

Staple Here

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Missouri

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY

# EDUCATION™

## End-of-Course Assessment

# English I



English 1 PreTest

[Type text]

**Directions:** Read the following passage carefully. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

## The Rocking Chair

### Scene 1: The present

*(The stage is bare, except for an old, shabby-looking rocking chair. A high school-age boy enters with an older man.)*

**Marshall:** Hey, Grandpa, how about this old chair? *(He runs a hand over the back of the chair, his face showing obvious indifference.)* It looks pretty, uh, insignificant.

**Grandpa:** No, Marshall. We can clean out the rest of the attic, but I want to keep that rocking chair.

**Marshall:** Are you sure? One of the railings on the back is cracked, and the varnish is all peeled off. *(He looks under the chair.)* Eww—there’s even an old wad of gum stuck under here. *(pauses, looking)* At least, I think it’s gum. This chair is totally old.

**Grandpa:** *(smiles knowingly)* Don’t worry, it’s gum, all right. And that chair is not old—it’s an antique. *(with a laugh)* Of course, so am I!

**Marshall:** You’re not old, Grandpa. Not to me.

**Grandpa:** I’m over seventy years old—about the same age as this chair. I suppose that sounds quite antiquated to you.

**Marshall:** What’s “antiquated”?

**Grandpa:** It means, a time when “the Net” was something you caught fish in.

*(Marshall laughs.)*

**Grandpa:** You look at that rocking chair and see a rocking chair. I look at it and see so much more. So much more . . .

### Scene 2: 1927

*(The lighting changes. Marshall and his grandfather exit as a man and woman enter and go to the rocker. They are young, barely out of their teens, and dressed in clothes from the 1920s.)*

**Herbert:** Just sit here a moment, Molly.

**Molly:** What for?

**Herbert:** Well, there’s just something important I want to ask you.

**Molly:** Can't you ask me standing up?

**Herbert:** No. Sit. Please.

*(Molly shrugs and sits in the rocker. The man paces.)*

**Molly:** What is it, Herbert? You seem a little nervous.

**Herbert:** Well . . . you know, I just got that promotion to head assembly lineman at the Ford plant.

**Molly:** Yes, I know. That's wonderful.

**Herbert:** And, I really think the automobile industry is just going to keep growing and growing. Mr. Ford came and talked to all of us about the new Model A that we'll be releasing this year. Pretty soon, every family will have their own automobile, and there will be roads stretching all across the country. You'll be able to drive just about anywhere. Just think of it, Molly!

**Molly:** *(with a smile)* Herbert Marshall, did you ask me to sit here so we could talk about transportation?

**Herbert:** No, Molly, that wasn't it exactly. *(goes down on one knee)* I—well, I—

**Molly:** Yes.

**Herbert:** *(surprised)* What?

**Molly:** I said, yes.

**Herbert:** To what?

**Molly:** To what you were going to ask.

**Herbert:** What was I going to ask?

**Molly:** You were going to say, we've been seeing each other for over two years, and we're highly compatible. And then you were going to tell me I'm the most wonderful girl you've ever met, and you were going to ask me to spend the rest of my life with you.

**Herbert:** Yes, that's it exactly!

**Molly:** So I just saved you the trouble. Henry Ford isn't the only person who knows about efficiency. Yes, dear, I'll marry you.

**Herbert:** Gosh, Molly, you're swell!

**Molly:** Let's go for a stroll. And you can tell me all about that new line of automobiles.

*(Herbert smiles, leaps to his feet, and happily escorts Molly out.)*

### Scene 3: 1935

*(The lights change. A woman in her late twenties enters holding a baby. Her hair and dress are from the 1930s. She sits and rocks in the chair, cradling the baby in her arms.)*

**Woman:** Shhhhh . . . shhhhh . . . go to sleep, Sidney . . . it's all right . . . Daddy will be back soon, sugar. He's just out helping Mr. Phelps build a chicken coop. It's not the most glamorous job, but hopefully he'll bring home a few eggs for us. We all have to do what we can to get through these tough times. Don't worry, we'll be fine. No need to fuss. And that includes you, my little man . . . you need to take your nap! What, not sleepy? Well, let's see how much longer you can hold out if I keep rocking you while we wait for Daddy . . .

### Scene 4: 1943

*(The lights change. The woman stands and exits with the baby while an eight-year-old boy and his mother enter. They wear clothing from the 1940s.)*

**Mother:** Sidney, I want you to sit right here in this chair and think about what you did.

**Boy:** Awwww, Ma!

*(The boy sighs, climbs into the rocker and starts rocking.)*

**Mother:** And don't rock.

**Boy:** Why?

**Mother:** Because rocking implies enjoyment, and I do not want you to sit here enjoying yourself. I want you to sit there not enjoying yourself, thinking about what you did to Becky!

**Boy:** I'd rather think about what she did to me first.

**Mother:** I will not listen to you malign your sister. Proper little boys do not put bubble gum in their sister's hair!

