

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**READING
CMT PRACTICE
PACKET**

#2

Reading



STUDENT'S NAME: _____

Directions: Read this story about an unusual form of entertainment. Then answer Questions 9–16.

Something New

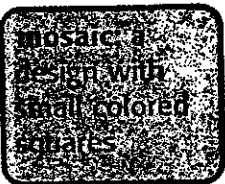
Friday after basketball practice, Veronica and I shared a bowl of popcorn at her house. When we had finished, I noticed a funny design “dancing” across the bottom of the bowl. Knowing Veronica as well as I do, I recognized her signature doodle—a pattern of swirls, stars, and basketballs. I asked her where she had gotten the bowl.

Veronica explained that she’d painted the bowl herself at a place called The Clay Room. She asked me if I wanted to try it. I have to admit, I didn’t really want to go. Painting bowls sounded pretty boring to me. But after a while, she talked me into it.

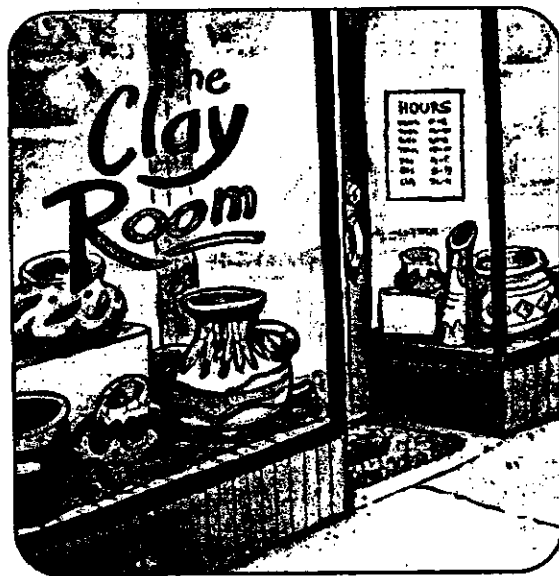
The next day, Veronica and I set off for The Clay Room. When we arrived, we stood admiring the colorful pieces displayed in the window. One mug was adorned with a beautiful green and blue mosaic decoration.

Inside, Veronica introduced me to Amy, who runs the shop. I explained that I had never painted pottery before because it had never interested me. “Well, Ben,” replied Amy, “the best way to change your mind is to try it.” Amy explained that the first step was to choose the pieces we wanted to make. I decided on a mug. Veronica chose a coin bank.

“The next step,” Amy explained, “is to choose an image or design you’d like to paint on your piece.” She ushered us to a table scattered



mosaic a design with small colored tiles



with stencils, or patterns, and books with design ideas. Here we chose our designs.

“Next, you choose the background color,” said Amy. She showed us a group of bottles filled with pottery paints, or glazes. She explained that before the pieces are heated, or fired, the paints appear pale and chalky. As they are heated, the colors change and darken. You really have to use your imagination to picture the look of the finished piece.

Amy picked up a dish painted a wispy yellow to show the see-through look that results from one coat of paint. She then picked up a bright blue box. “For this look, you need to use three coats of paint,” she said.

She rotated the box slightly to show a hardened bubble marring the surface. Amy explained, “This is what happens if you don’t let the paint dry after each coat. Moisture becomes trapped between the layers.” She explained that when such a piece is fired at 2,000 degrees in the kiln, the moisture boils and bubbles.

After applying the base coat, it’s time to paint the design. “Again,” she said, “you have to be careful of the colors you use.” She held up a plate on which a green moon floated on a background of midnight blue. It had an eerie effect. Amy explained that the moon had originally been bright yellow. “The painter forgot that glazes change color in the kiln,” she explained. “When the plate was heated, the dark blue showed through the yellow, turning the moon green.”

