



GRADE 3
Reading

Administered April 2015

RELEASED

READING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

A Hardworking Cat

- 1 A stationmaster is a person who keeps a train station running smoothly. At Kishi Station in western Japan, however, the stationmaster is not a person at all—it is a cat named Tama!
- 2 As a kitten Tama was a stray without a real home. She spent most of her time at Kishi Station. A nearby grocery store owner gave her food. Although she had no real owner or home, Tama seemed to enjoy watching people at the station. Tama also enjoyed the attention and affection she received from passengers.
- 3 In the early 2000s, the train company that ran Kishi Station was losing money. Not enough people were riding the trains. By April 2006 the company could no longer afford to pay the people who worked at the station. With no employees to help them, passengers now had to manage their own travel.
- 4 Even though the employees were gone, Tama stayed at the station. She continued to greet train riders with a warm nuzzle and a purr. Soon visitors shared stories with others about the cat at Kishi Station. People wanted to see the sweet cat that was always on duty. The train company had fun with the unusual situation. It gave Tama the title of “Kishi stationmaster.” The job even came with a stationmaster’s uniform. It is a simple black cap. Tama wears the hat every day at work. Instead of paying Tama with money, the company pays her with cat food.
- 5 Perhaps Tama’s title was originally meant as a joke, but Tama continues to perform her job wonderfully, like any hardworking employee. She walks around the station in her uniform and greets passengers. The black, white, and orange cat allows passengers to pet her and take photographs with her. People continue to visit the station just to see Tama.



Tama sits at the ticket gate at Kishi Station.

© AFP/Getty Images

- 6 When people come to Kishi Station to meet Tama, they spend money on train tickets and gift items that will remind them of her. This helps the train station. The visitors that Tama attracts also help the town near the station. Visitors spend money at local shops and restaurants. The money from these purchases adds up. In 2007, Tama's presence brought about 10 million dollars to her region of Japan. Most importantly, this hardworking cat has helped the Kishi Station remain open and provide transportation for community members.
- 7 Tama was such a good stationmaster that she was promoted. Now called the "super stationmaster," Tama has her own small office. It is an empty ticket booth. Since Tama is getting older and now likes to nap more, she has been given two assistants that help her greet passengers. They are both cats, of course.
- 8 Tama's fame continues to grow. Tama has been featured in many newspaper and magazine articles as well as on television shows and in video clips. There is even a picture book called *Diary of Tama the Station Master*, which includes photographs of Tama at work.
- 9 From stray cat to famous stationmaster, life is sweet for Tama!

- 1 Read this sentence from paragraph 4.

Instead of paying Tama with money, the company pays her with cat food.

This sentence helps the reader know that the train company —

- A treats Tama well
- B has too much food
- C does not think Tama looks healthy
- D wants to find a new home for Tama

-
- 2 Throughout the selection, the author describes Tama as being —

- F adventurous
- G brave
- H friendly
- J clever

3 Why did the train company decide to operate the station without workers?

- A** The train company was unable to find a person who wanted the job of stationmaster.
- B** The people who came to the train station were there only to see the stationmaster cat.
- C** The train station was located in an area where people did not want to work.
- D** The train company was not earning enough money to pay people.

4 Tama has been given two cat assistants because she —

- F** is too busy to work
- G** is too famous to work
- H** needs more time to rest
- J** needs more time to eat

- 5 The reader can tell that Tama is allowed to stay at the station because she —
- A cares for other cats
 - B walks people to the train
 - C sits inside the ticket booth
 - D attracts more passengers
-

- 6 In paragraph 7, the word promoted means —
- F finished with a task
 - G discussed by others
 - H required to work more hours
 - J given a better job
-

- 7 Which sentence shows that people are interested in learning about Tama?
- A *She spent most of her time at Kishi Station.*
 - B *She walks around the station in her uniform and greets passengers.*
 - C *Tama has been featured in many newspaper and magazine articles as well as on television shows and in video clips.*
 - D *From stray cat to famous stationmaster, life is sweet for Tama!*

- 8** In what way does Tama’s presence at the train station help the nearby town?
- F** People in the town want to work at the train station.
 - G** People in the town enjoy taking pictures with the visitors.
 - H** People who come to see Tama often spend money in the town.
 - J** People who come to see Tama want to move to the town.

