

Name\_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Benchmark for 2008–2009

Reading Grade 7

Textual Analysis

Secure for Local Use Edition







**DIRECTIONS:** The items in this test are based on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Reading Grade 7. Proceed with the test on the next page.



Base your answers to questions 1 through 5 on the passage provided, which discusses a new program that a Berkeley music store has developed to help local schools keep their music programs:

## Rasputin Offers School Cash

By Matthew Artz

Berkeley fourth graders—forced by budget cuts to trade in their violins and trumpets for rhythm lessons and recorders—are banking on unwanted CDs to bring the band back together.

“It’s got a nice ring,” said Ken Sarachan, owner of Rasputin Music. “Save music in the schools by dumping your unwanted music.”

Through Dec. 17, anyone tired of their most played-out CDs, tapes, records, or DVDs collect dust on the shelf can give them to Rasputin. The store will donate the buy-back price plus an extra 10 percent to the Berkeley music program.

The campaign will help the music store replenish its used music stockpiles, but more important, might resuscitate<sup>1</sup> Berkeley’s elementary and middle school music programs, decimated<sup>2</sup> by district cuts.

Last year, the school board—facing a \$6 million budget deficit<sup>3</sup>—stopped funding its share of the music program—roughly \$100,000.

The net result: Two music teachers fired, no instrument instruction until the fifth grade, and middle school band and orchestra practice scaled back from five to three days per week, though some middle schools have found money to boost instruction.

Money from a voter-approved 1994 parcel tax still funds the program, but the nearly \$500,000 doesn’t go as far as it did 10 years ago said Suzanne McCulloch, the district’s visual and performing arts coordinator.

“Medical benefits and workman’s compensation have risen astronomically,” she said, noting that in her three years in Berkeley the district has had to cut the number of Full Time Equivalent music teachers from 12 to 9.

The teachers have become virtual gypsies, driving from school to school for classes. With their ranks depleted, class size in the elementary schools has doubled and this year administrators and parents agreed there was no point teaching fourth graders to play instruments with 32 kids in the class.

The high school is not affected by the budget cuts because its funding comes from school-site money to pay for electives, and its most renowned ensemble—the jazz band—is self-sufficient.

To keep the flow of talent reaching the high school, the music committee has sought to offset lost funds, holding a benefit concert last spring that netted them about \$6,000 before turning to Rasputin.

“This could be the biggie,” said Bob Kridle, a parent of a music student and chairman of the BUSD<sup>4</sup> Music Committee. “If we got two or three pieces from every district family that



would be about \$100,000.”

Rasputin on average pays between 50 cents to \$6 for CDs, a little more for DVDs, and usually less for records and tapes—all based on demand. So far the average donation has fetched about \$1.

To make donating easy, the committee has set up barrels in all public schools and libraries for donors to dump unwanted disks. Rasputin also accepts donations at the store, and anyone with 50 or more pieces can call the store for a free pick up.

While used CD's might save Berkeley music instruction this year, ultimately only property taxes can do the trick, supporters say. The ballot initiative—Berkeley Schools Excellence Project—that has funded most of the music program is set to expire in three years, and the school board is considering putting an extension with more money for music programs on the November ballot.

“With the state only testing for math and English, that’s where the money’s going,” Kridle said. “If we’re going to have an arts program were going to have to do it ourselves.”

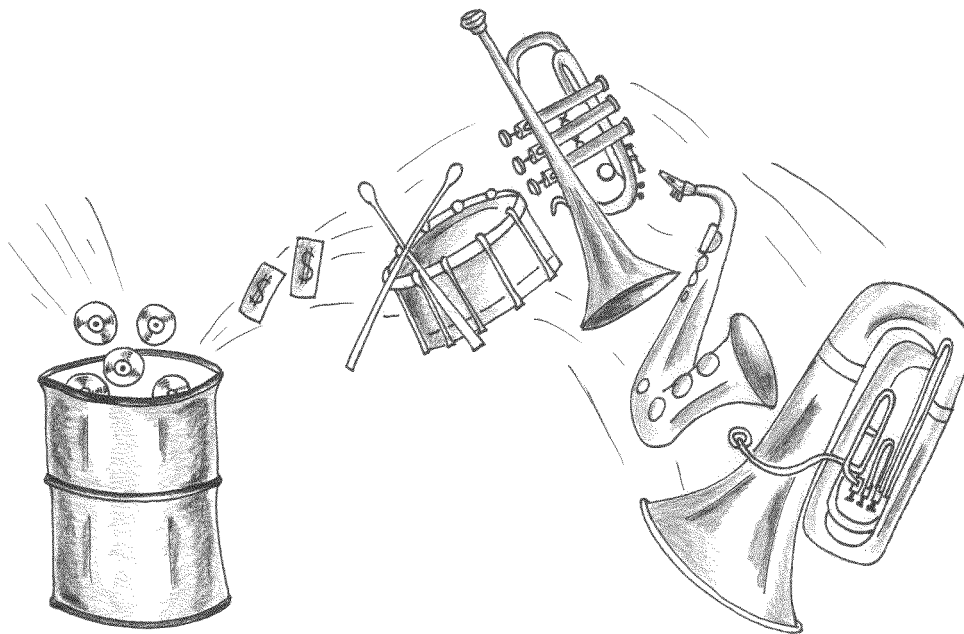
<sup>1</sup>resuscitate: mend, fix, save

