



acadience® reading 7–8

# Silent Reading

Grade 7 | Benchmark 1

For use with Acadience Learning Online

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)



## New Beginnings

---

► Realistically, I knew that my mother's job promotion was an exceptional opportunity, but I couldn't summon any enthusiasm for our impending move. It was miserable to think of leaving behind cherished friends and the school where I had finally earned a starting position on the girls' basketball team. I was anxious as I contemplated moving from our small community to a metropolitan city. My mind was filled with serious doubts about how I could possibly be brave enough to survive this new beginning.

Moving day came, and as we traveled to the bungalow that we had rented, Mom reminded me that I had always faced uncertainty with courage and determination. At that moment, I felt neither courageous nor determined about anything. Then, as we began unloading our possessions, I glanced next door and noticed a girl about my age leaving with her parents. She looked at me shyly before they disappeared down the street. This brief encounter left me wondering if there was the possibility of friendship. Unfortunately, I didn't even have the nerve to wave in response! Anxiety swept back over me as I searched the car for more

things to take in the house.

Our move was completed several days before the dreaded first day of school. I explored the neighborhood and found a park nearby with a basketball court. Mom offered to purchase some new school clothes for me, but I was nervous about wearing the wrong thing. The last thing I wanted to do was stick out like a sore thumb. Even with Mom's assurance, I was still worried, and tomorrow was the first day of school.

I was tense with apprehension, so I grabbed my basketball and headed to the park. I started shooting free throws, missing the first couple, but sinking the third just as the girl from next door walked up. She rebounded the ball and introduced herself. We shot hoops together, and I learned that she had recently moved here at the beginning of summer. She confided that she intended to try out for the basketball team. We ambled home together after a few more baskets, deciding as we walked to face the first day of school together. My unease was still present, but so was a rising expectation of the school year in front of me.

---

**Comprehension Questions: New Beginnings**

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

1. When you think deeply about something, you are in the act of:  
A) doubting.  
B) determining.  
C) worrying.  
D) contemplating.
2. To *summon* means to:  
A) meet someone for the first time.  
B) think about a really hard decision you have to make.  
C) move one's belongings to a new location.  
D) bring to the surface a particular emotion or reaction.
3. When you are really reluctant to do something, it fills you with:  
A) excitement.  
B) dread.  
C) doubt.  
D) loathing.
4. The main character's mom reminded her that she had always faced uncertainty with:  
A) courage and determination.  
B) bravery and persistence.  
C) anxiety and dread.  
D) enthusiasm and expectation.
5. After arriving at her new home, what did the main character see that made her feel hopeful about having to move?  
A) her bedroom unpacked with all her things from her old house  
B) the new bicycle her mom bought for her  
C) a basketball court to practice free throws  
D) a girl her age who lived next door
6. Why is it significant that the main character found a park nearby with a basketball court?  
A) They offer free throw lessons.  
B) She could invite the girl next door to play there.  
C) She played basketball at her old school.  
D) Her old town didn't have a basketball court.
7. What did the main character learn from the girl next door while they shot baskets?  
A) She moved here at the beginning of summer.  
B) The girl next door was shy.  
C) She plays for the school basketball team.  
D) She, too, is nervous about the first day of school.
8. In the passage, when the main character says she doesn't want to *stick out like a sore thumb*, what does she mean?  
A) She doesn't want to catch her thumb on something.  
B) She doesn't want to wear clothes that are too big for her.  
C) She doesn't want to look different from everyone else.  
D) She doesn't want to be embarrassed that members of the basketball team play better than she does.
9. What is the main idea of this passage?  
A) Moving to a new town is challenging, but it can also be rewarding.  
B) Going out for basketball is a great way to make new friends.  
C) Earning a spot on the basketball team takes courage and determination.  
D) The first day of school is always really scary.
10. After reading the passage, we can predict that the main character will:  
A) feel better about starting at a new school.  
B) worry about not making the basketball team at her new school.  
C) return to her old neighborhood to see friends.  
D) get better at shooting free throws.