Veronica and I spent the afternoon working on our pieces. I sure found out one thing: Getting pottery painting right is quite a challenge! But it’s lots of fun. All I have to do is to look at my new green mug with its bright yellow star to remember this.



marring: damaging or spoiling

kiln: an oven used to bake or harden clay

Go On →

TEST B

Selection 2

- 1** Hardened bubbles mar the surface of a pot as a result of
- (A) painting the design incorrectly.
 - (B) forgetting that glazes change colors in the kiln.
 - (C) being careless with the colors you use.
 - (D) not waiting for the paint to dry after each coat.

2 How was Ben's mug different from the mug he saw in the window?

- (F) His mug had a bubbled glaze, but the one in the window didn't.
- (G) The mug in the window sparkled, but his had a dull look.
- (H) The mug in the window had a blue and green mosaic pattern, but his was green with a yellow star.
- (J) His mug was easy to make, whereas the one in the window had been difficult to make.

3 From the details in the story, what conclusion can you draw about Ben's experience at The Clay Room?

- (A) Working with clay was too difficult for him.
- (B) He changed his mind about painting pottery.
- (C) He liked painting pottery but preferred playing basketball.
- (D) He liked painting the mug but didn't want to do it again.

4 How might this story have been different if it had taken place during an "open house," when many people would have been at The Clay Room?

- (E) The story would have been exactly the same.
- (G) Ben would not have been able to get as much help from Amy.
- (H) Veronica would have been busy showing off.
- (J) The kiln would not have been working.

11 What is the theme of this story?

- Ⓐ You should always be interested in other people.
- Ⓑ You can learn a lot by trying something new.
- Ⓒ Facing your fears is the only way to get over them.
- Ⓓ Trying different things is not always fun.

12 What did Veronica and Ben do just *after* they chose the pieces they wanted to paint?

- Ⓔ They picked the colors they wanted to use.
- Ⓕ They began painting.
- Ⓖ They made the pieces out of clay.
- Ⓙ They chose their designs.

13 What event brought The Clay Shop to Ben's attention?

- Ⓐ He noticed a funny design on the bottom of a bowl.
- Ⓑ Veronica introduced him to Amy, who runs the shop.
- Ⓒ He broke his mug and needed a new one.
- Ⓓ He saw the pretty pieces in the shop's display window.

14 "One mug was *adorned* with a beautiful green and blue mosaic decoration." The word *adorned* means

- Ⓕ fired.
- Ⓖ ruined.
- Ⓖ decorated.
- Ⓙ jeweled.

JAMES BLAKE

James Blake is the 24th best tennis player in the world. He and Serena Williams recently won the mixed doubles title at the Australian Open.

James Blake was born in Yonkers, New York. His father, Thomas, was a salesman for 3M. His mother, Betty, was raised in England.

James began playing tennis at age five. He learned tennis at Harlem Junior Tennis League in New York. He participated in clinics with his older brother, Thomas. Thomas went on to be an All-American tennis player at Harvard University.

James was inspired to pursue tennis after Arthur Ashe spoke to the Harlem Junior Tennis Program.

The Blake brothers appear annually in the Harlem Junior Tennis Program's clinic.

"We're very excited to have James and Thomas return and spend time with our kids," Harlem Junior Tennis Program director, Dante Brown, said. "They're great role models for our kids."

The Blakes grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut. In addition to tennis, they played soccer.

At age thirteen, James was diagnosed with severe scoliosis. That is a curvature of spine. This forced him to wear a back brace eighteen hours a day.

During his junior career, James won U.S. National 18s Clay Court title. He reached the final of U.S. National 18s in 1997. He was ranked as No. 1 U.S. junior in 18s that year

James attended Harvard for two years. He was ranked the No. 1 collegiate player in country after his sophomore season.

He then turned pro in 1999. He moved to Tampa, Florida. He trains at Saddlebrook Academy there.

He is still coached by Brian Barker of Trumbull. Barker has coached James since James was twelve years old.

When not traveling on tour, James joins his brother, Thomas, and they volunteer their time to give lessons to kids.

James lists Arthur Ashe as his role model. "I admire him because of his personality and his activities off the court. I use him as an inspiration."

Editing and Revising

Directions: Read each passage. Then read each question and choose the best answer. Mark this answer in the space on your answer sheet. You will have 60 minutes to complete this part of the test.