**Boy:** But Becky said President Roosevelt was smarter than the Masked Aviator!

**Mother:** Well, I hope for the sake of the U.S. of A. that he is! And you'll have no more radio for a week.

**Boy:** But Ma, on this week's episode the Masked Aviator is going to reveal the identity of the Secret Spy!

**Mother:** You should have thought of that while your sister still had two pigtails. Now, I want you to sit here and think about how sorry you are, and when I come back, you're

going to apologize to Becky!

*(The mother leaves. The boy makes a **grimace** and pouts a moment. Then he reaches in his mouth, pulls out a wad of bubblegum, and sticks it beneath the seat of the rocker. Then he dashes off.)*

### **Scene 5: The present**

*(The lights change. Marshall and his grandfather enter.)*

**Marshall:** You know what, Grandpa Sid?

**Grandpa:** What?

**Marshall:** I'll bet with some glue and a little varnish, this rocking chair would look real nice. Real nice.

*(The grandfather smiles and puts his arm around Marshall's shoulder. They look fondly at the rocking chair as the lights fade.)*

1. Read this sentence from the passage.

*"The boy makes a grimace and pouts a moment."*

Which phrase **best** fits the meaning of *grimace* as it appears in the passage?

- A. disruptive sound
- B. rude comment
- C. frowning face
- D. clumsy smile

2. Which statement **best** describes why Grandpa Sid is the main character?

- A. He wants to restore the old rocking chair.
- B. He openly states the theme of the passage.
- C. The rocking chair tracks the events in his past.
- D. He appears in the opening and closing scenes.

3. Why does Molly **most likely** accept Herbert's proposal of marriage before he makes it?

- A. She does not want to remain seated any longer.
- B. She thinks he might change his mind about proposing.
- C. She feels excited and does not have much patience.
- D. She knows he is nervous and wants him to feel at ease.

4. Which sentence **best** supports the main idea of the passage?

A. "This chair is totally old."

B. "I look at it and see so much more."

C. "Well, there's just something important I want to ask you."

D. "We all have to do what we can to get through these tough times."

**Directions:** Read the following passage carefully. Then answer questions 5 through 9.

### Missouri's Unique Riverways

1 The Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR) was created by an act of Congress in 1964,<sup>1</sup> but the 80,000 acres that make up this park were 10,000 years in the making. The park consists of 134 miles of spring-nourished rivers, vast, **expansive** landscape, and diverse plant and animal life.

2 Located in south-central Missouri, ONSR hosts thousands of visitors each year. They come for a gentle float along the Current River or to take a wilder ride on its largest tributary, the Jacks Fork. They come to survey springs that are among the largest in the world. They come to explore the many caves carved into the limestone. And, they come to enjoy the sights and sounds of the hundreds of species of animals and plants. If they pay attention, they will leave with a true sense of what makes this section of the Ozarks unique among national parks.

3 The Current River begins just above Montauk State Park in Missouri and flows southeast into Arkansas for 162 miles. The Jacks Fork River begins in far southeast Texas County, Missouri, and flows for 65 miles.<sup>2</sup> It joins the Current River at Eminence, Missouri. The swift currents of both rivers make them easily navigable without a motor. Known to the locals as “floaters,” these rivers welcome visitors wishing to travel for miles in canoes, inner tubes, or kayaks.

4 The rivers get their water power from a number of natural springs, which pump millions of gallons of water each day through underground passageways. Combined with the relatively steep gradient of the rivers, these springs keep the water cool and flowing year round. Also, the unique spring systems keep both rivers clear and clean. Surrounding the rivers are steep, forested hills with jutting cliffs and at least three hundred caves. For thousands of years, the water has been at work sculpting the surrounding scenery. It is also at work underground, sculpting the limestone passageways through which the spring water travels.

5 There are twenty Ozark springs, nineteen of which are located in Missouri. Billions of gallons of stored water flow up from these springs to form the ONSR. The springs are easy to spot because of their deep blue to blue-green color. As the water tunnels through and dissolves the limestone passageways, it becomes rich with minerals. The largest spring is aptly named Big Spring, one of the largest springs in the world. It pushes out an average of 286 million gallons of water each day.<sup>3</sup> During peak flow, Big Spring can produce up to 800 million gallons of water per day. Geologists have found the water gushing from this spring travels up to 45 miles through underground passageways before it surfaces at Big Spring.

6 Another large spring, Blue Spring on the Current River, is the deepest of the springs in Missouri. It has been mapped to a depth of 310 feet. A third spring of note is the Welch Spring. In the early part of the twentieth century, the Welch Spring was owned by a doctor

who believed the waters had healing qualities. Today, the springs are protected natural areas and are owned by the state.

7 The springs of the ONSR provide a unique habitat for animal and plant species not usually found near a river. The area is home to at least thirty-eight species of animals found only in the Ozark springs area and also to a number of endangered species. For instance, the Ozark hellbender falls into both of these categories. An aquatic salamander, the hellbender has a long, flat body and fatty folds of skin along its side. Its shape allows it to slip under rocks and to remain fixed in one place despite the swiftly moving current.

