

Lift

LEVEL 2 Pre-Test

READING

DIRECTIONS: Read the play and answer the questions.

Where's Sheikha?

CHARACTERS

RASHID, a thirteen-year-old boy

AISHA, Rashid's older sister

MOTHER, Rashid and Aisha's mom

FATHER, Rashid and Aisha's dad

SHEIKHA, the kitten

1 **SCENE 1: In the living room next to a courtyard, where AISHA is playing with SHEIKHA on the floor as MOTHER and FATHER watch.**

2 AISHA: Look at Sheikha playing with her little ball! Isn't she the cutest kitten ever?

3 RASHID: (*entering carrying building supplies*) Soon she'll have something even bigger to play with.

4 MOTHER: What's all this, Rashid?

5 RASHID: I'm making a climbing tower for Sheikha so she'll have a place to climb and sit and sleep.

6 FATHER: That's very thoughtful, but to avoid a mess, please build it outside.

7 RASHID: (*carrying the supplies toward the courtyard door*) OK!

8 MOTHER: (*calling after him*) Shut the door tight so Sheikha doesn't get out.

9 RASHID: Don't worry—I've got it!

10 **SCENE 2: Later in the living room, where MOTHER is helping AISHA with her homework.**

11 RASHID: (*carrying the completed cat tower inside*) Here, Sheikha! Here, kitty, kitty!

12 MOTHER: That's quite a tower, Rashid.

13 RASHID: Have you seen Sheikha?

14 AISHA: (*looking up*) She was here a minute ago, playing with her ball.

15 (*RASHID, looking around for the cat, exits toward the courtyard door.*)

16 RASHID: (*offstage*) Oh, no!

17 AISHA: (*frowning*) What do you mean, “oh, no”?

18 RASHID: (*reentering with Sheikha’s ball in hand*) I *thought* I closed the door, but when I came back inside, I noticed that it was . . . open a little.

19 AISHA: And now Sheikha is—

20 RASHID: (*whispering*) Gone.

21 **SCENE 3: Outside in the courtyard, where RASHID, AISHA, MOTHER, and FATHER are searching for SHEIKHA.**

22 RASHID: Here, Sheikha!

23 AISHA: Here, kitty, kitty!

24 FATHER: She has to be here somewhere. She’s too small to have gone very far.

25 RASHID: (*swallowing*) She *is* small, too small to be out here alone . . . and I’m the one who let her out.

26 AISHA: (*tearfully*) You *did* let her out, Rashid, and you should’ve been more careful, especially—

27 MOTHER: Rashid didn’t intend to put her in danger, Aisha. Think how you would feel if you were the one who accidentally let Sheikha out!

28 FATHER: Let’s look until it gets dark. If we don’t find her, we’ll try again tomorrow.

29 RASHID: (*whispering*) I’m sorry, Sheikha. I’m really, really sorry.

30 **SCENE 4: In the living room, as RASHID, AISHA, MOTHER, and FATHER come back inside.**

31 RASHID: I don’t want to stop searching for her. It’s my fault she’s gone, so I’ll get a flashlight and keep looking until—

32 MOTHER: Rashid, I know how bad you feel, but there’s nothing you can do right now except—

33 AISHA: (*pointing toward the climbing tower*) Look!

34 RASHID: (*blinking*) It’s Sheikha!

35 MOTHER: Would you look at that? She’s sleeping on the tower you built!

36 FATHER: She seems to be pretty happy in her new home, son.

37 SHEIKHA: (*stretching and yawning*) Meow.

38 RASHID: I’m glad I made her happy, but from now on, I’ll remember that it’s just as important to keep her safe.

GO ON 

- 1** How does the sun going down affect Rashid?
- (A) It makes him realize Sheikha is too small to be outside.
 - (B) It causes him to feel more guilt about Sheikha getting out.
 - (C) It leads him to argue with his father about looking for Sheikha.
 - (D) It allows him to use the cat tower to get Sheikha back inside.

- 2** Read lines 4–9 from “Where’s Sheikha?”
- How do the characters’ actions and dialogue in these lines help move the plot forward?
- (A) They highlight how the characters are feeling.
 - (B) They reveal how a problem is being solved.
 - (C) They signal that the setting has changed.
 - (D) They give clues about the main conflict.

- 3** Read lines 10 and 11 from “Where’s Sheikha?”
- Which element from these lines is a stage direction?
- (A) SCENE 2
 - (B) RASHID
 - (C) *(carrying the completed cat tower inside)*
 - (D) Here, Sheikha! Here, kitty, kitty!

