

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Third Trimester Assessment

### Vocabulary and Concept Development

Read the following sentence.

1. Edmund Halley, an astronomer in the late 1600s, was very interested in comets.

The origin of the word “astronomer” is the Greek word *astro* meaning

- A. comet.
- B. light.
- C. mystery.
- D. star.

Read the following sentence.

2. Several people perished in the hurricane.

What is an antonym for the word “perished” as it is used in this sentence?

- A. died
- B. survived
- C. cried
- D. moved

3. Which word best completes the sentence?

My favorite snack is a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. pair
- B. pare
- C. pear
- D. peer

4. Which of these words probably comes from the Latin word *audire* meaning “to hear?”

- A. audit
- B. auburn
- C. auction
- D. audio

Read the following sentence.

5. The sun smiled down upon the wedding.

The author used the phrase “the sun smiled” to show that

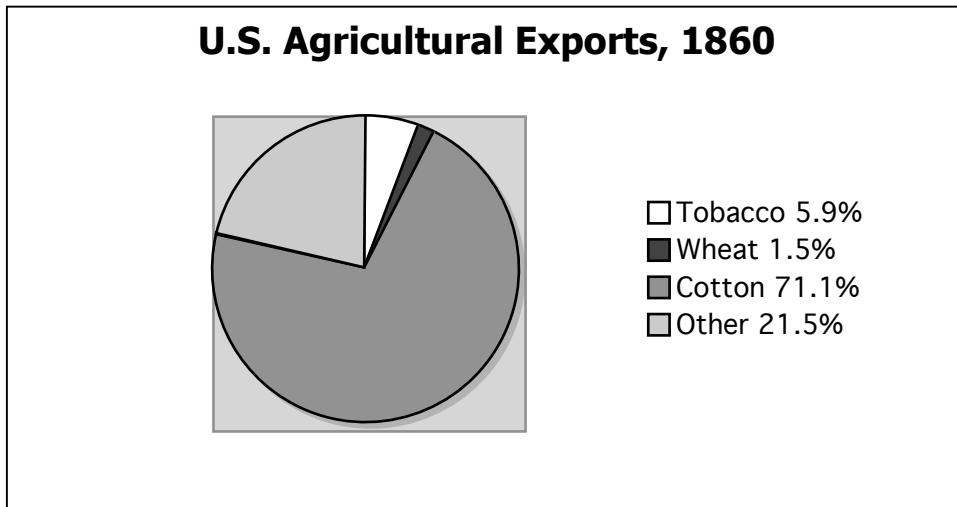
- A. the people in the wedding were excited.
- B. the sun was happy.
- C. the weather was nice.
- D. it was too hot at the wedding.

6. Choose the sentence containing a metaphor.

- A. My dad is as stubborn as a mule.
- B. The door groaned as I pushed it open.
- C. The moon is a silver dollar in the sky.
- D. Randy is like a monkey on the bars.

**Reading Comprehension**

Use the following pie chart to answer question 7.



7. Which crop did the U.S. export in the greatest quantity?

- A. cotton
- B. tobacco
- C. wheat
- D. rice

**Read the passage below (it continues on the following page) and then answer questions 8 through 10.**

### **What are Myths?**

A lot of things in life cannot be explained. Why does a caterpillar transform into a beautiful butterfly? Why do people believe in things they cannot see or explain, like love? What happens to a person after death? Early man had an even harder time understanding the world. A simple thunderstorm might cause a flood or burn down a forest. In these early days man did not have any way to explore these natural phenomena, or events, so they created stories to explain them.

These stories, or myths, gave nature human characteristics, something with which people were able to identify. For example, many of the early myths centered on the sky as "father" and the earth as "mother". Because they were so powerful, they were considered gods. These two gods had children in the forms of water, mountains, and stars.

Sometimes there were arguments between these gods. The arguments took the form of storms, fires, or floods. By giving events human or godly characteristics, the early people found a sense of meaning in natural phenomena.

