





For an item that is **not** multiple-choice, you must respond to what is requested, write in English, and make sure that your responses are readable. No credit will be given to any response that

- is too short to score
- consists of “I don’t know”
- indicates refusal to respond to the item
- consists of copying the item
- does not address the item or topic
- is not legible
- is written in a language other than English. (If part of the response is in English, that part will be scored.)

**READING**  
**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

**Directions**

Use the passage to do Samples A and B.

**SAMPLE PASSAGE**

**Fireweed: Alaska's Famous Wildflower**

Fireweed is the most famous wildflower in the Pacific Northwest. It has the ability to grow back rapidly after an area of land has been cleared or burned by fire. In fact, fireweed is usually the first plant to reappear after a wildfire. It can grow to be over seven feet tall. Its blossoms decorate open spaces with blazes of hot pink and purple. When the fireweed plant is young, the stems can be prepared and eaten. The leaves can be added to salads. The blossoms are used to make jelly and syrup. Bees love the nectar from the fireweed's blossom, which becomes delicious honey for humans to enjoy.

**Sample A**

According to the passage, which part of the fireweed plant is used to produce syrup?

- Ⓐ root
- Ⓑ stem
- Ⓒ leaves
- Ⓓ blossoms



**Sample B**

What are two reasons fireweed is an appropriate name for this plant?  
Use details from the passage in your response. This item is  
worth 2 points.

---

---

---

---



## Directions

Read the passage about a group of whales. Then, answer the questions that follow.

## An Orca Reunion

by Mark S. Decker

During my 10 years spent fishing near Unimak Pass in the Bering Sea, I've become friendly with a large group of killer whales. The huge mammals always seem to be waiting to welcome my boat, *Rebecca Irene*, when our search for bottom fish takes us to the pass (and ready for the feast of fish heads dished up through the discard tubes of the trawler).

I've gotten to know individual whales in the Unimak Pod well enough to name them. The group is led by a huge, dominant male I call Bent Fin. Other prominent members include a female with two babies in tow and a piece of her fin missing; Bumps, a playful calf covered with lumps; Goofy, who seems to spend more time swimming upside down than right side up; and Hook, too elderly to challenge Bent Fin for leadership of the pod, but the largest of them all.

If I were a longline fisherman, I'd almost certainly not have such a friendly relationship with these whales. Orcas learn to eat sablefish and turbot right off the longliners' hooks, and such vessels can lose an entire catch to the thieves. *Rebecca Irene* is a factory trawler, however. The orcas don't bite through the mesh nets we tow behind us and seem content to sup on the leftovers from our onboard processing plant.

The floor of the Bering Sea is like an undersea plain that gradually rises into shallows near Bristol Bay. Just north of Unimak Pass is an area called the Horseshoe, which lies on the eastern edge of deep water. The Horseshoe is a very productive fishing ground; it's also the summer home of the Unimak Pod.

My boat trawls for ground fish there, harvesting various species of sole, flounder, cod, and turbot. The orcas that follow us have become picky eaters. Turbot heads are clear favorites, with sablefish (also called black cod) running a close second. The whales will actually spit out an arrow-tooth flounder head if they spot a turbot snack within reach.

Before the whales can eat, of course, our nets must be brought on board and the fish sent below deck for processing. Between haulbacks, when the factory runs out of fish to process, the flow of whale treats stops. The Unimak Pod responds immediately to this outrage. This usually takes the form of about 10 minutes of tail-slapping and spy-hopping, which involves raising the front halves of their bodies from the water to look on deck or peer at me in the wheelhouse. They honestly seem to be trying to figure out what the hold-up is.

If the chutes still don't spit out any fish following this display, the whales will pull away about 100 yards or more and lazily keep



pace with the boat. As soon as they hear the hydraulics kick in to raise the net, though, the whole pod comes charging back, and the tail-slapping and spy-hopping begin again. Goofy will commence swimming in circles upside down, and Hook will take up his traditional position in the stern, patiently waiting for lunch.

When I returned to the fishing grounds in April of last year, the Unimak Pod was already there, as usual, having arrived at the Horseshoe from wherever it is they spend their winters. I stood at the rail and waved to the ones I recognized, feeling only a little foolish. Goofy came close to the boat, spy-hopping so high that only her tail remained in the water, and seemed to look me right in the eye. She repeated this greeting five times before backing off and returning to the peaceful harmony of her upside-down patrols.

