2nd Grade Reading/Language Arts & Mathematics Assessment

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The Midas Touch

King Midas was a very nice man. He lived long, long ago. The people he ruled liked him. He took good care of them.

A god rewarded him for being good. The reward was that he could have one wish come true. King Midas loved his flowers, and looking at them made him happy. His favorite flowers in the garden were his yellow flowers. Looking at them gave him an idea for a wish. He wished all the things he touched would turn to gold!

Soon, King Midas was very rich. He had gold all over the place. Bad things began to happen. His food turned to gold, and he could not eat. His friends turned to gold. When he patted his dog, the dog turned to gold. Worst of all, when King Midas hugged his little girl, she turned to gold!

The god felt sorry for King Midas. He took away the wish. All the things the king had touched turned back to normal. King Midas was happy, and he learned to think very hard before making another wish!

1. This passage is mainly about:
   A. yellow flowers
   B. how to make gold
   C. a king who makes a wish
   D. a little girl that turns into gold

2. Which detail tells about King Midas?
   A. He was a nice king.
   B. He was not a nice king.
   C. He did not like flowers.
   D. He did not have a dog.

3. What happened after King Midas got his wish?
   A. Everything he touched turned to yellow flowers.
   B. Everything he touched turned to silver.
   C. Everything he touched turned to gold.
   D. His friends no longer liked the king.
4. Look at this sentence from the passage on page 1: “The **reward** was that he could have one wish come true.” What does the word **reward** mean?
   A. money
   B. gift
   C. new clothes
   D. friends

5. Why did the flowers make King Midas think of gold?
   A. The flowers were in the garden.
   B. The flowers were yellow, like gold.
   C. The flowers had green stems.
   D. The flowers made King Midas very rich.

6. Where would be the BEST place to find out more about gold?
   A. in a book about wishes
   B. in the “G” encyclopedia book
   C. in a book of maps
   D. in a book entitled *What I Did During Winter Break*

7. Why did the god reward King Midas?
   A. because King Midas gave gold to the god
   B. because King Midas won a contest
   C. because King Midas was mean to people
   D. because King Midas was a good person

8. Complete the sentence below.

   The king loved his daughter very much. The king spoiled his daughter by giving her many ________.

   A. gifts
   B. wars
   C. losses
   D. all of the above
Read the following selection. Then answer questions 9 through 15.

My Birthday Surprise

I have wanted a puppy for as long as I can remember. For my birthday last year, my parents surprised me with not one but two puppies! I felt like the luckiest girl in the world!

I named the boy puppy Odie, and I named the girl puppy Ashley. Odie is a yellow Lab, and Ashley is a chocolate Lab. When they are full-grown, they will weigh between 70 to 100 pounds. It may sound funny to you, but I think I can actually see them growing. They are huge! I weigh 40 pounds, and the puppies almost weigh as much as me!

They get into a lot of stuff, too. A couple of weeks ago, they chewed up the sprinkler system in our yard. Water went everywhere. Boy, was my dadmad!

Raising puppies is not what I excepted. It is a lot of hard work. I love them, though. They are worth it!

9. In which paragraph do you learn the name of the author’s puppies?
   A. paragraph 1
   B. paragraph 2
   C. paragraph 3
   D. paragraph 4

10. Which is the BEST summary of the passage?
   A. Jack Russell Terriers can get into a lot of stuff.
   B. Birthdays are a lot of fun.
   C. Smaller dogs are better than bigger dogs.
   D. none of the above

11. Is the author of the passage male or female?
   A. male
   B. female
   C. the passage did not provide that information
   D. none of the above
12. Tina and her family are thinking of buying a dog, but they want to find a dog that will be right for their family. Where should she go to find a book about dogs?
   A. the grocery store
   B. the courthouse
   C. the gas station
   D. the library

13. The author mentions that raising puppies is a lot of work. How is raising puppies a lot of work?
   A. The puppies have to be fed.
   B. The puppies have to be given fresh water everyday.
   C. The puppies have to be taken for walks so they get plenty of exercise.
   D. all of the above

14. Why was the author’s father upset when the puppies chewed up the sprinkler system?
   A. because the father has to fix the sprinkler system
   B. because it is fall and they don’t need the sprinkler system anymore this year
   C. because the puppies were having fun
   D. because the puppies were playing

15. The passage on page 3 is MOSTLY about:
   A. describing two pet Labs
   B. a gift from a brother to a sister
   C. naming puppies
   D. two pet kittens
Buying Stuff for School

I get a lot of stuff before school starts. I get paper, lead pencils, colored pencils, and notebooks. I really like getting the colored pencils because I like to draw.

I get new shoes, too. They are really expensive, so I only get one pair, and I have to take good care of them. If I don’t, Mom will be mad at me.

