

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension- TOTAL MARKS 45

Read each passage carefully, then answer the questions. Remember that ALL answers must come from the passage. If you are not sure about the answer to a question, do the best you can but do not spend too much time on any one question.

PASSAGE 1

PENCILS

We use wooden pencils almost everyday. Pencils are manufactured in factories where machines do most of the work.

A pencil has two major parts – the lead and the wooden covering. Combining clay and a soft rock called graphite with water makes the lead. A machine presses the mixture through little holes and cuts the leads into thin sticks. Then the sticks are baked in a special oven to make them rigid.

Pieces of wood are cut into miniature, flat boards. A machine cuts three grooves into each board. One lead is put into each groove. A second board is glued on top of the first board. Then a machine cuts the board between the grooves to make three pencils. The pencils are shaped and painted. Sometimes a picture or the name of the company is stamped on each one.

Finally, the pencils are put into boxes and sent to stores where you can buy them for school.

Adapted from Stanford Diagnostic Reading

1. Where are pencils produced?

_____ [1 mark]

2. Which word in paragraph **TWO** refers to a "soft rock"?

_____ [1 mark]

3. What is the glue used for in the making of pencils?

_____ [1 mark]

4. Which word in paragraph **TWO** means the same as hard?

_____ [1 mark]

5. Which of the sentences below has the same meaning as 'lead' in the passage? Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

- a. He sang the lead part in his school's choir.
- b. His lead broke when he pressed hard on the paper.
- c. The generals lead the soldiers into battle.

[1mark]

6. Number the following steps 1 – 4 to show the order in which pencils are made.

_____ chopping

_____ flattening

_____ forming

_____ mixing

[4 marks]

7. How are pencils packaged for delivery?

_____ [1mark]

TOTAL MARKS = 10

PASSAGE 2

EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY

My brother's a practical joker of sorts,
And I'm his target of joy.
Last Saturday night he tossed a cream pie,
And splattered the face of this boy!

I decided that I must retaliate,
A plan I pondered for days.
My trick would out do what Andy had done,
And teach him to change his crude ways.

I gathered cold water, a pail and a rope,
And secured them high over the door.
When Andy pushed hard on the firm metal latch,
The water rained down toward the floor.

Poor Andy was drenched from his head to his toe,
The art of surprise did him in!
But I could see from the fire in his eyes,
He was plotting to zap me again.

Reading and Writing Strategies

8. Which event caused the poet to play a trick on Andy?

_____ [1 mark]

9. Quote the line from verse **ONE** that shows the poet played tricks on his brother.

_____ [1 mark]

10. ***I decided that I must retaliate.*** What does the word "retaliate" mean?

_____ [1 mark]

11. Why did it take the poet days to come up with a plan?

_____ [2 marks]

12. What items did the poet use to carry out his plan? List any **TWO**.

_____ [2 marks]

13. The words "***the fire in his eyes***" suggests Andy was _____.
Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

- a. angry
- b. surprised
- c. excited
- d. sad

[1 mark]

14. Did Andy change his ways? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

_____ [2 marks]

15. Which saying is another suitable title for the poem? Circle the letter next to the best answer.

- a. When It Rains It Pours
- b. What Goes Around Comes Around
- c. Turn the Other Cheek
- d. Let Sleeping Dogs Lie

[1 mark]

TOTAL MARKS = 11

PASSAGE 3

NELL'S JOURNAL ENTRY

September 3, 2004

Summer vacation is over, and the day has finally arrived – the beginning of another school year! I don't understand why I'm so nervous and discombobulated. It's not as if this were my first day of school – ever. School has always been enjoyable for me. Yet, my legs are behaving like tree branches in a hurricane, my stomach is in knots, and my head is spinning like a top. I even had trouble buttoning my shirt and tying my laces. I'm all thumbs! My eyes darted towards the clock. It was almost seven thirty. I've got to get a grip and stay cool.

Maybe if I take a few deep breaths and think pleasant thoughts, my nerves will calm down. Well, that's what my father told me to do. But what does he know? He doesn't have to face a new school and a new grade with a new teacher.

Oh, no! I hear honking! Daddy is waiting outside. I guess it's time for me to stop writing and get moving. Good-bye for now! I'm off to see what new adventures this day will bring. Ugh!

