

Grade 6

Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division

Student Booklet Language 2

SPRING 2009

**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.

Echoing Howls



“We’re here!” cried the twins, all excited by the sight of the main entrance to the provincial park. The park is an animal refuge where the public can view animals in their natural habitat while protected by fences in certain places. Tours are conducted by trained guides. 1

We had never been here before, I have to say, especially not so late at night. We had heard about the public wolf howling expedition, and that’s why this moment was so eagerly awaited by each member of our family. It was also a night of the full moon, the best time to hear the howling of wolves. 2

My only problem was that I had to share the responsibility of watching my eight-year-old twin brothers, Patrick and Eric, with my father. He had been very clear about this: “Don’t let them out of your sight, Lisa! You know how they are; you can expect just about anything.” 3

First, a guide led us to the edge of the forest where, to our great joy, we found observation platforms where we could observe the activities of raccoons. Surprisingly enough, these little animals come out at nightfall—thanks to their excellent night vision. They often travel at night to their favourite hunting ground to eat their fill. We could see them very clearly, with the white fur around their eyes shining in the night. 4

As we continued down a path, we heard a loud screeching. 5

“What could that possibly be?” I asked. 6

We realized that owls were trying to keep us away with their cries. When we stopped, and listened very carefully, we could hear them calling to each other. The guide informed us that their huge eyes could capture the slightest rays of light. This is how they can see well enough to trap small mice at dusk. 7

Continuing our tour, we didn’t expect to see anything more awesome than these owls. Then the guide pointed out the bats—animals that can’t really be described as birds, even though they fly. We watched them swoop around in the night air for a while, but Patrick, who is afraid of bats, was hanging on to my jeans, so we didn’t stay long. 8

Soon after, we put on military night-vision goggles for a unique experience—the chance to observe wolves in the middle of the night. Our guide, a master in the art of imitating animal cries, began to howl. For the first time in their lives my brothers were listening attentively because they didn't want to miss anything. Also, we had been warned to keep quiet. The wolves responded immediately. At first, just one or two wolves howled. After a while they all began howling at once. What a concert! You'd have thought they were howling just for the fun of it. What cries! What voices! What a mournful choir! We'd never heard anything like it. It was breathtaking. I feel goosebumps even now, just thinking about it!

9

We had to leave, reluctantly, because of the late hour. Moving quickly, we were on our way out when I realized I had lost sight of Eric. Where was he? I started to panic, as it was my responsibility to keep an eye on him.

10

The panic didn't last long. In a moment, a small, odd voice—an awkward yet familiar howling—attracted our attention.

11

“That sounds like Eric trying to howl like the wolves,” I thought to myself.

12

In the light of the moon, we found the lost twin, howling on all fours on the observation platform.

13



- 1** From whose point of view is this text written?
- a Lisa's
 - b the twins'
 - c the guide's
 - d the father's
- 2** In paragraph 1, the word "refuge" means
- a a fence.
 - b a safe place.
 - c an entrance.
 - d an animal clinic.
- 3** According to this text, platforms allow visitors to
- a be safe.
 - b hear owls.
 - c view animals.
 - d move quickly.
- 4** In paragraph 5, the owls begin screeching because
- a visitors are getting too close.
 - b it is too dark for them to see.
 - c they are trying to attract mice.
 - d they are being chased by wolves.
- 5** In paragraph 9, the wolves start howling because
- a the guide howls.
 - b there is a full moon.
 - c the visitors are quiet.
 - d they want to have fun.

- 6** In paragraph 9, the word “what” is used repeatedly to
- a ask questions.
 - b create rhymes.
 - c show amazement.
 - d express confusion.
- 7** The word “awkward” as used in paragraph 11 means Eric
- a lacks skill.
 - b acts strange.
 - c moves clumsily.
 - d sounds confident.
- 8** What do all of the animals in this text have in common?
- a They live in a protected area.
 - b They hunt together in groups.
 - c They sleep during the nighttime.
 - d They make loud sounds at night.
- 9** Which animals show awareness of the visitors?
- a bats
 - b owls
 - c mice
 - d raccoons
- 10** One of the things that upsets Lisa in this text is that
- a the twins cry.
 - b she loses sight of Eric.
 - c an owl screeches loudly.
 - d she has to wear goggles.

11 Identify one of Lisa’s feelings during her tour of the animal refuge and explain why she feels this way. Use specific details from the text to support your answer.

12 Explain whether paragraphs 10–13 provide an effective ending. Support your answer using specific details from the text.

Writing Multiple-Choice

- 13** Choose the words that best complete the sentence.

The athlete was on the front page of the newspaper _____ she set new records in relay _____ distance running.

- a that, or
- b still, and
- c however, or
- d because, and

- 14** Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a Throughout the day, she had walked over slippery forest trails and snow-covered hilltops.
- b Throughout the day she had walked over slippery, forest, trails and snow, covered hilltops.
- c Throughout the day, she had walked over slippery, forest trails and snow-covered, hilltops.
- d Throughout the day, she had walked, over slippery forest trails, and snow, covered hilltops.

- 15** Choose the best closing sentence for the following paragraph.

The most important meal of the day is breakfast. Research shows that students who eat a well-balanced breakfast every morning do better in school than students who skip breakfast. Eating a breakfast of fruit and cheese, for example, provides your body with energy. Skipping breakfast can leave you feeling tired in class.

-
- a You need to eat three healthy meals every day.
 - b If you skip breakfast, be sure to take your vitamins.
 - c You can learn more effectively if you eat breakfast daily.
 - d Include foods from all of the food groups in your breakfast.

