

Test Booklet

Subject: LA, Grade: 08
EOG 2020 Grade 8 Reading

Student name: _____

Author: North Carolina
District: North Carolina Released Tests
Printed: Monday December 11, 2023

Adapted from “The Apple Tree”

by Edgar A. Guest

When an apple tree is ready for the world to come and eat,
There isn't any structure in the land that's "got it beat."
There's nothing man has built with the beauty or the charm
That can touch the simple grandeur of the monarch of the farm.
5 There's never any picture from a human being's brush
That has ever caught the redness of a single apple's blush.

When an apple tree's in blossom it is glorious to see,
But that's just a hint, at springtime, of the better things to be;
That is just a fleeting glimpse, a vision quickly gone
10 Of the wonders and the splendors that are waiting just beyond
The distant edge of summer; just a forecast of the treat
When the apple tree is ready for the world to come and eat.

Architects of splendid vision long have labored on the earth,
And have raised their dreams in marble and we've marveled at their worth;
15 Long the spires of costly buildings have looked upward at the sky;
Rich in promise and in the beauty, they have cheered the passer-by.
But I'm sure there's nothing finer for the eye of man to meet
Than an apple tree that's ready for the world to come and eat.

There's the promise of the apples, red and gleaming in the sun,
20 Like the medals worn by mortals as rewards for labors done;
And the big arms stretched wide open, with a welcome warm and true
In a way that sets you thinking it's intended just for you.
There is nothing with a beauty so entrancing, so complete,
As an apple tree that's ready for the world to come and eat.

- 1 Which lines support the theme of the poem?
- A “When an apple tree’s in blossom it is glorious to see, / But that’s just a hint, at springtime, of the better things to be;”
 - B “Architects of splendid vision long have labored on the earth, / And have raised their dreams in marble and we’ve marveled at their worth;”
 - C “But I’m sure there’s nothing finer for the eye of man to meet / Than an apple tree that’s ready for the world to come and eat.”
 - D “There’s the promise of the apples, red and gleaming in the sun, / Like the medals worn by mortals as rewards for labors done;”
- 2 Which line supports the analysis that the speaker adores apple trees?
- A There isn’t any structure in the land that’s ‘got it beat.’ ”
 - B “But that’s just a hint, at springtime, of the better things to be;”
 - C “The distant edge of summer; just a forecast of the treat”
 - D “And have raised their dreams in marble and we’ve marveled at their worth;”
- 3 What does *forecast* mean in line 11?
- A delay
 - B estimate
 - C desire
 - D curiosity
- 4 How do lines 13—18 support the theme of beauty in the poem?
- A by declaring that tall, exquisite buildings and gorgeous apples are costly
 - B by describing how architects use marble in their designs
 - C by comparing amazing architectural designs with an apple tree’s attractiveness
 - D by praising architects who design attractive buildings
- 5 What can be inferred from lines 19—24?
- A The speaker wins awards for beautiful apples.
 - B The speaker lacks interest in viewing or eating apples.
 - C Apple trees grow in various shapes and sizes.
 - D Apple trees produce beautiful apples for people to enjoy.

Adapted from *Our Mr. Wrenn: "Mr. Wrenn is Lonely"*

by Sinclair Lewis

The ticket taker of the movie theater is a public personage, who stands out on Fourteenth Street, New York, wearing a gorgeous light blue coat of numerous brass buttons. He nods to all the patrons, and his nod is the most cordial in town. Mr. Wrenn used to trot down to Fourteenth Street, passing other shows, just to get that cordial nod, because he had a lonely furnished room for evenings, and for daytime a tedious job that always made his head stuffy.

He stands out in the correspondence of the Souvenir and Art Novelty Company as "Our Mr. Wrenn," who would be writing you directly and explaining everything most satisfactorily. At thirty-four, Mr. Wrenn was the sales entry clerk of the Souvenir Company. He was always bending over bills and columns of figures at a desk behind the stockroom. He was a meek little bachelor—a person of inconspicuous ¹ blue ready-made suits, and a small unsuccessful mustache.

Today—historians have established the date as April 9, 1910—there had been some confusing mixed orders from the Wisconsin retailers, and Mr. Wrenn had been "called down" by the office manager, Mr. Mortimer R. Guilfogle. He needed the friendly nod of the theater ticket taker. He found Fourteenth Street, after office hours, swept by a dusty wind. Under the elevated station he secretly made believe that he was in Paris, for here Italian boys swayed with trays of violets; a tramp displayed crimson mechanical rabbits, which squeaked, on silvery leading-strings; and a newsstand was heaped with the orange and green and gold of magazine covers.

