Once upon a time there was a farmer and his wife who had one daughter, and she was courted by a gentleman named John. Every evening he used to come and see her and have supper at the farmhouse. The daughter would go down into the cellar to fetch potatoes for supper. One evening, she went into the cellar and happened to look up at the ceiling. She saw a hammer stuck in one of the beams.

She began to think. “Suppose John and me were to be married, and we were to have a son, and he were to grow up to be a man, and come down into the cellar to fetch potatoes, as I’m doing now, and the hammer were to fall on his head, what a dreadful thing it would be!” And she put down the candle, sat herself down, and began crying.

Well, the mother began to wonder how it was that her daughter was so long fetching potatoes, and she went down to check on her. She found her daughter crying.

“Why, whatever is the matter?” asked her mother.

“Oh, mother! Look at that horrid hammer! Suppose John and me were to be married, and were to have a son, and he were to grow up, and were to come down to the cellar to fetch potatoes, and the hammer were to fall on his head. What a dreadful thing it would be!”

“Dear, dear! What a dreadful thing it would be!” said the mother, and she sat down beside the daughter and started crying, too.

Then the father began to wonder why they didn’t come back. He went down into the cellar, and there the two sat crying.

“Whatever is the matter?” he asked.

“Oh, mother!” said the mother, “look at that heartless hammer. Just suppose, if our daughter and her sweetheart were to be married, and were to have a son, and he were to grow up, and were to come down into the cellar to fetch potatoes, and the hammer were to fall on his head, what a dreadful thing it would be!”

“Dear, dear! So it would!” said the father, and he sat and started crying.

Now the gentleman got tired of waiting and went down into the cellar. He found the three crying side by side.
“Whatever are you three doing?”

“Oh,” said the father, “look at that awful hammer! Suppose you and our daughter were to be married, and were to have a son, and he were to grow up, and were to come down into the cellar to fetch potatoes, and the hammer were to fall on his head!”

And then they all started crying worse than before. The gentleman burst out laughing and then reached up and pulled out the hammer. He said, “I’ve traveled many miles, and I never met three such big sillies as you three. I shall start out on my travels, and when I can find three bigger sillies than you, I’ll come back and marry your daughter.”

So he wished them good-bye and started off on his travels.

He traveled far before he came to a woman’s cottage that had some grass growing on the roof. The woman was trying in vain to get her cow to climb a ladder to the roof.

“What are you doing?” the gentleman asked, completely dumbfounded.

“I’m going to get me cow on the roof to eat the grass. She’ll be a’right, for I will tie a string round her neck, and pass it down the chimney, and tie it to me wrist as I go ’bout the house, so she don’t be falling off without I know about it.”

“Oh, you poor silly!” said the gentleman. “You should cut the grass and throw it down to the cow!”

The gentleman went on and stopped at an inn to spend the night. The inn was so full that he had to share a room with another traveler. In the morning, the gentleman was surprised to see the other hang his trousers on the knobs of the chest of drawers and run across the room and try to jump into them. He tried over and over again and couldn’t manage it. Finally, he stopped and wiped his face with his handkerchief.

“Oh dear,” he said, “I do think trousers are so awkward. It takes me the best part of an hour to get into mine every morning, and I get so hot! How do you manage yours?” So the gentleman burst out laughing and showed him how to put them on.

Then the gentleman went on his travels again and came to a village. Outside the village there was a pond surrounded by a crowd of people. They reached into the pond with rakes, brooms, and pitchforks.

“What is the matter?” the gentleman asked.

“The moon’s tumbled into the pond, and we can’t rake her out!”

The gentleman laughed and told them to look up to the sky because it was only the reflection in the water. Then he turned back home and married the farmer’s daughter.
1. **Which of the following BEST describes the point of view of the selection?** (RL6)

   - A. first person
   - B. second person
   - C. third-person limited
   - D. third-person omniscient

2. **What does the woman’s way of speaking suggest about her?** (RL5)

   “I’m going to get me cow on the roof to eat the grass. She’ll be a’right, for I will tie a string round her neck, and pass it down the chimney, and tie it to me wrist as I go ’bout the house, so she don’t be falling off without I be knowing about it.”

   - A. She is highly educated.
   - B. She is a simple woman.
   - C. She is extremely wealthy.
   - D. She is very upset.

3. **In this sentence from the passage, what does the word **dumbfounded** emphasize about the gentleman’s reaction to the traveler?** (RL4)

   “What are you doing?” the gentleman asked, completely **dumbfounded**.

   - A. his astonishment
   - B. his disappointment
   - C. his gratefulness
   - D. his anger
4. **Why does the gentleman return home to marry the farmer’s daughter?** (RL3)
   - A. He wants to show her that there is nothing to fear.
   - B. He has met enough people who are sillier than her family.
   - C. He feels silly for wasting his time in pointless travels.
   - D. He realizes that he cannot live without her.

