

Test Name: ELA Diagnostic

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Class Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Stork Wife: A Japanese Tale

There once was a young man named Ohiro. He lived in a small village in Japan. Ohiro cut wood for a living. He worked hard every day and always had a smile on his face. Ohiro loved to work alone in the forest.

One day, Ohiro was cutting wood up on the mountain. He was alone as usual when he saw a stork falling down from the sky. He could not believe his eyes. When Ohiro found the stork, he noticed the bird had an arrow stuck in its back.

Ohiro felt sorry for the stork. “Oh you poor thing,” he said. Ohiro carried the wounded bird back to his home. He carefully removed the arrow and then washed the wound. “You will be okay now,” he said to the stork.

Ohiro fed the stork every day. He thought the stork was very beautiful. The bird had white feathers and a long, red bill. Soon the stork was healthy enough to fly again and Ohiro set the bird free. The stork flew away with a smile on its face. Ohiro was sad to see the stork go but he wished the bird well.

A few nights later, someone knocked on Ohiro’s door. Ohiro opened the door and saw a beautiful young woman at the door. He had never seen this

woman before. The young woman said, “Ohiro, I wish to be your wife!” The woman would not take “no” for an answer and Ohiro agreed to marry her.

Now, it turns out that Ohiro’s wife was a wonderful weaver. She asked Ohiro to build her a room to weave her beautiful clothes. “Promise me,” she said, “you will never look inside the room when I am weaving.”

Ohiro thought this request was odd but he agreed. Ohiro sold the clothes his wife made at the market. He became rich. He expected his wife to make more and more clothes. But with each item of clothing that she made, Ohiro’s wife became thinner and thinner. “Please,” she begged of Ohiro, “don’t ask me to weave any more clothes.”

But Ohiro was greedy and he insisted on one last cloth. “All right,” she agreed weakly.

Now Ohiro wanted to see how his wife made her beautiful clothes. He forgot about the promise he had made. He peeked inside the weaving room. Ohiro was stunned to see the stork that he had saved. The stork was plucking her few remaining feathers. She carefully used her beak to weave the feathers into a beautiful cloth.

When Ohiro’s wife was finished, she came out of

the room. "Ohiro, I asked you not to look," she said sadly. "I am the stork you saved and I came here to repay your kindness."

"This is the last length of cloth," she said. "You have seen my true form and now I must go."

Then Ohiro's wife became the stork again, and she sadly flew away into the sky.

1. The first paragraph of the story --

- A describes Japan
- B outlines the plot of the story
- C reveals the moral of the story
- D describes the main character in the story

2. The main purpose of this story is to show that --

- A storks can become humans
- B you should be kind to animals
- C weavers can make a lot of money
- D greed can lead to problems

3. Ohiro probably cut wood in the mountains because --

- A he liked to live alone
- B he liked fresh air
- C that was where most of the trees were
- D he knew he would see storks

4. Which sentence in the story is the first hint that Ohiro's wife might be the stork?

- A "But with each item of clothing that she made, Ohiro's wife became thinner and thinner."
- B "I am the stork you saved and I came here to repay your kindness."
- C "Ohiro was stunned to see the stork plucking her few remaining feathers."
- D "Then Ohiro's wife became the stork again."

5. In the second paragraph, which sentence could best be deleted?

- A "One day, Ohiro was cutting wood up on the mountain."
- B "He was alone as usual when he saw a stork falling down from the sky."
- C "He could not believe his eyes."
- D "When Ohiro found the stork, he noticed the bird had an arrow stuck in its back."

6. The best way to figure out which sentence can be deleted from the second paragraph is to—

- A delete the shortest sentence
- B delete the sentence with plot details
- C read the second paragraph again
- D reread the entire story

## Winter Bird Feeder

During the winter, many birds have trouble finding enough food to eat. The insects and plants that they like to eat may be scarce. To help birds survive the winter you can build them a simple bird feeder. Watching birds feed can be a lot of fun.

