



acadience® reading 7–8

Silent Reading

Grade 7 | Benchmark 2

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PACKET OR OPEN THE BOOKLET
PLEASE WAIT AND LISTEN FOR DIRECTIONS

Sample: Multiple Choice Question

1. Most weeks of the school year, the first day of the school week is:
- A) Friday
 - B) Monday
 - C) Wednesday
 - D) Sunday

Silent Reading Student Response Sheet

Sample: (A) (B) (C) (D)

Passage 1	Passage 2	Passage 3
1. (A) (B) (C) (D)	1. (A) (B) (C) (D)	1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (A) (B) (C) (D)	2. (A) (B) (C) (D)	2. (A) (B) (C) (D)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D)	3. (A) (B) (C) (D)	3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (A) (B) (C) (D)	4. (A) (B) (C) (D)	4. (A) (B) (C) (D)



Standing for Peace

► The end of September was near, bringing with it cooler temperatures and hints of autumn, and the weather promised to be perfect during all the International Day of Peace activities planned in the city. Jayden and Shawna were looking forward to the Peace Parade and the evening concert, where musicians from all over the area would be performing. One thing Jayden wasn't so excited about, however, was the 3 minutes of silence planned for noon that Saturday. For 3 minutes, the Peace Committee was asking people to stop whatever they were doing, hold up a sign, and stand quietly.

"I love peace as much as anybody," Jayden said to Shawna, "but standing like a statue for 3 whole minutes seems pointless. What does that really accomplish?"

Shawna replied, "The goal isn't really to DO something; it's to get people thinking about world problems and peace. Becoming more aware might lead people to take action."

Jayden said that she saw Shawna's point, but that she still felt reluctant. "It'll be too embarrassing to just stand there in public with everyone staring. I wish I could do it at home, but that's impossible with our schedule, since we'll be

heading downtown to help set up for the concert."

Sighing with exasperation, Shawna replied, "That's the best part; if we observe amidst people, we'll make a much bigger statement. People might even inquire, and then we can discuss International Peace." Sensing Jayden's resistance, she smiled and agreed to speak for both of them if someone asked.

At 11:30 the following Saturday, Jayden and Shawna took the subway downtown. They were on the street when Shawna's phone beeped. She shouted, "That's our signal," and stopped moving, right in the middle of the sidewalk, and held up her Celebrate International Day of Peace sign. Worried that they were blocking other pedestrians, Jayden started to shuffle aside, but Shawna clasped her wrist. A woman with a baby stroller brushed past them, and Jayden caught her scowl, but then she noticed others on the street who were also standing still. Suddenly, Jayden realized she was part of something larger, something quiet but important. She relaxed and closed her eyes, letting the peaceful feeling wash over her. The beep from the phone signaling the end of the 3 minutes actually came as a surprise. Though it was time to move on, the peace Jayden felt lingered.

Comprehension Questions: Standing for Peace

Mark the correct answer on your answer sheet. DO NOT write on this form.

1. When someone is unwilling or hesitant to do something, they are:
 - A) frightened.
 - B) reluctant.
 - C) stationary.
 - D) unhappy.
2. To be *amidst* means:
 - A) to be convinced of.
 - B) to be aware of.
 - C) to be hidden from.
 - D) to be in the middle of.
3. When someone is annoyed or frustrated, they are in a state of:
 - A) excitement.
 - B) exasperation.
 - C) dismissal.
 - D) disbelief.
4. In what event were Jayden and Shawna participating?
 - A) the International Summer Parade
 - B) the International 3 Minutes of Silence event
 - C) the International Day of Peace
 - D) the school concert downtown
5. Why didn't Jayden feel like standing for peace?
 - A) She was afraid people would stare at her.
 - B) She was too tired to stand after walking around downtown.
 - C) She didn't like peace.
 - D) She would rather attend the evening concert.
6. When does the story take place?
 - A) the end of fall
 - B) the middle of summer
 - C) the end of September
 - D) the middle of August
7. According to the passage, what are Jayden and Shawna going to do for 3 minutes?
 - A) clasp wrists and sing songs about peace
 - B) block other pedestrians, shuffle around, and clasp wrists
 - C) hand out flyers and discuss international peace with people walking by
 - D) stop, hold up a sign, and stand quietly
8. According to the passage, what might happen if more people thought about the world's problems?
 - A) It could lead people to take action.
 - B) It could cause widespread depression.
 - C) More people might join in the parade for peace.
 - D) There would be fewer wars.
9. Near the end of the story, it says that Jayden *let the peaceful feeling wash over her*. What does this mean?
 - A) The peaceful feeling made her think of pleasant things.
 - B) The peaceful feeling passed her by without affecting her.
 - C) She was soaking wet, since it started to rain.
 - D) She was feeling totally peaceful.
10. We can predict from the passage that next time Jayden's friend asks her to participate she will:
 - A) reluctantly agree.
 - B) gladly say yes.
 - C) tell her friend that she *might* be able to participate.
 - D) make up an excuse for why she can't do it.

