



acadience® reading 7–8

Silent Reading

Grade 8 | Progress Monitoring 1

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)



Help from Nana

► Last Wednesday, with uncharacteristic confidence, I registered to sing in my school’s annual talent competition. While I am passionate about singing and consider myself above average in terms of talent, I am typically too shy to compete against others. Reflecting on my determination, despite my jitters, I decided that my newfound confidence must have come from the recent encouragement I received from my grandmother.

For 13 years, my family resided near my paternal grandmother, Nana, and we were extremely close. This past spring, my father’s employer transferred him across the country, but Nana remained in her home of 60 years. Nana had instilled in me an affinity for music by singing with me as we completed various chores. When Nana assured me that I had an angel’s voice, I sang louder and more confidently. Sometimes I glimpsed at Nana, her eyes closed, swaying gently back and forth as if my song was a rocking chair, lulling her to sleep.

Prior to moving, my father purchased a laptop with a video camera. Nana and I learned to use video chat and we have chatted by computer

weekly or biweekly ever since. One afternoon I was feeling particularly unsettled and Nana requested that I sing for her. I thought her request sounded goofy and a bit irrational, but when Nana started singing with me, I realized how much music bonded us. Since that first video performance, we vowed to end our chats in song. Nana encouraged me to pursue my passion and audition for the lead in the school musical.

With that encouragement, I concluded that I should first attempt to compete in the talent competition. What better way to get the attention of the casting director than to perform exceptionally well before a crowd. That was last week, but now the competition was at hand, and my confidence wilted. Before I left home, I dialed Nana one last time and her beaming smile bolstered me. She reminded me that I had performed that piece for her over a dozen times and she encouraged me to sing to her during my performance. When I stepped on stage, I thought of myself standing in front of the computer camera singing to Nana, and I smiled. Even if I didn’t win, Nana had encouraged me enough that I knew I would have the confidence to give it my all.

Comprehension Questions: Help from Nana

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

1. Nana instilled in the main character an *affinity* for music. This means:
 - A) with Nana, the main character listened to music that she didn't ordinarily like.
 - B) doing chores with Nana made the main character dislike music.
 - C) Nana helped the main character put music on her computer so she could listen to it.
 - D) being with Nana was how the main character came to like music.
2. To solemnly promise to do something means to:
 - A) abjure.
 - B) boast.
 - C) propose.
 - D) vow.
3. When someone is a *paternal relation*, they:
 - A) are related by marriage.
 - B) share one parent.
 - C) are related on the father's side.
 - D) are not directly related.
4. Who contributed to the main character's newfound confidence?
 - A) her grandmother
 - B) her best friend
 - C) her music teacher
 - D) her father
5. How long did the main character live near Nana before her family moved?
 - A) five years
 - B) thirteen years
 - C) eighteen years
 - D) nine years
6. How did music create a bond between Nana and the main character?
 - A) They would play songs on the piano together.
 - B) They would listen to music together.
 - C) They would sing together.
 - D) They would record songs and send them to each other.
7. What did the main character and her grandmother do to keep in touch?
 - A) They wrote letters.
 - B) They video-chatted.
 - C) They talked on the phone.
 - D) They emailed.
8. As the singing competition neared, the main character's confidence *wilted*. What did that mean?
 - A) Her confidence literally became limp and dry.
 - B) She was tired and didn't feel like singing.
 - C) She needed water to regain her confidence.
 - D) She was losing her confidence.
9. What can we predict about the main character's performance in the talent competition?
 - A) She performs well because she is confident.
 - B) She doesn't perform well because her Nana was not in attendance.
 - C) She decides not to perform because her Nana will not be there to watch her.
 - D) She doesn't perform well because she lacks confidence.
10. What was the main character's point of view about Nana's song request?
 - A) Singing helped Nana feel young again.
 - B) Singing would make her think about other things.
 - C) Such a goofy request would make her laugh and feel better.
 - D) Singing together would help calm her down and relax her.