-
- 9** The author wrote this selection most likely to —
- A** show the reader how cats are different from other animals
 - B** explain why some stray cats like to be around people
 - C** share an opinion about why cats make great pets
 - D** inform the reader about a special cat that lives in an unusual place

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Healing with Happiness

- 1 Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams decided early in his life that he wanted to help make the world better. Many of the patients who have visited his hospital would agree that he has done just that.
- 2 Adams was born in Washington, D.C., but lived in many parts of the world while growing up. His father was in the army, so the family moved often. Moving to new places helped Adams become good at making friends and accepting people for who they are.
- 3 As a child Adams performed well in school. He especially excelled at math and science. Above all, like most kids, Adams liked to play and have fun.
- 4 Adams decided to become a doctor. During his medical training he developed his own style of working with patients. When he talked with sick people, he wanted to understand how they were feeling. He was friendly and thought of ways to make them laugh, hoping to make them feel better. Some of Adams's teachers were not pleased with his way of treating patients. These teachers believed that being friends with patients could get in the way of being a good doctor.
- 5 Adams did not let his teachers' attitude stop him from trying to make patients laugh. One day he dressed in a clown costume. His bright clothes and red nose made patients smile. After that, Adams continued to wear silly costumes while studying to be a doctor.
- 6 After he finished medical school, Adams and 20 of his friends opened their own hospital. They converted a large house with six bedrooms into a hospital, where they provided free medical care. They named their hospital the Gesundheit! Institute. *Gesundheit* means "health" in the German language. It is also a funny-sounding word, which makes it a perfect name for Adams's hospital.

7 Like at all hospitals, the doctors and nurses at Adams's hospital worked to make sick patients well again. But Adams's hospital also provided fun activities for patients. They could garden and fish. They could watch a play or see a dance performance. Adams thought the patients would begin to feel better if they were engaged in things they enjoyed doing.

8 The doctors and nurses at Adams's hospital were also trained to be funny and kind to patients. According to Adams, humor is very important.

He thinks laughter and joy can sometimes help a sick person as much as any medicine. Some days Adams dresses as a clown and rides a unicycle through the halls of the hospital! He believes taking the time to be friendly and silly with people shows them that someone cares.

9 In the 1980s, Adams took his red clown nose and left the United States to visit other countries. His goal was to make people around the world feel better by providing them with medical care. He hoped to make patients feel comfortable by talking with them and telling jokes. He also brought medical supplies to the places that needed them most. Whether Adams was giving medical care or supplies, he made sure there was always a friendly smile under that bright red nose!



Hunter "Patch" Adams often wears clown clothes in public.

UNC Pembroke Photo

10 Cracking funny jokes and making people laugh is an effortless talent for some. However, it does not come naturally to everyone. For those doctors who feel they need help, Adams spends time teaching them how to be friendly and silly with their patients. He gives speeches all over the world, and he still wears a clown costume. The



Adams and a Child in a Colombian Hospital

© Carlo Duma Araujo/epa/CORBIS

Gesundheit! Institute is raising money to build a teaching center and a bigger hospital. This hospital will also provide free care for patients. And of course, Adams wants it to be a fun and playful place.

11 Adams has written books about his style of healing patients. He writes that you don't have to be a doctor to help someone feel better. The most important thing anyone can do is visit people who are sick. Sometimes letting someone know you care can be the most powerful cure of all.