There is one thing I don’t like to shop for, and that is clothes! I like to wear new clothes. I just don’t like trying them on. It takes way too much time. I wish new clothes would just magically show-up in my closet!

I got all new clothes this year for school. I will probably get more clothes for my birthday. Grandma always gets me socks. Clothes are fine, but I’d much rather get games!

16. This story is MOSTLY about:
   A. getting stuff for school
   B. getting socks for school
   C. birthday presents
   D. getting colored pencils

17. What happens before school starts?
   A. The author gets birthday presents.
   B. The author gets paper and pencils and new shoes and clothes.
   C. The author gets three pairs of sneakers.
   D. The author doesn’t get new clothes.

18. What happens if the author doesn’t take care of his sneakers?
   A. His mom gets mad at him.
   B. He gets a new pair.
   C. His grandma gives him socks.
   D. none of the above
19. The author likes to try on new sneakers. Compare that with how he feels about trying on new clothes.
   A. The author likes to try on new clothes.
   B. The author doesn’t like to try on new clothes.
   C. The author doesn’t care.
   D. The author likes getting clothes as a birthday gift.

20. Why does the author of the passage on page 5 like to get colored pencils?
   A. Regular pencils are boring.
   B. He doesn’t like to get colored pencils.
   C. He likes to draw.
   D. all of the above

21. Look at the words in the box below. Select the phrase that BEST describes how the words in the box are ALIKE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monkey Bars</th>
<th>Slide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swing</td>
<td>Merry-Go-Round</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   A. things found at a hospital
   B. things found on a playground
   C. things found at the mall
   D. things found at a friend’s house

22. Which word means the opposite of the word close?
   A. near
   B. attached
   C. far
   D. next
Read the following selection. Then answer questions 23 through 29.

My Sister Caroline

I have a big sister, and her name is Caroline. She is a lot older than I am. She went to college this year, and I miss her. Mom says she will be home for Thanksgiving.

Caroline is tall. She has long, blonde hair. She is a good swimmer. She will swim in college. She goes to college in another state. We drove her there in the car. She took a lot of stuff with her! We helped her take it all to her room. Boy, that was hard work! I really like her roommate. She is very nice.

When I was born, Caroline was in high school! She liked to baby-sit me when I was little. She takes me lots of places. Some big sisters do not do that, but we are great friends. Her friends are also nice to me.

Caroline sends me email. I also talk to her on the phone. She says she likes all her classes, and she likes school. Caroline is bringing some new friends home with her over Thanksgiving break. It will be fun to meet them, but it will be more fun to see her again!

23. What can you tell about Caroline from the passage?
   A. She doesn’t like young kids.
   B. She likes her younger sister.
   C. She has a good job.
   D. She doesn’t like school.

24. Why does the author want Thanksgiving to come soon?
   A. She likes to eat turkey.
   B. She likes cold weather.
   C. She wants to see her sister.
   D. She enjoys seeing her aunts and uncles.

25. Why did the author write the third paragraph?
   A. to tell how well she and Caroline get along
   B. to tell about Caroline’s friends
   C. to tell that she is older than Caroline
   D. all of the above
My Sister Caroline

26. Which is the BEST summary of the passage on page 7?
   A. A girl's sister swims at college.
   B. A girl misses her sister, who is away at college.
   C. A girl likes Thanksgiving.
   D. A girl has a twin brother.

27. Which word would come BEFORE the word college in the dictionary?
   A. croak
   B. creek
   C. cut
   D. cab

28. Which pair of words mean almost the same thing?
   A. college and university
   B. swim and run
   C. funny and serious
   D. old and young

29. Look at the picture above of Caroline and her sister. How are the two girls DIFFERENT?
   A. The girls are sisters.
   B. The girls both have long hair.
   C. The girls are different ages.
   D. The girls are friends.
Read the following selection. Then answer questions 30 through 36.

Flying to Grandma's

Have you ever been on a plane? I flew on a plane yesterday. It was my first time! I flew with my dad, and we came to see Grandma. She lives in another state.

Dad decided we would fly to see her. He says it takes too long to drive, so Mom said he and I should fly there to see Grandma. Dad got our tickets and said we would go for a long weekend. Since the teachers at our school had two planning days this week, it was the perfect time to go!

Mom helped me pack, and we put our stuff in the car. Then, Dad and I drove to the airport. There were a lot of people there. We waited in a long line for the plane, and a lot of people waited with us. We finally got on the plane. It was huge, and it had a lot of seats.

I sat in my seat and put on my seat belt. Dad paid the flight attendant so I could watch a DVD. I watched the DVD, but I stared out the window a lot, too. We went up fast when the plane took off. The plane went high in the air. The houses and cars looked like small toys.

We flew in some clouds, and I could not see anything. That's when I watched the DVD, but I looked out the window again as soon as we flew out of the clouds.

