



# LANGUAGE ARTS

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **6th Grade | Unit 5**

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# LANGUAGE ARTS 605

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# Reading Skills

## Introduction

Reading and writing are skills you will use throughout your lifetime. These skills can always be developed and improved.

In this LIFEPAAC® you will study more reading skills to help you become a better reader. In writing you will learn to write better sentences and paragraphs.

You will also learn to spell more words and to write legibly. The lessons presented in this LIFEPAAC should be very valuable in helping you improve in these skill areas.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Follow directions.
2. Interpret graphs.
3. Distinguish fact from opinion.
4. Check the reliability of reading material.
5. Identify different forms of literature.
6. Identify noun phrases (subject) and verb phrases (predicate).
7. Tell the difference between a sentence and a fragment.
8. Write a complete sentence.
9. Improve sentences by eliminating unnecessary *and's*.
10. Utilize adverbs and adjectives to make sentences more interesting.
11. Choose the main idea of a paragraph.
12. Identify the plot, setting, and characterizations of a story.
13. Summarize a story.
14. Compare and contrast stories.
15. Recognize the introductory sentence, the topic sentence, the support sentences, the summary sentence, and the transitional devices in paragraphs.
16. Write a paragraph using an introductory sentence, a topic sentence, support sentences, a summary sentence, and transitional devices.
17. Spell words correctly.

# 1. SECTION ONE

In this section you will increase your reading **comprehension** by learning to follow directions, to use graphs, to **distinguish** fact and opinion, and to check **reliability**. You will also study different forms of literature.

In the spelling section you will learn to spell abbreviated words, hyphenated words, and contractions. You will also learn some helpful handwriting hints.

## Section Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Follow directions.
2. Interpret graphs.
3. Distinguish fact from opinion.
4. Check the reliability of reading material.
5. Identify different forms of literature.
17. Spell words correctly.

## Vocabulary

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**comprehension** (kom' pri hen' shun). Act or power of understanding.

**copyright** (kop' ē rīt'). The exclusive right given by law to make and sell a book, picture, and so forth.

**distinguish** (dis ting' gwish). To see the differences in something.

**interpret** (in tēr' prit). Understand or explain the meaning of something.

**qualification** (kwol' u fu kā' shun). That which makes a person fit for a position or to be relied on.

**reliability** (rē lī' u bil' u tē). Quality of being reliable, trustworthy, and dependable.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fā; let, ēqual, tērm; it, ĩce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## READING COMPREHENSION

Reading **comprehension** simply means that you understand what you read. Without comprehension of what you read, you would be reading meaningless sounds.

In this section you will be learning how to follow directions, how to **interpret** graphs, how to **distinguish** fact from opinion, and how to check **reliability**. These skills will increase your comprehension.

**Following directions.** Following directions is a large part of life. You read directions on a pattern to make a dress; you read directions in a manual to repair a car; and you read recipe directions to bake a cake.

