which statement is supported by the text?

- A) Some types of paint are better for your room than others.
 - B) Having your friends over while you paint makes it more fun.
 - C) It is not necessary to have a paint stirrer.
 - D) Your parents will like the paint color you choose.
-

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34) from "The Painting Project"

When will you need to use a step ladder?

- A) when you are painting places near the ceiling
 - B) when you are spreading dropcloths on the floor
 - C) when you are opening windows and plugging in a fan
 - D) when you are moving the furniture out of your room
-

35) from "The Painting Project"

If you do not have a drop cloth, what can you use to cover your furniture?

- A) some coats
 - B) newspapers
 - C) a blanket
 - D) some cardboard
-

36) from "The Painting Project"

What might happen if you do not apply tape?

- A) The furniture in the room may get dirty.
 - B) The trim may become damaged.
 - C) The paint may become a darker color than you want.
 - D) The paint may get on areas you do not want painted.
-

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37) from "The Painting Project"

Which item in the list of supplies might not be necessary?

- A) painting tape
 - B) paintbrushes
 - C) a step ladder
 - D) an old rag
-

38) from "The Painting Project"

What will you likely need help from your parents with?

- A) painting the corners of the room
 - B) moving furniture out of your room
 - C) cleaning up paint drips
 - D) picking a paint color
-

39) What happens in many tall tales?

- A) An animal learns a lesson.
 - B) Events are magnified.
 - C) One character tricks another.
 - D) A god battles a human.
-

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"Save the Wild Tigers"

In 1900, there were over one-hundred-thousand wild tigers in the world. There were eight different kinds of tigers. Today, there are fewer than seven thousand wild tigers in the world. Three kinds of tigers are now extinct. Tigers are threatened by illegal hunting. They are also threatened by the destruction of their home environment.

Tigers today are in danger of disappearing. If something is not done soon, all tigers may soon be gone. People have almost destroyed these animals. Only people working together can save them. Join the Wild Tiger Club today and help save the tigers before it is too late.

40) from "Save the Wild Tigers"

Read the sentences.

"Only people working together can save them. Join the Wild Tiger Club today and help save the tigers before it is too late."

Why did the author choose to use the bandwagon persuasive strategy in this quotation?

- A) He wants to make people feel bad about the destruction of tigers and to hate those killing tigers.
 - B) He believes that the only way to save the tigers is for everyone to move out of Asia.
 - C) He believes that the more people who help, the more quickly the problem can be solved.
 - D) He wants to be elected President of the Wild Tiger Club and needs people to vote for him.
-

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41) from "Save the Wild Tigers"

Read the sentence.

"People have almost destroyed these animals."

In this sentence, how is the author using persuasive language to influence the reader?

- A) He is using emotional words to make people realize that there really isn't a threat to tigers.
 - B) He is using emotional words to make people realize that there really is a threat to tigers.
 - C) He is using testimonial so that people don't feel blamed by his words.
 - D) He is using repetition so that people understand what a problem this is.
-

42) from "Save the Wild Tigers"

Read the sentences.

"Today, there are fewer than seven thousand wild tigers in the world. Three kinds of tigers are now extinct."

How is the author trying to influence the reader with these sentences?

- A) He is trying to show the increase in the number of tigers.
 - B) He is trying to show the seriousness of the problem facing tigers.
 - C) He is trying to show what people can do to help save tigers.
 - D) He is trying to show how many different tigers are in the world.
-

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43) from "Save the Wild Tigers"

Why does the author use "loaded words" such as "threatened," "destruction," and "disappearing" in this text?

- A) to teach that people don't like tigers
 - B) to teach that tigers are dangerous to people
 - C) to teach that tigers really need help now
 - D) to teach that people cannot help the tigers
-

44) Which is a characteristic of a limerick?

- A) The first, second, and last lines rhyme.
 - B) It contains three syllables in the first line.
 - C) It has an aabbccdd rhyming pattern.
 - D) Its subject is usually love.
-

45) If you want to learn what words mean the same as the word "expedient," which would be the best resource to use?

- A) a dictionary
 - B) a thesaurus
 - C) an encyclopedia
 - D) a magazine
-

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Instructions for Student-Read Offline Assessments

Teacher Instructions:

This test packet includes:

- 1) test booklets
- 2) student answer sheets containing student and test identification information

As soon as you receive your test materials, confirm that you have enough testing materials for each student in your class.

You may provide students with scratch paper or students may write in the test booklet.

Allow a few minutes at the beginning of the testing period to review the assessment instructions with students. Students should work through the test items in the test booklet, marking their responses on the answer sheet provided to them. You may answer student questions about the test instructions. Do not answer questions related to the content of the test itself. This includes translating, rephrasing, or adding information to the test question, answers, or related content.

Once the assessment period is over, collect the students' test booklets and answer sheets. Provide to assigned district staff the answer sheets for scanning and the test booklets for proper disposal.