- 16** Choose the word that is spelled correctly.

The Canadian federal _____ is located in Ottawa.

- a goverment
- b govenment
- c governmint
- d government

Freeze-Up

by Raymond Souster



I wonder at what exact moment
(I wish I'd been there)
something or someone said
"That's the very last drop going over."

And the startled waterfall
suddenly couldn't budge
and knew it was so.

5

The Islands

by Margaret Atwood

There are two of them:

One larger, with steep granite
cliffs facing us, dropping sheer
to the deep lake;

the other smaller, closer
to land, with a reef running
out from it and dead trees
grey, waist-high in the water.

5



"Freeze-Up" by Raymond Souster is reprinted from *Collected Poems of Raymond Souster* by permission of Oberon Press.

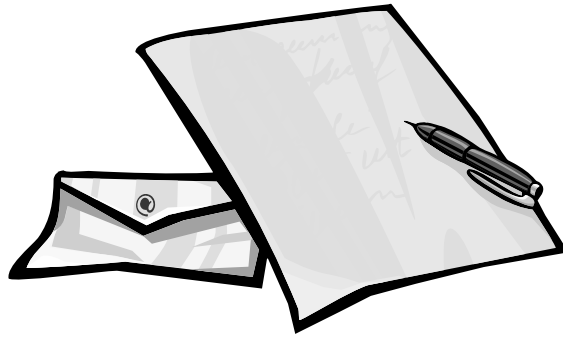
"The Islands" from *The Circle Game* © 1996 by Margaret Atwood. Reproduced with the permission of House of Anansi Press, Toronto.

- 17** What is being described in “Freeze-Up”?
- a a cold winter
 - b a drop of water
 - c a startled person
 - d a moment in time
- 18** “The Islands” is organized by
- a contrasting the two islands.
 - b moving from smaller to larger.
 - c describing the closest island first.
 - d explaining the islands’ similarities.
- 19** The word “sheer” as used in line 3 of “The Islands” means
- a slowly.
 - b steeply.
 - c waist-high.
 - d see-through.
- 20** What is farthest away from the mainland?
- a the reef
 - b the cliffs
 - c the dead trees
 - d the smaller island

21 What conclusions can be made about the speaker in the poem “Freeze-Up”? Use specific details from the poem and your own ideas to support your answer.

22 Compare these two poems. Use specific details and examples from the poems and your own ideas to support your answer.

23 Write a story in which someone's life is changed for the better after receiving a letter in the mail.



Ideas for My Story

Remember:

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

Funny Money

Knowing how to recognize counterfeit money just makes cents! So in 2004, the Bank of Canada began to print bills with new, easy-to-use security features.

The Fine Print

In the tiny microprinting next to the Parliament Building pictures are the words THE CENTRE BLOCK OF PARLIAMENT • L'ÉDIFICE DU CENTRE DU PARLEMENT. With each line, the printing gets smaller and smaller.



Now You See It

A watermark showing a ghostly image of the Queen appears when you hold a bill up to the light.



Cool Threads

The security thread changes from gold to green when you tilt the bill. On the thread, you can see 20 CAN.



Nice Touch

Intaglio or raised printing is featured on the large number in the right-hand corner, on the coat of arms, and on the words BANK OF CANADA • BANQUE DU CANADA.



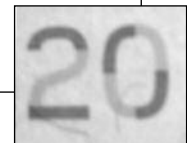
On the Move

A hologram in the tiny metallic strip seems to move and change colour. Numerals and maple leaves seem to dance up the side of the bill.



See the Light

When you hold the bill up to the light, the lines on the front and back form a perfect 20.



Adapted from Owl magazine, "Funny Money," by Janice Weaver, May 2005 Owl. Used with permission of Bayard Presse Canada Inc. Photos © Bank of Canada

- 24** A “watermark” is most like a
- a dark stain.
 - b faint design.
 - c metallic image.
 - d colourful thread.
- 25** Which feature can you see only if you hold the bill up to the light?
- a the hologram
 - b the perfect 20
 - c the raised printing
 - d the changes in the security thread
- 26** The images of the individual security features accompany the text boxes to
- a provide a closer view.
 - b contrast with older bills.
 - c repeat information in the text boxes.
 - d demonstrate the queen’s appearance.
- 27** The word “specimen” appears on the image of the 20-dollar bill to indicate that the bill is
- a a fake.
 - b illegal.
 - c a sample.
 - d protected.

28 What makes the security features easy to use? Use two examples from the text to support your answer.

29 In the sentence “Knowing how to recognize counterfeit money just makes cents!” what is the significance of the word “cents”? Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

Writing Multiple-Choice

30 Choose the words that best complete the sentence below.

Teachers _____ students' skills through _____ work _____.

- a measure, their, habits
- b measure, there, habits
- c measure, there, habits
- d measure, their, habits

31 Which is the best way to combine the information in the following sentences?

It was late at night.

The raccoon woke up.

The full harvest moon rose in the black sky.

- a It was late at night, the full harvest moon rose in the black sky but the raccoon woke up.
- b Late at night, the raccoon woke up as the full harvest moon rose in the black sky.
- c It was late at night, the raccoon woke up, the full harvest moon rose in the black sky.
- d It was late at night when the raccoon woke up, the full harvest moon rose in the black sky.

32 Choose the word that is spelled correctly.

- a sadest
- b funniest
- c daintiest
- d proudest

33 Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a Sara, went home to find her brother eating.
- b In the morning, Michael walked to the store.
- c Connie wandered around the mall until, her mother arrived.
- d Jamal fed the birds, in the bird feeder just outside his house.

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