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5th Grade Reading Quiz

Fifth Grade Reading
Quiz

Practice Test

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

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Grasshoppers Cause Problems in Western U.S.

In some places in the West, you couldn't step without squashing dozens of grasshoppers. There were millions of them, people say. A lot more grasshoppers than usual hatched this year because of dry, hot weather. And millions of grasshoppers meant big problems for farmers.

The grasshoppers traveled in huge bunches called *swarms*. The *swarms* went from field to field, eating farm crops. Workers tried to kill the *swarms* by spraying insect killer from planes. But the *swarms* covered lots of land and spraying them was difficult.

Officials say grasshoppers may be a big problem next year too. This year the grasshoppers left billions of eggs that might hatch next summer.

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1. In the second paragraph of the passage the word *swarms* is printed like this —*swarms*. It is probably printed this way because it
 - A. ends the sentence that contains the main idea of the article.
 - B. is a word which has many meanings.
 - C. makes the number of grasshoppers seem huge.
 - D. may be a new vocabulary word for the reader.
 2. The eggs left behind by grasshoppers this year will probably create a problem again next summer if
 - A. the weather is dry and hot.
 - B. workers continue to spray crops with insect killer.
 - C. farmers plant the same crops.
 - D. the grasshoppers are all killed this year.
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3. The BEST person to tell you about the damage caused to crops by grasshoppers would probably be a South Dakota

- A. police officer.
 - B. teacher.
 - C. farmer.
 - D. supermarket owner.
-

4. Which sentence is an opinion?

- A. Workers tried to kill the *swarms*.
 - B. Grasshoppers may be a big problem next year.
 - C. Millions of grasshoppers were a big problem for farmers.
 - D. Grasshoppers can eat every plant in a field.
-

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SNOWFLAKE BENTLEY

Uncle Willie's real name was Wilson Bentley. Read the story to find out more about Uncle Willie.

Uncle Willie got started looking into things when his mother gave him a microscope. I guess he must have been about 15 or so. Well, he was outside one winter day when some snowflakes fell on the glass slide of that little microscope. I wish I could have seen the look on his face when he peeked into that lens. He saw that these snowflakes had six sides, and that each was beautiful.

The old story goes that Uncle Willie ran back into the house and borrowed a piece of black velvet from his mother. Then as more and more flakes fell on its dark surface, he could tell that they all had different designs.

For the next couple of years, poor Uncle Willie kept trying to draw the pretty patterns he saw. But I hear he was a terrible artist. And the snowflakes had a habit of melting before he was more than half done.

Anyway, on his 17th birthday, Uncle Willie got a big surprise. His whole family had scrimped and saved all year to buy him a new-fangled camera. It cost what was a small fortune in those days – one hundred dollars! But it could take pictures through a microscope.

Uncle Willie tried for two years to get just the pictures he wanted. No luck. But I still have a newspaper clipping that shows what Uncle Willie wrote in his notebook one special night: “January 15, 1885. Temperature 21-27°F, loud wind SW, snowfall about five inches, general storm, dark and cloudy. First snow crystals ever photomicrographed.” He had finally done it!

For the next 40 years or so, Uncle Willie never stopped taking pictures of snowflakes. And he never stopped studying them either. In fact, he came to know more about snowflakes than anyone else in the world. It tickled him pink to be called “The Snowflake Man.”

We'd sit and listen for hours while he told us how he'd taught himself to take better pictures. He found out he had to hold his breath so that it wouldn't melt the snowflakes he was shooting. And he figured out that moving snowflakes with a pin-pointed rod was better than moving them with a feather. But my favorite story was how he had to rig up lines and pulleys to work his camera. His own arms were too short!

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You know it was funny, but Uncle Willie never cared a bit about all the money he could have earned. He just asked enough to pay for his work. People everywhere bought his pictures to copy the designs. Snowflakes showed up on everything from jewelry to wallpaper. He was world-famous, but he never changed. He took almost 6000 photographs – with that same old camera he got when he was 17.

But Uncle Willie did have a special dream come true. When he was in his sixties, one of the books he had written finally was published. It was all about those snowflakes he loved so much.

5. The author thinks that Uncle Willie was a special person MAINLY because he

- A. started his own business and became rich.
 - B. could draw patterns of the snowflakes he saw.
 - C. was good at inventing and using camera equipment.
 - D. was curious about nature and shared his interest with others.
-

6. Even with the right equipment, what makes photographing snowflakes MOST difficult?

- A. They are so small.
 - B. They break easily.
 - C. They melt quickly.
 - D. They are all different.
-

7. Uncle Willie first began photographing snowflakes when he was about

- A. 15 years old.
 - B. 17 years old.
 - C. 40 years old.
 - D. 60 years old.
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8. Which BEST describes the author's writing?

- A. relaxed and friendly
 - B. serious and businesslike
 - C. silly and teasing
 - D. sad and regretful
-

9. Which sentence from the story helps you BEST understand Uncle Willie?

- A. "And he was really happy, doing what he liked best."
 - B. "Uncle Willie never cared a bit about all the money he could have earned."
 - C. "I hear he was a terrible artist."
 - D. "In fact, he came to know more about snowflakes than anyone else in the world."
-

10. Uncle Willie spent a lot of time inventing new equipment because

- A. he did not care about money.
 - B. inventing things was what he enjoyed most.
 - C. he needed the equipment to photograph snowflakes.
 - D. that was what he was paid to do.
-

11. Which did Uncle Willie probably consider to be his greatest accomplishment?

- A. inventing new camera equipment
 - B. selling beautiful photographs of snowflakes
 - C. publishing a book about snowflakes
 - D. sharing his love of snowflakes with others
-

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12. How did Uncle Willie feel about being called “The Snowflake Man”?

- A. surprised
 - B. honored
 - C. insulted
 - D. disappointed
-

The Atlanta Community Theater presents

West Side Story

13. This passage was written to

- A. discuss something.
 - B. provide information.
 - C. examine something.
 - D. provide entertainment.
-

14. If someone wanted to attend the theater, what important information is missing?

- A. the names of the actors
 - B. the name of the director
 - C. the name of the producer
 - D. the address of the theater
-

15. The theater group that presents this play is from

- A. Atlanta.
 - B. Broadway.
 - C. New York.
 - D. the West Side.
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“Come experience America’s classic musical!”

16. Which word in this sentence shows something belongs to someone or something?

- A. Come
 - B. classic
 - C. musical
 - D. America’s
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