

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

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

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

### Vocabulary and Concept Development

Read the following sentence.

1. Most construction companies use bulldozers and cranes.

The origin of the word “construction” is the Greek word *struct* meaning

- A. to build.
- B. to move.
- C. to break.
- D. to lift.

Read the following sentence.

2. Unemployment is running high here since the factory closed.

In which sentence does the word “running” mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- A. Tracy saw the horse running through the field.
- B. Beth was running the lawn mower.
- C. Club attendance was running low due to heavy snow.
- D. Peter is running for class president.

3. Which of these is a *synonym* for imaginary?

- A. biographical
- B. fictional
- C. actual
- D. humorous

4. The prefix *sub-* in the word “submerge” means

- A. together.
- B. above.
- C. water.
- D. under.

Read the selection below and answer question 5.

### Autumn Dance

Every October, autumn bullies summer into letting go of the skies. The wind breathes a chill into the air. The sun gets tired and goes to bed earlier each night, and night sleeps in later each day. The trees dress in bright gowns for the last celebration of the season, and the leaves are skipping and dancing down the sidewalk. This is autumn, standing firm with hands on her hips, until winter appears over the edge of the world.

5. Which sentence is not an example of personification?

- A. Every October, autumn bullies summer into letting go of the skies.
- B. A cold wind blows.
- C. The leaves skipped and danced down the sidewalk.
- D. The sun gets tired and goes to bed.

### Reading Comprehension

6. Which of the following reference books would be the best place to learn about the word *exaggeration*?

- A. atlas
- B. encyclopedia
- C. dictionary
- D. thesaurus

Read the passage below (it continues on the following page) and then answer questions 7 through 10.

### Digging Up the Past

Like detectives, archeologists use evidence to solve mysteries. Detectives look for clues to solve crimes. Archeologists seek clues to help them understand how people lived long ago. Archeology is the study of ancient things. One type of evidence used to learn about the past is pottery.

People have used pottery for thousands of years all over the world. Old pottery is usually found in pieces called potsherds. Sometimes potsherds found in the same place can be put back together to recreate the original pot. Even in pieces, old pottery can teach us about the past. When examining pottery, archeologists consider not only its appearance but what it was made of and how it was made. With this knowledge, they can gain interesting information about people's lives in times past.

Pottery is made by first adding water to a kind of soil called clay. When wet, clay can be formed into shapes. It is then heated. This hardens the clay and allows it to keep its shape. There are various kinds of clay soil. Many types of clay contain iron. Iron gives the heated clay a reddish color. Some ancient potters tried to change this color by adding other materials. Some people added charcoal and oil to make their pottery black. Others made pot surfaces blue by adding copper.

To make clay easier to shape and heat, potters use something called temper. Various materials can be used as temper. These materials include sand, crushed shells, grit (crushed stone), and grog (crushed pottery). Plant fibers like grass or straw are also used. An archeologist can tell where a pot came from by the types of clay and temper that were used. Sometimes a pot found in one location might contain materials from another place. This can provide clues about how people traded or traveled.

Some of the earliest pots were made quite simply. A lump of clay was hollowed out and shaped into a bowl. It was then heated at a low temperature. Perhaps it was placed in dry straw and set on fire. The finished pot was rough, irregular, and often undecorated. This type of pot may have been used for cooking.

Later, coiled pots were made. These were made by first rolling the clay into a long snake shape. The coil was then wound in circles, around and upward to form a pot. The lines of the coils were smoothed out with pieces of cloth or leather. Coiled pots were formed into many different objects, like pitchers and drinking vessels. They were often decorated in various ways. These pots were heated at high temperatures in ovens called "kilns". The higher the temperature, the harder and longer-lasting the pot. Further improvements in pottery-making developed at different times and places. These included wheels, molds, fancier decorations, and better kilns.

A pot's shape and decoration can provide clues about the past. Painted pictures might show events from daily life or myths and legends. Archaeologists know certain shapes and styles that were common in different times and places.