8 Also both endangered and exclusive to the springs, the eyeless cavefish swims deep within the dark, underwater passageways. Another rare salamander, the grotto, dwells in the caves along the rivers. These caves also serve as home to a number of different bat species, including the scarce gray bat.<sup>4</sup> An attentive birdwatcher may even hear the Swainson's warbler's<sup>5</sup> distinctive singing in the river cane thickets that line the riverways.

9 River cane is one of the unique plant species found along the ONSR. Its bamboo-like thickets help hold the soil in place along the river's edge and also help prevent flooding. Some of the prairie plants are remnants of the Ice Age, and rare wildflowers are particularly plentiful.<sup>6</sup> Among these are a variety of orchids growing in the wetland areas along the river. These flowers put on a colorful show for spring floaters. The trees and shrubs that fill the hills surrounding the rivers put on an equally colorful show for fall floaters. Near cool cave openings a variety of unique ferns grow. One of these, the walking fern, grows a new plant every time one of its fronds touches the ground.

10 There is much to appreciate about the ONSR. Despite their repeated recreational use, the riverways have maintained their natural beauty. Visitors explore the region by floating the Current and Jacks Fork. From that viewpoint, they have perhaps the best view of the many natural features that make the ONSR unique among national parks.

---

<sup>1</sup>The Ozark National Scenic Riverways represents the first national park area in America to protect a natural river system.

<sup>2</sup>Of the 227 combined miles, only 134 are included in the ONSR.

<sup>3</sup>Big Spring's average output could fill a professional football stadium in about thirty-three hours.

<sup>4</sup>The gray bat lives in caves year round. It is endangered because its habitat suffers from frequent flooding and human disturbance.

<sup>5</sup>The Swainson's warbler hides in the tall cane and is rarely seen.

<sup>6</sup>Botanists believe they have yet to identify all of the types of wildflowers native to the region. Recently they discovered a type of monkshood they had never seen before. This discovery leads them to believe there are more yet to be discovered.

**5. Read this dictionary entry.**

*expansive* *adj.*

1. unrestrained or free 2. tending to grow 3. open and communicative 4. having a wide range or extent

**Which definition best fits the meaning of *expansive* as it is used in paragraph 1?**

- A. Definition 1
- B. Definition 2
- C. Definition 3
- D. Definition 4

**6. Which information would be most important to include in a summary of the passage?**

- A. “The park consists of 134 miles of spring-nourished rivers, vast, expansive landscape, and diverse plant and animal life.”
- B. “The Current River begins just above Montauk State Park in Missouri and flows southeast into Arkansas for 162 miles.”
- C. “The springs of the ONSR provide a unique habitat for animal and plant species not usually found near a river.”
- D. “Despite their repeated recreational use, the riverways have maintained their natural beauty.”

7. Which sentence about “Missouri's Unique Riverways” is **best** supported by evidence in the passage?
- A. The ONSR rivers are popular with tourists who enjoy watching wildlife.
  - B. The ONSR rivers have many natural features and recreational opportunities.
  - C. The ONSR rivers are often spring fed and end in major bodies of water.
  - D. The ONSR rivers contain a variety of well-known plant and animal species.
8. The author **most likely** selected the organizational pattern in this passage to
- A. emphasize and develop the most important topics
  - B. explain the effects of the water springs on the landscape
  - C. provide chronological information about important events
  - D. compare and contrast the ONSR with other national parks
9. The author **most likely** includes the third footnote to
- A. give a precise idea of the amount of water
  - B. emphasize the informal tone of the passage
  - C. provide an image the reader can easily relate to
  - D. provide more information about an important topic

## The Brave Brothers

1 When I heard the rustling in the jungle's underbrush, I knew I had been right to avoid Africa for all those years. With some unknown animal lurking in the bushes just ten feet from me, the terrifying creature (whether it be a leopard or a crocodile or a Cape buffalo) just confirmed the fact I should never have left my couch back in the United States.

2 I'm not the thrill-seeking type. I've never skydived, bungee jumped, or run with the bulls. I've always been perfectly happy with a good book, a funny TV show, or a pleasant game of tennis. And because I've never been inclined to risk it all on exotic adventures, for ten years I ignored my brother Terrence's invitations to visit him in Africa, where he was employed doing conservation work. I figured there would be dark jungles and frightening animals in Africa, not to mention furry spiders and slimy snakes. I didn't need that.

3 Terrence always teased me about my fears. "Don't be such a chicken," he said. "It'll be the trip of a lifetime."

4 For years I ignored his pleas, conceding that I definitely wasn't as brave as my brother but not caring that it was true. Eventually, though, it seemed time to see some of the world and have some excitement, so I agreed to visit East Africa. I would meet Terrence in Nairobi, Kenya, and we would go on safari before heading to his home in Arusha, Tanzania.