<sup>2</sup>decimated: crushed

<sup>3</sup>deficit: shortage

<sup>4</sup>BUSD: Berkeley Unified School District

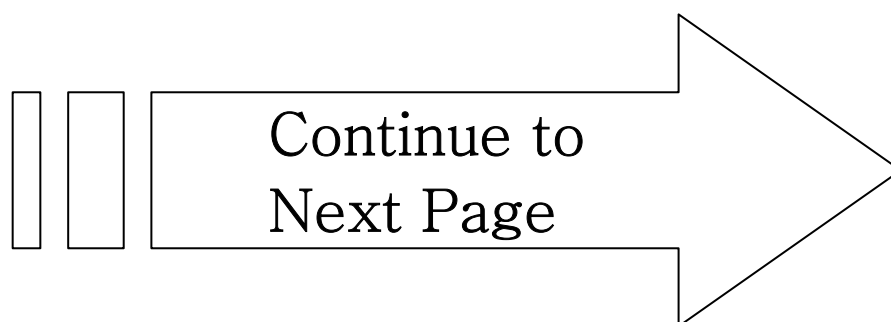
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|--|---|
| <p>1. According to the passage, why is the Berkeley School District's music program being cut?</p> <p>A The school no longer wants to have the music program in the school.</p> <p>B The district cannot find enough music students to fill its demand.</p> <p>C The budget cuts have taken money away from the music program.</p> <p>D The local music store is going to provide students with lessons instead.</p> | <p>4. Why does the article compare music teachers to "gypsies"?</p> <p>A because they have been fired and are unemployed</p> <p>B because they don't have any students to teach</p> <p>C because they have to drive from school to school to teach</p> <p>D because they have lost their jobs, their students, and their homes</p>          |
| <p>2. What was probably the author's purpose in writing this article?</p> <p>A to advertise the buy-back program and hopefully help the school</p> <p>B to help get votes for the Berkeley Schools Excellence Project</p> <p>C to get students excited about the music program</p> <p>D to encourage protests about the tax cuts</p>   | <p>5. Based on what you read, what is Rasputin Music going to do?</p> <p>A collect CDs, tapes, and records from the community to sell to the school</p> <p>B provide free music lessons to the fourth grade students</p> <p>C hold a benefit concert to raise money</p> <p>D donate money received through the store's buy-back program</p> |
| <p>3. According to the article, will the Rasputin program totally save the music program?</p> <p>A The program will work if enough people donate their old CDs.</p> <p>B The program will help this year but ultimately taxes will need to be raised.</p> <p>C The program will not save the music program in schools.</p> <p>D The program will not be able to find enough music teachers.</p>                      | <p>_____</p>  |







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Base your answers to questions 6 through 12 on the passage below.

## August

*By Calvin Simonds*

I grew up near the Atlantic Ocean among marshes and estuaries, only a few miles back from a low-lying coast. I remember the month of August with a special kind of pleasure. At this time of year, mainland, marshland, and ocean would blend together into a grey, hot, humid haze. My mother would open all the windows, pull all the  
5 blinds, and hope to catch a sea breeze, but no breeze stirred. The dogs lay under the tables and panted; the cats lurked in the cool tunnels of the earth cellar. August was a time to do nothing and be proud of it.

But I also remember August with a bit of anxiety. August was the time of hurricanes and polio. Hurricanes and polio were different in many ways but were alike in that both  
10 were very bad things that usually happened to other people. During my childhood, I was lucky enough never to get polio. But we had bad hurricanes three times.

