BOOKLET 3

Reading Comprehension

Directions

This is a test to see how well you understand what you read. The test is made up of four stories with a number of questions on each. Read the first story and then answer the questions on each. Then go on to the second story and so on until you come to the end of Section C.

Each question has four possible answers. Pick the <u>best</u> ending or answer and blacken the oval on the answer card which has the same letter as the answer you have chosen.

You may read the story over again as much as you need to. Try each question in turn. If you don't know the answer, leave it and go on to the next question. You may come back to it later if you have time.

Please answer even if you aren't quite sure. However, do not guess blindly.

When you finish one story go on to the next. Continue until you reach the end of Section C. If there is time left, go back and try to do any that you omitted.

SECTION C

One of the most interesting birds I have seen is the Indian Tailor Bird. It is a small olive green bird that doesn't look at all unusual, yet it has a most unusual way of making its nest. The birds work together in pairs. First they find a leaf, the right size, and make holes along the edges with their beaks. Through these holes they thread grass. One bird pushes the thread from the outside, while the other bird sits in the nest and pushes it back until the edges of the leaf are sewn together to make a kind of bag, still hanging on the tree, in which the Tailor Bird lays its eggs.

- 1. What does the Tailor Bird use in place of thread?
 - A. Grass.
 - B. String.
 - C. Spider web.
 - D. Thorns.
- 2. The Tailor Birds are interesting because they
 - A. are small and olive green in colour.
 - B. live in pairs.
 - C. make their nests in a special way.
 - D. fly very fast.
- 3. The Tailor Bird got that name because it
 - A. is a small bird.
 - B. looks unusual.
 - C. can sew.
 - D. has a beak shaped like a needle.
- 4. The Tailor Birds make their nests
 - A. from leaves.
 - B. in a hole in a tree.
 - C. in the tall grass.
 - D. with a lining of grass.
- 5. The person who wrote about Tailor Birds was trying to
 - A. give you some new information.
 - B. tell you a story.
 - C, get you to share his feelings.
 - D. keep you guessing on how the story will come out.

Once I watched a mother seal with twin babies for an hour or two and could have spent hours more observing them if time had permitted. Sometimes the two little animated balls of down would snuggle side by side and suckle together while their mother dozed. Then the little imps would play pranks on her, brushing and tickling her face with their flippers and nipping at her head and neck as they frisked and teased around her. She dozed with one eye held open, always keeping a watchful glance upon her offspring and now and again she would lift her head to regard them and to give a deep bay, which I could only interpret as an expression of unalloyed contentment with her happy lot.

Like a cow licking her calf, occasionally she would caress her babies, snuffling and nibbling, for seals are short-tongued creatures.

- 6. The mother kept watch over her babies while she rested by
 - A. liftingher head to watch them.
 - B. dozing with one eye open.
 - C. caressing them fondly.
 - D. suckling them.
- 7. The writer calls the baby seals "imps" because they
 - A. did not like to stay still.
 - B. liked to tease their mother.
 - C. snuggled side by side.
 - D. were small.
- 8. The writer lets us know it is hard for the mother to lick the baby seals because
 - A. they will not keep still.
 - B. she has a short tongue.
 - C. she goes to sleep.
 - D. they tickle her face.
- 9. The writer thought that watching the seals was very
 - A. exciting.
 - B. useful.
 - C. difficult.
 - D. interesting.
- 10. The writer talks about the baby seals and their mother as if
 - A. he had never actually seen them.
 - B. they were lifeless.
 - C. they were human.
 - D. they were troublemakers.

Robert, standing in the stern, was confidently poling the punt over the waters of the narrow river that sunny afternoon, while Joan sat on the cushions facing him, trailing her hands in the cool water. Robert was proud of his skill, and was poling along with quite a flourish. The punt approached the lowest bridge on the river, where Robert knew he must bend low to avoid the arch. Alas! Though he bowed low, the pole stood upright, wedging itself in the mud of the river bed and against the arch of the bridge.

There was a brief struggle while Robert tried to decide whether to leave the pole and stay on the punt or accept the alternative. But the punt wouldn't wait for decisions and Robert was left clinging to the pole. Further and further into the mud the pole sank, while he climbed higher and higher to keep out of the water. Just when it seemed to the amused watchers that he must at last fall in, he was saved. Joan managed to paddle the punt back to his rescue.

