

# Reading

## PRACTICE 19 • Inferences

### SAMPLES

**Directions:** Read this passage about a girl named Josie. Then answer the questions.

Josie glanced up at the game clock. Only eight minutes remained in the fourth period, and the Raiders were trailing by seven points. Josie sighed. She was awfully sick of sitting on the bench, but with the team still behind, she probably wouldn't get to play.

The shrill blast of the referee's whistle brought Josie's attention back to the court. She looked up just in time to see Allison go down, clutching her ankle. Josie leaned forward, her heart beating faster. She watched as Allison was helped, limping, off the court.

The coach looked up and said, "Josie, go in for Allison." Josie jumped off the bench and unzipped her warm-up jacket. She jogged over to the scorer's table and checked in. "McNair for Miller," she said. Then she took a deep breath and ran out onto the court.

A. What will Josie most likely do next?

- (A) injure her ankle
- (B) play the rest of the game
- (C) take Allison to the hospital
- (D) thank the coach for putting her in

B. Why does the coach put Josie in the game?

- (A) The team is winning.
- (B) Allison has injured her ankle.
- (C) Josie has been complaining.
- (D) The team can't win without her.

C. Which sport is Josie most likely playing?

- (A) ice hockey
- (B) softball
- (C) basketball
- (D) soccer

### Tips and Reminders

- To make inferences or predictions, look for clues in the passage. Check each answer to decide which is most likely.
- When you draw a conclusion, make sure that the information in the passage supports it.

## PRACTICE 19 • Inferences (continued)

### PRACTICE

**Directions:** Read this passage about a dogsled race. Then answer questions 1–4.

Anoki saw that his dogs were tiring. As he jumped off the sled to lighten the load, he glanced back quickly. He expected to see the other racers close behind, but there was not one racer in sight. A few minutes later, Anoki pulled into Yentna Station, the half-way point and overnight stop. Everyone was required to stay at Yentna for at least ten hours before resuming the race.

Anoki fired up his portable stove to heat some water and filled a cooler with frozen meat and dry dog food. He poured the hot water over the frozen meat, let it soak for a minute, and then dished up the food to his hungry dogs.

After the dogs had eaten, Anoki checked their feet for injuries. He dabbed ointment between their toes and put protective booties on their feet. Only then did Anoki stop to eat his own dinner. Meanwhile, the other racers had begun to arrive, the second racer pulling into Yentna almost forty minutes after Anoki.

Afraid he would miss his 4:00 A.M. start time, Anoki sat up all night. Exactly ten hours after his arrival, Anoki and his dogs left Yentna Station and began the 79-mile race to the finish.

1. What will Anoki most likely do first when he finishes the race?

- (A) take a nap
- (B) eat breakfast
- (C) return to Yentna
- (D) take care of his dogs

2. Anoki poured hot water over the meat in the cooler to –

- (A) make gravy
- (B) thaw the meat
- (C) clean it
- (D) cook the meat

3. Why didn't Anoki sleep that night?

- (A) He was too anxious and excited.
- (B) It was too cold for sleeping.
- (C) He was too hungry and overtired.
- (D) The race would resume in only an hour.

4. Unless he runs into problems, Anoki will most likely win the race because –

- (A) he is smarter than the other racers
- (B) the other racers are still asleep
- (C) he has a forty-minute lead
- (D) his dogs are well-fed



## PRACTICE 19 • Inferences (continued)

**Directions:** Read this passage about a famous playwright. Then answer questions 5–10.

William Shakespeare was born in April, 1564. The exact date of his birth is not known, but it is celebrated on April 23. Shakespeare is widely considered to be the world's cleverest wordsmith. The language he used is still exciting to read or hear today, although it may take some effort to understand.

Some people say that William Shakespeare had the good fortune to be born at exactly the right time in the history of the English language. He wrote in blank verse, which was just becoming popular with English poets and was considered the best form for poetic drama or for spoken poetry in the theater. His poetic skill and his deep understanding of people made him the greatest of dramatists.