5. **Which word has a similar connotation to the word awkward in these sentences from the passage?** (L5c)
   “I do think trousers are so awkward. It takes me the best part of an hour to get into mine every morning, and I get so hot!”
   - A. uncomfortable
   - B. uneasy
   - C. difficult
   - D. embarrassing

**Read the passage and answer the following questions.**

**Balloon Releases Are Bad News for Wildlife**

At such events as graduations and weddings, you may have seen people release balloons into the air in celebration. Sure, watching balloons float into the blue sky can be fun, but have you ever asked yourself what happens to those balloons after they drift out of sight? Unfortunately, those balloons don’t just vanish into thin air. In fact, although it may not look like it, releasing a balloon into the sky is really a kind of littering. Eventually, the balloon will come down—and when balloons come down, they often mean danger to the environment.

Indeed, litter isn’t just ugly. It’s much, much worse than that. Such animals as cows, sheep, birds, dogs, and turtles have been hurt by balloons, often by mistaking a deflated balloon for food. When they eat the deflated balloons, their digestive systems become impaired, and they suffer slow and painful deaths from starvation.

All of the balloons in this photograph will become litter once they deflate.
Sea turtles are especially vulnerable because a deflated balloon looks much like a jellyfish, their favorite food. And remember that much of the litter that lands on our streets and sidewalks ends up polluting rivers and streams, even making its way to the ocean. In other words, a deflated balloon doesn’t have to land on the ocean in order to end up there. During coastal cleanups, old balloons are commonly found along with plastic bottles and other trash.

Balloon manufacturers would like to have us think that for balloon releases, biodegradable latex balloons are a good alternative to Mylar balloons. However, it takes a while for these balloons to biodegrade, and in that time, they can still cause harm to wildlife. Also, the balloon itself isn’t the only danger. Wildlife can also get caught in the long ribbons or strings that are typically attached to balloons.

The governments of several states and cities have taken the danger of balloons seriously enough to restrict or even ban balloon releases. States with such laws include California, Connecticut, Florida, Tennessee, and Virginia. Other states are also considering passing their own laws.

If you are aware of a group in your area planning a balloon release, you can take action. Remind them of the consequences of balloon releases. Use fact sheets to get your message across, and use photographs of harmed wildlife to give that message power. Also, be sure to suggest alternatives to a balloon release. There are certainly plenty of other ways to get into a celebratory spirit. Participants could, for example, toot horns, blow bubbles, or even plant trees. If balloons simply must be used, they could be released indoors, where they cannot escape into the environment.

Next time you feel tempted to release a bunch of balloons at an event, think about where the balloons might go after you let them fly free. The balloons may give you a minute or two of entertainment, but they may endanger wild animals or clog up waterways for a much longer time than that. Think about other ways to celebrate at big events. Just use your imagination, and you will no doubt find that you don’t even miss letting the balloons go!

6. **Which statement BEST describes the author’s point of view on balloon releases?** (RI6)
   - A. Only latex balloons should be used for releases.
   - B. Actions should be taken to cut down on balloon releases.
   - C. Outdoor balloon releases are harmful and should be stopped.
   - D. Celebrating with a balloon release is a good way to have fun.
7. Which quote from the passage BEST supports this statement from the author? (RI1)

In fact, although it may not look like it, releasing a balloon into the sky is really a kind of littering.

- A. At such events as graduations and weddings, you may have seen people release balloons into the air in celebration.
- B. Indeed, litter isn’t just ugly.
- C. Sea turtles are especially vulnerable, because a deflated balloon looks much like a jellyfish, their favorite food.
- D. During coastal cleanups, old balloons are commonly found along with plastic bottles and other trash.

8. What does the word impaired mean in this sentence from the passage? (RI4)

When they eat the deflated balloons, their digestive systems become impaired, and they suffer slow and painful deaths from starvation.

- A. full
- B. damaged
- C. broken
- D. increased

9. Why does the author MOST LIKELY include this information from the passage? (RI5)

The governments of several states and cities have taken the danger of balloons seriously enough to restrict or even ban balloon releases. States with such laws include California, Connecticut, Florida, Tennessee, and Virginia. Other states are also considering passing their own laws.

- A. to emphasize that balloon releases are a serious problem
- B. to tell readers where they should avoid releasing balloons
- C. to encourage readers to feel that the problem has been taken care of
- D. to explain the best way to have balloon releases made illegal
10. **What do the photograph and caption that accompany the article emphasize?** (RI7)

- A. the way balloon releases create trash
- B. the effect of balloon releases on wildlife
- C. the idea that balloons vanish into thin air
- D. the celebratory feeling of a balloon release

11. **Use the information in the box below to answer the question.** (RI4)

| ugly adj. | 1. dreadful 2. violent 3. unattractive 4. dangerous |

Which definition of the word *ugly* is used in these sentences from the passage?

*Indeed, litter isn’t just ugly. It’s much, much worse than that.*

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4
Read the passages and answer the following questions.

adapted from
**Gobborn Seer**
a fairy tale from England

Once there was a man named Gobborn Seer, and he had a son called Jack. One day he sent Jack out to sell a sheepskin, and Gobborn said, “You must bring me back the skin and the value of it as well.”

Jack started out, but he could not find anyone who would leave him the skin and give him its price, too. So he came home discouraged.

But Gobborn Seer said, “Never mind, you must take another turn at it tomorrow.”

So Jack tried again, yet nobody wished to buy the skin on those terms.

When he came home, his father said, “You must go and try your luck tomorrow.”

