

Third Grade
MSTEP Homework Packet # 1

Sent home on _____

Return by _____

Student's Name

Name _____ Date _____

Reading and Analyzing Text

Read the story “Treasures Found” before answering Numbers 1 through 18.

Treasures Found

Katie was strolling down the main hall at school. The bell had just rung and signaled the end of another school week. Katie’s friend Xavier walked alongside her, telling her about his plans for the weekend. Suddenly Katie stopped listening as a sign on the wall caught her eye. It shouted “ART CONTEST” in large, bold letters across the top. Katie read aloud the information on the sign.

Students in all grades can enter the art contest. Pick up an entry form in the school office, fill it in, and return it to the office by February 6. All artwork is due by March 1. Famous wood carver Antonio Gonzalez will be one of the judges. Contest winners will be announced on March 5.

Katie turned to Xavier and said excitedly, “I’m going to submit something to the contest!” As Katie got on the bus, her head buzzed with ideas. She thought about painting a picture of her dog, Biscuit. Then she thought about making something with clay. There were so many possible choices!

When she got home, Katie continued to imagine ideas for her artwork. She made a few sketches of Biscuit. Katie’s younger brother wanted to help her with the artwork. “No, Matt, I have to do this by myself,” Katie told him. She could see that Matt was disappointed, so she said, “Let’s go play outside! It’s a beautiful day, and the backyard is calling to us.” Matt’s face brightened as he ran ahead of her out the door.

After playing for some time, the two stopped to wander through their backyard. “Look!” said Matt, “I found a pretty feather!” He picked up the blue feather and showed it to Katie. Then he put it in his pocket and



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continued to look on the lawn. “I found something else,” he called as he ran over to Katie and handed her three white pebbles.

Katie was finding interesting things, too. She found some thin, curly twigs and crisp brown leaves. Katie began to picture a design made from the objects they had found. She asked Matt to help her collect more items. After some intense searching, they went back inside.

Katie put a sheet of poster board on the kitchen table. Then she and Matt spread out the objects they had found on it. “Watch this,” Katie told Matt. She began to arrange the objects, putting items with different textures together. She put the smooth white pebbles next to the crunchy brown leaves. She sprinkled dried grass here and there on the board. Katie studied the arrangement and said, “It needs a few more things.”

Matt leapt from his chair and declared, “I’ll find some more!” He hurried out the back door again. Katie watched as her brother sat on the grass and inspected the ground carefully. Then he moved to another place in the yard. Katie returned to arranging the objects. About thirty minutes later, Matt came back inside. His pockets bulged with the treasures he’d found in the yard.

“Let’s see what you’ve found,” Katie said. Matt dug into one pocket and produced two old pennies and a snail shell. He reached into the other pocket and pulled out a rock the size of his fist, a snack wrapper, and a walnut shell. “Oh, my!” Katie said. “I really appreciate your hard work, Matt. These are all great things that can be used in the artwork.”

For the rest of the weekend, Katie worked on her project. She had decided not to paint a picture of Biscuit. Instead, she found an old drawer in the garage that her dad said she could have. Katie painted it green and blue and glued the other objects to its inside.

Katie named the artwork “Found Treasures” and entered it in the contest. She did not win the art contest, but she was only a little disappointed. The judges announced that she had won “honorable mention.” This meant that her artwork was good enough to be recognized as special. Katie felt proud when the judges gave her a ribbon and lots of applause. Katie knew that Matt would be excited

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about the ribbon. She could hardly wait to get home that day to give it to him.

Now answer Numbers 1 through 18. Base your answers on the story “Treasures Found.”

- 1 At the beginning of the story, why does Katie stop listening to Xavier?
- (A) She is late for the school bus.
 - (B) She is bored by what Xavier says.
 - (C) She is thinking about her artwork.
 - (D) She sees the sign for the art contest.

- 2 Read this sentence from the story.

It shouted “ART CONTEST” in large, bold letters across the top.

