



Grade 1

Think Smart!

Benchmark Assessments



**Assessing the California
Common Core State Standards**

Read the poem “At the Beach.” Then answer Numbers 1 to 7.

At the Beach

by Janet Callahan

When I go to the beach on a summer day,
There’s a special game I like to play.

With pails of sand, I build a wall.
I make it strong, I make it tall.



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GO ON →

When waves wash in, they can't quite reach
The wall I've built upon the beach.

Then the waves get bigger, and before too long
They'll reach my wall, so tall and strong.

At last a great wave strikes my wall.
It leaves behind no wall at all.

So I run to the water and jump right in.
Now it's time to take a swim.

Now answer Numbers 1 to 7. Base your answers on the poem “At the Beach.”

- 1 Which word from the poem rhymes with beach?
- Ⓐ great
 - Ⓑ reach
 - Ⓒ wash

- 2 Read this sentence.

There’s a special game I like to play.

What does play mean in this sentence?

- Ⓐ do something for fun
- Ⓑ act a part in a show
- Ⓒ make music

Name: _____ Date: _____

- 3 The wall is made from _____ .
Ⓐ rocks
Ⓑ sand
Ⓒ shells
- 4 What word means the OPPOSITE of in?
Ⓐ out
Ⓑ quite
Ⓒ to
- 5 Which words from the poem show alliteration?
Ⓐ At last a great wave
Ⓑ When waves wash in
Ⓒ Then the waves get bigger

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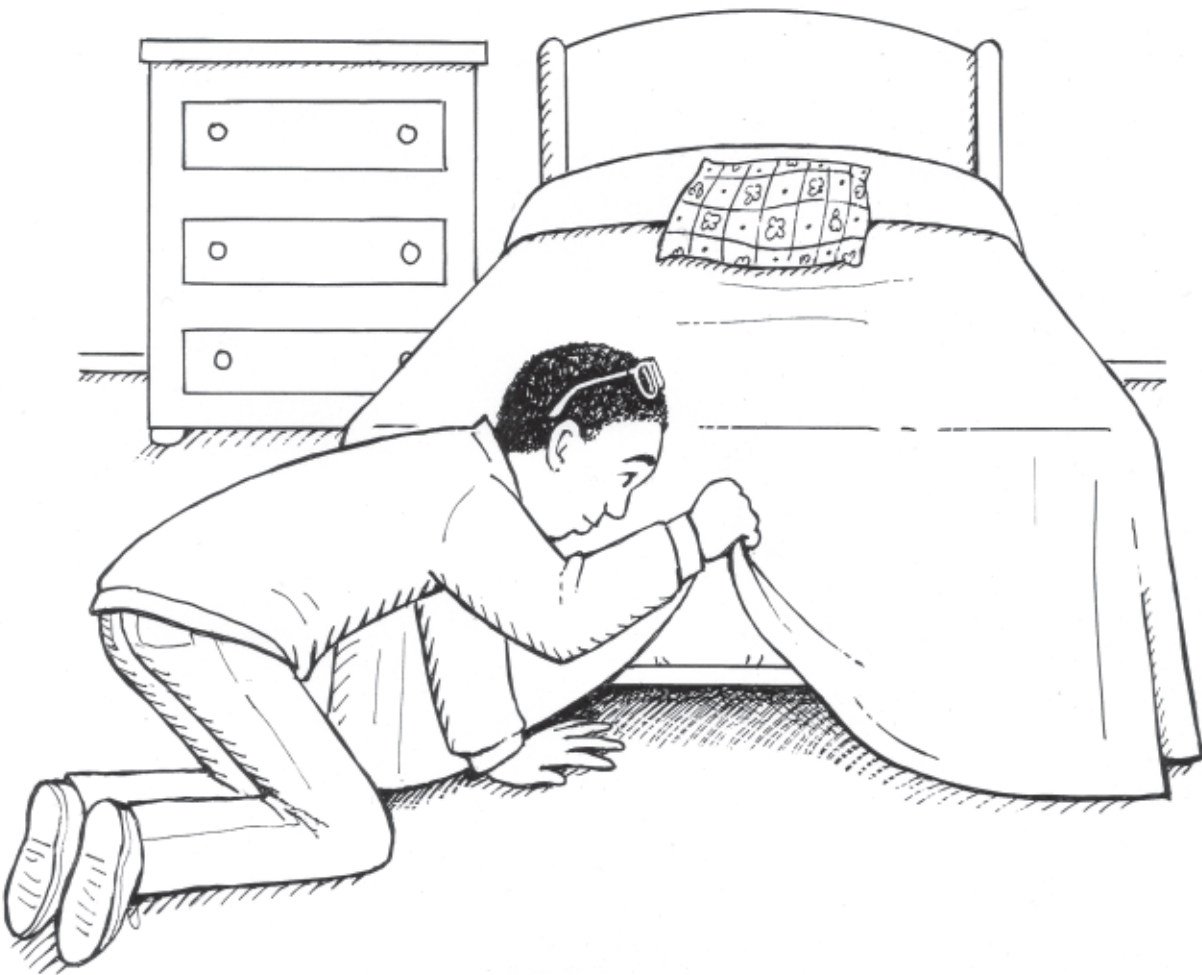
GO ON →