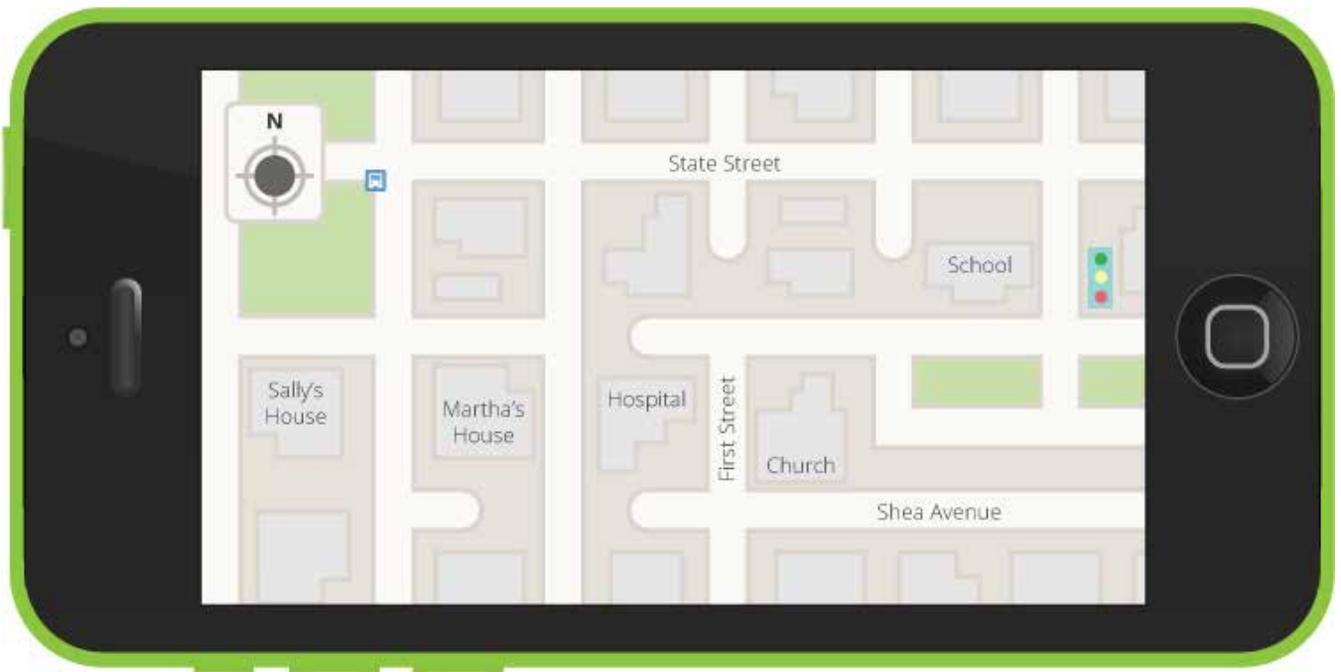
You need to follow directions carefully, doing each step correctly and in the right order. If you are not careful, you could end up with a disaster for a dress, lights that turn on when you honk the horn, or a cake that looks like a giant cookie!



**Follow the written directions in Jan's note to Sally.** Find out where Sally should meet Jan. Use the map.

Sally,

When you leave home, go east two blocks. Turn left at Martha's house and go north to State Street. Turn right, go three blocks, and then turn right again. Go until you see a stoplight, then turn right. Proceed for two blocks and then turn south and go one block. You should find yourself on the corner of Shea Avenue and First Street. I'll meet you there at 8:00 P.M.