–NELL

16. To whom is Nell writing?

[1 mark]

17. To what does she compare her legs?

[2 marks]

18. At what time of the day did she write this journal entry? Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

- a. early morning
- b. mid morning
- c. early afternoon
- d. mid afternoon

[1mark]

19. "*I'm all thumbs.*" What evidence in the passage supports that the writer was all thumbs?

- a. _____
- b. _____

[2 marks]

20. a. What advice did Nell's father give her?

[2 marks]

b. What evidence suggests that she would not take her father's advice?

[1 mark]

21. Why was the writer so nervous? Give **TWO** reasons.

[2 marks]

TOTAL MARKS = 11

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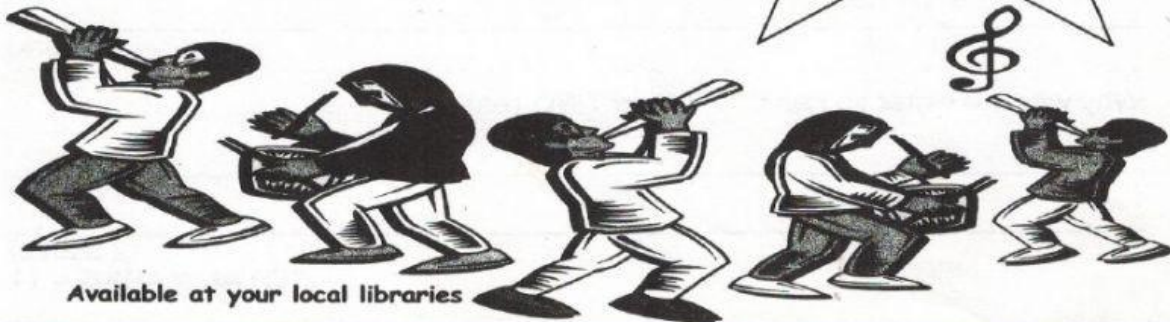
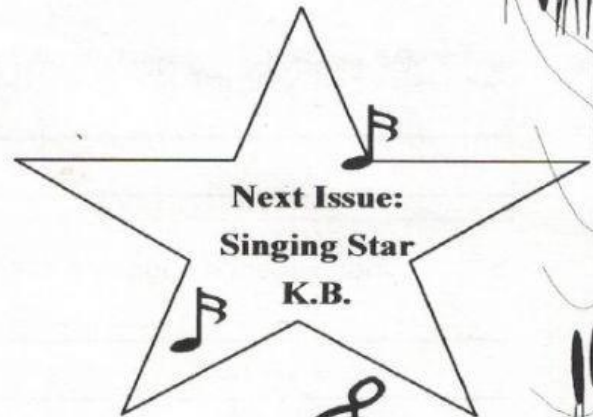
MAY, 2005

Kids' Vibe

Monthly Magazine for 'Smart' Kids

Inside this Issue

- On the Cover: Renae Smith
'How to Ace Your Exams'
- From Drab to Fab
'Trendy Makeovers for Kids with Style'
- Fit Not Fat
'Tasty Dishes That Feed Your Brain'
- Kids Speak
'What's Your 5 cents?'
- Game Scene
'Computer Games that Teach''
- Minister's Bookclub
'Review - On Granddad's Back'



Available at your local libraries

22. a. Who wrote the article 'How to Ace Your Exam'?

[1mark]

- b. What is meant by the word 'ace' in the cover story, 'How to Ace Your Exam'?

[1 mark]

23. Complete the table below. In which section would you find information about the following topics?

TOPIC	SECTION
Recipes	
Suggested Readings	
Fashion	
Children's Opinion	

[4 marks]

24. When will the next issue of *Kids' Vibe* magazine be available? Support your answer with evidence from the poster.

[2 marks]

25. How does the magazine encourage students to read the next issue?

[1 mark]

26. a. Where can you purchase *Kids' Vibe* magazine?

[1 mark]

- b. What is the cost of the magazine?

[1 mark]

27. Why might parents be interested in reading 'Kids' Vibes Magazine?

[2 marks]

TOTAL MARKS = 13