

Third Grade  
MSTEP Homework Packet # 7

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Student's Name

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story “Strange Rain” before answering Numbers 13 through 18.

## Strange Rain

Sedat sat on the edge of his bed looking out the window after the thunder had awakened him. He wasn't bothered much because he loved to watch storms. It was so dark and shadowy outside, though, that he could barely see out his window. As the storm continued, he heard an odd, thumping sound followed by what sounded like a bark. Then there was another thumping noise and what sounded like a meow. He decided to reach under his bed for his flashlight.

Sedat flipped the switch on the flashlight and pointed it toward the yard. All he could see was the glare from his window. He slipped out of his bed and opened the window and then heard more strange sounds. When he pointed his flashlight into the yard, he could not believe his eyes. It was raining cats and dogs!

Sedat rubbed his eyes and looked again. A cat landed softly on its feet and ran under a bush. A dog landed close by, and the cat jumped out. Then the two animals started to play.

Sedat saw his cat, Link, walking through the garden. Other cats and dogs rained down in the yard. Sedat worried that Link would disappear into the night with all of the other animals, so he put on his slippers and hurried down the stairs. He opened the back door and called out to Link and noticed that it was barely raining now. As he peered out at the darkness, he saw a cat moving toward him. He called Link's name again, and suddenly, Link ran inside and rubbed against Sedat's legs. Sedat dried Link gently with a towel, carried him upstairs, and fell asleep with his cat curled at the foot of the bed.



Sedat woke up early the next morning, and the sun was shining brightly. He dressed quickly and walked downstairs. His mother was opening the back door to go outside, and Sedat went out with her.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading and  
Analyzing Text**

Sedat's mom looked at the garden. She propped up a flower pot that had been knocked over. Then she cut off a broken branch on another plant.

"Look how many plants were damaged during that powerful storm last night," she said. "It must have rained cats and dogs."

"Yes, it did," Sedat agreed. He smiled as Link rubbed against his legs and purred.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Now answer Numbers 13 through 18. Base your answers on the story “Strange Rain.”

- 13 Where does this story take place?
- (A) in a garden
  - (B) in a basement
  - (C) at Sedat’s house
  - (D) under Sedat's bed

- 14 Read this entry from a thesaurus.

<p><b>bothered</b> <i>adj.</i> disturbed or troubled</p> <p><i>angry</i></p> <p><i>embarrassed</i></p> <p><i>hurt</i></p> <p><i>upset</i></p>
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Now read these sentences from the story.

**Sedat sat on the edge of his bed looking out the window after the thunder had awakened him. He wasn’t bothered much because he loved to watch storms.**

Which synonym is MOST LIKE the word *bothered* as it is used in the sentence above?

- (F) angered
- (G) embarrassed
- (H) hurt
- (I) upset

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reading and  
Analyzing Text

15 What does Sedat do to show that he cares for Link?

- (A) He looks out the window.
- (B) He dries Link with a towel.
- (C) He watches Link in the yard.
- (D) He watches Link lick his paws.

16 Which word BEST describes Sedat?

- (F) curious
- (G) fearful
- (H) funny
- (I) grouchy

17 Read this sentence from the story.

**“Look how many plants were damaged during that powerful storm last night,” she said.**

If *power* means “strong,” what does the word *powerful* mean in the sentence above?

- (A) not strong
- (B) full of strength
- (C) in a strong way
- (D) without strength

18 Why does Sedat smile at the end of the story?

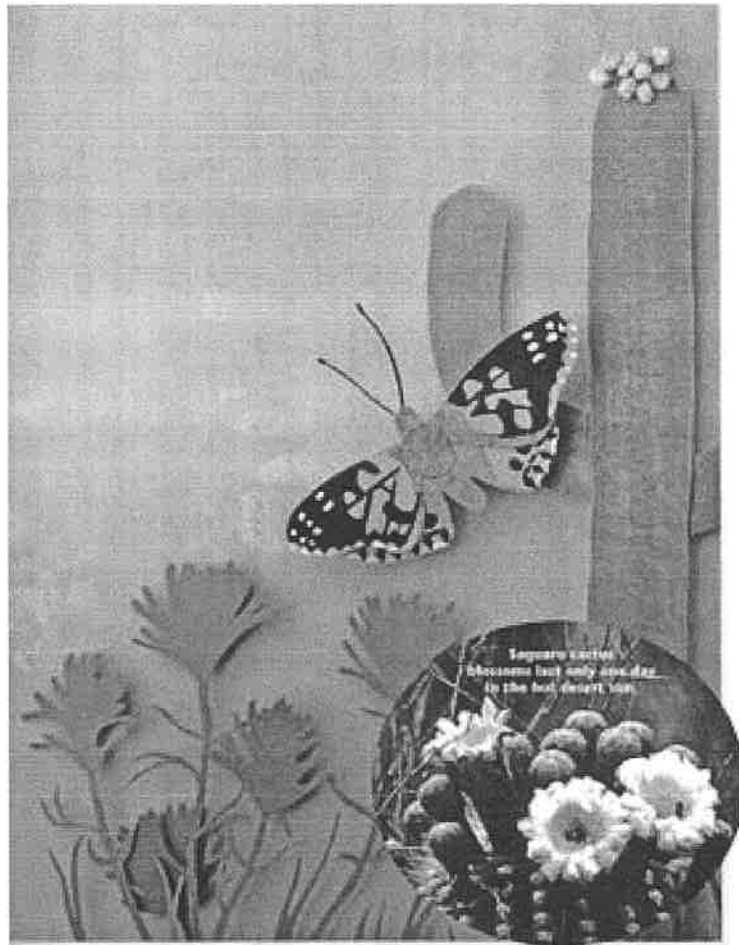
- (F) Link is safe inside the house.
- (G) His mother’s garden is unharmed.
- (H) His mother goes outside with him.
- (I) It rained cats and dogs in his dream.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the article “Day and Night in the Desert” before answering Numbers 19 through 24.

