

Student Booklet

LANGUAGE 2



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

Dorothy Livesay, Poet (1909–1996)

Dorothy was so excited, her classroom felt like a jail cell. She wiggled in her desk, and the piece of paper she held quivered. Unable to resist any longer, she passed it to a classmate, then to another.

“Dorothy!” The mathematics teacher’s voice was sharp. Dorothy and her note were summoned to the front of the class.

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Fast Fact

Few people had heard of Emily Dickinson before her death in 1886. But when her family sorted through her things, they found more than 1700 poems hidden in her dresser drawers. Today, Emily is recognized as one of the most popular poets in history.

But it wasn’t a note—it was a cheque! *The Vancouver Province* had printed Dorothy’s first poem, and her cheque for two dollars had arrived that day. At thirteen, she was officially a published poet.

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Dorothy was born in Winnipeg on October 12, 1909. Her parents were both journalists. Their house was filled with books, magazines and newspaper clippings.

So it was no surprise that soon after the family moved to Toronto in 1921, Dorothy began writing poetry. She carefully hid her efforts from her family, stashing her poems in the back of a dresser drawer.

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Then, at thirteen, Dorothy came home from school to find her mother clutching a pile of poems and excitedly reading one after another. Dorothy was furious. How could her mother read her private papers? But it was hard to stay angry when her mother was so enthusiastic. Eventually, Dorothy agreed to submit her work to publishers.

After her first poem in *The Province*, her work appeared in more newspapers and magazines and she won several

Fast Fact

In 1987, the government named Dorothy an Officer of the Order of Canada, one of the highest honours a Canadian citizen can receive.

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writing awards. With the help of her father and her best friend, Gina, she also published *Fortnightly Frolics of the Lower Fifth*, a magazine of character sketches and school gossip. The first two issues were received enthusiastically by the students, but when the principal found one, he banned all future issues.

Dorothy went to university and published her first chapbook of poetry, *Green Pitcher*, 30
in 1928. She studied in France for a year, then returned to Toronto to earn an arts degree in modern languages in 1931. She published her second book, *Signpost*, in 1932. In 1934, she earned a diploma in social work.

Influenced by her father's liberal views and faced daily with extreme poverty in her life as a social worker, Dorothy was soon involved in social activism. She joined the 35
Communist Party and the Progressive Arts Club and added her voice to public calls for social programs and government reform.

Despite winning two Governor General's Awards (for *Day and Night* and *Poems for People*), Dorothy didn't earn a living solely as a writer for many years. Between 1936 40
and 1963 she edited a magazine, taught high school, worked for the United Nations and travelled to Africa to train teachers there. She married in 1937 and had two children. Throughout everything else, she continued to write—poems, articles and even radio plays.

After 1964, her work began to gain recognition around the world. She taught writing 45
at the University of British Columbia, the University of New Brunswick, the University of Alberta and the University of Toronto. She published several books of poetry, along with a collection of short stories, *A Winnipeg Childhood*, and a novel, *The Husband*. In 1991, she completed her memoirs, *Journey with My Selves*.

Dorothy began writing at a time when there were few female writers and almost no 50
recognized Canadian writers—male or female. Her achievements paved the way for generations to come.

"Dorothy Livesay," *Canadian Girls Who Rocked the World* by Tanya Lloyd, published by Whitecap Books. © 2001 by Tanya Lloyd. Reprinted by permission of Whitecap Books.

1 In paragraphs 1–3, what is Dorothy doing?

- a talking to several of her classmates
- b giving a report at the front of the class
- c completing an assignment for her teacher
- d sharing her accomplishment with her friends *

2 Read this sentence:

She wiggled in her desk, and the piece of paper she held quivered.

What does “quivered” mean?

- a fell
- b tore
- c shook *
- d wrinkled

3 How did Dorothy’s mathematics teacher react to Dorothy’s excitement?

The teacher

- a was proud of Dorothy.
- b called Dorothy’s mother.
- c sent Dorothy to the principal’s office.
- d called Dorothy to the front of the class. *

4 As a young girl, Dorothy Livesay tried to

- a keep her poems to herself. *
- b form a poetry club at school.
- c publish her poems on her own.
- d convince her mother to review her poetry.

5 What probably contributed to Dorothy Livesay’s early desire to write?

- a Her teachers were strict.
- b She was tutored in writing.
- c Her parents were journalists. *
- d She attended special writing classes.