All was not well, however. After I'd been in the pod's territory for more than a week, I had yet to see Hook. Each day new members of the extended orca family turned up, but the ancient patriarch didn't show. Since he's the largest of the seven or eight males that are the pod's "big bucks," I knew he was well into orca senior citizen status. Maybe, I speculated, the long trip to the summer grounds was too much for him this year. Perhaps he decided

to hang out in the Southeast and entertain the cruise ships.

Or maybe he had gone to that great fishing ground in the sky.

Each morning, with my first cup of coffee in hand, I'd go to the rail to greet the pod and welcome any new arrivals. "Still no Hook," I'd mumble to myself before heading back to the wheelhouse, worry nagging me. But then, on April 26, I woke to sunshine and a light southeast wind. Coffee in hand, I stepped outside just in time to see Hook glide by the ship's starboard.

"Hello, old fellow," I said, grinning despite myself, "glad you've finally arrived." I lifted my mug in a toast, and Hook rolled on his side in seeming acknowledgement, huge brown eyes looking into mine.

Hook was clearly hungry. He took up his rightful prime feeding spot at the bottom of the chute. The other whales seemed to back off, as if consciously giving him, for this one day at least, first choice of the groceries. He was, I thought, looking a bit thin, as if suffering the effects of age and a long, difficult swim from somewhere. But for the moment, at least, he was done with hardship.

"Your worries are over," I whispered, "it's haulback time."

**1** What does the narrator's naming of the whales reveal?

- Ⓐ the narrator's knowledge and appreciation of the sea
- Ⓑ the personalities and characteristics of the whales
- Ⓒ the dangerous unpredictability of the whales
- Ⓓ the narrator's expertise at fishing

**2** Read the sentence from the passage.

*The group is led by a huge, dominant male I call Bent Fin.*

Which word is a synonym for *dominant*?

- Ⓐ temperate
- Ⓑ assertive
- Ⓒ disagreeable
- Ⓓ extraordinary

**3** According to the passage, why do longline fishers have a poor relationship with the orcas?

- Ⓐ The orcas crowd around their boats.
- Ⓑ The orcas slap their tails on the water.
- Ⓒ The orcas refuse their discard.
- Ⓓ The orcas steal their catch.

## READING

**4** Why do both the fishing boat and the whales come to the Horseshoe?

- Ⓐ It is a good place for longliners to fish.
- Ⓑ The fishing boat follows the whales as they migrate.
- Ⓒ The fishing boat uses the whales to locate fish.
- Ⓓ It has a plentiful supply of fish in the summer.

**5** Why do the whales spy-hop when the factory boat stops processing fish?

- Ⓐ They are performing a greeting for the narrator.
- Ⓑ They are upset that no more fish parts are being fed to them.
- Ⓒ They are preparing to find ground fish for themselves.
- Ⓓ They are waiting for the return of another fishing season.

**6** Which theme does the passage best illustrate?

- Ⓐ Friendship comes in many forms.
- Ⓑ Spring is a time for hope.
- Ⓒ Respect comes with age.
- Ⓓ Waiting has its rewards.



## Directions

Read the passage about preparing for a job interview. Then, answer the questions that follow.

## Getting Hired: Preparing for a Job Interview

by Tamra B. Orr

So far, so good. You've been preparing on paper for weeks. You wrote the perfect cover letter—right tone, right information. You enclosed the perfect résumé—concise, clear, and confident. Together, the two made a terrific impression, and now it's time for the real test in the job search—the interview. Time to sell yourself to a potential employer, but this time, it's face-to-face. This is the important part, too. While your cover letter made claims about what you can do and your résumé gave the specifics that backed up those claims, the interview is your chance to take all that information and put it into a positive package—you!

### Practice Makes Perfect

You've probably had enough track practices, piano lessons, or classes to know that doing something well almost always involves lots of practice and preparation. This is true in the working world also. In order to perform well in an interview, you need to practice and prepare.

First, practice answering questions. Make sure you have good answers to standard questions such as: Why should we hire you? What qualifications do you have for this position? What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses? and so on. Keep in mind that sometimes employers will ask you some unexpected questions too. These are designed

to see how well you can think on your feet, how well you function under stress, and even how creative you are.

Practice your answers with a friend or family member. This will help you spot mistakes or problems, and you may get some valuable feedback on how to do an even better job. You want to show clearly what attributes and talents you bring to this interview, including the ability to be a team player, to communicate well, and to perform whatever duties the job requires. Have those written down on note cards so that you remember to mention them—even if you aren't asked about each one specifically.

