



NATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS LEAGUE - 2015

Grade 3 and Grade 4 Contest

- ANSWER KEY -

PART I: VOCABULARY

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. <u> D </u> | 5. <u> D </u> |
| 2. <u> B </u> | 6. <u> B </u> |
| 3. <u> A </u> | 7. <u> A </u> |
| 4. <u> C </u> | 8. <u> B </u> |

PART II: GRAMMAR

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 9. <u> D </u> | 11. <u> A </u> |
| 10. <u> C </u> | 12. <u> B </u> |

PART III: PUNCTUATION AND CAPITALIZATION

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 13. <u> A </u> | 15. <u> D </u> |
| 14. <u> B </u> | 16. <u> C </u> |

PART IV: READING COMPREHENSION

Paragraph A

17. A
18. C
19. B
20. D

Paragraph B

21. D
22. C
23. A

Paragraph C

24. D
25. B
26. A
27. C

PART V: SPELLING

28. B
29. C
30. D
31. A

PART VI: WORD RELATIONSHIPS

32. D
33. B
34. C
35. C

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS

Grades 3 and 4 Contest

PART I: VOCABULARY

Directions: Read each sentence. Decide which word means the same or nearly the same as the word that is underlined in the sentence. Write the letter of the correct word on the answer sheet.

- Several buildings in town had to be demolished to make room for the new highway.
A. rebuilt
C. moved
B. changed
D. ruined
- We always get in trouble if the teacher thinks we are making an excessive amount of noise in the hallway.
A. small
C. average
B. extreme
D. unusual
- Melissa's wild behavior was not appropriate during our trip to the museum.
A. proper
C. friendly
B. attentive
D. polite
- Since our dad works at night, we try to be very considerate when he tries to sleep during the day.
A. unruly
C. thoughtful
B. quiet
D. careless
- People don't always think about the consequences before they do something.
A. problems
C. feelings
B. facts
D. results
- Grandma enjoys sitting in her new electric recliner because she can elevate her legs whenever she gets tired.
A. move
C. lower
B. lift
D. rearrange
- The magician would not reveal how he was able to make his assistant seem to disappear.
A. explain
C. hide
B. question
D. conceal
- Our teacher was very stern when she told us that she expected complete silence during the test.
A. tolerant
C. flexible
B. harsh
D. lenient

PART II: GRAMMAR

Directions: Decide what part of speech the underlined word in each sentence is and write the letter of the correct answer next to each number on the answer sheet.

9. When Lauren and Amanda get home from school, they like to have a snack before they do their homework.
A. noun
B. verb
C. adjective
D. pronoun
10. We always try to speak very softly whenever the baby is taking a nap.
A. adjective
B. conjunction
C. adverb
D. noun
11. Megan and Kaitlin were an hour late today because their bus broke down on the way to school.
A. conjunction
B. pronoun
C. adjective
D. adverb
12. Mr. Ferguson trained his dog to bring him his slippers and newspaper when he came home from work.
A. adverb
B. verb
C. noun
D. adjective

PART III: PUNCTUATION AND CAPITALIZATION

Directions: Read each set of sentences. Only one sentence in each set has the correct capitalization and punctuation. Write the letter of that sentence next to the number on the answer sheet.

13. A. Our new house is in a small town near Miami, just one block from the ocean.
B. Our new house is in a small town, near miami just one block from the ocean.
C. Our new house, is in a small town, near Miami, just one block from the ocean.
D. Our new house is in a small town near miami just one block from the ocean.
14. A. The declaration of independence was adopted by the Continental Congress in philadelphia on July 4, 1776.
B. The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.
C. The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress, in Philadelphia, on July 4 1776.
D. The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the continental congress in philadelphia, on July 4 1776.
15. A. Elizabeth thought she had lost her umbrella but she found it in her Grandmother's car.
B. Elizabeth thought she had lost her umbrella but she found it in her Grandmothers car.
C. Elizabeth thought she had lost her umbrella, but she found it in her grandmothers car.
D. Elizabeth thought she had lost her umbrella, but she found it in her grandmother's car.
16. A. You will need a warm jacket, boots, gloves and a flashlight to go on the camping trip said Dad.
B. "You will need a warm jacket, boots, gloves and a flashlight to go on the camping trip", said dad.
C. "You will need a warm jacket, boots, gloves, and a flashlight to go on the camping trip," said Dad.
D. "You will need a warm jacket, boots, gloves, and a flashlight to go on the camping trip said Dad."

