

Reading Comprehension

600 Series

Book 2
Volumes C and D

SUCCESS FOR ALLTM
READING WINGSTM
C.I.R.C.

Student Test

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Table of Contents

Volume C

6C1	Characters' Feelings	1
6C2	Comprehension Casino (No Test)	
6C3	Fact and Opinion	2
6C4	Fantasy and Realistic Fiction	3
6C5	Following Written Directions	4
6C6	Diagrams	5
6C7	Similes and Metaphors	6
6C8	Suffixes	7
6C9	Synonyms	8
6C10	Integration of Skills	10

Volume D

6D1	Fix-It (No Test)	
6D2	Comprehension Casino (No Test)	
6D3	Main Idea and Supporting Details	11
6D4	Prediction (No Test)	
6D5	Characterization	12
6D6	Problem and Solution	13
6D7	Following Written Directions	14
6D8	Compare and Contrast	15
6D9	Integration of Skills	16
6D10	Integration of Skills	17

Characters' Feelings

Directions: Read each of the following passages. Answer the questions which follow each passage.

Anuj watched his sister graduate from high school. Sudha looked a little silly in her black robe and her cap. Anuj smiled as she walked up on the stage. He couldn't believe that she was old enough to be done with school. But he knew that she wasn't really done. She was going to college in September.

After the ceremony, Sudha met her family in the lobby of her school. She was smiling. She held up her diploma. "Look guys, I made it." Her mother and father smiled, too. They told her that they were proud of her.

Sudha said good-bye to a couple of her teachers. She felt like she might cry when she said good-bye to Ms. Furlong. Ms. Furlong was one of the greatest teachers in the world, at least according to Sudha. She was the one who encouraged Sudha to go to college.

1. How did Anuj feel as he watched his sister graduate from high school?
 - a. Anuj couldn't believe she made it.
 - b. Anuj felt happy for her.
 - c. Anuj was so bored he thought he would die.
 - d. Anuj was jealous.
2. How did Sudha's family feel when she held up her diploma?
3. How did Sudha feel when she said good-bye to her teacher, Ms. Furlong?

A few months later Sudha went to college. Anuj was quiet the whole ride up to the school. He felt like Sudha was leaving him forever. Anuj wondered who he would talk to after school now. Anuj didn't want Sudha to go to school.

When they got there, Sudha tried to be brave. She told everyone that she would write soon. She said she would miss them. Sudha watched as they pulled away in the car. She started to cry.

4. How did Anuj feel about taking Sudha to her college?
 - a. Anuj was excited for Sudha.
 - b. Anuj felt sorry for Sudha.
 - c. Anuj didn't want Sudha to get a college education.
 - d. Anuj was sorry to see Sudha going away.
5. How did Sudha feel when her family pulled away in the car?

Fact and Opinion

Directions: Read each selection. Answer the question asked below the selection. Write your answer on your paper.

1. I used a pickaxe for the first time today. This summer I worked at a farm owned by my father's friend. It was a pretty good place to work. He taught me how to fix all kinds of things. I helped him fix fences and then paint them. I helped feed the chickens and also collected their eggs. The only thing he didn't let me do was drive his tractor. He said I'm still too little. I sat in the tractor once but it wasn't turned on. He should give me a chance. I could reach all the pedals just fine. Who knows? Maybe he just wanted to wait and see if I was responsible enough. By next summer, I should be able to drive the tractor.

Write three opinion sentences from this paragraph on your paper. Tell why they are opinions.

2. Classical music is here to stay. Some people think it is boring, but I don't think they have really listened to it if they think that. Other people don't like it because it usually doesn't have words. I think you can say plenty without ever using a word. Classical music has been around a long time. I think that's pretty impressive. Some of the pieces that are played today, were being played back in the 1500s. I doubt that the same thing will be true of some of the songs you hear on the radio today.

Which two of the following sentences are fact sentences? Write the letter of the sentence on your paper.

- a. Classical music has been around a long time.
- b. Some of the pieces that are played today were being played back in the 1500s.
- c. Classical music is here to stay.
- d. I doubt that the same thing will be true of some of the songs you hear on the radio today.

Fantasy and Realistic Fiction

Directions: Read each selection. Decide if it is fantasy or realistic fiction. Write that on your paper. Explain why you think it is fantasy or realistic fiction.

