

**Reading Lessons for
Alaska State Standards**

Grade 5

Mastery Packet 16

Lesson 8

**Lesson Time - approximately 60
minutes**

Teacher Materials

overhead of The Contest, see materials list
for Make a Match

Student Materials

student forms for this lesson

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

R2.1a Use a combination of the following to read and comprehend text:

- **knowledge of phonics, language structure, and semantics**
- text structures such as illustrations, graphs, and headers
- **self-monitoring and self-correcting strategies when reading**
- **adjusting reading pace or style based on purpose, task, and type of text**

R2.1b Use knowledge of word families, phonetics, context clues, visual cues, and structural elements to determine meaning of unfamiliar words.

R2.7 Explain the characteristics of the following:

- **fiction and non-fiction**
- **prose and poetry, and**
- **four major genres of fiction – short story, drama, novel, and poetry.**

(Bold area above is the performance standard or standard area being addressed in the lesson.)

Direct Instruction

Teacher says: In the last lesson we read a short informational article that is a type of nonfiction. Can anyone remember some characteristics of that informational article?

- true – nonfiction
- facts
- informative

The neurological impress method is a method for choral or concert reading. In this method, you read aloud with your students for 10-15 minutes daily. To begin, select a high-interest book, the provided passage, or a content-area textbook. Select an appropriate length piece for overhead work. Make an overhead copy of the provided passage or one of your choice. Read aloud as you point to the word with your index finger. Read at a fluent pace and encourage the students to try and keep up with you. When necessary, remind students to keep their eyes on the words. Successful decoding requires the reader to connect the flow of spoken language with the flow of text. Reading aloud with students can help them to practice phrasing and intonation.

Guided Practice

The Contest

It all began when a magician proclaimed that he, being the wisest person in the land, should be the next governor. No one cared to argue with the magician, for he might turn you into a pig or even a flowerpot if he wished. It was fearfully agreed that the magician would be governor and there was nothing the people could say. That is, until the milkmaid spoke to the laundress.

“That magician is a fraud,” she said. “He can’t change a frog into a prince or a caterpillar into a butterfly. As for smart, I declare my cow is smarter than someone who loses his spectacles when they are on his nose. He can’t even remember to put on his shoes before he goes outside.”

Now that information would have stopped right there if it hadn’t been for the shoemaker who overheard the whole conversation. “Did you hear what the milkmaid said this morning?” he asked the blacksmith. “The milkmaid says the magician will change us all into frogs if he becomes governor, and furthermore, he is not as smart as her cow.”

When the innkeeper and his wife came for their horse, the blacksmith said, “Did you hear what the milkmaid said this morning?”

The innkeeper and his wife had been busy preparing breakfast for travelers. It upset them to find out there was news they didn’t know. They pride themselves on knowing everything. When the villagers wanted to hear the latest gossip, they stopped at the inn for a hot bowl of soup. If the innkeeper and his wife had nothing to report, they made up something.

“Well, continued the blacksmith, “the milkmaid said the magician was a frog, and she was smarter than he was.” With his pounding and clanging all day, the blacksmith seldom heard anything the way it was said.

Before the day was out, everyone knew that the milkmaid had challenged the magician to a contest to see who was the smarter of the two. The winner would be governor. The judges were the village teacher, the carpenter, and the seamstress.

The magician was incensed that he had to compete with a milkmaid, but his ambition to become governor was strong, so he accepted the conditions.

The good-natured milkmaid was surprised to learn that she was a candidate for governor. But if the people wanted her wisdom, who was she to say she wouldn’t share it.

On Wednesday, when the sun was directly overhead, all the people from the countryside and the village came to the square.

The judges took their places on the steps of the palace. They looked solemn and elegant in the long black robes. The magician stood barefoot in front of the judges. The milkmaid, waving to the crowd, rode up on a cow. She hopped down and bowed to the judges.

The first questions were simple ones like how many legs does an octopus have, or what is the name of your mother. Then a farmer asked, “Magician, I’ve always wondered where the center of the earth is.”

“Well, it would seem to me, the magician stopped and thumbed through his notebooks. “I think it must be in the middle of the sea or somewhere.”

The milkmaid smiled. “The center of the earth is, of course, right here, under the magician’s bare feet. There can be no doubt.”

