

SAMPLE PAGES FOR

S O U T H C A R O L I N A

4TH GRADE READING

THIRD EDITION

CHALLENGE THE

PALMETTO **A**CHIEVEMENT **C**HALLENGE **T**EST

BY

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CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHING COMPANY OF RALEIGH, INC.

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DESCRIPTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

DESCRIPTIONS

Sometimes the reader may be asked to describe a character or emotion.

EXAMPLES

Jane got out of bed at 5:00 a.m. She made her bed, dressed, ate breakfast, and started cleaning the house. At 9:00 a.m., she went to the store to buy groceries. When she got home, she started preparing a meal for her family.

How would you describe Jane in one word? [1] _____

The answer could be “busy,” since she is doing so many jobs around the house.

WRITING A LOGICAL CONCLUSION

Sometimes an author will not give the reader an ending to a story. The author leaves the reader to decide what happens in the conclusion.

EXAMPLE

Tyler was enjoying the soccer game. He was watching the game from the stands with his best friend. Suddenly, he heard a cracking noise from under his seat. What was going on?

How might the author finish this story? [2]

One answer could be “Tyler and his friend fell to the ground when the board they were sitting on cracked.”

PRACTICE

Read each passage and answer the questions that follow.

A FLEA AND A FLY

A flea and a fly in a flue
Were imprisoned, so what could they do?
Said the fly, "Let us flee,"
Said the flea, "Let us fly,"
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

1. How would you finish this poem? [2]

2. How would you describe the flea and the fly? [1]

ARCTIC EXPLORER

Matthew Henson was born in 1867 on a farm near Ellicott, Maryland. He began a nautical career as a companion to a young naval officer by the name of Richard E. Peary. He was the only man to accompany Admiral Peary on all of his polar expeditions. Henson was an expert at managing dogsleds and the frozen terrain and, most of all, at understanding the Eskimos, who made up the working parties on the many expeditions necessary before the final moment of success. On that day, April 6, 1909, Peary was barely able to walk. Therefore, Henson went ahead of him, becoming the first man to actually reach the North Pole. After Henson took a reading of his position, Peary arrived and proudly planted the U.S. flag.

When Matthew Henson and Admiral Peary reached the North Pole, every major newspaper in the world reported the news event.

3. What would be a logical conclusion for this story? [2]

4. What word best describes Matthew Henson? [1]

THE WOODMAN AND THE SERPENT

One wintery day, a Woodman was tramping home from his work when he saw something black lying in the snow. When he came closer, he saw it was a Serpent, to all appearances dead. But he took it up and put it inside his coat to warm while he hurried home. As soon as he got indoors, he put the Serpent down on the hearth before the fire. His children watched and saw it slowly come to life again. Then one of them stooped down to stroke it, but the Serpent raised its head and put out its fangs and was about to sting the child. So the Woodman seized his axe and, with one stroke, cut the Serpent in two. "Ah," said he, "No gratitude from the wicked."

5. How would you describe the woodman? [1]

6. What would be a logical conclusion for this story? [2]

HERE WE COME A-PIPING

Here we come a-piping,
In Springtime and in May;
Green fruit a-ripening
And Winter fled away.
The Queen she sits upon the strand,
Fair as lily, white as wand;
Seven billows on the sea,
Horses riding fast and free,
And bells beyond the sand.

7. How would you describe the Queen? [1]

THE LION'S SHARE

The Lion once went a-hunting along with the Fox, the Jackal, and the Wolf. They hunted and hunted till at last they surprised a Stag, and soon took its life. Then came the question of how the spoil should be divided.

“Quarter me this Stag,” roared the Lion, so the other animals skinned it and cut it into four parts. Then the Lion took his stand in front of the carcass and pronounced judgment: “The first quarter is for me in my capacity as King of Beasts; the second is mine as Arbiter; another share comes to me for my part in the chase; and as for the fourth quarter, well, as for that, I should like to see which of you will dare to lay a paw upon it.”

“Humph,” grumbled the Fox, as he walked away with his tail between his legs; but he spoke in a low growl. “You may share the labors of the great, but you will not share the spoil.”

8. How would you describe the lion? [1]

9. What could be a logical conclusion to this story? [2]

ACCIDENT

Margaret's family got into the car to go to her grandmother's house. As they were riding along the road, they noticed a big truck crossing the highway. Her father noticed the truck, but did not slow down. Suddenly, the truck stopped in the middle of the road. It could not go any further with its flat tire.

10. How would you describe how Margaret and her family felt? [1]

11. How could the story end? [2]

REVIEW

Answer each “description and conclusion” question.

THE TRAGEDY OF MAURICE STOKES

He was big and strong. He moved like a cat. But under the basket, he was like a machine. He would jump and take the ball away from bigger men. This man was born to be a basketball player.

