

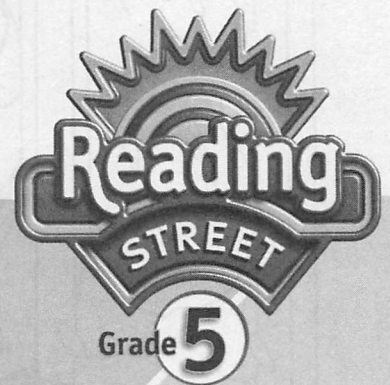
NAME _____ DATE _____

Scott Foresman

Benchmark Test

Unit 1

Meeting Challenges



Glenview, Illinois
Boston, Massachusetts
Chandler, Arizona
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey

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PART 1: COMPREHENSION

Directions

When the weather ruins Ichiro's plan for his birthday, he fashions a new plan. Read about the events that happened. Then do Numbers 1 through 11.

Ichiro's Tenth Birthday Party



It was the summer before Ichiro started fifth grade, and he was about to turn ten. His family had just moved to a new city, so he didn't know many other children, but his mother suggested that he host a birthday party and invite some of the friends he had made during the summer. Ichiro sent an invitation to each friend. He was thrilled by the idea of a party. His excitement grew as the day approached.

Ichiro's favorite sport was swimming, so he had sent out the invitations for a pool party at the city activities center, which had not only a small outdoor pool but also a gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts. On the morning of the party, however, Ichiro became sad; he awoke to discover that it was pouring rain.

“What should I do?” he asked his mother. She saw how disappointed he was by looking at the forlorn expression on his face, so she sat him down, handed him a glass of juice, and said, “Don’t worry! Let me tell you a story.”

Ichiro’s mother had grown up in a small town in Idaho, and she began telling him about the time she tried to have a birthday party for herself when she turned ten. Her best friends, Eliza and Junko, were to come to her house for an elegant tea party her mother had specially prepared. However, the night before her birthday, a blizzard blew in, covering her town with snow and making it impossible for anyone to drive anywhere for days.

“What did you do?” Ichiro asked his mother.

She explained that her mother hosted the tea party for her and her older brothers. “Your uncles,” she told him, “actually enjoyed it!” Later in the week, Junko and Eliza came by to celebrate her birthday, and they all built a cave in the snow and drank hot cocoa inside it. “We’ll figure out something to do for your party too,” she told Ichiro.

Instead of a pool party, they decided on a basketball game; basketball was Ichiro’s second favorite sport. His new friends enjoyed themselves, and later he looked back on that birthday as one of his best, even though things did not turn out exactly as planned.

1

Which of the following words best describes Ichiro’s mother?

- A** nervous
- B** lonely
- C** kind
- D** athletic

2

Why was Ichiro sad on the morning of his tenth birthday?

- F** He didn’t like parties.
- G** No one could come to his party.
- H** Birthdays made him feel old.
- J** His pool party could not be held in the rain.



3 What happened as a result of the blizzard in Ichiro's mother's town in Idaho?

- A** His mother's brothers built a snow cave in the backyard.
- B** His mother's friends Eliza and Junko could not come to the tea party.
- C** His mother decided not to celebrate her birthday.
- D** His mother's mother suggested rescheduling the tea party.

4 How did Ichiro feel later about his tenth birthday party?

- F** He was still disappointed.
- G** He wished he had invited more people.
- H** He did not remember it.
- J** He thought it was one of his best parties ever.

5 Which word best describes Ichiro?

- A** adaptable
- B** confident
- C** stubborn
- D** lazy

6 The author probably wrote this selection to

- F** explain why it is important to learn how to swim.
- G** tell an entertaining story about a boy's birthday.
- H** describe weather patterns in different places.
- J** give information about growing up in Idaho.

7 Why did Ichiro's mother tell him about her childhood?

- A** to convince him to make new friends
- B** to show how nice his uncles were
- C** to cheer him up about the party
- D** to explain her friends' actions

8 Which event happened after Ichiro's mother told her story?

- F** They decided to have a basketball party.
- G** Ichiro planned a party with swimming.
- H** Ichiro woke up to a rainy morning.
- J** Ichiro's mother gave him some juice.

9

In what way are Ichiro and his mother alike?