- 4** Read lines 24–28 from “Where’s Sheikha?”
- What does the dialogue reveal about Father’s thoughts and feelings?
- (A) He does not care about Sheikha as much as the other family members do.
 - (B) He is not really interested in looking for Sheikha.
 - (C) He thinks they should keep looking for Sheikha all night.
 - (D) He feels that they will eventually find Sheikha.

- 5** How do Rashid’s and Mother’s viewpoints differ at the beginning of the play?
- (A) Rashid is worried about making a mess, but Mother isn’t.
 - (B) Rashid thinks Sheikha will enjoy her cat tower, but Mother doesn’t.
 - (C) Mother is concerned about Rashid leaving the door open, but Rashid isn’t worried.
 - (D) Rashid wants to make sure Sheikha is happy, but Mother does not.

- 6** In 3–5 sentences, explain the theme or message of the play. Use evidence from the play that support this theme.



DIRECTIONS: Read the poem and answer the questions.

River of Life

I am Annah.

I bend low, helping
my mother cut tall reeds
that whisper and sway along
5 the banks of the noble Zambezi,
the sun warm on our backs, the
untroubled chatter of river birds
floating around us on the air.

We work all the long day,
10 and as the orange-pink sun sinks
into the water, we carry our bundle home,
knowing we'll be back when it rises again
over the river that quietly offers up the
food and shelter we depend on.

15 I am the mighty Zambezi.
Upstream I rage, thundering over
waterfalls and crashing through the gorges
my force has carved deep into earth's rock,
my surface churning white, my strength
20 unmistakable in the stinging spray
of my wild-tossed waters.

But here, downstream, I am quiet,
my power hidden beneath a calm surface
broken only by the soft *plop* and *swish* of poles

25 that guide a long canoe—a canoe dug from a tree
that grew on my banks and now glides sure on my waters,
the boaters depending on me to bear them up as they fish my depths,
depending on me to give life to the land and hold its people in my steady embrace.



7 Which is a theme or message of the poem?

- ☐ (A) People need nature.
- ☐ (B) Rivers can be dangerous.
- ☐ (C) Hard work pays off in the end.
- ☐ (D) There's no place like home.

8 How does living near the river affect Annah?

- ☐ (A) She feels tired from working near the river so much.
- ☐ (B) She feels content because she knows she can rely on the river.
- ☐ (C) She feels frightened by the constantly changing river.
- ☐ (D) She feels excited by the movement of the river.

9 What do Annah's actions help the reader understand about the river?

- ☐ (A) It is unpredictable and unsafe.
- ☐ (B) It is mysterious and dark.
- ☐ (C) It is powerful and fast.
- ☐ (D) It is essential and important.

10 In 3–5 sentences, compare Annah's viewpoint of the river to the way the river views itself.

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Ancient Plants for Tomorrow's Cures

- 1 The medicines of the future are being developed in research labs around the world today. Some will come from new chemical mixtures with names only chemists can easily say. Some will come in the form of tiny machines that work inside the body of a sick or injured person. Some future medicines, however, will not really be new at all. These medicines are being developed from plants that have been used for thousands of years. Today's researchers can look to the past as they test new ways to use ancient plants as medicines. Providing funding to these researchers is critical.
- 2 Ginkgo is a plant that has been used as a medicine for centuries. The ginkgo tree is native to China. However, it now grows in many places around the world. One important use of its fan-shaped leaves has been to treat skin infections. Its sticky seeds have been used to relieve coughing.
- 3 People who use ginkgo often claim that drinking ginkgo tea improves their memory over time. They say that drinking the tea also improves their mood and helps them think more clearly. These claims interest some researchers. So far, small scientific studies suggest that ginkgo can enhance memory function. This means that ginkgo might help treat the memory problems that affect people around the world.
- 4 Athletes, too, may benefit from ginkgo. Studies have shown that ginkgo can increase blood flow. Good blood flow means more oxygen is carried through the body. This helps muscles to work better.
- 5 Ginkgo is only one of many plants used in traditional medicine. Others are also being researched for health benefits. These include ginger, ginseng, and willow. However, people should not simply believe every health claim made about plants. A doctor should always be consulted before using plants for health treatments.
- 6 Where will the next breakthrough medicine come from? No one knows for sure. Because of this, funding for all kinds of research must continue. Researchers need plenty of resources to explore promising ideas, from analyzing ancient plants to creating microscopic medical machines.

GO ON 

- 11** Read paragraph 5 of “Ancient Plants for Tomorrow’s Cures.”

What can you infer from the evidence in this paragraph?