## It's All in the Family

---

► Eye color and the herding skills of dogs are examples of traits that are the physical features and behavioral qualities that make each organism unique. Some traits are inherited, or passed down from parents to their offspring. Genetic material, or genes, inside a cell's nucleus determine which traits an organism exhibits. The genes work as a blueprint that specifies how an organism will look and act. The blueprint provides a set of instructions that help build proteins, the basic building blocks that allow all living things to grow and move.

In most cases, several genes work together to determine more complex traits, such as eye color and the ability to hear. Sometimes a single gene provides information that controls a single trait. For example, some people can roll their tongues while others cannot. This trait is determined by one gene.

Genes are linked together to make DNA, very long strands of material that are shaped like a twisted ladder. If the DNA in one cell were stretched out, the string would be about six feet long. DNA can fit into a cell's nucleus because the strands are coiled tightly together to make chromosomes. Some chromosomes are shaped like

rods and can be seen under a microscope.

Each type of organism has a unique pattern of chromosomes inside each of its cells. For example, humans have 25,000 to 35,000 genes arranged in 46 chromosomes, while all corn plants have 20 chromosomes. For many organisms, the chromosomes are grouped into pairs with two equal sets of genetic material. This means that corn has 10 paired sets of chromosomes and humans have 23.

Normally, when body cells divide, they make two new cells that have the exact same chromosomes as the original cell. However, when parent cells divide to begin a new offspring, the paired chromosomes split in two, so that each cell has only half of the genetic material. In corn, this means that each cell has 10 unpaired chromosomes. During reproduction, each parent contributes one of these cells, which join to form a new cell that will become the offspring. The offspring now has a complete set of chromosomes that is a unique mix from each parent. In this way, the offspring receive some of the father's and some of the mother's traits. Through the process of heredity, we keep our genes and many traits all in the family.

---

**Comprehension Questions: It's All in the Family**

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

1. In the passage, the genes inside a cell's nucleus are called:  
A) proteins.  
B) genetic material.  
C) traits.  
D) heredity.
2. The word *inherit* refers to:  
A) the blueprint that allows things to grow and move.  
B) genetic information that is passed down from parents to their offspring.  
C) the process of genes working together.  
D) the ability to view the shape of a chromosome under a microscope.
3. Strands of DNA coiled into a cell's nucleus are called:  
A) unpaired chromosomes.  
B) original cells.  
C) chromosomes.  
D) proteins.
4. An example of a physical trait is:  
A) level of intelligence.  
B) genetic material.  
C) eye color.  
D) offspring.
5. To determine the physical and behavioral traits of an organism, genes act as a:  
A) type of master plan.  
B) type of DNA reader.  
C) type of translator.  
D) twisted ladder.
6. In each human cell, there are:  
A) 20 chromosomes.  
B) 46 chromosomes.  
C) 25 to 35 chromosomes.  
D) 10 chromosomes.
7. It is important that parent cells contain only half of their chromosomes so that offspring will receive:  
A) a new set of genetic material that is from both parent cells.  
B) the same combination of genetic material as one parent cell.  
C) a new set of physical characteristics unrelated to either parent.  
D) the same combination of genes for eye color and chromosomes.
8. In this passage, the word *heredity* refers to passing on:  
A) protein to offspring.  
B) patterns to offspring.  
C) a nucleus to offspring.  
D) DNA to offspring.
9. According to this passage, what is the effect of genes on proteins?  
A) Cells, not genes, affect how proteins are built.  
B) Genes have 10 chromosomes that determine what proteins are built.  
C) Genes determine what proteins are built.  
D) Only genes outside the nucleus have an effect on how proteins are built.
10. Based on the passage, we can predict that more genes in a species leads to:  
A) fewer chromosomes with more traits.  
B) a lower diversity of traits.  
C) a higher diversity of traits.  
D) fewer offspring with more traits.

