

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## READING

*This test has twenty-five questions. Read each passage/story and choose the best answer for each question. Fill in the circle in the spaces provided for questions 1 through 25 on your answer sheet.*

### The Lion and the Mouse

Once a lion captured a mouse and was about to eat it. "Spare me!" cried the mouse. "I am but a small mouthful to you, yet my family needs and loves me. If you let me go, I will help you in return." The lion did not think that anything so small could ever help him, but he was touched by the tiny creature's plight and amused by the bold claim of future aid, so he decided to let the mouse go.

Years later, the lion was captured by some men. He was all tied up in a cage when the mouse came by and saw him. When the men went to sleep, the mouse slipped into the cage and gnawed through the ropes. Later, when the men opened the cage, the lion was able to escape. The mouse had saved the creature who had spared him, thereby proving that kindness will be rewarded.

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1. Which phrase best describes the time element of the story's plot?
  - A. story takes place within one 24-hour period
  - B. lion releases mouse—years pass—mouse rescues lion
  - C. lion releases mouse—weeks pass—mouse rescues lion
  - D. lion releases mouse—mouse rescues lion
  
2. What happens at the climax of this story?
  - A. The mouse is trapped by the lion.
  - B. The men tie up the lion and cage him.
  - C. The lion chuckles at the mouse's boldness.
  - D. The mouse gnaws the ropes and the lion escapes.
  
3. Which characteristic cannot be attributed to the mouse?
  - A. boldness
  - B. honesty
  - C. deceitfulness
  - D. courage
  
4. This story embodies a literary strategy in which the author projects human traits onto animals or even nonliving things. This strategy is known as
  - A. metaphor.
  - B. symbolism.
  - C. hyperbole.
  - D. personification.
  
5. What is the theme of this fable?
  - A. The big and the strong usually get what they want.
  - B. Kindness will be rewarded.
  - C. Size is unimportant.
  - D. Cleverness sometimes brings about unwanted consequences.

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Read the passage below, and then answer the questions that follow.

### Wigs

Over the centuries, wigs have been popular accessories as well as a way to enhance beauty. In ancient Egypt, both men and women of nobility wore wigs on special occasions. These wigs were made of human hair, and they were usually adorned with flowers and gold ornaments. There are even paintings of dead Egyptians wearing wigs. Egyptians believed that everything needed in the afterlife must be buried with the dead.

In ancient Rome, women believed that blond hair was better than dark hair. They therefore had wigs made from the hair of blond captives.

Throughout history, the wearing of wigs was a sign of prosperity. Only the wealthy could afford elaborate wigs when they were in fashion. Such wigs could go in and out of style, often based on the whims of a king or queen. For example, King Louis XIII of France went bald at an early age, so he wore a wig of long and curly locks—and started a new fad.

In the 1700s, wigs for women were designed with support wires that raised hair three feet in the air. Some wigs even included cages with live birds and miniature ships. A woman had to be very agile to move easily in such a concoction without tipping over!

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6. Which is the best statement of the main idea of this passage?
- A. Wigs have been worn not only by the living, but also by dead people.
  - B. Kings, queens, and people of wealth have dominated wig fashions.
  - C. Throughout history, people have worn wigs to improve their looks.
  - D. Wig styles have at times become ridiculous.
7. The author's perspective could be described as
- A. disinterested
  - B. fanatical
  - C. objective
  - D. resentful
8. The author has grouped ideas in paragraphs on the basis of
- A. length
  - B. dialogue
  - C. contrasting ideas
  - D. historical period
9. In the first sentence, the word *accessories* probably means
- A. basic articles of clothing.
  - B. types of hats.
  - C. articles of clothing that aren't necessary but add style or beauty.
  - D. things that change over time, instead of staying the same.
10. A good title for this story would be
- A. The Living and the Dead
  - B. Out of Their Minds
  - C. Accessories of All Kinds
  - D. Wigs for the Ages

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Read the poem below, and then answer the questions that follow.

**A Bird Came Down the Walk**

by Emily Dickinson

He did not know I saw—  
He bit an Angleworm in halves  
And ate the fellow, raw,  
  
And then he drank a Dew  
From a convenient Grass—  
And then hopped sidewise to the Wall  
To let a Beetle pass—  
  
He glanced with rapid eyes  
That hurried all around—  
They looked like frightened Beads, I thought—  
He stirred his Velvet Head  
  
Like one in danger, Cautious,  
I offered him a Crumb  
And he unrolled his feathers  
And rowed him softer home—  
  
Than Oars divide the Ocean,  
Too silver for a seam —  
Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon  
Leap, splashless as they swim.