### Be Prepared

Preparation for an interview is essential. Besides preparing yourself for the questions, put some thought into your appearance, too. Make sure you are wearing clothing that makes the right impression on a potential boss. Sloppy clothes, lots of jewelry, or too much cologne can ruin your chances before you even speak.

Dana Curtis from the Harvard University Office of Career Services says, "It is difficult to overemphasize the importance of being well-prepared for a job interview. Your degree of preparation speaks volumes about your interest level and conscientiousness.



In addition to increasing your confidence,” continues Curtis, “solid preparation will help you to give articulate answers and ask pertinent questions.”

Learning about the company before your interview is important too. Having a working knowledge of what the company produces or sells will help you to appear well-informed. Gary Will, author of *Selling Yourself in an Employment Interview*, states, “In traditional employer interviewing, the employer is in control. For the most part, they ask the questions and you answer. If you don’t know much about the employer or the kinds of problems they face, this puts you in the difficult position of trying to present yourself as the solution to problems you know little about.”

You should be ready to ask questions too, such as: What are my responsibilities? Is there a training program available? When would I start? or Whom would I report to? Don’t ask questions about how much vacation time you get, when you will get the first raise, and how many daily breaks you get—they imply that you are dwelling on the wrong aspects of the job!

**Learning the Dos and Don’ts**

Believe it or not, employers are often nervous before interviews too. A lot depends on making the right choice among the job applicants. Will says, “The biggest [obstacle] is the employer’s fear that they would be making the wrong decision if they choose you over someone else. Being prepared means identifying the employer’s aspirations and reducing his or her anxieties. It’s communicating as vividly and credibly as possible how the employer will be better off by having you as part of their team.”

Here is a list of basic dos and don’ts to remember when you walk through that door:

**DOs**

- Dress appropriately.
- Arrive on time.
- Know how to pronounce the name of the person with whom you are speaking.
- Smile.
- Offer a firm handshake.
- Make eye contact with the interviewer.
- Listen carefully to what the prospective employer says to you.
- Ask appropriate questions.
- Send a thank-you note after the interview.

**DON’Ts**

- Play with your hair or jewelry.
- Keep checking your watch.
- Answer questions too quickly (think before you speak).
- Talk negatively about previous bosses or jobs.
- Slouch or slump in the chair.
- Appear bored or impatient.
- Rely on your résumé to answer any questions.

Will adds, “You don’t get hired by describing your past. You get hired by painting a picture of the employer’s future and making them believe that you can help them achieve it.”

Remember—no one knows you better than you do. Practice and prepare and then, when you finally go in for the interview, shine! Let the employer see why you are the perfect choice for the job.





**7** According to the passage, the job interview is the direct result of

- Ⓐ long hours of practice and preparation.
- Ⓑ outstanding skills and qualifications.
- Ⓒ an excellent résumé and cover letter.
- Ⓓ a face-to-face meeting with the employer.

**8** According to the passage, which step in the job interview process is first?

- Ⓐ Make an appointment for an interview.
- Ⓑ Wear suitable clothing.
- Ⓒ Practice the interview with a friend.
- Ⓓ Ask appropriate questions.

**9** During the actual interview, the author emphasizes the importance of

- Ⓐ keeping the interview as brief as possible.
- Ⓑ being ready to ask questions.
- Ⓒ treating a nervous interviewer with patience.
- Ⓓ appearing to lead a busy life.



**10** Which additional information would best fit with the author’s purpose in the passage?

- Ⓐ telling about where your parents work
- Ⓑ listing your high school sports involvement
- Ⓒ sharing your previous work experience
- Ⓓ stating your high school grade point average

**11** According to the passage, one critical error in a job interview is to

- Ⓐ ask about vacation time.
- Ⓑ offer solutions to problems.
- Ⓒ behave too confidently.
- Ⓓ allow unexpected questions.

**12** Which statement best supports the idea that employers are sometimes nervous before an interview?

- Ⓐ “You’ve been preparing on paper for weeks.”
- Ⓑ “Remember—no one knows you better than you do.”
- Ⓒ “A lot depends on making the right choice among the job applicants.”
- Ⓓ “In order to perform well in an interview, you need to practice and prepare.”

**13** As used in the passage, the word aspirations means

- Ⓐ benefits.
- Ⓑ functions.
- Ⓒ intentions.
- Ⓓ habits.

**14** According to the passage, a job applicant being interviewed should avoid

- Ⓐ smiling too much.
- Ⓑ answering questions too quickly.
- Ⓒ listening carefully to the interviewer.
- Ⓓ appearing to know too much about the job.