Archaeologists study the differences in types of pottery closely. Because of their work, these everyday objects can reveal some of the mysteries of the past.

**7. What is the *last* step in making a pot?**

- A. hollowing out a lump of clay
- B. adding water to the clay
- C. heating the pot in a kiln
- D. crushing old pottery to use as temper

**8. When is temper added to the clay?**

- A. after the pot is heated
- B. when the clay is smoothed out
- C. while the pot is being decorated
- D. before the clay is shaped

**9. What is the main idea of this passage?**

- A. The clues that archeologists use to learn about the past including buildings, clothing, and coins.
- B. Some pots are decorated with pictures that show events from ancient myths and legends.
- C. Ancient pottery can teach us about the lives of the people who made and used it.
- D. Both detectives and archaeologists solve mysteries by using clues that have been left behind.

**10. Which of the following statements is an opinion?**

- A. People have used pottery for thousands of years all over the world.
- B. Pottery is made first by adding water to a kind of soil called clay.
- C. A pot's shape and decoration can provide clues about the past.
- D. Some of the earliest pots were quite simple to make.

**Read the passage below (it continues on the next page) and then answer questions 11 and 12.**

### **The Story of Arachne**

Long ago in a far away country lived a young woman named Arachne. She was not rich or beautiful, but she had one great talent. Arachne could weave the most beautiful cloth anyone had ever seen. Everyone in Arachne's village talked about her wonderful cloth, and soon she became famous. But as her fame grew, so did her pride.

"No one else can weave as well as I can," Arachne boasted. "Not even the goddess Minerva could make anything so lovely and fine."

Now Minerva wove cloth for all the gods. She was proud of her weaving too and thought that no human could ever match her skills. Soon Arachne's words reached Minerva's ears and the goddess became angry.

"So the human woman thinks she is better than I!" Minerva roared. "We will see about that!"

Minerva searched the countryside until she came upon Arachne's home. Minerva called to Arachne and challenged her to a contest. "Let us both weave a length of cloth. We will see whose is the most beautiful."

Arachne agreed. She set up two looms, and she and Minerva went to work. The goddess wove cloth of all the colors of the rainbow. It sparkled in the sun and floated on the breeze like a butterfly. But Arachne wove cloth that sparkled like gold and jewels. The villagers were dazzled by Arachne's cloth. When Minerva inspected it, she knew Arachne was the best weaver.

Minerva was enraged. She took out a jar of magic water and sprinkled it on Arachne. Instantly, poor Arachne began to change. She shrank smaller and smaller until she almost could not be seen. She grew more arms and became covered in fine brown hair. When it was all over, Arachne had become a tiny brown spider. Arachne would never boast again, but she would spend the rest of her life weaving fine webs.

**11. What might have happened if Arachne had not bragged about her talents?**

- A. Minerva would have left her alone.
- B. Arachne would not have become famous.
- C. The villagers would not have appreciated Arachne's weaving.
- D. Minerva would not be allowed to make cloth for the gods anymore.

**12. What can you conclude about Minerva?**

- A. She wanted to be the best weaver.
- B. She hates spiders.
- C. She wanted Arachne to have a better life.
- D. She wanted to get better at weaving with the help of Arachne.

### Literary Response and Analysis

**Read the passage below (it continues on the next page) and answer questions 13 through 15.**

#### Tiger Town

Yesterday, I read a story in the newspaper about a place in Montana called Tiger Town. Tiger Town is an animal sanctuary and rescue facility for large cats like tigers, lions, leopards, pumas, and jaguars. A sanctuary is a lot like a shelter for dogs or house cats, except it's permanent.

The reason these sanctuaries are necessary is because there are, surprisingly, a lot of homeless large cats. It's hard to imagine a homeless tiger. But they're homeless because so many states have no licensing requirements or regulations for the purchase and keeping of these great cats. Too many people buy a tiger when it is a cub and relatively harmless, only to find out later that they have a wild animal, not a pet, on their hands.