To make a winter bird feeder, you will need:

- An empty milk carton
- Scissors
- A needle
- String
- Seeds
- Peanut butter
- Popcorn
- Pinecones

Building a simple feeder:

It may be a good idea to ask an adult to help you. Be careful when using the scissors and needle.

1. Wash out the milk carton and rinse it well.
2. With the scissors, carefully cut two small holes in the sides of the carton. Make your holes about three inches wide. Cut the holes about two inches from the bottom of the carton.
3. Cut or poke two more small holes near the top of the carton. Using the needle, thread a long piece of string through the holes on top.
4. Fill the feeder with seeds and hang it from a tree or shrub.

Attracting the birds:

Be patient. It may take a few days for the birds to find your feeder. Try different locations.

- To help attract the birds, you can scatter some seeds on the ground near your feeder.
- Take a pinecone and spread some peanut butter on it. Hang the pinecone near your feeder with string.
- Using the needle, carefully thread the popcorn onto a string. Hang the popcorn string near your feeder.

Caring for you feeder:

1. Once you begin feeding the birds, it is important that you continue feeding them throughout the winter. Birds become dependent on you and may have trouble finding other sources of food later in the winter.
2. Each day, write down what you see. Later, you can use a book to help identify the many types of birds that visit your feeder.

7. What would be another good title for these instructions?

- A "Birds and Pinecones"
- B "Make a Bird Feeder"
- C "Why Birds Go Hungry"
- D "Feeding Animals"

8. To help attract birds to your feeder, the passage says you should

- A spread peanut butter on a pinecone
- B scatter popcorn on the ground
- C cut two small holes near the top of your feeder
- D spread peanut butter on the bottom of your feeder

9. How can you stop the birds from over-feeding?

- A Stop feeding them in the middle of winter.
- B Give them more popcorn and less seed.
- C Give them more seed and less popcorn.
- D The directions do not say.

10. If you do not have a milk carton, it would probably be best to use

- A a glass jar
- B a plastic soda bottle
- C a milk crate
- D a ceramic mug

11. If the birds become dependent, the passage says you should--

- A stop feeding immediately
- B use only peanut butter
- C take your feeder down for the winter
- D continue feeding until the end of winter

**12.** Which of these statements is the author's opinion?

- A** Watching birds feed is fun.
- B** During the winter, birds have trouble finding enough food to eat.
- C** Birds become dependent on you feeding them.
- D** Scattering seeds on the ground helps to attract birds.

## Native American Birdhouses

Iroquois Indians were very resourceful. They made use of everything in their environment. One example is their creative use of gourds. Gourds are plants that grow from vines but cannot be eaten. Iroquois Indians dried the gourds and used them as pots, as musical instruments, and as decorations. They even made birdhouses out of them. Gourd birdhouses were hung around the garden. The birds that nested in them would eat harmful insects. You can make these gourd birdhouses by following the instructions below.

1. First, you will need a large gourd. You can either buy one or, if you have a garden, you can grow one. Using a child-safe, non-sharp pumpkin carving knife, cut a hole in the gourd about two inches wide. Ask a parent to help you with this.

2. Put the gourd aside until it dries. This may take a week or more.

3. Use a spoon to clean the inside of the gourd.

4. Use paint, markers, string, and beads to decorate your birdhouse.

5. Fill the gourd birdhouse with seed and hang it from a tree. Then watch to see what kinds of birds nest inside.

**13.** To learn more about Iroquois Indians you could --

- A** talk to a birdhouse maker.
- B** read about the history of birdhouses.
- C** study the history of gourds in America.
- D** read about the lifestyle of Iroquois Indians.

**14.** Why should you use paint and markers to decorate the birdhouse?

- A** so the birds will nest in it
- B** so you can see it through the trees
- C** Iroquois Indians decorated their birdhouses
- D** in order to make your birdhouse unique

**15.** Why is the first paragraph included?

- A** to show how Iroquois Indians are resourceful
- B** to explain how to build a gourd birdhouse
- C** to explain why birds are good for a garden
- D** to show where to place your gourd birdhouse

**16.** This story was written in order to help the reader --

- A** learn about Native American life.
- B** build a gourd birdhouse.
- C** understand the struggles of the Iroquois Indians.
- D** learn how to get rid of harmful insects.

