Name: _____   Date: _____

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Pretest

Directions: Read the passage, and then follow the directions for problems 1–5.

> The conductor stands on a platform. All the musicians have their eyes on the conductor. Then, at the first movement of the baton, the orchestra begins to play. During the concert, there are intervals of loud and soft sounds. The pace may change from fast to slow. Different instruments may be highlighted. Performing a symphony is a complex task. The conductor must know every part of the musical arrangement and be able to cue each player. Each musician must not only be skilled at reading music and playing an instrument but also be able to follow and respond to the conductor's precise gestures.

1. Think about the different kinds of writing and their purposes. Then, choose the type of writing and purpose of this paragraph.

    A narrative, to entertain readers   **C** persuasive, to convince readers

    B expository, to entertain readers   **D** expository, to inform readers

2. Using evidence from the text, support your answer above.

_____

_____

3. Which of these sentences describes the main ideas of the paragraph? Mark all that apply.

    A Performing a symphony is a complex task.

    B During the concert, there are intervals of loud and soft sounds.

    C The conductor must know every part of the musical arrangement and be able to cue each player.

    D Musicians are talented.

4. The first word in each pair below is used in the story. In some of the pairs, the second word is a synonym of the first. Mark the choice(s) in which the second word is *not* a synonym of the first.

    A pace, tempo   **C** gesture, close

    B precise, exact   **D** baton, stick

Name: _____   Date: _____

5. Give two details from the text that support the conclusion below.

> Being a conductor is hard work.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Directions: Read the poem, and then answer questions 6 and 7.

What if I weren't plain old me
And I could be what I want to be
Living wherever I want and then
Doing whatever I please, and when?

I could be a shining knight
On a royal steed of white.
In dazzling garments I'd be dressed
A golden shield upon my chest.
A legend I could surely be
Plus rich and famous, naturally.

Or,
A navy sailor I could be
The captain, with authority!
My uniform decked out in gold
With medals shining bright and bold.
A hero I could surely be
Plus brave and strong, obviously.

Or,
I could be a handsome king
A crown of pearls and diamond ring
A purple robe and staff of gold
A royal sight to behold.
Stately I could surely be
Plus fair and expert, certainly.

However,

If I had to choose for real
The one that has the most appeal
Has to be just plain old me
The somebody I'm meant to be.

6. What does the word *steed* mean, as used in the poem?

   Ⓐ   a small ship   Ⓒ   a throne

   Ⓑ   a horse   Ⓓ   hero

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Pretest *(cont.)*

7. Which phrases from the poem support the idea that the narrator is happiest as themself? Select all that apply.

    (A)   a hero I could surely be   (C)   the somebody I'm meant to be

    (B)   just plain old me   (D)   whatever I please

8. Read the excerpt and complete the task below and questions 9 and 10.

Excerpt from a Letter from Ben Franklin to his Daughter, January 26, 1784

For my part, I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen to represent our country. He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead tree near the river where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk. Then, when that hard-working bird has taken a fish and is bringing it to his nest to support his family, the bald eagle steals it from him….

In truth, the turkey is a much more respectable bird and a true native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey is unique to ours…. It is a bird of courage that would not hesitate to attack a British soldier who should come into his farmyard with a red coat on.

     Ben Franklin would have preferred that the turkey had been chosen as America's symbol rather than the bald eagle. Read the two sets of words. Circle one word in each column that Ben Franklin thought best describes each bird.

Bald Eagle	Turkey
comical	serious
dishonest	unique
sad	happy
harmful	safe

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Pretest *(cont.)*

9. At the time this was written, the United States was a newly formed country that had just won its independence from the British. While talking about birds, Ben Franklin reveals how he feels about the British. Which statement best describes Ben Franklin's views?

- (A) Like eagles, British soldiers are not respectable.
- (B) British soldiers have no business being on American soil.
- (C) Birds should be used to attack British soldiers.
- (D) British soldiers use eagles as their mascot.

10. What kind of figurative language does the author use in the following sentence?

> *He is a bird of bad moral character.*

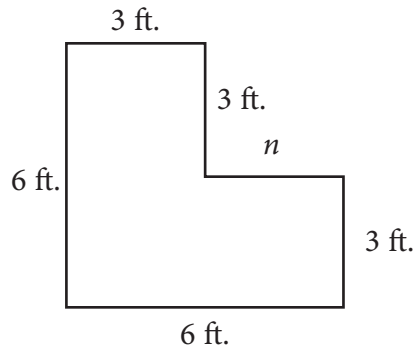- (A) simile
- (B) rhyme
- (C) personification
- (D) onomatopoeia

Directions: Underline the coordinate adjectives in the sentences, and add commas where they belong.