5 Terrence and I trekked all over Kenya looking for animals on our photo safari. We clicked pictures up and down the Serengeti of distant lions lazing in the midday sun, leopards snoozing on high branches, and massive crowds of animals—literally millions of zebras and wildebeest drumming up enormous clouds of dust on their yearly migration across the savanna. In the Ngorongoro Crater (a volcanic crater filled with an entire ecosystem of wild animals), we saw rhinoceroses both black and white, and we noticed that the lion might not be the king of the jungle after all: I saw entire packs of the great cats sleeping off a big meal but getting up to run for their lives whenever herds of elephants lumbered past. Kings of the jungle or not, the lions seemed to be saying, "We're not messing with those monsters!"

6 It was not until we got to the Empekai Crater, however, that I had my greatest adventure. Empekai is off the beaten path, and very few tourists go there. For the most part, it is only visited by the Maasai, a seminomadic tribe from Kenya and northern Tanzania whose traditional lifestyle is centered around cattle, their primary source of food. Before Terrence and I drove our truck through a dark jungle up the crest of the Empekai Crater, however, we were warned by a Maasai warrior that we should "beware the buffalo."

7 Cape buffalo are huge, wild animals indigenous to eastern Africa, a bit like cows except for the hooked horns atop their heads that they use to defend themselves. Although Cape buffalo are herbivores that eat only plants, they've been known to get skittish and attack both animals and humans. To top it off, they have a reputation for holding a grudge.

The local people will tell you tales of buffalo that tracked down animals or even people who had done them wrong. To say the least, a buffalo makes a formidable adversary, one I did not care to cross.

8 When I heard the warrior's warning, I admit I blanched with fear. Hand-to-hand combat with a thousand-pound beast wasn't my idea of a good time. My brother rolled his eyes at me.

9 "Don't be such a chicken," he smiled.

10 At Empekai, we parked the truck and were walking toward the crater's edge, on a footpath first tread by the Maasai, when from the underbrush I heard a rustling sound that definitely wasn't the wind. My brother lowered his camera and looked at me. On his face there was no trace of amusement. He pointed toward the noise, and I nodded yes. I had certainly heard it too.

11 Walking through a dense jungle, there aren't many sounds scarier than what you believe are the footsteps of some savage creature, but while the very distinct sound of an animal rustling in the African underbrush is spooky, it pales in comparison to the sound of a grunt. A grunt, unfortunately, is what my brother and I heard next—a horrifying, guttural, phlegmy grunt—the type of noise that could have come only from a vicious wild beast.

12 "Buffalo!" Terrence screamed, running toward the truck.

13 "Buffalo!" I echoed, racing after him.

14 It didn't take us long to cover the hundred yards back. Olympic sprinters would be hard-pressed to match our pace, terror providing the inspiration on that race for our lives; in no time, Terrence and I were at our vehicle. I ran behind the truck, keeping it between myself and the ferocious buffalo, while Terrence slid full-speed below it. From behind a tire, he looked back up the trail, his wary eyes watching for those brutal beasts.

15 The rustling in the underbrush increased, and the grunting grew louder. Then through the low leaves crashed the animal we had imagined to be a massive monster: a lowing dairy cow, mooing and chewing its cud while a Maasai boy of about eight years old flicked its haunches with a switch.

16 The boy grinned at us and raised a hand in greeting. From the other side of the truck I waved back, and Terrence raised a hand from behind a tire. I laughed heartily at that, my brave big brother hiding under our vehicle.

17 I got down on my knees to look at him. "Get out from under there," I said. "Don't be such a chicken."

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

“We clicked pictures up and down the Serengeti of distant lions lazing in the midday sun, leopards snoozing on high branches, and massive crowds of animals—literally millions of zebras and wildebeest drumming up enormous clouds of dust on their yearly migration across the savanna.”

**This setting most likely causes the narrator to feel**

- A. peaceful and relaxed
- B. fascinated and amazed
- C. reflective and sentimental
- D. apprehensive and nervous

**11. What is the main effect of the author's use of words such as *terror* and *wary* in paragraph 14?**

- A. The words hint at the foolishness of the brothers' fears.
- B. The words intensify the portrayal of the brothers' fears.
- C. The words reinforce the idea that this jungle is especially dangerous.
- D. The words heighten the idea that there really are wild beasts chasing the brothers.

**12. Which sentence is the best summary of paragraphs 15 and 16?**

- A. Terrence admits that he was afraid of the cow, thinking it was a buffalo.
- B. A boy laughs at the brothers when he sees how frightened they are of his cow.
- C. The narrator becomes more frightened when he hears the creature's grunts grow louder.
- D. While the narrator and his brother are hiding in fear, they are greeted by a boy leading a cow.

13. Read this sentence from the passage.

“Terrence always teased me about my fears.”

What can the reader most likely conclude from this sentence?

- A. The narrator is ready to face his fears.
- B. Terrence understands his brother’s fears.
- C. Terrence is often more fearful than his brother.
- D. The narrator usually chooses to avoid his fears.

14. The repetition of the phrase “Don't be such a chicken” suggests that

- A. one brother is giving advice
- B. one brother will back down
- C. each brother has appeared cowardly at some point
- D. neither brother will follow the advice given by the other

15. Which statement is the best theme for this passage?

- A. Sometimes our worst enemy is our own fear.
- B. Traveling can help people confront their fears.
- C. What we fear may turn out to be milder than we thought.
- D. Even though brothers may be close, their fears may be different.