**15** Which step in the job interview process is last?

- Ⓐ Arrive on time.
- Ⓑ Dress appropriately.
- Ⓒ Send a thank-you note.
- Ⓓ Make eye contact with the interviewer.



## Directions

Read the passage about a family experience. Then, answer the questions that follow.

### Taking Care of Things

by Tara Bhandari

For the second time that day, the trim red sedan coasted with the traffic on the highway, but this time it carried a much lighter load. Sylvie slouched in the back seat, perfectly still except for the few stray wisps of hair that had come undone from her ponytail and now rose and fell with the breeze. She gazed out the open window at the scruffy clusters of trees, the faded, stifled patches of grass, and the gaudy billboards that lined the highway. Soon, however, these all faded into a blur, and she saw again the immense dormitory of brick, interrupted regularly by row after row of pale windows, all blocked by the same off-white drapes. She saw its glass-fronted reception area with its blank white walls and empty leather chairs, and smelled distinctly its stale, hospital-like air. Most of all, she saw the heavy glass door swallow Anisa after the last good-byes. Sylvie hadn't cried then, but now, as she saw that glass door glide shut—not slam, but glide—over and over, her eyes were wet. She lifted a hand to wipe them hastily before a tear could escape.

“Are you OK, Syl?” Sylvie jerked her head away from the window, startled. Her dark-haired mother, whose radiant face did not yet show the signs of middle age, had glanced back from the driver's seat.

“I'm fine . . . the wind was just in my eyes,” Sylvie mumbled. She pressed the button

to make the window whiz up to just a few inches from the top. Then she looked to the other side of the car, as if turning away would keep her from seeing the dismal brick image again. Joey's shaggy black head rested on his bent arm against the far door and nodded with every bounce of the car. The middle seat was empty. Sylvie looked scornfully at her little brother. His lips were parted just slightly, and his shoulder heaved as he breathed to the whirl of the motor.

Sylvie hadn't quite realized what had happened that day until a few minutes ago. It had always seemed like something that would occur in the distant future, like all of the things she would do when she “grew up.” She never considered it actually happening. The whole thing seemed like a moment in someone else's life. It wasn't herself that she watched standing there with that silly smile on her face, mechanically hugging her sister. It was someone else's voice that she heard saying good-bye for the last time. Until now, she had almost expected to find Anisa at home when they got back.

She rested her burning cheek on the cool window and looked outside again. The screaming billboards gave her a headache, but she forced herself to look at them. “Abracadabra Amusement Park—Next Exit,” she read. Unconsciously, she picked out the



letters *A*, *B*, and *C*. She and Anisa had played the alphabet game on every long car ride since they first learned to read. They would see who could pick out the entire alphabet from the billboards and passing license plates. Anisa always won. It wasn't that she cheated—at least, Sylvie didn't think she did. Then again, Anisa was pretty clever. Long ago, she had convinced Sylvie that she could speak bird language fluently and read minds. Sylvie smiled at that last memory. She had been such a gullible—yet such a happy—little kid.

Whzz . . . whzzzzzzz . . . whzzzz.

Sylvie turned around. Joey had woken up and was playing with the power window.

“Joey,” she started.

Whzzzzzzz.

“Joey!” He turned around. “Stop that!”

“Why? I'm not bothering anybody,” he muttered.

Whzzzzz.

“Mom!” she cried.

“Joey, listen to your sister,” their mother said automatically from the front seat. Joey sighed and threw himself back in his seat, folding his arms.

“Hey, Mom,” he asked two seconds later, “can I have Anisa's room now?”

“No!” said Sylvie, glaring at him. Was that all he could think about?

“Mom?” he asked, pretending not to hear her. It was their father who answered.

“We'll talk about this when we get home.”

Two exits later, Sylvie found *D* on a license plate and *E* on a billboard. She spotted *F* in

Bridge Freezes When Wet. It never seemed right to see that sign in the summer. It only made sense in the winter.

The winter . . . She remembered the blustery days when she would stumble along behind Anisa through the slippery snow to go tobogganing. She was always scared, looking down from atop the lofty white hill, but Anisa never was. Of course, Sylvie never wanted to be left out, so she sat down behind Anisa, grabbed her waist, waited with clenched teeth, and tightly shut her eyes for the sled to start moving. The ride was always exhilarating; she loved to hear the snow rushing beneath the sled and to feel Anisa's streaming hair on her forehead as they flew down that hill. The best part, though, was at the bottom, where Anisa beamed at her proudly for being such a brave girl. Sylvie had visited that hill last winter and was surprised that it was barely a ripple in the white expanse of the park.