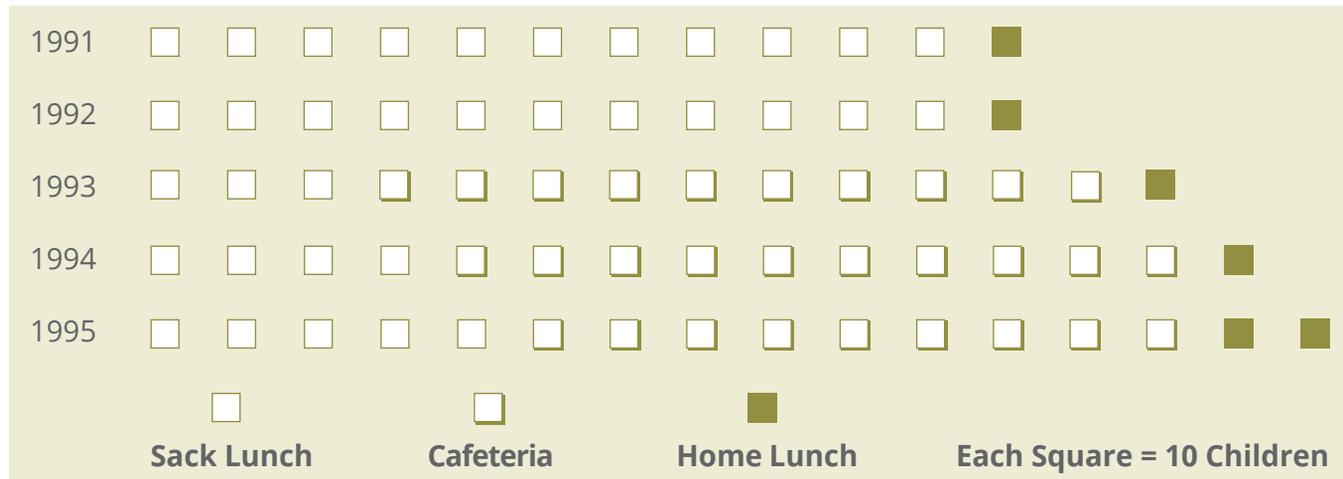


1.1 Where does Jan want Sally to meet her? \_\_\_\_\_

**Interpreting graphs.** We can gain different kinds of information from graphs. Graphs can help us understand relationships. We can compare things at a glance.

Listen to Terry tell about his school lunch program. Study the graph and the following paragraphs.

## CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE GRACE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM



"I have gone to Grace School for five years. During the first two years I brought my lunch because we did not have a cafeteria. In 1993, a portable cafeteria was started. The meals were prepared at another cafeteria and delivered to our school.

"The hot meal was a welcome change from a cold, sack lunch every day. I'm sure the new children from the recently built houses near our school enjoyed it, too."



**Answer the following questions.** Use the graph and the paragraphs.

**1.2** What were most of the students doing for lunch in 1991 and 1992?

---

**1.3** What were most of the students doing for lunch in 1993?

---

**1.4** Why was there a big change in the children's lunch habits between 1992 and 1993?

---

**1.5** What were most of the students doing for lunch in 1994 and 1995?

---

**1.6** Were as many students eating lunch in the cafeteria during 1995 as 1993? \_\_\_\_\_

1.7 Why might the number of people eating in the cafeteria have dropped in 1995?

---



---

1.8 Were there more students at Grace School in 1995 than 1991? \_\_\_\_\_

1.9 How many students did they have in 1991? \_\_\_\_\_

1.10 How many students did they have in 1995? \_\_\_\_\_

1.11 Why did they probably have an increased enrollment? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Distinguishing fact from opinion.** To increase your reading comprehension, you must be able to tell the difference between a fact and an opinion. An author, who is giving what he thinks or feels, is giving his *opinion*. He may use words like “probably,” “think,” or “believe.”

**Example:** This winter will probably be the worst one we have had.

An author also gives his opinion when he states what is true only for him.

**Example:** The best time to study is early in the morning.



**Read the following sentences.** Write *O* if the sentence is an opinion, and *F* if it is fact.

1.12 \_\_\_\_\_ The sun is ninety-three million miles away.

1.13 \_\_\_\_\_ It will probably rain this afternoon.

1.14 \_\_\_\_\_ I think the chemist made a grave error.

1.15 \_\_\_\_\_ Twelve months are in a year.

1.16 \_\_\_\_\_ All mechanics try to cheat you.

1.17 \_\_\_\_\_ The best flavor is peppermint.

1.18 \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean water contains salt, and fresh water does not.

1.19 \_\_\_\_\_ Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

1.20 \_\_\_\_\_ The United States was the first nation to put a man on the moon.

1.21 \_\_\_\_\_ I believe she will be a great singer one day.

**Checking reliability.** Reliable information is information on which you can depend. Knowing your source of information is important.

As Christians, we can depend on God's Word. Peter wrote (Second Peter 1:16 and 21), "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty... For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." We can depend on the Bible because God is the source.

You may wish to use the following guidelines when checking the reliability of information.

Check **copyright** dates. The information may be outdated, especially if the information is scientific. Even encyclopedias may not have accurate information if they are out of date.

Investigate the author's background. Does he have the **qualifications** to make him a reliable source?

Check the accuracy of the information with other reference sources. See if the different sources agree on the same information.



**Read the statements.** Decide which of the three guidelines you would use to check reliability. Write a, b, or c in the blanks.