- 11. When the pole started to sink into the mud, Robert
 - A. began to get wet.
 - B. called to Joan for help.
 - C. climbed up the pole.
 - D. climbed onto the bridge.
- 12. The punt had two things to make it go. These were a
 - A. pole and a paddle.
 - B. pole and a pair of oars.
 - C. pole and a motor.
 - D. paddle and a pair of oars.
- 13. When Robert has to "accept the alternative", the alternative was to
 - A. jump into the river.
 - B. stay in the boat.
 - C. have Joan save him.
 - D. hang onto the pole.
- 14. How did Joan feel about Robert's mishap?
 - A. we cannot tell.
 - B. she was amused.
 - C. she was embarassed.
 - D. she was angry.
- 15. The pole was held upright at the bridge by
 - A. only the mud on the river bottom.
 - B. only the arch of the bridge.
 - C. both the mud and the bridge.
 - D. Robert holding onto it.
- 16. We know that the river was not very deep because
 - A. Robert pushed the punt with a pole.
 - B. punts do not need much water.
 - C. the bridge was very low.
 - D. the bottom was muddy.

For three or four thousand years a family of marmots had been settled in a grassy little valley under the cliffs of a jagged peak whose present name is the Rock of Wonders. The maps specify that the peak is about seven thousand two hundred feet in altitude.

The spot was a remarkably suitable one for all sorts of good reasons. In the first place, the slope faced south. The sun shone on it from dawn until dark, and in the spring the snow melted there faster than anywhere else. One could warm oneself as much as one wished, or again one could sit in the shade of huge rocks fallen from the heights of the mountain. A little way off a tiny spring fed a little lake. Thanks to this fresh spring, which never dried up, the grasses round about grew thick and strong, even in the month of August.

The rocks provided many sitting places and perfectly safe holes where one could take refuge in an emergency. As for the Family Cave, hollowed out many years ago by the grandfather of the present inhabitant, it opened out pleasantly from under a flat slab between two clumps of arnica. Since it had already been improved by two generations, it would have been difficult to find a drier and more comfortable apartment.

- 17. Why had the marmots lived so long in one place?
 - A. They did not like to travel.
 - B. They could not climb down the cliffs.
 - C. They came there long ago.
 - D. It was a very good place.
- 18. What kept the grasses in the valley green and healthy all summer?
 - A. The warm sun.
 - B. The melting snow.
 - C. The high peak.
 - D. A spring.
- 19. Why was it a good thing that the valley faced to the south?
 - A. The summer days were warmer.
 - B. Winter snows melted early.
 - C. The best view was to the south.
 - D. Marmots need a lot of sun.
- 20. From the story we know that marmots like to live in a home that is
 - A. warm.
 - B. light.
 - C. dry.
 - D. large.
- 21. The last sentence of the story makes us think that the marmots will
 - A. make many new homes.
 - B. continue to live in the Family Cave.
 - C. have many babies.
 - D. work hard to make the cave comfortable.

END OF SECTION C

SECTION D

The sundew is a small, pretty plant, that grows in damp, boggy places. Its leaves grow in clusters on slender reddish stems. On each leaf there are several beautiful shining drops that look like the smallest dewdrops you can imagine. A passing insect sees the drops and thinks they are drops of sweet nectar. He lights on the sundew's leaves. Surprise! The sticky drop is not nectar. It is the glue that the sundew uses to attract insects. The small leaves close over the insect. Soon the insect disappears, for the sundew is one of the strange plants that eat living insects.

- 1. Insects are most attracted to the sundew when they want
 - to
 - A. play.
 - B. hide.
 - C. rest.
 - D. eat.
- 2. An insect lighting on a sundew disappears in the
 - A. sunlight.
 - B. sky.
 - C. plant.
 - D. bog.
- When an insect that has lighted on a sundew disappears, it has
 - A. been eaten.
 - B. flown away.
 - C. gone to sleep.
 - D. fallen to the ground.
- You would expect to find the sundew growing in places where it was
 - A. cold.
 - B. wet.
 - C. high.
 - D. grassy.
- 5. The sundew's leaves are
 - A. slender.
 - B. shining.
 - C. in clusters.
 - D. covered with dew.

