Student Team Literature
Standardized Reading Practice Test

The Library Card
(Scholastic: Apple Signature Edition, 1997)
Sample Questions

Reading Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: Synonyms
Choose the word that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE A
Dread is the same as:
A  fear
B  joy
C  excitement
D  concern

DIRECTIONS: Multiple-Meaning Words
Read the sentence in the box. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE B
“Weasel left everything on the ground—paint cans, roller, roller pan—and walked away.”

In which sentence does the word ground mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
F  Momma bought some ground beef at the store to make spaghetti sauce.
G  Dad said he would ground me for a week if I didn’t go straight home after school.
H  I found three quarters lying on the ground, so I picked them up and bought a candy bar.
J  Ms. Turner said that in math class today we would be covering new ground that we didn’t learn last year.

DIRECTIONS: Context Clues
As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE C
Light scrambled across the screen as an announcer’s carnival voice brayed: “It’s! The! Dennison Twins!” Brayed means -
A  whispered softly
B  begged
C  guessed
D  shouted loudly

DIRECTIONS
Read the passage. Then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the best answer. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE D
“My mother said it was a good thing I had [a library card], letting me bring books home, because otherwise I would never leave the library, because I couldn’t stop reading. She would have to bring my meals to the library and send along my stuffed red hippo so I could sleep right. We used to laugh about that.”

We can conclude from this passage that the narrator
F  is not allowed to borrow books from the library.
G  has a good relationship with her mother.
H  doesn’t enjoy reading.
J  usually sleeps with a teddy bear.
The Library Card
Standardized Reading Practice Test: “Mongoose”

Reading Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: Synonyms
Choose the word that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

1. Baffled means:
   A noisy
   B upset
   C confused
   D scared

2. A skeptical person is:
   F doubtful
   G highly intelligent
   H easy to fool
   J trustworthy

3. Colossal means:
   A huge
   B beautiful
   C delicious
   D surprising

DIRECTIONS: Multiple-meaning words
Read the sentence in the box. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

4. Weasel wanted to march up to Mongoose’s and pound on the door and ask, “Who said my mother could stop me?”

   In which sentence does the word pound mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

   F My mother sent me to the store for a pound of macaroni salad.
   G Mrs. Foster asked Animal Control to come and take the stray dog in the alley away to the pound before it bit someone.
   H Mr. Henderson used a big hammer to pound the stakes for the fence into the ground.
   J English people use the British pound as their unit of money rather than the American dollar.

DIRECTIONS: Context Clues
As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

5. The man might have packed up his stupid three-legged contraption and gotten off their roof if Mongoose had not asked to look through it. Contraption means -
   A dog
   B folding chair
   C table
   D piece of equipment

6. Giggles and yips of delight erupted all around Weasel. Voices asked, “Who did it?” Erupted means -
   F became quiet
   G burst out
   H thundered
   J sighed
Mongoose put his glove back on and again peered into the spyglass.

“That galaxy you’re looking at,” said the [telescope] man, “it’s actually moving farther and farther away. It’s racing away from us at about ninety thousand miles per hour.”

Weasel scoffed, “That ain’t nothin’. Soon’s I get my ragtop—”

No one was listening.

“It’s a big world out there,” the man was saying, sweeping his hand across the sky.

“How big?” asked Mongoose.


The man turned his back and looked out over the roof, the treetops. “Nobody knows for sure.”

Weasel went to the other side [of the roof]. “Hey, Goose,” he called, “some people comin’ by. Come on over, we’ll spit bomb ’em.”

But Mongoose was somewhere else, calling, “Weaz, c’mere. Look at this!”

Weasel stood at the roof’s edge, as he had so many times before. The town—his town—lay before him. Now that’s what a roof was for, to look down from, to check out your territory, to feel the size of yourself.

“Weaz! It’s the moon! I’m seeing the moon! You won’t believe it! It’s like I can touch it! C’mere!”

Weasel’s heart sank.

7 Which of the following does this passage give us the most information about?
   A Mongoose’s feelings
   B Weasel’s feelings
   C the telescope man’s feelings
   D the weather

8 Mongoose and the telescope man are not listening to Weasel because
   F they are trying to make Weasel feel bad.
   G they are not interested in cars.
   H they are too excited about the things they could see in the sky.
   J they are thoughtless, rude people.

9 Which of the following is not a true statement about Weasel’s feelings in this passage?
   A He is worried about what is happening to his friendship with Mongoose.
   B He is pleased to be up on the roof looking down at the people in the town.
   C He is jealous because he senses that Mongoose is pulling away from him.
   D He is respectful of Mongoose and his new interest in science facts.