While she was searching for *G*, her father attempted to break the silence.

“So, Syl, where do you want to go to college?”

“Um, I . . .” Sylvie crossed her legs, then uncrossed them. She felt like saying that she didn't want to go to college. Oh, she was smart and all, and she knew she would go eventually. It just wasn't something she was looking forward to. She was probably the only student at Lowell High School who didn't think that college was the most wonderfully exciting and ultimately coolest place to go. She knew she was being childish, but she wasn't ready for that bare brick dormitory with its heavy, gliding glass door.

“Well?” her father prompted.

“I’m really not sure,” she blurted. She went back to her game and found *H* and *I* in a license plate that read HI BOB. Had Anisa been here, Sylvie would have asked her who she thought Bob was. No one else would appreciate the question. *J* was in Welcome to New Jersey, and *K* was in Keep Right. *L* was in another billboard. Sylvie looked at the picture of the girl on the billboard and remembered the time she had tried to draw Anisa’s portrait. She hadn’t been able to keep the face from coming out lopsided, so she gave up and drew the tongue sticking out and added on huge ears as a joke. Anisa gave a fake scream and burst out laughing when she saw her portrait. She always understood Sylvie’s jokes, and she had such a happy laugh. When Anisa laughed, it seemed as if everything was right with the world and nothing could go wrong.

“Honey, I think we missed the exit back there,” said her father.

“It’s all right, Mom,” Sylvie said. “Just take the next exit and we’ll get home by the side roads.” Sylvie looked out proudly at the increasingly familiar roads. After all, Anisa

had told her as they were packing last night to take care of things while she was gone.

“I’ll try,” Sylvie had said, folding a towel. “Oh, wait—do you think we should label your things or will you be able to recognize them?” At college, it would be easy to get one’s things mixed up with someone else’s.

“What do you mean?” asked Anisa. “I know that this is a suitcase, this is a towel, this is a hairbrush . . .” They both burst out laughing at the same time. After that, everything they said was hilarious. They were cracking up all over the place until Joey screamed from upstairs, “Be quiet already!” Then, of course, they went into hysterics. Sylvie giggled out loud just remembering it, and Joey glared at her from across the car as if she had gone mad. She just smiled back. Anisa sure knew how to have fun until the last minute.

The car pulled into the driveway. Joey was still staring out his window. Sylvie threw off her seat belt and gave him a playful shove on the shoulder. “Race you to the door!” she cried as she ran from the car, her ponytail flying behind her, forgetting the unfinished alphabet.

**17** Where had the family been earlier in the day?

- Ⓐ at an amusement park
- Ⓑ at Anisa's college
- Ⓒ at Sylvie's high school
- Ⓓ at the hospital

**18** As used in the passage, the word gullible means

- Ⓐ critical.
- Ⓑ trusting.
- Ⓒ imposing.
- Ⓓ belligerent.

**19** Read this sentence from the passage.

*The ride was always exhilarating; she loved to hear the snow rushing beneath the sled and to feel Anisa's streaming hair on her forehead as they flew down that hill.*

What does the word exhilarating mean?

- Ⓐ disarming
- Ⓑ fascinating
- Ⓒ enlivening
- Ⓓ expanding

**20** What is one reason Sylvie and Anisa get along so well?

- Ⓐ They both enjoy drawing each other's portraits.
- Ⓑ They both look forward to the future.
- Ⓒ They both enjoy the same activities.
- Ⓓ They both claim to be able to speak bird language.

**21** Read this sentence from the passage.

*She gazed out the open window at the scruffy clusters of trees, the faded, stifled patches of grass, and the gaudy billboards that lined the highway.*

**How does this description most likely reflect Sylvie's feelings?**

- Ⓐ Sylvie thinks she is being left out of the fun.
- Ⓑ Sylvie is concerned that her sister will be unhappy with her.
- Ⓒ Sylvie is frustrated because she cannot decide on her goals for the future.
- Ⓓ Sylvie sees the world as less beautiful because her sister is gone.

**22** The passage is considered a short story mainly because it

- Ⓐ describes real people.
- Ⓑ reveals bias and opinion.
- Ⓒ includes factual information.
- Ⓓ contains a plot and dialogue.

## Directions

Read the two editorials about moose. Then, answer the questions that follow.

### Living with Moose

Many people argue for the removal of moose from Alaska's cities and towns, but they need to remember how important moose are to our society and culture. We need to value the moose that live among us and be smarter about how we interact with them. Presently, too many Alaskans fail to recognize the ways we accidentally attract moose to our communities. If we avoid tempting moose with food, provide them with safer trails, and take steps to ensure our own safety, then people and moose can peacefully coexist.