10 The details in paragraph 8 show that Adams believes that —

- F** sometimes doctors cannot make people laugh
 - G** sometimes humor can help people heal
 - H** doctors should be required to wear funny costumes
 - J** patients should be required to joke with doctors
-

11 Which words from paragraph 3 help the reader understand the meaning of excelled?

- A** *in school*
 - B** *like most kids*
 - C** *performed well*
 - D** *at math and science*
-

12 What is the most likely reason Adams opened his own hospital?

- F** He wanted to work in a hospital that had an unusual name.
- G** He needed a place where he could treat patients while writing a book.
- H** He wanted to provide medical care to patients in the way he believed was best.
- J** He needed a place where he could teach medical workers how to make patients laugh.

13 How can the reader identify this selection as a biography?

- A** It tells about a book that Adams wrote.
- B** It tells about important events from Adams's life.
- C** It explains details about a hospital Adams helped start.
- D** It describes the training that doctors receive at Adams's hospital.

14 The photographs are included in the selection to show —

- F** different costumes Adams wears to amuse people
- G** how Adams trains people who work at his hospital
- H** how Adams raises money for new hospitals
- J** different reactions people have when Adams wears a costume

15 In paragraph 10, the reader can use the suffix “-less” to know that the word effortless means —

- A** the result of trying hard
- B** without having to try hard
- C** a person who tries hard
- D** the process of trying hard

16 The author ends the selection with the information in paragraph 11 in order to —

- F** share advice about how the reader can help sick people
- G** describe one way Adams makes people laugh
- H** provide the reader with information on how to become a doctor
- J** identify the number of books Adams has written

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Climbing

by Aileen Fisher

The trunk of a tree
is the road for me
on a sunny summer day.

Up the bark
5 that is brown and dark
through tunnels of leaves that sway
and tickle my knees
in the trembly breeze,
that's where I make my way.

10 Leaves in my face
and twigs in my hair
in a squeeze of a place,
but I don't care!

Some people talk
15 of a summer walk
through clover and weeds and hay.

Some people stride
where the hills are wide
and the rocks are speckled gray.

20 But the trunk of a tree
is the road for me
on a sunny summer day.



From IN THE WOODS IN THE MEADOW IN THE SKY by Aileen Fisher. Copyright © 1965, 1993 Aileen Fisher. All Rights Renewed and Reserved. Used by permission of Marian Reiner on behalf of the Boulder Public Library Foundation, Inc.

17 The speaker is tickled when —

- A** the wind blows leaves against her
 - B** twigs get tangled in her hair
 - C** she walks through a field
 - D** she climbs a hill
-

18 Lines 10 through 13 show that the speaker —

- F** is not certain when she will stop climbing
 - G** knows of a perfect spot to rest while climbing
 - H** agrees with what others say about climbing trees
 - J** is not bothered by the challenges of climbing trees
-

19 What part of the tree is compared to a road?

- A** The trunk
- B** The leaves
- C** The bark
- D** The twigs

- 20** According to the speaker, climbing a tree can be difficult because —
- F** the bark on the tree is rough
 - G** there are too many people trying to climb the tree
 - H** there is not a lot of space to move around in some areas of the tree
 - J** the leaves on the tree do not provide enough shade from the sun

21 In line 17, what does the word stride mean?

- A** Sleep
- B** Fall
- C** Build
- D** Walk

- 22** Which line from the poem helps the reader imagine the speaker's experience while climbing the tree?
- F** through tunnels of leaves that sway
 - G** that's where I make my way
 - H** where the hills are wide
 - J** But the trunk of a tree

23 Which of these lines from the poem rhyme?

- A** Lines 2 and 4
- B** Lines 8 and 9
- C** Lines 11 and 13
- D** Lines 15 and 16

