

Georgia
CRCT
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Reading for Meaning Test 2

Fifth Grade Reading
Test

Jill Tonelli

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

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Teacher: Jill Tonelli

A fourth-grade class wrote to Betsy Byars to learn more about her writing. Read the letter that Betsy wrote back to the class.

A Letter to the class from Betsy Byars

Dear Class,

When I was growing up, I did not want to be a writer, but I had one thing in common with every writer I know. I loved books.

The whole family knew how much I loved to read, so I got books for my birthday, books for Christmas. At Christmas I would sneak the books out from under the tree, one by one, carefully unwrap them, read them, and stick them back under the tree. I just couldn't wait.

In those days I read for one reason – to find out what was going to happen. Would the black stallion be captured? Would the boys find the pirate's treasure? Did the mummy speak?

I still read a lot, but I read differently now. I want to know what's going to happen, of course, but I also want to find out how the writer made it happen. If a writer makes me feel sad or excited, I read that part again and again until I see how the writer did it. For example, a writer makes a scene move faster by using more dialogue than description. Reading carefully is how I learned how to write.

Whether you read to find out what's going to happen or because you, too, are interested in writing, I hope you've found lots of good books this year. And, yes, I still open anything that looks like a book immediately. I still can't wait.

-
1. What is the MOST IMPORTANT thing a reader can learn from Betsy Byars' letter?
- A. why the author likes Christmas
 - B. how reading helps her as a writer
 - C. what the author's childhood was like
 - D. what the author does in her spare time
-

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2. According to the letter, how has reading parts of books helped Betsy Byars become a better writer?

- A. It has shown her how other authors create excitement and a fast pace.
 - B. It has given her ideas for books.
 - C. She has met other authors.
 - D. It has shown her that the purpose of writing is to tell what happens.
-

3. Which piece of advice would Betsy Byars give to someone who wants to be a good writer?

- A. write letters to authors
 - B. ask for books as gifts
 - C. read a lot
 - D. always plan your ending first
-

4. Betsy has organized this information in letter form. Why did she decide to do this?

- A. She thinks other forms of writing are boring.
 - B. Letters are a friendly way to pass on information.
 - C. She writes everything in letter form.
 - D. Letters are shorter than other forms of writing.
-

5. As a child Betsy Byars loved books. As a grown-up she

- A. likes books less.
 - B. studies how stories are written.
 - C. has little time to read.
 - D. teaches writing in school.
-

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6. How do writers make a scene move faster?

- A. They use shorter sentences.
 - B. They use longer sentences.
 - C. They use more dialogue.
 - D. They use less dialogue.
-

7. How did Betsy Byars probably decide what information to put into her letter to the class?

- A. She thought about what teachers like to know.
 - B. She remembered questions that students had asked her.
 - C. She asked her family for suggestions.
 - D. She reread her own books to see what was important.
-

8. What about Betsy Byars has probably NOT changed over the years?

- A. her love of books
 - B. the way she writes
 - C. the characters she writes about
 - D. the way she reads
-

9. Where could you find out which books Betsy Byars has written?

- A. a dictionary under "B"
 - B. a children's magazine
 - C. an encyclopedia under "B"
 - D. the library database under "B"
-

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What were books like in the Middle Ages? This passage tells you about medieval books and it gives directions for making one. Read the passage, then answer the questions that follow.

Make A Medieval Book

by Linda Honan

Writing was the key to communication in the Early Middle Ages. There were no telephones, radios, televisions, or computers. There were also no printing presses. Thus, we call medieval books “manuscripts,” which means “written by hand.” At the time, few people could read or write, so the scribe was very important. Most scribes were church men or women, who learned to read and write so that they could chant prayers. They wrote on fine leather, called “vellum” if it was made from calf skin, or “parchment” if it was made from goat or sheep skin. For pens, they used sharpened bird quills or reeds. Ink was made from soot or boiled oak galls (swellings on oak trees left by gall moths), mixed with gum and acid. Books were valuable, and were often decorated with gold, colored paint, and jewels. Because scribes used several different scripts, manuscripts were often difficult to read. In 789, Charlemagne ordered all schools in Frankland to use a new simple script chosen by the teacher Alcuin. We call this script *Carolingian minuscule*. Alcuin also taught scribes to write each word separately and to use standard punctuation.