- 6** What happens to the wall at the END of the poem?
- Ⓐ The boy hops up and down on it.
 - Ⓑ A strong wind blows it over.
 - Ⓒ A big wave washes it away.
- 7** What is the LAST thing the speaker does in the poem?
- Ⓐ gets a pail
 - Ⓑ builds a wall
 - Ⓒ jumps in the water

Read the story "Dad's Glasses." Then answer Numbers 8 to 13.

Dad's Glasses

Dad was walking around the house with a frown on his face. He needed his glasses so he could read the newspaper. Dad could not remember where he had put them.



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First, Dad looked in the bedroom. He looked on the bed table and under the bed.

Next, Dad opened the closet. He looked in the pockets of his brown coat. He looked in the pockets of his green jacket. He even looked inside his winter boots.

Then Dad went outside to the car. He looked on the seats of the car. He searched under the car seats, too.

Dad came back inside. He walked into the den and looked around. Then he sighed loudly.



Mom and Wendy were sitting in the den, and they heard Dad sigh.

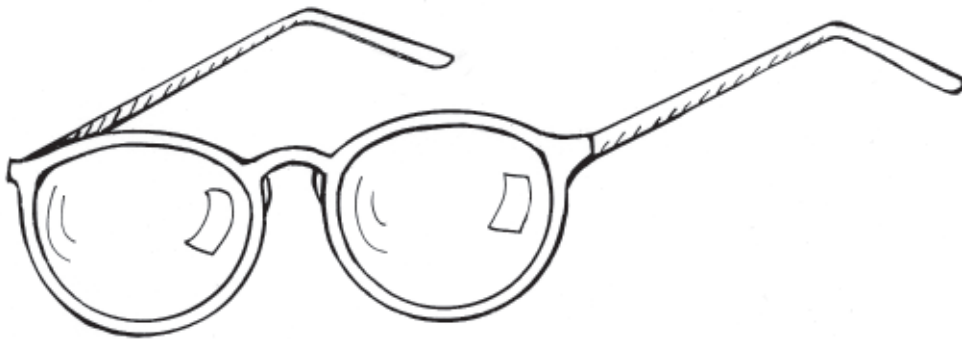
“What’s wrong?” asked Mom.

“I’ve looked everywhere for my glasses, but I can’t find them,” he said.

Wendy and Mom looked at Dad. Then they smiled at each other. Dad was always losing his glasses, but this time they were not lost. Mom and Wendy knew just where they were.

“Maybe Mom and I can help you,” said Wendy.

“That would be great,” said Dad. “I’ve looked in the bedroom, in the closet, and in the car. I don’t know where else to look.”

