

Georgia
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Reading for Vocabulary Improvement Test 2

Fifth Grade Reading
Test

Jill Tonelli

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

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Stevie Wonder

by Mark Falstein

Stevland Morris did not have an easy childhood. He grew up without a father in a poor part of Detroit, Michigan. He lived in a world of sounds. He banged on anything that he could get his hands on. Finally, his mother bought him a set of cardboard drums. She knew that sounds were very important to her son. Steveland had been born blind.

Stevie would listen to the radio for hours. He loved the blues best. His favorite blues artist was Ray Charles. This famous singer and piano player had something in common with Stevie. He, too, was blind.

Early on, Stevie decided that he would be just like Ray Charles. He would become a musician. He studied classical piano. He learned to play other instruments. He'd practice by entertaining friends in his neighborhood and church. By the time he was ten, he was writing his own songs.

Soon after that, Stevie met Ronnie White. Ronnie was part of a popular singing group called the Miracles. They worked with Motown. This is a record company owned and run by African Americans. The people there loved Stevie's music. They signed him up and gave him a new name. "Little Stevie Wonder" made his first record in 1963. That song, "Fingertips," sold more than a million copies. It made Stevie a star at the age of 13. His life didn't change all that much, though. He got an allowance of \$2.50 a week. And he had to keep up a "B" average in school.

Stevie's music was exciting. His words and feelings were real. Maybe that's why he had hit after hit. By the time he turned 21, he had sold 35 million records. In 1973, he got his first Grammy Award. It was for "You Are the Sunshine of My Life." There is no higher honor in the record business. Over the next dozen years, Stevie would win more than 15 of them.

Today Stevie Wonder is still making hits. He writes about a song a day. In 1991, he composed the music for Spike Lee's hit movie *Jungle Fever*. Stevie uses his music for good causes, too. He worked to get Martin Luther King's birthday declared a holiday. He helps raise money to feed the hungry. He fights against drunk driving. One poster has a picture of Stevie on it. He is saying, "Before I ride with a drunk, I'll drive myself!"

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Driving is about the only thing that Stevie Wonder has trouble doing. He reads with a special computer. He “watches” movies with a little help from his friends. “Never before have blind people been able to do so much,” Stevie says. “There’s almost nothing I can’t do if I can imagine it.”

1. Which sentence gives an opinion?

- A. Stevie’s music was exciting.
 - B. Stevie made his first record in 1963.
 - C. In 1973, Stevie won his first Grammy Award.
 - D. Stevie would listen to the radio for hours.
-

2. What did Stevie Wonder do first?

- A. He changed his name to Stevie Wonder.
 - B. He sold a million copies of “Fingertips.”
 - C. He met Ronnie White from the Miracles.
 - D. He decided he would be just like Ray Charles.
-

3. How were Stevie and Ray Charles alike?

- A. They both grew up in Detroit.
 - B. They both were in the Miracles.
 - C. They both were blind musicians.
 - D. They both played many instruments.
-

4. Which sentence BEST shows that the author admires and respects Stevie?

- A. One poster has a picture of Stevie on it.
 - B. Stevie uses his music for good causes, too.
 - C. They signed him up and gave him a new name.
 - D. She knew that sounds were very important to her son.
-

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5. How old was Stevie when he wrote his first songs?

- A. 10
 - B. 15
 - C. 21
 - D. 35
-

6. Which word is an antonym for *raise*?

- A. up
 - B. rays
 - C. lower
 - D. praise
-

7. How many records had Stevie Wonder sold by the time he was 21?

- A. 1 million
 - B. 15 million
 - C. 20 million
 - D. 35 million
-

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Saturday Plans

by Irene Shultz

It was Friday night.

No school for two days!

The five Woodlanders sat around the kitchen table making plans for Saturday.

Their little dog Mop lay under the table on Mrs. Tandy's feet.

Mrs. Tandy said, "Well, I like Bill's museum idea."

Ten-year-old Sammy waved a chicken bone in the air. He said, "Well, I like this chicken! Please pass me the chicken plate, and some muffins and plum jelly and . . ."