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Good Question, Chowderhead

by Melissa Herr

- 1 My name is Chelsea Chowderhead. A chowder is a stew or thick soup. My father says that our early ancestors may have invented chowder. I wonder if our early ancestors got made fun of all the time, too. For me, the last name teasing began as soon as I started school. So when my family moved to South Carolina, I decided that it was my chance for a fresh start. I asked my dad if I could change my name.
- 2 "But the Chowderhead name has a long and rich history—," Dad started.
- 3 "I know, I know. We were makers of thick soups or stews."
- 4 "Why do you want to change it?" he asked. My dad always asks lots of questions.
- 5 I didn't want to hurt his feelings, but I didn't want to go through another school year as a Chowderhead, either. "I get teased all the time. Even a compliment like 'Good idea, Chowderhead' sounds mean."
- 6 "I know it's not always easy being a Chowderhead," said Dad. "I've been a Chowderhead my whole life, and I've been teased a lot. But you shouldn't change who you are. Let people get to know you first and your name later."
- 7 "How can people get to know me before they know my name?" I asked.
- 8 He said, "Ask good questions."
- 9 I looked at him blankly. He went on, "When you meet someone new, ask them a question. It can't be a mean question, and it has to be something that you're really curious about. Once people

start talking about themselves, they don't judge you. They're just happy that someone is interested in what they have to say."

10 Two days later I headed to my new school for the first day of class. As soon as I got to my classroom, a girl named Claire introduced herself. I noticed that Claire was wearing pretty woven bracelets. I asked her where she got them. Her face lit up, and she explained that she made them herself. She'd gotten a bracelet-making kit for her birthday, and these were her first try. She offered to make me one.

11 By lunch, I'd talked to lots of people and was getting the hang of finding the right question. But there were two kids, twin brothers, who didn't seem to talk to anyone but each other. When they looked at me, I felt as if they already knew that I was a Chowderhead. Still, my dad's advice had worked out well, so I decided to give it one more try. I asked Claire if we should sit with the twins. She looked a little surprised, but shrugged her shoulders and followed me.



12 "Do you mind if we sit with you?" I asked. The twins stared at us. I sat down and opened my milk. No one said anything. I realized that if the twins never said anything, I'd never think of a question. Claire didn't say anything, either. I looked at their lunches for some kind of clue and noticed that the lunchboxes were identical. That's when it came to me.

- 13 "What's it like being a twin?" I asked.
- 14 The twins looked astonished. Then they both started talking at the same time.
- 15 "No one has ever asked us that!" one said.
- 16 "Most of the time it's good," the other said.
- 17 It turns out that being a twin is as complicated as being a Chowderhead. When you're a twin you always have someone to talk to and have lunch with, but people think that you're exactly alike.
- 18 In no time at all we were laughing and talking. Then one of the brothers said, "I'm Nicholas, and this is my brother, Nathaniel. What's your name?"
- 19 I gulped, took a deep breath, and said, "I'm Chelsea Chowderhead."
- 20 "Chowder? Like the soup?" asked Nathaniel.
- 21 "Yes," I replied, looking down and blushing. "Like a thick soup or stew."
- 22 "Hey, cool. Do you and Claire want to come over after school and play basketball with us?" Nathaniel asked.
- 23 "I'd love to," I said.
- 24 "Me too," Claire agreed.
- 25 And that is how I learned to ask good questions and became friends with Nicholas and Nathaniel Noodlenoggin.

"Good Question, Chowderhead" story © SEPS: Licensed by Curtis Licensing, Indianapolis, IN. All rights reserved.

24 Which sentence best shows Chelsea’s problem in the story?

- F** *My dad always asks lots of questions.*
- G** *I didn’t want to hurt his feelings, but I didn’t want to go through another school year as a Chowderhead, either.*
- H** *Two days later I headed to my new school for the first day of class.*
- J** *But there were two kids, twin brothers, who didn’t seem to talk to anyone but each other.*

25 Read the dictionary entry.

judge \ˈjəj\ *verb*
1. to listen to and decide a court case
2. to choose the winner of a contest
3. to form an opinion about someone
4. to make a careful guess

Which meaning of judge is used in paragraph 9?