10 Based on this passage, which of the following is a statement of fact?
   F Some galaxies travel at up to ninety thousand miles an hour.
   G If you are on a rooftop, it is more fun to look down on the people below than to look up at the sky.
   H The night sky is a fascinating world to explore.
   J Losing a friend is the most painful thing a person can experience.
The Library Card
Standardized Reading Practice Test: “Brenda”

Reading Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: Synonyms
Choose the word that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

1. An ordeal is:
   A  a good bargain
   B  an exciting show
   C  a painful experience
   D  a happy occasion

2. To devour something is to:
   F  be very upset about it
   G  completely destroy it
   H  draw a picture of it
   J  eat it hungrily

3. Earnestly means:
   A  seriously
   B  angrily
   C  carelessly
   D  patiently

DIRECTIONS: Multiple-meaning words
Read the sentence in the box. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

4. Brenda grabbed the binoculars, she looked across the street to the Hurleys’ house. The shades were drawn.
   In which sentence does the word shades mean the same thing as in the sentence above?
   F  The canopy on top of the stroller shades the baby’s head when the sun is hot.
   G  When Mother opened the shades, sunlight filled my room, waking me up.
   H  Jaquina chose fabric in different shades of blue for the new dress her mother was going to make her.
   J  Mrs. Humphreys told us there are several shades of meaning to this word, so we have to be careful how we use it.

DIRECTIONS: Context Clues
As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

5. As she followed Brenda about, the woman every so often glanced at Mrs. Foster with a bemused look, as if to say, “What do you feed this daughter of yours?”
   Bemused means -
   A  puzzled
   B  furious
   C  frightened
   D  mocking

6. The look of dazed stupefaction on Brenda’s face—as if she were not here, but there—chilled her mother’s spirit.
   Stupefaction means -
   F  alertness
   G  confusion
   H  excitement
   J  anger
Though Brenda loved television, she understood little of how it worked. But she did know that invisible signals sent from TV stations were filling the sky, waiting to be snared by anyone with an antenna and a plugged-in set. She imagined she could faintly hear the signals, her beloved Bottoms Up and The Flirtstones and Married... With Fleas whistling like feathered arrows to the blessed homes of people without children.

She knew she had hit bottom when she realized she was willing to watch Bowling for Dollars. She grabbed the binoculars, she looked across the street to the Hurleys'. The shades were drawn.

The sun went down. Night fell. The moon rose.

Siss Boom Bimbo
The Magic Pizza
Dude Feud

Show signals hummed overhead. Show signals sang across the stars.
Brenda’s father had left behind the rabbit ears antenna to her TV. Brenda opened her window. She held the rabbit ears outside. She closed her eyes. She wiped all thoughts from her mind, made her mind as blank, as ready as a plugged-in TV screen.

Nothing.

She put the base of the rabbit ears in her mouth. She leaned out as far as she could into the night.

Nothing. Not so much as a test pattern. (pages 66-67)

7 We can guess that this story probably takes place
A before most people had television.
B before cable television was widespread.
C in the winter.
D before there were game shows on television.

8 Brenda leans out the window with the rabbit ears antenna because
F she wants to look at the television in the Hurleys’ house across the street.
G she wants people in the street to look at her.
H she wants to catch the TV signals and see the picture in her mind.
J her room is too hot and she wants to get some fresh air.

9 This selection ends with the words, “Nothing. Not so much as a test pattern.” We can guess that at this point, Brenda probably feels
A relieved.
B encouraged.
C disappointed.
D concerned.

10 Brenda’s television addiction seen in this selection is highly exaggerated. Such exaggeration is also called
F hyperbole.
G foreshadowing.
H flashback.
J personification.
The Library Card
Standardized Reading Practice Test: “Sonseray”

Reading Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: Synonyms
Choose the word that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

1. Futile means:
   A  strange
   B  useless
   C  kind
   D  dangerous

2. An arrogant person is:
   F  cheerful
   G  foolish
   H  quiet and shy
   J  proud and cocky

3. To demolish something means:
   A  to completely destroy it
   B  to show how it works
   C  to make it smooth
   D  to enjoy it very much

DIRECTIONS: Context Clues
As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

5. Impaled means -
   A  speared
   B  crushed
   C  faded
   D  rotting

6. Adamantly means -
   F  weakly
   G  firmly
   H  angrily
   J  jokingly

The kids seemed tied to an invisible string that kept drawing them back to their mothers like yo-yos.

In which sentence does the word drawing mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

F  The artist spent the afternoon drawing in his sketchbook.
G  The hot dog stand was drawing the largest crowd at the carnival.
H  I bought a pencil drawing of my dog from a street vendor.
J  The community center held a drawing to give away a trip to Disney World.
“Sonseray...”

The voice called from his bedroom doorway, drifting in with the smell of grilling bacon from the kitchen, or was it pancakes? He rolled luxuriously into his pillow, stretched himself lazily along his bed. Sundust danced on a teddy bear’s nose.

“Sonseray...”

[Sonseray] jerked awake, instantly upright, eyes wide, sweeping, searching. She was gone, as usual. Everything was gone - doorway, kitchen smell, teddy bear. The pillow was his own arm, the bed a backseat oozing yellowed foam. Time was, he would have burst from the car and raced down the street, as if he could catch the voice, the face in the doorway. He didn’t do that any more. He was getting older.

