

**BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**READING  
CMT PRACTICE  
PACKET**

**#1**

***Reading***



**STUDENT'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Degrees of Reading Power Grade 3 - December 2007

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage below and note that words are missing from it. Where a word is missing, there is a blank line with a number. Choose the word that makes the most sense for each blank.

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Plants are able to make their own food. A few plants also catch food. Their leaves act as traps. They catch insects.

The sundew is one such plant. It has a kind of juice, or nectar, on its leaves. The nectar is sweet and sticky. Its odor attracts insects. They land on the leaves. They get stuck. Often they try to pull away. They fight to get free. But 1 does not help the insect. The harder it pulls, the more it gets stuck. Soon, short hairs on the leaf begin to bend. They fold over the insect. Then longer and longer hairs do so. All the hairs 2. They fold over, pinning the insect down.

It may take only a few minutes for this to happen. It may take hours. The 3 varies. It depends on how slowly the plant acts. It depends on how much the insect fights. About a week later, the hairs unfold. The insect has been eaten. The plant is ready for its next victim. But it will have few such 4. It will eat only three or four insects. Then it will die.

The sundew plant traps insects rather slowly. This is not true of some other plants. They are much 5. The Venus flytrap is one of these. It closes in half a second or less. It has six tiny hairs on each leaf. The leaf snaps shut when insects touch the hairs. The insects are caught inside. At first, spaces remain where the leaf edges meet. The insects may try to squeeze out through the openings. Some insects will get through. They will 6. Soon, though, the sides of the leaf draw tightly together. Then there is no way out.

You can see this plant work by putting something on the leaf to touch the hairs. You must 7 it carefully, though. The leaf will snap shut so quickly you will miss it if you glance away.

- 1  struggling  drinking  
 searching  sleeping  
 listening

- 2  move  dry  
 break  shine  
 disappear

- 3  color  shape  
 taste  time  
 distance

- 4  branches  flowers  
 spots  meals  
 diseases

- 5  faster  safer  
 greener  taller  
 prettier

- 6  hear  grow  
 gather  nest  
 escape

- 7  watch  seed  
 smell  water  
 pick



\*\*\*\*\*  
**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage below and note that words are missing from it. Where a word is missing, there is a blank line with a number. Below the passage are the same numbers and five words. Choose the word that makes the most sense for each blank.

The Arctic is at the top of the world. It is cold much of the year. The Arctic is mostly frozen snow. The snow covers everything it is like a white \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_.

In the winter months, the sun does not shine in the Arctic. The sky loses its light. The land also becomes \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_. Then, one day the sun comes back. Each day, it shines longer than the day before. In time, the land begins to grow warm.

The snow slowly melts. Life returns. Land animals, as well as \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_, come back to the Arctic. They return from other parts of the world. Foxes, wolves, and rabbits are seen again. Even giant sea animals, such as the \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_, return.

Some animals never leave the Arctic. For example, polar bears \_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_ through the cold, black winter. A mother polar bear and her baby cubs spend the winter in a small space under the snow. The mother bear digs out this winter home. She does it before the cold comes. Then, she and her cubs curl up for a winter nap.

In the spring, the warm weather wakes the sleeping family. The mother digs up to reach the warming earth. She uses her strong paws like you might use a \_\_\_\_6\_\_\_\_ or other digging tool. She works and works. In time, the bear family stands in the open air.

Now, the mother will begin to hunt. Her babies need food. They like to eat the food their mother catches. The cubs eat meat and \_\_\_\_7\_\_\_\_, too. In time, they will grow strong. One day, the cubs will hunt their own. But for now they must wait for their mother to bring food.