Experts will tell you that there is simply no way to make a house pet out of a tiger, a lion, or any other big cat. However, most owners of large cats do not discover this until it's too late.

For this and other reasons, big cats often find themselves without a home, and they must be placed somewhere or be destroyed. There are very few options available to those with unwanted cats, and a sanctuary is the most humane. Sanctuaries never sell the animals they house, nor breed them. They are safe places where the inhabitants are fed a proper diet and given medical attention and wide-open spaces to relax and be content for as long as they live.

Because of a lack of funding and trained personnel, there are very few of these sanctuaries in the United States. It is estimated that there are over 5,000 big cats in private ownership across the country. As more states pass legislation to ban possession of the big cats, the need for sanctuaries grows.

The sanctuary in Montana takes donations from people who are interested in helping the cats. So I've decided to send in some of the money I've accumulated in my savings account. I want to help in any way that I can!

**13. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?**

- A. to explain the importance of sanctuaries
- B. to persuade you to save money
- C. to tell a story about tigers
- D. to describe how to care for a big cat

**14. What is the main reason that big cats need animal sanctuaries?**

- A. big cats are harmless
- B. big cats are expensive
- C. people love big cats
- D. big cats can't be pets

**15. The best theme for this selection would be**

- A. Wild animals are dangerous and should never be seen by humans.
- B. Wild animals can be pets if they have always been with humans.
- C. Wild animals live in Montana.
- D. Wild animals are not meant to be pets.

Read the passage below and answer question 16.

### **The Fox and the Crow**

Fox saw Crow with a piece of cheese in her beak. Fox was hungry, so he walked right up to Crow. “Good morning, Crow,” said Fox. “How beautiful you look today! Your feathers are so shiny! Your eyes are so bright!” Crow liked being flattered and she smiled, but the cheese was still in her beak. “Crow, could you please sing for me? I am certain that your song is even more beautiful than you are.”

So crow opened her mouth and screeched, “Caw, caw, caw!”

The piece of cheese fell from her mouth into the waiting jaw of the fox. Fox gulped it down and said, “Thank you! That was what I wanted. Now I will give you some advice.”

**16. What does the fox symbolize?**

- A. a loyal friend
- B. a hard worker
- C. a clever trickster
- D. a lazy fool

**17. The purpose of figurative language is to**

- A. explain what a writer or speaker really means.
- B. make language sound more important.
- C. describe something.
- D. make language and ideas more interesting and colorful.

### **Written and Oral Language Conventions**

**18. Which clause is independent?**

- A. after school on the playground
- B. over the fence and through a window
- C. since the jacket felt too warm and uncomfortable
- D. yesterday we went to the marsh to look for rare birds

**19. Read the paragraph and choose the prepositional phrase.**

Elias Howe invented the sewing machine in 1845. He thought homemakers around America would buy his machine. But homemakers did not have enough money for his machine. He tried selling the sewing machine to clothing manufacturers. They were not interested in Howe's invention either.

- A. invented the sewing machine
- B. to clothing manufacturers
- C. were not interested
- D. none of the above

**20. Which sentence shows the correct usage of a demonstrative adjective?**

- A. These slice of pie is delicious.
- B. Mr. Davis lives in that old green house on First Street.
- C. Help put that toys away.
- D. Those is the hardest homework I've had all year.

**21. Which verb is used *incorrectly*?**

- A. You may go to the movies after dinner.
- B. After she lays the egg, the hen sets on them.
- C. Stuart can run faster than anyone else I know.
- D. The tired old dog wanted to lay down by the fire.

**22. Choose the correct sentence.**

- A. We read a scary poem My Sister's Closet.
- B. Every Saturday morning my little brother watches the cartoon rugrats.
- C. "America the Beautiful" is my favorite patriotic song.
- D. I am reading one chapter from the book "Tom Sawyer" before bed.

