

ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
OFFICE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 5
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
DISTRICT BENCHMARK
ASSESSMENT
(Module A)



School Year 2014-2015

The Bread Winner by Arvella Whitmore

Excerpt 1

Excited and impatient, Sarah fidgeted in her seat between Mama and Daddy. Their furniture, piled high in back of their Model T truck, rattled as they bumped across the railroad tracks. Her parents had explained to Sarah that their house in town wouldn't be as nice as the one they'd had on the farm. But even so, she couldn't wait to see it.

Sarah soon noticed that they were headed straight into Waheegan's poorest section. Everyone called it Shanty-town. This couldn't be where their new home was!

"Are you going the right way, daddy?" she asked.

"Yes, Sarah, said her father. "We'll be there soon."

They were probably just passing through this part of town on their way to a better neighborhood, she thought.

The newspaper Daddy had just bought was lying in his lap, fluttering noisily in the breeze. Sarah glanced at the front page. Under a picture of President Herbert Hoover a thick black headline read, *Hard Times to End Soon*. Another said just the opposite: *The Depression Deepens*. When she noticed the date in the upper right-hand corner, she smiled and bit her lip. So that's what Daddy was up to. It was April Fool's Day! The date, April 1, 1932, was there in plain sight. Her father would probably drive up to some shack and say, "This is it, Sarah." Then, after he laughed and said "April fool," they'd drive on to their real house.

She glanced at Daddy. He didn't look like someone about to play a joke on her. His hands were gripping the steering wheel so hard his knuckles had turned white. He looked worried. And his voice had sounded as if the words were being squeezed out of him.

Sarah glanced up at Mama. Her eyes were red. She had been crying off and on since they left the farm half hour ago. Sarah had cried some, too, but she felt excited about moving to town. There will be so many things to do here, she thought. There was a movie house downtown, the Aladdin, and there were stores that sold ice cream and candy and pretty dresses. And she'd be making lots of friends in her new neighborhood and school.

She craned her neck to peer around her parents. The houses in this part of town looked terrible, she thought. Many had peeling paint or no paint at all.

Grade 5 Module A Benchmark Assessment

1. Which of the following sentences is true about Sarah?

- a. She is dreading the move to their house in town.
- b. She is anticipating the move to their house in town.
- c. She is the type of person that doesn't like change.
- d. She is not handling the move very well.

2. Which sentence from the passage best supports your answer?

- a. "Sarah soon noticed that they were headed straight into Whelan's poorest section.
- b. "Are you going the right way, Daddy?" she asked.
- c. "Her parents had explained to Sarah that their house in the town wouldn't be as nice as the one they'd had on the farm. But even so, she couldn't wait to see it."
- d. "So that's what Daddy was up to. It was April Fool's Day!

3. Why did Sarah think that her dad was playing a April Fools' Day prank on her?

- a. Her father was a jokester.
- b. Her parents were being really quiet.
- c. She was surprised to see that they were headed to the poor section of the town.
- d. She noticed the date on the newspaper.

4. Which sentence(s) from the passage best supports your answer?

- a. "When she noticed the date in the upper right-hand corner, she smiled and bit her lip. So that's what Daddy was up to. It was April Fool's Day! The date, April 1, 1932, was there in plain sight."
- b. "Are we going the right way, Daddy?" she asked. "Yes, Sarah," said her father. "We'll be there soon."
- c. "Sarah glanced up at Mama. Her eyes were red. She has been crying off and on since they left the farm half hour ago."
- d. "There will be so many things to do here, she thought."

5. As it is used in the paragraph above, what does the word "craned" mean?

- a. a large, tall, machine used to move heavy objects
- b. a type of bird
- c. to hide behind an object
- d. to stretch out as to see something

6. Which words from the excerpt best supports your answer?

- a. "the house"
- b. "peer around"
- c. "her parents"

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Excerpt 2

As daddy drove on another block or two, Sarah noticed that the houses looked worse, scarcely more than shacks. No Larger or better built than some of the old outbuildings on their farm. And here the streets weren't paved, and there were no sidewalks.