There are about 150,000 moose in Alaska. In Anchorage, there may be 1,000 moose during the winter. When large, wild animals mix with 271,000 people who use cars, trains, bicycles, and skis, there are bound to be confrontations.

Moose in urban areas will inevitably cause problems. In 2003, more than 1,300 car crashes in Alaska involved moose. Each year, collisions result in approximately 600 moose fatalities and 100 human injuries. Astonishingly, one-third of Anchorage residents say they have been charged by moose within city limits. These accidents are terrible and sometimes unavoidable.

Many city dwellers don't understand that their habits often attract moose. For example, moose enjoy eating decorative plants and flowers from gardens. Food left for dogs and cats is also appealing. Moose will eat garbage from dumpsters, particularly in winter, when finding food in the wild is difficult. We need to be smarter about how we dispose of foods that moose find enticing.

Moose are attracted to our roads, railroad tracks, and ski trails because they are flat and well-traveled. We have literally paved and plowed the way for the moose to get to us. One solution is to create moose-friendly trails outside the city limits. For example, land is being left undeveloped by urban planners. But developers want to build anywhere they see fit. They fail to see that building without consideration for moose will worsen the problems that communities like Anchorage are experiencing now.

If a moose feels threatened or trapped, it can react very quickly, and it will use its powerful hooves and head to trample a person it considers a threat. Biologists say that a cornered moose simply wants to find a way out of a dangerous situation. Problems occur when people react in ways that frighten or anger moose. It is important for humans to know how to deal with a moose. For example, never approach a moose head-on or make a moose feel crowded or trapped. Don't stand between a mother moose and her calf. Be patient and calm, and no one is likely to be hurt.

Living in close proximity to moose will always carry risks. Who would find Alaska's cities special or unique if our urban areas were rid of the moose? We need to be smarter about not attracting moose into our communities and take steps to guarantee our safety and that of the moose.

Moose are synonymous with Alaska. They are big, strong, and wild. It does not make sense to get rid of them or to live here without them.



## Nuisance Moose

Whether you are traveling by foot or by car, encountering a 1,200-pound moose can be intimidating—to say the least. Able to go from calm to aggressive in an instant, a moose’s behavior can be erratic. When startled, a moose is more than capable of attacking humans. It is impossible to predict how a moose will react. And while few Alaskans walk outside their homes expecting to face an aggressive moose, in recent years this prospect has become increasingly possible.

Presently, too many moose have wandered into Alaskan cities. Although moose have always been a familiar sight in Alaska, and visitors look forward to seeing them, we can no longer ignore the danger they present to themselves and to people. Three steps can be taken to alleviate the problems created by moose in our cities. First, fences should be added to roadways to decrease the number of automobile collisions with moose. Secondly, we must improve existing moose habitat and develop new lands for moose. Finally, the moose must be safely removed from densely populated areas and relocated to these habitats.

Each year there are over one thousand moose/vehicle crashes in Alaska, killing approximately 600 moose on roads and highways. The damage from these collisions costs Alaskans more than \$18 million annually. Clearly, barriers and fences along our major roadways would offer much-needed protection—both for moose and humans.

Advancements in firefighting techniques have contributed to the now commonplace appearance of moose in urban areas. Better

control of wildfires means more mature trees in the forests of Alaska; however, there is less browse<sup>1</sup> for moose to eat. Periodic wildfires once insured the regrowth of this staple of the moose’s diet. Since each adult moose consumes about 40 pounds of twigs, shrubs, and other undergrowth each day, the moose are forced to encroach into populated areas. We must restore moose habitat if we are to succeed in keeping additional moose from becoming city dwellers.

Fortunately, the state of Alaska is committed to ensuring the safety of moose and of humans. The relocation of moose to existing and new moose habitat is essential for the safety of our communities and the benefit of the moose population. Although it will cost between \$1,500 and \$2,500 to relocate each moose, private organizations have raised funds to meet these expenses. This frees the state and the taxpayers from having to pay for these efforts.

Although some people object to the relocation efforts, moose have become—at best—a nuisance in urban areas. When people’s lives are threatened, the only choice is to destroy the moose. Everyone agrees that this is a situation we should all work to prevent. Similarly, who can argue the merits of trying to restore and increase moose habitat? These measures, combined with the addition of barriers and fences along roads and highways, will go a long way toward solving our present problems. The state of Alaska must support these efforts to ensure the safety of its residents and protect Alaska’s wildlife.