His name was Maurice Stokes. He was 6 feet, 7 inches tall. He weighed 240 pounds. He looked like a giant football player. But basketball was his game.

All by himself, he put his college on the map. You may not have heard of St. Francis College in Loretto, Pennsylvania. But in the early 1950s, nearly everyone knew about it. That was because Maurice Stokes went there.

Coaches called him Maurice the Magnificent. His friends called him Mo. The other teams called him super. Stokes could do it all—shoot, drive, pass. He may have been one of the best all-around players ever.

Mo went on to the pros. The Rochester Royals picked him.

“He’s going to be a great pro,” they said. “He has a great shooting touch. And he’s a super rebounder.”

They were right. Mo was named as the best first-year player in the league. Why not? He averaged 16.8 points per game. That was the 11th best in the league. He was also the number-two rebounder. It looked as though he had many good years ahead of him.

The second year was just as good. He was the best rebounder (17.4). He scored well (15.6). And, among the big men, no one passed nearly as well. Big Mo was a second-team All-Pro.

Stokes got better and better. His third year, the team moved to Cincinnati. The fans filled the arena to see him.

Then, one night, it was all over. On a plane coming back from a game, he got sick. His head got very hot. He could not move.

They took Mo right to the doctor. “It’s encephalitis,” he said. “It’s a sickness of the brain. I’m afraid that it’s very bad.”

Stokes was a fighter. It was a good thing. He needed all the fight he could find. For years, he tried to learn how to talk and eat. Most of all, he tried to walk. Everything was hard.

Mo’s friend and teammate, Jack Twyman, was a big help. He made sure Stokes’s doctor was paid. He took care of Mo. He was there every day.

Everything Mo tried to do was tough. But he kept fighting. He moved around in a wheelchair. He fed himself. It was hard, so hard.

The fight finally became too much. At age 36, he had a heart attack. Most players retire around age 36. Mo died.

He might have been one of the greats. No one will ever know.

- All of the following describe Maurice Stokes except _____.
 - (A) big
 - (B) strong
 - (C) angry
 - (D) catlike

2. What could be a possible “good” ending for this story?
- Ⓐ Jack Twyman became Mo’s friend.
 - Ⓑ Maurice Stokes died.
 - Ⓒ Maurice was a fighter.
 - Ⓓ A miracle cure was found for Mo, and he returned to play basketball.
3. Which word best describes Jack Twyman?
- Ⓐ angry
 - Ⓑ helpless
 - Ⓒ helpful
 - Ⓓ sickly

A WHACKETY-WHACK

The morning newspaper, the *Citizen*, reported an instance of haunted furniture. The Reverend and Mrs. Grady Hamby have a wardrobe that cracks and pops. It is a beautifully finished piece in walnut. The noise it makes is like someone striking the side of the house. As a matter of fact, that is what the owners first thought it was, until they finally located the source of the sound in the wardrobe. They have investigated time and time again but have never been able to find the exact cause of the noise that comes from the piece of furniture. And this has been going on for twenty years.

4. All of the following describe the sounds the wardrobe makes except _____.
- Ⓐ cracking
 - Ⓑ popping
 - Ⓒ striking
 - Ⓓ musical
5. Which of the following best describes the cause of the noise that comes from the wardrobe?
- Ⓐ investigating
 - Ⓑ magical
 - Ⓒ unknown
 - Ⓓ ghostly

ALIEN INVASION?

On Thursday, October 11, 1973, Charles Hickson, 42, and Calvin Parker, 19, were on the bank of the Pascagoula River, Mississippi, fishing. Around 7 P.M., they heard a buzzing sound. Hickson reported seeing a flashing, bright blue light. Suddenly, it stopped. Three “creatures” were coming out of the object as it was hovering over the ground. Quickly, Hickson was lifted off the ground by two of the “creatures” grabbing him by the arm.

A Biloxi television station reported that Hickson was transported to the object where he was examined by an instrument, resembling an eye, covering his whole body. The object was 10 feet square with an 8-foot ceiling and was shaped like a fish. The “creatures” had silvery-gray skin (real wrinkled), no hair, pointy ears and noses, and a mouth opening. They had large eyes and claw-like hands. The only sound heard from the “creatures” was a buzzing, humming sound.

6. All of the following describe what Hickson saw except_____.
- Ⓐ real wrinkled
 - Ⓑ bright blue light
 - Ⓒ humming sound
 - Ⓓ silvery-gray skin

7. What could be a logical conclusion to this story?
- Ⓐ Hickson woke up and realized he had been dreaming.
 - Ⓑ Hickson lived in outer space for 10 years.
 - Ⓒ Hickson invited Parker to come on board the ship.
 - Ⓓ Hickson died from the shock of seeing an alien.