- a. check copyright date      b. check author's background      c. check other references

- 1.22 \_\_\_\_\_ This model car has had the best road mileage for 1994.
- 1.23 \_\_\_\_\_ New space explorations are still being made. Someday we may have a man on the moon.
- 1.24 \_\_\_\_\_ Even though I am not a medical doctor, I have studied the situation thoroughly and feel this type of surgery is performed too often without need.
- 1.25 \_\_\_\_\_ Solar energy is the most recently developed form of heat energy.

## LITERARY FORMS

Have you ever nestled in some cozy nook,  
Carefully reading each page of a book—  
A book that took you far away,  
To another land, where you wish you could stay?  
Maybe it took you beyond the stars  
Where fantasy creatures live on Mars.  
Or maybe you met somebody new  
Who had feelings and problems just like you.  
And then a very special Book you found  
Where God's wonderful promises abound.

We all enjoy reading a good book. Literature offers us many different forms for our reading enjoyment.

Two basic kinds of literary forms are poetry and prose.

**Poetry.** Some poems have rhyme, rhythm, or repetition. Read the following poem about the caterpillar. You will quickly see that it has rhyme and rhythm.



## The Tired Caterpillar

Author Unknown

A tired caterpillar went to sleep one day  
 In a snug little cradle of silken gray,  
 And he said, as he softly curled up in his nest,  
 "Oh, crawling was pleasant, but rest is best."

He slept through the winter long and cold,  
 All tightly up in his blanket rolled,  
 And at last he awoke on a warm spring day  
 To find that winter had gone away.

He awoke to find he had golden wings,  
 And no longer need crawl over sticks and things.  
 "Oh, the earth is nice," said the glad butterfly,  
 "But the sky is best, when we learn to fly!"

Some poems are written in free verse with little or no regular rhyme or rhythm. Some of the richest free verse poetry is found in the Bible. The book of Psalms is highly poetical.

Read Psalm 121. Notice that it does not have the definite rhyme and rhythm of the previous poem. Nevertheless, it is poetry.

### Psalm 121

1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
 from whence cometh my help.
2. My help cometh from the Lord, which  
 made heaven and earth.
3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:  
 he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
4. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall  
 neither slumber nor sleep.
5. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy  
 shade upon thy right hand.
6. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor  
 the moon by night.
7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all  
 evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out  
 and thy coming in from this time forth,  
 and even for evermore.

All poetry can create an image or a mood. Poems can tell stories. "The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers" by Felicia D. Hermans is a well-known story poem.

**Prose fiction.** Anything that is not poetry is prose. Prose includes novels, fairy tales, fables, myths, tall tales, legends, plays, biographies, and autobiographies. Read about some of the many kinds of prose.

*Fiction* is any story written about imaginary people and events. Fiction includes short stories, novels, historical fiction, adventure stories, mysteries, science fiction, animal stories, and other forms.

Here are some examples of fiction. Remember fiction stories are not true stories, but are made-up stories about imaginary people and events.

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson is an example of a novel. *Treasure Island* is about pirates, hidden treasure, a mysterious island, a mutiny, and a boy hero.

Another example of a novel is *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe. *Robinson Crusoe* tells of a young man shipwrecked on an uninhabited island and how he solves problems upon which his own life depends.

Novels are stories with characters and plots long enough to fill one or more volumes. Novels are usually about people, scenes, and happenings that might be met in real life.

In *historical fiction* the people are imaginary, but many things in the story are actually true to history.

*Orphans of the Wind* by Eric Christian Haugaard is an example of historical fiction. This story is about a twelve-year-old boy and his life aboard an English brig during the American Civil War. The boy is an imaginary character, but events of the American Civil War are true to history.

*Calico Bush* by Rachel Field is about an eleven-year-old girl who, when her grandmother dies, goes to the new world as a bondservant. The historical background of pioneer life makes *Calico Bush* a historical novel.

A *fiction adventure* story is a story about an imaginary bold or difficult undertaking. The story may be about an exciting or dangerous adventure or it could be about an unusual experience.

*The Twenty-One Balloons* by William Pene de Bois is an example of adventure fiction. In the story a professor takes an exciting trip by balloon to the island of Krakatoa.