The third day seemed as if it would be the same thing all over again. Jack had half a mind not to go back at all because his father would be so angry. He walked for hours under the pitiless sun. At last, he came to a bridge, and he sat down to dwell on his troubles. Suddenly, he saw a girl washing her clothes on the bank below. She looked up and said, “If it be no offense to ask, what is it you feel so bad about?”

“My father has given me this skin, and I am to fetch it back and the price of it beside,” Jack said.

“How is that all?” the girl replied. “Give it here, and it’s done.”

So the girl washed the skin in the stream and took the wool from it. She paid him the value of it and then gave him the skin to carry back.

His father looked pleased and said to Jack, “That was a witty woman; she would make you a good wife. Go back and ask her to come drink tea with us.”

The girl happily accepted the invitation. When they all sat down for tea, Gobborn Seer asked her if she would marry his Jack. She said yes, and they were married.

Not long after, Jack’s father told him he must come with him and build the finest castle that ever was seen, for a king who wished to outdo all others by his wonderful castle. As they traveled to lay the foundation-stone, Gobborn Seer looked out at the long road before them and said to Jack, “Can’t you shorten the way for me?”
But Jack said, “I don’t see, father, how I could break a bit off.”

“You’re no good to me, then, and had best be off home,” his father said.

So poor Jack turned back and told his wife what had happened.

“You silly bumpkin,” said his witty wife. “If you had told an entertaining tale, you would have shortened the road! Now listen till I tell you a story and then catch up with Gobborn Seer and begin it at once. He will like hearing it, and by the time you are done you will have reached your destination.”

So Jack went back out and caught up with his father. Jack began his story, and the road was shortened, as his wife had said.

When they came to the end of their journey, they started building the castle that was supposed to outshine all others. Now, the wife had advised them to be friendly with the servants, so they said “Good morning” and “Good day to you” as they passed in and out. At the end of a year, Gobborn had built such a castle that thousands gathered to admire it.

The king said, “The castle is done. I shall return tomorrow and pay you all.”

“I have just a ceiling to finish in an upper lobby,” said Gobborn, “and then it wants nothing.”

However, after the king was gone, the housekeeper sent for Gobborn and Jack. She told them that she had watched for a chance to warn them, for the king meant to imprison them tomorrow because he was so afraid they should carry their skills away and build another king as fine a castle. Gobborn told Jack to keep a good heart, and they would come off all right.

When the king returned, Gobborn told him he had been unable to complete the job for lack of a tool left at home, and he should like to send Jack after it.

“No, no,” said the king, “cannot one of the men do the errand?”

“No, they could not make themselves understood,” said Gobborn, “but Jack could do the errand.”

“You and your son must stay here. What if I send my own son?”

“That will do.”

So Gobborn sent a message with the king’s son to Jack’s wife: “Give him Crooked and Straight!” When the king’s son gave her the message, Jack’s wife knew just what to do. She asked the son to reach into a chest where he would find “crooked and straight.”

As soon as he was leaning over the chest, she caught him by the two heels, threw him into the chest, and locked it. So there he was, both “crooked and straight!”
Then the king was told that he would get his son back only after Gobborn and Jack were safe back home.

When they returned, rich with the money they earned for building the king’s castle, Jack built a castle for his witty wife far superior to the king’s, and they lived there happily ever after.

adapted from
Singh Rajah and the Little Jackals
a folktale from India

Once upon a time, in a great jungle, there lived a great lion named Singh Rajah. He was rajah, or ruler, of all the country round, and every day he would leave his den, in the deepest shadow of the rocks, and roar with a loud, angry voice. When he roared, the other animals in the jungle, who were all his subjects, got very much frightened and ran here and there. Singh Rajah would pounce upon them and gobble them up for his dinner.

This went on for a long, long time until, at last, there were no living creatures left in the jungle but two little jackals—Rajah Jackal and Ranee Jackal—husband and wife.

A very hard time of it the poor little jackals had, running this way and that to escape the terrible Singh Rajah. Every day little Ranee Jackal would say to her husband, “I am afraid he will catch us today. Do you hear how he is roaring? Oh, dear! Oh, dear!”

And Rajah Jackal would answer her, “Never fear; I will take care of you. Let us run on a mile or two. Come quick, quick, quick!” And they would both run away as fast as they could.

One fine day, however, they found that the lion was so close upon them that they could not escape. Little Ranee Jackal said, “Husband, husband, I feel much frightened. Singh Rajah is so angry he will certainly eat us at once. What can we do?”

But Rajah Jackal answered, “Cheer up. We can save ourselves. Come, and I’ll show you how we may manage it.”

So what did these cunning little jackals do? They went to the great lion’s den. When he saw them coming, he began to roar and shake his mane, and he said, “You little wretches, come and be eaten at once! I have had no dinner for three whole days, and all that time I have been running over hill and dale to find you. Come and be eaten, I say!” He roared and lashed his tail and gnashed his teeth and looked very terrifying indeed.

Then Rajah Jackal, creeping quite close up to him, said: “Oh, great Singh Rajah, we all know you are our master, and we would have come at your bidding long ago. But, indeed, sir, there is a much bigger rajah even than you in this jungle, and he tried to catch hold of us and eat us up, and he frightened us so much that we were obliged to run away.”
“What do you mean?” growled Singh Rajah. “There is no king in this jungle but me!”