## Day and Night in the Desert

art by Paige Billin-Frye



In late spring, the desert is very hot and dry. But it is full of life. During the cool night, a beautiful saguaro cactus flower blossoms. In the morning, painted lady butterflies suck nectar from wildflowers growing in the sun.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reading and  
Analyzing Text

Nearby, a hungry lizard watches. It soon snaps up a butterfly and scurries away. Then it rests on a rock warmed by the sun. Lizards have to eat, too.

A young snake slithers by, very quietly. It strikes quickly and gobbles up the lizard. The snake won't be hungry for the rest of the day.

Most desert animals stay hidden in the shade during the hot afternoon. But at sunset, the desert begins to cool. A roadrunner darts out from behind a barrel cactus. Roadrunners are very quick. The snake is a nice treat.

In the evening, a coyote waits in the darkness. It has begun its night of hunting to bring food to its family. It doesn't bother to chase the roadrunner. A roadrunner is very hard to catch. The coyote looks for a kangaroo rat instead.



Under the desert moon, another saguaro flower blossoms. In the morning, a butterfly will sip nectar from wildflowers, and the search for food in the desert will begin again.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Now answer Numbers 19 through 24. Base your answers on the article “Day and Night in the Desert.”

- 19 What is the article MAINLY about?
- A what desert animals eat
  - B how fast roadrunners can run
  - C cactus flowers blooming at night
  - D how plants and animals live in the desert

- 20 Read this sentence from the article.

**In the morning, painted lady butterflies suck nectar from wildflowers growing in the sun.**

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

- F butterfly food
- G a type of fruit
- H a type of plant
- I butterfly shelter

- 21 Read these sentences from the article.

**Nearby, a hungry lizard watches. It soon snaps up a butterfly and scurries away.**

Why does the author use the phrase *snaps up* instead of *catches* in the sentence above?

- A to show how quickly the lizard grabs the butterfly
- B to show how the lizard uses its feet to catch the butterfly
- C to show how long it takes for the lizard to eat the butterfly
- D to show that the lizard is almost unable to catch the butterfly



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading and  
Analyzing Text**

- 22 At what time of day is the desert the hottest?
- F at sunrise
  - G early in the morning
  - H in the afternoon
  - I at sunset
- 23 Why do most desert animals stay hidden in the afternoon?
- A to sleep
  - B to stay cool
  - C to eat their prey
  - D to hide from enemies
- 24 How does the author connect the ideas in the last paragraph to the ideas in the first paragraph?
- F The author describes how a cactus flower blossoms.
  - G The author tells why it is difficult for animals to find food.
  - H The author explains the nighttime activities of different desert animals.
  - I The author tells what happens when night once again turns into morning in the desert.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the article “The Truth About Bears” before answering Numbers 7 through 12.

## The Truth About Bears

Three kinds of bears live in the United States. They are the black bear, the brown bear, and the polar bear.

### Black Bears

Black bears are the most common of the three. They live in forests in many different parts of the country. Even though they are known as “black bears,” they are not always black. Sometimes they are brown or tan, and a few are even white. Black bears are usually about five or six feet long. They are the smallest of the three kinds of bears.

### Brown Bears

Brown bears are found in a few western states and in Alaska. They live in forests as well as in open areas called the tundra. Brown bears are usually light or dark brown and can grow to be very large. In fact, some are eight feet long!

### Polar Bears

Polar bears can be found in Alaska, which is in a cold region near the North Pole called the Arctic, where there are no trees. Polar bears are white. They are the largest of the three kinds of bears. They are a little longer and usually heavier than the brown bear.

### Other Interesting Things

Bears eat different things. Black and brown bears eat fish and other kinds of meat, roots, and berries. Polar bears eat fish, other meat, seaweed, and grass. All three types of bears eat as much food as they can find just before winter. Then during the cold months they sleep in caves or hollowed out trees called “dens,” which keep them warm. Winter is when the female bears have their babies. All three types of bears have between one and four cubs. The cubs are born while the mother bear sleeps!

All people are afraid of bears. However, bears are actually shy. Most bears try to stay away from people, but still, bears can be dangerous at

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

times. Mother bears do not want people to get too close to their babies, and bears do not want people to get close to their food!

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**Now answer Numbers 7 through 12. Base your answers on the article “The Truth About Bears.”**

- 7** What is the MAIN reason that the author wrote this article?
- (A) to tell people not to feed bears
  - (B) to describe three kinds of bears
  - (C) to show how dangerous bears are
  - (D) to explain why bears sleep all winter
- 8** Where do polar bears live?
- (F) near large forests
  - (G) near the North Pole
  - (H) in a few western states
  - (I) in many parts of the country
- 9** What do black bears, brown bears, and polar bears do BEFORE winter sets in?
- (A) They sleep in dens.
  - (B) They feed their cubs.
  - (C) They eat as much food as they can.
  - (D) They move from forests into open areas.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading and  
Analyzing Text**

- 10 Read this sentence from the article.

**Mother bears do not want people to get too close to their babies, and bears do not want people to get close to their food.**

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

- F block
  - G end
  - H near
  - I shut
- 11 Which sentence from the article reveals the author’s opinion, or point of view, about bears?
- A “Three kinds of bears live in the United States.”
  - B “Brown bears are found in a few western states and in Alaska.”
  - C “Bears eat different things.”
  - D “All people are afraid of bears.”
- 12 Which section of the article tells the reader which kind of bear is most common?
- F Black Bears
  - G Brown Bears
  - H Polar Bears
  - I Other Interesting Things