- (A) There are false claims made about the health benefits of plants.
- (B) People can treat themselves at home with the help of plants.
- (C) Traditional medicine relies entirely on the use of plants.
- (D) Ginkgo is the most popular plant used in traditional medicine.

- 12** Read the title and paragraph 1 of "Ancient Plants for Tomorrow's Cures."

Which **best** describes the topic of "Ancient Plants for Tomorrow's Cures"?

- ☐ (A) ways to fund medical research
☐ (B) ways to use plants in medicine
☐ (C) how cures are discovered
☐ (D) the history of plants

- 13** Which sentence from “Ancient Plants for Tomorrow’s Cures” states the author’s thesis, or claim?

- (A) The medicines of the future are being developed in research labs around the world today. (paragraph 1)
- (B) Today's researchers can look to the past as they test new ways to use ancient plants as medicines. (paragraph 1)
- (C) Ginkgo is only one of many plants used in traditional medicine. (paragraph 5)
- (D) A doctor should always be consulted before using plants for health treatments. (paragraph 5)

- 14** Read paragraph 3 of “Ancient Plants for Tomorrow’s Cures.”

What is the writer's purpose in this paragraph?

- (A) to entertain
 (B) to persuade
 (C) to inform
 (D) to describe

- 15** In 3–5 sentences, identify a claim the author makes and evaluate the reasons and evidence the author uses to support that claim. What is a strength of the argument? What is a weakness?

[illegible]

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Giraffe Rescue Brings People Together

- 1 Giraffes are tall—that’s no secret—but do you know how tall? One species, the Rothschild’s giraffe, towers around 5–6 m (16–19 ft) tall. Rothschild’s giraffes can weigh more than 1,134 kg (2,500 lbs). These giants are impressive in size and peaceful in nature. Unfortunately, in 2010, they were deemed endangered. Understanding the importance of these huge creatures, two unlikely forces joined together to care for eight Rothschild’s giraffes that were reintroduced to Baringo, Kenya. The Ilchamus and Pokot communities in Kenya have a history of conflict, but saving the giraffes brought them together to achieve a common goal.

An Unexpected Threat

- 2 Eight giraffes were first brought to the Ruko Community Conservancy in 2011. They were set free on a peninsula that stretched into Lake Baringo. Ruko rangers—from both Ilchamus and Pokot communities—protected and cared for the giraffes. After the giraffes had lived there peacefully for years, an unexpected danger arose. The waters of Lake Baringo began to rise, turning the peninsula into an island. The giraffes were trapped.
- 3 The waters continued to rise. The island—and the giraffes’ food sources—grew smaller. People had to bring the animals food. In 2020, flooding was so bad that the giraffes had to be evacuated in order to survive. Ruko Conservancy worked with other groups to devise a plan to move the animals to safety.

Organizing a Rescue

- 4 In December 2020, rescue efforts began. Community members, conservationists, rangers, and Kenyan authorities made up the team. A raft was built to transport the giraffes across the lake to their new home. They would live in a new area within the conservancy. Getting the giraffes on the raft was the next obstacle.
- 5 The first giraffe to be moved had to be tranquilized. Before she woke up, team members covered her eyes to keep her calm. They placed ropes around her shoulders and neck—like a harness on a dog. In fact, one of the rescuers commented, “Sometimes it looked like someone was walking a puppy on a Sunday afternoon.” Once on the raft, the giraffe settled in nicely for the hour-long ride. She then happily embraced her new home. A second giraffe joined her the next day.

Interrupted Plans

- 6 The rescuers hoped to move all the giraffes by January 2021, but things did not go as planned. In December 2020, one of the giraffes on the island gave birth. The rescue team had to wait until the baby was old enough to move. In April 2021, the baby and her mother were safely moved to the sanctuary. All were safely relocated.

GO ON 

Bringing People Together

7 The rescue's success was a direct result of government, conservationists, and community working together. The giraffes motivated opposing communities to overcome their differences and work toward peaceful coexistence. Conservancy Warden James Cheptulel observed, "The sense of responsibility [for the giraffes] was unifying—the stakes were high, and we all knew we had to keep these giraffes alive. There was a sense that it was everybody's job—not just the rangers or manager but everyone in the community." As a result, the giraffes, as well as the people from the two communities, have benefited greatly.

16 Read paragraph 3 of "Giraffe Rescue Brings People Together." What can you infer from this paragraph?

- (A) Giraffes know how to swim.
- (B) The Ruko Conservancy did not know how to move the giraffes.
- (C) Moving giraffes off an island takes a lot of planning and can be very difficult.
- (D) The giraffes had to be evacuated because people could no longer bring them food.