The hurricanes were pretty scary for the adults, but for a child, they were mostly a lot of fun. First, there was all the getting ready: buying candles and flashlight batteries and food, filling the car with gasoline, helping neighbors board up the only plate-glass  
15 window in the neighborhood, and making sure the buildings were closed up snug and everything loose was stashed away.

Then there was watching for the storm. I remember my father pointing out to me the eerie sky with its banners of cirrus clouds radiating out of the south, and I remember the strange feel of the air. The first breezes of the hurricane were so mild, so moist,  
20 so soft as to be barely distinguishable from the feel of one's own skin.

The storm itself wasn't so bad, except I had to stay indoors. I remember peering through the windows watching the water sheet down outside, the ocean tide creep up in the back marsh, and the trees lash back and forth. Every time the wind let up I would say, "Is this the eye of the hurricane? Can I go outside and see the eye?"



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|---|---|
| <p>6. How is the mood in lines 3 through 7 chiefly expressed?</p> <p>A descriptive details</p> <p>B sequential order</p> <p>C figurative language</p> <p>D simple sentences</p>   | <p>8. How does the narrator characterize hurricanes and polio?</p> <p>A as reasons for fearing the weather</p> <p>B as reasons for being concerned in August</p> <p>C as reasons for discussing misfortunes</p> <p>D as reasons for helping the neighbors</p>               |
| <p>7. Why was the narrator “proud” (line 7) to do nothing in August?</p> <p>A He was lazy.</p> <p>B It was easier to keep cool.</p> <p>C He was observing animals’ actions.</p> <p>D It was proper August behavior.</p> | <p>9. In the fourth paragraph, what does the narrator suggest about the early stages of a hurricane?</p> <p>A they are unpredictable</p> <p>B they are obvious to the eye only</p> <p>C they are apparent in the atmosphere</p> <p>D they are felt before they are seen</p> |



10. Which words *best* describe the narrator's memories of August?
- A confusing events
  - B conflict and danger
  - C contrasting feelings
  - D freedom and relaxation
11. What is the primary technique used to develop the third, fourth, and fifth paragraphs?
- A cause and effect
  - B comparison and contrast
  - C chronological order
  - D definition and classification
12. With whom does the passage suggest that the narrator had a memorable relationship?
- A pets
  - B neighbors
  - C children
  - D father
- \_\_\_\_\_







Base your answers to questions 13 through 18 on the passage below.

## Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was born in Italy in 1820 to a wealthy family. Soon after Florence's birth, the family moved to England. Florence received an education and as she grew up, she disliked the lack of opportunity for women of her social status. She began to visit local hospitals, as she had a special interest in caring for the ill. Although the profession was not viewed as worthy enough for someone of her wealth, Florence dreamed of becoming a nurse. So, in spite of her parents' disapproval, Florence entered into training.

In 1854, Britain, France, and Turkey declared war on Russia. During the war, British medical facilities for the wounded were criticized for being inadequate. Sidney Herbert, Minister at War, looked into the matter. He decided to appoint Florence, who he knew socially and through her philanthropic work, to oversee the introduction of female nurses into the military hospitals in Turkey. Nurses came in full force, and played an essential role in caring for the war's wounded. Nightingale wrote to the soldiers' families, sent their wages home, and created reading rooms in the hospital. She received the nickname "Lady-in-Chief" for her efforts.

When Florence Nightingale returned home in 1856, she was treated as a national heroine. She received many awards for her work, including one from Queen Victoria. However, Nightingale did not like being in the spotlight. She continued her work from behind-the-scenes. She wrote to influential people, urging them to improve hygiene standards in London's own hospitals.

Florence Nightingale's greatest achievement was to raise nursing to a respectable profession for women. She founded a training school for nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. Attending nurses received one year of intense training, which included both lectures and practical hands-on work. Trained nurses were sent to staff hospitals in Britain and abroad.

In 1860, Nightingale published *Notes on Nursing*. Since its initial publication, the book has been translated into many languages. In this book, Nightingale claims that sensitivity to a patient's needs is an essential ingredient for good nursing. Her writings had an impact on England and throughout the world. Her work led to improvements not only in hospitals, but in many other living and working environments. Although she was bedridden for years, Florence Nightingale continued her campaign to improve health standards. She received many honors and awards, both before and after her death in 1910. Her reforms have influenced modern health care, and her writings are still used as a resource today.