- A** Meaning 1
- B** Meaning 2
- C** Meaning 3
- D** Meaning 4

- 26** Paragraphs 18 through 25 are important because they help the reader understand —
- F** how Chelsea thinks of ideas to talk about when meeting people
 - G** why the twins don't make fun of Chelsea after they learn her name
 - H** what activities the twins and Chelsea both find interesting
 - J** when Chelsea plans to spend time with her new friends

-
- 27** Chelsea's conversation with her father shows that he —
- A** understands how she feels about her name
 - B** knows she will appreciate her name someday
 - C** believes their name is more interesting than other names
 - D** thinks she misunderstands what kids say about her name

28 What is the best summary of this story?

- F** Chelsea talks to her father about how she feels about their last name. Chelsea's father tells her about the long history of their family name and gives her some advice.
- G** Chelsea is interested in changing her last name, but her father helps her understand why that is not a good idea. Chelsea goes to school and sits with twin brothers at lunch.
- H** Chelsea wants to change her last name before going to a new school. After talking to her father, she follows his advice and is able to make friends at her new school.
- J** Chelsea is nervous about going to a new school because she thinks it will be difficult to make new friends. When she goes to her new school, she meets a nice girl and feels much better.

29 Read this sentence from paragraph 10.

Her face lit up, and she explained that she made them herself.

The author includes this description of Claire to show that she is —

- A** embarrassed that Chelsea notices her bracelets
- B** unsure why Chelsea asks about her bracelets
- C** worried that Chelsea might make better bracelets
- D** pleased that Chelsea is interested in her bracelets

30 Which sentence best expresses the theme of the story?

- F** *I asked my dad if I could change my name.*
- G** *"I get teased all the time."*
- H** *"But you shouldn't change who you are."*
- J** *In no time at all we were laughing and talking.*

31 In the last paragraph, the reader learns that Chelsea —

- A** is not sure whether the twins really like her
- B** does not want Claire to find out how she feels about her name
- C** is not the only person who experiences her problem
- D** does not want to play with the twins after school

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

One Giant Paper Airplane

1 The Wright brothers made their famous first airplane flight in North Carolina in 1903. More than 100 years later, 12-year-old Arturo Valdenegro enjoyed his own kind of fame when a giant paper airplane that he helped design flew over the desert in Arizona.

The Great Paper Airplane Fly-Off

2 Arturo's adventure started with a contest called the Great Paper Airplane Fly-Off. It was organized by the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona. The goal of the contest is to help children learn more about how airplanes fly and to encourage them to explore science and inventing.

3 The rules of the contest say that all airplanes have to be constructed from one piece of letter-size paper. The paper can be folded and cut as many times as needed. But the finished plane cannot contain any glue, tape, staples, or paper clips.

4 Arturo and about 200 other children ages 6 to 14 entered the contest. The winner of the contest would be the person who made the paper airplane that flew the farthest.

5 The 2012 Great Paper Airplane Fly-Off had four rounds of competition. In the first three rounds, the children were put into small groups and took turns flying their planes. The plane that flew the farthest in each group was the winner of the round. Each winner went to the next round and repeated the same process. But the final round was different. The children did not fly their own paper airplanes. Instead, a paper-airplane Guinness World Record holder named Ken Blackburn flew each of the planes. Arturo's paper airplane flew the farthest. He won the contest. But winning was just the start of his adventure.

Arturo's Desert Eagle

6 As part of the contest, the winner's plane design was used to create a giant paper airplane. The museum brought together a team of experts to build a much larger version of Arturo's airplane, with Arturo's help. They used a similar design but with materials that could fly higher and farther than a small paper airplane. The team built the huge plane out of a strong type of paper. By the time the plane was finished, it was 45 feet long and weighed 800 pounds. They named it *Arturo's Desert Eagle*.

7 The next step was to see whether the giant paper airplane could fly. At 800 pounds this plane was too heavy to throw like a typical paper airplane. Instead, a helicopter lifted the plane into the air with a strong chain. Once



the plane reached a height of 2,703 feet, it was released over an open, unpopulated area in the desert. During its short flight the plane reached a speed of 98 miles per hour. Then it crashed into the desert. It was a messy landing, with broken parts scattered all over the ground. But because the plane flew for six seconds, the team had a reason to celebrate.