6 Explain how Dorothy’s childhood home environment may have contributed to her love of writing. Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

7 What is the theme of paragraph 7?

- a Dorothy’s studies at the university
- b the activities of Dorothy’s fellow students
- c the publication of Dorothy’s early writings *
- d the newspaper that published Dorothy’s first poem

- 8** Explain why Dorothy's friends enjoyed the magazine *Fortnightly Frolics of the Lower Fifth*. Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

- 9** In which field did Dorothy earn a diploma?

- a poetry
- b teaching
- c social work *
- d modern languages

- 10** According to the article, who helped shape Dorothy's role as a social activist?

- a her father *
- b her mother
- c her professors
- d her best friend

- 11** For which work did Dorothy win a Governor General's Award?

- a *Signpost*
- b *The Province*
- c *Green Pitcher*
- d *Day and Night* *

- 12** Explain why Dorothy may have had so many different jobs between 1936 and 1963. Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

- 13** According to the article, how did Dorothy spend much of her time after her work gained recognition around the world?

- a teaching in university *
- b teaching in high school
- c working for a radio station
- d travelling to foreign countries

- 14** How did Dorothy's success in her field probably make other writers feel?

- a startled
- b friendly
- c confused
- d encouraged *

15 Explain how Dorothy Livesay’s achievements paved the way for other Canadian writers. Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

16 In the article, how are the titles of newspapers and magazines indicated?

- a in bold
- b in italics *
- c in parentheses
- d in quotation marks

Writing Multiple-Choice

17 Read the sentence below.

Of the three butterflies, the _____ one is the _____.

Which pair of words correctly completes the sentence?

- a smaller, gracefuller
- b small, more graceful
- c smallest, most graceful *
- d more small, gracefulest

18 Read the sentence below.

It is not _____ for students to pay such a large bus _____ to go to the summer _____.

Which group of words correctly completes the sentence?

- a fair, fare, fair *
- b fare, fair, fair
- c fair, fair, fare
- d fare, fair, fare

19 Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

- a theif
- b height *
- c wieght
- d busness

20 Read the sentences below.

We were feeling hungry. We opened the refrigerator to see what we could find.

Which of the following is the best way to combine the sentences using a

subordinate clause?

- a To see what we could find opening the refrigerator, we were feeling hungry.
- b We were feeling hungry we opened the refrigerator to see what we could find.
- c Because we were feeling hungry, we opened the refrigerator to see what we could find. *
- d We were feeling hungry, so we opened the refrigerator. To see what we could find.

Flowers and Frost

Flowers are yellow
and flowers are red;
frost is white
as an old man's head.
5 Daffodil, foxglove,
rose, sweet pea—
flowers and frost
can never agree.
10 Flowers will wither
and summer's lost,
when over the mountain
comes old King Frost.
15 White are the fields
where King Frost reigns;
and the ferns he draws
on windowpanes—
white and stiff
are their curling fronds.
20 White are the hedges
and stiff are the ponds.
So cruel and hard
is winter's king,
with his icy breath
on everything.
25 Then up comes the sun;
down fall the showers.
Welcome to spring
and her yellow flowers!
So sing the birds
30 on the budding tree,

35

for frost and flowers
can never agree.
And welcome, sunshine,
that we may say
the old cruel king
is driven away.



- 21** In line 9, “Flowers will wither” means
- a they will fade away. *
 - b they will wave about.
 - c they will spread seeds.
 - d they will grow quickly.
- 22** In line 20, “stiff are the ponds” means that the water is
- a cool.
 - b calm.
 - c frozen. *
 - d polluted.
- 23** In line 23, what do the words “icy breath” mean?
- a cold wind *
 - b frozen ferns
 - c freezing rain
 - d white flowers
- 24** According to the poem, when does King Frost reign?
- a fall
 - b spring
 - c winter *
 - d summer

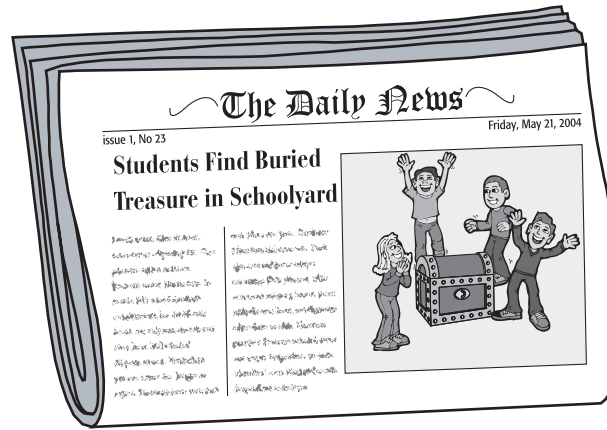
25 What is the main reason the author wrote the poem “Flowers and Frost” in three stanzas?