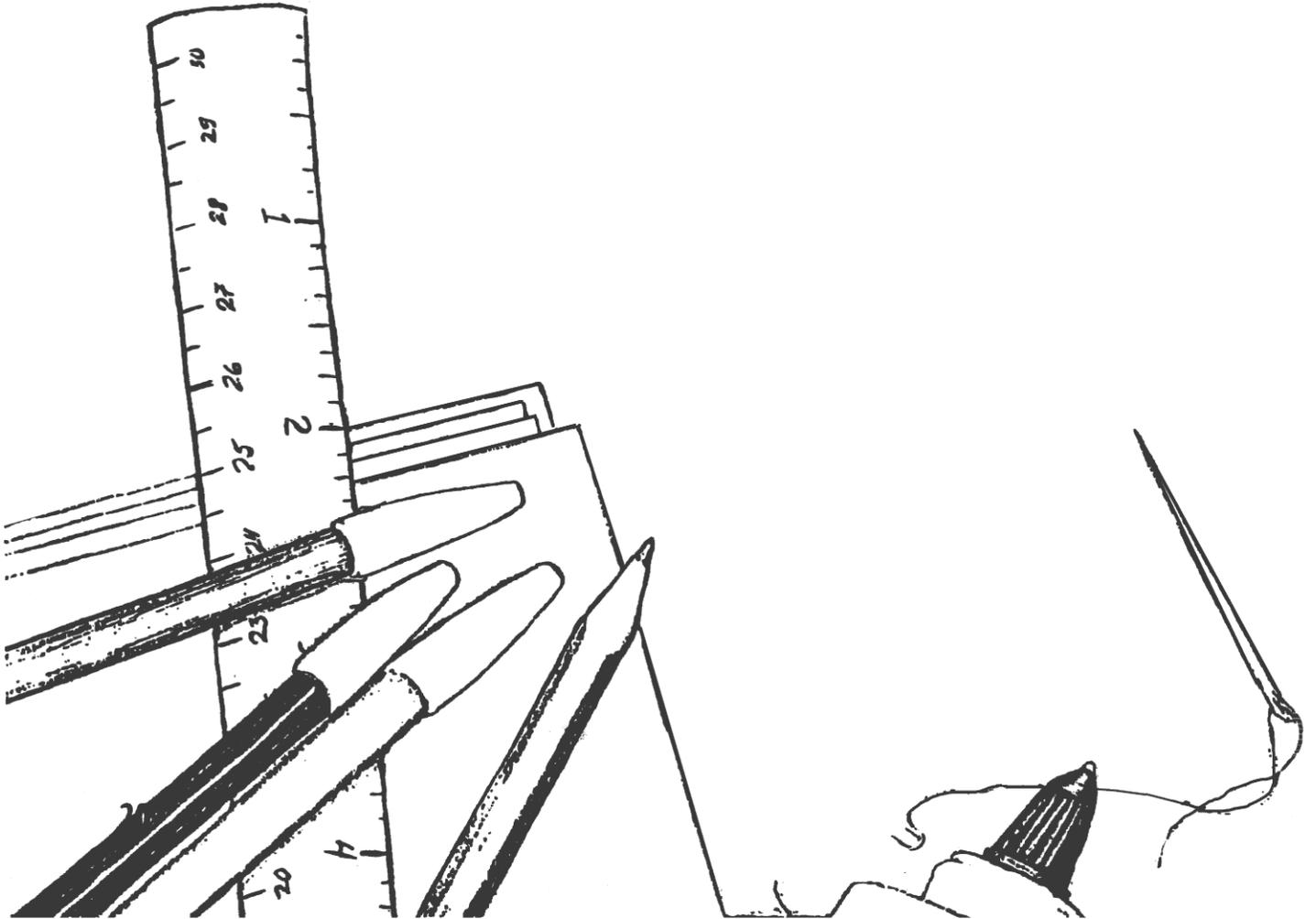
1. Practice writing the alphabet of the Carolingian miniscule on scrap paper. (See sample on this page.) Then write a three-paragraph story about Charlemagne. Underline the first letter of each paragraph.
2. Line up the sheets of “parchment.” Fold them down the middle. Thread the needle and stitch along the fold. Leave the cover blank.
3. On the first page, rule and pencil off a space 2 inches square for the first letter. Leave this blank. Write the first paragraph. Do the same on the following pages for the second paragraph, the third, and the fourth.
4. Write in the first letter of each paragraph, decorating it with flowers, leaves, or animals in colored markers. This decoration is called “illumination.”
5. Glue the large “gem” in the middle of the cover. Glue the small gems around it. Decorate the cover with colorful designs using the markers.

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10. According to the passage, the difference between vellum and parchment was

- A. its color.
 - B. its thickness.
 - C. its cost.
 - D. where it came from.
-

11. Why were all books in the Middle Ages written out in longhand?

- A. Only a few copies (of any book) were needed.
 - B. A hand-produced copy of a book was very sturdy.
 - C. The printing press had not yet been invented.
 - D. Church men and women produced the books.
-

12. Alcuin's ideas improved medieval manuscripts by making

- A. writing easier to read.
 - B. writing faster to do.
 - C. manuscripts last longer.
 - D. manuscripts more beautiful.
-

13. The number of "illuminations" in your book will depend on the number of

- A. pages.
 - B. paragraphs.
 - C. capital letters.
 - D. names of people and places.
-

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14. Why do you need white glue for your book?

- A. to glue the cover to the pages
 - B. to glue the pages together
 - C. to decorate the cover
 - D. to make illuminations
-

Dear Tim,

How are you doing? I am fine. I've been very busy this summer. I have been playing and spending time with my brothers. We built a tree house in our backyard. I also helped my mom decorate my room. We even went to the zoo.

One day, my brothers and I were bored, so we decided to build a tree house. It is in the big oak tree in the backyard. We used a lot of wood and nails. My dad helped us hammer the nails into the wood to make our walls. It is not very big, but we like to play and read up there.

I have also been busy fixing up my bedroom. I helped my mom paint the walls blue. One day, I spilled paint on the floor. My mom didn't get mad at me, but I had to clean up the mess. She said only the walls should be blue, not the floor!

My favorite thing this summer was the zoo. I went with my family and we saw every animal. I liked the tigers. They were eating lunch when we were there. I also liked the camels. They looked very hot because they have so much fur. I want to go back to the zoo soon.

It has been a very fun summer. I am glad we have another month to do fun things. Maybe you can visit and we can go to the zoo together before school starts again. I'll talk to you soon.

Your friend,

Jane

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15. In paragraph 3, Jane spilled paint on her bedroom floor. Her mom made her clean it up. This shows an example of

- A. comparison and contrast
 - B. problem and solution
 - C. fact and opinion
 - D. setting and plot
-

16. The mood of Jane's letter is

- A. worried
 - B. upset
 - C. happy
 - D. frantic
-

17. What word is an antonym for the word *bored*?

- A. busy
 - B. hungry
 - C. funny
 - D. tired
-

18. How does Jane enjoy her summer?
