



Colorado Measures of Academic Success



Grade 5

English Language Arts/Literature



Paper Practice Resource for Students

Converted Online Technology-Enhanced Item Types

Online technology-enhanced items converted to the paper testing format may ask students to:

- Circle the correct answer
- Complete a table with checkmarks, Xs, or letters from a list of answer choices
- Fill in the blank
- Draw lines from boxes to correct answers
- Complete a bar graph or histogram

ITEM SET 1

Today you will read a passage from "The Growin' of Paul Bunyan." As you read, pay close attention to the characters' thoughts. This will help you answer questions and prepare you to write a narrative story.

Read the passage from the story "The Growin' of Paul Bunyan." Then answer questions 1 through 5.

from "The Growin' of Paul Bunyan"

by William J. Brooke

- 1 *Paul Bunyan finds Johnny Appleseed after Paul chops down all the trees Johnny has planted for six days.*
- 2 Starin' out at the orange sun, Johnny asks, "Are they all gone?" Paul looks back over his shoulder an' allows as how they are. Paul waits for Johnny to say somethin' else, but he just keeps starin', so Paul says, "It took you six days to plant `em an' it took me only three days to chop `em down. Pretty good, huh?"
- 3 Johnny looks up an' smiles sadly. "It's always easier to chop somethin' down than to make it grow." Then he goes back to starin'.
- 4 Now that rankles Paul. When he beats somebody fair an' square, he expects that someone to admit it like a man. "What's so hard about growin' a tree anyway?" he grumps. "You just stick it in the ground an' the seed does all the work."
- 5 Johnny reaches way down in the bottom o' his bag an' holds out a seed. "It's the last one," he says. "All the rest o' my dreams is so much kindlin' wood, so why don't you take this an' see if it's so easy to make it grow."
- 6 Paul hems an' haws, but he sees as how he has to make good on his word. So he takes the little bitty seed an' pushes it down in the ground with the tip o' one fingernail. He pats the soil around it real nice, like he seen Johnny do. Then he sits down to wait as the sun sets.
- 7 "I'm not as fast as you at this," Paul says, "but you've had more practice. An' I'm sure my tree will be just as good as any o' yours."
- 8 "Not if it dies o' thirst," says Johnny's voice out o' the dark.
- 9 Paul hasn't thought about that. So when the moon comes up, he heads back to a stream he passed about two hunnert miles back. But he don't have nothin' to carry water in, so he scoops up a double handful an' runs as fast

as he can with the water slippin' betwixt his fingers. When he gets back, he's got about two drops left.

10 "Guess I'll have to get more water," he says, a mite winded.

11 "Don't matter," says Johnny's voice, "if the rabbits get the seed."

12 An' there in the moonlight, Paul sees all the little cottontails hoppin' around an' scratchin' at the ground. Not wishin' to hurt any of 'em, he picks 'em up, one at a time, an' moves 'em away, but they keep hoppin' back. So, seein' as how he still needs water, he grabs 'em all up an' runs back to the stream, sets the rabbits down, grabs up the water, runs back, flicks two more drops on the spot, pushes away the new batch o' rabbits movin' in, an' tries to catch his breath.

13 "Just a little more water an' a few less rabbits an' it'll be fine," Paul says between gasps.

14 Out o' the dark comes Johnny's voice. "Don't matter, if the frost gets it."

15 Paul feels the cold ground an' he feels the moisture freezin' on his hands. So he gets down on his knees an' he folds his hands around that little spot o' dirt an', gentle as he can, breathes his warm breath onto that tiny little seed. Time passes and the rabbits gather round to enjoy the warmth an' scratch their soft little backs up against those big calloused hands. As the night wears on, Paul falls into a sleep, but his hands never stop cuppin' that little bit o' life.

16 Sometime long after moonset, the voice o' Johnny Appleseed comes driftin' soft out o' the dark an' says, "Nothin's enough if you don't care enough."

17 Paul wakes up with the sun. He sets up an' stretches an' for a minute he can't remember where he is. Then he looks down an' he gives a whoop. 'Cause he sees a little tiny bit o' green pokin' up through the grains o' dirt. "Hey, Johnny," he yells, "look at this!" But Johnny Appleseed is gone, slipped away in the night. Paul is upset for a minute, then he realizes he don't need to brag to anybody, that that little slip o' green is all the happiness he needs right now.