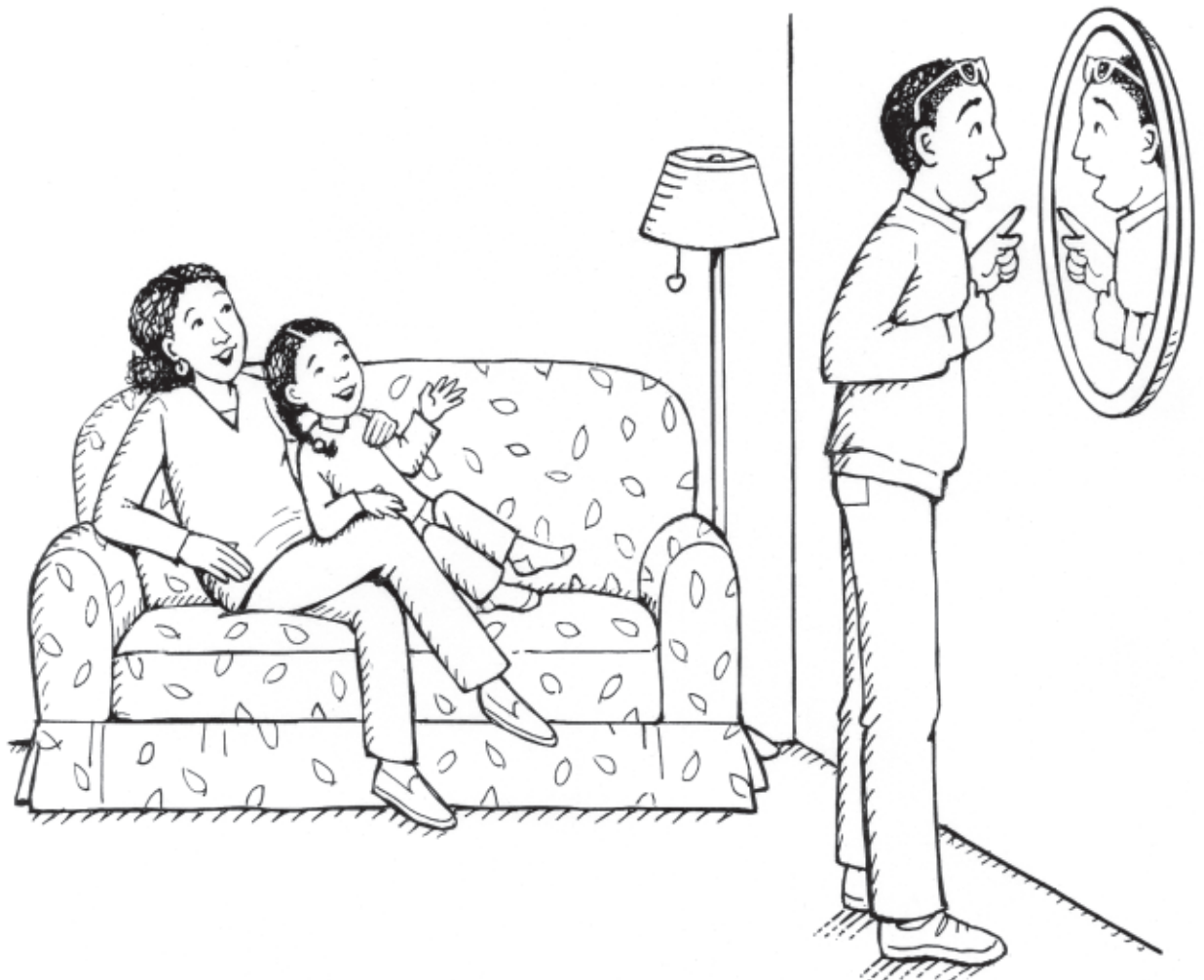


Now Mom and Wendy started to laugh.

Dad looked surprised. "What's so funny?" he asked.

"Look in the mirror and you'll find out," Mom answered.

When Dad looked in the mirror, he laughed, too. His glasses were on top of his head.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 8 to 13. Base your answers on the story “Dad’s Glasses.”

- 8** How does Dad MOST LIKELY feel at the beginning of the story?
- Ⓐ afraid
 - Ⓑ confused
 - Ⓒ happy
- 9** Dad is looking for his _____ .
- Ⓐ boots
 - Ⓑ glasses
 - Ⓒ newspaper
- 10** Which word is a compound word?
- Ⓐ inside
 - Ⓑ loudly
 - Ⓒ walked

- 11** Read these sentences from the story.

He looked on the seats of the car. He searched under the car seats, too.

What does searched mean?