17 Which information from the passage **best** states the central idea?

- (A) These giants are impressive in size and peaceful in nature. Unfortunately, in 2010, they were deemed endangered.
- (B) Eight giraffes were first brought to the Ruko Community Conservancy in 2011.
- (C) In December 2020, rescue efforts began.
- (D) The rescue's success was a direct result of government, conservationists, and community working together.

18 Read paragraph 1 of "Giraffe Rescue Brings People Together." Which phrase indicates time or sequence?

- (A) 5–6 m (16–19 ft) tall
- (B) weigh more than
- (C) in 2010
- (D) joined together

19 Why did the author write "Giraffe Rescue Brings People Together"?

- (A) to persuade the reader to participate in an animal rescue
- (B) to entertain the reader with an interesting story about giraffes
- (C) to convince the reader that giraffes are the best animals
- (D) to inform the reader by sharing facts about the giraffe rescue

20 Write 3–5 sentences identifying the order in which the giraffe rescue occurred. Use text evidence to support the sequence.

GO ON 

FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

DIRECTIONS: A student is writing an essay. This essay includes several errors. Read the essay and think about possible revisions. Then answer the questions that follow.

Anime Artist Is the Career for Me

- 1 Ever since I was very young, I knew I wanted to be an artist. I love to draw and to tell stories through art. I do a lot of drawing already, and my friends say I'm good at creating comics. I particularly like Japanese manga and anime. When I graduate, I can think of no career I would like more than being a manga or an anime artist so that I can watch my stories come alive.
- 2 There are a lot of reasons I like drawing in the anime style. One is the interesting lively character designs. I especially like drawing the large expressive eyes that many characters have. The eyes tell you a lot about the character. They tell you whether they're happy or sad, kind or mean, or serious or funny. I use shades of colors to make the eyes look deep so you can understand exactly who the character is and what they're thinking.
- 3 Another reason I like anime style is the bold exciting action. I draw the characters like they do in anime and manga with exaggerated actions. It's very hard to draw motion, but I've been practicing by copying the action-packed panels in my favorite manga or from my favorite anime shows. Whenever I have time, I read manga and watch anime to study the techniques required to bring the drawings to life. Then I experiment by using the techniques with my own ideas.
- 4 Right now, I'm working on a digital manga of my own. I started it last fall. I've learned a lot about creating page layouts. It's not as simple as drawing whatever I want. I have to plan ahead for the story to make sense. First, I create an outline. Then I make a rough sketch. If I like the layout, I draw it for real. And, if I make a mistake or decide I want to make a change, it's easy to fix using the computer software!
- 5 When choosing a career, it would be a manga or an anime artist. Although I am not good enough yet, I think with more practice I can become excellent. I have many ideas for plots; I just need to keep practicing.



- 21** Read this sentence from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

It’s very hard to draw motion, but I’ve been practicing by copying the action-packed panels in my favorite manga or from my favorite anime shows.

Which phrases from the sentence are prepositional phrases? Choose two answers.

- (A) to draw motion
- (B) but I’ve been practicing
- (C) in my favorite manga
- (D) or from
- (E) from my favorite anime shows

- 22** Read the sentence from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

There are a lot of reasons I like drawing in the anime style.

Which word does the prepositional phrase *in the anime style* modify?

- (A) reasons
- (B) I
- (C) like
- (D) drawing

- 23** Read paragraph 1 of “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

Which clauses from the paragraph are dependent clauses? Choose two answers.

- (A) Ever since I was very young
- (B) I do a lot of drawing already
- (C) my friends say I’m good at creating comics
- (D) When I graduate

- 24** Which sentence from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me” has two independent clauses and a coordinating conjunction?

- (A) Ever since I was very young, I knew I wanted to be an artist.
- (B) I love to draw and to tell stories through art.
- (C) I do a lot of drawing already, and my friends say I’m good at creating comics.
- (D) When I graduate, I can think of no career I would like more than being a manga or an anime artist so that I can watch my stories come alive.

- 25** Which clauses from paragraph 5 of “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me are independent clauses? Choose two answers.

- (A) When choosing a career
- (B) it would be a manga or an anime artist
- (C) Although I am not good enough yet
- (D) I think with more practice I can become excellent

- 26** Read paragraph 5 of “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

What joins the two independent clauses of the compound sentence in the paragraph?

- (A) a semicolon
- (B) the coordinating conjunction *or*
- (C) the subordinating conjunction *although*
- (D) the coordinating conjunction *yet*



- 27 Read this sentence from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

I draw the characters like they do in anime and manga with exaggerated actions.