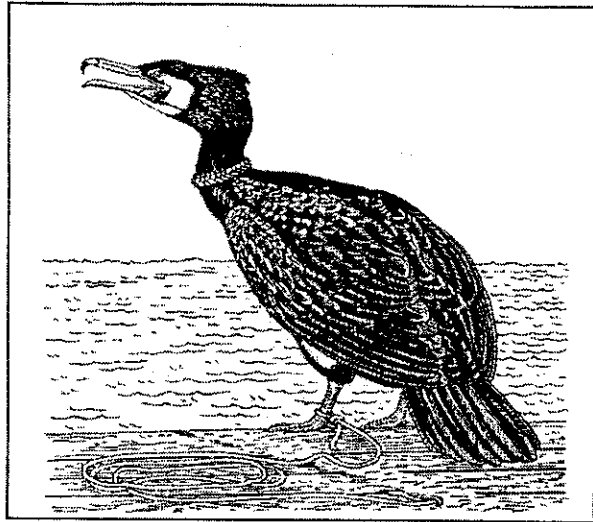
In a few short months, the weather will change again. Sunny days will grow shorter. It will be dark and cold again. Some animals know it will soon be time to leave. They will travel south. There they will find warmer weather. Others will get ready to spend another winter in the Arctic cold.

- |             |           |           |            |            |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 1. a. sled  | b. flower | c. shoe   | d. horse   | e. blanket |
| 2. a. kind  | b. large  | c. dark   | d. hot     | e. careful |
| 3. a. birds | b. lamps  | c. rocks  | d. letters | e. bottles |
| 4. a. cat   | b. pig    | c. dog    | d. whale   | e. monkey  |
| 5. a. walk  | b. sleep  | c. fight  | d. cry     | e. shop    |
| 6. a. stove | b. car    | c. shovel | d. hat     | e. book    |
| 7. a. candy | b. soup   | c. paper  | d. fish    | e. string  |

Jolene's class at school is studying ways people fish in different cultures. Her teacher started the lesson by reading this story to the class.

## Fishing with Friends

1. I watched as Grandpa Kenji loaded the things we would need onto his fishing boat. I looked forward to these special times, catching fish and listening to his stories.
2. The setting sun was red, purple, and orange. We had just enough time to get to our favorite fishing spot.
3. "Do you have the lanterns, Yoshi?" Grandpa asked.
4. I nodded, and Grandpa smiled at me. I was proud that I had remembered the small lanterns that we would light. When the fish see the light, they come close to the boat.
5. Grandpa's birds, called cormorants, gathered around him as he pushed off from the dock. These large birds were very good at catching fish. Each had a length of rope tied to one foot. When it was time to fish, Grandpa would hold the loose ends of the long ropes in his hands to keep the birds from flying away. The wide collars the birds wore stopped them from swallowing the fish.
6. "Tell me again why the birds work for you," I asked Grandpa.
7. He laughed because he had told me this story many times before. Then, he began his tale.
8. "My cormorants came to me from Japan's largest island," he began. "The bird catchers brought them to me, and I became their keeper so they would trust me. They now believe that I will never leave them."
9. I imagined Grandpa feeding and caring for the young birds. He fed them pieces of fish and rubbed their wings.
10. "You even gave them baths, didn't you, Grandpa?" I asked.
11. "Yes, I did," he answered. "They learned to be with me and to trust me. Now, they work for me."
12. Just as he finished his story, we arrived at our fishing spot. Grandpa lowered the anchor and then lit the small lanterns. When they were burning brightly, he fastened them to the boat.
13. One by one, the cormorants slipped into the water and stuck their heads under to look for fish. Suddenly, a school of fish swam by, and the birds dove after them. In just seconds, they bobbed up with their beaks full of wiggling fish. They returned to the boat each time and gave their catch to Grandpa.
14. Soon, it was time to head home. Grandpa brought the birds back onto the boat and removed their collars.
15. "Well done, little friends," he said, showing a clear fondness for his birds.



# Reading Comprehension

Answer questions 1 through 8 on your answer sheet.

- 1 This story is mainly about how
- a fishing at night is scary.
  - b animals can help people with their work.
  - c fishing with birds is expensive.
  - d feeding and caring for birds can be difficult.
- 2 According to paragraph 4, Grandpa used the lanterns to
- f light the way to the fishing spot.
  - g help the birds see the fish.
  - h bring the fish near to the boat.
  - j keep Yoshi and himself warm.

Use this story map to help you answer questions 3 and 4.

### Characters

1. Grandpa 2. Yoshi 3. Cormorants

### Setting

Time — \_\_\_\_\_

Place — Ocean

### Main Events

The sun begins to set.

Box 1

Yoshi asks Grandpa to again tell his story about the birds.

Box 2

The cormorants catch fish and take them back to Grandpa.