13. What does the author mean when he describes Florence Nightingale's work as "philanthropic" in the second paragraph?
- A her work was businesslike and self-serving
- B her work was compassionate and concerned with the welfare of others
- C her work was aggressive and pushed for radical change
- D her work was dispassionate and unsatisfactory
14. What is the meaning of the word "oversee" in the following sentence?
- He decided to appoint Florence, who he knew socially and through her philanthropic work, to oversee the introduction of female nurses into the military hospitals in Turkey.
- A create
- B open
- C supervise
- D visualize
15. How can the author's attitude towards Florence Nightingale *best* be described?
- A admiring
- B critical
- C obsessive
- D uncertain
16. What generalization does the author *probably* want you to make about *Notes on Nursing*?
- A its claims were all false
- B its impact was widespread
- C it was more popular in Paris than in London
- D it was Nightingale's first book
17. Why did Florence Nightingale receive the nickname "Lady-in-Chief"?
- A because her books were translated into many different languages
- B because she took the lead in improving Britain's war hospitals
- C because she analyzed British hospitals in Turkey
- D because she was a member of London's upper class
18. What would be an appropriate addition to the final paragraph?
- A a list of other books Nightingale published
- B an example of a modern health system that uses Nightingale's ideas
- C an analysis of Nightingale's effect on the outcome of the Crimean War
- D a recap of the training offered at St. Thomas' Hospital
-



Base your answers to questions 19 through 24 on the poem below.

## Both Sides Now

Rows and flows of angel's hair  
And ice cream castles in the air  
And feathered canyons everywhere  
I've looked at clouds that way

But now they only block the sun  
They rain and they snow on everyone  
So many things I would have done  
But clouds got in my way.

I've looked at clouds from both sides now  
From up and down, but still somehow  
It's cloud illusions I recall  
I really don't know clouds at all.

Moon and Junes and Ferris wheels  
That dizzy dancing way you feel  
As every fairy tale comes real  
I've looked at love that way.

But now it's just another show  
You leave them laughing when you go  
And if you care, don't let them know  
Don't give yourself away.

I've looked at love from both sides now  
From give and take, but still somehow  
It's love's illusions I recall  
I really don't know love at all.

Tears and fears and feeling proud  
To say "I love you" right out loud  
Dreams and schemes and circus crowds  
I've looked at life that way

But now old friends are acting strange  
They shake their heads, they say I've changed  
Well something's lost, but something's gained  
In living every day.

I've looked at life from both sides now  
From win and lose, but still somehow  
It's life's illusions I recall  
I really don't know life at all.

– Joni Mitchell



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|---|---|
| <p>19. What is the tone of the first stanza of the song?</p> <p>A anxious</p> <p>B ironic</p> <p>C positive</p> <p>D serious</p>  | <p>22. A person who is depressed would <i>most likely</i> display the feelings expressed in which stanza?</p> <p>A first</p> <p>B fourth</p> <p>C second</p> <p>D seventh</p> |
| <p>20. Why did Mitchell choose this title?</p> <p>A to describe a person who is very talented</p> <p>B to describe a sky that is bright and cloudy at the same time</p> <p>C to express the author's conflicting feelings</p> <p>D to illustrate the author's physical appearance</p> | <p>23. What are clouds compared to in the poem?</p> <p>A hair</p> <p>B ice cream</p> <p>C love</p> <p>D the circus</p>  |
| <p>21. What literary device is used in the fourth stanza?</p> <p>A alliteration</p> <p>B foreshadowing</p> <p>C irony</p> <p>D paradox</p>  | <p>24. The author reflects on what topic in this song?</p> <p>A good food</p> <p>B growing old</p> <p>C theme parks</p> <p>D the weather</p> <p>_____</p>                     |



Base your answers to questions 25 through 32 on the selection below.

# Scarcity of Turtle Nests Puzzling Local Watchers

By Jamie Cameron

Jan Voelpel awoke with the sun today – much like she has every morning since May 1st and will through August 31st.

From the back of her oceanfront home in Emerald Isle, Voelpel hit the beach at 6 a.m. and walked the 1.2-mile section she patrols for the town's Sea Turtle Protection Program.

She didn't find any evidence of a turtle nest, but that's not unusual. The stretch of beach she has carefully covered for the last decade yields an average of one nest every three years.