By 1592, when he was twenty-eight, Shakespeare had begun to emerge as a playwright. Like most dramatists in those days, he was also an actor. He and a group of other "players" formed a theatrical company that later became known as the "King's Men." Shakespeare wrote his plays exclusively for this company and shared in the company's profits. He was also associated with the famous Globe Theatre as an actor, a playwright, and part owner.

When the plague kept the theaters closed from 1593 to 1594, Shakespeare wrote and published two narrative poems, further establishing his reputation as a poet. These were the first and only works that Shakespeare ever published himself. As gifted as he was, he never made any effort to get his plays into print. He wrote them to be acted, not read. Fortunately, after his death, some of his contemporaries collected his plays and published them as a memorial to him.

William Shakespeare died on April 23, 1616. During his lifetime, he wrote a total of 36 plays, 154 sonnets, and 2 narrative poems. Some of his better-known plays include *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, and *King Lear*.



## PRACTICE 19 • Inferences (continued)

5. The exact date of Shakespeare's birth is most likely not known because –
- (A) his parents kept his birth a secret
  - (B) he was born in a foreign country
  - (C) his parents adopted him
  - (D) it happened at a time when birth records were not preserved
6. What can you tell about William Shakespeare from reading this passage?
- (A) He was an unknown actor who wrote plays in his spare time.
  - (B) He was a very successful playwright.
  - (C) He lived in poverty most of his life.
  - (D) He eventually died of the plague.
7. Why did Shakespeare write poems instead of plays during 1593 and 1594?
- (A) With theaters closed because of the plague, there was little need for plays.
  - (B) He was tired of writing plays and wanted to try something new.
  - (C) He could earn more money from poems than from plays.
  - (D) He became discouraged when people criticized his plays.
8. In the future, Shakespeare's plays will most likely be –
- (A) replaced by the works of more modern writers
  - (B) read and enjoyed for many years
  - (C) proven to be the work of another playwright
  - (D) acted but not read
9. Why is it fortunate that Shakespeare's contemporaries published his plays?
- (A) The plays would not exist today otherwise.
  - (B) His family desperately needed the money from the sale of the plays.
  - (C) There was a shortage of good plays available during that time.
  - (D) People had grown tired of the theater and preferred to read the plays.
10. What is the most likely reason that April 23 was chosen as the date of Shakespeare's birthday?
- (A) The 2 and 3 in 23 add up to 5.
  - (B) He wrote 23 plays.
  - (C) He lived to be 23 years old.
  - (D) That was the date when he died.



## PRACTICE 22 • Literary Elements (continued)

### PRACTICE

**Directions:** Read this story about two friends. Then answer questions 1–8 on the next page.

Ashley and Caitlin were pen pals. They had been writing to each other every month for almost three years and had become good friends, although they had never met or talked on the phone.

For Christmas, Caitlin sent Ashley a book about horses and invited Ashley to spend the next summer with her at her family's ranch in Odessa, Texas. They could go horseback riding every day—something she knew Ashley loved to do.

When Caitlin didn't hear back from Ashley in December or January, she began to worry. When a letter finally arrived in mid-February, Caitlin ripped it open, anxious for news about her friend.