<sup>1</sup> **browse**: tender shoots, twigs, and leaves of trees and shrubs used by animals for food

**23** As used in “Living with Moose,” the word inevitably means

- Ⓐ having no explanation.
- Ⓑ unexpectedly.
- Ⓒ without doubt.
- Ⓓ impressively.

**24** Read the sentences from “Nuisance Moose.”

*Each year there are over one thousand moose/vehicle crashes in Alaska, killing approximately 600 moose on roads and highways. The damage from these collisions costs Alaskans more than \$18 million annually.*

The author most likely includes this information to

- Ⓐ demonstrate to the reader the dangers of relocating moose.
- Ⓑ persuade the reader that the moose situation needs to be addressed.
- Ⓒ encourage the reader to learn more about the topic.
- Ⓓ describe to the reader the insignificance of the moose problem.

**25** According to “Nuisance Moose,” what is one factor that has contributed to the increase in the number of moose in cities?

- Ⓐ the construction of highway barriers
- Ⓑ an improvement in firefighting techniques
- Ⓒ a decrease in other wildlife populations
- Ⓓ a decline in mature trees

**26** According to “Nuisance Moose,” who will pay the costs of relocating moose?

- Ⓐ taxpayers
- Ⓑ wildlife officials
- Ⓒ tourists
- Ⓓ private organizations

**27** Which best expresses a similarity between both passages?

- Ⓐ Both passages show consequences of moose leaving outlying areas.
- Ⓑ Both passages give readers historical background on moose.
- Ⓒ Both authors assume that readers understand moose behavior.
- Ⓓ Both authors agree that a larger wild moose population is undesirable.

**28** Which is an important difference between the two passages?

- Ⓐ the role of wildlife officials in moose control
- Ⓑ the dangers presented by moose encountering people in cities
- Ⓒ the emphasis on reducing confrontations between moose and people
- Ⓓ the value of moose to urban communities

## Directions

Read the passage about an unexpected adventure. Then, answer the questions that follow.

### The High Lonesome

Jack and his younger sister Nikki rode in their uncle's car as it turned off the main highway, rattled across the metal rods of the cattle crossing, and passed through the gate. An arch proudly announced the name of Alex Kincaid's new home: The High Lonesome. Jack sighed. It was just like Uncle Alex had told him—how he intended to use that name in his next book. But Uncle Alex's books were about exciting adventures, and it didn't look like anything book-worthy would happen here.

Alex Kincaid wrote adventure stories set in remote areas of the country, places so far away from even the smallest towns that adventure could be found simply by walking out the front door. The protagonists in Alex Kincaid's books struggled with forces of nature that brought storms and floods and left people stranded in no time at all. But The High Lonesome was just a mile and a half or so from the highway and had power lines and telephone service. And the only nearby water was a small, dry-weather creek that amounted to little more than a trickling stream.

"*Marooned at The High Lonesome*," Jack snickered to himself, making up a title for a book set at this place. Uncle Alex's books were full of thrills and surprises, but Jack scoffed at the idea of any real adventure happening here. It was warm and sunny, just as Jack had expected it to be in Texas. He surveyed the

landscape. Dry, sandy flatland dotted with sun-baked bushes and cacti. There was no breeze and just a few wispy clouds far overhead. "Gee, Uncle Alex," he said, "it sure seems calm and quiet around here. Where's all this adventure you're writing about?"

"Don't count on it being calm and quiet all the time," Uncle Alex cautioned. "Have you ever heard of a blue norther?"

Jack shook his head.

"Well, a blue norther is one of the most dramatic cold fronts you can imagine, and it can sweep across this part of Texas in the blink of an eye. I guarantee—it'll surprise you."

Uncle Alex saw Jack roll his eyes.

"Don't believe me? I've already been stranded up here twice, Jack. There are often heavy rains and high winds with blue northers," Uncle Alex said. "They've downed the power lines a few times, and the bridge washes out too, and then you can't get across the road until the water subsides."

Jack laughed. "Do you mean that little trickle of water we passed?" he asked incredulously as a look of doubt crossed his face. "That keeps you from crossing the bridge?"

Uncle Alex nodded, studying his nephew while Nikki watched the interchange with

wide, troubled eyes. Jack was convinced that Uncle Alex had gotten so caught up in his adventure stories that he believed he was out in the wilderness when he was only a few miles from town. He didn't even need a generator! Jack figured, however, that this kind of imagination was exactly what made Alex Kincaid a best-selling author. People loved to read his dramatized descriptions. Show him a trickling stream and he'd invent a raging torrent.