**17.** If you have no spoon, you could probably use a --

- A** toothpick
- B** fork
- C** string
- D** rag

## Express Mail

In the 1850's, a letter took three weeks to reach California from New York. Boats and stagecoaches were very slow. There were telegraph lines and railroads but neither reached all the way to California. Then, three people started a transportation company to deliver mail, packages, and important news to Western communities. They called it the Pony Express.

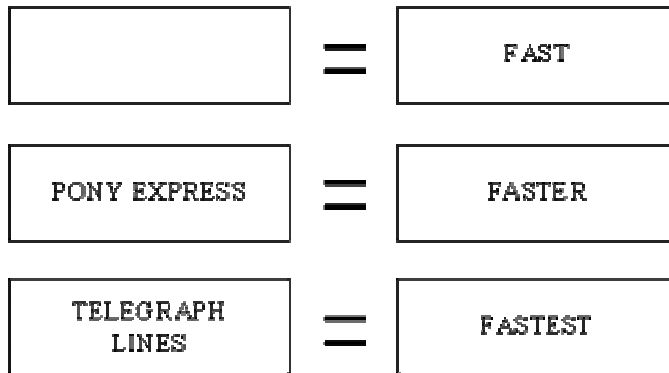
The Pony Express ran from Missouri to California as a relay system with a team of horseback riders. Each rider rode one hundred miles, stopping every fifteenth mile to get a fresh horse. Speed was very important and the horses ran fast over rough terrain. The trail was 2000 miles long and the route took about ten days. News of Abraham Lincoln's Inaugural Address reached the West Coast in the record time of seven days and seventeen hours!

For eighteen months the Pony Express was the strongest link across the country. Small towns and big cities depended on the riders to bring mail and important news. But on October 24, 1861, a telegraph line to the Pacific Coast was completed. This became the quickest way to relay information and the Pony Express came to an end.

18. The article could also be called --
- A "Mail Delivery in California"
  - B "The Telegraph Line of the Pacific Coast"
  - C "The Fastest Riders in the West"
  - D "Why Railroads were Invented"
19. How often did the riders change horses?
- A every ten days
  - B every one hundred miles
  - C every fifteen miles
  - D every seventeen hours
20. Paragraph three talks about which topic?
- A how the telegraph lines work
  - B why the mail took weeks to deliver
  - C why the Pony Express ended
  - D what happened before the Pony Express was created

21. The diagram illustrates a few important points of the article.

**NEWS DELIVERY**



What item belongs in the blank space?

- A riders
- B packages
- C horses
- D boats

- 
22. The communities between Missouri and California relied on the Pony Express for all of these EXCEPT --

- A news
- B mail
- C transport
- D supplies



## The Journey

Hidden in the mist stands the mountain.  
See its peaks disappear in the clouds.  
Climb to its summit. Stand in strong winds.  
Look! Beneath you the earth unfolds.

Surrounding the mountain is a forest.  
Skip down the mountain slope and plunge into its shade.  
Walk amidst the trees.  
Hear the hushed wind.  
Look! A stream gurgles past your feet.  
It calls you out of the forest.

Lapping its banks, the stream gently moves.  
Enter its waters.  
Feel the cool calmness.  
Look! On its shore an orchard beckons.  
The scent finds you and you cannot stay in the water.

Your journey has led you from mountain to forest,  
From forest to stream and from stream to orchard;  
Your appetite builds.  
You rush to the apple trees.  
Look! The fruit hangs heavy on the vines.  
Perhaps you will stay in the orchard forever.

- 23.** Instead of the word "lapping" in the first line of the third stanza, the poet could have written --

**A** touching  
**B** washing against  
**C** overflowing  
**D** crashing

- 24.** The traveler in this poem is probably a --

**A** sick woman  
**B** mountain climber  
**C** lost child  
**D** person alone in nature

- 25.** What does this poem describe?