ROBERT ARNOLD

Robert Arnold, a hunter, was walking in the Dismal Swamp looking for deer. Instead, he noticed snakes coming toward him from every direction.

Over in a corner was a lump of snakes as large as a barrel. He estimated that there were at least 500 in the lump.

Robert stepped back and fired both barrels of his gun at the lump. The snakes untangled themselves. He counted 150 dead and many more wounded. One of the dead matched the length of his tale—twenty-three feet.

8. Which of the following describes Robert Arnold?
- Ⓐ brave
 - Ⓑ funny
 - Ⓒ truth stretcher
 - Ⓓ snakelike

OLD DAN TUCKER

Born in London in 1714, Dan Tucker was brought by his parents to North America six years later. In 1740, he married Margaret DeVane and moved inland, and there near a spring he built his cabin. Since he had no nails, he used wooden pegs to hold the cabin together. This experience proved to him that man could get along very well without many of the things thought to be essential. He became very, very thrifty. He washed his face in a frying pan instead of a bowl, and instead of a comb he used a wagon wheel—or so his neighbors said as they began making up humorous songs about him.

Dan Tucker was kind and honest, ever eager to help his friends, whom he often visited. But never would he accept an invitation to supper, believing that he should provide for himself rather than eating his neighbors' food.

Because of this, they began to sing that he always came too late to get his supper.

One morning, while plowing in the field, he stepped on a tiny sharp rock, which became imbedded in his heel. With an unclean pocket knife, he cut the stone out and as a result fell victim to lockjaw. A few days later he died "with a toothache in his heel" as the song puts it.

In spite of his odd and curious ways, Dan Tucker was loved and respected, especially for the square deals he always gave his friends.

Old Dan Tucker was a fine old man;
He washed his face in the frying pan;
On Christmas morning he got drunk
And fell in the fire and kicked up a
 chunk.
Get out of the way, Old Dan Tucker;
You've come too late to get your supper.

Old Dan Tucker ate raw eel
And combed his hair with a wagon
 wheel.
He gave his neighbors the squarest deal
And died with a toothache in his heel.
Get out of the way, Old Dan Tucker;
You've come too late to get your supper.

9. Which of the following does not describe Dan Tucker?
- (A) essential
 - (B) kind
 - (C) thrifty
 - (D) honest
10. Which words describe why Dan Tucker would not accept an invitation to supper?
- (A) too independent
 - (B) too unclean
 - (C) too thrifty
 - (D) too late
11. Which word describes the deal Dan Tucker gave his neighbors?
- (A) humorous
 - (B) raw
 - (C) lockjaw
 - (D) square

THE SQUIRREL

Whisky, frisky,
Hippity hop,
Up he goes
To the tree top!

Whirly, twirly,
Round and round,
Down he scampers
To the ground.

Furly, curly,
What a tail!
Tall as a feather,
Broad as a sail!

Where's his supper?
In the shell,
Snappity, crackity,
Out it fell!

12. All of the following describe the squirrel's tail except which word?
- (A) furly
 - (B) round
 - (C) curly
 - (D) broad
13. All of the following describe how the squirrel got to the treetop except which one?
- (A) whisky
 - (B) hoppity hop
 - (C) scampering
 - (D) frisky
14. Which word best describes the squirrel?
- (A) playful
 - (B) hungry
 - (C) nasty
 - (D) nervous

HOSTILE COUNTRIES

At the end of World War II, the friendship between the US and the Soviet Union became very cold and hostile. These two nations had come out of the war as superpowers with large populations and armies.

The countries were very different. The US government had a democracy, and the Soviet government was communist. The Soviets wanted to expand and control most of Europe. The US wanted to control the power of the Soviets.

Both the US and the Soviet Union had nuclear weapons. They did not want a war. A Cold War happened, though. This war was an agreement between the US and the Soviet Union that there would not be an all-out war at any time.

- 15. All of the following describe the Soviets except which one?
 - (A) controlling
 - (B) Communists
 - (C) Democrats
 - (D) superpower

- 16. Which of the following does not describe Americans?
 - (A) controlling
 - (B) Democratic
 - (C) superpower
 - (D) Communists

SATURDAY NIGHT

On her trip to the mall, Mrs. Brickhouse saw two men running from the hardware store. In their hands were power tools. As Mrs. Brickhouse drove by, she heard them bragging about how easy it was to break into the back door of the store. This really upset her.

- 17. What would be an ending for this story that would make Mrs. Brickhouse feel better? Use complete sentences. [2]

- 18. Describe how the men were feeling as Mrs. Brickhouse passed them. Use complete sentences. [1]

- 19. How might Mrs. Brickhouse describe the men? Explain. Use complete sentences. [1]