"Gee!" inarticulated Mr. Wrenn. "Lots of colors. Hope I see foreign stuff like that in the moving pictures."

⁵ He came primly up to the theater, feeling in his vest pockets for a nickel and peering around the booth at the friendly ticket taker. But the latter was thinking about buying Johnny's pants. Should he get them at the Fourteenth Street Store, or Siegel-Cooper's, or over at Aronson's, near home? So ruminating, he twiddled his wheel mechanically, and Mr. Wrenn's pasteboard slip was indifferently received in the plate-glass gullet of the grinder ² without the taker's even seeing the clerk's bow and smile.

⁶ Mr. Wrenn trembled into the door of the theater. He wanted to turn back and rebuke this fellow, but was restrained by shyness. He had liked the man's "Fine evenin', sir"—rain or shine—but he wouldn't stand for being cut. Wasn't he making nineteen dollars a week, as against the ticket taker's ten or twelve? He shook his head with the defiance of a cornered mouse, fussed with his mustache, and regarded the moving pictures gloomily.

They helped him. After a Selig ³ domestic drama came a stirring Vitagraph ⁴ Western scene, "The Goat of the Rancho," which depicted with much humor and tumult the revolt of a ranch cook. Mr. Wrenn was really seeing, not cowpunchers and sagebrush, but himself, defying the office manager's meanness and revolting against the ticketman's rudeness. Now he was ready for the nearly overpowering delight of travel-pictures. He bounced slightly as a Gaumont film presented the island of Java.

⁸ He was a connoisseur of travel-pictures, for all his life he had been planning a great journey. Though he had done Staten Island and taken an excursion to Bound Brook, neither of these was his grand tour. It was yet to be taken. In Mr. Wrenn, apparently fastened to New York like a domestic-minded barnacle, lay the possibilities of heroic roaming. He knew it. He, too, like the man who had taken the Gaumont pictures, would saunter among Javanese natives in "markets with tiles on the roofs and temples and— and—uh, well—places!" The scent of Asian spices was in his broadened nostrils as he scampered out of the theater, without a look at the ticket taker, and headed for "home"—for his third-floor-front on West Sixteenth Street.

He wanted to prowl through his collection of steamship brochures for a description of Java. But, of course, when one's landlady has both the sciatica⁵ and a case of Patient Suffering one stops in the basement dining room to inquire how she is.

¹ **inconspicuous:** not noticeable

² **grinder:** a machine that takes tickets

³ **Selig:** a company that established the first permanent movie studio in Los Angeles

⁴ **Vitagraph:** prolific film production company in the early 1900s

⁵ **sciatica:** pain that can extend from the hip down the back of the thigh, moving along the sciatic nerve

- 6** How do Mr. Wrenn's actions contribute to the development of the theme?
- A** Mr. Wrenn's dislike of travel makes him nervous about meeting new people.
 - B** Mr. Wrenn's love of travel and adventure helps him to imagine a more exciting life.
 - C** Mr. Wrenn's dislike of the ticket taker causes him to miss the opportunity for a great experience.
 - D** Mr. Wrenn's love of socializing is more important than travel.
- 7** What can be inferred from paragraph 5?
- A** The ticket taker is preoccupied; therefore, he neglects to present his normal smile.
 - B** The ticket taker is angry with Mr. Wrenn; therefore, he refuses to present his normal smile.
 - C** Mr. Wrenn is angry with the ticket taker; therefore, he refuses to acknowledge his smile.
 - D** Mr. Wrenn is preoccupied; therefore, he fails to notice the ticket taker.
- 8** What do Mr. Wrenn's thoughts in paragraph 6 reveal about his view of the ticket taker?
- A** Mr. Wrenn views himself as inferior to the ticket taker.
 - B** Mr. Wrenn views himself as superior to the ticket taker.
 - C** Mr. Wrenn views the ticket taker as an enemy.
 - D** Mr. Wrenn views the ticket taker as a close friend.
- 9** Which quote reveals Mr. Wrenn's timid nature?
- A** "At thirty-four, Mr. Wrenn was the sales entry clerk of the Souvenir Company."
 - B** "He was always bending over bills and columns of figures at a desk behind the stockroom."
 - C** "He shook his head with the defiance of a cornered mouse, fussed with his mustache, and regarded the moving pictures gloomily."
 - D** "Mr. Wrenn was really seeing, not cow-punchers and sagebrush, but himself, defying the office manager's meanness and revolting against the ticketman's rudeness."