Daddy stopped in front of an unpainted shack that could have passed for their farm's machinery shed.

"Well, this is it," he said.

Sarah studies his face. From the expression in his eyes she knew better than to ask if this was some kind of joke. He wore the same glassy-eyed look that had come over him when he realized he couldn't save the farm.

Daddy sighed, grasped Sarah's shoulders, and looked into her face. "I'm sorry, but this is where we'll have to live until your mother and I find work of some kind. Let's hope it won't be for long. Sarah swallowed the lump rising in her throat and fought back her tears.

Mama took her hand and opened the door, and pulled her out of the truck. "Let's go in and take a look." As they walked toward the shack, Sarah couldn't hold back crying any longer. Mama's arms wrapped around her. "These are hard times for us, dear. We've tried to explain that to you. It's the Depression."

"But Mama! I didn't know we were this poor."

"The farm was all we had, Sarah, and now it's gone."

Mama patted her back. "Just remember, honey. All that really matters is that we're healthy and together. And things will work out for us. I know they will. We won't be staying here long." Sarah buried her face in the softness of mama's coat and breathed in its wooly smell. From what her parents had said about the house, she knew it wouldn't be fancy, but never for a moment had she expected anything this bad.

As daddy drove on another block or two, Sarah noticed that the houses looked worse, scarcely more than shacks. No Larger or better built than some of the old outbuildings on their farm. And here the streets weren't paved, and there were no sidewalks.

Daddy stopped in front of an unpainted shack that could have passed for their farm's machinery shed.

7. What does the description of the town in the space above tell the reader about what's happening to Sarah and her family? Use textual evidence to support your thinking.

He wore the same glassy-eyed look that had come over him when he realized he couldn't save the farm.

Daddy sighed, grasped Sarah's shoulders, and looked into her face. "I'm sorry, but this is where we'll have to live until your mother and I find work f some kind. Let's hope it won't be for long. "Sarah swallowed the lump rising in her throat and fought back her tears.

Mama took her hand and opened the door, and pulled her out of the truck. "Let's go in and take a look." As they walked toward the shack, Sarah couldn't hold back crying any longer. Mama's arms wrapped around her. "These are hard times for us, dear. We've tried to explain that to you. It's the Depression."

"But Mama! I didn't know we were this poor."

8. What do the events described above mainly show?

- a. Sarah is realizing that their new home is going to be very different than living on the farm.
- b. Sarah's dad is playing an April Fool's Day joke on her.
- c. Sarah is realizing the seriousness of her family's situation
- d. Sarah is unaware of what is going on.

9. Write a sentence from the expert that best supports your answer?

Daddy sighed, grasped Sarah's shoulders, and looked into her face. "I'm sorry, but this is where we'll have to live until your mother and I find work of some kind. Let's hope it won't be for long." Sarah swallowed the lump rising in her throat and fought back her tears.

Mama took her hand and opened the door, and pulled her out of the truck. "Let's go in and take a look." As they walked toward the shack, Sarah couldn't hold back crying any longer. Mama's arms wrapped around her. "These are hard times for us, dear. We've tried to explain that to you. It's the Depression."

"But Mama! I didn't know we were this poor."

10. Which of the following best states the theme of The Bread Winner?

- a. Farm Life
- b. Friendship
- c. Facing Challenges
- d. Honesty

11. Write a sentence from the excerpt above that best supports your answer?

12. How do Sarah's feelings in the first excerpt compare to her feelings in the second excerpt?

- a. At first, Sarah was upset about the move, and then when she saw the new house, she was very excited.
- b. At first, Sarah was very excited about the move, later she was even more excited when her and her family arrived to the town.
- c. At first, Sarah was excited about the move, later she became upset when she realized her new home was in the poor section of town.
- d. At first, Sarah refused to move, later she became more and more excited about it.

