

NAME _____

DATE _____

Comprehension: 22

Vocabulary: 10

Scott Foresman

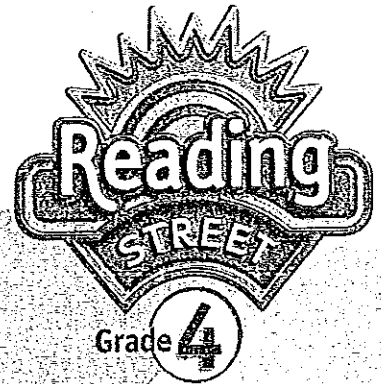
Grammar: 8

Benchmark Test

Unit 4

Puzzles and Mysteries

40



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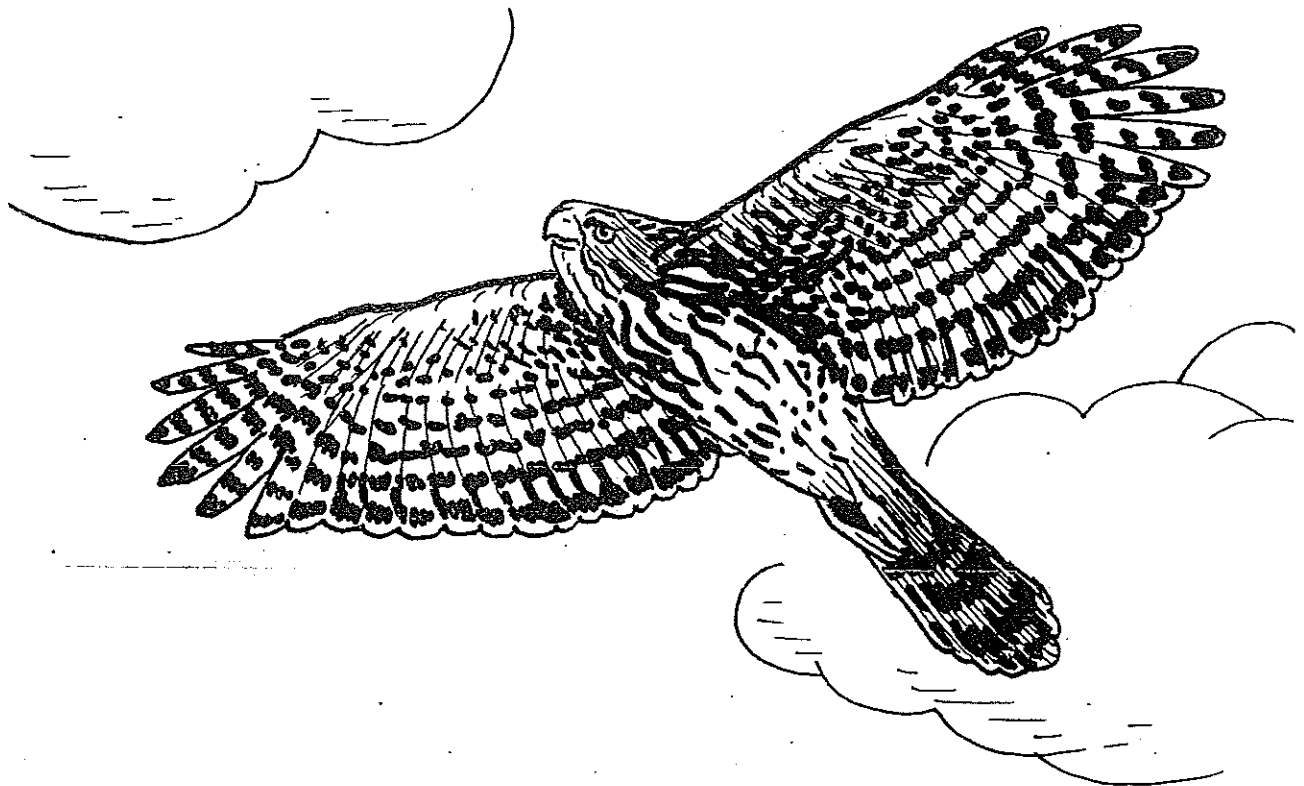
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PART 1: COMPREHENSION

Directions

Read some information about two kinds of hawks. Then do Numbers 1 through 11.

Hawk Identification



It's not easy to tell hawks apart when they are flying overhead. Even the best bird-watchers can have trouble telling the difference between the sharp-shinned hawk and the Cooper's hawk because these birds are so similar. The feathers, or plumage, of these adult hawks are nearly the same. Do not forget that these birds will not sit still while you try to figure out what they are.

These two kinds of hawks are different in size. Unless they are sitting next to each other, though, it is hard to judge size. Also, the size of males and females of each species varies. (Females are about one-third larger than males for both hawks.) Another thing to think about is the difference between young and adult birds. Adult hawks are bigger than young hawks. Their bodies are shaped differently too. Younger hawks often have shorter wings and longer tails than adults.