16. Which paragraph gives the reader the clearest images of Africa?

A. Paragraph 2

B. Paragraph 5

C. Paragraph 7

D. Paragraph 11

**Directions:** Read the following passage carefully. Then answer questions 17 through 22.

**Goodbye to Ragazzi's**  
*by Ramona Standleton*

New York City . . .

1 Antonio Ragazzi's Pasticceria, the landmark bakery on West Tenth Street in Greenwich Village, will lock its doors forever next Friday. After forty years in the same location, it is in its final week. The shelves in the front glass case are pathetically empty; the last few aniseed rolls are being snapped up by dejected customers who have come to pay their final respects.

2 The **termination** of a business in this city is not necessarily noteworthy; restaurants come and go, and mom-and-pop stores often lose their leases. Ragazzi's is a bit of a hole-in-the-wall, squeezed between a chain drugstore and a fruit market. Yet word of its pending closing has created a huge and emotional outpouring of neighborhood people, showing how much the unpretentious bakery meant to this community. Surely the homemade, fresh-every-morning breads and pastries will be missed, but there was also a memorable atmosphere here that went beyond the scuffed brown-and-white tile floor, the old-fashioned brick oven, the warm yellow walls, and the delicious aroma. The small tables for customers who wanted to linger are already gone. Mr. Ragazzi says the fixtures are due to be removed on Thursday.

3 Last night, many well-wishers gathered at the bakery for one last visit. The crowd that spilled out to the sidewalk represented a broad cross-section of the neighborhood's people: the elderly, teenagers, NYU students, businesspeople, and bikers, all ranging in dress from high fashion to tattered jeans.

4 There was a collective gasp as Mr. Ragazzi took down the community bulletin board that had always been on the left wall.

5 "Mr. Ragazzi, don't do it," lamented Joe Verona of Greenwich.

6 Along with those who have come to say goodbye are the protesters who hope for a last-minute change of mind.

7 "If an investment could avert this disaster . . ." Alice Spala from Queens suggested.

8 "If it's the lease . . . We could talk to your landlord and—" proposed Kitty Hawkins, also from Queens.

9 "No, no, it's . . ." Mr. Ragazzi addressed the crowd. "A bakery is a young person's game. I've become too old to get here at four every morning to start the oven. Thank you for your support over the years. It's been a wonderful time." His voice broke a bit. "I did hope Ragazzi's could keep going. I always thought my sons would take over, but you

know, Mark is on Wall Street and George became a physician, so . . .”

10 In the interest of full disclosure, I cannot claim journalistic objectivity. Ten years ago, I was new and struggling in the city. I was running errands at the *Times*, feeling lost and hopeless about ever making reporter. I’d stop at Ragazzi’s for a cornetto on the way to work; it warmed me to be greeted by name.

11 “Hang in there, Ramona,” he’d say, “your chance will come.” Often he’d slip an extra cornetto into my bag to fortify me for the uphill day ahead. When my first byline appeared, there was a celebration at Ragazzi’s, and my article went up on the board.

12 Everyone seemed to have his or her own Ragazzi’s anecdotes and was eager to be interviewed and tell stories about the bakery.

13 Dante Velasquez, New York, shared this tale: “Mr. Ragazzi introduced me to my wife, right in front of this counter. He was something of a matchmaker. Five years and two children later, it’s still a very special place for us. We always celebrated our anniversaries with his irresistible cannoli.”

14 Victoria McMann, Greenwich Village, recalled, “I had just moved into the Village, and I didn’t know a soul. People collected at Ragazzi’s, and it made all the difference between feeling lost among strangers and finding a hometown. We’ll all feel abandoned!”

15 Suzie Seymour, Buffalo, said, “It will be heartbreaking to see the portrait of Philomena come down. I guess everyone knows she was Mr. Ragazzi’s grandmother from Venice, the lady whose old-world recipes started it all.”

16 One member of the Choi family added, “We moved to Westchester a while ago, but we stop by whenever we can. And not just to pick up pasticciotti—this place is full of good memories.”

17 I noticed that Mr. Ragazzi’s grandson’s eyes were filled with tears as he listened. I had often seen the teenager working behind the counter during his school vacations.

18 Comments such as these continued to be voiced by the crowd:

19 “When my cat was lost—she somehow slipped out of my apartment upstairs—I put a notice on the board. Mr. Ragazzi knew how attached I was to that cat. He actually kept an opened can of tuna on the sidewalk in front of the bakery. Of course, it drew all the cats in the neighborhood, but finally my scared and famished Violet showed up!”

20 “I always knew winter was coming when the panettone was in the window. It won’t be the same.”

21 “Mr. Ragazzi, thanks for everything! Thanks for listening to me when I had troubles.”