Ernenek slipped out of his sleeping bag. On top of his clothes made of small auk's skins, with the feathers inside, he put on other clothes made of bear skin, with the fur on the outside and pushed the trouser legs into his sealskin boots.

He came out of the narrow tunnel of the igloo on all-fours, pulling the half-asleep dog, who was the leader of the team, by its leash, while the other dogs followed yawning and shaking the rime off their thick fur. They clamoured for food by barking and showing their teeth which had been filed with stones so that they could not gnaw their bridles; they looked more like wolves than dogs with their pointed muzzles and their yellow, glowing eyes.

Ernenek iced the sledge runners, then he harnessed the dogs, unfastened the sledge anchor and climbed on to the sledge. Under the whip, the dogs formed out behind the leading dog, pulling on the traces which attached them separately to the sledge and yelping behind the white clouds of vapour coming out of their mouths.

It was hot; the temperature must have been about 17 degrees below zero and Ernenek did not have to run behind the sledge to warm himself; he could remain sitting and enjoy the drive.

The icy ocean on which he travelled, frozen to a depth which exceeded a man's height and superficially covered with snow, bore the clear trace of the sledge of his friend who had started before him.

Ernenek did not turn to look at the solitary igloo he was leaving behind, a minute cute hump of ice at the top of the world.

- 6. Ernenek's dogs resembled wolves because they had
 - A. a very sharp sense of smell.
 - B. filed teeth and a small muzzle.
 - C. great strength to pull the sledge.
 - D. pointed muzzles and glowing eyes.
- 7. We can tell from the passage that auks are
 - A. animals like bears.
 - B. related to seals.
 - C. dogs that pull sledges.
 - D. birds.
- 8. The dogs' teeth had been filed with stones to make them
 - A. sharp.
 - B. clean.
 - C. smooth.
 - D. blunt.
- 9. Why did Ernenek ice the runners of his sledge?
 - A. to cool them off.
 - B. to make them slippery.
 - C. so he could harness the dogs.
 - D. to remove the dirt.

- 10. In describing the dogs, the writer tries to make them seem
 - A. brave.
 - B. strong.
 - C. well-trained.
 - D. savage.
- 11. In saying that Ernenek's igloo was "at the top of the world", the writer means that it was
 - A. on the icy ocean.
 - B. near the North Pole.
 - C. far from any other home.
 - D. very small and unimportant.
- 12. We can tell from the fourth paragraph that
 - A. It was a really hot day.
 - B. Ernenek hated to run.
 - C. Ernenek got cold easily.
 - D. Ernenek was used to very cold weather.

Simonides was a poet. He wandered round the wealthy cities of Asia, composing poems and singing the praises of warriors for such reward as he could gain. By this means he gathered a considerable amount of wealth, and after some years he made up his mind to return by sea to his native island of Ceos. While he was on the ship, a dreadful storm arose, and all the passengers began in panic to gather together their precious belongings.

Simonides stood on the deck calmly, making no effort to gather up his own baggage. Some of the other passengers were amazed at this, and one of them asked Simonides why he was not trying to save any of his property. "All my real wealth", said Simonides, "is in my head". The others laughed at the foolish poet, and as the ship foundered they leapt into the sea weighed down with all their possessions. Some of them attempted to carry such heavy burdens that they drowned. Others managed to struggle ashore. But herethey were set upon by thieves, who stripped them naked of all that they owned.

Simonides, meanwhile, made his way to the nearest town, without being robbed, since he had nothing for the thieves to take. No sooner was he in the streets than he was recognized by a lover of his poetry, and showered with clothes, gifts and hospitality.

Next day, as he was walking with some of his new friends and admirers, Simonides happened to see some of his fellow travellers, who were begging for food and shelter. As soon as he saw them, Simonides said, "You see, you laughed at me on the ship when I said that my real wealth was in my head. But now you are beggars while I am well clothed and on my way to being prosperous again; now I can help you. What you have tried to save is all lost. But I carried my riches along with me - my poems".