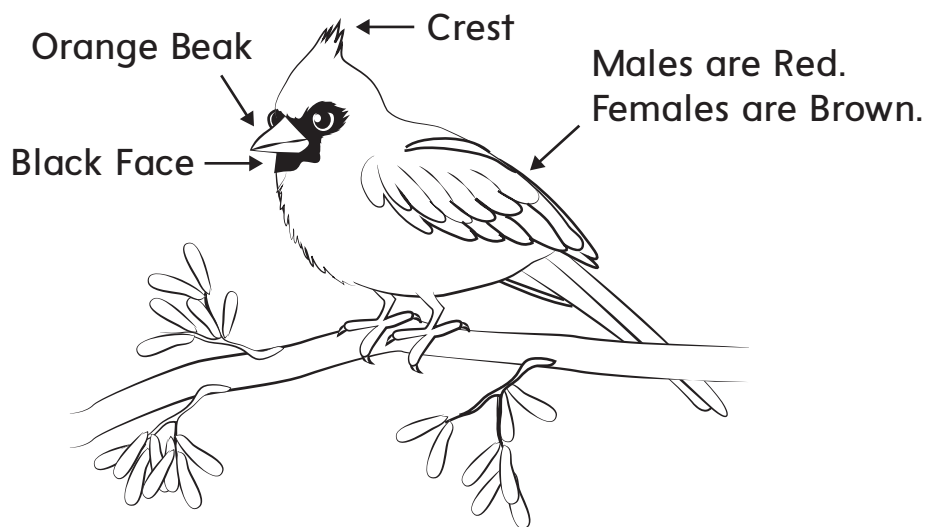
- Ⓐ cleaned
 - Ⓑ looked
 - Ⓒ rested
- 12** Where are Dad's glasses?
- Ⓐ under the bed
 - Ⓑ in the closet
 - Ⓒ on his head
- 13** What is the theme of this story?
- Ⓐ We make silly mistakes sometimes.
 - Ⓑ We should never ask others for help.
 - Ⓒ When we make a mess, we should clean it up.

Read the story "A Wild Neighbor." Then answer Numbers 14 to 20.

A Wild Neighbor

Do you like to watch wild birds? If you do, you may have seen cardinals. Cardinals live in many different places. They can survive in all kinds of weather.

A male cardinal and a female cardinal look a lot alike. They are the same size and shape. Their faces are black. They have orange beaks. They have a special set of head feathers. It is called a crest. The crest looks like a party hat!

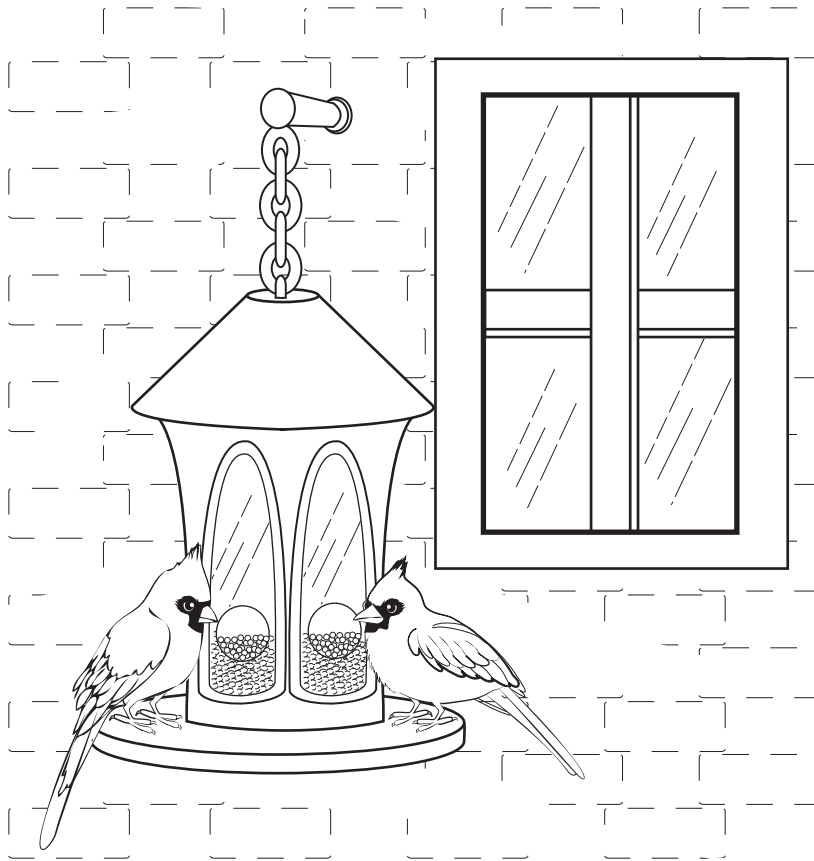




There is one big difference between males and females. It makes them easy to tell apart. The male's body is bright red. But the female is mostly brown. Her color makes her blend in with her nest. That's helpful when she stays in the nest to hatch her eggs.