11. The noisy muddy sheep filled the corral next to the barn.

12. I took a wild swing at the enormous colorful pinata.

13. He spilled soda all over the perfect polished final draft of his report.

Name: _____   Date: _____

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Pretest *(cont.)*

Directions: Solve each problem.

The figure below is drawn to scale.

14. What is the length of side *n*? _____

15. What is the area of the figure in square feet? _____

Directions: Circle the correct word to show whether each number is rational or irrational.
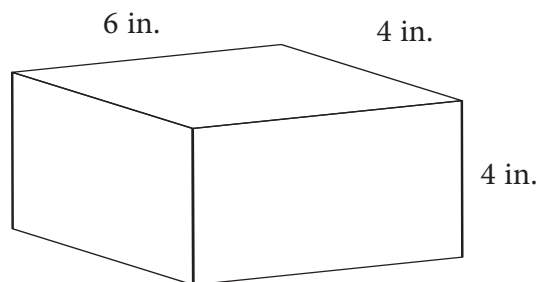
16. $\dfrac{8}{10}$ rational   irrational

17. $2.\overline{7}$ rational   irrational

18. $\sqrt{87}$ rational   irrational

19. $\sqrt{64}$ rational   irrational

---

20. A box is shaped like a rectangular prism. Find the surface area of the box.

Kids Learn! Getting Ready for 8th Grade—Assessments

Go On   **5**

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Pretest *(cont.)*

21. Roanne has a coupon for 30% off any purchase at The Best Store, with a maximum discount of $50. What is the highest purchase price that will receive the full 30% discount? Write an inequality and graph the solution on the number line.

$\longleftrightarrow$

---

22. Annika went to a bead fair. She spent $4 on the entry fee, and then bought some beads. Each bead at the fair was priced at $0.75. Annika spent $16 altogether. How many beads did she buy?

    (A) 13   **(C)** 15

    (B) 14   **(D)** 16

Directions: Flip a coin 20 times. Record your results in a table. Use your data to answer the questions.

23. Based on your results, what is the experimental probability of landing on heads? _____

24. Based on your experimental probability, how many times would you expect to land on tails if you flipped a coin 200 times? _____

25. How could you find the probability of landing on heads or landing on tails without actually flipping the coin? _____

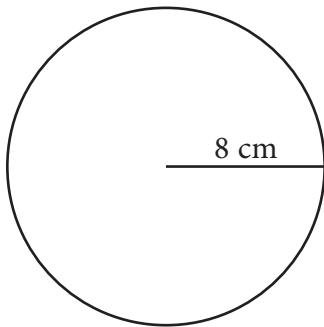**26.** Alex's recipe calls for $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of chocolate chips for every 2 cups of flour. Complete the table.

Flour	Chocolate chips
2	$\frac{1}{3}$
3	
4	$\frac{2}{3}$
5	

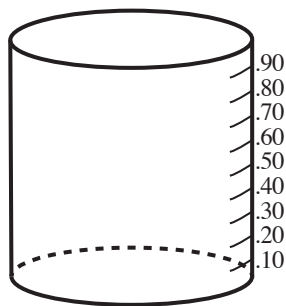Write an equation to represent the proportion. _____

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Pretest *(cont.)*

27. Ronan does not want to pay more than $25.00 for a new sweater. Select all of the following descriptions for prices of sweaters Ronan would buy.

A 35% off a $35 sweater plus $4 shipping

B 20% off a $30 sweater

C 30% off a $30 sweater plus $6 shipping

D A $20 sweater with $5 shipping

E 10% off a $20 sweater plus $6 shipping

---

8 cm

28. What is the area of the circle? _____

29. What is the volume of a sphere with a radius of 8 cm? _____

---

30. Heidi mixes 40 gallons of punch for the school dance by mixing 12 gallons of concentrate with 28 gallons of water. Which part of every gallon is from concentrate? The model represents 1 gallon of mixed punch. Color the bars to represent how much of each gallon is from concentrate.