“Ah, sire,” answered Rajah Jackal, “in truth one would think so, for you are very dreadful. Your very voice is death. But it is as we say, for we, with our own eyes, have seen one with whom you could not compete—whose equal you can no more be than we are yours. His face is flaming fire, his step is thunder, and his power supreme.”

“It is impossible,” interrupted the old lion, “but show me this rajah of whom you speak so much that I may destroy him instantly!”

Then the little jackals ran on before him until they reached a great well, and, pointing down to the water, they said, “See, sire, there lives the terrible king of whom we spoke.”

When Singh Rajah looked down the well, he became very angry, for he thought he saw another lion there. He roared and shook his great mane, and the shadow lion shook his and looked terribly defiant. At last, beside himself with rage at the violence of his opponent, Singh Rajah sprang down to destroy him at once, but no other lion was there—only his treacherous reflection. The sides of the well were so steep that he could not get out to punish the two jackals, who peeped over the top. After struggling for some time in the deep water, he sank to rise no more.

The little jackals danced round and round the well, singing. They no longer had anything to fear.

12. **Which of the following BEST describes the point of view of “Gobborn Seer”?** (RL6)
   - A. first person
   - B. second person
   - C. third-person limited
   - D. third-person omniscient

13. **In “Gobborn Seer,” why does the king want to put Jack and his father in jail?** (RL1)
   - A. He learned that Jack and his father are stealing supplies.
   - B. He is not satisfied with their construction of the castle.
   - C. He is angry that Jack’s wife locked his son in a chest.
   - D. He does not want another king to have what he has.
14. **What is the theme of “Gobborn Seer”?** (RL2)
   - A. Cleverness can overcome many obstacles.
   - B. It is better to be wealthy than smart.
   - C. Do not build a castle for a king.
   - D. Never try to trick anyone.

15. **Which event is the turning point of “Singh Rajah and the Little Jackals”?** (RL3)
   - A. The lion eats most of the animals.
   - B. The jackals go to the lion’s den.
   - C. The lion jumps into the well.
   - D. The jackals sing and dance.

16. **What is the theme of “Singh Rajah and the Little Jackals”?** (RL2)
   - A. Life in the jungle is very dangerous.
   - B. Cleverness can defeat a mighty enemy.
   - C. Greed can make you lose what you already have.
   - D. Honesty is always the best policy.

17. **What is one difference between the two passages?** (RL9)
   - A. Only “Gobborn Seer” shows the problems that can result from trying to be powerful.
   - B. Only “Gobborn Seer” involves trickery and cleverness to solve a problem.
   - C. Only in “Singh Rajah” does a main character pay for his self-importance with his life.
   - D. Only in “Singh Rajah” is a main character deceived by the cleverness of others.
Read the following questions and select the best answer.

18. A student is writing a research paper about manatees. Which is the BEST source for specific and up-to-date information? (W8)
   - A. saveourseas.org
   - B. pbskids.org/games/animals
   - C. nationalgeographic.com
   - D. myfwc.com/research/manatee/ (Florida Fish and Wildlife Service)

19. What change needs to be made to correct the error in this sentence? (L2b)

   Lou heard the board creek under his feet as he walked up the stairs.
   - A. change heard to herd
   - B. change board to bored
   - C. change creek to creak
   - D. change stairs to stares

20. Which of the following sentences BEST matches the style and tone of the sentences below? (L3b)

   The members of the writers’ club appreciated your presentation yesterday. We now have a better understanding of how an author works.
   - A. We think your job is super cool.
   - B. Your writing process fascinates us.
   - C. Who knew authors worked so hard?
   - D. You gave us a lot of stuff to chew on.
21. **Which word correctly completes this sentence?** (L1a)

My family enjoys camping. Spending time in the woods is fun for __________.

- A. I
- B. we
- C. they
- D. us

22. **Which sentence is written correctly?** (L1c)

- A. If a student leaves early enough, they can get to class on time.
- B. If a student leaves early enough, we can get to class on time.
- C. If a student leaves early enough, he or she can get to class on time.
- D. If a student leaves early enough, him can get to class on time.

23. **What change needs to be made to correct the error in the sentence?** (L2b)

Did you know that hummingbirds must eat more than they’re weight every day, so they won’t get too weak?

- A. change *know* to *no*
- B. change *they’re* to *their*
- C. change *weight* to *wait*
- D. change *weak* to *week*
24. **Which word completes this sentence?** (L1a)

Either Brittany or Annie left __________ goggles at the pool.

A. hers  
B. she  
C. their  
D. her

25. **Which underlined word in the sentence is spelled incorrectly?** (L2b)

A magnet will not adhere to aluminum, but it will stick to other mettles, such as steel.

A. adhere  
B. aluminum  
C. mettles  
D. steel

26. **Which word correctly completes this sentence?** (L1b)

After the hot, dusty tour, we bought __________ icy drinks to cool off.