- A** Both drank hot cocoa inside a snow cave.
- B** Both spent their tenth birthdays with their best friends.
- C** Both preferred swimming to basketball.
- D** Both went along with changes in plans.

10

Which of the following occurred last in the story?

- F** Ichiro made friends in a new city during the summer.
- G** Ichiro looked back fondly on his tenth birthday party.
- H** Ichiro mailed out invitations to his pool party.
- J** Junko and Eliza came to Ichiro's mother's house.

11

Which of the following is the most important theme of the story?

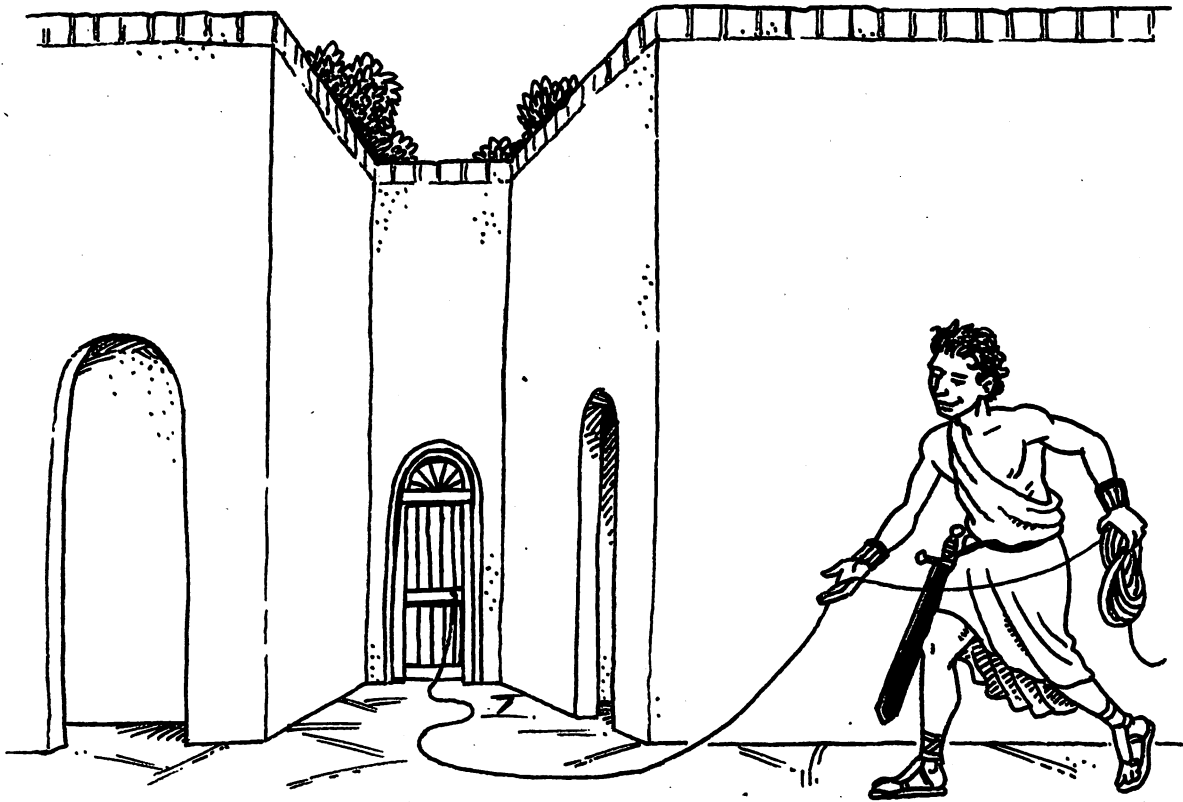
- A** Some of the best memories are of challenging situations.
- B** Disappointment feels worse on your birthday.
- C** It's important to tell people how you feel at all times.
- D** Few friends can be counted on in bad weather.



Directions

The architect Daedalus could not have anticipated ending up trapped in one of his own designs. Read how he escaped. Then do Numbers 12 through 22.

The Story of Daedalus: A Retelling of the Greek Myth



Daedalus was a Greek architect—a building designer—who was known for his ingenious inventions and projects. Daedalus designed, among other things, the Labyrinth, a maze of many paths. Famous throughout the world, the Labyrinth consisted of twisting paths from which it was impossible to escape. People entering the Labyrinth would find themselves wandering around and around forever.