Over the years, the myth became a popular way of explaining things. Myths were even created as a way of explaining the culture of people. For example, human kings were thought to be the children, or chosen people, of the mythical gods. This explained why kings were the rulers, and all the other people should obey them.

About 500 B.C., scholars began to study nature from a logical point of view. They observed, took notes, and made theories about how nature really worked. They began to understand how plants grew, how storms worked, and why things in nature happened.

Science, the study of nature, became popular. This kind of learning allowed people to see for themselves how things worked. Science provided a way of explaining things in a logical manner that could be proven. Myths were no longer as important to people as a way of understanding. However, they were still popular because they were fun and interesting stories. Stories were still created, but they were different forms of myths. The old style gave way to our more modern legends and tales.

How can you tell myths from legends and tales? It is not an easy task, but there are some basic differences. The element of time, which is when the story takes place, and the type of characters involved help us to tell the difference.

Tales often take place "once upon a time". This suggests that the story happened during the history of man, but at some other time. Tales often have characters that are fantastic or bizarre. Characters in some tales include witches, talking frogs, or giants.

Legends are stories that are based on real facts, but are exaggerated or bigger than life. They usually have a specific time period and characters that were real people. These stories are not completely real, however. The characters are given power that is beyond real life.

Myths are different from both tales and legends. Myths are placed in a time that suggests it is not earthly. They often take place at the beginning of time or at some time that cannot be compared with the history of the world. The characters are always larger than life and have super powers that enable them to do fantastic things. The most popular myths that are still told and studied are the ones created by the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultures.

**8. What is the main idea of this story?**

- A. Myths are different from tales and legends.
- B. Myths are stories that people do not care about anymore.
- C. A myth is set in a different time.
- D. Myths explain things better than tales and legends.

**9. Which of the following events would most likely inspire the creation of a myth?**

- A. a broken leg
- B. a family vacation
- C. a festival
- D. an earthquake

**10. Which of the following statements is a fact?**

- A. Scholars observed, took notes, and made theories.
- B. It is almost impossible to tell myths from legends and tales.
- C. Myths are fun and interesting.
- D. Legends are better than myths and tales.

### Literary Response and Analysis

**Read the passage below (it continues on the following page) and then answer questions 11 through 13.**

#### **Shades of Silence**

Elijah Raine sat scratching his name into the hard-packed dirt with a pointed stick. High on a hill in the middle of nowhere, all he could hear was the shrill cry of a hawk soaring overhead in search of prey.

“Elijah!” his mother called. Elijah glared at the yellow farmhouse that was now supposed to be his home. His mother stood in the doorway. She called him again. As he finished the last letter, he noticed something in the curve of the “h” he had written. Something metal glinted in the rosy late-afternoon sunlight. Elijah picked it up: a rusty old key. He stuck it in his pocket and walked down the hill.

Grandpa Joseph had passed away last year, leaving the house and farm to his daughter Rebecca, Elijah's mother. Elijah had hoped that she would just sell it and use the money to buy a house in the city. She had chosen instead to quit her job at the newspaper and move to the farm. She could write in the country, she said. Elijah had been very unhappy about leaving his friends, his school, and the third-story apartment where he had always lived.

In the city, dinnertime had always been an opportunity for conversation between Elijah and his mother. Here, though, he had nothing to say. He knew his silence hurt his mother, but surely it was better than the angry stream of words that lay in wait behind it. It was best to keep quiet. After gobbling up a plateful of spaghetti, his favorite dinner, he quickly muttered, "Thanks," and went to this room.

Later, he went down the creaky stairs to look for something to read. In the deep silence, his mother sat alone on the living room sofa. On her lap lay a photograph album. Looking up, she smiled hopefully and said, "See what I found in the attic?" He nodded but remained standing at the bottom of the stairs.

"Here's your great-grandfather Elijah, the one you were named after," Rebecca said. "He's about your age in this picture. Do you think you look like him?"

Elijah stuffed his hands into his pockets and shrugged. He felt the old key.

"Here's a few years later," Rebecca said. "It's his wedding day. He's all dressed up, standing next to his bride, Frederica."