A. ourselves  
B. themselves  
C. ourself  
D. himself
Read the poem and answer the following questions.

A Storm at Sea

As I gazed out upon infinity,
I saw a storm come from the sea;
Swaying and ebbing the waters did roll,
As she emerged.
Complete and whole.
Her eyes as green as trees in spring
Life’s energy she began to fling
The shore, it brunt a loud, wet quake
A violent pelting
Her hair did make!
We mere mortals shook with fear
How can one stop what is already here?
No one controls a storm this wild
Not Nature herself;
Not her vicious child.
When she took it upon herself to subside,
The waters sparkled with a thankful pride,
Every day she holds our fate in her hands
With her savage strength
She could impair our lands.
27. **What does this use of personification from the poem mean?** (RL4)

When she took it upon herself to subside,

The waters sparkled with a thankful pride,

- A. Before the storm, proud people walked on the beach.
- B. During the storm, women prayed that it would stop.
- C. During the storm, the waves became big and rough.
- D. After the storm, the sea became calm again.

28. **Which line from the poem shows the speaker’s respect for Nature?** (RL6)

- A. As I gazed out upon infinity,
- B. Swaying and ebbing the waters did roll,
- C. As she emerged. Complete and whole.
- D. Every day she holds our fate in her hands

29. **Read these lines from the poem. Which word has a similar connotation as the word whole?** (L5c)

Swaying and ebbing the waters did roll,

As she emerged.

Complete and **whole**.

- A. intact
- B. healthy
- C. cured
- D. round
30. **How does the poet use personification in the lines below?** (L5a)

No one controls a storm this wild

Not Nature herself;

Not her vicious child.

- A. to say that no one can control a storm
- B. to say that Nature cannot control a storm
- C. to say that a storm is Nature’s cruel child
- D. to say that no one should try to control Nature

**STOP**

Sit still and remain quiet until instructed otherwise by your teacher.
Read the passage to answer the following questions.

excerpted from

**What’s a Derecho?**

On the evening of June 29th, 2012, a dark bow-shaped cloud raced toward Fort Wayne, Indiana. With that ominous cloud came powerful winds reaching 91 miles per hour. The storm traveled rapidly. It made it all the way to the Atlantic Ocean by the next morning, leaving a massive trail of destruction in its wake.

Looking at the pictures of areas affected by this storm, you might think that a hurricane or a tornado was responsible. But this was a different kind of storm altogether—it was a derecho.

Derechos are fast-moving bands of thunderstorms with destructive winds. The winds can be as strong as those found in hurricanes or even tornadoes! Unlike hurricanes and tornadoes, these winds follow straight lines (in fact, *derecho* means “straight” in Spanish). How do these strong winds form? It all has to do with something called a downburst. When the wet air in a thunderstorm meets the drier air surrounding it, the water in the air evaporates. When water evaporates, it cools the air around it. Since the cool air is denser, it rapidly sinks to the ground and creates strong winds.

The downburst can actually suck more dry air into the storm, making even stronger downbursts or clusters of downbursts. Derechos occur when the right conditions for downbursts occur over a wide area.

For a storm to be classified as a derecho, the whole area of the storm must have winds of at least 58 miles per hour and it must produce a swath of damage that is at least 240 miles long. That’s a huge storm!

As the storm grows in size, it forms what are known as bow echoes—large bow-shaped packs of thunderstorms that race forward in one direction. These bow echoes form because the downbursts are stronger in the center of the storm. Stronger downbursts mean faster winds. The faster winds race ahead of the storm, creating a bow. They are impressive to see both on the ground and from the sky.

Derechos are most common in the Midwestern United States but are still fairly rare. You might see a derecho about once a year there. They can occasionally be found all the way up into the Northeast.

The best thing to do in the event of a derecho is to go someplace safe and protected—high winds and falling trees can be quite dangerous!
Satellites and Derechos

Weather satellites can view forming derechos from space and help communities predict when they might strike. Two new groups of satellites, named GOES-R and JPSS, will be able to take even more detailed pictures of these storms and make even better predictions than current satellites.

31. What is the relationship between downbursts and a derecho? (RI2)
   - A. Downbursts can cause a derecho to form.
   - B. Downbursts force a derecho to change temperature.
   - C. Downbursts allow a derecho to evaporate.
   - D. Downbursts lower the pressure inside a derecho.

32. Why is this paragraph important to the passage? (RI5)
   For a storm to be classified as a derecho, the whole area of the storm must have winds of at least 58 miles per hour and it must produce a swath of damage that is at least 240 miles long. That’s a huge storm!
   - A. It explains why people want to see a derecho.
   - B. It describes how strong winds and rain combine.
   - C. It tells how a derecho brings danger to a huge area.
   - D. It provides the specific definition of a derecho.

33. Based on the photograph, what is the best definition for the word bow as it is used in this sentence from the passage? (RI7)
   As the storm grows in size, it forms what are known as bow echoes—large bow-shaped packs of thunderstorms that race forward in one direction.
   - A. a knot with two loops
   - B. a weapon used to shoot arrows
C. to bend the body

D. the forward part of a ship

34. Which sentence would be MOST important to include in a summary of the passage? (R12)

- A. Weather satellites are able to view forming derechos from space.
- B. Derechos may occur once a year in the Midwestern United States.
- C. Hurricanes, tornadoes, and derechos all create strong winds that can cause damage.
- D. Derechos are fast-moving bands of thunderstorms with destructive winds.