- a The poem looks balanced with three stanzas.
- b There are three seasons described in the poem. *
- c Each stanza of a poem must have three lines that rhyme.
- d Each stanza of a poem must have the same number of lines.

26 Describe three ways in which King Frost is “cruel.” Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

27 Do you agree with how “King Frost” is portrayed in the poem? Use information from the poem and your own ideas to support your answer.

28 Look at the headline on the newspaper below. Think about what might be in the article that follows it. Now write the newspaper article that follows the headline.



Ideas for My Newspaper Article

Remember:

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

Lined writing area consisting of multiple horizontal lines.

29 Which of the following is punctuated correctly?

- a Jordan bought the following school supplies a binder, a calculator and a ruler
- b Jordan bought the following school supplies. A binder, a calculator and a ruler.
- c Jordan bought the following school supplies, a binder, a calculator and a ruler.
- d Jordan bought the following school supplies: a binder, a calculator and a ruler. *

30 Read the sentences below.

Look out. That cyclist is going too fast.
Will he be able to stop.

What is the best way to punctuate these sentences?

- a ..!
- b !!.
- c !!? *
- d ??!

31 Which word is a homonym of the word “scent”?

- a cent *
- b sight
- c smell
- d fragrance

32 Read the sentence below.

_____ funny to see the kitten clean
_____ face.

Which pair of words correctly completes the sentence?

- a Its, its
- b It’s, its *
- c Its, it’s
- d It’s, it’s

The Secret

The bell rang just as Janet was getting to the good part of the novel she was reading. She was so caught up in the story that she barely noticed the kids around her putting away their books and filing out into the hallway.

“Are you ready yet?”

Startled, Janet looked up. Her best friend, Samuel, stood beside her desk tapping his foot with impatience. “I thought you wanted me to show you what I found.”

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“I do,” said Janet. She marked the page she was on then stumbled out of the library to follow Samuel, who by this time was waiting in the hallway.

When they got out to the schoolyard, Janet shivered slightly in the cool breeze, but she was glad that it had stopped raining.

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“It’s here,” said Samuel, pointing to the rock garden that their class had made the year before.

Janet looked down and smiled. One of the tulips was just starting to open. She crouched down then extended one finger and touched the delicate new petals. “It’s beautiful,” she said.

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“That’s not what I wanted to show you,” said Samuel. He squatted down beside her and pointed at a rock that was shiny with rain, right beside the budding tulip.

“You wanted to show me a rock?” asked Janet with a smile.

“Not just any rock,” said Samuel. He reached over and picked it up. On the bottom was a perfect imprint of a seashell.

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“Wow!” exclaimed Janet, reaching out to touch the clearly etched ridges.

“Have you ever seen a fossil as beautiful as this?” asked Samuel.

“No,” said Janet. “Are you going to take it home?”

“No,” replied Samuel. “Let’s leave it here. It will be our little secret.”

Janet grinned. “Good idea.”

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33 What is Samuel anxious to share with Janet?

- a a tulip garden
- b a hidden surprise *
- c a rock in his pocket
- d a book he has found

34 In paragraph 3, why is Janet startled?

- a Samuel is tapping on her desk.
- b The sound of the bell frightens her.
- c She is reading a scary part of her novel.
- d She has been concentrating on her book. *

35 Which statement about Samuel and Janet is true?

- a They are cousins.
- b They are neighbours.
- c They are best friends. *
- d They are brother and sister.

36 Read this sentence from the text.

On the bottom was a perfect imprint of a seashell.

What does the word “imprint” tell about the rock?

- a The rock is shiny, like a wet seashell.
- b The rock is in the shape of a seashell.
- c The rock has a drawing of a seashell on it.
- d The shape of a shell is pressed into the rock. *

37 What previous event could explain how Samuel found the rock with the fossil? Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

38 Has Samuel made the right decision to keep the fossil a secret? Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

39 What form of writing is “The Secret”?

- a poem
- b fiction *
- c non-fiction
- d news article



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