- 13. Simonides had made his living by composing poems that told of
 - A. the beauty of nature.
 - B. life on the sea.
 - C. life in ancient times.
 - D. the great deeds of warriors.
- 14. The other passengers laughed at Simonides because he
 - A. had no baggage.
 - B. did not try to save his possessions.
 - C. was so frightened of the storm.
 - D. read poems during the storm.
- 15. The thieves did not rob Simonides because he
 - A. was recognized by them.
 - B. had no possessions.
 - C. made poems for them.
 - D. was able to escape them.

- 16. What suggests that Simonides' poems were not written down?
 - A. He said his real wealth was in his head.
 - B. He did not try to gather his belongings.
 - C. They had to do with the deeds of warriors.
 - D. No one recognized his poetry.
- 17. When Simonides said "my real wealth is in my head", he meant
 - A. by his knowledge he could earn new wealth.
 - B. beauty is more important than mere possessions.
 - C. he had very little that he owned.
 - D. he was a very intelligent man.
- 18. The idea that the writer of this story is trying to get over to us is that
 - A. possessions are of no value.
 - B. life is dangerous and uncertain.
 - C. poetry may be wealth.
 - D. poetry is beautiful
- 19. In this story, the author's main purpose is to
 - A. entertain his reader.
 - B. write very beautifully.
 - C. weave a lesson into the story.
 - D. give some useful information.

Before the advent of hunters with guns, the musk ox was king of the tundra. His heavy coat protected him against the cold of winter and the swarms of bloodsucking insects in summer. With his heavy hooves he could break the ice crusts that covered the willow branches he was so fond of. When danger threatened, the bulls lined up before the cows and their young. With their strong, sharp horns they were more than a match for wolves or hunters with primitive weapons. But when they lowered their heads and charged they made an easy target for a huntsman with a gun. And so now there are only about seven thousand musk oxen.

- 20. The word "advent" in line 1 most nearly means
 - A. sport.
 - B. attack.
 - C. ending.
 - D. arrival.
- 21. If a hunter went to hunt the musk ox in summer, the worst trouble he would face would be
 - A. wolves.
 - B. insects.
 - C. the charge of the bulls.
 - D. a chance of frost-bite.
- 22. The last sentences suggest that
 - A. the musk oxen are dying off.
 - B. the musk ox is a stupid animal.
 - C. the musk ox cannot survive in today's world.
 - D. hunters are killing too many musk oxen.
- 23. The musk ox lives in the
 - A. far North.
 - B. desert.
 - C. jungle.
 - D. mountains.
- 24. The writer's feelings about the musk ox can best be described as
 - A. fear of such a powerful animal.
 - B. eagerness to go and hunt one.
 - C. interest in their care for their young.
 - D. concern that they may all be killed.

END OF SECTION D

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION P

READING SPEED

PRACTICE TEST

Directions

Here is a story. The story has many little parts. When you come to the end of a part there will be three words like this:

one two three

Put a line under the word that fits in the story. For this test you underline the words in the booklet.

Read as fast as you can, and see how many parts of the story you can read and mark in the time that you have.

Remember - read as fast as you can, but be sure to mark the right word after each part of the story.

Do not use an eraser. If you change your mind, cross out your first answer and then put a line under your second choice.

1.	Yesterday	We W	vent	to t	he air	cport.		Whil	Le we	were	the	re a
	big plane	came	e in.	On	each	side	of	it	there	were	а	great
	many											

eggs windows wings

2. We saw the people get out of the plane. Some of them had bags in their hands. The bags had been in the

airport people plane

3. We went to meet my Aunt Jane. She was coming to spend two weeks with us. We shall see Aunt Jane for two

days weeks months

4. Aunt Jane has three children. The oldest is a boy and the other two are girls. The name of Aunt Jane's oldest child is