**23. Select the sentence that is capitalized correctly.**

- A. Casey's favorite time of the year is Autumn.
- B. The American Revolutionary War ended in 1783.
- C. Laura lives in california.
- D. Annalisa's family went skiing in the Rocky mountains last winter.

**24. Choose the underlined word that is spelled *incorrectly*.**

- A. He was a prolific writer.
- B. We tried to be positive.
- C. The substitute left a good report.
- D. Lucy is hopeing she will win the contest.



25. Choose the underlined contraction that is *incorrect*.

- A. I'll go first.
- B. Why can't we go to the movies?
- C. This is'nt the book I want to read.
- D. She's in the next room.

### Writing Strategies

Read this rough draft of Jasmine's essay and answer questions 26 through 28.

- ① It was Saturday, so the Green Valley Kickers were supposed to practice soccer as usual. Instead, our coach had volunteered our team to participate in Finvale County's Biannual Beach Cleanup. Twice each year, before and after the summer season, people gather at the beaches to pick up garbage. Some of us, including me, didn't think it was fair that Coach Simms was making us do this. After all, we had signed up for soccer, not trash clean up!
- ② We met at Crescent beach, a long sandy beach shaped like a sliver of the moon. Coach Simms passed out rubber gloves and shiny yellow garbage bags. A marine biologist named Dr. Torrez thanked us for agreeing to work. He gave us an article called "Beach Garbage" to read. The article explained that each year fourteen billion pounds of garbage go into the world's oceans! Some of this begins as trash thrown on beaches. Some of it starts as garbage dumped into the ocean. All of it ends up as one big mess that needs to be removed.
- ③ Dr. Torrez held up a plastic six-pack ring from soda cans and said, "Fish, sea otters, and even sea lions can get stuck in these." Then he showed us a long piece of fishing line. "Sea life can get entangled in this and die," he said. "In addition, it makes many ocean animals sick when they eat garbage, mistaking it for food. It can kill them."
- ④ As I filled my bag with trash, I couldn't believe how much junk I was finding. I could see why it was a good idea to get rid of all this stuff before summer arrived. People come from near and far to enjoy the warm sand and the ocean waves. It was not only ugly but dangerous. There were broken bottles and rusty cans that people could step on with their bare feet. There were broken toys, cigarette butts, matches, and all kinds of food and drink containers.
- ⑤ My soccer team filled twenty-five bags with trash! The beach looked so much better when we left. We felt proud of our hard work!

26. The setting of this essay is best described in the first sentence of which paragraph?

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

27. Which sentence could Jasmine add to the end of paragraph 5 to improve the paragraph?

- A. I looked forward to the end of summer so I could help to clean it up again.
- B. There are so many beautiful beaches in our county, too.
- C. Many bags of garbage were filled at Crescent Beach that day.
- D. We usually play soccer on Saturdays, but one time we did something else.

28. Choose the sentence that best supports the topic sentence.

The black bear, one of the largest mammals in the United States, was close to extinction by the early 1900s.

- A. Adult bears are huge, but the babies are tiny. They are usually born in pairs.
- B. Because of their great size, people feared the bears. They hunted them in great numbers.
- C. There is so much to learn about these amazing animals. Today, luckily, they are here to stay.
- D. These bears can travel great distances in search of food. They are excellent climbers.

29. The following entries are from a thesaurus. Which word means the opposite of *mist*?

**mist** (noun) cloud, daze, haze, smog, ANT see CLEAR

**mistake** (verb) take one thing for another, confound, confuse, mix, mix up, see MISUNDERSTAND, MISJUDGE

- A. cloud
- B. clear
- C. misunderstand
- D. misjudge

30. What is the best way to combine the following sentences without changing their meaning?

Native Americans of the Great Plains region built teepees.  
They built teepees for shelter.

- A. Native Americans of the Great Plains region, they built teepees for shelter.
- B. Native Americans of the Great Plains region, however, built teepees for shelter.
- C. Native Americans of the Great Plains region built teepees and they built them for shelter.
- D. Native Americans of the Great Plains region built teepees for shelter.