

Student Team Literature
Standardized Reading Practice Test

Number the Stars
(Dell Yearling Books, 1989)

Reading Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS

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

SAMPLE A

To act reluctantly means to act

- A unwillingly.
- B angrily.
- C foolishly.
- D slowly.

1. During an enemy occupation, the enemy

- A gives everyone a job.
- B moves in and takes over.
- C builds new houses.
- D teaches everyone their language.

2. Massive means

- F tentative.
- G shabby.
- H bulky.
- J dangerous.

3. A gnarled rope is

- A thick.
- B twisted.
- C strong.
- D frayed.

4. A sophisticated person is

- F sullen and mean.
- G silly and childish.
- H imperious and haughty.
- J refined and mature.

5. Briskly means the same as

- A quickly.
- B abruptly.
- C stubbornly.
- D booming.

6. When you linger, you

- F cause trouble.
- G stay longer.
- H become sick.
- J leave quickly.

7. A condescending remark is

- A snobbish.
- B careless.
- C complimentary.
- D sassy.

8. Integrity is the same as

- F indignity.
- G infancy.
- H honesty.
- J urgency.

9. Awe means

- A scorn and disrespect
- B pain and torment.
- C fear and wonder.
- D hatred and contempt.

10. When the waves subsided, they

- F dashed against the rocks.
- G flooded the beach.
- H became less.
- J stopped completely.

DIRECTIONS

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

“Annemarie looked up panting, just as she reached the corner. Her laughter stopped. Her heart seemed to skip a beat.”

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

- A** Martin beat his fists on the ground in anger.
- B** Jackie felt the beat of her pulse in her wrist.
- C** Christy beat her brother at chess.
- D** Officer Wright is a familiar sight in the neighborhood as he walks his beat.

11.

“He prodded the corner of her backpack with the stock of his rifle.”

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

- A** When Ned cleaned his gun, he oiled it and polished the stock and barrel.
- B** Father reads about a company in which he plans to buy stock before he invests his money.
- C** As a stock boy, Tom sweeps the floor and replenishes the shelves.
- D** Settlers depended on their animal stock for milk, meat, and hides.

12.

“How the people of Denmark loved King Christian! He was not like fairy tale kings, who seemed to stand on balconies giving orders to their subjects....”

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

- F** The sergeant subjects his soldiers to strict discipline.
- G** When “anyone” and “everybody” are subjects in a sentence, the verb is singular.
- H** English and history are my favorite subjects in school.
- J** English people are subjects of the queen; while Americans are citizens.

13.

“One evening, Papa had told her that earlier he was... standing on the corner waiting to cross the street, when King Christian came by on his morning ride.”

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

- A** Karen felt very cross when the neighbor’s shouting woke her in the middle of the night.
- B** A cross is the symbol of Christianity.
- C** When you cross the golf course, watch out for flying balls.
- D** A mule is a cross between a horse and a donkey.

14.

“...it is much easier to be brave if you do not know everything. And so your Mama does not know everything. Neither do I. We know only what we need to know.”

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

- F** Tara did not feel brave enough to run the rapids alone in her canoe.
- G** The Indian brave knew that he must kill a buffalo before he returned to the village.
- H** The fisherman tried to brave the terrible storm in his tiny boat.
- J** The knights and horses rode into the arena in splendor, brave ribbons floating out behind them.

DIRECTIONS

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

SAMPLE C

Ellen made a face. “No” she said, laughing. “You know I can’t beat you – my legs aren’t as long...” She was a stocky ten-year-old, unlike lanky Annemarie. Lanky means–

- A wide-eyed.
- B pot-bellied.
- C long-limbed.
- D undersized.

15. Quickly Annemarie reached down again and grabbed her sister’s hand before Kirsti could resist. Resist means –

- A laugh and run away.
- B take Annemarie’s hand.
- C argue and pull away.
- D sit down and cry.

16. It was hours later, but still dark, when she was awakened abruptly by the pounding on the apartment door. Abruptly means–

- F sadly.
- G suddenly.
- H slowly.
- J soberly.