From "The Growin' of Paul Bunyan" from A TELLING OF THE TALES by William J. Brooke, text copyright © 1990 by William J. Brooke. Used by permission of Lynne M. Greene-Brooke.

1. Part A

Which statement explains how Paul responds to Johnny's challenge of turning a seed into a tree?

- (A) Paul is sad that Johnny misses the trees and wants him to feel better.
- (B) Paul is annoyed and wants to prove to Johnny that growing a tree is easy to do.
- (C) Paul is proud that he has cut down the trees and is surprised that Johnny is unhappy.
- (D) Paul is angry and wants to demonstrate to Johnny that he does not care about growing trees.

Part B

Which detail from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) "What's so hard about growin' a tree anyway?"
- (B) "Paul hems an' haws, but he sees as how he has to make good on his word."
- (C) "Not wishin' to hurt any of 'em, he picks 'em up, one at a time"
- (D) "Paul is upset for a minute, then he realizes he don't need to brag to anybody"

2. Part A

At the beginning of the story, how is Johnny's view about his trees different from Paul's?

- (A) Johnny views his trees as food for the rabbits while Paul views them as useful in his work.
- (B) Johnny views his trees as the result of hard work while Paul views them as objects to win a contest.
- (C) Johnny views his trees as needing his protection while Paul views them as needing too much care.
- (D) Johnny views his trees as friends that he needs to take care of while Paul views them as something to brag about.

Part B

Choose **two** details, one for Johnny and one for Paul, that support the answer to Part A.

- (A) "It took you six days to plant 'em an' it took me only three days to chop 'em down."
- (B) "It's always easier to chop somethin' down than to make it grow."
- (C) "Johnny reaches way down in the bottom o' his bag an' holds out a seed."
- (D) "So he takes the little bitty seed an' pushes it down in the ground with the tip o' one fingernail."
- (E) "He pats the soil around it real nice, like he seen Johnny do."
- (F) "'Don't matter,' says Johnny's voice, 'if the rabbits get the seed.'"

3. Circle the **best** description of the characters in **each** of the boxes.

Based on the passage from "The Growin' of Paul Bunyan," Johnny Appleseed seems to be _____ .

more caring about his work
eager to brag about his skills
ready to admit defeat

Paul Bunyan, on the other hand, seems to be _____ .

worried about winning the challenge
in awe of his friend's skills
overly sure of himself

However, both characters share their _____ .

concern for wildlife
love of the woods
competitive nature

4. Part A

How does the narrator's point of view **most** influence how the events are described in the passage from "The Growin' of Paul Bunyan"?

- Ⓐ It reveals Paul's actions while he cares for the seed.
- Ⓑ It shows Paul's past experience with planting.
- Ⓒ It shows Paul's reasons for chopping down trees.
- Ⓓ It reveals Paul's relationship with Johnny.

Part B

Which detail from the passage supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "It's always easier to chop somethin' down than to make it grow."
- Ⓑ "What's so hard about growin' a tree anyway?"
- Ⓒ "So he gets down on his knees an' he folds his hands around that little spot o' dirt an', gentle as he can, breathes his warm breath onto that tiny little seed."
- Ⓓ "Paul is upset for a minute, then he realizes he don't need to brag to anybody, that that little slip o' green is all the happiness he needs right now."

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A large rectangular box with a thin blue border, containing 20 horizontal blue lines spaced evenly down the page, intended for writing.

Today you will read a passage from “Emergency on the Mountain” and the poem “Mountains.” Read the passages and answer the questions.

Read the passage from “Emergency on the Mountain.” Then answer questions 6 through 9.

from “Emergency on the Mountain”

by Kerry McGee

- 1 “Ana! *Leche!*” Mama called.
- 2 Milk. It was Ana’s turn to get it. Ana sighed and shut her first-aid book. Her head hurt from reading in the dim morning light, but how else was she going to learn?
- 3 The milk pail banged against Ana’s shins as she trudged down the steep slope. Green mountains circled the misty valley. Across the valley was the dusty yellow road that connected this village to the next one eight kilometers away.
- 4 Ana tethered the cow close to the fence. Somewhere below and out of sight lay Santiago, the second-biggest city in the Dominican Republic. And somewhere in Santiago, Ana knew, a group of volunteer doctors were gathering right now to teach medical skills to village nurses, or *cooperadoras*.
- 5 I should be there, Ana thought. Leta should have taken me with her. Hours ago, Ana had heard the roar of a truck in the darkness and realized that her neighbor Leta was beginning the long drive down the mountain to the meeting.
- 6 But Leta already knows everything, Ana thought. Leta had been the *cooperadora* since before Ana was born. She’d been delivering babies, pulling teeth, and bandaging wounds in the village for decades.
- 7 Fresh milk squirted into the pail. Leta thinks I’m too young to learn anything important, Ana thought. But she’s wrong. I am old enough to help.
- 8 Ana lugged the milk back to where Mama was frying eggs in the cooking shelter, then grabbed some bread and wandered up to the road.
- 9 Rafi, a village boy, had gotten a donkey, and some kids had gathered around to see it. Rafi was 13, just a little older than Ana, but he was always doing something to get attention. Like now: he was trying to stand on the animal’s bare back.