Cardinals like to live close to the ground. They build their nests in bushes or short trees. They use twigs and bark to build a strong nest. But the nest must be soft on the inside. So the cardinals find bits of grass. They put the grass inside the nest. It makes a soft pad.

Do cardinals live near you? There is an easy way to find out. Put sunflower seeds in a bird feeder. Then have an adult hang the feeder outside your window. Cardinals love sunflower seeds. If they live nearby, they will find your feeder quickly! You can watch the cardinals as they eat.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 14 to 20. Base your answers on the story "A Wild Neighbor."

14 "A Wild Neighbor" is about _____ .

- Ⓐ birds in cages
- Ⓑ birds called cardinals
- Ⓒ many different kinds of birds

15 Why did the author write this story?

- Ⓐ to give facts about cardinals
- Ⓑ to tell a funny story about cardinals
- Ⓒ to teach the reader how to build a nest for cardinals

16 Look at the diagram on page 12. Where is the cardinal's crest?

- Ⓐ It is on its wings.
- Ⓑ It is on its head.
- Ⓒ It is on its tail.

Name: _____ Date: _____

- 17** How is a female cardinal DIFFERENT from a male cardinal?
- Ⓐ Her beak is orange, but his is black.
 - Ⓑ Her face is black, but his is brown.
 - Ⓒ Her body is brown, but his is red.
- 18** Why do cardinals put grass in their nests?
- Ⓐ to make them strong
 - Ⓑ to make them green
 - Ⓒ to make them soft

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GO ON →

19 Cardinals love to eat _____ .

- Ⓐ leaves and grass
- Ⓑ sunflower seeds
- Ⓒ bark and twigs

20 Read this sentence from the story.

If they live nearby, they will find your
feeder quickly!

What is the root word of feeder?

- Ⓐ er
- Ⓑ fee
- Ⓒ feed

Name: _____ Date: _____

Choose the best answer.

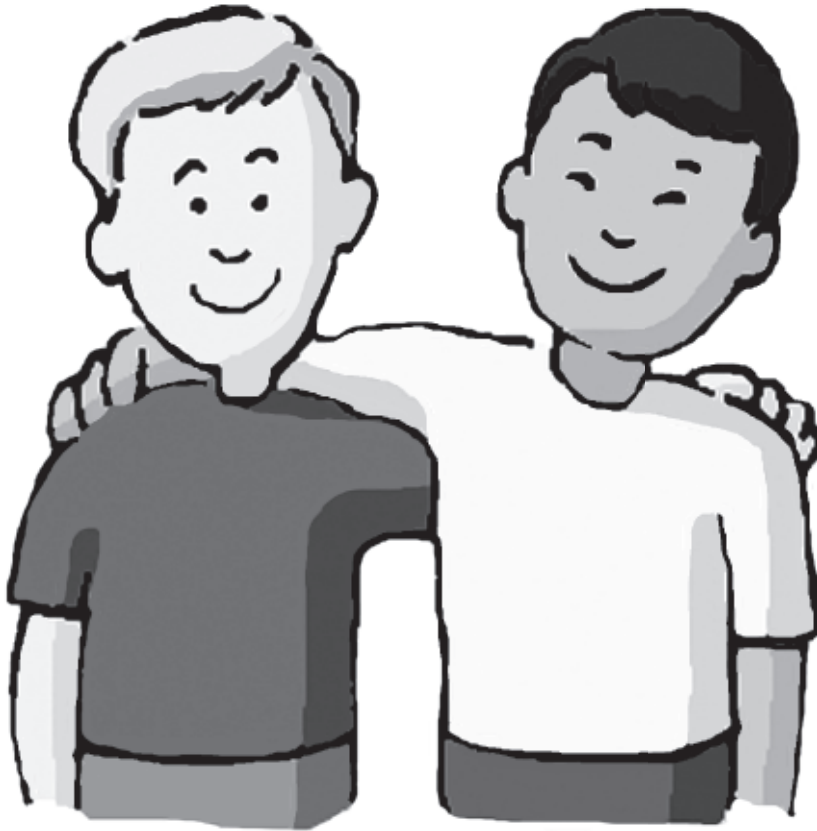
- 21** Dad is _____ me a ride to school.
- Ⓐ giving
 - Ⓑ giveing
 - Ⓒ givving
- 22** My teacher's name is _____ Parker.
- Ⓐ Mr
 - Ⓑ Mr,
 - Ⓒ Mr.