Daedalus served as the architect for Minos, the king of Crete. Daedalus built the Labyrinth for Minos to imprison the monster called the Minotaur, who was half human and half bull. One day the hero Theseus offered to go into the Labyrinth to fight the Minotaur. Upon seeing Theseus, Minos's daughter Ariadne fell in love with him, and she begged Daedalus to help her make sure Theseus escaped from the Labyrinth.



Daedalus told Ariadne to give Theseus a ball of thread to fasten to the door so that he could retrace his steps and find his way out after fighting the monster. Theseus was able to win the fight and, by following the thread, to escape the Labyrinth. Then he and Ariadne left Crete together.

When Minos learned that his daughter was gone, he became very angry with Daedalus. He put Daedalus and Daedalus's son, Icarus, in the maze. The Labyrinth was so cleverly designed that even Daedalus, its creator, could not find the way out. However, Daedalus did come up with a plan to escape. He and his son would flee through the air. With wings made out of wax and feathers, they would fly out of the maze. Before taking off, Daedalus warned Icarus to fly at a certain height over the sea. "If you fly too low, the waves will swallow you," said Daedalus. "If you fly too high, the sun will melt the wax, and you will fall into the sea."

Icarus agreed to fly safely between the sea and the sun, and they soared over the walls of the Labyrinth to freedom. However, as they continued on their flight, Icarus became more and more excited by the thrill of flying. He forgot his father's warning and flew higher and higher, paying no attention to Daedalus's pleas for him to fly lower. Flying too close to the sun, Icarus felt his wings melt and fall apart, and he fell into the sea. His heartbroken father flew safely to Sicily, where the king of Sicily welcomed him.

12

Icarus can best be described as

- F** very clever.
- G** very careless.
- H** a good student.
- J** a great hero.

13

Why did Daedalus design the Labyrinth?

- A** to imprison the monster called the Minotaur
- B** to help Theseus and Ariadne escape Crete
- C** to impress Minos with his cleverness
- D** to make Icarus proud of him

14

Ariadne gave Theseus a ball of thread so he could

- F** sew a magical coat to protect himself.
- G** weave a net to trap the Minotaur.
- H** make a rope to climb over the Labyrinth wall.
- J** find his way back out of the maze.

15**When Ariadne ran away, it caused Minos to**

- A** imprison Daedalus in the Labyrinth.
- B** ask Daedalus to build a new Labyrinth.
- C** decide to fight the Minotaur himself.
- D** fly away from Crete to look for her.

16**Where did Daedalus and Icarus build their wings?**

- F** inside the Labyrinth
- G** at Minos's palace
- H** on board a ship
- J** in Sicily

17**Which of the following occurred last in the story?**

- A** Icarus and Daedalus flew away.
- B** Theseus fought the Minotaur.
- C** Ariadne asked Daedalus for help.
- D** Daedalus designed the Labyrinth.

18**The wax on Icarus's wings melted because**

- F** he flew over the maze wall.
- G** his wings beat too fast.
- H** he flew too close to the sun.
- J** his father forgot to warn him.

19**How did Daedalus probably feel when he arrived in Sicily?**

- A** worried that the Minotaur might find him
- B** excited to teach people to fly
- C** sad that his son was not with him
- D** honored to be able to meet the king

20**Which of these is a theme of the story?**

- F** Even kings can be poor in riches.
- G** If you rush, you might do a bad job.
- H** If you think hard enough, you can find a solution to a problem.
- J** Hard work always pays off.



21

The author's purpose in writing this selection was to

- A** persuade readers to study Greek architecture and history.
- B** give information about the history of flight in Greece.
- C** explain how to build a variety of different structures.
- D** provide a lesson about paying attention to advice.

22

Which word best describes Daedalus?

- F** greedy
- G** cheerful
- H** creative
- J** loyal

Directions

Write your answer to Question B on the lines below. Base your answer on the two selections you have read.



B

Think about what Ichiro and Daedalus did in the two stories you read. In what ways do the two characters act similarly? Use details or examples from both stories to explain your answer.