- 10 No wonder they don't trust kids with anything important, Ana thought, sighing.
- 11 She had just turned away when she heard a thud and a few screams.
- 12 Rafi lay on the ground nearby. The donkey stood several meters away.
- 13 "Rafi!" someone cried.
- 14 No answer. The donkey swished its tail.
- 15 "Get Leta," someone said.
- 16 Ana shook her head. "Leta's gone to the city."
- 17 The other kids seemed frozen in place.
- 18 Ana ran to where Rafi was lying. She dropped to her knees on the dusty road. "Rafi! Can you hear me?"
- 19 Rafi moaned and flopped his head back and forth in pain.
- 20 Ana saw that one of his legs was crooked, bent a little sideways between the knee and the ankle. A broken leg!
- 21 She remembered what the first-aid book had said about broken legs: If there is no ambulance, stabilize the bone before moving the victim.
- 22 There certainly wouldn't be any ambulance here. Ana looked back up the road. The other kids were still standing there, watching.
- 23 "Vin!" Ana called to one of the boys. "Go get Rafi's mama, and find someone with a truck." She turned to the others. "Give me your shirts. We need something to tie his leg with."
- 24 As Vin took off running, the others huddled closer.
- 25 Rafi whimpered, and Ana said gently, "Rafi, you'll need to go down the mountain for a cast. But first, I'm going to tie your leg so it doesn't move around. Can you wiggle your toes?"
- 26 Rafi nodded, his eyes squeezed shut. Ana pulled off his shoe and watched him wiggle his toes.
- 27 Ana found a strong, straight stick, which she'd use to keep his leg steady. She carefully wrapped the boys' shirts around his leg and the stick, winding down from his knee to his ankle. Rafi opened his eyes and cringed.

- 28 "I know it hurts," Ana said. "But this will hold it still until you get to the hospital."
- 29 When Ana was done, she looked up and saw Rafi's mama watching from a few meters away. Behind her was a neighbor in a pickup truck. When Ana stepped away, Rafi's mama ran over and held Rafi's face in her hands.
- 30 "*Gracias, Ana,*" she said.
- 31 Rafi's mama and neighbor lifted Rafi into the truck, then drove down the dusty hillside toward the hospital.
- 32 The next day, Leta came to Ana's home. "I heard what you did," Leta said. "You kept your head in an emergency. That's an important skill."
- 33 Ana blushed. "I was afraid. . . ."
- 34 Leta shook her head. "It's OK for a *cooperadora* to be afraid, as long as she keeps her head. Now, listen. The volunteer doctors are coming here tomorrow with vaccines. We need some extra hands. Can you help?"
- 35 Ana didn't hesitate. "I would love to."
- 36 "Come early, then. There is a lot to learn."

6. Part A

What does the word **stabilize** mean as it is used in paragraph 21 of the passage from "Emergency on the Mountain"?

- Ⓐ bend back to the original position
- Ⓑ carry an object very carefully
- Ⓒ relieve incredible pain
- Ⓓ keep something still

Part B

Which **two** sentences from the passage help the reader understand the meaning of **stabilize**?

- Ⓐ "The other kids were still standing there, watching." (paragraph 22)
- Ⓑ "Go get Rafi's mama, and find someone with a truck." (paragraph 23)
- Ⓒ "But first, I'm going to tie your leg so it doesn't move around." (paragraph 25)
- Ⓓ "Ana pulled off his shoe and watched him wiggle his toes." (paragraph 26)
- Ⓔ "Ana found a strong, straight stick, which she'd use to keep his leg steady." (paragraph 27)
- Ⓕ "When Ana stepped away, Rafi's mama ran over and held Rafi's face in her hands." (paragraph 29)

7. Part A

How does the accident on the mountain **most** affect the overall structure of the passage from "Emergency on the Mountain"?

