

# Grade 5 Reading Practice Test

## TYPES

### Which are you--an A? or a Z?

There are only two types of people in the world. Type A and Type Z. It isn't hard to tell which type you are. How long before the plane leaves do you arrive at the airport?

Early plane catchers, Type A, pack their bags at least a day in advance, and they pack neatly. If they're booked on a flight that leaves at four in the afternoon, they get up at five-thirty that morning. If they haven't left the house by noon, they're worried about missing the plane.

Late plane catchers, Type Z, pack hastily at the last minute and arrive at the airport too late to buy a newspaper.

What do you do with a new book? Type A reads more carefully and finishes every book, even though it isn't any good.

Type Z skims through a lot of books and is more apt to write in the margins with a pencil.

Type A eats a good breakfast: Type Z grabs a cup of coffee.

1. This passage is

- A. scientific
- B. emotional
- C. amusing
- D. persuasive

2. Judging by this piece, what is the purpose of an essay?

- A. to give a personal view of a situation
- B. to argue for or against an issue
- C. to give an unbiased view of a situation
- D. to predict what will happen in certain situations

3. What would be a good description of a Type A person?

- A. cautious and careful
- B. stubborn and opinionated
- C. carefree and joyful
- D. optimistic and hopeful

4. "*Come experience America's classic musical!*"

Which word in this sentence shows something belongs to someone or something?

- A. Come
- B. classic
- C. musical
- D. America's

## The Invention of Earmuffs

Chester Greenwood suffered more than most from the problem of cold ears. He grew up in Farmington, Maine, where the winters are long and severe. Everyone's ears were cold there, but Chester's ears, which would turn from vivid red to purple to deathly white to an alarming deep blue, were the talk of the town.

In the winter of 1873, Chester Greenwood got a pair of ice skates for his fifteenth birthday. Eager to try them out, he raced down to the pond and onto the ice, but within minutes a harsh wind sent him running back home with his ears already white and red and ready to turn blue.

People wore socks, boots, gloves, hats, and all kinds of insulated clothing to keep all the parts of the body warm, but the ears, stuck there on the side of the head and exposed to the elements, were a special problem. So on the next day, Chester came up with an idea: he tied a heavy wool scarf around his head, hoping it would keep his ears warm, so he could try skating again. On his way to the pond, his ears were quite snug and warm, but the wool scarf was so itchy that again he had to turn back.

On the third day, Chester tried something different. He made oval loops out of baling wire and asked his grandmother, who lived with the family, to sew pieces of beaver fur on one side of the loops and black velvet on the side that would fit against his ear. She then sewed a wire connecting the loops to Chester's cap.

Chester Greenwood tested his fur-covered ear flaps in the outdoor winter cold, and they worked! His ears remained a healthy shade of pink, and for the rest of the winter Chester skated in comfort. The Farmington neighbors, who had always been interested in his colorful ears, were now more interested in his new-fashioned ear flaps. They wanted a pair of warm ear flaps, so Greenwood's mother and grandmother were soon spending all their spare time cutting, sewing, and bending wire to fill orders.

By the time Chester Greenwood was nineteen, he had improved his design with a flat steel spring to fit over the head and keep the flaps in place, and Greenwood's Ear Protectors were selling throughout New England with people commonly referring to them as "earmuffs." Although two patents had previously been issued--one to William P. Ware in 1858 for an "ear, cheek and chin muff," and one to C. Sedgewick in 1872 for another ear-protecting device--apparently neither invention caught on. Greenwood's earmuffs were much more successful, and he patented his design in 1877. Chester Greenwood is remembered to have said, "I believe perfection has been reached."

The earmuff business prospered, and Greenwood next devised a machine to manufacture his ear protectors, and he opened a factory in town. Farmington soon became the earmuff capital of the world, home of "Greenwood champion ear protectors for use in cold weather." Chester Greenwood went on to become the town's leading citizen.

5. The first paragraph of this article tells about Chester's problem. This is a clue to the reader that later in the article the reader will learn about

- A. other people's problems
- B. Chester's solution
- C. others people's opinions
- D. Chester's family

6. The author reports that people in 1873 wore hats, but ears were a special problem. Which must have been true about hats in 1873?

- A. They were not well insulated.
- B. They were large and unattractive.
- C. They did not cover ears.
- D. They covered ears better than hats today.

7. Which was the main reason Chester needed earmuffs?

- A. to help him skate better
- B. to make money for him
- C. to impress the neighbors
- D. to prevent frostbite

8. Which is the main reason Chester's earmuffs were so successful?

- A. They were stiff but warm.
- B. They were bulky and furry.
- C. They were warm and comfortable.
- D. They were furry but stiff.