Which word or phrase from the sentence is a misplaced modifier?

- (A) characters
- (B) like they do
- (C) anime and manga
- (D) with exaggerated actions

- 28 Read this sentence from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

When choosing a career, it would be a manga or an anime artist.

Which revision corrects the dangling modifier?

- (A) When choosing a career, I would choose to be a manga or an anime artist.
- (B) I would be a manga or an anime artist having chosen a career.
- (C) When choosing a career, a manga or an anime artist is what it would be.
- (D) A manga or an anime artist is what it would be when choosing a career.

- 29 Read the sentence from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

One is the interesting lively character designs.

Where should a comma be placed?

- (A) between *One* and *is*
- (B) between *interesting* and *lively*
- (C) between *lively* and *character*
- (D) between *character* and *designs*

- 30 Read the sentence from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

Another reason I like anime style is the bold exciting action.

Where should a comma be placed?

- (A) between *Another* and *reason*
- (B) between *style* and *is*
- (C) between *bold* and *exciting*
- (D) between *exciting* and *action*

- 31 Read these sentences from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

I especially like drawing the large expressive eyes that many characters have. The eyes tell you a lot about the character.

Which words help the reader determine the meaning of *expressive*?

- (A) especially like
- (B) The eyes
- (C) tell you a lot
- (D) the character

- 32 Read these sentences from “Anime Artist Is the Career for Me.”

Whenever I have time, I read manga and watch anime to study the techniques required to bring the drawings to life. Then I experiment by using the techniques with my own ideas.

Based on the context of the sentences, what does the word *techniques* mean?

- (A) opportunities
- (B) experience
- (C) styles
- (D) research

33 Read the sentence.

Lead is a neurotoxin that has been found in water and makes it unsafe to drink.

Which definition **best** fits the meaning of the word *neurotoxin* as it is used in the sentence?

- (A) a poison that affects the nervous system
- (B) an invisible substance that is not easy to detect
- (C) an element that is harmful to the environment
- (D) a metal substance that is used to make equipment

34 Read the sentence.

Stan made sure to avoid his friend after she made an insensitive comment to him.

Which definition **best** fits the meaning of the word *insensitive* as it is used in the sentence?

- (A) not able to understand
- (B) without humor
- (C) not able to hear
- (D) without feeling or caring

35 Read this dictionary entry and this sentence from "Ancient Plants for Tomorrow's Cures."

critical *adj.*

1. likely or eager to find fault
2. using or involving careful judgment about the good and bad parts of something
3. extremely important
4. relating to or involving a great danger of death

Providing funding to these researchers is critical.

Which definition fits the word *critical* as it is used in the sentence?

- (A) definition 1
- (B) definition 2
- (C) definition 3
- (D) definition 4

36 Read this thesaurus entry.

rise (v.) to get up; to ascend

awaken, climb, move up, pick up, soar, surface

Which word is a related word or synonym in this thesaurus entry?

- (A) rise
- (B) verb
- (C) ascend
- (D) soar

37 Read the sentence.

Ben could not complete the last question on his science test because he was drawing a blank.

Based on the sentence, the idiom "drawing a blank" suggests that Ben

- (A) could not remember the answer.
- (B) did not have a pencil.
- (C) was on his way to art class.
- (D) was looking the other way.

38 Read the sentence.

Katie had been studying for hours, so when she started to fall asleep on her book, she knew it was time to call it a day.

Based on the sentence, the idiom "call it a day" means

- (A) to make a phone call.
- (B) to calm down and relax.
- (C) to stop what you're doing.
- (D) to start from the beginning.

GO ON 

39 Read the sentences.

Chloe was interested in taking several different classes during summer school so she could learn as many new things as possible. As a result, her class schedule was very diverse.

Which word from the sentences is a synonym of the word *diverse*?

- (A) several
- (B) different
- (C) new
- (D) schedule

40 Read the sentences.

Tyler needs to find a secret place to hide his sister's birthday present until it's time to give it to her. He wants to make sure the hiding place isn't obvious because he doesn't want her to notice it and ruin the surprise.

Which word from the sentences is an antonym of the word *obvious*?

- (A) secret
- (B) hide
- (C) notice
- (D) surprise



WRITING

- 41** Write an informative essay describing your ideal vacation. Your essay should include:
- an introductory paragraph that describes where you would go on vacation and introduces the reasons why
 - three paragraphs that provide details and examples telling why this is the ideal vacation spot
 - a variety of sentence types and varied sentence beginnings
 - a concluding paragraph that restates the most important ideas in your essay.

Write your essay in the space below.

[illegible]