What is unusual is that Voelpel's nest-searching companions have located just four clutches<sup>1</sup> of eggs laid by the federally threatened loggerhead turtle – way below the normal tally for the first week of July on western Bogue Banks. Three nests excavated on the rest of Bogue Banks bring the season total to a meager seven.

"I don't know what to make of it. I can't even begin to guess," said Emilie Zucker, cocoordinator of Emerald Isle's volunteer effort. "No one knows the reason why."

The news from Bear Island is just as troubling. Hammocks Beach State Park Ranger Sam Bland said only five nests have been found so far, half of what he would expect at this point in the breeding season.

"We're a little slack," he said. "Last year we had a total of eighteen nests on Bear Island."

In fact, sea turtle enthusiasts up and down the giant marine reptiles' Atlantic Coast breeding range are scratching their heads about this year's scarcity of breeding activity.

Loggerhead turtles, the species most likely to lay their eggs on area beaches, can grow to nearly four feet in length, 350 pounds and can theoretically live for a century or more.

Mature females come ashore every 2-3 years to lay between four and seven clutches of ping-pong-sized eggs. The average number of eggs per nest is 100-125, but some contain as many as 200 or more. Prospective mothers almost always come ashore at night to dig a large chamber in the sand, deposit their eggs and cover the nest near the dune line.

Turtle researchers estimate that only one egg for every 1,000 – 10,000 will develop into a breeding-aged sea turtle – harsh evidence of the dangers that face animals during their first 15-25 years.

The tiny hatchlings emerge 60-70 days after egg-laying and head for the open ocean where they are believed to spend their developing years drifting with the vast mats of Sargasso weed in the Gulf Stream.

Matthew Godfrey, sea turtle biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, said numbers of loggerhead nests have remained steady on the Tar Heel coast for the last 12 years, but that fluctuations<sup>2</sup> are not unprecedented.<sup>3</sup>



He pointed to data in 1993, when 485 nests were counted on North Carolina beaches, about half of the 850-nest average recorded for the three years prior to that. In 1994, the number of loggerhead nests jumped to 1,021 and then leveled off for several years following. Sea turtle populations worldwide, including loggerheads, have been in decline for several decades, primarily as a result of human interaction.

Gill nets, shrimp trawls and offshore long-line fishing account for thousands of turtle deaths worldwide each year. Marine biologists suspect commercial shrimp trawlers are responsible for a near-record number of dead loggerheads on the coast of Georgia this spring. Since January 1st, 81 dead turtles have washed ashore there. In many developing countries, sea turtles and their nests are harvested for human consumption. In spite of those threats, Godfrey and other turtle experts hope the current situation is an aberration<sup>4</sup> in the breeding cycle and not a sign of things to come. "I think it's an environmental factor that's keeping the females from coming ashore," he said. "That means that, next year, we should have more nests . . . at least that's what I'm hoping."

1 clutch – a group of eggs incubated or hatched at the same time

2 fluctuations – changes in a given value

3 unprecedented – never before observed or experienced

4 aberration – an irregularity or deviation from what is normal or right

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## Green Turtle Nesting In Florida

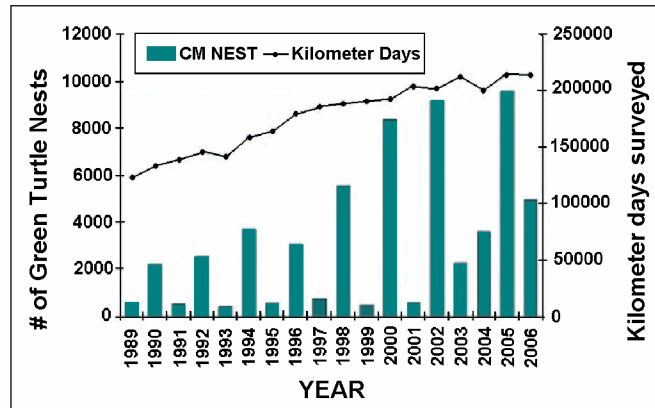
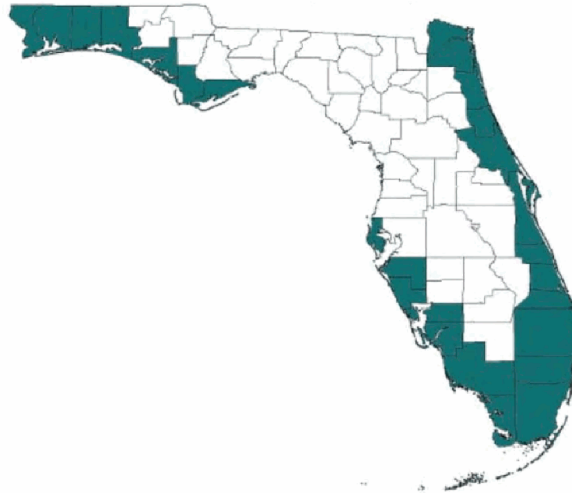
Green turtle nesting in Florida occurs from June through late September. Every two or three years, female will return to her nesting beach and lay an average of three to five egg clutches in a season. They can lay as many as ten clutches, with about twelve days between each nesting. The average number of eggs in a clutch is about 115.