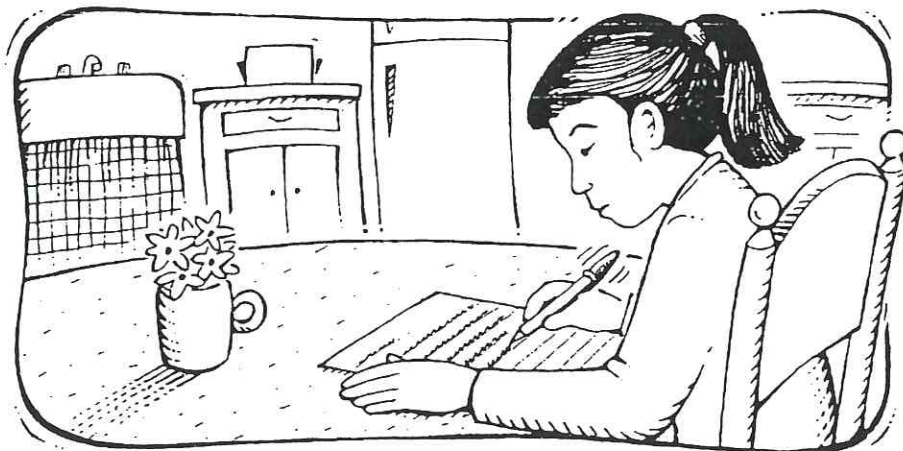
"You probably won't want to hear from me anymore after you read this," wrote Ashley. With a sense of foreboding, Caitlin read on. Ashley confessed that she'd lied about the horseback riding and a few other things just to impress Caitlin. "My parents can barely afford to pay our rent," wrote Ashley, "let alone riding lessons." Caitlin's invitation had finally made her realize just how different their worlds were. "I'm sorry," she wrote, "and I hope you can forgive me."

Caitlin threw Ashley's letter down on the counter. How dare Ashley assume that she valued horseback riding and other "things" above their friendship! After three years, Ashley should know her better than that. Caitlin decided to set things straight with Ashley immediately. She picked up the phone and dialed the Jacksons' phone number. When Ashley came to the phone, Caitlin didn't mince words. "Boy, you can be so stupid sometimes," she said.

There was a long pause. "Who is this?" stammered Ashley.

"Caitlin—your friend, I thought. Listen, I forgive you, but we need to talk. For starters, is your real name Ashley Jackson?" She laughed.

"No, *zis* is Tanya," said Ashley, imitating a Russian accent, then quickly added, "just kidding." Caitlin laughed and Ashley breathed a sigh of relief.



## PRACTICE 22 • Literary Elements (continued)

1. Why did Ashley lie to Caitlin about horseback riding?
  - (A) She wanted to impress her.
  - (B) She wanted to make her angry.
  - (C) She didn't want her as a friend anymore.
  - (D) She couldn't afford to go to Texas.
2. How did Caitlin feel after reading Ashley's letter?
  - (A) frightened
  - (B) worried
  - (C) relieved
  - (D) angry
3. What kind of selection is this?
  - (A) folk tale
  - (B) realistic fiction
  - (C) autobiography
  - (D) news article
4. What is Ashley's problem in this story?
  - (A) She can't afford horseback riding lessons
  - (B) She lied to Caitlin and may lose a good friend as a result.
  - (C) She doesn't know how to tell Caitlin she doesn't want to be her friend anymore.
  - (D) She doesn't really want to go to Texas but can't think of a good excuse.
5. Why was Caitlin worried at the beginning of the story?
  - (A) She hadn't received a Christmas present from Ashley.
  - (B) She was afraid that Ashley would not like the book she had sent her.
  - (C) She hadn't heard from Ashley in quite some time.
  - (D) She knew Ashley was angry at her, but she didn't know why.
6. Which word describes the mood of this selection?
  - (A) uneasy
  - (B) sarcastic
  - (C) exciting
  - (D) wistful
7. Who is the narrator of this story?
  - (A) Caitlin
  - (B) Ashley
  - (C) a news reporter
  - (D) an outside observer
8. The theme of this story mainly has to do with –
  - (A) judging other people
  - (B) wealth versus poverty
  - (C) honesty in relationships
  - (D) the importance of trust

# Language Arts

## PRACTICE 23 • Composition

### SAMPLES

Directions: Read this draft of a report. Then answer the questions.

Many come in brightly colored shades of reds, yellows, blues, and greens.  
(1)  
The green-winged macaw is one type of parrot that comes from South  
(2)  
America. Macaws make popular pets because they are intelligent and can be  
(3)  
taught to imitate human voices. This imitative behavior is mainly seen only  
(4)  
with caged birds, however, and is rarely observed among parrots in the wild.

A. Which sentence would best begin this paragraph?

- (A) The parakeet is a type of parrot.
- (B) The kakapo is a rare New Zealand parrot that cannot fly.
- (C) Many parrots live in the tropics.
- (D) Parrots are the most colorful of all birds.