A fifth grader named Janine just spent a week visiting her grandparents at the seashore. She wrote this first draft of a letter home to her parents on the third day of her visit. Although her ideas are well organized, Janine needs your help editing and revising it.

This is Janine's rough draft. Read and use it to answer questions 1 through 15.

- (1) 333 Evergreen Place
- (2) Cape May, NJ 00333
- (3) June 1, 2000

(4) dear mom and dad,

(5) I just got here two days ago, but I'm already having a great time. (6) When I got off the train, Grandpa was waiting for me at the station. (7) On our way home, we stopped at the beach and watched the waves breaking on the sand. (8) Because it was a sunny day, there were a lot of people on the beach. (9) And a lot of kids playing in the surf. (10) Soon it was time to go home and have some dinner. (11) Grandpa cooked a barbecue and invited the next-door neighbors to join us. (12) Their daughter Ellie is about my age, and we played while the grownups talked. (13) My favorite game is soccer. (14) I slept good that night in the room Mom had when she was a kid. (15) I bet that the room looked about the same way then as the room looks now.

(16) The next day was saturday, so there was plenty of time for Ellie and me to play. (17) After breakfast, Grandma showed me Mom's old bike, it is still kept in the shed. (18) Ellie got her bike out and we rode all over the neighborhood. (19) Ellie's dog a golden retriever named Max followed us everywhere. (20) So all morning long we played with Max and we rode our bikes and we explored the neighborhood. (21) Later that day, Ellie's mother took us to the beach. (22) The water was two cold for swimming, but we played in the surf for a long time.

(23) Tomorrow to the town celebration in honor of Memorial Day we're going. (24) Grandpa tells me there's even going to be a parade. (25) This is probably the most best vacation I've ever had. (26) It has to end next week.

- (27) Your daughter
- (28) Janine



1. In line 4, how should Janine edit *dear mom and dad*?
 - a. Dear mom and dad,
 - b. Dear Mom and Dad,
 - c. dear Mom and Dad,
 - d. No change needed

2. Which one of these is NOT a sentence?
 - f. Sentence 5
 - g. Sentence 6
 - h. Sentence 9
 - j. Sentence 10

3. In sentence 11, how should Janine edit *barbecue and invited the next-door neighbors*?
 - a. barbacue and invited the next-door neighbors
 - b. barbecue and invitted the next-door neighbors
 - c. barbecue and invited the next-door nieghbors
 - d. No change needed

4. Which sentence does NOT belong in this letter?
 - f. Sentence 11
 - g. Sentence 13
 - h. Sentence 14
 - j. Sentence 15

5. In sentence 14, how should Janine edit *I slept good that night*?
 - a. I slept best of all that night
 - b. I slept better that night
 - c. I slept more well that night
 - d. I slept well that night

6. Sentence 15 is poorly written. Which one of these is the BEST way to rewrite it?
 - f. I bet that the room looked about the same way then as it looks now.
 - g. I bet that the room looked about the same way then as the room does look now.
 - h. The room, I bet, looks now about the same way that the room looked then.
 - j. I bet that now the room looks about the same way that the room looked then.

7. In sentence 16, how should Janine edit *The next day was saturday*?

- a. The next Day was saturday
- b. The next day was Saturday
- c. The Next Day was saturday
- d. No change needed

8. Sentence 17 is poorly written. Which one of these is the BEST way to rewrite it?

- f. Grandma, after breakfast, showed me Mom's old bike. Still kept in the shed.
- g. After breakfast, Grandma showed me Mom's old bike, which is still kept in the shed.
- h. Still kept in the shed, Grandma showing me Mom's old bike.
- j. After breakfast, Grandma showed me Mom's old bike it is still kept in the shed.