**A** a mountain region  
**B** animals  
**C** a journey  
**D** a character

- 26.** It is clear in the poem that --

**A** the traveler is afraid to climb the mountain.  
**B** the speaker is sad.  
**C** the speaker sees the beauty in all of nature.  
**D** the traveler is tired.

- 27.** The third stanza describes a --

**A** swift-moving sea  
**B** calm stream  
**C** shady forest  
**D** sunny orchard

28. Which of the following best describes the tone of the poem?

- A fearful
- B tense
- C loud
- D relaxed

## DIRECTIONS

Read the next two selections. Then answer the questions that follow them.

### The Broken River of Chiang Kao

1. The peaceful kingdom of Chiang Kao was located at the foot of the Great Northern Mountains. The sparkling Maynam River flowed down from these mountains. The river brought life to the kingdom. It was a very important river. It almost never rained in Chiang Kao. Rice, tropical fruits, and plump vegetables grew along the river's banks. Delicious fish were plentiful. They almost jumped out of the river and into fisher-persons' baskets.
2. Life was easy in the kingdom. The people needed to work just a few mornings each week. The rest of the time was free. They could build crafts, play sports, or just splash about in the river.
3. Then the unimaginable happened. One day the river suddenly stopped flowing. At first, no one was too worried. People gathered along the dry riverbed and thought about why the river was broken. Some people thought that a giant boulder had rolled into the river, stopping it like a cork. Others thought that unusually cold weather in the mountains had frozen the river solid, holding it captive.
4. No one dared think that the river had stopped flowing for good. Everyone expected it to begin to flow again.
5. It did not. For weeks, the riverbed was dry. Crops wilted in the parched fields. Fruit trees died. There were no fish to be found. The kingdom was beginning to run out of food.
6. The people of Chiang Kao were desperate, but the leaders did not know what to do. Even the king and queen had no good ideas. Finally a young woman named Nareen did something very extraordinary. She hiked north to the top of the mountains. When she got there, she found that a rockslide had diverted the river so that it flowed into a different valley.
7. Nareen was the daughter of fisher-folk. She was strong and able. And she cared a great deal about the people in Chiang Kao. One by one,

Nareen removed the heavy rocks blocking the river. Little by little, the river began flowing again into the proper valley.

8. By the time she hiked down the mountains, everyone was happy. They saw that the river was flowing again. That evening, Nareen humbly told everyone what she did. The entire kingdom thanked her.

### When the Antelope Vanished

1. The Malindi lived in the heart of the high plains in a distant land. Not much grew on the cold plains except gnarly old thorn trees and bitter grasses. Nonetheless, the people lived well. Several times each year, huge herds of antelope roamed across the plains. The Malindi had an unlimited supply of meat and hides.

2. They dried and salted the meat to preserve it. They used the hides to make clothes and tents. They even used the bones to make needles and buttons. Antelope provided all that the Malindi needed.

3. When they were not hunting or preparing the meat and hides, the Malindi gathered around their campfires. They told tales, sang songs, and danced. Life was good for the Malindi.

4. Then the unimaginable happened. The antelope stopped coming. Every day hunters waited for the antelope to return and listened for the rumble of a thousand hooves. But the herds did not come. Days became weeks, and weeks became months and months.

5. The Malindi sat around their campfires as usual, but their mood was different. There was no singing or dancing anymore. Instead, they asked themselves why the antelope had not come. Finally, a wise old man named Keem had an idea. He suggested that a pair of young hunters go out in each direction to search for the antelope. Everyone agreed that Keem had a good idea.

6. The next morning, twelve pairs of young hunters set out in each direction of the compass. Two of Keem's own grandchildren, a boy named Bram and a girl named Sarin, went out. Bram and Sarin were good hunters. They went north as a pair.

7. A couple of days later, almost all of the young hunters had returned. None had seen any sign of the antelope. During the evening of the third day, the last of the young hunters—except for Bram and Sarin—had returned. The Malindi were gathered around the night fire. Although he didn't show it, old man Keem was worried about his grandchildren.

8. Then, far in the distance, people heard hooting and shouting. A few minutes later, Bram and Sarin approached the group, out of breath and looking a little worn. They had found the antelope! Bram and Sarin explained that the herds were located about two days' journey to the north.