PART IV: READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: Read each paragraph. Answer each question, writing the letter of the correct answer in the space next to the number on your answer sheet.

Paragraph A:

The only mammal that can fly is a bat. There are nearly one thousand species of bats in the world today. Active at night, they sleep in dark places during the day. Bats can fly incredible distances, and some smaller ones can fly more than twenty-five miles in one night. All bats have wings made of thick skin stretched between their large, long fingers. They are found all over the world except for Antarctica and a few islands, and some of them can live as long as thirty years. All bats have big appetites, because they use up a lot of energy flying. Most of them eat insects or fruit, some eat only fish, and others eat the nectar and pollen of flowers that bloom at night. Some can eat up to six hundred insects in one hour and up to three thousand in a night. Because of this bats are considered nature's best bug control.

Bats do not make nests but choose a variety of places throughout the year to roost, including hollow trees or caves. Many of them find shelter in buildings or in roof spaces. They have only one baby a year, and for several weeks in the summer female bats gather together in a maternity roost, choosing a place that is warm. Here they have their babies, staying until the young are able to fly and feed themselves. A baby bat feeds on its mother's milk for at least a few weeks after it is born. The largest bats have a wingspan of up to six feet, and the smallest one weighs less than a penny.

Although they are not blind, bats don't use their eyes to guide their flight or to find the insects they eat. Instead, most bats make a high-pitched squeak and then wait for the echo to return to them. The echo tells them the distance an object is from them. This system, called echolocation, allows a bat to fly through a dark cave without bumping into anything. Hundreds of bats can fly around in the dark without ever running into each other. Bats are very clean animals, often spending hours grooming. Even though many people are afraid of bats, they are actually not aggressive and will not attack people or pets.

17. One thing that is unusual about bats is that they always sleep _____.
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| A. in dark places | B. at night |
| C. only in caves | D. in a group |
18. A mother bat will stay with its baby until it is able to _____.
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| A. learn echolocation | B. groom itself |
| C. fly and eat on its own | D. sleep on its own |
19. Bats are the only mammals that _____.
- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| A. are blind | B. can fly |
| C. live in caves | D. make a squeaking sound |
20. A good title for this story would be _____.
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| A. "Blind As a Bat" | B. "Baby Mammals" |
| C. "Insect Eaters" | D. "Amazing Bats" |

Paragraph B:

Shiny, silver, metal wreath
Twisted all around my teeth.
On my face a look of fear,
Others grin from ear to ear.

As they tell me, "Open wide."
They all can see I've much to hide.
For them the fun has just begun,
But I just wish that I could run.

Then someone gets a real good hunch,
They say to me, "Let's have some lunch."
And when we all sit down to eat,
I see I must admit defeat.

I guess there's nothing I can do.
Soon my friends will see it's true.
Things will never be the same.
They'll know my secret, what a shame.

There's no place that I can go.
It seems as though it's going to show.
For when I eat, I know they'll see
Just what it is that's bothering me.

Time's run out as we sit down.
Upon my face I wear a frown.
They look at my mouth with laces.
And finally see my brand-new braces.

You know--it isn't quite so bad.
Why did I let myself feel sad?
My friend likes the way I smile.
She thinks that braces are in style.

In two more years I will be proud.
I won't be shy to laugh out loud.
I'll get my braces off that day
And a perfect smile I will display.