“Preposterous!” screamed the magician.

“If you doubt my word, dear magician,” the milkmaid said, “take a string and measure around the earth from where you stand. If your feet are not right on the center of the earth, even an inch off, then you will win.”

Now the magician knew he could not do this and prove her right or wrong. He called for the next question.

“I would ask, how many stars are in the sky?” said the baker.

“How should I, or anyone else, know that answer,” said the magician. “I would say 27, give or take one or two.”

“You are wrong again,” said the milkmaid. “There are as many stars in the sky as there are hairs in the magician’s beard. I will pull the hairs out one at a time and count them while the magician counts the stars. If the number is the same, then you will know I am right.” The magician screamed as she pulled the hairs from his beard. Even if the contest had been at night, he couldn’t count stars while she took his beard apart.

“Stop! Stop!” he yelled.

“When you agree that I have answered the questions correctly,” replied the milkmaid, “I shall stop.”

“I agree,” said the magician.

A small child spoke. “I want to know, how do you measure all the water in the sea?”

“It’s easy to do,” said the milkmaid. “Just ask the magician to stop all the water from the rivers flowing into the sea. Then you count the milk pails you can fill with sea water.”

“Ridiculous!” shouted the magician. “I can’t do that. How absurd!”

“Do you have a better answer?” asked the milkmaid.

“Of course not,” he argued. “No one does.”

“Then,” said the milkmaid, “let the judges choose the next governor.”

In minutes the milkmaid was robed and seated on the governor’s chair. The magician was so angry he screamed and stamped his feet. For the first time his magic tricks worked. He turned into a toad.

Guided Practice

Directions: Complete the following activity with you students on the chalkboard or overhead.

Teacher says: What kind of writing do you think The Contest is? _____

- Poetry is the type of writing that contains lines, stanzas or verses, rhyme and rhythm and condensed meaning.
- Historical fiction is the type of writing that is based on real events in the past; but the author adds imaginative ideas including characters, events, or situations that might not have actually occurred but could have occurred.
- A folktale is a traditional story and explanation passed down in a community or country.
- Biography is the type of writing that is an account of somebody's life written by another person.
- Prose is the type of writing or speech that is in its normal continuous form without the rhythmic or visual line structure of poetry.
- A fable is the type of writing that is a short story with a moral, especially one in which the characters are animals.
- A tall tale is the type of writing that is a story or report that is exaggerated or untrue.
- A myth is a traditional story about heroes or supernatural beings, often explaining the origins of natural phenomena or aspects of human behavior.

Teacher says: A number of occupations were mentioned in the story. Together we will write each occupation next to its description.

farmer	milkmaid	innkeeper	magician	teacher	blacksmith
baker	laundress	governor	seamstress	carpenter	shoemaker
town crier	judges				