The shell of an adult green turtle is olive-brown in color with dark streaks and spots. Its name is derived not from the color of its shell, but from the greenish color of its body fat. These turtles can weigh up to 300 pounds and reach 3.3 feet in length.

Florida's green turtle nesting aggregation is the second largest in the Western Hemisphere. Look at the map and graph below for further information.



**DISTRIBUTION OF GREEN TURTLE (*Chelonia mydas*)  
NESTING ACTIVITY (1979-2006)**





25. According to the information in the third paragraph of the first selection, how many turtle nests has Jan Voelpel been likely to find in the last decade?
- A one
  - B two
  - C three
  - D four
26. What emotion do statements from Matthew Godfrey focusing on the recent drop in sea turtle nests demonstrate?
- A alarm
  - B concern
  - C confusion
  - D outrage
27. Which word *best* summarizes the numbers of turtles recorded in the several decades?
- A constant
  - B declined
  - C increased
  - D undocumented
28. What does the author want you to consider as you read the first selection?
- A Beaches in Emerald Isle must be patrolled to protect sea turtles.
  - B Environmental factors may be causing a decline in sea turtles.
  - C Human interaction may be causing a decline in sea turtles.
  - D Locally and globally, people should be informed to help sea turtles.



29. Matthew Godfrey is not overly concerned with the recent drop in sea turtle nests. How does he best justify his position?
- A citing he believes it is environmental
  - B stating fluctuations are not unprecedented
  - C stating the numbers of turtles are steady
  - D quoting documentation of data from previous years
30. What is the result of gill nets, shrimp trawls and off-shore long line fishing?
- A dead loggerheads on the coast of Georgia
  - B 485 nests were counted on N.C. beaches
  - C scarcity of breeding activity
  - D thousands of turtle deaths worldwide
31. The graph for the distribution of green turtle nesting activity shows what pattern that further supports Matthew Godfrey's position on the situation of nesting for the loggerhead turtle?
- A fluctuation
  - B increase
  - C no change
  - D slight decline
32. What is the main purpose of the Green Turtle Nesting in Florida article, the map, and the graph?
- A to alarm
  - B to entertain
  - C to inform
  - D to persuade
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Base your answers to questions 33 through 38 on the passage below.

To the Managers of Orion Theme Park:

Last Friday, I visited your facility with my twelve year-old son and two of his friends. All boys surpass the minimum height requirement of five feet, making them eligible to ride any one of your numerous thrill rides. Of course, they chose The Mega Coaster first.

The Mega Coaster is touted as Orion's best and most thrilling ride. In your advertisements, you proclaim that The Mega Coaster is for "the fearless." The ride takes passengers on a two-minute journey of loops and curves, and then repeats the same path in reverse. Each car seats three passengers, whose feet are free to dangle below. A belt and bar ensure safety.

After enjoying their four minutes of excitement, my son and his friends pulled back into the station, where they would be let off the ride. They unbuckled their belts, and the bar lifted to release them. On its way up, the bar hit my son on the forehead. He was significantly bruised. We decided to stop by the Health and Safety Station. Doctors provided us with numerous bags of ice in hopes of easing the swelling. Dr. Nancy Smith suggested that I take my son to the nearest emergency room, to rule out a possible concussion. Within a few minutes, an ambulance came and took us to Mercy Hospital. Doctors ran tests and found that my son did indeed have a concussion. He would have to remain overnight.