From Windmills to Wind Power in Texas

► Early Texas ranchers owned thousands of acres of land where cattle could graze. With cattle spread over so much land, the ranchers needed to find a way to get water to their herds that were far away. To solve this problem they built windmills that harnessed the wind's power to pump underground water to troughs for their cattle. Today, people also use the wind's power to generate electricity by using specialized windmills called wind turbines. The electricity these turbines generate can power lights, computers, homes, and more. Most wind turbines consist of a very tall tower, three rotors, or blades, and an electrical generator.

A tall tower is needed because wind turbines work best with strong, steady winds. The winds closest to the ground are variable, meaning their speed and strength can change in a moment. The strongest and steadiest winds are usually 100 feet or more above the ground. The tall tower is designed to exploit, or make the best use of, the available wind energy.

Wind turbines use large blades that capture the wind energy and convert it into electricity. The blades are shaped like an immense airplane

propeller and can be up to 160 feet long. As wind passes over the blades it creates lift which turns the blades in a circle. The turning blades are connected to a rotor shaft that makes about 30 revolutions per minute.

The final component of a wind turbine is the generator. In the generator, a gearbox or transmission increases the speed of the rotor shaft to 1,800 revolutions per minute. A small generator that produces less than 50 kilowatts of electricity is enough to power a single home. Larger generators, the kind used by power utilities, can produce 50 to 750 kilowatts.

Although wind energy is still a small percentage of total power in the United States, its use is growing, particularly in Texas. From 1999 to 2007, the installed wind capacity in Texas increased from 180 to 4,296 megawatts, and in 2010, the largest wind farm in the world was completed in West Texas. It has 627 turbines and a capacity of 781.5 megawatts. That is enough to power 230,000 homes. Texas continues to develop the use of wind power because wind energy is clean and renewable, that is, it cannot be used up.

Comprehension Questions: From Windmills to Wind Power in Texas

Mark the correct answer on your answer sheet. DO NOT write on this form.

1. When something can change in a moment, it is:
 - A) variable.
 - B) specialized.
 - C) renewable.
 - D) steady.
2. A device that harnesses the wind's power to pump water is called a:
 - A) wind turbine.
 - B) wind-channel.
 - C) windmill.
 - D) wind generator.
3. The function of a wind *turbine* is to:
 - A) utilize the wind's power to generate electricity.
 - B) utilize the wind to bring water to the ranchers' cattle.
 - C) pump underground water to homes in Texas.
 - D) increase the capacity of wind farms.
4. Who used windmills to pump underground water to their cattle troughs?
 - A) Native Americans living in Texas
 - B) Texas ranchers
 - C) Texas meat packing owners
 - D) Texas settlers
5. What do most wind turbines consist of?
 - A) an engine, an alternator, and a transmission
 - B) a propeller, a gearbox, and a motor
 - C) wind, energy, and electricity
 - D) a tower, three rotors, and an electrical generator
6. How does the wind turn the blades of the turbine?
 - A) As wind passes over the blades, it sends a signal to a machine which turns the blades.
 - B) As wind passes over the blades, it creates lift which turns the blades in a circle.
 - C) As wind passes over the blades, it creates electricity which turns the blades.
 - D) As wind passes over the blades, it cools the turbine which causes the blades to turn.
7. According to the passage, where is the largest wind farm in the world?
 - A) South Texas
 - B) North Texas
 - C) East Texas
 - D) West Texas
8. How does a wind turbine turn wind energy into electricity?
 - A) Farms of wind turbines create up to 781.5 megawatts of electricity.
 - B) As wind passes over the blade, it creates lift which turns the blades in a circle.
 - C) A generator converts the revolutions of the turbine into kilowatts of electricity.
 - D) Wind turbines capture the electricity contained in the wind.
9. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - A) Generators can create enough energy to power large wind farms in Texas.
 - B) Ranchers can use windmills to pump water to their cattle.
 - C) Wind is an excellent source of energy that we need to use before it's gone.
 - D) Wind turbines can harness the wind's power to generate electricity.
10. What is a possible reason why wind turbine technology is so successful in Texas?
 - A) West Texas is 100 feet above sea level, where the strongest winds are.
 - B) The turbine blades won't harm the cattle.
 - C) There are many large, windy places in Texas.
 - D) There are thousands of ranchers there who need to get water to their cattle.

