

PART II

USAGE AND READING COMPREHENSION

INSTRUCTIONS:

This section contains **TWO** passages. Read the passages carefully and answer the questions that follow. There is a cloze exercise based on the first passage, which is the usage part of the examination.

ALL questions must be answered in complete sentences and in your own words unless otherwise indicated.

All answers must be based on information in the passages.

Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

PASSAGE I

Getting 'Boared' in the Abacos!

Like most things in the Abacos, it all began centuries ago with the original settlers. Along with chests of household articles, seeds and infant plants, medicine and bottles of rum, the first settlers brought livestock with them, such as horses, chickens, dogs, cats and pigs. On Abaco there were acres of thick, wild forests which were ideal for the pigs, as they could roam and make dozens of babies. They could also hide.

5 Yes, unfortunately for the pigs, there were persons who hunted them. Today, the hunting continues.

In Abaco, people like Philip Albury can recall stories about his great grandfather returning from the hunt, lugging a wild pig, also called a boar, on his back. Philip himself has been hunting since he was a boy and still enjoys occasional treks into the bush when he can spare time away from work.

10 He told me that there were once countless boars roaming the Abacos. The boars at that time were much smaller in size due to the extreme competition for food. With the advent of better roads, trucks, guns and hunting dogs, the wild hogs are becoming fewer in number. Yet there are some which grow to impressive and often dangerous proportions. The heaviest boar Philip has caught weighed about 200 pounds.

Nowadays, there are two types of boar-hunting. "Watching" is usually done in the summer months and, as the word implies, involves the hunter sitting in an open area often frequented by wild boars because of its waterhole or flourishing fruit trees. As the boars come to eat, the hunters, armed and ready, launch a surprise attack. The second practice is to hunt with dogs.

15 When in the wilds, the dogs on the back of a hunting truck give an indication that the boars are on the loose in the area. With the first scent, the hunters, who have been closely watching their dogs, obey the animals' command to stop the truck. Then the dogs fly from the back of the truck, hot on the trail of wild boar. At this point, all the hunters have to do is to wait and watch. The dogs chase the boars throughout the bush. As the hunters listen to the tone of the barking, they can discern where the animals are. Eventually, the chase will lead the boars to the open road, where the hunters, guns at the ready, await their arrival.

20 Boar-hunting is usually done very early at about 4:00 a.m., because the morning drafts, which are currents of air, allow the scent of the boars to be absorbed by the dew on the shrubbery much more easily than later in the day. Another popular time is at twilight. The trek can take six to seven hours before a hunter spots a boar. That is a very long time. Therefore, good hunters are patient and focused.

25 Boars are more distinctive in their appearance than their tamer relatives, the domestic pig. They have a prominent jaw that developed after years of crushing roots and seed husks for their survival. They are also much leaner, which accounts for their tremendous speed. The snout is very long and they grow tusks up to six inches long, sharp and deadly. Apart from self-defense, these tusks are used to search for and dig roots out of the ground. Their thick covering of grey and brown hair camouflages the boars in their natural setting. Boars are prolific breeders, producing many offspring. However, poachers and irresponsible hunters are the biggest threats to ensuring that a wild boar population continues to exist.

35 Hunters agree that The Bahamas needs a Wild Boar Hunters Association. The Association's goals would include protectionist legal actions, such as setting aside a hunting season during the winter months and declaring selected areas in the forests as "hunt-free" zones. The zones would be rotated every two or three seasons. These measures would allow the wild boar an opportunity to breed and thrive without becoming almost extinct in any one area of the Abacos.



Adapted from an article on www.go-abacos.com/news

9. Who were the persons responsible for bringing the wild boar population to the Abacos?

 [1]

10. Give **ONE** reason why the forests of the Abacos were once perfect places for boars to live.

 [1]

11. "Watching" is one of two types of hunting described in the passage. Using your own words as far as possible, briefly tell why this type of hunting has been given that name.