Young hawks and adult hawks have different kinds of feathers. The Cooper's hawk has a dark cap on its head. This might help you tell it from a sharp-shinned hawk.

You cannot always see a flying bird's head, though. Even if you see the head, you might mistake it for a young sharp-shinned hawk.

Looking at the hawk's tail might help. The Cooper's hawk and the sharp-shinned hawk have different kinds of tails. The Cooper's hawk has a round tail. The sharp-shinned hawk's tail is narrow. These differences are hard to spot when the birds are sitting.

The two hawks act differently. Cooper's hawks like to travel alone. They hardly ever bother other birds. Sharp-shinned hawks travel in small groups of about six birds. They can be aggressive toward other birds. They sometimes even fight with other sharp-shinned hawks!

Do not feel bad if you cannot distinguish these two birds. Even bird experts disagree on sightings. These hawks are among the hardest of all birds to tell apart. You need a lot of time in the field to correctly identify them. If you can tell the difference, though, you are a true hawk watcher.

1 What is one important difference between Cooper's hawks and sharp-shinned hawks?

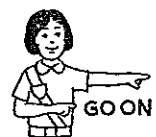
- A Cooper's hawks are easier to recognize than sharp-shinned hawks.
- B Cooper's hawks are less social than sharp-shinned hawks.
- C Cooper's hawks are much larger than sharp-shinned hawks.
- D Cooper's hawks have shorter wings and tails than sharp-shinned hawks.

2 Which is most helpful in telling a Cooper's hawk and a sharp-shinned hawk apart?

- F the length of their wings
- G the length of their tails
- H the shape of their tails
- J the shape of their heads

3 What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

- A People who want to know about hawks should study them a lot.
- B Sharp-shinned hawks will often pick fights with other birds.
- C Telling these hawks apart takes a lot of bird-watching time.
- D Bird experts often disagree on which hawk is which.



4

This selection is an example of

- F realistic fiction.
- G a biography.
- H nonfiction.
- J a fable.

5

It is hard to identify these hawks by their tails because their

- A tails are too often moving fast.
- B tails can't be seen when they fly.
- C tails look the same when they sit.
- D tail feathers are sometimes damaged or missing.

6

What is true of both types of hawks?

- F They have beautiful plumage.
- G The females are larger than the males.
- H They have the same color head.
- J They are both always ready to fight.

7

Other than size, the most important difference between young and old hawks is their

- A diet.
- B behavior.
- C beaks.
- D shapes.

8

What situation would make it easiest to tell a Cooper's hawk from a sharp-shinned hawk?

- F looking at each hawk through a powerful telescope
- G comparing the young of each species as they sit in the nest
- H looking at ten of each type of hawk as they fly together
- J studying an example of each species as they sit in the same tree

9

The author's main purpose in writing this selection was to describe

- A the differences between two kinds of hawks.
- B how difficult it can be to tell the age of a hawk.
- C why it is so hard to tell two kinds of hawks apart.
- D what it takes to become an expert bird-watcher.

10

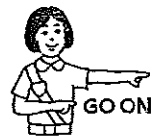
Where should a sentence about the behavior of different hawks be added to this selection?

- F** paragraph one
- G** paragraph two
- H** paragraph four
- J** paragraph five

11

Which of the following words best describes the writing in this selection?