PART 2: VOCABULARY

Directions

Mark your answer choice for Numbers 23 through 32.

23

What is the meaning of the homonym *swallow* in the following sentence?

If you fly too low, the waves will swallow you.

- A believe too easily
- B take into the stomach
- C a small, swift bird
- D take in

24

Which word pair contains antonyms?

- F labyrinth – maze
- G low – high
- H fly – flown
- J string – thread

25

Which of these correctly completes the following sentence?

While his mother talked, Ichiro paid close _____.

- A attends
- B attention
- C attendance
- D attendment

26

Which of these correctly completes the following sentence?

Ichiro's _____ grew as the day for the party approached.

- F excitement
- G excitation
- H excited
- J excitement

27

What does the word *just* mean in the following sentence?

His family had just moved to a new city.

- A recently
- B honest and fair
- C at that moment
- D exactly

28

What is the meaning of the homonym *flee* in the following sentence?

Daedalus and his son would flee through the air.

- F escape from danger
- G small jumping insect
- H outdoor market
- J unkind saying

29

Which word pair from “Ichiro’s Tenth Birthday Party” contains antonyms?

- A tried – impossible
- B basketball – volleyball
- C thrilled – forlorn
- D brothers – uncles

30

Which of these correctly completes the following sentence?

Ichiro sent an _____ to each friend.

- F invitement
- G invitance
- H inviting
- J invitation

31

What does the word *courts* mean in the following sentence?

The activities center had a gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts.

- A places to play certain games
- B the people around a king or queen
- C places where legal decisions are made
- D try to win favor with someone



What does the word *ingenious* mean in the following sentence?

Daedalus was known for his ingenious inventions and projects.

- F** complicated
- G** expensive
- H** clever
- J** confusing



PART 3: WRITING CONVENTIONS

Directions

Mark your answer choice for Numbers 33 through 40.

33

Which of the following is a declarative sentence?

- A She took her dog on a long walk.
- B Why do dogs chase their tails?
- C Please be careful when opening the door.
- D How lucky she was to run into him!

34

Which of the following is an interrogative sentence?

- F This invention is the first of its kind!
- G Stop running next to the pool!
- H Would you go to the store for me?
- J Joseph had never seen a bear before.

35

Which of the following is an imperative sentence?

- A How do you learn to fly model airplanes?
- B She enjoys making things out of clay.
- C Hold the cup while I pour the tea.
- D It was the most beautiful sunset he had seen!

36

What is the subject of the following sentence?

Sara wanted to leave the city.

- F Sara
- G wanted
- H to leave
- J the city

37

What is the complete predicate of the following sentence?

The president, who wanted to spend time with his family, took a long vacation.

- A The president
- B who wanted to spend time
- C with his family
- D took a long vacation



38

Which group of words in the following sentence is a dependent clause?

Yesterday morning, Sam slept late because there is no school on holidays.

- F** Yesterday morning
- G** Sam slept late
- H** because there is no school on holidays
- J** Sam slept late because there is no school on holidays

39

Which of the following is a compound sentence?

- A** Nathan and Loni played tennis all day.
- B** Pat opened the box, and Ramon closed it.
- C** Bharati wrote a letter, and sent it.
- D** Ms. Kim will grade the essays.

40

Which sentence is written correctly?

- F** Glacier national Park is in the Rocky mountains.
- G** She saw a Buffalo in Yellowstone National park.
- H** She went to a theme park in Buffalo, New York.
- J** The Blue ridge Mountains are in Virginia.



PART 4: WRITING

PROMPT

In both “Ichiro’s Tenth Birthday Party” and “The Story of Daedalus,” characters built unusual structures. Think about a time you built something such as a sand castle, a birdhouse, or a snow cave. Write a story about building this thing.

CHECKLIST FOR WRITERS

- _____ Did I think about something I built?
- _____ Did I put the events of my story in order?
- _____ Did I use time-order words?
- _____ Does my story have a beginning, middle, and end?
- _____ Did I use words and details that clearly expressed my ideas?
- _____ Do my sentences make sense?
- _____ Did I check my sentences for proper grammar and punctuation?
- _____ Did I check my spelling?
- _____ Did I make sure my paper is the way I want readers to read it?

Lined writing area consisting of 25 horizontal lines.