.90
.80
.70
.60
.50
.40
.30
.20
.10

Stop

Name: _____   Date: _____

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Posttest

Directions: Read the passage, and then follow the directions for problems 1–5.

Do you like chocolate? It is a rare person who doesn't. Most people think that chocolate is one of the best tastes there is. However, for centuries, chocolate was anything but sweet. The first proven use of chocolate was by the Maya about 2,000 years ago. These native people of Mexico would grind up cacao seeds and then mix them with water, chile peppers, and other ingredients. The result was a drink that was foamy and spicy–and quite bitter. It wasn't until the 1600s that the Spanish discovered this uniquely Mexican product. It would be another 100 years or so before Europeans developed a taste for chocolate, and then only because something was added that the Maya did not have–sugar. So the next time you enjoy a delicious chocolate treat, think about its sweet history, and perhaps thank the Maya.

---

1. Think about the different kinds of writing and their purposes. Then, choose the type and purpose of this paragraph.

   (A) narrative, to entertain readers   (C) persuasive, to convince readers

   (B) expository, to entertain readers   (D) expository, to inform readers

2. Using evidence from the text, support your answer above.

_____

_____

---

3. Which of these sentences describes the main ideas of the paragraph? Mark all that apply.

   (A) Sugar makes chocolate taste good.   (C) Chocolate was discovered by the Maya but made tasty by the Europeans.

   (B) Chocolate has changed over time.

                                            (D) Everyone likes chocolate.

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Posttest (cont.)

4. The first word in each pair below is used in the story. In three of the pairs, the second word is a synonym of the first. Mark the choice in which the second word is not a synonym of the first.

    (A) bitter, tart   (C) native, original

    (B) uniquely, exclusively   (D) delicious, sweet

---

5. Give two details from the text that support the conclusion below.

> The first chocolate drinks were foamy and spicy–and quite bitter.

_____

_____

Directions: Read the poem, and then answer questions 6 and 7.

I fancy myself a poet.
Allow me to spin a tale
Of a journey across the globe,
And how I did set sail.

I thought that I'd be captain
And just my dog my crew.
The two of us were going
On a local sloop called *Sue*.

Our push-off was successful.
We'd sailed away at last.
The land was way behind us,
When suddenly I gasped!

Everywhere around us
Nothing could be seen,
Except for endless water–
Not a stick of green.

As fast as I could manage
I turned the sloop around.
Sailing seemed to sound like fun
Until there was no ground!

So now I am a poet.
And if again I try
To see the world around me,
I am going to fly!

6. What does the word *sloop* mean as used in the poem?

    (A) to steer   (C) a boat

    (B) a sail   (D) water

Name: _____   Date: _____

7. Which phrases from the poem support the idea that the narrator feels uncomfortable when they can't see any land? Select all that apply.

(A)   journey across the globe   (C)   not a stick of green

(B)   suddenly I gasped   (D)   there was no ground

My name is Natalie. I have a problem with something that most people do not even think about. My problem is with the message some fairy tales send to little kids. Rather than being "beloved classics" that are widely read to preschoolers, I think that stories such as "The Three Pigs" and "Little Red Riding Hood" should be banned. You should think so, too. Why? Consider these points. First, both stories portray wolves as evil. The wolf in "The Three Pigs" comes by and blows the roof off their houses in an effort to get to the pigs, supposedly to eat them up. Like any animal, the wolf is looking for food. Pigs are food for wolves. In fact, pigs are food for many people! So why is the wolf in the story portrayed as big, bad, and scary? As if that weren't enough to teach prejudice against wolves, in "Little Red Riding Hood," another big, bad wolf is in the woods. Where else should wolves be? It is the little girl who shouldn't be there alone with a basket of goodies. To make matters worse, in both stories, the wolves are killed! Is this the kind of message we want little kids to get—that prejudice and killing are not only all right but actually celebrated? There are many wonderful stories to read to little kids that do not condone bias and violence. You should read those to children and pass on the ones that give the wrong message.

Directions: Read the passage and answer questions 8–10.

8. Which phrases from the passage show Natalie's opinion that wolves are portrayed unfairly in classic fairy tales. Select all that apply.

(A)   like any animal   (C)   to make matters worse

(B)   Where else should wolves be?   (D)   consider these points

---

9. Which statement best describes Natalie's views?

(A)   Wolves are kind and gentle animals.   (C)   Some classic fairy tales should not be read to children.

