

Grade 6

Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division

Student Booklet Language

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SPRING 2007

**RELEASED SELECTIONS AND
ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS**

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Please note: The format of these booklets is slightly different from that used for the assessment. The items themselves remain the same.

Guide Dogs for the Visually Impaired in Canada

Some puppies are specially raised to be guide dogs as adults. When they are seven weeks old, these puppies are placed with foster families who introduce them to different environments, such as residential areas, stores, elevators and busy streets. Soon after they turn one year old, these puppies are brought to training centres to begin their formal guide-dog training. Professional trainers are partnered with dogs in the program. The dogs and their trainers must complete tests in traffic, shopping centres and other situations to show the dog is ready for school. In guide-dog schools, visually impaired people are paired with their new guide dogs, and together they attend classes to learn how to work as a team.

The most common guide-dog breeds are the golden retriever and Labrador retriever. Guide dogs must be able to concentrate on their jobs, be quiet and calm and have a desire to please their owners.

Guide dogs are trained to respond to simple commands, such as “Right,” “Left” and “Forward.” They will refuse only when obeying the command could lead their masters into a dangerous situation.



Official Symbol of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

People prepare for three years to be guide-dog trainers. They must take written exams and show their skill at handling the dogs. “Handling” means walking the dog, giving it commands and verbal rewards and testing the dog’s awareness.

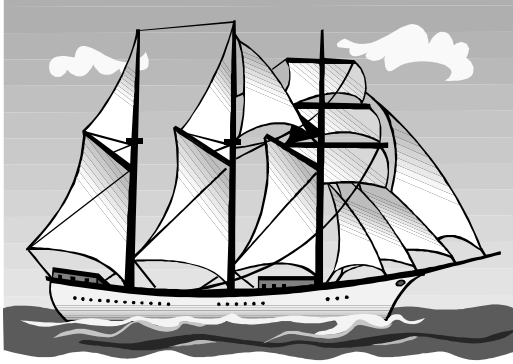
When they are working, guide dogs should not be treated as pets. If you see a guide dog wearing its harness, always ask the owner for permission if you want to pet the dog. Otherwise, the dog may not be able to concentrate on its important task of guiding its owner.

- 1** Puppies that will be trained as guide dogs are placed with foster families when they are
- A ten weeks old.
 - B four weeks old.
 - C nine weeks old.
 - D seven weeks old.
- 2** Puppies are introduced to busy areas before going to guide-dog school to show that they can
- F remain calm.
 - G be good pets.
 - H learn quickly.
 - J wear a harness.
- 3** In paragraph 1, “residential areas” is another phrase for
- A factory districts.
 - B business districts.
 - C farming communities.
 - D housing communities.
- 4** Which of these is the most appropriate heading for the box to the left of the symbol of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind?
- F “Basic Commands”
 - G “Guide-Dog Breeds”
 - H “Difficult Situations”
 - J “Obeying the Master”

5 Explain why being able to concentrate is important for a guide dog. Use information from the selection to support your answer.

6 Explain why a busy shopping centre is a good training area for guide dogs. Use information from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

The *Scourge* and the *Hamilton*



The *Scourge* and the *Hamilton* were American warships on Lake Ontario during a battle between Great Britain and America. On August 7, 1813, the *Scourge*'s captain ordered the sailors to sleep next to their cannons in case the nearby British ships attacked. Ned Myers, a young sailor aboard the *Scourge*, described in his journal waking up in the night and feeling rain on his face. The wind had come up suddenly, causing the ship to tilt. Within minutes, the *Scourge* was flooded. It sank, drowning 53 of the 72 men aboard. The squall also sank the *Hamilton*. Ned survived, and his account of the disaster has aroused curiosity ever since.

1

In 1973, Dr. Daniel Nelson, a dentist and amateur archaeologist from St. Catharines, Ontario, located the ships about 10 kilometres from Port Dalhousie, 90 metres under water. Two years later, specialized robotic cameras showed pictures of the ships sitting upright with their masts intact. Cannons, swords, axes and pikes—all ready for action—and human remains were scattered on the decks and around the hulls.

2

For almost two centuries the ships have lain undisturbed, protected by the dark waters of Lake Ontario. Today they are at risk because of human and environmental threats. Improved diving equipment allows sport divers to reach the ships and many people interested in the wrecks have dived to see them. Even Dr. Robert Ballard, who discovered the sunken *Titanic*, has gone down for a look. Treasure hunters (some call them looters) want to explore the ships for precious historical artifacts. Also, thousands of mussels are damaging the wood. It would cost more than \$10 million to preserve the ships, but this is too expensive for their current owner, the city of Hamilton, Ontario.

3

The *Scourge* and the *Hamilton* have been described as “the finest preserved examples of ships of their period” and as “a time capsule of early nineteenth-century life.” However, without a huge contribution of time and money, the ships are unlikely to remain that way much longer.

4

- 7** What is this selection mainly about?
- A the mystery of a lost treasure
 - B the tragic events in a sailor's life
 - C the location of historical artifacts
 - D the discovery of two sunken warships
- 8** In paragraph 1, the word "squall" refers to a
- F large navy.
 - G strong storm.
 - H lightning strike.
 - J powerful earthquake.
- 9** In paragraph 3, the words placed in parentheses
- A should be ignored.
 - B are meant to be spoken.
 - C express another perspective.
 - D are related to another sentence.
- 10** In paragraph 3, describing treasure hunters as "looters" suggests that some are
- F sailors.
 - G robbers.
 - H explorers.
 - J adventurers.

11 Explain the value of Ned Myers’s accounts of the disaster in the search for the two ships. Use information from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

12 Describe ways in which the *Scourge* and the *Hamilton* might be protected from human and environmental threats. Use information from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

13 Yesterday was the first big snowfall of the year.

Write a journal entry about what you did.



Ideas for My Journal Entry

Remember:

- Check over your work.
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.

14 Your principal wants to invite either an astronaut or a professional athlete to visit your school and speak to the students. Would you prefer to hear an astronaut or a professional athlete?

Write a letter to persuade your principal to choose the speaker you would like to hear.



Ideas for My Letter

Remember:

- Check over your work.
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.

**Education Quality and
Accountability Office**



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