Breakfast was on the dashboard. A Baby Ruth. He had not heard Jack get up and leave. But now he did hear footsteps and squeals and a voice calling, “Stop!” And now there were thumps on the car and two small faces, noses mashed against the windows, staring in at him. He grabbed the candy bar.

The faces, little kids, boy and girl, twisted themselves into goofy shapes and called him to come out. Above them appeared a third face, an older girl. He tore the wrapper and took a bite of Baby Ruth. He made a point of chewing with his mouth open as the little kids screamed and pounded on the window.

7 This selection is written from a third person limited point of view. Which character’s inner thoughts and feelings does it tell us about?
A the older girl
B Sonseray’s mother
C Sonseray
D Jack

8 The first five lines of this selection are written in italics. From the paragraph that follows them, we can guess that the lines written in italics describe
F Sonseray’s dreams about something that happened the day before.
G Sonseray’s dreams about something that happened a long time ago.
H a story that Sonseray is making up in his mind.
J a story that Sonseray is telling the children.

9 The T-chart below shows some of the differences between Sonseray’s old life and his life now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sonseray’s Old Life</th>
<th>Sonseray’s Life Now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pancakes or bacon</td>
<td>a Baby Ruth bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a warm bed</td>
<td>the backseat of a car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a pillow</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the following belongs in the space marked “X”?  
A Sonseray’s arm  
B a teddy bear  
C the dashboard  
D yellowed foam

10 The main reason the writer included this passage in the story is probably
F to show that Sonseray has bad manners.
G to show that Sonseray and Jack do not eat healthy food.
H to give a hint about Sonseray’s age.
J to show that Sonseray’s life has not always been the way it is now.
### DIRECTIONS: Synonyms

Choose the word that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

1. **To hoist something means:**
   - A to drag it along
   - B to catch it
   - C to steal it
   - D to lift it up

2. **Something that is transformed is:**
   - F powered by batteries
   - G completely changed
   - H moved to a different place
   - J shaped by hand

3. **Sarcastically means:**
   - A seriously
   - B firmly
   - C mockingly
   - D sorrowfully

### DIRECTIONS: Multiple-meaning words

Read the sentence in the box. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

4. **In which sentence does the word block mean the same thing as in the sentence above?**
   - F My school is only a little over a block from our apartment building.
   - G I handed my little nephew a blue square block to put on the top of the tower he had built.
   - H Jamar rushed across the football field to block the pass before it reached me.
   - J Our group bought a block of tickets for the concert so we could all sit together.

### DIRECTIONS: Context Clues

As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

5. **The bookmobile driver swiveled around, and the table behind her became a check-in/check-out counter. Swiveled means -**
   - A jumped
   - B looked
   - C turned
   - D danced

6. **Then brakes were screaming and gasping and half a city block beyond me the bus came to a halt.**

   - F smiling
   - G winking
   - H singing
   - J frowning
Now, do these mountains of horse dung stay outside where they belong? Oh no. The workers shovel it inside, into long low buildings, because that’s where mushrooms like to grow. In the dark.

In spite of their taste, in spite of the smell, maybe I could stand to live with mushrooms if at least they grew in the sunshine like everything else. But they don’t, and that makes them creepy, evil, the werewolves of the plant world. Sometimes I think they’re in cahoots with the moon. Sometimes at night I feel them out there in their long low houses, silently oozing their little round white faces up out of their dark, smelly blankets: the moon and her million babies. I get the willies.

“It’s your imagination running away with you,” says my mother. Maybe so, but the stories I hear around here don’t help either. Weird stories about mushrooms and their dark powers and how they can grow anywhere, wherever it’s dark and there’s the smallest speck of dirt. I had a nightmare once that I awoke to find them sprouting from between my toes.

So I never have to be told to take a shower; instead, I usually have to be told to get out. I try to keep my dark places lit up. I lie outside on a blanket in my bathing suit. I keep my arms upraised. I make sure both ears get a turn at the sun, and I spread my toes apart with jelly beans.

I don’t think it’s going to get better when school starts next week. I hear they call people like me “mushies.”

Maybe I could stand all this if there was a library around. In New York City the library was only two blocks from our apartment. Whenever I felt bad, that’s where I went. In fact, I went there when I felt good too. I was there every day. I got mad one time at Christmas when I found out the library was closed.

(pages 124-125)

7. Which of the following is not a good conclusion about the narrator of this passage?
   A. She used to live in New York City.
   B. She likes going to the library.
   C. She likes hearing stories about mushrooms.
   D. She has a lot of imagination.

8. The main reason the narrator thinks that mushrooms are creepy and evil is that
   F. they grow in horse dung.
   G. they don’t taste good.
   H. they smell bad.
   J. they grow in the dark.

9. The expression “get the willies” is used in the second paragraph to mean
   A. get excited.
   B. get scared.
   C. get silly.
   D. get angry.

10. How does the narrator feel about starting at a new school next week?
    F. She is excited because she hopes there will be a library there.
    G. She is happy because she expects to make many new friends.
    H. She is afraid she will be teased about living on a mushroom farm.
    J. She is worried about the schoolwork being too hard.