Why does the author compare the sign to someone shouting in the sentence above?

- (F) to show that Katie nearly missed the sign
- (G) to show that the sign got Katie’s attention
- (H) to show that the sign contains lots of information
- (I) to show that Xavier didn’t want Katie to see the sign

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- 3 Read this sentence from the story.

Contest winners will be announced on March 5.

Which word has the same sound as the underlined part of the word *announced*?

- (A) brown
- (B) could
- (C) smooth
- (D) through

- 4 Read this sentence from the story.

There were so many possible choices!

What does the word *possible* mean in the sentence above?

- (F) done again
- (G) able to be done
- (H) done in the past
- (I) done in a slow way

- 5 Read this sentence from the story.

When she got home, Katie continued to imagine ideas for her artwork.

What does the word *imagine* mean in the sentence above?

- (A) set aside
- (B) put on display
- (C) start from the beginning
- (D) form a mental picture of

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- 6 Read this sentence from the story.

She made a few sketches of Biscuit.

What does the word *sketches* mean in the sentence above?

- F paintings
 - G written accounts
 - H rough drawings or outlines
 - I small models, often made of clay
- 7 Which of the following can the reader BEST tell from the story?
- A Katie is a good student.
 - B Xavier lives near Katie.
 - C Katie enjoys making art.
 - D Matt does not like to go outside.
- 8 What does the illustration show readers about Katie?
- F She has not seen the sign for the art contest.
 - G She has decided what to create for her artwork.
 - H She is playing in the backyard with her brother.
 - I She is considering different ideas for her artwork.

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- 9 Read these sentences from the story.

She could see that Matt was disappointed, so she said, “Let’s go play outside! It’s a beautiful day, and the backyard is calling to us.”

What does the author compare the backyard to in the sentence above?

- (A) a person who is beautiful
- (B) a person who has just awakened
- (C) a person inviting others to join him or her
- (D) a person feeling sorry for himself or herself

- 10 Read this sentence from the story.

Then he put it in his pocket and continued to look on the lawn.

Which word has the same sound as the underlined part of the word *lawn*?

- (F) cross
- (G) down
- (H) latch
- (I) nail

- 11 Why does Katie decide NOT to paint a picture of Biscuit?

- (A) She is not pleased with her painting.
- (B) Biscuit will not sit still for a painting.
- (C) She discovers another way to make artwork.
- (D) Matt asks her to use found objects to make artwork.

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- 12 Read this sentence from the story.

Matt leapt from his chair and declared, “I’ll find some more!”

Why does the author use the word *leapt* instead of *got up*?

- F to show that Matt is excited
 - G to show that the chair is unsteady
 - H to show that Matt does not want to help Katie
 - I to show that Matt got out of his chair carefully
- 13 Read this sentence from the story.

Katie returned to arranging the objects.

Which of these shows the correct way to divide the word *returned* into syllables?

- A retur • ned
 - B re • turned
 - C r • eturned
 - D ret • urned
- 14 Read this sentence from the story.

His pockets bulged with the treasures he’d found in the yard.

Which word means almost the SAME as the word *bulged* in the sentence above?

- F closed
- G fell
- H shrunk
- I swelled

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15 How does Matt MOST LIKELY feel when Katie uses his objects in her artwork?

- Ⓐ angry
- Ⓑ pleased
- Ⓒ sad
- Ⓓ unlucky

16 Read this sentence from the story.

He reached into the other pocket and pulled out a rock the size of his fist, a snack wrapper, and a walnut shell.

Which word has the same sound as the underlined part of the word *wrapper*?

- Ⓕ light
- Ⓖ ring
- Ⓗ well
- Ⓘ when

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- 17 Read the dictionary entry below.

ap•pre•ci•ate \ə-prē'shē-āt'\ *verb* 1. to be grateful. 2. to understand. 3. to recognize. 4. to grow in number.

Read this sentence from the story.

“I really appreciate your hard work, Matt.”

