

READING—SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Directions

Read the Sample Passage and Sample Questions A and B. For Sample A, fill in the circle that goes with the answer you choose. Be sure to fill in the circle completely and make your mark heavy and dark. If you want to change your answer, completely erase the mark you made before making a new mark. For Sample B, write your answer on the lines provided.

SAMPLE PASSAGE

The sun was shining brightly during recess. Anne, Dustin, Ivan, and Katia were playing soccer. Suddenly the school bell began to ring. They looked at each other in surprise. Recess couldn't be over already! The first kickoff had just taken place.

Ivan said, "There must be something wrong with the school bell. Why is it ringing now?"

"Let's go find out," said Anne.

So they all jogged toward the school doors leading to the office. The doors flew open just before they arrived. The custodian came running out holding something at arm's length in a net. It was wiggling and twisting this way and that. It was trying to escape. All that the students could see was a small ball of fur in the net.

Sample A

Why were the students first surprised?

- (A) The soccer game was canceled.
- (B) The school bell rang too early.
- (C) The custodian had something in a net.
- (D) The teacher gave them an extra recess.



Sample B

Tell what the custodian might have in the net. Use an example from the passage to support your response.



Read the passage about a special project. Then, answer the questions that follow.

The Bakers of Barnaby Street

by Echo Ann Lewis

Nine-year-old Becky Petroski plopped onto the top step outside their little brick apartment building on Barnaby Street.

“I’m bored,” she complained, flipping her pigtails back over her shoulders. “There’s nothing fun to do around here.”

Becky’s 12-year-old sister, Deborah, shoved her glasses more securely on her nose and looked up from her crossword puzzle.

“I’m bored too,” she said. “What’ll we do?”

“Well, I’m going back in for a cookie,” Becky decided. “That’ll help me think.”

Marching straight through the living room and dining room, she landed in the kitchen and flung a cupboard door open. No cookies in sight. She pushed aside cans of green beans, boxes of noodles, jars of pickled pigs’ feet, and packages of raspberry jello. Still no cookies.

Becky hitched up her jeans, fetched a stool and climbed up. Balancing on the seat, she rose to her tiptoes and stretched as high as

she could. She fumbled in the dust on the top of the cupboard, reaching way back behind the waffle iron. No luck.

“There’s only one thing left to do,” she muttered. “I’m going to make my own.”

“What in the world is going on in here?” Deborah cried, wandering into the kitchen several minutes later. “You’re covered with flour, and that bowl you’re holding has raw eggs in it!”

“I know that.” Becky stated, blinking away the flour dust on her eyelashes. “There isn’t a single cookie in this whole apartment, so I’m making some.”

“You’re crazy!” Deborah yelled. “You don’t even know how to cook.”

“I’m going to learn right now,” Becky declared, nearly dropping the egg bowl as she tried to pick the end of one blue hair ribbon out of it.

“You’re impossible,” Deborah sighed, pushing back her perpetually-sliding glasses. “Come on, I’ll show you a really easy recipe



READING PRACTICE TEST

for raisin cookies that taste great.”

“Hooray!” Becky cheered.
“That’s just what I’ve been hoping for. And I’ve got an idea!”

“It better be a good one,” Deborah said. “Where’s Mom’s other apron? Here, tie it for me, will you?”

“This’ll be lots of fun,” Becky said, resisting the temptation to braid Deborah’s apron strings into a long knot. “Let’s wrap up some of the cookies and take them down the street to Anthony. He’s sick again.”

“Hey,” Deborah said, pulling the raisins out of the cupboard, “that’s a good idea. And what about Miss Taylor? She went by with a sad look on her face while you were in here. I’m sure she could use some cheering up.”

“And Mr. Walker,” Becky added. “He hardly ever gets treats. Let’s pool our allowances, get a bunch of raisins and stuff, and do a whole secret project! We can make cookies for everybody on Barnaby Street who needs cheering up!”

“All right!” Deborah cried, scrounging through drawers for wrapping paper and scissors. “This will keep us busy the whole summer. Hello, secret project and goodbye, boredom!”

Buried in mountains of flour, raisins, and brightly-colored wrapping paper, Becky hardly noticed the next days fly by. At the end of the week, she burst into the apartment and raced to the kitchen.

“Look, Deborah, look!” she cried, waving the current copy of *The Barnaby Street Blurp*. “Our secret project has made the news!” She slapped the neighborhood bulletin onto the table.

Closing the oven door on a freshly-loaded cookie sheet, Deborah pushed her glasses back and read the headline for the front page, lead article, “Will we ever discover the identity of those phenomenal bakers of Barnaby Street?”

“Isn’t it great!” Becky exclaimed, her pigtails bouncing. “What’ll we do next week?”



READING PRACTICE TEST

1. Which sentence from the passage **best** states the main idea?
 - (A) “She slapped the neighborhood bulletin onto the table.”
 - (B) “Becky hitched up her jeans, fetched a stool and climbed up.”
 - (C) “ ‘She went by with a sad look on her face while you were in here.’ ”
 - (D) “ ‘We can make cookies for everybody on Barnaby Street who needs cheering up!’ ”

2. What is the suffix in the word “cheering”?
 - (A) ch
 - (B) ing
 - (C) ring
 - (D) cheer



READING PRACTICE TEST

3. Becky hardly notices the next days fly by because she is
- (A) lazy.
 - (B) sick.
 - (C) busy.
 - (D) bored.
4. News of the secret project most likely turns up in the neighborhood bulletin because
- (A) the sisters tell someone about the secret.
 - (B) Deborah likes to work on crossword puzzles.
 - (C) Becky signs her name on the wrapping paper.
 - (D) the neighbors tell about the cookies they receive.