 [1]

12. Using your own words as far as possible, explain the expression, "The dogs fly from the back of the truck, hot on the trail of wild boar" (paragraph 5).

 [2]

13. The passage states that hunters believe that the Abacos need a Wild Boar Association.

- (a) What is **ONE** legal action that a Wild Boar Association can put into place to look after the boars?

 [1]

- (b) How would the wild boars benefit from the legal actions or measures carried out by a Wild Boar Association?

 [1]


14. "Getting 'Boared' in the Abacos" is a suitable title for the passage for a number of reasons. Tick the **ONE** suggested reason that you would **remove from the list below** because it is **unsuitable**.

- _____ Wild boars are found in the Abacos and the setting of the passage is in Abaco.
- _____ It is a play on the word 'bored' because it can take a long time to capture a boar, which can lead to boredom.
- _____ The writer wants us to get aboard an airplane to go hunting for boars in the Abacos.
- _____ It is a play on the word 'boared' because to bore can mean to puncture or to pierce, and some hunters are injured when an attacking boar bores them.

[1]

15. Find the **SINGLE** word in the passage that has the same or nearly the same meaning as **TWO** of the following lists of words (a-d). The paragraph number has been provided for you. There is also an example.

Example: _____ **chests** _____ containers; boxes; trunks; cases (paragraph 1)

- (a) _____ journeys; trips; hikes (paragraph 2)
- (b) _____ arrival; coming; introduction; establishment (paragraph 3)
- (c) _____ detect; recognize; perceive; determine (paragraph 5)
- (d) _____ bushes; plants; undergrowth; greenery (paragraph 6)

[2]

16. Using information from the passage only, explain how any **TWO** of the wild boars' physical traits/characteristics listed in the table below help them to stay alive in the forests.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC/TRAIT	HOW THIS TRAIT/CHARACTERISTIC HELPS THE BOARS
(a) Their well-defined jaw	
(b) Their slim body	
(c) Their long, pointed and protruding teeth	
(d) Their thick, shaggy, brown and grey covering	

[2]

TOTAL MARKS = [12]



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PASSAGE II

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. **ALL** questions must be answered in complete sentences and in your own words unless otherwise indicated.

All answers must be based on information in the passage. Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

THE PRETTIEST

Ellie's father was a drinking man and everybody knew it because when Okey Farley was intoxicated, he always jumped in his red and white Chevy truck and made the rocks fly up and down the mountains. When he had been a coal miner he drank then, too, but just on weekends. Then Okey had been severely hurt in a slate fall, deep in the mines, so he couldn't work anymore. He just stayed home and drank.

5 Ellie was his youngest daughter, the youngest of five. She didn't resemble Okey or her mother, both of whom had shiny black hair and dark eyes. Ellie was a pretty girl, but her teeth were getting rotten and she always shielded them with her hand when she laughed. She loved her father, but she was afraid of him because when he drank he usually bellowed, or cried or threatened the family with physical violence. At those times Ellie retreated to her room and prayed.

10 One day Okey did a peculiar thing. He brought home a dog; a beagle. Ellie's father couldn't hunt because his right arm wasn't strong enough to manage a rifle anymore. But there he was with a beagle he called Bullet. He made Bullet a house which he spent the whole weekend constructing and didn't even pause to take a drink. Then Bullet was tied up to his house, and he kept them all awake three consecutive nights with his howling. Okey would not explain why he had bought a hunting dog when he couldn't hunt. He just sat on the porch with a bottle in his hand and looked at Bullet.

15 Ellie was the only one of Okey's children who took an interest in his pet. The older girls were not impressed by a dog, but Ellie liked the beagle and was interested in her father's liking for it. Neither of them could remember later who mentioned it first, but somehow the subject of hunting came up one day, and, hardly knowing she was saying it, Ellie announced she wanted to learn how to hunt. Okey laughed long and hard. The next time they sat together, though, she repeated it, but this time more firmly.