Name: _____ Date: _____

- 23 The _____ are singing.
- Ⓐ child
 - Ⓑ children
 - Ⓒ childrens
- 24 Please _____ your shoes before you take them off.
- Ⓐ ties
 - Ⓑ retie
 - Ⓒ untie

Read the story. Choose the word that correctly completes Numbers 25 to 29.

I (25) a brother. (26) name is Nick. Nick is two years (27) than I am. I like Nick (28) he is always kind. He shares (29) with me. What a great brother he is!



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GO ON →

25 Which answer should go in blank (25)?

- Ⓐ has
- Ⓑ have
- Ⓒ having

26 Which answer should go in blank (26)?

- Ⓐ He
- Ⓑ Him
- Ⓒ His

27 Which answer should go in blank (27)?

- Ⓐ old
- Ⓑ older
- Ⓒ oldest

Name: _____ Date: _____

28 Which answer should go in blank (28)?

Ⓐ because

Ⓑ but

Ⓒ or

29 Which answer should go in blank (29)?

Ⓐ everywhere

Ⓑ everything

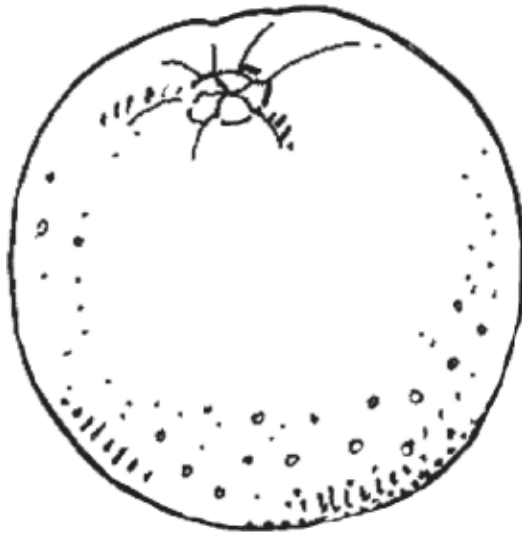
Ⓒ everyone

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GO ON →

This is a story that Maya wrote. Read the story. Then answer Numbers 30 to 34.

(1) My grandfather has a orange tree.
(2) Yesterday, I pick some oranges. (3) Then grandpa made orange juice. (4) He gave me a glass, and I tasted it. (5) That juice was so sweet (6) I'm glad I picked them oranges.



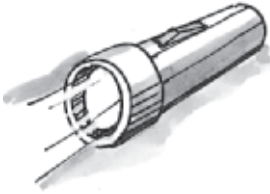
- 30** What is the BEST way to write sentence 1?
- Ⓐ My grandfather has an orange tree.
 - Ⓑ My grandfather has some orange tree.
 - Ⓒ My grandfather has these orange tree.
- 31** What is the BEST way to write sentence 2?
- Ⓐ Yesterday, I picking some oranges.
 - Ⓑ Yesterday, I picked some oranges.
 - Ⓒ Yesterday, I picks some oranges.
- 32** What is the BEST way to write sentence 3?
- Ⓐ Then Grandpa made orange juice.
 - Ⓑ Then grandpa made Orange juice.
 - Ⓒ Then grandpa made orange Juice.

- 33** What is the BEST way to write sentence 5?
- Ⓐ That juice was so sweet?
 - Ⓑ That juice was so sweet!
 - Ⓒ That juice was so sweet,
- 34** What is the BEST way to write sentence 6?
- Ⓐ I'm glad I picked this oranges.
 - Ⓑ I'm glad I picked that oranges.
 - Ⓒ I'm glad I picked those oranges.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Choose the word that names the picture.

35



- Ⓐ let
- Ⓑ late
- Ⓒ light

36



- Ⓐ pool
- Ⓑ pail
- Ⓒ pile

37



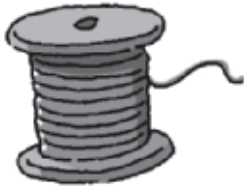
- Ⓐ pay
- Ⓑ paint
- Ⓒ point

38



- Ⓐ kit
- Ⓑ knit
- Ⓒ night

39



- Ⓐ three
- Ⓑ tread
- Ⓒ thread

40



- Ⓐ bar
- Ⓑ bear
- Ⓒ bore



Writing Prompt

What do you think is the best game to play? Do you play it at home or outside? Do you play it by yourself or with others?