(B)   Wolves should eat more pigs.   (D)   Don't let your children wander in the forest on their own.

Go On

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Posttest *(cont.)*

10. Rather than being "beloved classics" that are widely read to preschoolers, I think that stories such as "The Three Pigs" and "Little Red Riding Hood" should be banned.

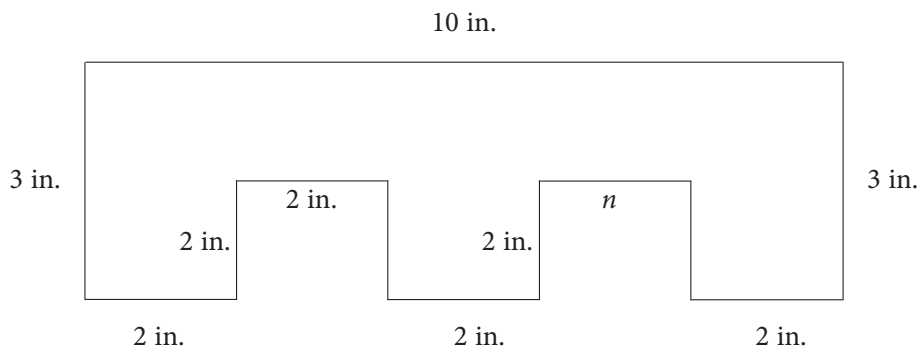Why does the author use quotation marks around the phrase beloved classics?

- (A)   to show that the words are a title

- (B)   to show she doesn't love them

- (C)   to show that she is quoting a person

Directions: Underline the coordinate adjectives in the sentences, and add commas where they belong.

11. The sky was streaked with purple as the distant fiery meteorite shot across it.

12. My sweet delicious hot cocoa scalded my throat!

13. The dry feathery snow squeaked under his boots.

Directions: Solve each problem.

The figure below is drawn to scale.

10 in.

3 in.   3 in.

2 in.   *n*

2 in.   2 in.

2 in.   2 in.   2 in.

14. What is the length of side *n*? _____

15. What is the area of the figure in square inches? _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Posttest *(cont.)*

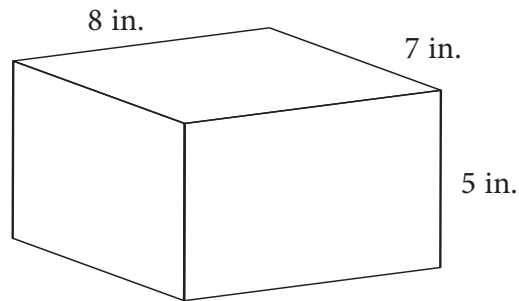**Directions:** Circle the correct word to show whether each number is rational or irrational.

16. $\dfrac{3}{5}$ rational   irrational

17. $\sqrt{27}$ rational   irrational

18. 2.154   rational   irrational

19. $\sqrt{9}$ rational   irrational

---

20. A box is shaped like a rectangular prism. Find the surface area of the box.

8 in.

7 in.

5 in.

---

21. Kahil wants to spend $20 on new apps for his phone. He also plans to download some songs for $0.99 each. If Kahil has $45 to spend total, what is the most he can spend on song downloads? Write an inequality, and graph the solution on the number line.

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Posttest *(cont.)*

22. The entry fee to the craft festival fair is $10.00. Each craft costs $0.50. Britta spent $15.00. How many crafts did she buy?

(A)　　9

(C)　　11

(B)　　10

(D)　　12

Directions: Roll a number cube 25 times. Record your results in a table. Use your data to answer the questions.

23.　Based on your results, what is the experimental probability of rolling a 3? _____

24.　Based on your experimental probability, how many times would you expect to land on 6 if you rolled 200 times? _____

25.　How could you find the probability of rolling a 2 without actually rolling the number cube?

_____

---

26. Chelsea's recipe calls for $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of strawberries for every 3 cups of juice. Complete the table.