35. The word ominous in this paragraph from the passage is based on a Latin root that means “full of foreboding or fear.” The word omen is also based on this root. Based on this information, what is an omen?

On the evening of June 29th, 2012, a dark bow-shaped cloud raced toward Fort Wayne, Indiana. With that ominous cloud came powerful winds reaching 91 miles per hour. (L4b)

- A. a weather forecast
- B. a warning of bad things to come
- C. a dark cloud that brings powerful winds
- D. a fortune teller

Answer questions 36 through 47.

36. Makalo is writing a report about African elephants. Read the paragraph from his report and the directions that follow.

Africa is home to the world’s largest land animals—African elephants. They are between 8 and 13 feet tall and weigh between 5,000 and 14,000 pounds. These huge creatures have large ears that help keep them cool. They also have long noses called trunks, which they use to smell, breathe, drink, and grab objects.
Makalo read information on a website about African elephants. He made a list of facts based on his research. Choose the sentence that is the best fact for Makalo to add to his paragraph. (W7)

- A. African elephants can live up to 70 years.
- B. Elephants eat grass, bark, fruit, and roots.
- C. Female elephants live in family herds that roam about looking for food.
- D. Both male and female African elephants have tusks they use to get food.

37. Which sentence is written correctly? (L1c)

- A. Claudia and Tina are on her way to the science fair.
- B. Claudia and Tina are on she way to the science fair.
- C. Claudia and Tina are on our way to the science fair.
- D. Claudia and Tina are on their way to the science fair.

38. Which answer choice corrects the vague pronoun in sentence 4? (L1d)

(1) My friend loves seeing the koala bears and kangaroos at the zoo. (2) She says they come from Australia. (3) My friend also said that she’s seen many other exotic animals at the zoo from Australia. (4) I said, “I want to go there, too.”

- A. I said, “We want to go there, too.”
- B. I said, “My friend wants to go there, too.”
- C. I said, “I want to go to the zoo, too.”
- D. I said, “I want to go to see the animals, too.”
39. **Which sentence in this paragraph contains an error in verb tense?** (L1e)

(1) Jason had spent the last three hours playing games online. (2) He wasn’t proud of it, but it was true. (3) “Could you come out here and help me in the garden?” his mother shouts. (4) “Sure,” he said, “I can’t just stay in front of a computer screen all day.”

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 3
- D. sentence 4

40. **Which revision that combines sentences 2 and 3 into one sentence BEST improves the style of this paragraph?** (L3a)

(1) Gray whales are one of the most majestic of all ocean creatures. (2) Gray whales make their yearly migration from Alaska to the waters off the coast of Mexico. (3) They make this journey during the fall and winter. (4) Whales typically swim along the coast. (5) Not all whales migrate however.

- A. Going from Alaska to the waters off the coast of Mexico, gray whales make their yearly migration during the fall and winter.
- B. Gray whales make their yearly migration from Alaska to the waters off the coast of Mexico, during the fall and winter.
- C. Gray whales make their yearly migration during the fall and winter, when they journey from Alaska down to the waters off the coast of Mexico.
- D. Going during the fall and winter, gray whales go from Alaska to the waters off the coast of Mexico, making their yearly migration.

41. **Which change should be made to correct the pronoun error in this paragraph?** (L1a)

(1) My sister took a Spanish class in school last year. (2) I never understood why she thought it was so interesting. (3) Last year, my sister and me went to Mexico. (4) She could talk to people in restaurants and hotels. (5) Now, I want to learn Spanish.

- A. change I to we in sentence 2
- B. change me to I in sentence 3
42. Which change should be made to correct the pronoun usage error in this paragraph (L1b)

(1) The rain itself was coming down so hard that it seemed like our car might fall apart. (2) However, the team leader himself said that this foul weather couldn’t stop us. (3) We drove on through the night. (4) We assured ourselves that we had enough provisions to reach our destination. (5) All the while, ourselves kept focused on the main goal, which was to get to Altoona by sunset.

A. change *itself* to *it* in sentence 1
B. change *himself* to *he* in sentence 2
C. change *ourselves* to *ourself* in sentence 4
D. change *ourselves* to *we* in sentence 5

43. Which punctuation option makes the meaning of the underlined words and numbers clear? (L2a)

An adult killer whale can be as long as 32 feet 9.75 meters.

A. 32 feet (9.75 meters).
B. 32 feet – 9.75 meters.
C. (32 feet 9.75 meters).
D. 32 feet; 9.75 meters.

44. Which change should be made to correct the pronoun error in this paragraph? (L1c)

(1) Shipping large quantities of goods first began thousands of years ago, and it is a business that continues to this day. (2) Every day, ships unload their cargo in U.S. ports. (3) I live near a port, loaded with ships, and I wonder where they are going with all their shipping containers. (4) There are so many containers, what could it be holding?
45. **What change needs to be made to correct the error in this paragraph?** (L2b)

My friend’s dad has a boat. The last time we were out on the sea, he let us control the sales. “I love the scent of the ocean,” he said. “Well, you have a boat, so that makes a lot of sense!” I said.