READING PRACTICE TEST



5. Explain how Becky and Deborah are alike. Use one example from the passage to support your response.



Read the passage about animal structures. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Animal Buildings

by Anna Mearns

Termite Mound

What Is It? A city for millions of tiny ant-like creatures called termites.

How's It Made? Each worker brings a bit of soil to the building site and sticks it in the right place. The soil is wetted down with spit or a liquid that the termite produces.

Instant mud! When the mud dries, it's amazingly strong. (Sometimes, the termites use chewed wood or animal droppings instead of soil.)

Crayfish Chimney

What Is It? An air pipe that may give protection.

How's It Made? At the start of the dry season, a swamp crayfish tunnels into the bank of a stream. There it makes a little room that is wide enough for it to turn around in. From there, it digs straight up. When it reaches the surface, it starts to build a chimney. It uses its front claws as bulldozer blades. The claws push mud out and pile it up around the entrance. It keeps pushing until the chimney is as tall as a pencil. The mud then dries in the sun. The chimney lets air into the burrow.

And, like a heavy gate, it may protect the crayfish.

Fun Fact: The crayfish may crawl up on top of the chimney and use it as a lookout point.

Wood Ant Nest

What Is It? A huge, underground city of a wood ant colony.

How's It Made? The ants pick the sunniest place they can find in a forest to dig their nest. As they dig, they toss out soil. The soil piles up in a cone shape and acts as a roof. On the outside of the roof, the ants lay pine twigs and needles that act as shingles. Rain then runs right off!

The nest may have more than half a mile of tunnels underground, as well as many rooms for raising young and for storing food.

Fun Fact: The widest side of the ant nest faces south. That way, most of the nest gets warm sunlight during most of the day.

Hanging Nest

What Is It? A woven tube for raising Altamira orioles.

How's It Made? The bird uses just about any plant material it can



find, including strips of bark, vines, leaves, and Spanish moss. It weaves these together into a long tube and then lines the nest with feathers and other soft materials. The long tube helps keep predators from reaching the eggs and young. The shape also makes it hard for sneaky birds (such as cowbirds) to lay their eggs in the nest.

Fun Fact: An Altamira oriole nest may be two feet long!

Eagle Nest

What Is It? A giant playpen for baby bald eagles.

How's It Made? Bald eagles carry hundreds of sticks to a tree or cliff. They stack and weave the sticks to build a nest as wide as a wading pool. The eagles line the center of the nest with plant parts and feathers. The huge nest makes a soft bed, and a great playpen, for the eagles' young.

Fun Fact: Eagles use the same nest every year and keep adding to it, so these monster-sized homes can get to be 20 feet high and more than 30 years old.

Orb Web

What Is It? A sticky food trap for an orb web spider.

How's It Made? The spider makes a web with silk that comes from its body. Spinning quickly the spider makes a frame of silk strings around where it wants its web to go.

It attaches silk spokes to this frame and weaves a temporary spiral of silk between the spokes. Then it weaves its final silk spiral.

The completed web has tiny globs of glue on it that help slow insects down. Plus, spider silk is super-strong and super-stretchy. Imagine being a fly stuck in a web and trying to kick your way free. But the more you kick, the more the silk wraps around your legs. Yikes! It's dinnertime. . . and you're it!

Fun Fact: After a day or two, the globs of glue on the web get dusty and don't catch insects as well. So the spider eats the silk and builds a new web.

Paper Wasp Nest

What Is It? A group house for paper wasps.

How's It Made? First a wasp finds an old piece of wood or plant stem. It scrapes off a little with its jaws and mixes it with spit to make pulp. The wasp carries the pulp back to the nest. There, a wasp uses its jaws to add the pulp to the nest and to shape it. When the pulp dries, it feels like paper. Together, dozens of wasps build a nest of many layers.

Fun Fact: Wasps use paper to build dozens of six-sided cells for their eggs and larvae.





READING PRACTICE TEST



6. The words in bold letters help the reader to
- (A) know what the next sentences will be about.
 - (B) learn how to spell the important words.
 - (C) understand why the author wrote the passage.
 - (D) find the meaning of certain words.
7. The main reason for reading this passage is to
- (A) learn how to build a hanging nest.
 - (B) decide which animal would make a good pet.
 - (C) find out how animals build their homes.
 - (D) enjoy a story about some make-believe animals.



READING PRACTICE TEST

8. According to the passage, which statement is true of wood ants?

- (A) They build their nests high in trees.
- (B) They get wet when it rains on their nests.
- (C) They choose sunny locations for building.
- (D) They build nests that are small and crowded.

9. How do bald eagles make their nests soft?

- (A) They carry sticks to trees or cliffs.
- (B) They stack and weave the sticks together.
- (C) They build nests as wide as wading pools.
- (D) They line the nests with plant parts and feathers.





Grade 3
Reading Practice Test Book
Form 3P01R

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