The next morning, Jack awoke early and prepared to take a hike around the premises only to find that the trickle of water he had seen the night before had turned into a thin but steady stream.

"It's been raining all night," Uncle Alex explained. Over breakfast he warned Jack about the creek and insisted that it might surprise them before the day was over. But Jack went walking as planned, determined to go investigate the creek himself.

"Take a jacket," Uncle Alex called to Jack as he headed out the door. It was 84 degrees in the shade, according to the thermometer hanging outside the cabin, and Jack had no intention of lugging along a jacket. He made it to the creek, kicked off his shoes, and crossed the creek, walking carefully across the rickety, narrow bridge. Once on the other side, however, he heard a noise in the distance. He looked up, and in seconds, screaming winds raced across the ground, thick, gray clouds filled the sky, and rain poured in buckets.

Jack, too shocked to move, stood immobile on the other side of the creek. The temperature had dropped considerably, and Jack's eyes grew wide with fear as he watched the storm transform the grounds around the cabin. A torrent of water rushed along the rocky creek

bed, and the rickety narrow bridge—which now seemed more rickety and narrower than before—cracked from the force. Jack realized quickly that he was marooned, and he would have given anything to be back at The High Lonesome. There was no way at all he could get across the creek and back to the cabin until after the storm subsided.

Once the skies cleared and the sun reappeared, Uncle Alex and Nikki came to Jack's rescue. He would have laughed himself silly if he had seen that canoe before, but he was awfully glad to see it now. The jacket he had refused that Nikki was putting on him was also a welcome sight. Jack was drenched and freezing cold. In the few hours he'd been stranded, the temperature had dropped from 84 to 36 degrees Fahrenheit. Jack had had no shoes, no coat, and no faith at all in his uncle's warnings.

"Do you believe in blue northers now, Jack?" Uncle Alex asked, as they rowed back to the cabin in the canoe.

"More than ever!" Jack exclaimed.

"You know," Uncle Alex said, "I think you will be the protagonist of my next book."

"What will you call it?" Nikki asked.

"How about *Blue Norther*?" offered Uncle Alex.

"I know!" Jack cried. He was warming up and happy to be drifting safely toward the cabin. "*Marooned at The High Lonesome!*"

"Perfect, Jack," Uncle Alex said, with satisfaction. He seemed to be writing it in his head already. Jack had no reason to doubt that the next Alex Kincaid adventure would be one of his best. And Jack was sure he could help write one very exciting chapter.

**29** Read the sentence from the passage.

*“Don’t count on it being calm and quiet all the time,” Uncle Alex cautioned.*

This sentence contains an example of which literary device?

- Ⓐ foreshadowing
- Ⓑ hyperbole
- Ⓒ repetition
- Ⓓ metaphor

**30** Which word is a synonym for *subsides* as it is used in the passage?

- Ⓐ enlarges
- Ⓑ recedes
- Ⓒ contrasts
- Ⓓ isolates

**31** Read the phrase from the passage.

*. . . screaming winds raced across the ground . . .*

The phrase contains an example of which literary device?

- Ⓐ allusion
- Ⓑ simile
- Ⓒ symbolism
- Ⓓ personification

**32** Which event is the turning point of the passage?

- Ⓐ A blue norther arrives suddenly.
- Ⓑ Jack wakes early to go on a hike.
- Ⓒ A noise is heard in the distance.
- Ⓓ Jack names Uncle Alex's future novel.

**33** Which best describes the tone of the passage?

- Ⓐ remorseful
- Ⓑ serious
- Ⓒ ironic
- Ⓓ formal



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“An Orca Reunion” copyright © 2004 by Mark S. Decker. Reprinted with the permission of *Alaska Magazine*.

“Getting Hired: Preparing for a Job Interview” from *Career World* magazine. Special permission granted by Weekly Reader, published and copyrighted by Weekly Reader Corporation. All rights reserved.

“Taking Care of Things” first appeared in *Merlyn’s Pen: Fiction, Essays, and Poems by American Teens*. Copyright Merlyn’s Pen. All rights reserved.



**Grade 10**  
Reading Practice Test Book  
Form PTR

**Copyright © 2010 by Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. Only the State of Alaska educators and citizens may copy, download, and/or print the document, located online at [www.eed.state.ak.us](http://www.eed.state.ak.us). Any other use or reproduction of this document, in whole or in part, requires written permission of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.**