I returned to the theme park to file a complaint with management. Someone in your office explained to me that in all probability, my son was injured because he was not tall enough to ride The Mega Coaster. I was in shock- my son exceeds the minimum height requirement by two inches! After speaking with a number of Orion representatives, I discovered that a few months earlier, another rider had been similarly injured. After the injury, Orion called in technical specialists who determined that The Mega Coaster riders should be over 5'5". Why was this information not made clear to amusement park goers?

Although my son was released from the hospital one day later, the injuries he suffered were significant. He would not have been hurt if the height requirement had been posted clearly in public view. Orion was negligent in not taking care to ensure the safety of its visitors.

I fully intend to sue the park if my family is not compensated for our trauma. I ask you to pay for the medical expenses from my son's visit to the hospital. I also request that you post signs throughout Orion stating that The Mega Coaster riders must be taller than 5'5". If you comply with my wishes within the next two weeks, I will take no legal action.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Briana Knoll



33. What can be inferred from the passage?
- A Dr. Nancy Smith also works at Mercy Hospital.
  - B Many Orion visitors like to ride The Mega Coaster.
  - C Mercy Hospital is only one mile from Orion.
  - D The doctors at Orion did not take good care of the injured boy.
34. What is a synonym of the word “touted” in the following sentence?
- The Mega Coaster is touted as Orion’s best and most thrilling ride.
- A criticized
  - B defended
  - C glorified
  - D toured
35. What literary technique does Knoll use in the fourth paragraph?
- A alliteration
  - B figurative language
  - C onomatopoeia
  - D rhetorical question
36. What is another meaning of the word “compensated” as it is used in the following sentence?
- I fully intend to sue the park if my family is not compensated for our trauma.
- A completed
  - B concurred
  - C reimbursed
  - D repaired
37. What is the purpose of the quotations in the following sentence?
- In your advertisements, you proclaim that The Mega Coaster is for “the fearless.”
- A Knoll believes that the ride is for risk-takers.
  - B Knoll does not agree with the claims Orion makes to the public.
  - C Orion acknowledges that this ride is dangerous.
  - D “The fearless” is the exact term Orion uses to publicize the ride.
38. What is the tone of the final paragraph of the letter?
- A demanding
  - B informative
  - C persistent
  - D sarcastic
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Base your answers to questions 39 through 43 on the passage below.

For eight years, Okeke would have nothing to do with his son, Nnaemeka. He always displayed so much temper whenever his son's name was mentioned that everyone avoided it in his presence. By a tremendous effort of will he had succeeded in pushing his son to the back of his mind. The strain had nearly killed him but he had persevered, and won. Then one day he received a letter from Nene, his son's wife.

5 . . . Our two sons, from the day they learnt that they have a grandfather, have insisted on being taken to him. I find it impossible to tell them that you will not see them. I implore you to allow Nnaemeka to bring them home for a short time during  
10 his leave next month.

The old man at once felt the resolution he had built up over so many years falling in. He was telling himself that he must not give in. He tried to steel his heart against all emotional appeals. He leaned against a window and looked out. The sky was overcast with heavy black clouds and a high wind began to blow,  
15 filling the air with dust and dry leaves. It was one of those rare occasions when even Nature takes a hand in a human fight. Very soon it began to rain, the first rain in the year. It came down in large sharp drops and was accompanied by the lightning and thunder which mark a change of season. Okeke was trying hard not to think of his two grandsons. But he knew he was now fighting a losing battle. He  
20 tried to hum a favourite hymn but the pattering of large rain drops on the roof broke up the tune. His mind immediately returned to the children. How could he shut his door against them? He imagined them standing, sad and forsaken, under the harsh angry weather – shut out from his house.

That night he hardly slept, from remorse – and a vague fear that he might die  
25 without making it up to them.

— Chinua Achebe





39. From lines 3 through 5, what can the reader *probably* infer about Okeke?
- A he was financially dependent on his son
  - B he was sensitive to the community's opinions
  - C he had been a leader in the community
  - D he cared deeply about his son
40. What does the narrator suggest that the coming storm (lines 14 and 15) parallels?
- A Okeke's quarrel with his son
  - B Okeke's struggle with himself
  - C the emotion in Nene's letter to Okeke
  - D he grandsons' request to meet Okeke
41. In lines 19 through 21, what does the narrator suggest?
- A the weather reminds Okeke of unpleasant experiences
  - B Okeke is happy about the change in season
  - C the hymn does not distract Okeke from his thoughts
  - D Okeke is singing his grandsons' favorite hymn
42. What is the reference to Okeke shutting his door against his grandsons intended to be understood as?
- A figurative and literal
  - B a superstition and a fear
  - C mythical and sentimental
  - D a memory and a hope
43. At what point in the passage does the narrator indicate Okeke's change of heart?
- A lines 15 and 16
  - B line 19
  - C line 11
  - D lines 22 and 23
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Base your answers to questions 44 through 50 on the passage below.