In a *mystery*, there is always a secret or a series of unusual happenings. At the climax of the story, the secret or cause of the happenings is discovered.

*Secret of the Old Church* by Dave Holland is an example of a mystery. Two young people try to solve a mystery. The clues are found in an old Bible.

*Gopher Hole Treasure Hunt* by Ralph Bartholomew is another example of a mystery. This mystery novel tells of two young boys who attempt to help a missionary family on furlough. The two boys become involved in the mystery of some lost black opals, have a run-in with bank robbers, and are caught in the path of a flash flood.

*Science fiction* usually involves imaginary things like space creatures, robots, unusual inventions, formulas to make people invisible, and so forth. It treats these fictitious things as though they were scientific.

*The Day of the Ness* by Michael Gilbert is an example of science fiction. Hal traces an SOS from an unknown source to a group of friendly space aliens being held prisoner by evil Ness.

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle takes children into the future to help conquer a dictator and his robot forces. This book is a Newbery Award winner.

*Animal stories* are imaginary stories involving any animal, from a dog to a raccoon, in an adventure or problem. The animal is usually the main character or one of the main characters of the story.

*Hurry Home, Candy* by Meindert DeJong is an example of an animal story. Candy is a lonely puppy. He becomes lost in a storm, is found by a sea captain, and then is lost again.

*Rascal* by Sterling North tells the hilarious adventures of a boy and his raccoon.

*Fairy tales* are make-believe stories. They are told to entertain children. At some time, you have probably been entertained with fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm. The Brothers Grimm wrote "Rapunzel," "Rumpelstiltskin," and "Hansel and Gretel."

Hans Christian Andersen wrote many fairy tales including "The Princess and the Pea" and "The Ugly Duckling."

Other classics include "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Cinderella," "Tom Thumb," and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." All have a little sparkle of magic in a make-believe or pretend world where the good, brave young person wins at last.

The story of "Rapunzel" has a witch who keeps Rapunzel locked in a high tower without a door or ladder. A handsome prince discovers

her and climbs her long hair to see her, and to rescue her.

Hansel and Gretel are two children who get lost in a forest. They find a gingerbread house owned by a witch who likes to eat children but the clever children find a way to trick her and escape.

“Jack and the Beanstalk” finds Jack climbing a giant magical beanstalk to a giant’s castle in the sky.

Cinderella had a fairy godmother who uses her magic wand to change her into a beautiful princess.

The ugly duckling one day discovers he has become a handsome swan.

A *fable* is a short story that teaches a lesson. A fable is usually about animals that behave and talk like human beings.

The most famous writer of fables was Aesop, a Greek slave. He wanted to show people their faults without hurting their feelings, so he used animals to talk and behave like people.

One fable, called “The Dog and His Shadow,” tells about a dog carrying a piece of meat across a brook. He saw his reflection in the brook and thought it was another dog with another piece of meat. He opened his mouth to grasp the other piece of meat and dropped his own meat in the brook. Does this lesson teach not to grasp at shadows or does it teach not to be greedy?

Another fable, “The Crow and the Pitcher,” tells of a crow who was about to die of thirst when he found a pitcher with a little water in the bottom. He could not reach the water with his beak, so little by little, he placed pebbles into the pitcher. After a long time, he was able to raise the water up so he could drink it. This fable teaches the lesson that little by little does the trick.

A *myth* is a legendary story used to describe a supernatural being or natural event. Many

myths originated in ancient Greece. The supernatural beings were Greek gods like Zeus, Poseidon, Apollo, and Orpheus. Many of the myths grew from attempts to explain creation and sin.

Zeus, chief of the gods, called Prometheus and Epimetheus, to go down and create animals and men. They were to give to each a special gift. This myth was told to explain man’s beginnings on the earth.

A *tall tale* is an exaggerated story that is obviously not true. Some of the most famous tall tales are about Paul Bunyan. He, of course, is giant in size, and so is his blue ox.

Here is one example of a Paul Bunyan tale. Notice the exaggerated size of the plants.