- A. change sea to see
- B. change sales to sails
- C. change scent to sent
- D. change sense to cents

46. **Which sentence could be added to BEST fit the style of this paragraph?** (L3b)

Some people think that we students should start wearing uniforms. They say that buying a few uniforms during the school year will cost families much less than buying a whole closet full of school clothes. Also, if everyone wears the same uniform, no one will have to worry about the latest fads.

- A. After giving this weighty matter considerable thought, I’m basically inclined to agree.
- B. I’m all for it!
- C. Wearing uniforms makes sense to me.
- D. I say “bring it on!”
47. Which sentence is punctuated correctly? (L2a)

- A. My aunt Ruby who lives in Florida sent me a birthday present, that is just what I wanted.
- B. My aunt Ruby, who lives in Florida, sent me a birthday present that is just what I wanted.
- C. My aunt Ruby, who lives in Florida, sent me a birthday present, that is just what I wanted.
- D. My aunt Ruby who lives in Florida sent me a birthday present that is just what I wanted.

In this section, you will read two sources. You will answer questions 48 through 50.

 Titanic: Technological Marvel and Historic Tragedy

At the time of its construction, everyone considered the Royal Mail Steamer (RMS) Titanic the height of technology. At a length of more than 880 feet, Titanic weighed more than 46,000 tons. It was the largest and most luxurious ship sailing at the time. People believed that Titanic was unsinkable due to its design and the new technology used to build it. Sadly, that belief may have contributed to its destruction.

 Titanic boasted many luxurious facilities for its wealthiest passengers. They could eat at the À la Carte Restaurant or Café Parisien. For passengers who wanted exercise, there was a gymnasium and a swimming pool. People could relax in luxurious lounges or in the library. There were also elegant cabins for Titanic’s first-class passengers. Even its steerage facilities—the rooms below deck for the poorest passengers—were considered to be the best available. The ship’s grand staircase made it resemble a floating palace.

For power, Titanic used steam-driven propellers that made it the fastest ship on the ocean. The steam came from furnaces that burned coal. It took 852 tons of coal per day to move the ship. In addition, its generators produced more electricity than most power stations on land at the time.

 Titanic left Southampton, England, on April 10, 1912, bound for New York. The huge ship was making excellent progress until it encountered large icebergs floating in the ocean. The ship’s captain was aware of ice in the water, but he believed that the ship’s size and power could withstand any collision. Unfortunately, he was wrong. Close to midnight on April 14, Titanic collided with an iceberg and began to sink in the waters of the North Atlantic. Despite its many extraordinary features, Titanic had only enough lifeboats for about half of its passengers. The ship was not prepared to deal with a catastrophic collision with an iceberg.

Help was not too far away from Titanic. The crew called a nearby ship that was only an hour away. Sadly, the radio was turned off, so nobody received the message. Another ship was four hours away. It did come to assist the passengers and crew, but for many it was too late. Just three
hours after "Titanic" hit the iceberg, the ship was completely underwater and more than 1,500 people lost their lives in the tragedy.

The tragedy sent shockwaves around the world, and, in many respects, the shock continues today. Even now, scientists and researchers explore the wreckage of the once-glorious ship in search of clues for how an “unsinkable” ship could fall to an iceberg.

**Preserve and Protect Titanic**

Perhaps the most disturbing cause of RMS "Titanic’s" deterioration is the combing of its surface by numerous explorers in search of artifacts. Dr. Robert Ballard, who helped to find "Titanic" in 1985, believes that too few rules govern its exploration and that the ship’s site should be left alone out of respect for those who perished there.

Many of those who have explored the wreck of "Titanic" were scientists and historians who were genuinely interested in learning from what they found. However, others, such as the casually curious and even downright greedy, have taken parts of history that can never be replaced. While many artifacts have been legally taken, others have been illegally taken. Some artifact auctions try to protect the items from "Titanic" by saying they have to be viewable to the public in some way after purchase.

While many of the recovered artifacts were scattered on the ocean floor, others were part of the ship itself. The retrieval of these artifacts has caused immeasurable damage. Parts of the ship are in danger of collapse. Dr. Ballard also believes that pressure from underwater vehicles exploring the ship and bumping against it, as well as debris left there by explorers, is causing the ship to weaken and deteriorate. The remaining parts of the century-old shipwreck are in danger of disappearing altogether.

Dr. Ballard has compared the site to a museum without a lock. It is not just the remains of a ship; it is the story of the lives lost on that fateful night. This precious site deserves to be protected from those who fail to recognize their contribution to its deterioration and the ship’s historic significance.

48. **How does the author of “Titanic: Technological Marvel and Historic Tragedy” introduce the ship as a luxurious means of transportation? (RI3)**

- A. by explaining what powered its propellers
- B. by describing its elaborate facilities
- C. by explaining why it was “unsinkable”
- D. by naming some of the first-class passengers
49. In “Preserve and Protect Titanic,” which of these claims is supported by evidence (RI3)

☐ A. Perhaps the most disturbing cause of RMS Titanic’s deterioration is the combing of its surface by numerous explorers in search of artifacts.