17. The Danes had destroyed their own naval fleet, blowing up the vessels one by one... [they] now lay submerged and broken in the harbor. Submerged means –

- A snoring
- B shivering.
- C sunken.
- D stolen.

18. The hearse had gone, and the solemn-faced men who had carried the casket indoors had gone with it, after speaking quietly to Uncle Henrik. Casket means –

- F corpse.
- G coffin.
- H specter.
- J kroner.

19. Annemarie gave him a withering look. “You know we have no meat,” she said insolently. “Your army eats all of Denmark’s meat.” Insolently means –

- A rudely.
- B ruefully.
- C softly.
- D strangely.

20. “The hiding places are carefully concealed, and often we pile dead fish on the deck.”

Concealed means –

- F located.
- G anchored.
- H sealed.
- J hidden.

Reading Comprehension

DIRECTIONS

Read each passage, then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the best answer to the question. Circle the letter for the answer you have chosen.

Sample Questions: from chapter 2

Redheaded Peter, her sister's fiancé, had not married anyone in the years since Lise's death. He had changed a great deal. Once he had been like a fun-loving older brother to Annemarie and Kirsti, teasing and tickling, always a source of foolishness and pranks. Now he still stopped by the apartment often, and his greetings to the girls were warm and smiling, but he was usually in a hurry, talking quickly to Mama and Papa about things Annemarie didn't understand. He no longer sang the nonsense songs that had once made Annemarie and Kirsti shriek with laughter. And he never lingered anymore.

Papa had changed, too. He seemed much older and very tired, defeated.

The whole world had changed. Only the fairy tales remained the same.

1. According to this passage, what has not changed?

- A** Peter's teasing and tickling
- B** how often Peter visits
- C** Peter's foolishness and pranks.
- D** Peter's singing nonsense songs.

2. Which of the following is the best title for this passage?

- F** "Lise's Death"
- G** "Foolishness and Pranks"
- H** "The Whole World Has Changed"
- J** "Changes in Papa"

From Chapter 3: Where is Mrs. Hirsch?

But after school, when the girls stopped at the shop, which had been there as long as Annemarie could remember, they found it closed. There was a new padlock on the door, and a sign. But the sign was in German. They couldn't read the words.

"I wonder if Mrs. Hirsch is sick," Annemarie said as they walked away.

"I saw her Saturday," Ellen said. "She was with her husband and their son. They all looked just fine. Or at least the *parents* looked just fine – the son *always* looks like a horror." She giggled.

Annemarie made a face. The Hirsch family lived in the neighborhood, so they had seen the boy, Samuel, often. He was a tall teenager with thick glasses, stooped shoulders, and unruly hair. He rode a bicycle to school, leaning forward and squinting, wrinkling his nose to nudge his glasses into place. His bicycle had wooden wheels, now that rubber tires weren't available, and it creaked and clattered on the street.

"I think the Hirsches all went on vacation to the seashore," Kirsti announced.

"And I suppose they took a big basket of pink-frosted cupcakes with them," Annemarie said sarcastically to her sister.

"Yes, I suppose they did," Kirsti replied.

Annemarie and Ellen exchanged looks that meant: Kirsti is so *dumb*. No one in Copenhagen had taken a vacation at the seashore since the war began. There *were* no pink-frosted cupcakes; there hadn't been for months.

Still, Annemarie thought, looking back at the shop before they turned the corner, where was Mrs. Hirsch? The Hirsch family had *gone somewhere*. Why else would they close the shop?

Mama was troubled when she heard the news. "Are you sure?" she asked several times.... "Are you sure the sign was in German?" she asked. "Maybe you didn't look carefully."

"Mama, it had a swastika on it."

Her mother turned away with a distracted look. "Annemarie, watch your sister for a few moments. And begin to peel the potatoes for dinner. I'll be right back."

"Where are you going?" Annemarie asked as her mother started for the door.

"I want to talk to Mrs. Rosen."