His brother Bill, fourteen, said, "Hey, slow down, you pig! Leave a few bites for the rest of us!"

Kathy, their thirteen-year-old sister, added, "And stop waving that chewed-on femur at us." She said it like this: FEE-mer.

Sammy looked at the bone in his hand. "This is a femur? I thought it was a piece of chicken leg!"

Kathy said, "Femur is another name for it. If we do go to the museum tomorrow, let's take it with us. Then we can look at it next to a dinosaur femur."

Dave Briggs, sixteen, sat at the table in his wheelchair.

He said, "I think we should go. I'll drive if we do." Dave had a station wagon with hand brakes and a hand gas pedal.

Mrs. Tandy said, "Well, if we leave at noon we would get to the museum around one o'clock. Then we'll have lunch there before we start looking around."

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Sammy took a giant bite of a corn muffin, and started talking with his mouth full. “Remember, I get first choice of what to see.”

Bill said, “Why do YOU get first choice, King Sammy?”

Sammy said, “Because I’m the youngest, so you have to be nice to me.”

Mrs. Tandy laughed. “Well, I’m the middle-est, so I get first choice.”

Kathy added, “Well, I’m your only sister, so I do.”

Dave said, “Here, guys. While you were fighting things out, I tore my napkin into strips. See, I rolled them up. Everybody take one from my hand. Whoever gets the longest piece chooses first, and so on.”

They each picked a ball and opened it up.

Sammy said, “Hah! See! I was right. Mine is the longest. I get first choice, and I choose the mummies.”

Kathy said, “Mine is second longest. I choose the life-sized cave family.” She added sadly, “I think the father looks a little like our dad looked.”

Bill said, “Kathy, I’ll choose the dinosaur room. Then you can check out that chicken leg bone.”

Sammy jumped up from the table. He said, “No way! This is MY bone! I’m putting it in my pocket right now. I’ll check it against the dinosaur myself!”

Mrs. Tandy said, “I’m fourth. I choose the insect and water animal displays.”

Dave said, “And I’ll take the rocks and the Jewel Room.”

Kathy said, “This will be GREAT! I love going into the city! And the museum is like the whole world shown on three huge floors.”

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8. Which of the characters is the oldest?

- A. Bill
 - B. Dave
 - C. Kathy
 - D. Sammy
-

9. How long will it take the Woodlanders to get to the museum?

- A. 10 minutes
 - B. 30 minutes
 - C. 60 minutes
 - D. 120 minutes
-

10. What ordinary brother-sister experience does this passage show?

- A. cruelty
 - B. jealousy
 - C. friendly argument
 - D. fierce competition
-

11. Which word from the passage is a contraction?

- A. femur
 - B. o'clock
 - C. everybody
 - D. chewed-on
-

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12. Which word from the passage would NOT be found in a dictionary or a grammar book?

- A. huge
 - B. femur
 - C. choice
 - D. middle-est
-

13. The MAIN purpose of this passage is to

- A. tell a story.
 - B. explain something.
 - C. describe something.
 - D. persuade someone to do something.
-

14. This passage is an example of

- A. a myth.
 - B. fiction.
 - C. a folktale.
 - D. nonfiction.
-

15. What is the age range of the four young people?

- A. 5 to 14 years old
 - B. 8 to 16 years old
 - C. 10 to 14 years old
 - D. 10 to 16 years old
-

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16. What did Sammy choose to look at first in the museum?

- A. mummies
 - B. insects
 - C. rocks
 - D. dinosaurs
-

17. The author's purpose for writing this story is to

- A. inform.
 - B. debate.
 - C. explain.
 - D. entertain.
-

18. Which sentence gives an opinion?

- A. There are five Woodlanders.
 - B. Mrs. Tandy likes Bill's museum idea.
 - C. Kathy was the smartest of the group going to the museum.
 - D. Dave had a station wagon with hand brakes and a hand gas pedal.
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19. Which is a compound word?

- A. everybody
 - B. youngest
 - C. mummies
 - D. dinosaur
-

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20. Who is MOST excited about going to the museum? Use information from the passage to explain your answer.

21. Write a summary of what the characters in the passage are deciding to do.