B. The author probably wrote this passage to –

- (A) give information about parrots
- (B) convince people to buy parrots
- (C) explain how to train a parrot
- (D) tell an amusing story about parrots

### Tips and Reminders

- The topic sentence should tell what the whole paragraph is mostly about. Every sentence should support the topic.
- To determine the writer's purpose or intended audience, think about what the writer is trying to say and to whom.
- When revising a sentence, choose the answer that has the same meaning as the original sentence.



## PRACTICE 23 • Composition (continued)

### PRACTICE

Directions: Read this first draft of a letter. Then answer questions 1–3.

Dear Hockey Parents:

As you know, hockey can be a dangerous sport. Wearing the proper  
(1) (2)  
protective equipment is something that is vitally important that your young  
hockey player do. Gooden Sports would like to announce that we now carry  
(3)  
several brands of CSA- and HECC-approved helmets and other equipment  
for ice hockey. We also carry a wide assortment of hockey skates. Bring your  
(4) (5)  
child in anytime and let our experienced staff help you choose the proper  
equipment.

1. How is sentence 2 best written?
  - (A) Young hockey players must wear proper protective equipment that is vitally important.
  - (B) Wearing the proper protective equipment is something vitally important done by your young hockey player.
  - (C) It is vitally important that your young hockey player wear the proper protective equipment.
  - (D) as it is
2. The writer's main purpose is to –
  - (A) tell an amusing story
  - (B) persuade parents to shop at Gooden Sports
  - (C) describe hockey equipment
  - (D) warn parents about the dangers of hockey
3. Which sentence could best be added to the end of this letter after sentence 5?
  - (A) The cost of equipment is a small price to pay for your child's safety.
  - (B) Hockey is the greatest sport in the world, and your child should enjoy it.
  - (C) Gooden Sports was founded in 1959 and has been open ever since.
  - (D) There is no other sport that is as dangerous as hockey.



## PRACTICE 25 • Evaluating Information (continued)

### PRACTICE

**Directions:** Read this passage from a brochure about Cleveland, Ohio. Then answer questions 1–3.

If you haven't visited Cleveland, you haven't lived!

- Cleveland, one of the most exciting cities in the world, truly has it all: culture, sports, business, industry, and much, much more. We have five world-class universities here, along with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra and Play House.
- If classical music is not your cup of tea, then come visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, open since 1995.
- More interested in sports? Watch the world-famous Cleveland Indians or the Cleveland Cavaliers.
- Our lovely Midwestern city is the largest overseas port on Lake Erie and home to dozens of international corporations.

Visit Cleveland soon, for the time of your life. You might just like it so much that you'll decide to stay.

1. Which generalization is supported by the information in this passage?
  - (A) Cleveland has many attractions.
  - (B) People in the Midwest are very friendly.
  - (C) Cleveland has beautiful scenery.
  - (D) Every popular sport is played in Cleveland.
2. Which sentence states a fact?
  - (A) It is an exciting city.
  - (B) Cleveland is the largest overseas port on Lake Erie.
  - (C) You will have the time of your life in Cleveland.
  - (D) The Indians are among the best teams in baseball.
3. This passage tries to convince readers to visit Cleveland because –
  - (A) there are many jobs available
  - (B) it's a nice place to raise a family
  - (C) corporations are located there
  - (D) it offers everything they could ever want