When we started to land, I looked down at the ground. The houses and cars looked big again. The plane bumped a little bit when we touched the ground, but I wasn't scared.

I love flying, which is a good thing because we fly back home soon!

30. What is this passage MOSTLY about?
   A. watching a DVD on a plane
   B. getting ready for a plane trip
   C. flying for the first time
   D. teacher planning days

31. Why didn't the author and her dad drive on their trip?
   A. It was too far to drive.
   B. The family does not have a car.
   C. Flying is more fun than driving.
   D. The author's mom doesn't like to fly.
32. What happened right after the author and her dad waited in line?
   A. They packed their stuff.
   B. They got on the plane.
   C. They parked their car.
   D. They saw Grandpa.

33. Do you think the author likes flying?
   A. yes
   B. no
   C. yes and no
   D. none of the above

34. What caused the plane to “bump” when it landed?
   A. The wind blew the plane.
   B. The plane touched the ground.
   C. Cars ran into the plane.
   D. The plane did not “bump” when it landed.

35. What can you tell about flying from the passage on page 9?
   A. It takes less time than driving.
   B. It takes longer than driving.
   C. No one thinks flying is fun.
   D. none of the above

36. What is the BEST summary of this passage?
   A. Someone visits Aunt June.
   B. Someone takes a plane trip for the first time.
   C. Watching a DVD during a slumber party is fun.
   D. It is fun to travel with Mom and Dad.
Read the following selection. Then answer questions 37 through 40.

**Ferrets are Fun**

I want a ferret, but Mom says no way! One of my friends has a ferret. They are small and furry. My friend says ferrets are fun, but her mom says they are not.

My friend says her ferret likes to play with shoes. Her mom says the ferret chews on shoes and runs off with them. My friend says her ferret sleeps a lot. Her mom says her ferret runs around inside the house too much.

I like to play with my friend’s ferret. His name is Jake, and I think that is a cool name. If I get a ferret, I am going to give my ferret a cool name. I told Mom about the cool name, but she just laughed.

I think that laugh means I will not get a ferret. At least it means I won’t get one anytime soon, but I will keep trying!

37. Why did the author write this passage?
   A. to explain about hamsters
   B. to explain about friends
   C. to explain about a friend’s pet ferret
   D. to explain why dad’s don’t like ferrets

38. From this passage you can tell:
   A. some kids like ferrets a lot
   B. all moms like ferrets a lot
   C. ferrets are all named Jake
   D. all ferrets have cool names

39. What would be the BEST way to describe a ferret?
   A. a ride at the fair
   B. a small, furry animal
   C. a kind of fish
   D. a large, furry pet
Ferrets are Fun

40. What is the BEST summary of the passage on page 11?
   A. Some ferrets like to eat dog food.
   B. Ferrets are better pets than hamsters.
   C. Some kids like ferrets, and some moms don’t.
   D. Some ferrets like to eat cat food.

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Read the following selection. Then answer questions 41 through 43.

Riding on Trains

There are two kinds of trains. One kind is a passenger train. That is the kind people ride. The other is a freight train. That kind carries freight. Both trains have crews, and they both travel between train stations.

Some stations are not far apart. Trains that stop at these stations are called “local” trains. The people who ride them don’t go far. Lots of these trains take people to and from work. These trains do not have dining cars or sleeping cars.

Some passenger trains take people far away. Some even travel from one country to another. People use these trains instead of planes or cars. Most of these trains have dining cars and sleeping cars. Some of them go very fast, and they are called “high-speed” trains.

Freight trains are even used to take freight to different countries. They pull what are called “wagons.” The wagons hold the freight, which can include such things as lumber, pieces of metal, food, coal, sand, rocks, oil, and gas.

All trains run on tracks. These tracks have two rails. The rails have what are called “cross-ties” between them. These “cross-ties” are wooden. They keep the rails from moving when the trains go over them.

41. Why are some trains called “local” trains?
   A. because they stop at stations that are not far apart
   B. because they have dining cars
   C. because they pull wagons
   D. because they are located in towns far away from where you live
Riding on Trains

42. What can you tell about freight trains from this passage?
   A. They are boring.
   B. They can take freight into other countries.
   C. They do not travel anywhere.
   D. They do not take freight into other countries.

43. Which is more important to the author of this passage?
   A. wasting the reader's time
   B. making the reader laugh
   C. teaching the reader
   D. none of the above

44. What is a plot in a story?
   A. a bad person
   B. a plan for the story
   C. the beginning of the story
   D. all of the above

The Midas Touch – 2.2
My Birthday Surprise – 2.9
Buying Stuff for School – 2.4
My Sister Caroline – 2.0
Flying to Grandma's – 2.0
Ferrets are Fun – 1.9
Riding on Trains – 2.0