Juice	Strawberries
2	
3	$\frac{1}{3}$
5	
6	$\frac{2}{3}$

Write an equation to represent the proportion. _____

Getting Ready for 8th Grade Posttest *(cont.)*

27. Luz does not want to pay more than $15.00 for a pizza pan. Select all of the following descriptions for prices of pizza pans Luz would buy.
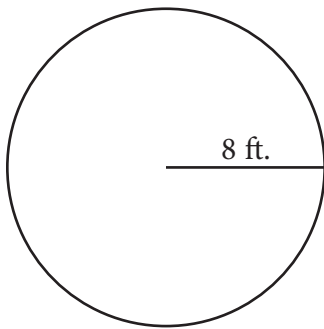
(A) 35% off a $25 pizza pan plus $4 shipping

(B) 20% off a $20 pizza pan

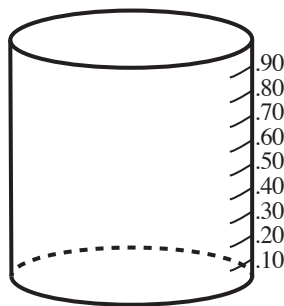(C) 45% off a $20 pizza pan plus $6 shipping

(D) A $8 pizza pan with $5 shipping

(E) 10% off a $10 pizza pan plus $6 shipping

8 ft.

28. What is the area of the circle?

29. What is the volume of a sphere with a radius of 8 ft.?

30. Daryl mixes 5 gallons of floor cleaning solution for the school dance by mixing 1 gallon of concentrate with 4 gallons of water. Which part of every gallon is from concentrate? The model represents 1 gallon of mixed cleaning solution. Color the bars to represent how much of each gallon is from concentrate.

.90
.80
.70
.60
.50
.40
.30
.20
.10

Stop

Pretest Answer Key

1. D
2. Possible answer: The text is expository because each sentence in the paragraph informs the reader. For example, "Each musician must not only be skilled at reading music and playing an instrument but also be able to follow and respond to the conductor's precise gestures" explains something that the reader might not know about orchestra musicians.
3. A and C
4. C
5. Possible answer: Performing a symphony is a complex task. The conductor must know every part of the musical arrangement and be able to cue each player.
6. B
7. B and C
8. dishonest, unique
9. B
10. C
11. noisy, muddy
12. enormous, colorful
13. perfect, polished, final
14. 3 ft.
15. 27 ft.^{2}
16. rational
17. irrational
18. irrational
19. rational
20. $SA = 2\,(4 \times 4) + 4\,(4 \times 6) = 128$ in.^{2}
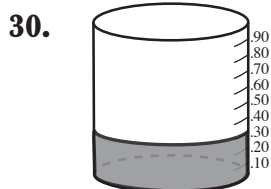21. $0.3x \leq 50$; $x \leq 166.67$

22. D   23–24. Answers will vary.

25. Heads and tails each have a probability of $\frac{1}{2}$ because each is on the coin one time and there are two sides.

26.

Flour	Chocolate chips
2	$\frac{1}{3}$
3	$\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{6}$
4	$\frac{2}{3}$
5	$\frac{5}{6}$

Equation: $y = \frac{1}{6}x$

27. B, D, and E

28. 201.06 cm²
29. 2144.66 cm³

30.

Posttest Answer Key

1. D
2. Possible answer: The text is expository because each sentence in the paragraph informs the reader. For example the sentence, "It wasn't until the 1600s that the Spanish discovered this uniquely Mexican product," explains something that the reader might not know about the Spanish.
3. B and C
4. D
5. Possible answer: These native people of Mexico would grind up cacao seeds, and then mix them with water, chile peppers, and other ingredients. It would be another 100 years or so before Europeans developed a taste for chocolate, and then only because something was added that the Maya did not have–sugar.
6. C
7. B, C, and D
8. A, B, and C
9. C
10. B
11. distant, fiery
12. sweet, delicious
13. dry, feathery
14. 2 in.
15. 22 in.^{2}
16. rational
17. irrational
18. rational
19. rational
20. $SA = 2(7 \times 8) + 2(7 \times 5) + 2(5 \times 8) = 262$ in.^{2}
21. $0.99x + 20 \leq 45; 0 \leq x \leq 25$

0   25

22. B   **23–24.** Answers will vary.
25. Each number has a probability of $\frac{1}{6}$ because each is on the cube 1 time and there are 6 sides.
26.

Juice	Strawberries
2	$\frac{2}{9}$
3	$\frac{1}{3}$
5	$\frac{5}{9}$
6	$\frac{2}{3}$

Equation: $y = \frac{1}{9}x$

27. D and E
28. 201.06 ft.^{2}
29. 2,144.66 ft.^{3}
30.