## PRACTICE 28 • Making Judgments (continued)

### PRACTICE

**Directions:** Read this passage about a bicycle racer. Then answer questions 1–6 on the next page.

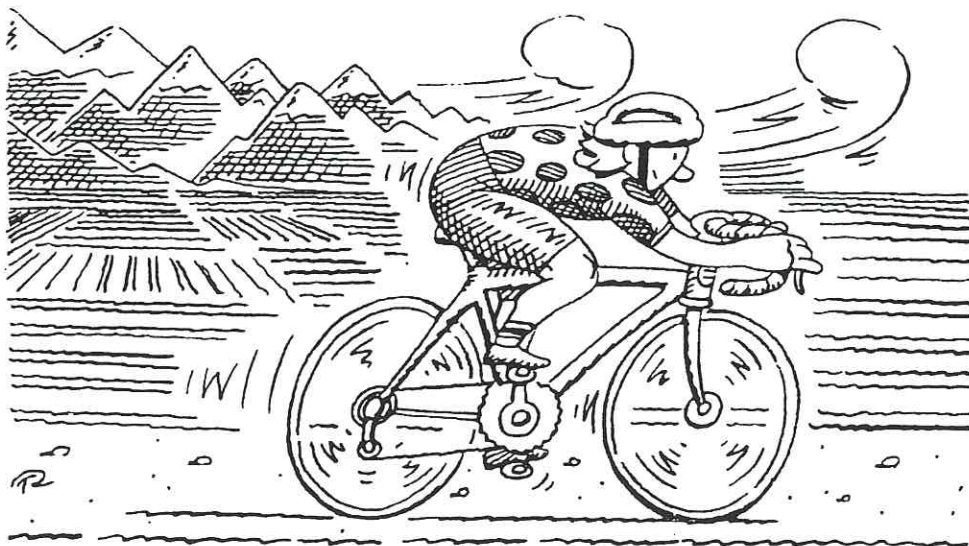
Sometimes, it's how people cope with unexpected problems that make them heroic in the eyes of others. Take Greg LeMond, for example. In the face of many such problems, LeMond responded with an extraordinary combination of guts and persistence.

LeMond was born in 1961. By the time he was in his teens, he had become known worldwide for his bicycle racing. In 1985, LeMond led the Tour de France, a grueling 2500-mile race that is probably the most difficult in the world. The racer must travel roads and climb steep mountain passes in five different countries. Even though Greg was leading that race in 1985, he had to slow down to wait for his team captain, Bernard Hinault. Hinault had been picked by the team managers to win, and he did. The next year, Hinault promised to help LeMond win the Tour de France. The two men raced side by side, with LeMond leading at the finish. It was the first time a non-European had ever won the race!

In the following year, LeMond was seriously injured in a hunting accident. Although he survived, he lost a kidney and his lung collapsed. Several shotgun pellets remained in the lining of his heart.

Although he tried to return to cycling the next year, LeMond needed surgery for tendonitis. Then he got appendicitis and was ready to call it quits. After recovering, though, he reconsidered. He trained hard for more than a year, and by 1989 was ready to compete in another Tour de France. He hoped only to finish in the top 20, but amazingly, LeMond won the race! He repeated his victory again the following year.

Then another tragedy struck. Greg developed a muscle disease that finally took him off the bike. It didn't get him off the road, however. LeMond decided to start racing cars instead of bicycles. This sport allows him to compete once again and to challenge himself mentally, if not physically. Although LeMond does not expect to win any auto races, he can console himself with his collection of bicycle awards: three Tour de France wins and two World Championships.





## PRACTICE 28 • Making Judgments (continued)

1. The writer of this passage seems to admire LeMond for his -
  - (A) hunting trophies
  - (B) ability to ride fast
  - (C) car-racing techniques
  - (D) determination and hard work
2. The most difficult obstacle for LeMond to overcome was when he -
  - (A) needed surgery for tendonitis
  - (B) had appendicitis
  - (C) was injured in a hunting accident
  - (D) developed a muscle disease
3. The writer's main purpose in this passage is to -
  - (A) provide information about the Tour de France
  - (B) describe an admirable person
  - (C) entertain readers with stories of dramatic races
  - (D) persuade readers to ride bikes for exercise
4. The writer of this passage most likely feels that LeMond -
  - (A) should never have gone hunting
  - (B) is safer racing cars than bicycles
  - (C) demonstrated great courage in the face of many challenges
  - (D) was foolish to wait for Hinault in the Tour de France
5. Why didn't LeMond win his first Tour de France?
  - (A) He was out of condition.
  - (B) He was riding too slowly.
  - (C) He was supposed to let Hinault win.
  - (D) He could not overtake Hinault on the hills.
6. What aspect of his new career in auto racing is probably most rewarding to LeMond?
  - (A) He can still compete and challenge himself.
  - (B) He will earn more money.
  - (C) He will win more races.
  - (D) He does not have to train or practice anymore.



