Name ________________________________

Selection Comprehension

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why did the author write “A Tree Is Growing”?
   A. to explain how trees grow and change
   B. to describe one special kind of tree
   C. to teach how to take care of a tree
   D. to get people to plant more trees

2. How can readers tell “A Tree Is Growing” is expository nonfiction?
   E. It tells the author’s personal feelings.
   F. It has a plot with a beginning, a middle, and an end.
   G. It has events that could not really happen.
   H. It has pictures and captions to explain ideas.

3. The article says the way trees grow is unusual because they grow taller
   A. only at the top.
   B. only in the spring.
   C. only from their roots.
   D. only when they are young.

4. People count tree rings to find out
   E. the kind of soil the tree needs.
   F. how long the tree will live.
   G. what kind of tree it is.
   H. the age of the tree.
5. How do insects help trees?
   A. They carry water to the leaves.
   B. They make food for the leaves.
   C. They eat fallen leaves and make the soil better.
   D. They keep the branches and the leaves clean.

6. What can people tell about an oak tree if its bark is rough and cracked?
   F. The tree is old.
   G. The tree needs minerals.
   H. The tree is making sugar.
   I. The tree lives in a warm climate.

7. Which fact BEST shows how strong tree roots are?
   A. Roots carry minerals.
   B. Roots can split a rock.
   C. Roots hold a tree in place.
   D. Roots soak up water from the ground.

8. The author uses the picture of the banyan tree roots to show
   F. how roots act like pipelines.
   G. how mushrooms grow among roots.
   H. how some roots grow in an unusual way.
   I. how roots spread out underground.
Written Response (worth two points)

9. Explain how seeds are carried from place to place. Use information and details from “A Tree Is Growing” to support your answer.

Sample two-point response: When seeds fall to the ground, animals carry them away. When they bury the seeds, the seeds grow in a different place. Also, the wind blows some seeds away. Some seeds float away in the water.
Phonics/Spelling: Consonants /s/c; /j/g, dge

Read each model word. Then fill in the circle next to the word that has the same sound as the underlined part of the model word and completes each sentence.

1. soak
   Would you like more _____ to drink?
   A. juice
   B. music
   C. dash
   D. water

2. jump
   We parked the car in the _____.
   F. join
   G. garage
   H. field
   I. grass

3. badge
   Did you _____ the show?
   A. choose
   B. ledge
   C. forget
   D. enjoy

4. press
   We drove through the _____.
   F. town
   G. city
   H. country
   I. sharp

TOTAL SCORE: _____ /4
Focus Skill: Author’s Purpose

Read the passages. Then choose the best answer for each question.

Protect Your Head

Many people enjoy riding bikes. They ride for fun and for exercise. However, a fall from a bike is not fun. You can be hurt badly. That’s why you should wear a helmet each time you ride a bike. When you wear a bike helmet, you lower your risk of brain injury. If you fall off your bike while wearing a helmet, you are almost 85 percent less likely to have a brain injury than if you were without a helmet. Be a smart bike rider, and wear a helmet each time you ride a bike.

1. What is the author’s purpose?
   A to entertain readers with a story of a bike ride
   B to explain to readers how to ride a bike
   C to persuade readers to wear a bike helmet
   D to tell readers how to choose a bike helmet

2. Which sentence from the story gives you a clue about the author’s purpose?
   F Many people enjoy riding bikes.
   G They ride for fun and for exercise.
   H However, a fall from a bike is not fun.
   I When you wear a bike helmet, you lower your risk of brain injury.
A Good Fit

You know that you should wear a helmet when you ride a bicycle, but do you know how to choose the right one? Make sure that the helmet fits on top of your head and does not tip back. When you have the helmet on, you should have about a two-finger space between your eyebrows and the front of the helmet. When you buckle the helmet, the buckle should be snug when you open your mouth wide. Now you know how your helmet should fit. Be sure to wear it each time you ride.