Elijah moved closer and glanced down at the photograph. Then something else caught his eye. "What's that?" he asked, pointing to a painted wooden box on the coffee table in front of her.

"It's a silent music box," Rebecca said softly. She put down the album and took the box gently with both hands. "Years ago, when I was a little girl, my brother took the key away. He was just teasing; he didn't mean to lose it. But he ran outside and dropped it out there somewhere." She gazed out the window at the vast darkness. "We searched and searched but never found it."

Elijah sat down beside her and opened his hand.

Suddenly his mother's eyes sparkled. "That's it! How did you--?" Elijah took a tissue from the box on the end table. He rubbed some rust and dirt off the key, and then he handed it to her.

With trembling hands, Rebecca fit the key into the slot and wound up the music box. As its sweet melody played, mother and son listened together.

"It has been silent for a long, long time," Rebecca said.

"It's so clear!" said Elijah. "It sounds as good as new." The silence had been broken.

**11. In paragraph 13, why are Rebecca’s hands “trembling”?**

- A. She is afraid of what she might find inside the wooden box.
- B. She hopes that the music will make Elijah happy to live on the farm.
- C. She is thrilled that Elijah found the music box key and gave it to her.
- D. She is upset that the key has become so old and rusty from being outside.

**12. When the music box plays again, it is a symbol of**

- A. hope
- B. imagination
- C. sacrifice
- D. jealousy

**13. The author uses details like “creaky stairs” to show that the house**

- A. should not be lived in anymore.
- B. did not have very good stairs.
- C. was not located in the city.
- D. has been home to several generations.

**Written and Oral Language Conventions**

**14. Choose the transition word that best connects the two sentences.**

I was sick on Saturday afternoon. \_\_\_\_\_, I couldn’t go to the movies with my friends.

- A. However
- B. Instead
- C. Although
- D. Therefore

**15. Read this sentence and identify the dependent clause.**

During times of drought, the Hopi depended on maize they had stored in large clay pots after their last harvest.

- A. the Hopi depended on
- B. During times of drought
- C. after their last harvest
- D. stored in large clay pots

**16. Which words complete the sentence correctly?**

I'm \_\_\_\_\_ at sports than my little brother,  
but our oldest brother is the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. better, best
- B. best, worst
- C. worst, worser
- D. best, better

**17. Which is the correct way to punctuate this sentence?**

- A. "Oh, have you been there, Abuelita asked?"
- B. "Oh, have you been there?" Abuelita asked.
- C. "Oh," have you been there? Abuelita asked.
- D. Oh, have you been there? "Abuelita asked"

**18. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?**

- A. Meet me at ten oclock, all right?
- B. Meet me at ten o'clock, all right.
- C. Meet me at ten o'clock, all right?
- D. none of these

**19. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.**

- A. John Hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence in philadelphia, pennsylvania.
- B. John Hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- C. John hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, pennsylvania.
- D. John hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence in philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**20. The following is a letter closing. Choose the answer that is correctly capitalized and punctuated.**

sincerely yours,  
dr. susan h. Nelson

- A. Sincerely yours, Dr. Susan H. Nelson
- B. Sincerely, Yours, Dr., Susan, H., Nelson
- C. Sincerely Yours, Susan, H., Nelson, Dr.
- D. Sincerely yours, Dr., Susan, H., Nelson

**21. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.**

- A. You're my best friend.
- B. You're bicycle is pretty.
- C. You're not allowed to do that,
- D. Your a funny person.

**22. Choose the sentence with the correct spelling.**

- A. There were five monkies in the tree.
- B. Mr. Quayle's favorite food is the potatoe.
- C. Rita plants tomatoes in her garden.
- D. William had a knife in his poket.