Puzzled, Annemarie watched her mother leave the apartment. She went to the kitchen and opened the door to the cupboard where the potatoes were kept. Every night, now, it seemed, they had potatoes for dinner. And very little else.

1. Which of the following is an opinion?

- A A new padlock is on the door of the shop.
- B Ellen saw Mrs. Hirsch on Saturday.
- C Samuel Hirsch always looks like a horror.
- D Annemarie's family often has potatoes for dinner.

2. Which of the following is a fact?

- F The Hirsch family looked fine on Saturday.
- G The sign on the shop door is in German.
- H German is a difficult language to read.
- J Potatoes every night for dinner become boring.

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3. **From this passage, you can infer that**
- A the Hirsch family has gone on vacation.
 - B Ellen and Annemarie think Samuel Hirsch is handsome.
 - C Ellen and Annemarie can read German.
 - D Mama thinks Mrs. Rosen should know about the disappearance of the Hirsch family.
4. **Which of the following describes Mama's feelings when she hears about the sign on Mrs. Hirsch's closed shop?**
- F timid
 - G worried
 - H haughty
 - J calm

5. **Which is the most likely reason that the shop is closed?**
- A The Hirsch family has gone to the seashore.
 - B The Hirsch family has gone somewhere.
 - C Mrs. Hirsch is sick.
 - D The Germans have closed the shop.
6. **Which of the following is not hard to find in Denmark at this time?**
- F chances to vacation at the seashore
 - G rubber tires for bicycles
 - H potatoes for dinner
 - J pink-frosted cupcakes
7. **Which of the characters in this passage seems unaware of hard conditions in Copenhagen?**
- A Kirsti
 - B Mama
 - C Annemarie
 - D Ellen

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From Chapter 8: There Has Been a Death

"Tomorrow will be a day for fishing," Henrik said, his smile disappearing.

Annemarie, listening, recognized the odd phrase. Papa had said something like it on the telephone. "Is the weather good for fishing, Henrik?" Papa had asked. But what did it mean? Henrik went fishing every day, rain or shine. Denmark's fishermen didn't wait for sunny days to take their boats out and throw their nets into the sea. Annemarie, silent, sitting with Ellen under the apple tree, watched her uncle.

Mama looked at him. "The weather is right?" she asked.

Henrik nodded and looked at the sky. He smelled the air. "I will be going back to the boat tonight after supper. We will leave very early in the morning. I will stay on the boat all night.

Annemarie wondered what it would be like to be on a boat all night. To lie at anchor, hearing the sea slap against the sides. To see the stars from your place on the sea.

"You have prepared the living room?" Uncle Henrik asked suddenly.

Mama nodded. "It is cleaned, and I moved the furniture a bit to make room...."

"Prepared the living room for what?" Annemarie asked. "Why did you move the furniture?"

"Well, girls," he said, "it is a sad event, but not too sad, really, because she was very, very old. There has been a death, and tonight Great-aunt Birte will be resting in the living room, in her casket, before she is buried tomorrow. It is the old custom, you know, for the dead to rest at home, and their loved ones to be with them before burial...."

Annemarie said nothing. She was confused. This was the first she had heard of a death in the family. No one had called Copenhagen to say that there had been a death. No one had seemed sad.

And – most puzzling of all – she had never heard the name before. Great-aunt Birte. *Surely* she would have known if she had a relative by that name....

And Annemarie was quite, quite certain, though she said nothing. There was no Great-aunt Birte. She didn't exist.

8. Annemarie thinks Uncle Henrik's words "Tomorrow will be a day for fishing" are strange because

- F** every day is a fishing day for Henrik.
- G** he is planning to stay on the boat over night.
- H** she hopes she will be allowed to go with him.
- J** he always checks the weather before going fishing.

9. Which of the following does not make Annemarie suspicious about a death in the family?

- A** She has never heard of Aunt Birte.
- B** No one has called from Copenhagen so say that there has been a death.
- C** No one is sad.
- D** Mother has cleaned the living room and moved the furniture.

