

## Reading Comprehension

### Set 1

### Literary Texts

#### Instructions

Read each passage. Complete the exercise under each passage.

Then complete the questions following each passage. For each multiple-choice question, fill in the circle for the correct answer. For other types of questions, follow the instructions given. Some of the questions require a written answer.

Write your answer on the lines provided.

### Not a Farmer's Day

It was a sunny afternoon in outback Springwater. Noah, a run-down farmer, was slumped over on a bale of hay in his barn having a nap. Suddenly, a loud crash woke him from his slumber. "What is it now?" Noah grumbled.

He let out a huff and started storming toward the barn door. Stepping outside, he furrowed his brow as the sun struck his weathered face. Slowly his sleepy eyes began to focus and Noah let out a gasp as he saw what all the fuss was about. Noah must have been so tired he forgot to put the brakes on his tractor properly. It had rolled right over the top of his brand new chicken coop. He sighed as he realized that he was only tired because he had spent the whole weekend working tirelessly on the chicken coop.

#### CORE SKILLS PRACTICE

Many stories involve cause and effect. The cause is the reason for something. The effect is what happens. Answer the questions about cause and effect.

Why does Noah forget to set the brakes on his tractor?

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What effect does forgetting to put the brakes on have?

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- 1 The word slumped mainly suggests that the farmer was –
- (A) bored
  - (B) exhausted
  - (C) cranky
  - (D) lazy
- 2 Why does Noah most likely gasp?
- (A) He did not realize it was so late.
  - (B) His chicken coop has been destroyed.
  - (C) He thinks his tractor has been stolen.
  - (D) He knows he shouldn't have been sleeping.
- 3 Which detail about Noah best shows that he is an old farmer?
- (A) He is having a nap.
  - (B) He has a new chicken coop.
  - (C) He has a weathered face.
  - (D) He is woken by a loud crash.
- 4 Which statement best explains the irony in the passage?
- (A) An old tractor destroys a new chicken coop.
  - (B) A chicken coop is destroyed while a farmer naps.
  - (C) The farmer's tiredness from building the chicken coop is the reason it is destroyed.
  - (D) A farmer is unable to get some sleep because of the sound of the tractor knocking down his chicken coop.

### The Violet

By Jane Taylor

Down in a green and shady bed  
A modest violet grew;  
Its stalk was bent, it hung its head,  
As if to hide from view.

And yet it was a lovely flower,  
No colors bright and fair;  
It might have graced a rosy bower,  
Instead of hiding there.

Yet there it was content to bloom,  
In modest tints arrayed;  
And there diffused its sweet perfume,  
Within the silent shade.



Then let me to the valley go,  
This pretty flower to see;  
That I may also learn to grow  
In sweet humility.



#### CORE SKILLS PRACTICE

The author uses many adjectives to describe the violet. List **three** of the adjectives below. Then describe what they all have in common.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Which literary device is used to help readers understand the violet?

**Its stalk was bent, it hung its head,  
As if to hide from view.**

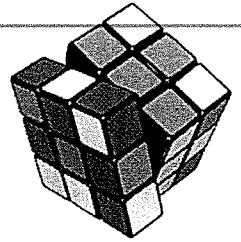
- Ⓐ Personification, giving an object human emotions
  - Ⓑ Metaphor, comparing an object with something else
  - Ⓒ Symbolism, using an object to stand for something else
  - Ⓓ Hyperbole, using exaggeration to make a point
- 2 What is the rhyme pattern of each stanza of the poem?
- Ⓐ The second and third lines rhyme.
  - Ⓑ There are two pairs of rhyming lines.
  - Ⓒ The first and last lines rhyme.
  - Ⓓ None of the lines rhyme.
- 3 The main theme of the poem is about being –
- Ⓐ hidden
  - Ⓑ humble
  - Ⓒ beautiful
  - Ⓓ natural
- 4 What feeling is created by the alliteration in the words "silent shade"?
- Ⓐ Somberness and concern
  - Ⓑ Uncertainty and tension
  - Ⓒ Quietness and calm
  - Ⓓ Excitement and joy

### A Challenge

March 8

Dear Diary,

I've been trying for months now to solve the Rubik's Cube that Dad bought me last year as a birthday present. He knows that collecting odd and zany things is a fun hobby for me. That's one of the reasons I liked it so much.



All you have to do to solve it is get the nine little squares on each side the same color. It sounds simple, but believe me when I tell you that it is not! No matter how many times I turn it here and there, I just can't solve this Rubik's Cube! I've made a pretty pattern out of it, but haven't come close to solving it. I will just have to try again tomorrow.

Bye for now,

Reggie

#### CORE SKILLS PRACTICE

How do you think Reggie feels about being unable to solve the Rubik's Cube?

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1 Which two words from the passage have about the same meaning?

- (A) Solve, reasons
- (B) Present, collecting
- (C) Odd, zany
- (D) Pretty, pattern

2 What will Reggie most likely do with the Rubik's Cube?

- (A) Give it to a friend
- (B) Give up and throw it away
- (C) Keep trying until he solves it
- (D) Give it back to his father

3 What does the picture most help the reader understand?

- (A) What a Rubik's Cube is
- (B) Where Reggie got the Rubik's Cube
- (C) How Reggie feels about the Rubik's Cube
- (D) How hard the Rubik's Cube is to solve

4 Which word best describes the tone of the passage?

- (A) Casual
- (B) Questioning
- (C) Frustrated
- (D) Bitter

### The New Boy

Lionel sat and stared at his mother in the kitchen. "But why would I want to do that?" he asked with a befuddled look.

His mother chuckled quietly and just smiled. Lionel had just finished telling his mother that a new kid had started at the school that day. He had explained that the boy dressed strangely, had a weird haircut, and didn't seem to fit in with anyone at his school. His mother had suggested that he should make friends with that boy.

"You should make an effort to get to know everybody," his mother said. "You won't know what he's like until you give him a chance. And think about how he must feel. What if that other boy was you?"

Lionel sat and thought about it for a while. He realized that it would mean a lot to him if someone tried to make friends with him, or at least talked to him. He decided that his mother had a good point.

#### CORE SKILLS PRACTICE

A summary is a description of the events of a story. A summary should include only the main events from the story. Write a summary of "The New Boy."

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- 1 In the first paragraph, what does the word befuddled most likely mean?
- Ⓐ Patient
  - Ⓑ Embarrassed
  - Ⓒ Puzzled
  - Ⓓ Irritated
- 2 Which statement describes the main theme of the passage?
- Ⓐ Starting a new school can be challenging.
  - Ⓑ It is important to have many friends.
  - Ⓒ It is worthwhile to ask others for advice.
  - Ⓓ You should treat others as you wish to be treated.
- 3 What would Lionel most likely do at school the next day?
- Ⓐ Ask his friends what they think of the new boy
  - Ⓑ Ignore the new boy
  - Ⓒ Start a conversation with the new boy
  - Ⓓ Observe the new boy more closely
- 4 Which phrase best describes how Lionel changes in the passage?
- Ⓐ From cruel to kind
  - Ⓑ From thoughtless to considerate
  - Ⓒ From concerned to relieved
  - Ⓓ From shy to outgoing

- 5** What message does the passage have about judging people? Use information from the passage to support your answer.

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