1. Ray is planning a vacation to the moons of Saturn this summer. He is excited to go to the moons and spend time on their warm beaches. Ray went to Pluto last year for a ski trip. It was so cold, he thought his blood might be frozen.
2. Mr. Watson is actually a superhero. He is an amphibian. His house is underwater. He can live on land, but he has to get wet at least once a day. Mr. Watson spends his free time battling super-villains.
3. Charlie likes to play the piano. His grandfather has a big piano at his house. Charlie likes to go there and play for hours. It is more fun than when he plays at home. Charlie's grandfather likes to listen to his music. Charlie hopes to be a famous piano player someday.
4. My brother thinks there is a monster that hides in his closet. He is afraid to go to sleep at night. I've told Jason that monsters are make-believe many times. He still thinks that the monster is going to come and get him at night.
5. Sari took the subway to get to the bus station. It is the fastest way to get from her house to the station. While she was on the subway a strange thing happened. When they stopped, a group of pigs came on the train. They all stood up on their hind legs like people. They were talking about something important. Sari couldn't believe her eyes.

Following Written Directions

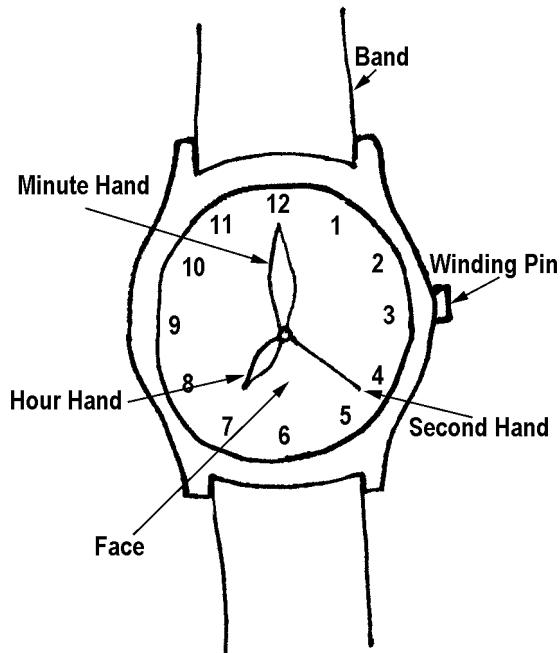
Directions: Read the following examples of directions. Answer the questions that follow the selection. There are both multiple choice and short answer questions. Record your answers on your own paper.

It's really pretty easy to make a big splash with a "cannonball." Go up on the diving board and walk to the edge. Take a step back. Now step forward onto the edge of the diving board and push down. The board should spring back, pushing you into the air. Jump away from the diving board and into the water. Before you hit the water, grab your shins and pull your knees to your chest. You will hit the water and make a big splash. Before you do cannonballs, be sure that the water you are jumping into is deep enough. And also, make sure no one is in the pool below you.

1. What do these directions explain?
2. What will happen when you push down on the diving board?
 - A. You will make a big splash.
 - B. Nothing will happen until you jump.
 - C. You will dive into the pool.
 - D. It will spring back, pushing you into the air.
3. What should you do before you hit the water?
4. Why do you think you should be sure that the water is deep enough?
 - A. Deeper water means a bigger splash.
 - B. So that you don't hit the bottom of the pool.
 - C. It is illegal to do cannonballs in water that is not deep.
 - D. It is easier to do cannonballs in deep water.
5. Why should you make sure no one is in the pool below you?

Diagrams

THE WATCH FACE



1. Is the minute hand longer or shorter than the hour hand?
2. If the hour hand is pointing at the seven and the minute hand is pointing at the 12, what time is it?
 - A. seven o'clock
 - B. twelve minutes after seven
 - C. twelve thirty-five
 - D. No one can tell time with this watch.
3. What is the part that holds the watch to your arm called?
 - A. the band
 - B. the second hand
 - C. the face
 - D. the winding pin
4. What is the part with the numbers on it called?
 - A. the time of day
 - B. the hour
 - C. the face
 - D. the case

Similes and Metaphors

Directions: Carefully read each selection. On your paper, write the words that make the mind movie better. Write whether it is a simile or a metaphor. Explain why the author used the metaphor or simile.

1. Christian is as stubborn as a mule. Once he makes up his mind, there's no changing it.
2. Grandma is a fountain of kindness. She will help anyone she can whenever she can.
3. The surface of the lake was as smooth as glass. There was no wind and so there were no waves.
4. Mr. Manno's bark is much worse than his bite. He's really a nice man. He just has a loud mouth.
5. After the movie my mother started to cry like a baby. It was a very sad movie.

Suffixes

Directions: Read the following sentences, paying attention to the boldfaced words. First, write down the suffix found in the boldfaced word and what it means. Second, write the meaning of the boldfaced word in a sentence or two.