3. What is the author’s purpose in writing this selection?
   A to persuade readers to ride bikes safely
   B to inform readers how to choose a helmet
   C to entertain readers with a story about bike riding
   D to teach readers how to ride a bike while wearing a helmet

4. Why did the author include the last line?
   E to encourage readers to wear helmets
   G to describe the safest style of bike helmet
   H to show the best way to wear a bike helmet
   I to persuade readers to ride bikes
Use Graphic Aids

Read the passage. Then choose the best answer for each question.

Most Americans drive cars to work. However, riding a bicycle to work instead of driving a car can help keep the air clean. Riding a bicycle is also a good form of exercise.

How Americans Get to Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Transportation</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>car, truck, or van</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>work at home</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public transportation</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other transportation (including bicycling)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use the graphic aid to answer the questions.

1. What information is shown in the graphic aid?
   - (A) the number of people in the United States who own cars
   - (B) the percentage of Americans who drive to work
   - (C) the total number of bicycles in the United States
   - (D) the percentage of Americans who like to walk for exercise
2. According to the graphic aid, what percentage of people walk to work?
   - F 88%
   - G 2%
   - H 4%
   - I 3%

3. Which one would be a good form of exercise?
   - A riding a bike
   - B driving a car
   - C working at home
   - D taking the bus

4. What does the graphic aid help you understand?
   - F how Americans do their jobs
   - G how Americans get to work
   - H how Americans ride their bicycles
   - I how Americans spend their free time
Robust Vocabulary

Choose the word that best completes each sentence.

1. The man lives in the house with the _____ on the front porch.
   A. particles
   B. repairs
   C. catastrophes
   D. columns

2. The puppy _____ on the rope I held.
   F. praised
   G. tugged
   H. deciphered
   I. paused

3. We watched the sugar _____ in the water.
   A. absorb
   B. swoon
   C. dissolve
   D. translate

4. I think the _____ that dug through our trash was a raccoon.
   B. scavenger
   C. expertise
   H. self-sufficient
   I. din

5. The mother hen _____ her chicks from danger.
   A. translates
   B. paused
   C. praises
   D. protects
6. There were plenty of bread ____ on the blanket after our picnic.
   F columns
   G particles
   H repairs
   I catastrophes

7. Dwayne learned to be ____ when he went to college.
   A protects
   B mistaken
   C self-sufficient
   D fortunate

8. The sound of the ____ leaves as the campers walked through the woods frightened the animals.
   F rustling
   G self-sufficient
   H mistaken
   I fortunate

9. I ____ to take a deep breath before I continued my speech.
   A paused
   B deciphered
   C praised
   D tugged

10. Paper towels will ____ the spill.
    F dissolve
    G swoon
    H translate
    I absorb
Grammar: Subject and Object Pronouns

Read each sentence. Choose the pronoun that replaces the underlined noun(s).

1. Mr. Harris told Sarah and Seth to work together as partners.
   A) they
   B) you
   C) them
   D) we

2. Aunt Marta gave the present to my sister.
   B) She
   C) Her
   H) We
   l) It

3. Ken rode the bus to school.
   A) We
   B) Him
   C) Me
   D) He

4. That board game belongs to Eric and me.
   e) us
   G) we
   H) they
   I) you

TOTAL SCORE: _____ /4
Bingwen raced to the bulletin board and searched it for the cast list. He just knew that the music teacher had picked him for the leading role in the play. He found his name and ran his finger across the page to the list of characters. Oh no! There must be a mistake. How could he get such a small part? Bingwen read the list more carefully. Leon, Bingwen’s best friend, had received the starring role. Leon hadn’t even planned on trying out until Bingwen had encouraged him to do so.

Bingwen decided that he wouldn’t be in the play at all if he couldn’t be the star.

At lunch, Leon came up to Bingwen. Leon told Bingwen that he felt bad. He wanted to drop out of the play so that Bingwen could have the lead role.

At that moment, Bingwen realized that Leon was willing to give up the lead just to make him happy. Bingwen told Leon that he would make a great star and that he couldn’t wait to practice the play with him.