- 10** How does the perspective of Mr. Wrenn at the movie theater create irony in the selection?
- A** Mr. Wrenn believes the ticket taker is rude, but the ticket taker is unaware that he has hurt Mr. Wrenn’s feelings.
 - B** Mr. Wrenn believes the ticket taker is rude, and the ticket taker knowingly hurts Mr. Wrenn’s feelings.
 - C** Mr. Wrenn imagines that he is traveling on an adventure with the ticket taker.
 - D** Mr. Wrenn imagines that he is traveling while paying for his ticket at the movie theater.
- 11** What does the author mean by “connoisseur of travel-pictures” in paragraph 8?
- A** a person who is enthusiastic about movies filmed in other areas
 - B** a person who lacks interest in movies about other places
 - C** a person who is enthusiastic about traveling to see movies
 - D** a person who lacks interest in traveling to see movies
- 12** How do the different perspectives of the ticket taker and Mr. Wrenn affect the story?
- A** The ticket taker’s friendliness to the unfriendly Mr. Wrenn creates a tone of confusion.
 - B** The ticket taker’s indifference to Mr. Wrenn’s need for attention creates a tone of isolation.
 - C** The ticket taker’s enjoyment of movies and Mr. Wrenn’s indifference to them creates a tone of disappointment.
 - D** The ticket taker’s commitment to his job compared to Mr. Wrenn’s laziness creates a tone of unfairness and resentment.
- 13** Which statement provides an objective summary of the selection?
- A** A lonely man has a ticket taker as his one true friend. He has dreams of visiting faraway places with this friend.
 - B** A lonely man feels unappreciated at his job. He seeks an opportunity to advance his career by relocating to a different area.
 - C** A lonely man rents an apartment from a lady he views as a good friend. Although he likes where he lives, he longs for a better job.
 - D** A lonely man relies too much on a false sense of friendship. He wishes for a more fulfilling life to help him forget about his troubles.

Adapted from “Bats”

by W. S. Dallas

Among the sounds which greet the ear of the wayfarer ¹ as the shades of evening deepen into night, one of the commonest is a rather faint chirping noise which comes mysteriously from overhead. On looking up in search of the source of this peculiar sound, we may see a small, dark, shadow-like creature sweeping to and fro with great rapidity. It is one of the curious groups of animals called bats, representatives of which are to be met with in all countries, always active at night or in the twilight, and presenting a remarkable general similarity of structure, although in some respects they may differ considerably in habits. In the British Islands some fourteen species have been distinguished.

2 Like the owls, with which they share the dominion ² of the evening air, the bats have a perfectly noiseless flight; their activity is chiefly during the twilight, although some species are later, and in fact seem to keep up throughout the whole night. As they rest during the day, concealed usually in the most inaccessible places they can find, and are seen only upon the wing, their power of flight is their most striking peculiarity in the popular mind, and it is perhaps no great wonder that by many people, both in ancient and modern times they have been regarded as birds. Nevertheless, their hairy bodies and leathery wings are so unlike anything that we ordinarily understand as pertaining to a bird, that opinion was apparently always divided, as to the true nature of these creatures—“a mouse with wings,” as Goldsmith called it once, according to James Boswell, is certainly a curious animal, and very difficult to classify so long as the would-be systematist has no particularly definite ideas to guide him. The likeness of the bat to a winged mouse has made itself felt in the name given to the creature in many languages, such as the “Chauvesouris” of the French and the “Flitter-mouse” of some parts of England, the latter being reproduced almost literally in German, Dutch, and Swedish, while the Danes called the bat a “Flogenmues,” which has about the same meaning, and the Swedes have a second name, “L= \backslash ”{a}==dermus,” evidently referring to the texture of the wings, as well as to the mouse-like character of the body.

3 But so soon as we have definite characteristics to appeal to in classification, we find no difficulty in assigning these puzzling creatures to their proper place in the system. Bats produce their young alive, and nurse them; the milk being produced by special glands. Now, these are characteristics which are peculiar among all animals to the vertebrate class Mammalia. They possess also other characters that are unmistakably mammalian. Leaving out of consideration the structure of the internal organs, they have teeth implanted in sockets in the jaws, four limbs, and a hairy covering to the skin, so that they possess more decidedly mammalian characteristics than some other members of the class, such as the marine whales and dolphins (*Cetacea*) and manatees (*Sirenia*), which are still often spoken of as fishes. In point of fact, although organized for flight, the bat may, without any violence to language, be spoken of as a *quadruped* , ³ for its forelimbs contain all the parts found in those of other mammals fully developed, and they come into use when the creature is walking on the ground.