- Sol walked down her street. She noticed **paintlike** markings every few feet.
 1. Write the suffix and what it means.
 2. Write the meaning of the boldfaced word.
- Our neighbor Grandma Legore is the **kindest** woman I know.
 3. Write the suffix and what it means.
 4. Write the meaning of the boldfaced word.

Synonyms

Directions: Read the following passages. Pay attention to the boldfaced word. Choose the synonym, or word that means the same, from the list following each passage.

1. Rachel didn't just get mad; she was **irate**.

In this passage **irate** means the same as —

- A. furious
- B. happy
- C. tired
- D. excited

2. Sometimes Grandpa talks like he is a hundred years old. The other day he said, "I remember when I met your grandmother. She was a young **maiden** then."

In this passage **maiden** means the same as —

- A. boy
- B. hag
- C. girl
- D. vision

3. "Where are my shoes now?" **bellowed** Regina. She is always loud when she can't find something.

In this passage **bellowed** means the same as —

- A. called
- B. said
- C. yelled
- D. whispered

4. Diem was **anxious** about performing her solo for the school. She had never played by herself for so many people. Her stomach was starting to feel funny.

In this passage **anxious** means the same as—

- A. excited
- B. happy
- C. angry
- D. nervous

5. When the king gave the knight his medal he said, “You have been quite **valiant**. Not many men would have the courage to face a dragon alone.”

In this passage **valiant** means the same as—

- A. weak
- B. brave
- C. quiet
- D. foolish

Integration of Skills

Directions: Read the following selections. Answer the questions for each passage.

1. It was the first time this year that it had snowed. They didn't have school because of it. Jerry was glad to have an extra day off of school. Mom said that it would be a hard winter this year. She said, "I can't ever remember it snowing this early. Not before Thanksgiving." Jerry watched as the snowflakes drifted to the ground. They fell softly like feathers to the ground. Jerry decided to go outside.

It was cold. The wind bit at his cheeks. Still, Jerry walked over to Doug's house. Doug came running up the street. "Jerry! Jerry!" Doug was yelling, "You gotta come see this. The snowman is alive." Jerry thought Doug was kidding until he rounded the corner. Sure enough, there was a snowman dancing in the street.

A. How did Jerry feel about having an extra day off?

- a. He didn't like it.
- b. Jerry was happy.
- c. Jerry wished he was at school.
- d. Jerry was tired of being home.

B. What time of year was it?

- a. early spring
- b. late spring
- c. late fall
- d. summer

C. How does the simile, "fell softly like feathers," help you understand the story?

D. Is the second paragraph fantasy or realistic fiction?

E. How does the author personify the wind?

- a. The wind whispered secrets.
- b. The wind tapped on Jerry's window.
- c. The wind bit Jerry's cheeks.
- d. The wind is not personified.

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Directions: Carefully read the following paragraph. Write the Main Idea and three supporting details on your paper.

My brother Juni always finds interesting rocks in the stream near our house. He has found a whole pile of different kinds of rocks. Some are blue and flaky. They are so thin I can see light through them. Others are white and very hard. He found one rock that looked like gold. He showed it to me and told me he was rich! He told me later that this rock is called "Fool's Gold." I was really fooled.

Characterization

Directions: Read the following paragraphs. Answer the questions that follow the paragraphs on your own paper.

Jamie told Rachel that he could run faster than she could. He said he could probably run faster going backward. He said that he could even win if he ran on one leg. The two children decided to have a race. They started at the lamppost and ran to the end of the block. Rachel reached the end of the block before Jamie. He said that she had not really won because he had let her start before he had. Rachel couldn't believe it. She said they should run the race again. This time, Rachel made sure they started at the same time. She beat Jamie again.

1. What word describes Jamie?
 - a. shy
 - b. friendly
 - c. boastful

2. Explain your answer.

Dave always thought it was more interesting to tell a tall tale than tell the truth. He always made up outrageous and unbelievable stories about things that happened to him. For example, once he told us that he was chased by a pack of wolves on the way to the store. We knew he was lying because wolves don't live anywhere near us.

He would also lie about simple things. Dave made up stories about why he hadn't finished his homework and why he hadn't done his chores. He told these stories so often that he didn't even realize he was doing it.

3. What kind of a person do you think Dave is?
 - a. dishonest
 - b. pleasant
 - c. nervous

4. Explain your answer.

Problem and Solution

Directions: Read the following selections. Identify the problem. Predict two solutions. Support one of your predictions.