10. Annemarie is certain that

- F** Mama should not have moved the furniture.
- G** Great-aunt Birte does not exist.
- H** the weather tomorrow will be sunny.
- J** Papa and Mama are concerned about Henrik going fishing in bad weather.

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The T-chart below lists Uncle Henrik’s statements in this passage and Annemarie’s reactions to each one.

11. Which of the following fits in the space marked B?

- A** “We will leave very early in the morning.”
- B** “Well girls, it is a sad event, but not too sad.”
- C** “I will stay on the boat all night.”
- D** “I will be going back to the boat after supper.”

12. Which of the following items best fits in the space marked 4?

- F** Annemarie watches her uncle.
- G** Annemarie calls Copenhagen.
- H** Annemarie sits under the apple tree with Ellen.
- J** Annemarie is confused.

Uncle Henrik’s Statement	Annemarie’s Reaction
A. “Tomorrow will be a good day for fishing.”	1. Annemarie recognizes the odd phrase from hearing her father use it on the telephone.
B. ?	2. Annemarie wonders what it would be like to be on a boat all night.
C. “You have prepared the living room?”	3. Annemarie asks why her mother prepared the living room.
D. “There has been a death, and tonight your Great-aunt Birte will be resting in the living room.”	4. ?

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From Chapter 13: Run! As Fast As You Can!

“Mama, what is this?” she asked suddenly, reaching into the grass at the foot of the steps. Mama looked. She gasped, “Oh, my God,” she said.

Annemarie picked it up. She recognized it now, knew what it was. It was the packet that Peter had given to Mr. Rosen.

“Mr. Rosen tripped on the step, remember? It must have fallen from his pocket. We’ll have to save it and give it back to Peter.” Annemarie handed it to her mother. “Do you know what it is?”

Her mother didn’t answer. Her face was stricken. She looked at the path and down at her ankle.

“It’s important, isn’t it, Mama? It was for Uncle Henrik. I remember Peter said it was very important. I heard him tell Mr. Rosen.”

Her mother tried to stand, but fell back against the steps with a groan. “My God,” she murmured again. “It may all have been for nothing.”

Annemarie took the packet from her mother’s hand and stood. “I will take it,” she said. “I know the way, and it’s almost light now. I can run like the wind.”

Mama spoke quickly, her voice tense. “Annemarie, go into the house and get the small basket on the table. Quickly, quickly. Put an apple into it, and some cheese. Put this packet underneath; do you understand? *Hurry.*”

Annemarie did instantly as she was told. The basket. The packet, at the bottom. She covered it with a napkin. Then some wrapped cheese. An apple. She glanced around the kitchen, saw some bread, and added that. The little basket was full. She took it to where her mother was.

“You must run to the boat. If anyone should stop you –”

“Who would stop me?”

“Annemarie, you understand how dangerous this is. If any soldiers see you, if they stop you, you must pretend to be nothing more than a little girl. A silly, empty-headed little girl, taking lunch to a fisherman, a foolish uncle who forgot his bread and cheese.”

“Mama, what *is* it in the bottom?”

But her mother still didn’t answer the question. “Go,” she said firmly. “Go right now. And *run!* As fast as you can!”

Annemarie kissed her mother quickly, grabbed the basket from her mother’s lap, turned, and ran toward the path.

13. From this passage, you can infer that

- A** without the packet, Uncle Henrick will be in great danger.
- B** Uncle Henrick cannot sail without his lunch.
- C** Peter will be very angry with Mr. Rosen for dropping the packet.
- D** Annemarie will save the packet and return it to Peter.

14. From this passage, you can predict that

- F** Soldiers will stop Annemarie.

- G** Uncle Henrick will be happy that Annemarie has brought his lunch.
- H** Annemarie will run as fast as she can through the woods.
- J** Annemarie will discover what is in the packet.

15. The basket is important to

- A** keep Uncle Henrick safe.
- B** keep the lunch together.
- C** help Annemarie look like a little girl.
- D** hide the packet.