20 Okey decided to test her. He set up some cans, showed her how to handle his rifle, and then stepped back to watch. The first day she missed them all. The second day she hit one. The fifth day she hit four out of nine. So when she brought up hunting again, they fixed the date. They went out on a Saturday about five-thirty in the morning. Ellie was booted and wore a flannel sweater like her father, and she had her own gun.

25 Okey held his rifle under his left arm. They both knew he'd never be able to shoot it. But neither said anything. It was just getting light when they made the top of the mountains, their breaths coming fast and smoky cold. They each found a tree to lean against and the wait began.

Okey told Ellie she might have half a chance of hitting a squirrel. A rabbit was out of the question. Ellie flexed her fingers and tried not to shiver. She was partly cold and partly scared, but mostly happy for she was on a mountain with her father and it was dawn.

30 Neither Okey nor Ellie thought it likely that a deer would come along so neither was prepared when one did. But less than twenty feet away, stamping its front hoof in warning, suddenly stood a doe. Okey and Ellie stared across the trees at each other and froze themselves into the scenery.

35 The female deer did not catch their scent. And she could not see them unless they moved. However, she sensed something was odd, for she stamped again. Then she moved closer. Ellie looked at the animal. She knew that if she shot a deer, doe or buck, her father would never stop bragging about it. "First time out and she got a deer." She knew it would be so. The doe was nearing her tree and she knew if she were quick about it, she could shoot that doe. She knew it would be easier than shooting a squirrel off a tree limb. She could kill that doe, but she did not.

40 The doe moved nearer; it was a big one, and its large brown eyes watched for movement. They found it. Ellie raised her arm. And she waved. The deer snorted hard and turned. It was so quickly gone that Ellie could not be sure in which direction it headed.

"Godamighty!" she heard Okey yell. She thought he might be infuriated enough to shoot her, if he could hold onto his rifle. She heard his crashing across the ground.

45 "Now wasn't that," Okey gasped as he reached her tree, "wasn't that the prettiest thing you ever seen?" Ellie hesitated, wondering, and then she grinned wide.



"The prettiest," she answered.

And they turned together and went quickly down the mountain to find Bullet and go on home.

Adapted from The Prettiest, by Cynthia Rylant. (1993).

In J. Trelease (Ed.) Read all about it!

New York: Penguin.

27. What is the **overall** purpose of the **first** paragraph of the passage (lines 1–4)? Shade the box next to the letter that indicates the best answer.

A.		to let the readers know that Okey Farley used to be a coal miner
B.		to inform the readers that Okey had a Chevy
C.		to introduce Okey as a man with a drinking problem
D.		to state that Okey had a daughter called Ellie

[1]

28. Using **your own words**, give **ONE** way in which Okey behaved when he was intoxicated.

[1]

29. Give **ONE** detail from the passage which indicates that the setting is a country other than The Bahamas.

[1]

30. Explain why Okey probably named the dog "Bullet".

[2]



31. When Okey speaks at the very end of the passage we are surprised.
- (a) What does he say?
- _____
- _____ [1]
- (b) Explain why we are surprised.
- _____
- _____
- _____ [2]
32. Ellie can be described as **unconfident** in a number of ways.
- (a) Quote a sentence from **between** lines 5 to 20 that reveals her **lack of confidence** about her **physical** appearance.
- _____
- _____ [1]
- (b) Explain how **ONE** detail found **between** lines 34 to 48 reveals Ellie's **extreme** delight over the outcome of the hunting trip.
- _____
- _____
- _____ [2]
33. Using your **own** words as far as possible, explain the following phrase: "froze themselves into the scenery" (line 33).
- _____
- _____
- _____ [2]



34. Using the lines provided, explain the meaning of **THREE** of the following words or phrases as they are used in the passage:

- (a) retreated to (line 9) _____
- (b) peculiar (line 10) _____
- (c) consecutive (line 13) _____
- (d) flexed (line 29) _____
- (e) infuriated (line 43) _____

[3]

There is one more question on page 18.