## How a War Changed America

---

► The War of 1812 was a conflict between Great Britain and the United States. When the war ended in December 1814, neither country was declared the winner. For America, the war set precedents, or guiding rules to follow, for its economic future. It brought about other changes to the country's economy and caused a rise in national pride.

The decision to go to war with Britain was not favored by everyone in the United States. Presidents Jefferson and Madison opposed the war because it would force the country into debt and increase the government's size. People in New England were afraid the war would halt trade with other nations. Indeed, that is what happened, but it also caused America to strengthen its manufacturing ability to produce goods.

In fact, the War of 1812 had its beginnings over the issue of trade during a time when Britain and France were at war with each other. Britain wanted to cripple France's ability to trade with other nations. Britain decided that if it interfered with American shipping rights, France's trade would be harmed. During this trade interference, Britain forced thousands of American sailors to

serve on its ships. The United States responded by declaring war on Great Britain in the summer of 1812.

Britain's blocking of American ports prevented trade and resulted in a shortage of goods such as cotton cloth. This forced the country to scramble to meet its needs by creating a cotton cloth manufacturing industry. Blocking the ports also caused a flour shortage, which led to more flour mills. In addition, the war with Britain hastened the growth of the transportation industry in the United States. New roads, turnpikes, and canals were built to carry goods to market.

The conflict also forced the country to decide how best to raise and manage money for emergencies such as war. In 1812, the young nation had not been well prepared for the expense of a war. A direct result of the war was the creation of the Second Bank of the United States in 1816.

Although the War of 1812 is often thought of in America as a small war, it had great effects on the nation. It caused the United States to become a stronger, smarter, and more independent country.

---

**Comprehension Questions: How a War Changed America**

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

1. A *guiding rule* can also be called a/an:  
A) response.  
B) interference.  
C) advisor.  
D) precedent.
2. The passage says that people were afraid the war would *halt* trade with other nations. This meant:  
A) they were afraid the war would require trade from other nations.  
B) they were afraid the war would encourage trade with other nations.  
C) they were afraid the war would slow down trade with other nations.  
D) they were afraid the war would stop trade with other nations.
3. When money is owed or due, it is called a:  
A) bill.  
B) balance.  
C) debt.  
D) receipt.
4. The War of 1812 was a conflict between:  
A) the United States and France.  
B) Great Britain and the United States.  
C) New England and France.  
D) the United States and Mexico.
5. Why might it have been a good thing that the United States had to create its own cotton cloth manufacturing industry?  
A) The United States was able to manufacture the uniforms for its soldiers.  
B) Selling more cotton helped pay for the war with Britain.  
C) The industry provided jobs for many of the soldiers after the war.  
D) The United States no longer had to rely as heavily on outside trade for cotton cloth.
6. Why did Presidents Jefferson and Madison oppose the war?  
A) It would force the country into debt and increase the government's size.  
B) It would cripple the United States' ability to trade with other nations.  
C) It would force the country to meet its needs by creating a cotton manufacturing industry.  
D) The nation was not well prepared for the expense of a war.
7. The blocking of American ports resulted in the shortage of what goods?  
A) oil and gas  
B) tea and coffee  
C) cotton and flour  
D) silk and wool
8. What happened when American sailors were forced to serve on British ships?  
A) It interrupted American trade with other nations.  
B) The United States declared war on Great Britain.  
C) The American sailors mutinied and fought back against the British.  
D) It helped Great Britain in its war against Spain.
9. What is the main idea of this passage?  
A) What caused the War of 1812 and who won.  
B) When it comes to war, there is never a winner.  
C) The War of 1812 helped America be more independent.  
D) The War of 1812 put America into debt and increased the government's size.
10. We can predict from the passage that, after the War of 1812:  
A) the United States gained more territory.  
B) the United States relied less on other countries for goods such as flour and cotton.  
C) the United States relied more on other countries for goods such as flour and cotton.  
D) trade improved between the United States and Britain.