**Writing Strategies**

**Read the story introduction below and then answer questions 23 and 24.**

- ❶ The hot sun was burning the back of my neck and sweat poured into my eyes. Hours of shoveling had left my hands blistered and my back sore. Did I stop? No.
- ❷ The hope of finding treasure can do strange things to men and women, and I was no exception. Here I was- Devon Norris, who had never done a day's worth of work in his life (or so my mother told me)- here I was digging up the backyard like a man possessed.
- ❸ I looked up. The yard was a mess, with holes dug all over in no particular pattern. A tiny voice told me that this wouldn't go over too well with Mom and Dad. However, the voice was quickly silenced by the firm belief that I would find treasure. A few holes in the grass would quickly be forgiven when I presented my parents with a chest full of pirate gold.
- ❹ Some people, like my parents, think it unlikely that anyone would unearth pirate treasure in a San Jose backyard...

**23. Which sentence does not help develop the plot?**

- A. The yard was a mess, with holes dug all over in no particular pattern.
- B. The hot sun was burning the back of my neck and sweat poured into my eyes.
- C. The hope of finding treasure can do strange things to men and women, and I was no exception.
- D. However, the voice was quickly silenced by the firm belief that I would find treasure.



**24. Which paragraph best describes the setting?**

- A. paragraph 1
- B. paragraph 2
- C. paragraph 3
- D. paragraph 4

**25. Choose the sentence that best completes the paragraph.**

Earthquakes can be dangerous. Since they can't be stopped, we have to do what we can to predict them. \_\_\_\_\_ . This will help us save lives.

- A. Some animals begin to act strangely before an earthquake.
- B. If we know when they are coming, we can be prepared.
- C. Seismologists are scientists who study earthquakes.
- D. People in earthquake zones should move.

**26. Which sentence best concludes this paragraph?**

Have you heard about the invisible killer? There is a poisonous gas that kills nearly 300 people in their homes each year. It has no odor, taste, or color. It is very dangerous. Carbon monoxide is this gas and it comes from burning fuel. Anything in your home that burns fuel, such as a gas oven or furnace, can give off carbon monoxide gas. But when things that burn fuel are kept in good order, they don't give off carbon monoxide. The best way to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning is to keep gas ovens, furnaces, and fireplaces clean and repaired.

- A. Have you practiced fire safety in your home?
- B. This gas is carbon monoxide.
- C. This simple precaution could save a life.
- D. It is not the same as carbon dioxide.

**27. Here is a topic sentence. Pick the sentences that support it.**

There are many famous people who have overcome physical handicaps to lead successful lives.

- A. People say the best basketball player of all time is Michael Jordan. It's amazing how many points he can score in a game.
- B. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was paralyzed from polio. However, he still became President of the United States.
- C. Tara Lapinski won the Olympic gold in figure skating. At 15 years old, she was the youngest woman to do this.
- D. Most people have to work hard to achieve what they want, but some people are lucky and end up in the right place at the right time.

28. Which definition *best* fits the meaning of the underlined word in this sentence?

His early work with locomotives focused on hauling loads in the mines.

<b>focus</b>	<i>n.</i> 1. center of attention <i>n.</i> 2. a point where light comes together <i>v.</i> 3. to fix on, concentrate <i>v.</i> 4. to make clear, happen
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- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

Read the passage below and answer questions 29 and 30.

(1) Imagine going to a college where you can major in video games! (2) Well, all the students at DigiPen School are doing exactly that. (3) A man named Claude Comair founded the college in Vancouver, British Columbia. (4) It has a goal that is to teach students to create computer animation and to also program video games. (5) While this may sound like fun, the school's curriculum is serious business. (6) The teachers are professional programmers and engineers. (7) The classes are taught year-round for two years of intense study. (8) Students typically go to school from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and for much of the day on Saturday.

29. How is sentence 4 best rewritten?

- A. Its goal is to teach students to create computer animation and program video games.
- B. For its goal, it aims to teach students to create computer animation and program video games.
- C. Creating computer animation and programming video games is the goal the school sets for its students.
- D. Teaching creating computer animation and programming video games is its goal.

30. Which sentence could be added after sentence 6?

- A. Each game requires several programmers, artists, musicians, and designers to make it marketable.
- B. The classes include advanced mathematics and physics, computer languages, and art.
- C. The video game industry earns billions of dollars each year.
- D. The graduates of DigiPen will tell you that they make a living doing what they love best- playing video games.