Elephant Seals

► Elephant seals are remarkable marine mammals that migrate farther than any other mammal in the world, traveling up to 13,000 miles in one year. They are also the only mammal that migrates twice annually. Adult males can grow to over 14 feet long and weigh up to 4,500 pounds. They are not called elephant seals because of their massive bodies. Instead, they are so named because adult males have large noses that are pendulous, or droop and hang like an elephant's trunk.

Each December, northern elephant seals migrate from their offshore feeding grounds to their breeding beaches, or rookeries, along the coasts of California and Mexico. Soon after their arrival, female elephant seals give birth to pups that were conceived 11 months before. The pups nurse for 28 days and then the females mate with one or more of the dominant males. The adult seals leave the pups on the breeding beaches in March and head to the open ocean to forage for food.

The male elephant seals swim thousands of miles along the continental shelf, some as far as the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. They feed on fish,

small sharks, and rays. The females generally swim into deeper waters where they feed primarily on squid. Extraordinary divers, elephant seals spend 90 percent of their lives under water. They plunge to depths of 1,000 to 5,000 feet and remain submerged for 15 minutes to 2 hours. When they emerge to breathe, they stay at the surface for only 4 or 5 minutes before submerging again.

After the adults depart, the pups remain on the beach for 8 to 10 weeks, fending for themselves and sharpening their feeding and swimming skills. These elephant seal pups also molt, or shed, their first coat of fur, which is replaced by a shiny silvery coat. By late April, the pups are ready to leave the rookery and migrate north. They travel and feed along the coast of Washington and British Columbia.

In late April, elephant seal females return to the rookeries to molt their thick skin and fur, while adult males return to molt later in the summer. In September, the youngest elephant seals return to land to rest. After molting, the seals return to their feeding grounds until December when the birthing, breeding, molting, and migration cycle begins again.

Comprehension Questions: Elephant Seals

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

1. An elephant seal's breeding beach is called a:
 - A) continental shelf beach.
 - B) migratory beach.
 - C) molting beach.
 - D) rookery beach.
2. According to the passage, the word *pendulous* refers to:
 - A) a name given to recently born elephant seals.
 - B) the breeding cycles of elephant seals.
 - C) a droopy nose that hangs like an elephant's trunk.
 - D) the excessive weight of an elephant seal.
3. To *forage* means to:
 - A) be advanced for your age.
 - B) look for food.
 - C) travel a long distance.
 - D) dive deep into the water.
4. According to the passage, elephant seals are known for their migration patterns because they:
 - A) stay together as a family unit for years.
 - B) stay underwater feeding for short periods of time.
 - C) travel from beach to beach each year.
 - D) travel farther than any other mammal.
5. Elephant seals were so named because of the shape of their:
 - A) bodies.
 - B) feet.
 - C) noses.
 - D) ears.
6. Elephant seals spend a majority of their lives:
 - A) eating.
 - B) on a beach.
 - C) swimming.
 - D) under water.
7. What month of the year do elephant seals migrate to their breeding beaches?
 - A) March
 - B) September
 - C) December
 - D) April
8. In order to establish a shiny silvery coat, an elephant seal must have previously:
 - A) molted.
 - B) migrated.
 - C) plunged.
 - D) foraged.
9. What would be another good title for this passage?
 - A) Elephant Seals are Fast Ocean Swimmers
 - B) Elephant Seals Breed in Rookeries on Sunny Beaches
 - C) Elephant Seals Travel Thousands of Miles in One Year
 - D) Elephant Seals: Yearly Migration and Breeding Activities
10. The instinct of the mother elephant seal is to:
 - A) encourage her pup to leave land and migrate north.
 - B) leave her pup on the beach to take care of herself.
 - C) encourage her pup to dive with her in the ocean to catch small squid.
 - D) leave the beach and swim north with the male elephant seals.

3 Acadience Reading Grade 8/Passage 3

Age of Discovery

► The 1400s were times of great change and discovery in Europe. Nations such as France, England, and Spain had formed strong governments, and as these governments collected taxes, their wealth grew. Citizens became richer, and more people owned land and bought goods and services. Governments and individuals had money to spend and they began looking for new places to spend it.