The Museum Display

8 *Arturo's Desert Eagle* will not be forgotten. A part of the wing and several other pieces are now on permanent display at the Pima Air and Space Museum. The museum plans to continue offering its paper airplane contest to young scientists. The museum hopes that *Arturo's Desert Eagle* will inspire young paper airplane designers to practice their skills. Just like Arturo, their winning designs may soar into history one day!

Ken Blackburn's Simple Paper Airplane



1. Get a piece of typing paper and crease it length-wise



2. Fold one corner to the center crease



3. Fold the other corner to the center line



4. Fold in half



5. Fold one wing down



6. Fold the other wing down



7. Fold the wings out, and add paper clips to nose (3 small, 2 big)



8. Bend the back of the wing up a little bit

Throw it gently forward. If it needs adjusting, try another paper clip on the nose, and adjust the amount you bend the back of the wing up.

32 Which section provides information about the rules of the contest?

- F** The Great Paper Airplane Fly-Off
- G** *Arturo's Desert Eagle*
- H** The Museum Display
- J** Ken Blackburn's Simple Paper Airplane

33 Which of these is a synonym for the word scattered in paragraph 7?

- A** Found
- B** Buried
- C** Carried
- D** Spread

- 34** What is the best summary of the section titled “*Arturo’s Desert Eagle*”?
- F** A team built a giant paper airplane. It could fly higher and farther than a small paper airplane. A helicopter was used to release the giant paper airplane into the air.
 - G** Arturo Valdenegro won the paper airplane contest after several rounds of competition. He worked with experts at the museum to build a giant paper airplane. It was called *Arturo’s Desert Eagle*.
 - H** After the contest a team built a giant paper airplane. It was based on the design of the winning paper airplane. A helicopter released the paper airplane into the air. After a short flight the paper airplane crashed into the desert.
 - J** A boy named Arturo Valdenegro won a paper airplane contest. Winning the contest meant that his airplane design would be used to build a giant paper airplane. The giant paper airplane was called *Arturo’s Desert Eagle*.

-
- 35** The photographs included in the section titled “Ken Blackburn’s Simple Paper Airplane” help the reader —
- A** choose the best design for a paper airplane
 - B** understand the steps for making a paper airplane
 - C** understand how a paper airplane should be thrown
 - D** select the best kind of paper for making a paper airplane

- 36** One reason the Pima Air and Space Museum has a paper airplane contest is to —
- F** give people a reason to visit the museum
 - G** teach children how to make objects out of paper
 - H** show visitors that there are different kinds of airplanes
 - J** encourage children to become more interested in science

-
- 37** Which sentence from the selection is best supported by the photograph next to paragraph 7?
- A** *The goal of the contest is to help children learn more about how airplanes fly and to encourage them to explore science and inventing.*
 - B** *At 800 pounds this plane was too heavy to throw like a typical paper airplane.*
 - C** *During its short flight the plane reached a speed of 98 miles per hour.*
 - D** *The museum plans to continue offering its paper airplane contest to young scientists.*

38 What happened to *Arturo's Desert Eagle* at the end of its flight?

- F** It broke into pieces.
 - G** It got stuck in the sand.
 - H** It was carried away by a helicopter.
 - J** It was rebuilt to inspire other children.
-

39 How is the paper airplane in "Ken Blackburn's Simple Paper Airplane" different from the paper airplane Arturo made in the contest?

- A** It has staples.
 - B** It uses paper clips.
 - C** It is folded many times.
 - D** It uses one piece of paper.
-

40 Arturo won the paper airplane contest because his plane —

- F** flew the greatest distance
- G** reached the fastest speed
- H** had the most original design
- J** had the fewest number of folds

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.



**STAAR
GRADE 3
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April 2015**