James felt afraid. The school day was over. Most of the kids had gone home. He didn't want to leave, though. He knew Allen would be waiting outside when he came out. Allen would demand the money that he did not have. James had spent the money. He was too hungry to skip lunch. Also he was sick of Allen taking his money after school. Now he wished he had the money back. He didn't know how he would get out of school without Allen seeing him.

1. What is the Problem?
2. Predict a Solution.
3. Predict a Solution.
4. Support one Prediction.

Following Written Directions

Directions: Read the following examples of directions. Answer the questions that follow the selection. There are both multiple choice and short answer questions. Record your answers on your own paper.

Spring is here and it's time for us to clean up the alley. First, we need supplies. We will need brooms, shovels, trash bags, and work gloves. We will also need volunteers. After we have all of the supplies, we can get to work. We'll start at the north end of the alley and work our way down. First, we'll pick up the big stuff and put it in the bags. Next, we'll sweep up what we can. Finally, we'll use shovels for trash that needs to be scraped up. After we're all done, we'll take the bags and put them out for the trash pick-up on Monday.

1. What do these directions explain?
2. What will they do first?
 - A. Sweep the whole alley.
 - B. Pick up all the trash.
 - C. Gather up all the supplies they need.
 - D. Use their shovels to scrape up trash.
3. Where will they start the cleaning?
4. What will they do second when they are cleaning?
 - A. They will clean up the alley.
 - B. They will sweep up what they can.
 - C. They will get volunteers to help.
 - D. They will use their shovels.
5. Why will they use shovels?

Compare and Contrast

Directions: Read the following sentences. Write one similarity and one difference between the two things being compared.

1. You can make many different kinds of clothes from wool and cotton. Cotton comes from plants. Large machines take small tufts of cotton off the stalks. The tufts of cotton are spun together into large pieces of cloth. You can use cotton to make sweaters, pants, and socks. Wool comes from sheep. Sheep grow a special kind of hair called fleece. This is shaved off the sheep. It is also spun together. You can use wool to make sweaters, pants, or socks, too.
 1. Write one similarity.
 2. Write one difference.
2. Eileen and Mert often go to their family's cabin. They love to go out on the lake in boats. Eileen always takes their small sailboat out. She sails across the lake on windy days without doing much work at all. Mert always takes the canoe across the lake. She likes to move slowly across the water. Sometimes she even stops in the middle and enjoys the peace and quiet. She also enjoys the exercise she gets from paddling the canoe across the water.
 3. Write one similarity.
 4. Write one difference.

Integration of Skills

Directions: Read the following selections. Answer the questions for each passage.

1. Joe Briggs and Gil Gottfreed were both under pressure at the end of the game. Joe Briggs was pitching in the ninth inning of the last baseball game of the season. Gil Gottfreed was last at bat with two outs. His team was down by one point. Joe could feel the sweat going down the back of his neck. His arm was sore from pitching. His hand was shaking a little. Gil was sweating, too. He stood at home plate, his legs quivering slightly. His hands felt sticky in his batting gloves.
- A. What is the main idea of the passage?
- a. Joe Briggs was pitching in the ninth inning of the last baseball game of the season.
 - b. Gil Gottfreed was last at bat with two outs.
 - c. His team was down by one point.
 - d. Joe Briggs and Gil Gottfreed were both under pressure at the end of the game.
- B. Why did you choose your answer to question A.
- C. Write one similarity between Joe Briggs and Gil Gottfreed.
- D. Write one difference between Joe Briggs and Gil Gottfreed.

Integration of Skills

Directions: Read the following selections. Answer the questions for each passage.

1. I went out to see a comet with my dad last night. He showed me how to look through the lens to see the comet. It was incredible! He told me we had to wait until it was dark outside before we could see the comet. This was because the sunlight was too bright and blocked out the light coming off the comet. The comet was beautiful. The comet had a small round center. The center was very bright. The comet also had a tail. My dad told me that the tail came from water or gas coming off the comet as it sped through space. I also thought it was amazing that we could see something that was so far away so easily.
- A. Why did this person and his father wait until it was dark to look for the comet?
- B. What did this person and his father use to see the comet?
- a. a flashlight
b. nothing
c. binoculars
d. a telescope
- C. Which two of the following sentences are opinions?
- a. The comet was beautiful.
b. The comet's tail came from water or gas coming off the comet as it sped through space.
c. We had to wait until it was dark outside before we could see the comet.
d. It was amazing that we could see something that was so far away so easily.
- D. Write two facts from the above paragraph.