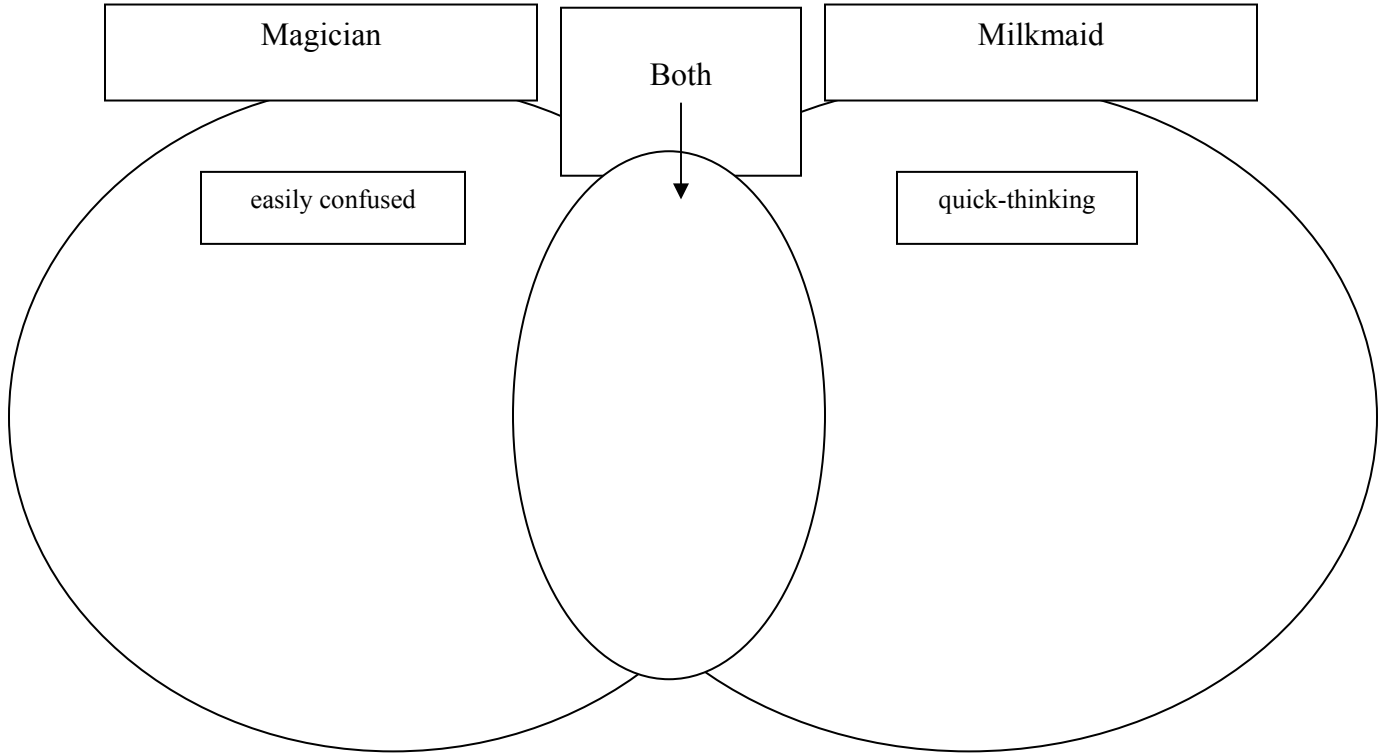
- a. _____ a person in charge of land and people
- b. _____ someone who does magic tricks
- c. _____ a person who mends and makes footwear
- d. _____ a person who makes horseshoes and shoes horses
- e. _____ people who provide food and rooms for sleeping for travelers
- f. _____ a female person who milks cows or works in a dairy
- g. _____ a person who makes bread and pastries
- h. _____ a person who sews clothing
- i. _____ people who decide who is the winner in a contest
- j. _____ a person who shouts out the news in the street
- k. _____ a person who helps students learn
- l. _____ a person in the country who plants, cares for, and harvests crops
- m. _____ a person how builds objects with wood
- n. _____ a female person who washes clothes

Teacher says: What are the occupations that are compound words?

Teacher says: What are the two adjectives used to describe the judges?

Guided Practice

Teacher says: Together we will write words and phrases that describe the magician and the milkmaid. Then we will write a paragraph comparing the two characters.



Teacher says: Now I am going to give you two student practices to complete. You may work in pairs and as you try to answer the questions refer back to story if you need help. (Leave The Contest on the overhead for students to refer to) After you have completed your student practices you may begin playing Make a Match

Name _____ Date _____

Student Practice

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why did the magician think he should be governor?

2. Why didn't the people disagree with the magician?

3. Why did the milkmaid think the magician was a fraud?

4. The conversation between the milkmaid and the laundress was passed on to a number of other people. What happened as the conversation was told over and over? What was the end result?

5. Why did the milkmaid agree to the contest?

6. What statement did the milkmaid make about the magician at the beginning of the story that came true later on?

7. Do you think the milkmaid should have been the next governor? Explain your answer.

Name _____ Date _____

Student Practice

Directions: Use the words in the word box to make a match with their synonyms.