“Paul Bunyan Fights the Monster Plants” by Wyatt Blassingame is about Paul and his great blue ox battling a *monster* bean plant, a *jumbo* watermelon, and a *giant* cornstalk.

Many tall tales about Pecos Bill also exist. In “Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado” by Wyatt Blassingame, Pecos lassos a tornado and rides it like a bucking bronco.

A *legend* is a story coming down from the past, which many people have believed to be true. The person in the legend may have actually lived, but in the process of passing the story down through the years, his life may have become exaggerated or had events added to it. The stories have made him a greater person than he actually was. He became a legend.

Some examples of legends are these.

“The Story of Johnny Appleseed” by LaVere Anderson blends some of the true stories with some of the legends about John Chapman or “Johnny Appleseed.”

*Knights of the Table Round*, retold by Anne Terry White, relates stories of combats and brave deeds of the knights in King Arthur’s court.

*The Adventures of Hiawatha* by Virginia Voight tells of Hiawatha, the legendary Indian folk



**Write poetry or prose in front of each of the following items.** If the item is prose, also write the type of prose. Each answer is used once.

Poetry

Prose — fiction, fairy tale, fable, myth, tall tale, legend, play, biography, autobiography

- 1.26 \_\_\_\_\_ A story about Robin Hood. Robin Hood stole from the rich and gave to the poor. Many people believe he was a real person.
- 1.27 \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremy found, on his return to earth, that robots ruled the world.
- 1.28 \_\_\_\_\_ Children’s faces glowing, Glad because it’s snowing.
- 1.29 \_\_\_\_\_ I have a garden in the mountains. My corn grows twenty feet tall. My tomatoes weigh twenty-five pounds.
- 1.30 \_\_\_\_\_ A story that is written about the life of Abraham Lincoln.
- 1.31 \_\_\_\_\_ Sleeping Beauty slept for many years until a handsome prince awakened her by a kiss.
- 1.32 \_\_\_\_\_ The rabbit and the tortoise had a race. The rabbit was sure he would win so he took his time. The tortoise was slow but steady, and he won the race. This story teaches us that we can be slow and steady and can still win the race.
- 1.33 \_\_\_\_\_ The goddess Athene changed Ulysses into a beggarman so no one would recognize him.
- 1.34 \_\_\_\_\_ Sarah: Please set out to sail!  
Richard: Why, Sarah? Is there something you failed to tell me?
- 1.35 \_\_\_\_\_ In my lifetime was the most difficult time to be President of the United States. We were going through trying years. I had many hard decisions to make.

**TEACHER CHECK**

\_\_\_\_\_ initials

\_\_\_\_\_ date

# SELF TEST 1

Follow each set of directions and write the correct answer in each blank. You may use a separate piece of paper to work out the answers (each answer, 5 points).

**1.01** Subtract 20 from 25. Add 10 to your answer. Then subtract 15.

Your answer is \_\_\_\_\_.

**1.02** Cross out the vowel u in the word *double*.

Then cross out the consonants b and l. Add a v between the o and the e.

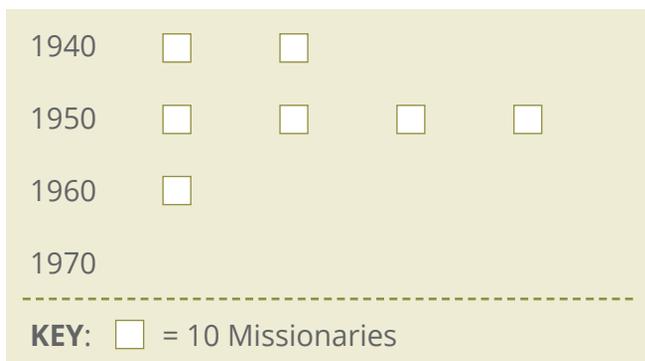
The new word is \_\_\_\_\_.

**1.03** Read the following words. Write every third word on the line.

one, two, three, five, seven, nine, ten, twelve

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer the questions. Study the graph and the paragraph, then answer the questions (each answer, 5 points).