Write a paragraph that gives your opinion about the best game to play. Make sure to tell what the best game is and why you think so.

Use the space below to plan your writing. Write your paragraph on the lines on page 29.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Final Draft

[illegible]

Answer Key

Name: _____

Question	Answer	Content Focus	CCSS	Complexity
1	B	Literary Element: Rhyme	RL.2.4	DOK 1
2	A	Context Clues: Multiple Meanings	L.K.4a	DOK 1
3	B	Key Details	RL.1.1	DOK 1
4	A	Antonyms	L.4.5c	DOK 1
5	B	Literary Element: Alliteration	RL.2.4	DOK 1
6	C	Plot: Cause and Effect	RL.1.3	DOK 2
7	C	Plot: Sequence	RL.1.3	DOK 1
8	B	Point of View	RL.2.6	DOK 2
9	B	Key Details	RL.1.1	DOK 1
10	A	Compound Words	L.2.4d	DOK 1
11	B	Context Clues: Sentence Clues	L.1.4a	DOK 2
12	C	Plot: Problem and Solution	RL.1.3	DOK 2
13	A	Theme	RL.1.2	DOK 3
14	B	Main Topic and Key Details	RI.1.2	DOK 2
15	A	Author's Purpose	RI.2.6	DOK 2
16	B	Text Features: Diagram	RI.1.6	DOK 1
17	C	Connections Within Text: Compare and Contrast	RI.1.3	DOK 2
18	C	Connections Within Text: Problem and Solution	RI.1.3	DOK 2
19	B	Key Details	RI.1.1	DOK 1
20	C	Root Words	L.1.4c	DOK 1
21	A	Inflectional Endings <i>-ed, -ing</i>	RF.1.3f	DOK 2
22	C	Abbreviations	L.1.2	DOK 1
23	B	Plurals (irregular)	L.1.1c	DOK 1
24	C	Prefixes <i>re-, un-, pre-</i>	L.1.4b	DOK 1
25	B	Verbs: <i>Was/Were, Go/Do, Has/Have, See/Saw</i>	L.1.1e	DOK 1

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Answer Key

Name: _____

Question	Answer	Content Focus	CCSS	Complexity
26	C	Possessive Pronouns	L.1.Id	DOK I
27	B	Adjectives That Compare: <i>-er</i> and <i>-est</i>	L.1.If	DOK I
28	A	Conjunctions	L.1.Ig	DOK I
29	B	Indefinite Pronouns	L.1.Id	DOK I
30	A	Other Adjectives	L.1.Ih	DOK I
31	B	Past- and Future-Tense Verbs	L.1.Ie	DOK I
32	A	Common and Proper Nouns	L.1.Ib	DOK I
33	B	End Punctuation	L.1.2b	DOK I
34	C	Other Adjectives	L.1.Ih	DOK I
35	C	Long i: <i>i, i_e, y, igh, ie</i>	RF.1.3c	DOK I
36	A	Variant Vowel Digraphs /ü/: <i>oo (tool), u, u_e, ew, ue, ui, ou</i>	RF.1.3c	DOK I
37	C	Diphthongs <i>ou, ow, oi, oy</i>	RF.1.3	DOK I
38	B	Silent Letters <i>wr, kn, gn</i>	RF.1.3	DOK I
39	C	Three-Letter Blends <i>scr, spl, spr, str, thr, shr</i>	RF.1.3	DOK I
40	B	<i>r</i> -Controlled Vowels <i>ar, er, ir, oar, or, ore, ur, air, are, ear</i>	RF.1.3	DOK I
Writing Prompt	See below	Opinion	W.1.1, L.1.1, L.1.2	DOK 3

Comprehension 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	/15	%
Vocabulary Strategies 2, 4, 10, 11, 20	/5	%
Structural Analysis 21, 22, 23, 24	/4	%
English Language Conventions 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34	/10	%
Phonics 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40	/6	%
Total Benchmark Assessment Score	/40	%

Writing Prompt

Refer to the scoring criteria in the Teacher Introduction.