Traders first looked to the Far East. Europeans were eager to buy the spices, silks, and jewels that came from Asia, but land routes were difficult and costly to navigate, or get across. Problems grew when these routes came under the control of groups hostile to Christianity, the primary religion in Europe.

Europeans needed new ways to get to Asian markets so they looked west, across the Atlantic Ocean. If the world was round, as many people believed, there must be a water route to Asia. This was the idea that sent Christopher Columbus on his voyage in 1492. However, he landed not in Asia, but on islands south of what is now Florida. He happened upon a “new” world by accident and that world was filled with gold and silver, plants and animals, and other natural resources.

More than 300 years of exploration and colonization, or establishing settlements, followed. Spain was the first to claim land in the Americas. Driven by a hunger for gold, Spanish soldiers conquered the civilizations that existed in present-day Mexico. To the north, the French focused on the fur trade and began settlements in modern-day Canada. Finally, settlers from England began to arrive on the eastern shores of what is now the United States. These settlers did not want gold or furs but a new life that included religious freedom and a piece of land to call their own.

What most Europeans ignored was that other people already called these lands home. During this process of exploration, discovery, and settlements, thousands of Native Americans died from new diseases or in battles with Europeans. Still other Native Americans were exploited, or taken advantage of, and forced to work.

History shows us that times of great change bring results both good and bad. The age of exploration expanded knowledge about the world and the world economy, but it also brought tragic consequences for the people who laid claim to the land prior to this age of discovery.

Comprehension Questions: Age of Discovery

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

1. To *colonize* means to:
 - A) collect taxes for the purpose of funding exploration.
 - B) explore new lands.
 - C) establish settlements in foreign lands.
 - D) accidentally discover new lands.
2. To say that a group of people was exploited means that they were:
 - A) relocated from one country to another.
 - B) consulted during the process of exploration.
 - C) taken advantage of.
 - D) interested in trade.
3. The passage states that land routes to Asia came under the control of groups hostile to Christianity. In this context, the term *hostile* means:
 - A) against.
 - B) loyal to.
 - C) confused by.
 - D) interested in.
4. Which country was the first to claim land in the Americas?
 - A) England
 - B) Spain
 - C) France
 - D) Mexico
5. Why would it be inaccurate to say that Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas?
 - A) Columbus did not land in the Americas.
 - B) Indigenous people lived in the Americas prior to Columbus' arrival.
 - C) Columbus was not the first explorer to land in the Americas.
 - D) Columbus was not the captain of the voyage that landed in the Americas.
6. What was Christopher Columbus intending to find on his famous voyage of 1492?
 - A) a land to establish Spanish settlements
 - B) a water route to Asia
 - C) an alternate source of spices and jewels
 - D) the exact distance from Spain to Asia
7. According to the passage, which of the following was a consequence for Native Americans following the European colonization of the Americas:
 - A) lack of education
 - B) famine
 - C) disappearance of natural resources
 - D) disease
8. In what way did tax collection cause the age of discovery?
 - A) Taxes were used exclusively by governments to fund exploration.
 - B) Taxes led citizens to flee their countries and search for other places to live.
 - C) Taxes increased wealth, which led to interest in accessible trade with Asia.
 - D) Taxes allowed governments to purchase goods from lands to the east that were previously unaffordable.
9. We can predict that European settlements in the Americas led to:
 - A) decreased wealth in Europe.
 - B) long-term struggles for the people native to the Americas.
 - C) disinterest in future exploration due to limited resources.
 - D) the establishment of settlements by Native Americans in Europe.
10. The point of view of the author is that the age of discovery:
 - A) led to the exploration of many parts of the world, but diminished interest in industry in Europe and Asia.
 - B) created new opportunities for Native Americans at the expense of European jobs.
 - C) led to the discovery of unpopulated lands, but diminished the natural resources of those lands.
 - D) increased knowledge about the world but was harmful to native populations.