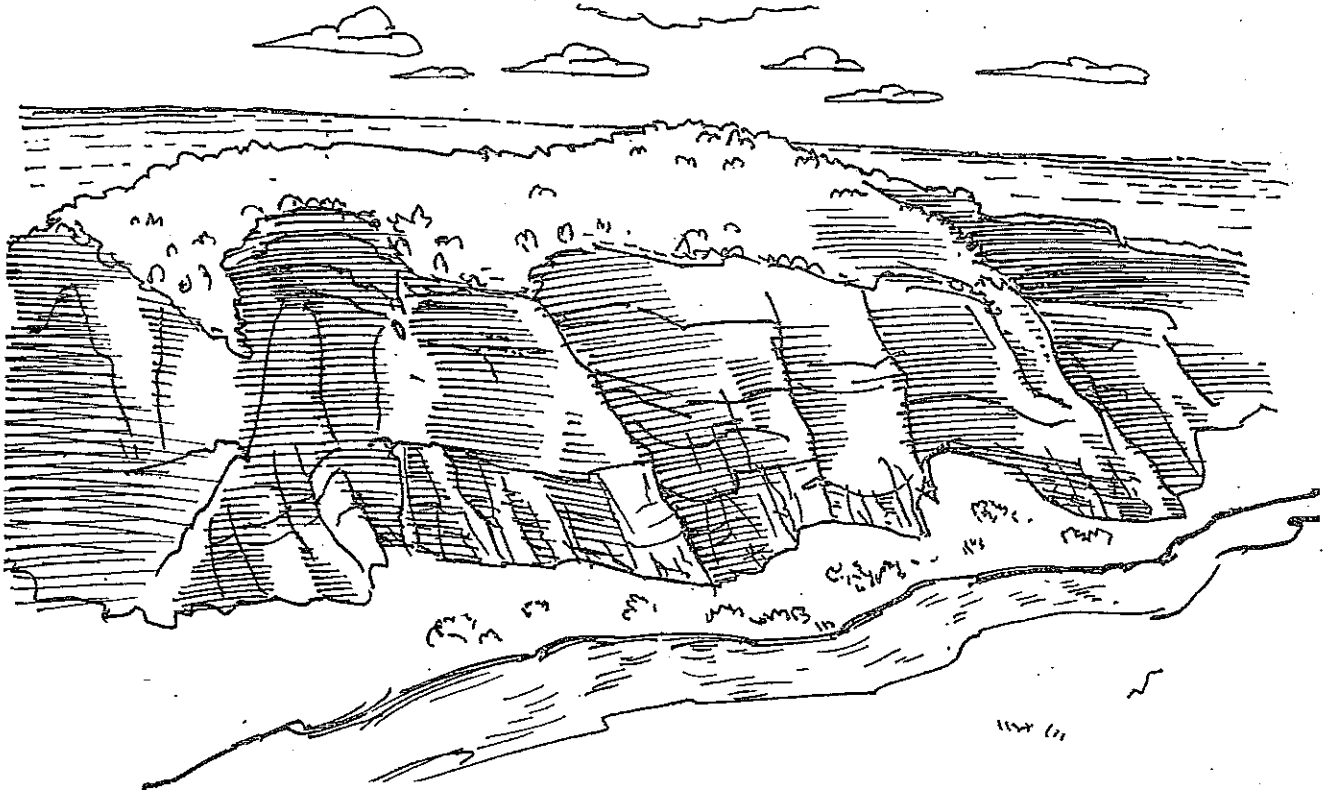
- A** creative
- B** detailed
- C** humorous
- D** inspiring



Directions

This story about a grandfather teaching his grandson the lessons of the hunt takes a different turn. Read the story. Then do Numbers 12 through 22.

The Hunt



It was early morning. Lopa went to the fire pit and stirred the ashes. Flames seemed to pop from nowhere, and he added more wood so that he could boil some bark tea for his grandfather. This was the day his grandfather would take him to the forest and teach him to hunt.

Hours later, Lopa and his grandfather lay high on a bluff watching the river bank for the game that would come there to drink. There could be deer or antelope, which were hard to sneak up on, or there might be wild pigs. There could also be muskrat and otter, or river ducks. And on this day all they would do is see the animals, for they carried no weapons. Daka was a wise elder, and he knew that hunting was more about knowing the animals than taking them. He would have Lopa spend many days watching and learning. Whether they saw any game or not, they would talk long into the night about the day and what it meant.

Then Lopa heard it, and his body filled with excitement. He looked at his grandfather, but the elder's face showed no reaction. Lopa listened some more to a sound that started and stopped, sounding like branches scraping overhead, but it came from the river. It grew louder.



Then around the bend swam two large creatures with arms longer than a man is tall, reaching out and pushing through the water. The noise was coming from their arms.

Lopa looked at Daka, but the old man said nothing.

Soon Lopa could see that the creatures were canoes, but not small and swift like those of his people. These were large and slow. They rode low in the water, and they carried eight men or more.

They steered into the bank underneath Lopa and Daka and started taking things from the canoes. They had many boxes and bags. Many had long sticks that they kept with them at all times. The men's bodies were covered with thick, heavy clothing, and it seemed to take them forever to make a camp.

That night when Lopa and his grandfather should have been talking about the animals they had seen, they had nothing to say. They had seen no animals.

Finally, the flames dropped down into the ashes and Lopa asked, "What were those men? What does it mean to have them in our river?"

The elder looked at his grandson and said, "I do not know. We will have to watch and talk and learn together."

12 Why did the author include the campfire scene in the first paragraph?

- F** to tell what was most important to Lopa
- G** to show how Lopa's important day began
- H** to explain how to get a fire started again
- J** to show how excited Lopa was on this day

13 Which words best describe most of Daka's teaching in "The Hunt"?

- A** walking and talking
- B** waiting and watching
- C** thinking and acting
- D** learning and hiding

14 How did the hunt described in paragraph two differ from the hunts Lopa would most likely go on when he grew older?

- F** Lopa and his grandfather did not need food.
- G** Lopa and his grandfather had no weapons.
- H** Lopa and his grandfather failed to catch any animals.
- J** Lopa and his grandfather were not very excited.