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11. What poetic device does the poet use to compare the bird's eyes to something else?
- A. pun
  - B. metaphor
  - C. rhyme
  - D. simile
12. With what does the poet compare the sky in the last two stanzas?
- A. a desert
  - B. the ocean
  - C. a grassy meadow
  - D. a mountain
13. What sense does the imagery in this poem most appeal to?
- A. sight
  - B. sound
  - C. smell
  - D. touch
14. The tone of the poem is best described as
- A. thoughtful.
  - B. frantic.
  - C. comic.
  - D. sorrowful.
15. Which sentence best describes the theme of the poem?
- A. Birds are fun to watch.
  - B. It is unwise to feed wild creatures.
  - C. Birds and butterflies are quite similar.
  - D. Nature is full of danger—and beauty.

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Read the passage below, and then answer the questions that follow.

### Using Your Hotshot Electric Screwdriver

Your Hotshot electric screwdriver comes with 7 different bits (interchangeable screwdriver tips). Before using the screwdriver, you must choose an appropriate bit.

**CAUTION:** To install a bit, as instructed below, first remove the Hotshot battery pack.

With the battery pack removed, position the screwdriver so that the broad handle end is resting on a flat surface and the drill point is pointed up. Insert the square end of the bit in the square hole at the tool tip. Apply pressure until the bit clicks in place. Reload the battery pack, checking to see that it is locked firmly into the tool. Hold the tip of the tool away from you, and press the two trigger points, one with your forefinger and the other with your thumb. The drill tip should spin, allowing you to install a screw.

**NOTE:** The tool is set by default to drill a screw *into* wood or other material. To *back out* a screw, first click the blue button on the top of the tool. This button is a toggle. Use it each time you want to change direction of the drilling motion.

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## READING

16. Suppose you decide to buy the Hotshot Electric Screwdriver. When would you be likely to read these instructions?
- A. when you are shopping in stores for the best price
  - B. when you open up the package
  - C. the first time you use the tool
  - D. after you have used the tool for one year
17. How are the instructions written to keep new users safe?
- A. Users are provided relevant safety information in the NOTE.
  - B. Users are alerted to the reverse toggle blue button.
  - C. Users are cautioned to remove the battery pack before installing a bit.
  - D. Users are prompted to check that the battery pack is locked into place.
18. How do you know which end of the bit to insert in the tool?
- A. The instructions say to insert the pointed end.
  - B. The square end of the bit fits into the square hole at the tip of the tool.
  - C. There is writing on the end to be inserted.
  - D. The picture shows what to do.
19. What organizational technique has the writer of this instructional manual used?
- A. cause and effect relationships
  - B. logical argument
  - C. steps in a process
  - D. comparison and contrast
20. Based on the context, what is the best definition for *toggle*?
- A. switch that reverses the direction each time it is engaged
  - B. any button on an electrical device
  - C. switch that controls electrical supply
  - D. a type of bit

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*Read the passage below, and then answer the questions that follow.*

### The Game of Chess

No one knows for certain when the game of chess was invented. An incipient form of the game was popular around AD 1000. The modern game was developed in southern Europe a few centuries later.

Players in the 1500s wanted others to study their games in order to become better players. The best players were proclaimed "masters" and were highly honored. Books on chess were soon being read all over the world, and the game grew in popularity.

After the Russian Revolution of 1917, the government of the Soviet Union deliberately set out to dominate world chess. It set up a program of chess education for children and offered financial support to the country's best players. Russian players dominated the game throughout the 1900s.

Computer programs that play chess first appeared in the 1960s, but these programs were no match for the top human players. It was not until 1997 that a chess computer called Deep Blue was able to defeat world champion Garry Kasparov in a match. Although Kasparov managed to veil his disappointment, he surely must have felt embarrassed at losing to a machine.

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21. In the first paragraph, what does *incipient* probably mean?
- primitive
  - popular
  - elaborate
  - difficult
22. The author's method of organizing the content can be described as
- comparing similar things.
  - documenting the steps of a process.
  - presenting details in chronological order.
  - comparing dissimilar things.
23. Which would be the best title for this reading selection?
- A Short History of Chess
  - Russians and Chess
  - Kasparov and the Computer
  - Chess Masters Past and Present
24. In the final paragraph, the word *veil* is used as what part of speech?
- noun
  - adverb
  - verb
  - adjective
25. The author's purpose in writing this selection was probably to
- entertain.
  - give directions.
  - persuade.
  - inform.

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