Perhaps the special characteristics of the bats will be brought out most distinctly by a comparison of their structure with that of a bird, seeing that the modification of the forelimbs into wings is their most striking distinction from other Mammalia; for, although some other members of the class are spoken of as “flying,” such as the Flying Squirrels, Flying Lemurs, and Flying Phalangiers, these creatures do not really fly, but merely glide through the air to considerable distances by the action of a broad fold of skin which runs down each side of the body, and which, when stretched between the extended limbs, buoys the creatures up in the air after the fashion of a parachute.

¹ **wayfarer**: one who travels on foot

² **dominion**: territory over an area

³ **quadruped**: an animal, especially a mammal, having four feet

14 What does the word *inaccessible* mean in the sentence below from paragraph 2?

“As they rest during the day, concealed usually in the most inaccessible places they can find, and are seen only upon the wing, their power of flight is their most striking peculiarity in the popular mind, and it is perhaps no great wonder that by many people, both in ancient and modern times they have been regarded as birds.”

- A** not possible to escape
- B** present at night
- C** difficult to reach
- D** not visible on the surface

15 Which quote provides evidence to support the claim that the classification of bats is complex?

- A** “Among the sounds which greet the ear of the wayfarer as the shades of evening deepen into night, one of the commonest is a rather faint chirping noise which comes mysteriously from overhead.”
- B** “On looking up in search of the source of this peculiar sound, we may see a small, dark, shadow-like creature sweeping to and fro with great rapidity.”
- C** “It is one of the curious groups of animals called bats, representatives of which are to be met with in all countries, always active at night or in the twilight, and presenting a remarkable general similarity of structure, although in some respects they may differ considerably in habits.”
- D** Nevertheless, their hairy bodies and leathery wings are so unlike anything that we ordinarily understand as pertaining to a bird, that opinion was apparently always divided, as to the true nature of these creatures—‘a mouse with wings.’ ”

16 What does the word *systematist* mean in the sentence below from paragraph 2?

“Nevertheless, their hairy bodies and leathery wings are so unlike anything that we ordinarily understand as pertaining to a bird, that opinion was apparently always divided, as to the true nature of these creatures—‘a mouse with wings,’ as Goldsmith called it once, according to James Boswell, is certainly a curious animal, and very difficult to classify so long as the would-be systematist has no particularly definite ideas to guide him.”

- A** one who creates an order of categories
- B** one who is considered an expert
- C** one who interprets the meaning of words
- D** one who studies animals

17 How does the last sentence in paragraph 2 refine a key concept about bats?

- A** by describing how owls and bats fly at night
- B** by explaining the functions of a bat’s wings and its furry body
- C** by showing how a bat is different from both a mouse and a bird
- D** by illustrating how other languages have similar meanings for the word “bat”

18 How does paragraph 3 contribute to the development of the idea of scientific classification of bats?

- A** It explains why classifying any sort of animal is important to its preservation.
- B** It describes the specific characteristics that are used to classify bats as mammals.
- C** It describes the specific characteristics that are used to understand that bats are alive.
- D** It explains why classifying an animal as a mammal is better than classifying it as a bird.

19 How does the author distinguish bats from whales and dolphins in paragraph 3?

- A** by conveying how difficult it is to classify bats, whales, and dolphins
- B** by conveying how whales, dolphins, and manatees are considered fish
- C** by showing how bats, whales, and dolphins nurse their babies with milk
- D** by showing how the bat has more mammalian traits than whales and dolphins

20 Which statement reflects the author’s point of view about the bat’s abilities?

- A** The author is puzzled as to why the bat is unable to be considered a bird.
- B** The author is dismayed by the bat’s comparison to a mouse.
- C** The author is fascinated that the bat can both walk and fly.
- D** The author is disturbed about the bat’s ability to fly noiselessly.

21 Which statement provides an objective summary of the text?

- A** Bats have been difficult animals to classify throughout history. A deeper understanding of the animals has led to their categorization as mammals that can fly like birds.
- B** Bats have been studied extensively so that we can better understand their similarity to humans. This study is leading to treatments and cures for various diseases.
- C** Bats are beautiful animals that are important to the global ecosystem. Efforts are being made to bring them back from the brink of extinction.
- D** Bats are dangerous, bloodthirsty predators that spread rabies. Homes should be safeguarded against their inhabitation.