☐ B. However, others, such as the casually curious and even downright greedy, have taken parts of history that can never be replaced.

☐ C. The retrieval of these artifacts has caused immeasurable damage.

☐ D. Parts of the ship are in danger of collapse.

50. What do BOTH sources tell us? (RI9)

☐ A. The sinking of the Titanic could have been avoided.

☐ B. The remains of the Titanic should be preserved, not explored.

☐ C. The sinking of the Titanic continues to fascinate us.

☐ D. The Titanic was an amazing ship when it first set sail.

This passage contains mistakes. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Adventures of Akna

(1) Young Akna, an Inuit boy who lived in the Arctic, loved to go ice fishing on the frozen waters near their home. (2) However, he always had to be on the lookout for thin ice, especially during the warm season when everything melted. (3) One day as the warm season approached, Akna informed his mother that he was going fishing. (4) “I shall bring home plenty of fish for supper,” he said proudly. (5) “You must be careful of polar bears!” his mother exclaimed worriedly. (6) “I want you to stay safe, Akna!”

(7) Akna remembered that long ago, when he was just an infant, he father had been badly injured by a polar bear during a hunting expedition. (8) But what were the chances that the exact same thing would happen to Akna as had happened to his Father? (9) Akna thought his was invincible. (10) He was young and fast. (11) He would be able to outrun any enemy if faced with that challenge. (12) He was not afraid of polar bears or any other danger on the lake (including thin ice. (13) He had been to the lake a thousand times.

(14) “I’ll be just fine, Mother!” he said as he ran off toward the lake.
(15) Akna picked up a large rock near some animal tracks and then strolled out to his normal fishing spot. (16) He smashed the heavy rock against the ice to make a hole. (17) Suddenly he heard a terrible growling sound. (18) He looked up and before him stood the largest polar bear he had ever seen!

(19) Akna was defenseless, and there wasn’t nowhere to run. (20) He remembered his mother’s words and began to wonder why he had been so stubborn. (21) Now he had no choice but to get out of this mess alive. (22) He stood very still, and then he had a brilliant idea. (23) He remembered a time when he was trapped on the ice as a little boy.

(24) His mother had told him to stay calm and everything would be all right. (25) So he stood as still as possible, but his mind still raced a mile a minute. (26) That’s when the idea came to him. (27) He suddenly knew what he must do. (28) He carefully leaned down and picked up a chunk of the broken ice. (29) Then he hurled it at the bear.

(30) The poor creature had not expected the human to defend hisself. (31) Frightened by the sting of the ice, the bear turned and ran off into the forest. (32) Excited and relieved, Akna ran home to tell everyone about his adventure. (33) But he stopped when he heard a loud CRACK. (34) He looked back just in time to see the ice where he had been standing break and sink into the lake! (35) *I guess no one is invincible after all,* thought Akna.

51. What is the correct way to revise sentence 9? (L1a)
A. Akna thought her was invincible.
B. Akna thought he was invincible.
C. Akna thought she was invincible.
D. Akna thought I was invincible.

52. What is the correct way to revise sentence 8? (L2a)
A. But what were the chances that the exact same thing would happen to Akna as had happened to his Father?
B. But what were the chances that the exact same thing would happen to akna as had happened to his father?
C. But what were the chances that the exact same thing would happen to Akna as had happened to his father?
D. But what were the chances that the exact same thing would happen to akna as had happened to his father?

53. What is the correct way to revise sentence 12? (L2a)
A. He was not afraid of polar bears or any other danger on the lake (including thin ice).
B. He was not afraid of polar bears or any other danger on the lake including thin ice).
C. He was not afraid of polar bears or any other danger (on the lake including thin ice).
D. He was not afraid of polar bears or any other (danger on the lake including thin ice).
54. What is the meaning of the word *season* as it is used in sentence 2? (L4a)
A. to add herbs or spices to food
B. a time of the year
C. something added for flavor
D. a day of the month

55. What is the correct way to rewrite sentence 30? (L1a)
A. The poor creature had not expected the human to defend herself.
B. The poor creature had not expected the human to defend himself.
C. The poor creature had not expected the human to defend him.
D. The poor creature had not expected the human to defend itself.

56. Which word from the passage is spelled incorrectly? (L2b)
A. exclaimed
B. defenseless
C. releived
D. frightened

57. What is the correct way to revise sentence 7? (L1a)
A. change *he was just an infant* to *his was just an infant*
B. change *he was just an infant* to *him was just an infant*
C. change *he father* to *his father*
D. change *he father* to *him father*

58. In which word does the root mean the same as it does in the word *invincible*? (L4b)
A. invitation
B. vicinity
C. invisible
D. victory

59. What is the correct way to revise sentence 17? (L2a)
A. Suddenly, he heard a terrible growling sound.
B. Suddenly he heard, a terrible growling sound.
C. Suddenly he heard a, terrible growling sound.
D. Suddenly, he heard, a terrible, growling sound.

60. What is the correct way to revise sentence 19? (L1e)
A. Akna was defenseless, and there was nowhere to run.
B. Akna was defenseless, and there ain’t nowhere to run.
C. Akna was defenseless, and there weren’t nowhere to run.
D. Akna was defenseless, and there wasn’t not nowhere to run.