Which meaning BEST fits the way the word *appreciate* is used in the sentence above?

- (A) meaning 1
 - (B) meaning 2
 - (C) meaning 3
 - (D) meaning 4
- 18 Read this sentence from the story.

Katie felt proud when the judges gave her a ribbon and lots of applause.

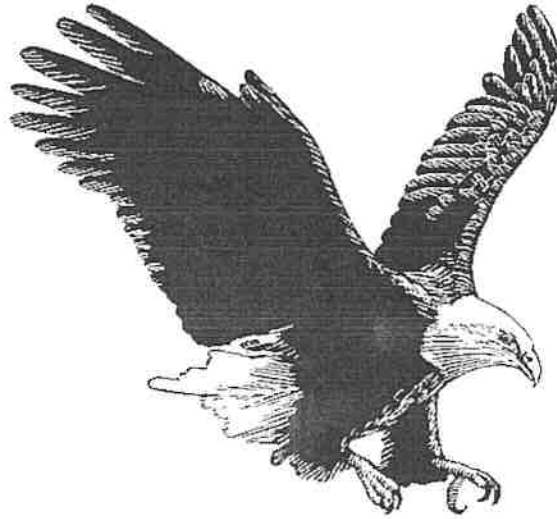
What does the word *applause* mean in the sentence above?

- (F) words of praise
- (G) clapping to show approval
- (H) objects arranged in a particular pattern
- (I) works of art made out of various materials

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Read the introduction and the article “Our National Bird” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

Tanya wrote this article about the bald eagle. Read her article and think about the changes she should make.



Our National Bird

- (1) Can you name the national bird of the United States?
- (2) It's the bald eagle. (3) Of course, the bald eagle's round head is not really bald. (4) Its name comes from the Old English word *balde*, which means “white.” (5) Both the heads and tails of bald eagles are white.
- (6) Female bald eagles are typically larger than male bald eagles. (7) The wings of a female bald eagle stretched about 8 feet from wing tip to wing tip. (8) That length is about the distance from the floor to the ceiling of most rooms!

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(9) Bald eagles' nests are larger than any other bird in North America. (10) Female bald eagles builds their nests at the top of tall trees in order to protect their eggs. (11) Baby eagles are light gray when they are born. (12) Later, they turn brown and white.

(13) In fact, they can fly to heights of up to 10,000 feet.

(14) They swoop down from above and animals such as fish.

(15) An eagle glides over the water, grabs a fish with its feet, and flies away to eat it.

(16) Bald eagles can live for 30 years or more. (17) They were once almost extinct, or completely destroyed, because of pollution and hunting. (18) Bald eagles are no longer in danger of extinction because of laws passed to protect bald eagles.

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on the changes Tanya should make.

- 6 What change should be made in sentence 3?
- F change the comma to a period
 - G change *bald* to **bold**
 - H change *rownd* to **round**
 - I change *really* to **realy**

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Revising and Editing

- 7 What change should be made in sentence 7?
- (A) change *female* to **females**
 - (B) change *stretched* to **stretch**
 - (C) change *feet* to **foot**
 - (D) add a comma after *from*
- 8 What change should be made in sentence 10?
- (F) change *builds* to **build**
 - (G) add a comma after *top*
 - (H) change *to* to **too**
 - (I) change the period to a question mark
- 9 Which sentence could BEST be added before sentence 13?
- (A) Bald eagles are proud birds.
 - (B) Bald eagles have white heads.
 - (C) Bald eagles are masters of the sky.
 - (D) Bald eagles are no longer in danger.
- 10 What is the BEST way to revise sentence 18?
- (F) Bald eagles are no longer in danger, laws passed to protect them from extinction.
 - (G) Bald eagles are no longer in danger of extinction because of laws passed to protect them.
 - (H) Bald eagles are no longer in danger because of the laws of extinction passed to protect bald eagles.
 - (I) Because of laws passed to protect bald eagles are no longer in danger of extinction because of them.