Alice Mary Roger

5. Next week Roger will come to visit us too. He will stay and go home with my Aunt Jane. He will go home with his

brother mother sister

6. Roger is two years older than my brother John. John was ten years old last month. Roger's age is now

eight ten twelve

7. While Roger is here we will go to the zoo. We will see the lions and the bears. These are what we like best in the

house store zoo

8. Mother will make a big cake for Roger. He likes chocolate cake very much, and so the cake my mother makes will be

fresh little chocolate

Roger will sleep in the same room with my brother John.
There are two beds in the room. Each boy will have his own

bed dog room

10.			here are many nice drives 11 take Roger for a long
	ride	walk	while
11.	Next summer I hope on the railroad. I		I will ride to his city it Roger in a
	car	plane	train
12.	Roger lives near a Twhen it is warm. We		like to swim in the lake re in the
	night	summer	winter
13.			Some of them have sails, of them are on the
	lake	land	shore
14.			der to go. Boats with a rboat is the best kind on
	calm	dry	windy
15.			re very pretty. The wind windy day the boats on the
	dry	empty	pretty
16.			farms. There are some in I shall probably see
	cows	sheep	trees
17.	Some of the cows are white. The brown ar from the other cows	nd white cows g	te, and some are brown and ive the richest milk. Milk
	clean	much	rich
18.	The train will make I do not get off at at is the	four stops on any of them.	the way to Roger's city. The stop that I get off

first

second

fifth

19.	The first stop is at a factory where shoe in this			
	country	town	village	
20.	After that we come t two minutes, and the very			
	late	long	short	
21.	The third stop is Jo engines. The stop a to put on a new			
	engine	hat	train	
22.	From Johnson City it friend lives. One h will get			
	in	off	wet	
23.	For the last hour, m that part of the tri few			
	branches	houses	leaves	
24.	There are some anima are afraid of the tr forest they run			
	away	by	up	
25.	Because the animals them. They will kee to see the			
	trees	animals	people	

26. At the fifth stop, I will get off the train. Roger will meet me at the station. I will be glad to see him in the

car morning station

27.	From the stati	ion we will	drive to	Roger's	house.	We	have	to
	drive all the	way across	town from	the sou	th to	the 1	north.	
	On the south :	side of tow	n is the					

house lake station

28. Roger lives on the edge of town. It is a short walk from his house to the lake. It is easy to walk from his house to the

lake station store

29. The lake by Roger's house is very wide. It is two miles to the far side. Houses on the far side of the lake look very

large pretty small

30. A road goes all the way around the lake. It makes a very long walk around the lake, but it is not hard to go around in a

car hurry minute

Roger has two friends who live in the house next to his. Both of them are boys. How many boys live in the house next to Roger?

one two three

32. Roger likes to play ball with his two friends. They all play on a team at school. There are five boys on the team. Two other boys play on the team with Roger and his

friends sisters uncles

33. On the other side of the lake there are several large farms. The farms grow mostly corn to feed to animals. These animals like to eat

corn fish meat

34. We will go to see the farms. We will work helping the farmer feed his animals. If we work hard, we may get a treat from the

animals farmer help

TURN THE PAGE

35.	It will	be h	ot wo	orking	on	the	fari	n. Wi	nen	we	are	through	we
	will sw												

cooler

sleepier

stronger

36. I will stay at Roger's house for ten days. After that I will come back to my own house. I will stay at Roger's house more than a

month

week

year

37. When I come back home Roger's father will drive me in his car. It will take about six hours. We will leave in the middle of the morning and get home in the middle of the

afternoon

night

morning

38. The road from Roger's house to mine is not a good road. It was built many years ago. It has had much wear, and the ride will be

bumpy

quick

slippery

39. It will be good to be home again. The trip will be great fun, but I will miss my own family. When I get home and see them, I will be

happy

sick

tired

40. My friends at home will be glad to see me too. When I am home we sometimes fight, but when I come back from a trip they are always

alone

mad

nice

END OF BOOKLET 3

I.E.A. IEA/3J

BOOKLET 3J

READING SPEED TEST

Directions

Here is a story. The story has many little parts. When you come to the end of a part there will be three words like this:

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Read as fast as you can, and see how many parts of the story you can read and mark in the time that you have.

Remember - read as fast as you can, but be sure to mark the right word after each part of the story.

Do not use an eraser. If you change your mind, cross out your first answer and then put a line under your second choice.