## A Baseball Legend

Jackie Robinson is one of the most important figures in African-American history. He was a great baseball player who received many awards. Robinson was voted “Major League Rookie of the Year” and “Most Valuable Player”. Later, Robinson was given a special place in the Baseball Hall of Fame and his uniform number, 42, was retired. In addition to playing baseball, Robinson became a famous speaker and writer who wanted to create equal rights for everyone.

Jackie Robinson was born in Georgia on January 31, 1919. As he grew up, Robinson won many awards for athletics. When Robinson went to the University of California in Los Angeles, he became the school’s first athlete to earn varsity letters in four different sports. He played football, basketball and track, but baseball was his favorite.

Although Robinson did not have the money to finish college, he continued working towards his goals. Robinson wanted to show people that his skills were more important than his skin color. In the late 1940s, he started playing baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He was the first African-American to play in the Major Leagues. Before Jackie Robinson, a “color line” had prevented Latin-Americans and African-Americans from playing with white players.

Many people insulted Robinson because of his skin color. Even some of his own teammates were malevolent towards him. However, several important people did support him. The Dodgers’ manager, Leo Durocher, wanted to make Robinson a part of the team. He told the other players, “I do not care if the guy is yellow or black, or if he has stripes like a zebra. I’m the manager of this team, and I say he plays.” Dodgers shortstop Pee Wee Reese also stood up for Robinson by saying, “You can hate a man for many reasons; color is not one of them.”

With the help of his supporters, Robinson was able to continue his baseball career. His talent and passion led him to become one of the sport’s best players. He broke several records and led the Dodgers to many victories. Fans could not help but be impressed by Robinson, and he soon became more popular.

Robinson hoped to be more than just a baseball player. He wanted to make it easier for all African Americans to follow their dreams. That’s why he joined the Civil Rights Movement. Robinson worked with people like Martin Luther King, Jr., to help African Americans get the same rights as other citizens. He made speeches and wrote articles to let the world know that African Americans should be treated fairly.

Jackie Robinson thought that all people deserved to be treated as equals. He once said, “I’m not concerned with your liking or disliking me... all I ask is that you respect me as a human being.” Ultimately, Robinson became a hero to many people and forever changed the nature of the all-American sport, baseball.



44. Which statement is an opinion?
- A Jackie Robinson was given Baseball Hall of Fame status.
  - B Jackie Robinson was involved in the Civil Rights Movement.
  - C Jackie Robinson was insulted because he was African-American.
  - D Jackie Robinson is the most accomplished baseball player in history.
45. Which sentence from the passage *best* describes the attitude of Jackie Robinson's supporters?
- A "In the late 1940s, he started playing baseball for the Dodgers."
  - B "Many people insulted Robinson because of his skin color."
  - C "You can hate a man for many reasons; color is not one of them."
  - D "He wanted to make it easier for all African Americans to follow their dreams."
46. Why did the author *most likely* write this passage?
- A to inspire readers to work towards their goals
  - B to advise readers to avoid hardships
  - C to encourage readers to play baseball
  - D to teach readers how to play baseball
47. What is this story *mostly* about?
- A the history of baseball
  - B the Civil Rights Movement
  - C the difficulties African-Americans faced
  - D the life and career of Jackie Robinson



48. In which of the following ways was Jackie Robinson's career and life honored?
- A his uniform number, 42, was retired
  - B he is known as a good friend of Martin Luther King Jr.
  - C he became manager of the Dodgers
  - D he won four varsity letters at the University of California, L.A.
49. In the sentence "a "color line" had prevented Latin-Americans and African-Americans from playing with white players," what *most likely* caused the "color line"?
- A the color of team uniforms
  - B prejudice against people with a different skin color
  - C new types of baseball equipment
  - D colorful fences built around baseball fields
50. What was the Civil Rights Movement?
- A a movement where African Americans fought for their political rights
  - B a movement where African Americans started playing baseball
  - C a movement that changed the rules of baseball
  - D a movement where the Dodgers won the World Series
- 



End of  
Reading 7 Exam