Word Box				
solemn	preposterous	argue	fraud	wisdom
governor	candidate	judges	contest	elegant
challenge	gossip	conversation	absurd	

1. applicant candidate
2. imposter _____
3. talk _____
4. rumors _____
5. serious _____
6. ridiculous _____
7. debate _____
8. ruler _____
9. dare _____
10. absurd _____
11. referees _____
12. intelligence _____
13. exquisite _____
14. competition _____

Make a Match

Skill: identifying hink pinks

Number of players: 2

Materials:

- copy of game board
- 48 bingo chips or other small counters (divided into 2 different-colored groups of 24 counters each)
- die
- stopwatch or watch with a second hand
- lined paper for each player
- pencil for each player

Object of the game:

to identify more hink pinks

Playing the game:

1. Player 1 rolls the die.
2. Player 2 sets the stopwatch for 15 seconds. Player 1 places one of their counters on a definition space on the game board. Then they locate the matching hink pink and place a counter on the hink pink space before time runs out.
3. If the hink pink and definition are matched in time, Player 1 records the number rolled as the number of points earned for their turn. If Player 1 cannot locate a hink pink within the time limit, the number rolled is recorded as a negative score to be deducted from any points earned in the next turn.
4. Player 2 takes a turn in the same manner while Player 1 acts as the timekeeper.
5. Play continues until all the hink pinks are identified. The player with more points is declared the winner.

Make a Match

clever prank	rabbit with a sense of humor	a journey by boat	skinny arm or leg	cook who cannot hear	messy reproduction
untamed kid	group that eats together	without money	very thin horse	sound slumber	home for a rodent
mad employer	unhappy father	overweight feline	ill poultry	noisy mob	lengthy tune
nice gift	shining sun	entrance to a shop	large hog	seat for a rabbit	skinny hotel

BIG PIG	MOUSE HOUSE	SICK CHICK	SLOPPY COPY	SLICK TRICK	SLIM LIMB
PLEASANT PRESENT	FUNNY BUNNY	SAD DAD	SHIP TRIP	DEEP SLEEP	STORE DOOR
THIN INN	BONY PONY	LONG SONG	FAT CAT	DEAF CHEF	BRIGHT LIGHT
LOUD CROWD	NO DOUGH	CROSS BOSS	HARE CHAIR	LUNCH BUNCH	WILD CHILD

Closing

The characteristics of a folktale are:

- not true - fiction
- traditional stories and explanations passed down in a community or country.

Suggested Activities from the Teacher’s Guide to the Alaska Benchmark Examination Grade 6

- Show students a few paragraphs about whales from an encyclopedia and the opening paragraph from Rudyard Kipling’s “How the Whale Got His Throat.” Discuss how the authors of the two pieces have different purposes for writing and how language was used in each case. “How does the author talk to the reader?” in other words. Discuss how illustrations can help the reader know fact from fiction, too.
- Have students take a news article from the newspaper and rewrite it as a piece of fiction, or have them take a comic strip (or television show) and rewrite it as if they were news reporters describing an incident that actually happened near their homes.
- Have students choose a favorite animal and find an encyclopedia article, a news article, and a poem about it. How did different authors handle the same content?
- Have students read and record poetry and prose, then ask them to analyze the differences they can hear between the two.
- Ask students to look at different writings of poetry and prose and have them make a T chart, listing similarities and differences in parallel columns.
- Have student map the basic characteristics of each genre.

<p>Answers: a. governor b. magician c. shoemaker d. blacksmith e. innkeepers f. milkmaid g. baker h. seamstress i. judges j. town crier k. teacher l. farmer m. carpenter n. laundress</p> <p>milkmaid, shoemaker, blacksmith, innkeepers</p> <p>solemn, elegant</p>	<p>Answers: Answers will vary. Possible answers include:</p> <p>Magician easily confused forgetful pompous boastful angry</p> <p>Milkmaid quick-thinking self-assured confident good-natured</p> <p>Both ambitious anxious to be governor</p> <p>Paragraphs should use the words and phrases listed in the Venn Diagram.</p>
<p>1. He thought he was the wisest person in the land. 2. They were afraid of him and thought he could use his magic to change them into something like a pig or a flowerpot. 3. She said he couldn’t change anything, even a caterpillar into a butterfly, and her cow was smarter. 4. As the conversation was passed from one person to another, the facts were changed each time. Finally, it was said that he milkmaid had challenged the magician to a contest to see who was smarter. The winner would become governor. 5. She was good-natured and she thought she should share her wisdom if people wanted her to do it. 6. She said the magician couldn’t even remember to put on his shoes before he went outside. 7. Answers will vary.</p>	<p>1. candidate 2. fraud 3. conversation 4. gossip 5. solemn 6. absurd 7. argue 8. governor 9. challenge 10. preposterous 11. judges 12. wisdom 13. elegant 14. contest</p>