1.	Peter has a little dog on his back and one wh is mostly		
	black	brown	grey
2,			ouppy. Now the dog is a my years has Peter had
	one	two	three
3.	Peter's dog has a spot the dog Spot. The dog		
	back	ear	leg
4.	The dog has learned to catch a ball. To star		
	story	trick	way
5.	When he was a puppy Sp he is fed only once.		
	often	less	many
6.	Spot is most happy whe		He would like to have one that
	small	hungry	often
7.	Spot lives in his own is made of wood. The		is a red house and it ives in is
	green	red	white
8.	Peter's mother does no he has dirty feet. Wh		
	inside	hungry	outside
9.	Sometimes Peter has di him wipe them off on t house		

dry

warm

clean

10. Peter likes to play with Spot. Often they run together. Peter can run quite fast, and yet Spot can run

faster now home

11. One day Peter went for a long walk. Spot came along too. Spot had great fun. When Peter goes for a walk Spot always wants to

eat go sleep

12. While they were walking they saw a bird. The bird was sitting on the ground under a tree. Peter saw the bird sitting on the

branch ground tree

13. Spot saw the bird too. Spot wanted to catch the bird. The bird was something that Spot wanted to

catch find scare

14. Spot ran after the bird. While he ran after the bird he kept barking. Spot was barking while he chased the

ball bird boy

15. When Spot chased the bird it flew away. It flew up into the tree. It flew to the top of the tree and sat on a

branch store box

16. Spot was surprised. He did not know where the bird had gone. He did not know that the bird had flown to the

bush house tree

17. Spot ran around in circles. He ran this way and that way. He kept looking and looking. He was looking for the

bird bone dog

18. The bird in the top of the tree started to sing. He sang because he was happy. Because he was safe in the tree he started to

fly sing sleep

19. A second bird came to the tree too. He came to join the first bird. How many birds were there in the top of the tree now?

none one two

20. The birds flew away from the tree together. They flew to a field of wheat. The birds were hungry and wanted to eat some

berries corn wheat

21. There were many birds in the field. They were all eating the grains of wheat. They were all eating the wheat in the

box field house

22. Spot and Peter came walking by the field. When Spot saw the birds, he was very excited. He was excited to see so many

birds grains people

23. Spot ran into the field. When he got to the middle of the field, he started to bark. He stood barking in the middle of the

day field night

24. The birds did not wait for Spot. Before he reached the field they flew away. They flew away because they were

afraid alone hungry

25. Spot did not know what to do next. He sat barking in the middle of the field. He sat and waited for Peter to

bark come cry

26. Peter came to the edge of the field and stood still. Then he called to Spot. He called to Spot from the edge of the

field road river

27. When Peter called, Spot ran over to him. Peter patted Spot on the head. Because Spot obeyed Peter, Peter thought he was a good

boy dog fighter

28. They walked until they came to the main road. There they saw a bus come by loaded down with people. There were a great many people in the

bus house town

29. The bus was going to the next town. In this town there is a large market. Many people ride the bus to go to the

lake market station

30. Peter saw his father on the bus. Peter's father works in the next town. He has to ride the bus when it is time to go to

bed visit work

31. Peter walked along the road with Spot. They met another dog on the road. Spot growled and growled at the other dog. Spot was not

greedy

friendly

lonely

The other dog started to growl too. But then he turned and ran away. He was afraid of Spot. The other dog was not very

hungry

brave

sad

33. Peter and Spot came to a bridge across a stream. Peter got some small stones from the side of the road. He threw them into the

lake

puddle

stream

34. Spot saw Peter throw a stone. He started to run after the stone. He did not see the stream. He fell into the

hole

mud

water

35. Spot started to swim. He swam across the stream and came out the other side. Then he ran back to Peter across the

bridge

lake

field

36. Spot was all wet. He started to shake himself. He shook himself right beside Peter. When he shook himself, it made Peter

glad

hot

wet

Peter stood in the middle of the bridge and watched the stream. He saw something small swimming in the stream. He thought it was a

boat

boy

fish

Now it was time for Peter to go home. There was some work to do at home. Peter often did work in the garden. He was a very good

cook

gardener

tailor

39. Peter and Spot hurried home. Peter's mother was waiting by the door. She had some gardening to be done, so she was glad to see

sunshine

Peter

Spot

Peter hurried to get his work done. His mother had promised him some candy when he was finished. He wanted to finish so he could get the

ball

candy

money