13. Which sentences from both excerpts best supports your answer?

- a. "Excited and impatient, Sarah fidgeted in her seat between Mama and Daddy."
"Let's go in and take a look."
- b. "There will be so many things to do, she thought"
"Sarah studied his face."
- c. "But even so, she couldn't wait to see it."
"But mama! I didn't know we were this poor."

14. How does the setting change from the first excerpt to the second?

- a. Sarah and her family are on a train in the first excerpt. In the second excerpt they arrived into town.
- b. In the first excerpt, Sarah and her family are on their farm . In the second excerpt they arrived into town.
- c. Sarah and her family are in a truck in the first excerpt. In the second excerpt they arrived at their farm.
- d. In the first excerpt, Sarah and her family are on a truck driving away from the farm . In the second excerpt they arrived into town.

15. Circle 2 sentences that best support your answer.

As daddy drove another block or two, Sarah noticed that the houses looked worse, scarcely more than shacks.

Their furniture, piled high in back of their Model T truck, rattled as they bumped across the railroad tracks.

Daddy stopped the truck in front of an unpainted shack that could have passed for their farm's machinery shed.

I'm sorry, but this is where we'll have to live until your mother and I find work of some kind.

As daddy drove on another block or two, Sarah noticed that the houses looked worse, **scarcely** more than shacks. No Larger or better built than some of the old outbuildings on their farm. And here the streets weren't paved, and there were no sidewalks.

16. As it is used in the paragraph above, what does the word "scarcely" mean?

- a. a short time
- b. hardly
- c. unlikely
- d. exactly

17. Which words from the excerpt best supports your answer?

- a. "more than shacks"
- b. "another block"
- c. "Sarah noticed"
- d. "looked worse"

18. What do readers learn about Sarah when she places her face in her Mom’s coat and breathes in? Use details from the text to support your thinking.

The Great Depression

After World War I, in the 1920s, the United States economy¹ was booming. The nickname for the 1920s is the “Roaring twenties” because wealth seemed to be everywhere. The wealth was really just an illusion.



Black Tuesday

On October 29, 1929, the United States stock market² crashed. The prices of companies on the stock market had skyrocketed to unrealistic amounts. Companies just weren't worth that much. When people wanted to get their money out of the stock market, the companies had nothing to give them. Money no longer had the same value. People that had once been working class citizens were now poor. Soon, many people lost their jobs. The day became known as Black Tuesday. It was the first day of the Great Depression. When an area goes through a time of very little business activity, it is called a depression. The stock market crash was so bad that the depression it caused was the worst the U.S. had ever experienced. As a result, the time period became known as The Great Depression. During The Great Depression, many people lost their jobs. They even lost their farms and homes. People could not feed their families. Poverty, disease and starvation affected most of the nation.

Scarcity

To most Americans, the Great Depression was a time of scarcity³. All of a sudden, the economic boom of the 1920s ended. In 1929, all of this wealth collapsed and people had trouble finding work and even finding food. Banks had to close because they just did not have enough money to give people. When banks closed, several people lost their entire life savings. By 1932, on out of every four Americans was unemployed. By 1933, the money value of the New York Stock Exchange was only one fifth of what it had been in 1929. The United States did not fully recover from the Great Depression until the beginning of World War II.



¹**economy**- the careful use of money, resources, and means of production

²**stock market**-A market that involves trading parts of companies instead of other goods. Individuals can buy part of a company and then share in the profit that the company makes. But if the company loses money, the individual will lose money too.

³**scarcity**-lack, not having enough

Prose Constructed Response

Explain the events that led to the decline of the United States economy and the effect it had on the American people during the time of the Great Depression.

In your essay, be sure to include:

- the causes of the Great Depression
- the effect it had on people living in the United States at that time

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.