### Missionaries In Country X

Missionaries began to preach in Country X in 1940. After years of hard work, the response was good and the work grew. Then fighting broke out within the country and to continue the work was very difficult. Some missionaries died as a result of the fighting and many had to leave. Finally the communists took over and would not let the Word of God be preached. All missionaries were expelled.

**1.04** How many missionaries were in the country in 1940? \_\_\_\_\_

**1.05** What year shows the most growth of missionaries? \_\_\_\_\_

**1.06** How many missionaries were in the country in 1950? \_\_\_\_\_

**1.07** Why were there fewer missionaries in 1960 than 1950? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.08** What year did the communists expel the missionaries? \_\_\_\_\_

Write *F* if the statement is a fact and *O* if it is an opinion (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.09 \_\_\_\_\_ Mary won first prize for her picture.
- 1.010 \_\_\_\_\_ She is the smartest dog in the whole world.
- 1.011 \_\_\_\_\_ The earth has a field of gravity.
- 1.012 \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States.
- 1.013 \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone should take a walk in the morning to stay healthy.
- 1.014 \_\_\_\_\_ Snoopy is a cartoon figure.
- 1.015 \_\_\_\_\_ My kind of shampoo would make your hair shine better.
- 1.016 \_\_\_\_\_ This bike is the best kind you can buy.

Match the following items. Decide which of the three guidelines would best be used to check the reliability of the information given (each answer, 2 points).

- a. check copyright date      b. check other references      c. check author's background

- 1.017 \_\_\_\_\_ Albert Einstein was born in 1879. He is still continuing his scientific explorations.
- 1.018 \_\_\_\_\_ I know medical researchers said the antidote will work, but I am sure it will not succeed.
- 1.019 \_\_\_\_\_ We believe this machine will give the best performance in comparison with other machines on the market.
- 1.020 \_\_\_\_\_ Only duck feathers are used for pillows.

**Match the following items. Choose the correct form of literature to match its definition**

(each answer, 2 points).

- |              |  |                  |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| <b>1.021</b> | _____ make-believe story to entertain children                                 | a. poetry        |
| <b>1.022</b> | _____ a literary form using characters, scenes, and a stage                    | b. prose         |
| <b>1.023</b> | _____ a story about a person's life written by someone else                    | c. fairy tale    |
| <b>1.024</b> | _____ it may have rhyme, rhythm, or repetition                                 | d. fable         |
| <b>1.025</b> | _____ a legendary story used to describe a supernatural being or natural event | e. myth          |
| <b>1.026</b> | _____ stories about imaginary people, animals, or events                       | f. novel         |
| <b>1.027</b> | _____ anything that is not poetry  | g. tall tale     |
| <b>1.028</b> | _____ an exaggerated story that is obviously not true                          | h. fiction       |
| <b>1.029</b> | _____ written by the person about his own life                                 | i. legends       |
| <b>1.030</b> | _____ story coming down from the past, which man people have believed          | j. play          |
| <b>1.031</b> | _____ a short story, usually about animals, that teaches a lesson              | k. biography     |
|              |  | l. autobiography |

**Circle the correct literary form of each selection** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.032** A fox saw some grapes in a tree. He knew they would taste good on a hot day. He tried many times, without success, to get the grapes. He finally gave up saying, "Those grapes are probably sour anyway." This story teaches us that it is easy to dislike what you can't have.
- a. fairy tale                                      b. fable                                      c. tall tale
- 1.033** The fairy godmother suddenly changed Cinderella into a beautiful princess.
- a. fairy tale                                      b. fable                                      c. legend
- 1.034** Helen Keller was blind and deaf since she was a year and a half old. She became a remarkable woman, overcoming her handicaps.
- a. legend                                      b. autobiography                                      c. biography
- 1.035** King Arthur was a noble king in the old days of England. Many people believe his Knights of the Round Table were also courageous.
- a. fable                                      b. legend                                      c. tall tale
- 1.036** Paul Bunyan was so tall you could see him towering above the stately pine trees.
- a. legend                                      b. fable                                      c. tall tale



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