# Post-test

## READING: Comprehension

Directions: Read each passage. Choose the best answer to each question.

### Why were the workers unhappy?

Tallulah Price was the president of a large corporation that made washing machines, toasters, and other appliances. Since she had been hired to run the company, profits were up and the shareholders were very happy. Price had managed to cut expenses and save the company a great deal of money. She was a bundle of energy, and she worked hard.

But productivity was down. The workers were making fewer appliances than they had before Price had become president. She sent strong letters urging the workers to be more productive, but nothing seemed to help.

Then, one day, she had an idea. She dressed in one of the coveralls that all the factory workers wore, and she wandered around the plant. She listened to people in the coffee room, at work, and in the parking lots. And she learned something. The main complaint the workers seemed to have was that none of the managers cared about their opinions.

So Price set up meetings with workers, and they suggested several new ways to save money, streamline operations, and improve employee morale. The entire company soon became more productive, and everyone was much happier.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>20. According to the passage, which of these events happened first?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) The workers complained.</li><li>(B) Profits went up.</li><li>(C) Price met with workers.</li><li>(D) Price became president.</li></ul> <p>21. Price dressed in coveralls because she wanted to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) protect her clothes</li><li>(B) encourage workers to speak freely</li><li>(C) dress up for the workers</li><li>(D) impress the shareholders</li></ul> | <p>22. Which statement is an opinion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) Tallulah Price was the president.</li><li>(B) The corporation made washing machines and other appliances.</li><li>(C) Price had cut expenses.</li><li>(D) She was a bundle of energy, and she worked hard.</li></ul> <p>23. A good title for this passage would be –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) "Making Things Better"</li><li>(B) "The Life of Tallulah Price"</li><li>(C) "A More Efficient Toaster"</li><li>(D) "Putting on Coveralls"</li></ul> |
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# Post-test

## LANGUAGE ARTS: Composition

Directions: Read each paragraph. Then answer the questions that follow.

### Paragraph 1

In football, for example, the team based in Massachusetts calls itself the New England Patriots. Its name suggests the American Revolution, and that revolution began in Massachusetts. The San Francisco 49ers recall the California Gold Rush. The Dallas Cowboys suggest the Old West. My favorite name is the Bengals. This naming scheme falters, however, when a team moves. Hence, we now have the Utah Jazz and the Tennessee Oilers.

17. Which is the best topic sentence for this paragraph?
- (A) The Pacers are named for the pace cars of the Indianapolis 500.
  - (B) The names of football teams often reflect the area's history.
  - (C) When a team moves, the name of the team usually goes with it.
  - (D) Football teams have interesting names.
18. Which is the best way to revise the second sentence?
- (A) Its name suggests the American Revolution.
  - (B) Its name suggests the American Revolution, but in Massachusetts.
  - (C) Its name, which suggests the American Revolution, began in Massachusetts.
  - (D) Its name suggests the American Revolution, which began in Massachusetts.
19. What is the best way to combine the third and fourth sentences?
- (A) The San Francisco 49ers recall the California Gold Rush in the West.
  - (B) The San Francisco 49ers and Dallas Cowboys suggest the Old West.
  - (C) The San Francisco 49ers recall the California Gold Rush, and the Dallas Cowboys suggest the Old West.
  - (D) The 49ers and the Cowboys recall the California Gold Rush in the West.
20. Which sentence does not belong in this paragraph?
- (A) My favorite name is the Bengals.
  - (B) This naming scheme falters, however, when a team moves.
  - (C) Hence, we now have the Utah Jazz and the Tennessee Oilers.
  - (D) The Dallas Cowboys suggest the Old West.