Box 4

- 3 What belongs on the blank line in the "Setting" box next to the word "Time"?
- a Early afternoon
  - b Late morning
  - c Noon
  - d Sunset
- 4 What belongs in Box 3 in the story map above?
- f Grandpa tells Yoshi why the birds trust him.
  - g Grandpa removes the birds' collars.
  - h Grandpa asks Yoshi about the lanterns.
  - j Grandpa loads the boat.

GO ON ►

## Reading Comprehension

- 5 If the author had added another sentence to paragraph 15, which of these would best belong?
- a He hoped the birds would not fly away.
  - b Grandpa thought that they had not caught enough fish.
  - c Grandpa wanted more fish, but we had no more time.
  - d It was now time for the hard-working birds to eat.
- 6 In this story, what was the most important thing to Yoshi?
- f What the birds were named
  - g Where the birds had come from
  - h Being with Grandpa
  - j Knowing the moon was full
- 7 In paragraph 15, the word fondness means
- a lesson.
  - b gift.
  - c love.
  - d breath.
- 8 If the author added another paragraph to the end of the story, it most likely would have told
- f how Grandpa took care of the birds after the fishing trip.
  - g where Yoshi went to school.
  - h what color Grandpa painted his boat.
  - j what Grandpa's childhood had been like.

GO ON ►

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story about a lost pet. Then answer the questions 1-6.

# Finding Boomer

One Friday morning, Carlos filled Boomer's cat food dish. After school, the food was still there.

"Dad," Carlos said, "have you seen Boomer? He didn't eat."



"Don't worry," Mr. Delgado said. "It's a beautiful day. He's probably too busy exploring."

When Carlos's mother came home from work, she said the same thing. But by bedtime, Boomer was still gone. As a result, Carlos hardly slept.

The next morning, Mrs. Delgado had an important

meeting. Mr. Delgado stayed home to watch the baby. "If Boomer doesn't come home by tonight, we'll search together," Mr. Delgado promised. But Carlos was impatient.

"May I go look for Boomer myself?" Carlos asked his father.

"I'm sorry," said Mr. Delgado. "But you know you can't go walking around the neighborhood alone."

Carlos left fresh food on the porch. Every few minutes, he checked it. He hung Boomer's favorite toy on the fence. He called and called for Boomer. Carlos began to think his cat was lost forever.

Suddenly, Carlos had an idea. He phoned his friend Emily. "Boomer is missing," Carlos said.

"I'm sorry," Emily said, "but I haven't seen him."

**impatient:**  
not able to  
wait

**GO ON**

"That's OK," Carlos said. "Just call three people you know and let them know that Boomer is missing. Tell them what he looks like. Give them my phone number. Then ask each of them to call three people and do the same thing."

"That's a great idea!" Emily said. "Soon, dozens of people will be looking for Boomer."

Then Carlos called Max and Gino. They both agreed to help. Carlos waited all afternoon for a phone call. He had almost given up when the phone rang.

"Hello," a woman said. "My name is Susan Rivera. I live at 15 Maple Street. I think I've found your cat."

Carlos was so excited that he ran straight to the car. "Carlos," Mr. Delgado said, "it might not be Boomer, you know. There are lots of stray cats that look like our Boomer." But Carlos was too excited to listen.

When Mrs. Rivera opened the door, Carlos's heart sank. A large orange cat was standing by her feet. "Oh, don't worry!" she said. "That's my cat, Cyrus. The cat I found is in my garage."

As soon as the garage door opened, Boomer jumped into Carlos's arms. "Boomer!" Carlos shouted. The cat began to purr.

Back at home, Carlos fixed a special treat for Boomer. Then Boomer went straight to his bed for a nap.

"I'm proud of you," Mrs. Delgado said to Carlos. "You couldn't use your feet to go look for Boomer, so you used your brain instead."

garage: room or building in which to park a car



**1** What is “Finding Boomer” mostly about?

- Ⓐ family life
- Ⓑ calling neighbors
- Ⓒ Carlos’s clever solution
- Ⓓ taking care of a cat

**2** What is the setting of “Finding Boomer”?

- Ⓕ a neighborhood with houses
- Ⓖ a city with large apartment buildings
- Ⓗ the country
- Ⓙ a front porch

**3** Because Mrs. Delgado had to go to a meeting,

- Ⓐ Carlos had to search for Boomer alone.
- Ⓑ she couldn’t help find Boomer.
- Ⓒ Mr. Delgado stayed home to watch TV.
- Ⓓ Carlos feared Boomer was lost forever.