22 I’m a reporter, but I don’t want to write this story.

23 Postscript: I was about to give this article to Edit when I received a phone call at

my desk. Apparently, Mr. Ragazzi's grandson begged for the bakery to be saved for him until he graduates from high school; he offered to come early every morning before his first classes. It's possible that I'll be able to write an entirely different ending for this story, featuring a reprieve for Ragazzi's . . .

### **Glossary**

cannoli—crisp pastry shells filled with cream

cornetto—crescent-shaped roll

panettone—yeast cake studded with raisins and candied fruits, traditional during winter holidays

pasticceria—pastry shop

pasticcotti—miniature cream cheese pies, sprinkled with powdered sugar

17. Read this sentence from the passage.

“The *termination* of a business in this city is not necessarily noteworthy; restaurants come and go, and mom-and-pop stores often lose their leases.”

Which term would **best** replace the word *termination* in this sentence?

- A. closing
- B. expense
- C. organization
- D. profit

18. Read this sentence from the passage.

“There was a collective gasp as Mr. Ragazzi took down the community bulletin board that had always been on the left wall.”

Which of these **best** explains why there was a “collective gasp”?

- A. The removal of the bulletin board caused an injury to Mr. Ragazzi.
- B. The removal of the bulletin board represented the end of Ragazzi’s.
- C. The removal of the bulletin board caused a huge, flour-filled dust cloud.
- D. The removal of the bulletin board revealed artwork painted on the brick wall.

19. What **most likely** prompted the grandson to express an interest in the bakery?

- A. the bakery’s reputation for its fine pastries
- B. the newspaper reporter’s interest in the bakery
- C. his emotions brought on by the neighbors’ testimonies
- D. his father and uncle’s lack of interest in owning the business

20. How does the grandson's suggestion provide the **best** solution to the problem?
- A. It will provide the young man with a much-needed career direction.
  - B. It may encourage investors to take a second look at supporting Ragazzi's bakery.
  - C. It will allow Mr. Ragazzi to pass on his skills while providing him relief from the bakery's schedule
  - D. It will allow the neighborhood to change and improve without inconveniencing the members of the community.
21. The author included the glossary to help the reader understand
- A. the emotions of the customers
  - B. the way a pastry shop is organized
  - C. the words that are related to New York City
  - D. the terms that are connected to an Italian bakery
22. Which statement **best** summarizes the passage?
- A. Ragazzi's bakery helps lonely people feel at home in the big city.
  - B. Small local stores often have happy memories associated with them.
  - C. A favorite local bakery slated for closure may stay open to delight a new generation of customers.
  - D. Many stores in the Greenwich Village area are having trouble staying open in this difficult economy.

**Directions:** Read the following passage carefully. Then answer questions 23 through 29.

## Finding the Sneaker That's Right for You

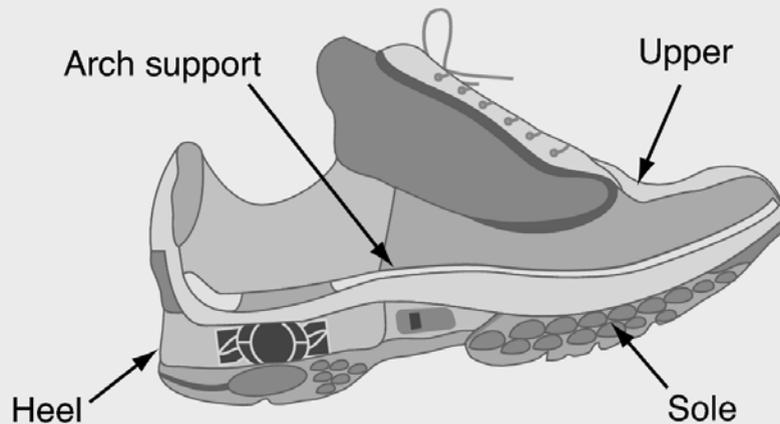
People buy sneakers for many different reasons. Some people buy them for function while others buy them for fashion. Regardless of why you might need a pair, it is important to buy the footwear that works best for you. To find the pair of shoes that is the best fit for you, compare the features and reviews of the following sneakers.

### Running Shoes

- flexible heels to allow natural bending of foot
- split heel for more efficient running
- shock-absorbing material for cushioning and arch support

### Cross-Training Shoes

- wide and stable soles to aid in lateral (side-to-side) movement
- midlevel uppers to help with ankle support
- useful soles on many different surfaces



### Kick Racers

This conventional running shoe from the brand-new company Kick only looks like the right shoe for the moderate runner. The sleek design and flashy colors make the shoe look like those worn by some current Olympic sprinters. However, the shoe doesn't work as well as its appearance implies. The Racers may look great, but they don't help a runner speed forward. The shock-absorbing material between the shoe's upper and sole is limited, meaning a runner does not get enough cushioning when pounding the pavement. Plus, in our trials, the sole fell off after a simulated 100 miles. (The sole of a racing shoe should last well over 300 miles.) If you want to look like a runner, these shoes might work for you. If you want to be a runner, however, find another pair.