9. Everyone was happy. Keem slowly nodded at Bram and Sarin, and they grinned back at their grandfather. Some of the people wanted to leave immediately to go hunting. Keem had a different idea. He suggested that the Malindi move their entire village up north so that they could be closer to the antelope. Everyone agreed that Keem had a good idea.

29. Use "*The Broken River of Chiang Kao*" to answer the following question.

In paragraph 5, the word parched means —

- A rocky
- B fertile
- C dry
- D moist

30. Use *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* and *"When the Antelope Vanished"* to answer the following question.

After Nareen and Keem's grandchildren return, how do the people of Chiang Kao and the Malindi act similarly?

- A Both peoples are very happy.
- B Both peoples are still concerned about their problems.
- C Both peoples see that the river is flowing again.
- D Both peoples want to go hunting.

31. Use *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* to answer the following question.

Which sentence best shows that life was easy before the river stopped flowing?

- A *The sparkling Maynam River flowed down from these mountains.*
- B *The kingdom was beginning to run out of food.*
- C *The people needed to work just a few mornings each week.*
- D *Even the king and queen had no good ideas.*

32. Use *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* to answer the following question.

Look at this web about Nareen.



Which of these belongs in the empty circle?

- A Plants tropical fruit
  - B Is the daughter of rice farmers
  - C Is the princess of the kingdom
  - D Is the daughter of fisher-folk
33. Use *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* to answer the following question.

In paragraph 1, the author writes that fish "almost jumped out of the river" to show that the fish were —

- A able to jump
- B easy to catch
- C tamed by humans
- D difficult to catch

34. Use *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* and *"When the Antelope Vanished"* to answer the following question.

What is one difference between Nareen and Sarin?

- A Nareen is a girl.
- B Sarin looks for antelope.
- C Nareen wants to help her people.
- D Sarin is strong and able.

- 35.** Use *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* to answer the following question.

Why does Nareen hike to the top of the mountains?

- A** She wants to find out why the river is not flowing.
- B** She wants to get away from the kingdom, where everyone is complaining.
- C** She wants to enjoy the majestic views.
- D** She was told to go by her mother and father.

- 36.** Use *"When the Antelope Vanished"* to answer the following question.

Why was it important for the Malindi to live near the antelope herds?

- A** Very little grew on the high plains, so the Malindi relied upon the antelope.
- B** They needed to guard the antelope herds from wolves and other predators.
- C** They had to prevent the antelope herds from eating the bitter grasses on the plains.
- D** They had to follow the antelope herds into the valley during the winter.

- 37.** Use *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* and *"When the Antelope Vanished"* to answer the following question.

How is Nareen in *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* like Bram in *"When the Antelope Vanished"*?

- A** Both walk north.
- B** Both are girls.
- C** Both are young hunters.
- D** Both are weak.

- 38.** Use *"When the Antelope Vanished"* to answer the following question.

Why was Keem worried about his grandchildren?

- A** Bram and Sarin did not know that the Malindi had moved camp.
- B** Bram and Sarin did not know how to prepare meat.
- C** Bram and Sarin had not yet returned from their search.
- D** Bram and Sarin were poor hunters.

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39. Use *"The Broken River of Chiang Kao"* and *"When the Antelope Vanished"* to answer the following question.

Look at the chart comparing the two stories.

Story Differences	
The Broken River of Chiang Kao	When the Antelope Vanished
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The people rely on the river.</li><li>• The river stops flowing.</li><li>• Nareen fixes the river.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• The antelope stop coming.</li><li>• Bram and Sarin find the antelope.</li></ul>

Which of these best completes the chart?

- A The people rely on the bitter grasses.
  - B The people rely on the antelope.
  - C The people rely on the river.
  - D The people enjoy going fishing.
40. Use *"When the Antelope Vanished"* to answer the following question.

Keem nodded at Bram and Sarin to show that he —

- A was proud of them
- B was annoyed with them
- C did not trust them
- D recognized who they were