**1** Where in Mrs. Rivera's house was Boomer?

- Ⓕ on her porch
- Ⓖ at the front door
- Ⓗ in the living room
- Ⓙ in the garage

**5** Which answer *best* describes "Finding Boomer"?

- Ⓐ a poem
- Ⓑ an article about real people
- Ⓒ a story that is made up
- Ⓓ an article about events that really happened

**6** Which word *best* describes Carlos?

- Ⓕ clever
- Ⓖ foolish
- Ⓗ careless
- Ⓙ fearful

## DIRECTIONS

Lisa wrote a draft of a short story about bats. Now, she needs help editing and revising it.

Read Lisa's draft and use it to answer Numbers 1 through 10.

### Old and New Ideas About Bats

(1) One evening, Josh was studying at the kitchen table. (2) Suddenly, from the living room, he heard his mom shout, "Josh, get the broom!"

(3) Josh jumped up he grabbed the broom from the closet. (4) He ran into the living room. (5) Mom was waving her arms all around.

(6) "What's wrong?" Josh asked.

(7) "I found bats in the attic. (8) One flew down here, and I'm trying to kill it. (9) Hand me the broom."

(10) Josh held onto the broom. (11) "But, Mom, bats are our friends," he said.

(12) "Give me the broom, Josh. (13) Bats are filthy creepy animals.

(14) I won't have them flying in my house."

(15) "Mom, please wait. (16) We studied bats in mr. cameron's Science Class last year. (17) Bats do many good things. (18) Did you know that bats eat mosquitoes (19) They also ate many harmful insects that ruin farmers' crops."

(20) "I didn't know that," Mom said. (21) "But I do know that I don't want to bump into one in the dark!"

(22) "They won't bump into you, Mom. (23) Bats use sound to find their way in the dark." (24) Josh looked at the little brown bat hanging there. (25) "Let me catch it and I'll use a cloth and I'll take it outside."

(26) "No," Mom said. (27) She explained that she had a more better idea. (28) "Let's just open the window and let it fly out. (29) This will work for now, but how are we going to keep bats out of the attic?"

(30) "We could build a bat house and hang it outdoors. (31) I read about it in one of my books," said Josh. (32) "First, we need to block off the opening in the attic. (33) Then we just wait until night. (34) When the bats come out to hunt for bugs. (35) When the bats can't get into the attic, they'll nest in the house we've built for them."

(36) So, Josh and his mom put some stuff over the hole in the attic. (37) A week later, the plan worked.

**1** Read sentence 37.

A week later, the plan worked.

Choose the **best** sentence to add right after this sentence.

- Josh received his first "A" in science.
- Mom wondered what Josh's dad would say.
- The bat family moved into its new bat house.
- Josh had some trouble building the bat house.

**2** Choose the correct way to write the underlined part of sentence 1.

One evening, Josh was studying at the kichen table.

- kichin
- kitchin
- kitchen
- No change is needed.

**3** Read sentence 3. It is poorly written.

Josh jumped up he grabbed the broom from the closet.

What is the **best** way to rewrite this sentence?

- Josh jumped up. He grabbed the broom from the closet.
- Josh jumped up, he grabbed the broom from the closet.
- Josh jumped. Up he grabbed the broom from the closet.
- Josh jumped up he grabbed. The broom from the closet.

GO ON ►

4 Choose the correct way to write the underlined part of sentence 13.

Bats are filthy creepy animals.

- filthy, creepy, animals.
- filthy, creepy animals.
- filthy creepy, animals.
- No change is needed.

5 Choose the correct way to write the underlined part of sentence 16.

We studied bats in mr. cameron's Science Class last year.

- Mr. Cameron's Science Class
- mr. Cameron's Science class
- Mr. Cameron's science class
- No change is needed.

6 Choose the correct way to write the underlined part of sentence 18.

Did you know that bats eat mosquitoes

- mosquitoes?
- mosquitoes.
- mosquitoes!
- No change is needed.