Available: [www.kickshoestore.com](http://www.kickshoestore.com)

### Aero Speed Jem

The new Speed Jem by Aero is off to a speedy start, and for good reason. The Jem is made of light but sturdy materials that, when combined with its aerodynamic design, help the sprinter take long, confident strides. The Jem's innovative auto-fasteners make it look a bit unusual, but they eliminate the need to constantly readjust the laces. The Jem is growing in popularity, so it can be hard to find; the shoe can only be purchased directly from Aero Emporiums, which are not located in all cities. Even if there's an Aero store near you, there's no guarantee that the shoe will be available, since the Jem is often sold out. But if you are lucky enough to find a pair, you will most likely love the Jem once you're bounding down the track.

Available: Aero Emporiums only

## SNEAKS #1 Cross-Trainers

SNEAKS, the classic sneaker manufacturer, has a hit with its cross-trainers. The stalwart #1 Cross-Trainers seem to be aptly named—the sneakers are as well constructed as any cross-trainers to be found. The #1 Cross-Trainers are sturdy and strong, built with noticeably durable soles. The leather of the shoe's uppers is strong, and the support built in to protect the ankles and knees is effective. Although the shoe is probably too heavy to use for racing on the track, its heft proves valuable in providing protection and support when running and hiking trails. The #1 Cross-Trainers come in white only, so while they are not the most fashionable shoes, they are certainly among the most useful. Whatever game you want to play, the #1 Cross-Trainers can help.

**Available:** Most shoe stores, sporting goods stores, and department stores

## Kick JAMS!

Kick seems to have found its market with these brand-new JAMS! Unlike the Racers, the JAMS! both look fashionable and work well. Although the JAMS! are not designed for strenuous athletic activities, they are still a great purchase. With suede uppers that come in many colors and the brand's star logo shooting across each pair, the shoe looks good with almost any outfit. The wide soles provide good traction, and the sturdy midlevel uppers provide some ankle support without being overly heavy. The shoe comes in any size, including extra wide, so it fits a variety of feet. Indisputably fashionable, the JAMS! are also functional enough to stand up to normal everyday activities, such as walking, dancing, or just hanging out. Anyone who purchases the **enviable** JAMS! will have a shoe that looks great and goes just about anywhere.

**Available:** [www.kickshoestore.com](http://www.kickshoestore.com)

Sneaker	Athletic Performance	Durability	Comfort	Appearance	Availability	Overall Review
Kick Racers	○	○	◐	●	◐	○
Aero Speed Jem	●	◐	●	◐	○	◐
SNEAKS #1 Cross-Trainers	◐	●	●	◐	●	●
Kick JAMS!	◐	●	●	●	◐	●

**Key:** Inadequate = ○      Satisfactory = ◐      Excellent = ●

23. Read this sentence from the passage.

“However, the shoe doesn't work as well as its appearance *implies*.”

Which word would **best** replace *implies* as it is used in the sentence?

- A. explains
- B. involves
- C. pleads
- D. suggests

24. Read this sentence from the passage.

“This conventional running shoe from the brand-new company Kick only *looks* like the right shoe for the moderate runner.”

The word **conventional** can be defined as “conforming to accepted standards.” Based on the description of the Kick Racers, is the word used appropriately?

- A. Yes, the shoe met or exceeded all expectations of runners who tested it.
- B. No, because the shoe does not look or feel like a shoe worn by serious athletes.
- C. No, because the shoe has faults that suggest it is not up to “accepted standards.”
- D. Yes, because the shoe “conforms” to what a runner can expect from a running shoe.

25. **The order in which the author places the shoes in this selection and within the table suggests that the shoes were ordered**
- A. based on availability
  - B. based on appearance
  - C. from least to greatest, based on the criteria that have been evaluated
  - D. from greatest to least, based on the criteria that have been evaluated

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

“The stalwart #1 Cross-Trainers seem to be aptly named—the sneakers are as well constructed as any cross-trainers to be found.”

**The word *stalwart* can be defined as “having or marked by imposing physical strength.” Based on the description of the SNEAKS #1 Cross-Trainers, is the word used appropriately?**

- A. Yes, because the review mentions that the shoe is too heavy.
  - B. Yes, because the review stresses the sturdy construction of the shoe.
  - C. No, because the review stresses that the shoe is useful only on trails.
  - D. No, because the review mentions that the shoe lacks adequate protection.
27. **Based on the information in the passage, which conclusion can be made about the company Kick, which designs both the Kick JAMS! and the Kick Racers?**
- A. It makes fashionable shoes.
  - B. It makes shoes that perform well.
  - C. Its shoes can be found in most stores.
  - D. Its shoes are the best choice for runners.