9. In sentence 19, how should Janine edit *Ellie's dog a golden retriever named Max followed*?

- a. Ellie's dog a golden retriever named Max, followed
- b. Ellie's dog, a golden retriever, named Max, followed
- c. Ellie's dog, a golden retriever named Max, followed
- d. No change needed

10. Sentence 20 is poorly written. Which one of these is the BEST way to rewrite it?

- f. So all morning long we played with Max, rode our bikes, and explored the neighborhood.
- g. So all morning long we played with Max. And we rode our bikes. And we explored the neighborhood.
- h. So all morning long, playing with Max, riding our bikes, and exploring the neighborhood.
- j. So all morning we played with Max, and we rode our bikes, and we explored the neighborhood.



- 11.** In sentence 22, how should Janine edit *water was two cold for swimming*?
- a. water was to cold for swimming
 - b. water was too cold for swimming
 - c. water was to cold to let someone swim in it
 - d. No change needed
- 12.** Sentence 23 is poorly written. Which one of these is the BEST way to rewrite it?
- f. In honor of Memorial Day, the town is having a celebration to which we're going.
 - g. Memorial Day, which the town honors with a celebration, is tomorrow and we're going.
 - h. Tomorrow we're going to the town celebration in honor of Memorial Day.
 - j. Memorial Day is honored by the town with a celebration, and we're going to it tomorrow.
- 13.** In sentence 25, how should Janine edit *the most best vacation*?
- a. the best vacation
 - b. the very most best vacation
 - c. the more better vacation
 - d. No change needed
- 14.** Which transition would BEST fit at the beginning of sentence 26?
- f. At last,
 - g. Unfortunately,
 - h. In fact,
 - j. As a result,
- 15.** How should Janine edit line 27?
- a. Your daughter;
 - b. Your daughter,
 - c. Your daughter:
 - d. No change needed



Test

The United States is a land of immigrants. It is made up of people of many nations. Immigration began in the early days of our country. It 64 today and is likely to go on into the future.

64. a. ceases b. continues
c. grows d. starts
e. fades

In the 1600s, individuals began to 65 their own countries for many reasons. Some departed for religious reasons. One group, known as the Pilgrims, came here from England because they wanted to 66 in their own way. They did not want to follow the religious practices common in their homeland. This group was 67, as ocean travel was dangerous at the time.

65. a. leave b. support
c. deny d. fight
e. criticize

66. a. live b. manufacture
c. farm d. protest
e. worship

67. a. smart b. unwise
c. simple d. courageous
e. foolish

Sadly, thousands of Africans came to America 68. They had no choice. They were brought here to work as slaves. A few immigrants were probably looking for riches. They thought America was a place of great 69. However, most immigrants came to America because they viewed it as the land of 70. They saw it as a place where they and their children could do well.

68. a. happily b. knowingly
c. boldly d. unwillingly
e. hopefully

69. a. wealth b. need
c. frontiers d. people
e. traditions

70. a. luck b. business
c. joy d. opportunity
e. pride



Snakes belong to a group of animals known as reptiles. If you live in a 71, you may only see a snake in the zoo. If you live in the country, you may see a snake from time to time. Wherever you live, you will know what a snake looks like. They are easily 72.

Some snakes are quite dangerous. A few varieties are 73. A bite from a rattlesnake, for example, can be deadly. But most snakes will not hurt you. They are 74. In fact, snakes often eat mice, rats, and insects. In this way, they are often 75 by assisting farmers in freeing their farms of pests.

Snakes are interesting to watch. For example, a snake's eyes are never 76. Without eyelids, it is unable to shut its eyes. As a snake gets older, it grows larger, but its skin does not grow. Snakes 77 their skin. A new skin grows underneath the old one. When the new skin is formed, the old skin begins to fall off. In time, the older skin completely separates from the snake's body.

71. a. building b. city
c. town d. community
e. house
72. a. reported b. caught
c. trained d. recognized
e. liked
73. a. gentle b. poisonous
c. quiet d. extinct
e. unknown
74. a. harmless b. conscientious
c. active d. dormant
e. beneficial
75. a. noisy b. creepy
c. helpful d. lively
e. sinister
76. a. seen b. closed
c. downcast d. focused
e. watchful
77. a. cover b. protect
c. shed d. use
e. moisten



DO NOT GO ON