15 Based on the selection, what was the grandfather trying to teach Lopa?

- A to move quietly and stay hidden
- B to survive alone in the wilderness
- C to learn the habits of animals
- D to care about other societies

16 In the sentence, "Then around the bend swam two large creatures with arms longer than a man is tall, reaching out and pushing through the water," what is the author trying to show?

- F that Lopa and Daka were afraid of the creatures
- G that Lopa and Daka had not seen boats like these before
- H that Lopa and Daka were being chased by these strangers
- J that Lopa and Daka wished they had a large canoe

17 What was the most likely reason Lopa and his grandfather saw no animals?

- A They were too busy talking about these strangers.
- B There were no animals in the area that day.
- C They were not hunting that day, only looking.
- D The animals were scared off by the strangers.

18 Based on paragraphs six and seven, what did Lopa and Daka consider most important about the strangers?

- F The strangers had canoes that were better than Lopa and Daka's.
- G The strangers brought things Lopa and Daka had never seen before.
- H The strangers disliked nature.
- J The strangers were not at all friendly.

19 When they first heard something coming their way, how did the actions of Lopa and Daka differ?

- A Lopa was less nervous.
- B Daka was more excited.
- C Lopa was less eager.
- D Daka was calmer.



20

Why were Lopa and Daka able to watch the strangers without being seen by them?

- F They were hiding behind trees.
- G They were high above the strangers.
- H They were hiding in the river bank.
- J They were talking very quietly.

21

What does the author suggest with the words, "the flames dropped down into the ashes"?

- A The fire was out of control.
- B Lopa was going to fall asleep.
- C It was getting late.
- D Daka had something important to say.

22

How will Lopa and Daka most likely spend the next day?

- F moving their village
- G greeting the strangers
- H hunting somewhere else
- J watching the strangers

PART 2: VOCABULARY

Directions

Mark your answer choice for Numbers 23 through 32.

23

He added some shavings of bark and *strands* of grass. What is another word for *strands*?

- A piles
- B hairs
- C clumps
- D blades

24

Lopa and his grandfather lay high on a *bluff* watching the river bank. What is another word for *bluff*?

- F cliff
- G beach
- H tower
- J branch

25

As Lopa watched the river, a sound grew *louder*. What word means the opposite of *louder*?

- A bigger
- B higher
- C quieter
- D noisier

26

Lopa and his grandfather lay watching for the *game* that would come there to drink. In the sentence above, *game* means

- F play.
- G contest.
- H plan.
- J animals.

27

The Cooper's hawk and the sharp-shinned hawk are very *similar*. What word means the opposite of *similar*?

- A alike
- B different
- C usual
- D difficult

28

Sharp-shinned hawks can be *aggressive* toward other birds. What word means the opposite of *aggressive*?

- F surprising
- G forceful
- H outgoing
- J gentle

29

Adult hawks are *obviously* bigger than young hawks. Which phrase could best replace the word *obviously*?

- A of course
- B at times
- C considered to be
- D by a large amount

30

Even bird *experts* disagree on sightings. What word means the opposite of *experts*?

- F professionals
- G students
- H citizens
- J amateurs

31

The feathers, or *plumage*, of these adult hawks are nearly the same. What does *plumage* mean?

- A wings of a hawk
- B size of a hawk
- C colors of a bird
- D feathers of a bird

32

Do not feel badly if you cannot *distinguish* these two birds. The word *distinguish* in this sentence means

- F honor.
- G locate.
- H tell apart.
- J communicate with.



PART 3: GRAMMAR, USAGE, MECHANICS

Directions

Mark your answer choice for Numbers 33 through 40.

For Numbers 33 through 37, mark the answer choice that correctly completes the sentence.

33 Mrs. Thompson asked _____ to rake her yard.

- A Joe and me
- B Joe and I
- C me and him
- D I and him

34 After she had spent three weeks with the Smiths, Sarah liked living with _____.

- F his
- G they
- H he
- J them

35 _____ went to the store.

- A Me and her
- B She and I
- C They and me
- D Her and I

36 Is _____ going with me?

- F her
- G he
- H they
- J you

37 Alice is someone _____ has trouble making up her mind.

- A who
- B she
- C which
- D whom

38 Which sentence is written correctly?

- F When it's hot outside, the babies cry.
- G When it's hot outside, the baby's cry.
- H When its hot outside, the babies cry.
- J When its hot outside, the baby's cry.

39 Which sentence is written correctly?

- A Todd and Jay had mud on his shoes.
- B Todd and Jay had mud on its shoes.
- C Todd and Jay had mud on theirs shoes.
- D Todd and Jay had mud on their shoes.

40 Which sentence is written correctly?

- F She and I was happy.
- G They was happy.
- H She were happy.
- J They were happy.