- 28. Using the information provided, hikers would most likely conclude that the best shoes for hiking are the**
- A. Kick Racers**
  - B. Aero Speed Jems**
  - C. SNEAKS #1 Cross-Trainers**
  - D. Kick JAMS!**
- 29. A runner wants the Aero Speed Gem but does not live near an Aero Emporium. Should the Kick Racers be recommended instead?**
- A. Yes, because they are also racing shoes.**
  - B. No, because they are not readily available either.**
  - C. No, because they received a poor performance rating.**
  - D. Yes, because there are no other racing shoes mentioned in the passage.**

**Directions:** Read the following passage carefully. Then answer questions 30 through 35.

### **A Worthy Opponent**

A faceless, unnamed opponent  
Obstructs me from my highest aim.  
Years of toil and struggle climax  
In one final, drawn-out game!

5 My rival's reputation is fierce,  
An unstoppable playing machine.  
The undefeated tennis player,  
Competitive, strong, and lean.

Waiting outside the high fence,  
10 I view a grueling match at hand.  
Swish . . . the ball severs the air,  
Then skids across a concrete land.

If only that were my fate.  
An ace—an unstoppable serve.  
15 An improbable dream—my slice,  
producing an unhittable curve.

Will today be the day that my tempo  
Of luck comes to a grinding finish?  
No! A final match filled with vim  
20 And vigor is always my ultimate wish.

I grimace as my foe arrives on the scene,  
Drawing near, he catches my gaze.  
His physique and dress similar to mine,  
We favor each other in many ways.

25 My mind careens back through the years.  
Have I done enough to prepare?  
The pain, the struggle, the price.  
I feel like my soul is laid bare.

He diverts his gaze to the ground,  
30 Slowly my mind makes a click.  
Does he feel the same pressure?  
My thoughts turn **optimistic**.

Perhaps my assessment was premature,  
Will our abilities make a good show?  
35 It comes down to the final hour,  
Who will take the cup? No one can know.

No more time for speculation or doubt,  
The umpire calls us to the court.  
I swagger as if without care,  
40 To play for keeps—my favorite sport!

30. Which sentence **best** summarizes the poem?

- A. A player envies his tennis opponent.
- B. A player learns about his tennis opponent.
- C. A player reviews the rules of a tennis match.
- D. A player anticipates an important tennis match.

31. Read these lines from the poem.

“Does he feel the same pressure? / My thoughts turn *optimistic*. / Perhaps my assessment was premature,”

**What does *optimistic* mean?**

- A. cheerful
- B. confused
- C. hopeful
- D. reflective

32. Which words **best** describe the speaker in the poem?

- A. nervous and expectant
- B. confident and relaxed
- C. worried and dejected
- D. arrogant and proud

33. Which lines **best** explain why the speaker may lose the tennis match?

- A. Lines 1–4
- B. Lines 5–8
- C. Lines 9–12
- D. Lines 13–16

34. Read these lines from the poem.

“An unstoppable playing machine. / The undefeated tennis player,”

**What is the effect of the speaker’s use of the words *unstoppable* and *undefeated*?**

- A. A feeling of confidence is introduced.
- B. A feeling of peacefulness is reinforced.
- C. A sense of possible failure is heightened.
- D. A sense of deep competition is neutralized.

35. Which alternate title is **most** appropriate for the poem?

- A. “My Favorite Sport”
- B. “A Day at the Court”
- C. “The Undefeated Player”
- D. “The Pressure of Competition”

OP Test Order	Key	CCSS	SubSkill	DOK
1	C	L4	L.9-10.4.a	2
2	C	R1	RL.9-10.1	2
3	D	R1	RL.9-10.1	3
4	B	R2	RL.9-10.2	3
5	D	L4	L.9-10.4.c	2
6	A	R2	RI.9-10.2	3
7	B	R1	RI.9-10.1	3
8	A	R5	RI.9-10.5	2
9	C	R3	RI.9-10.3	3
10	B	R1	RL.9-10.1	3
11	B	R4	RL.9-10.4	3
12	D	R2	RL.9-10.2	2
13	D	R1	RL.9-10.1	3
14	C	R4	RL.9-10.4	2
15	C	R2	RL.9-10.2	3
16	B	R1	RL.9-10.1	2
17	A	L4	L.9-10.4.a	2
18	B	R1	RI.9-10.1	2
19	C	R1	RI.9-10.1	2
20	C	R1	RI.9-10.1	3
21	D	R5	RI.9-10.5	2
22	C	R2	RI.9-10.2	2
23	D	L4	L.9-10.4.a	3
24	C	R4	RI.9-10.4	3
25	C	R5	RI.9-10.5	2
26	B	R4	RI.9-10.4	3
27	A	R1	RI.9-10.1	2
28	C	R1	RI.9-10.1	2
29	C	R1	RI.9-10.1	2
30	D	R2	RL.9-10.2	3
31	C	L4	L.9-10.4.a	2
32	A	R3	RL.9-10.3	2
33	B	R1	RL.9-10.1	3
34	C	R4	RL.9-10.4	2
35	D	R2	RL.9-10.2	2
1A		W3	W.9-10.3	3
1B		W4 W5 W6	W.9-10.4 W.9-10.5 W.9-10.6	3
1C		L1 L2	L.9-10.1 L.9-19.2	1

Please note: This document may contain minor spacing and formatting inconsistencies due to conversion of items from online presentation to PDF format.