21. The pattern the author used when writing this poem is _____.
- | | |
|---------|---------|
| A. ABAB | B. AAAB |
| C. ABAB | D. AABB |
22. The author's friends finally figure out her special secret in Stanza _____.
- | | |
|------|------|
| A. 4 | B. 8 |
| C. 6 | D. 5 |
23. By the end of the poem the author is convinced that _____.
- | |
|--|
| A. it's not so bad after all to wear braces |
| B. braces are beautiful to look at |
| C. everyone should wear braces |
| D. it's a good idea to try to hide your braces |

Paragraph C:

Born in 1875 to parents who were former slaves, Mary McLeod Bethune devoted her life to making sure that black Americans had the right to a good education. She lived with her parents and sixteen brothers and sisters on a farm in Mayesville, South Carolina. There were no schools for black children near her home, and no one in Mary's family could read. Mary worked on the farm with the rest of her family but always dreamed that someday she would be able to go to school and learn to read. Her dream came true when she was eleven years old. A one-room school was started for black children, and Mary was allowed to attend. The school was 5 miles away, but Mary did not mind the long walk. She did very well in school and received a scholarship to the Scotia Seminary and eventually attended the Moody Bible Institute and became a teacher.

In 1895 Mary began teaching at the Haines Institute in Augusta, Georgia, and in 1904 founded her own school in Florida. When one of her students became ill, the local hospital treated her on the porch, since the child was black. Mary was outraged by this, and when the child got well, she decided to start a hospital for blacks. She named it the McLeod Hospital in memory of her father. Everyone admired Mary's hard work and determination, and she began to receive national attention. She traveled across the country speaking out about the need for public schools and became famous for her devotion to black children. She wanted to continue to work until every black child had a chance for a good education.

Soon Mary McLeod Bethune moved to Washington, D.C., and worked under several presidents trying to improve housing, employment, and education for blacks. She spent her entire life working for the good of others. Mary even convinced the American Red Cross to integrate and allow blacks to perform the same duties as whites. In 1936 she was appointed director of the Division of Negro Affairs and became the first black woman to serve as head of a Federal agency. She was president of the National Association of Colored Women, the highest office a black woman could achieve at that time. When she died in 1955 at the age of seventy-nine, Mary left a message for black people in her will telling them to believe in themselves and help each other. Nineteen years later a statue of her was erected in Washington, D.C., so that people could always honor her memory.

24. What does the story tell us about Mary's family?
- They did not want to walk 5 miles to go to school.
 - They were all slaves.
 - Education was not important to Mary's family.
 - They all worked together on the family's farm.
25. A statue of Mary McLeod Bethune was erected in _____.
- Mayesville, South Carolina
 - Washington, D.C.
 - Daytona, Florida
 - Augusta, Georgia
26. When Mary was eleven years old, she _____.
- started going to school
 - became a teacher
 - started her own school
 - met the President
27. Mary worked all her life to _____.
- build a hospital for blacks in Daytona, Florida
 - have a statue built to honor her memory
 - make sure that black children could receive a good education
 - protect the freedom of speech for black people

PART V: SPELLING

Directions: Read each sentence. On your answer sheet write the letter that gives the correct spelling of the word.

28. My baseball coach was very _____ after I explained why I was so late for the game.
 A. reesonable
 B. reasonable
 C. reesonible
 D. reasinabel
29. When we saw that the cage was empty, we searched _____ the school for the missing hamster.
 A. thruout
 B. thoughtout
 C. throughout
 D. threwout
30. In our community we have to _____ of paper and glass on one day and regular garbage on another day.
 A. despose
 B. desspose
 C. dispoze
 D. dispose
31. Dad always tells us to _____ to wash our hands before we sit down for dinner.
 A. remember
 B. remembere
 C. ramembere
 D. remembre

PART VI: WORD RELATIONSHIPS

Directions: In each of the incomplete statements below, two words are related to each other. Following these words are four pairs of related words. Select the pair of words that are related to each other in the same way. Put the correct letter on your answer sheet.

EXAMPLE: Fat is to skinny as _____.
 A. tall is to short
 B. little is to small
 C. short is to tiny
 D. little is to big
 THE CORRECT ANSWER IS A.

32. Frame is to picture as _____.
 A. edge is to corner
 B. gate is to door
 C. gate is to fence
 D. fence is to yard
33. Toe is to foot as _____.
 A. nail is to finger
 B. finger is to hand
 C. heel is to toe
 D. hand is to finger
34. Mother is to daughter as _____.
 A. girl is to boy
 B. child is to parent
 C. father is to son
 D. little is to big
35. Shade is to lamp as _____.
 A. cover is to blanket
 B. hood is to hat
 C. blanket is to bed
 D. bed is to blanket