### **Georgia Peach**

Sits a Georgia peach.  
It once grew on a tall tree  
High and out of reach.  
The ripe fruit fell on the ground  
Like a present from the sky.  
I picked it up and ran around  
So happy I could fly.  
I took the peach home with me  
As quickly as I could.  
I washed it off and I could see  
The peach would taste so good.  
Now upon a plate it sits  
Fuzzy and round and sweet.  
Here I sit and look at it,  
My very own treat to eat.

9. Calling the peach "a present from the sky" suggests that the speaker

- A. really likes peaches.
- B. was expecting a present.
- C. received a gift box of peaches.
- D. does not know where the peach comes from.

10. In the poem, the speaker does not eat the peach because

- A. the peach still needs to be washed.
- B. the peach is not ripe enough to eat.
- C. opening a present is more fun.
- D. waiting to eat it is exciting.

11. The poet's purpose in writing the poem is to

- A. debate
- B. inform

- C. persuade
- D. entertain

**The Locust**  
**from *On the Move***  
*by Judi Tertini*

Locusts can migrate in swarms of millions of insects. These swarms can be as big as clouds and can block out the Sun, turning day into night.

Locusts live in tropical and subtropical areas of the world. Most species are found in Africa, where they migrate in response to the rainy season. Locusts migrate to a wet, rainy area where they will find plenty of food. Once they reach an area where it is raining, the locusts lay their eggs and then die. By the time the eggs have developed into adults, the rainy season has moved on to a different area. The new swarm gathers and migrates to the new rainy area.

Every few years, huge swarms of locusts gather together and migrate. One swarm may contain millions of locusts, each eating its own weight in vegetation every day. As the swarm moves through an area, the locusts devour everything that is green, often damaging crops. Swarms have been known to tower over two miles into the sky and to cover 100 square miles.

In 1889, a large swarm of desert locusts was seen crossing the Red Sea. The swarm covered about 2,000 square miles. This is the size of Delaware. In the 1930s and 1940s, huge swarms damaged crops in the southwestern states and along the Pacific Coast and also plundered fields east of the Rocky Mountains.

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12. Which statement about locusts is true based on information from the passage?
- A. Locusts are the smartest insects.
  - B. Locusts fly faster than any other creatures.
  - C. Locusts like to eat only plants with large leaves.
  - D. Locusts move to very warm and moist areas.
13. Swarms of locusts in the past have been big enough to cover
- A. Delaware
  - B. Canada
  - C. an ocean
  - D. the Red Sea
14. This passage was written to
- A. examine the migration process
  - B. persuade people to stay away from locusts
  - C. discuss whether or not locusts are dangerous
  - D. tell the reader about the migration of locusts

**Planting Peach Trees**

To plant a peach tree you will need:

- shovel
- bare-root peach tree
- fertilizer
- water hose
- tree stake and tie

Visit a nursery in the springtime to select a peach tree that is good for your area and take it to the planting spot.

Dig a hole more than twice as deep as the tree's roots with the shovel. Mix the fertilizer with the soil from the hole. Make a cone out of the soil in the bottom of the hole so that this will support the tree's roots.

If any roots on the tree are broken, cut them off just above the break. Put the tree into the hole and make sure that the roots make a fan over the cone of soil. The tree should be planted deep enough so the graft, where the young tree is joined to the roots, is two to four inches above the surface of the soil. Add or take out soil until it is just right.

Fill the hole with more of the dirt and fertilizer mixture. When the hole is almost full, fill it with water and let it settle into the soil. Put the support stake in six to ten inches from the trunk and tie the tree to it.

Make sure you water the tree every week. It will soon sprout leaves, but it will take several years before it will produce peaches.

15. In which book would you MOST LIKELY find this passage?

- A. *Our Earth*
- B. *Let's Recycle*
- C. *Dynamic Roses*
- D. *Springtime Gardening*

16. This passage was written to

- A. persuade the reader to plant a peach tree
- B. discuss the importance of planting peach trees
- C. inform the reader of the correct way to plant a peach tree
- D. examine why people plant peach trees a certain way

17. According to the passage, how deep should you dig the hole for the tree?

- A. six to ten feet deep
- B. two to four inches below ground
- C. more than two times as deep as the tree's roots
- D. deep enough to cover just above the broken tree roots

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

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

Grade 5 Reading Answer Key:

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. C
7. D
8. C
9. A
- 10.A
- 11.D
- 12.D
- 13.A
- 14.D
- 15.D
- 16.C
- 17.C
- 18.C