Churchill: Prime Minister

► Sir Winston Churchill spent many years in service to the British government. He fought as a soldier, and he served in the offices of the navy and the treasury. Churchill is perhaps best known for his actions as the British prime minister during World War II. Churchill served Britain well as a leader in the war against Adolph Hitler and Nazi Germany.

Churchill was born in 1874 near Oxford, England, to an aristocratic, or noble, family. His father was a well-known member of Parliament, the country's national legislature. Churchill also became a politician. He was elected to Parliament in 1900, and over the next 29 years, he held many offices. He served as minister in the office of the navy and helped prepare for World War I. Churchill fought in the war for a short time but soon returned to Parliament.

In the years leading up to World War II, Churchill did not hold an office, but he advised British leaders not to ignore the threat of Adolph Hitler. Hitler's power grew, and finally, the prime minister saw that Churchill's warnings had been correct. Britain went to war against Germany in 1939. When early losses led the prime minister

to step down, Churchill was put in place as the country's leader.

As prime minister during World War II, Churchill showed his true strength as a statesman, or political leader. During Germany's steady bombing of London in 1940, Churchill stayed in the city. He visited the front lines and bomb sites to speak to soldiers and civilians. His bravery and his tireless work toward victory inspired the country and its allies, the countries fighting with Britain. The people loved Churchill's words of hope and promise of peace. After the Allied victory, he left the prime minister's office in 1945.

Churchill became prime minister again in 1951, but age, and health problems, led him to leave office in 1955. Churchill stayed busy by finishing his four-volume history of Britain. A writer all his life, he won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953.

Churchill was a leader known for his hard work and his devotion to his country. He was made a British knight in 1953. Sir Winston Churchill died in 1965 after a life filled with public service.

Comprehension Questions: Churchill: Prime Minister

Mark the correct answer on your answer sheet. DO NOT write on this form.

1. A member of a noble family can also be called a/an:
 - A) aristocrat.
 - B) minister.
 - C) soldier.
 - D) governor.
2. Britain's national legislature is called:
 - A) the House of Commons.
 - B) the House of Representatives.
 - C) the Prime Minister.
 - D) the Parliament.
3. A *statesman* is a kind of:
 - A) tax collector.
 - B) political leader.
 - C) boss or supervisor.
 - D) person in charge of a state.
4. What is Winston Churchill best known for?
 - A) serving as minister in the office of the navy and helping Britain prepare for World War I
 - B) his actions as the British prime minister during World War II
 - C) winning the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953
 - D) becoming a British knight in 1953
5. Where was Winston Churchill born?
 - A) near Berlin, Germany
 - B) London, England
 - C) near Oxford, England
 - D) near Great Britain
6. Why did Churchill win the Nobel Prize in 1953?
 - A) for helping win the war against Germany
 - B) for his four-volume history of Britain
 - C) for his life of public service
 - D) for his career as a soldier in both World Wars
7. What led Churchill to retire the office of prime minister for the final time?
 - A) He was voted out of office.
 - B) He wanted to focus on his writing career.
 - C) With the war over, he felt his work as a public servant was complete.
 - D) He was having age and health problems.
8. What was it about Winston Churchill that inspired his people?
 - A) his bravery and tireless work towards victory
 - B) his noble upbringing in an aristocratic family
 - C) his four-volume history of Britain
 - D) being physically strong and large in frame
9. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - A) Winston Churchill came out of nowhere to lead a nation.
 - B) It was about the war against Adolph Hitler and Nazi Germany.
 - C) Winston Churchill was a brave and hard working soldier.
 - D) Winston Churchill was a great leader and an inspiring person.
10. Churchill stayed in London while it was being bombed in 1940. What did British soldiers think of this?
 - A) No one knew Churchill stayed in London because his location was kept secret.
 - B) The soldiers worried for Churchill's safety, so they fought to protect him.
 - C) The soldiers weren't worried about Churchill's safety because local police guarded him.
 - D) It inspired the soldiers to fight even harder to protect the country.