- Ⓐ It increases the reader's interest by describing the activity.
- Ⓑ It provides an opportunity for Ana to show people how capable she is.
- Ⓒ It indicates the plans Ana had made in order to reach her goal.
- Ⓓ It shows how helpful extra studying can be.

Part B

Which detail from the passage supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "Ana lugged the milk back to where Mama was frying eggs in the cooking shelter, then grabbed some bread and wandered up to the road." (paragraph 8)
- Ⓑ "No wonder they don't trust kids with anything important, Ana thought, sighing." (paragraph 10)
- Ⓒ "She remembered what the first-aid book had said about broken legs: If there is no ambulance, stabilize the bone before moving the victim." (paragraph 21)
- Ⓓ "'We need some extra hands. Can you help?'" (paragraph 34)

8. Part A

Which statement **best** compares Ana and Leta in the passage from "Emergency on the Mountain"?

- Ⓐ The boys disregard Ana and ask to send for Leta.
- Ⓑ Leta finally recognizes Ana's talents.
- Ⓒ Leta thinks Ana is only a child.
- Ⓓ Ana longs to have Leta's life.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "Leta had been the *cooperadora* since before Ana was born." (paragraph 5)
- Ⓑ "Leta thinks I'm too young to learn anything important, Ana thought. But she's wrong. I am old enough to help." (paragraph 7)
- Ⓒ "'Get Leta,' someone said." (paragraph 15)
- Ⓓ "'You kept your head in an emergency. That's an important skill.'" (paragraph 32)

9. Part A

How do the events of the morning in the passage from "Emergency on the Mountain" compare to Ana's hopes for the future?

- (A) Ana studies in order to prove to Leta and her family that she is perfectly ready to learn.
- (B) Ana spends much time studying to achieve her goal of becoming a village nurse or *cooperadora*.
- (C) Ana is jealous of Leta being able to be away from home and avoid household chores.
- (D) Ana welcomes the change to do normal chores as a relief from her studies.

Part B

Which **two** details from the passage support the answer to Part A?

- (A) "The milk pail banged against Ana's shins as she trudged down the steep slope." (paragraph 3)
- (B) ". . . somewhere in Santiago, Ana knew, a group of volunteer doctors were gathering. . . ." (paragraph 4)
- (C) "I should be there, Ana thought. Leta should have taken me. . . ." (paragraph 5)
- (D) ". . . Leta already knows everything. . . ." (paragraph 6)
- (E) "But she's wrong. I am old enough to help." (paragraph 7)
- (F) "Ana found a strong, straight stick, which she'd use to keep his leg steady. She carefully wrapped the boys' shirts around his leg and the stick. . . ." (paragraph 27)

Read the poem "Mountains." Then answer questions 10 through 12.

"Mountains"

by Rukiye Henderson

Tall and bold like a castle,
Looming in the dark.
They rise to a towering height.
As everything beneath, cowers in fright.

5 Covered in a blanket of silvery mist,
You feel as though kissed,
By the cold bitter wind as it rushes past.
The snow peaked tops are like pure, pristine crystals, timeless,
in all their beauty.

10 You can smell, feel, taste, and hear all the earth around you.
The sound of birds chirping like music boxes,
The taste of juicy berries bursting with flavor,
The smell of fresh pine air,
And the feeling of pine needles, which, I declare

15 Feel great on your sore, blistered feet.

"Mountains" by Rukiye Henderson, copyright © 2012 by Rukiye Henderson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

10. Part A

Based on lines 1–4 in “Mountains,” what does **tall and bold like a castle** mean?

- Ⓐ Mountains are steep and difficult to climb.
- Ⓑ Mountains look beautiful when covered with snow.
- Ⓒ Mountains are threatening because of their size.
- Ⓓ Mountains remain the same over the course of time.

Part B

Which line from the poem shows how the poet further develops the ideas in the simile in Part A?

- Ⓐ “They rise to a towering height.” (line 3)
- Ⓑ “As everything beneath, cowers in fright.” (line 4)
- Ⓒ “By the cold bitter wind as it rushes past.” (line 7)
- Ⓓ “The snow peaked tops are like pure, pristine crystals, timeless . . .” (line 8)

11. Part A

What is a theme of the poem "Mountains"?

- A We should be aware of danger even when we can view beautiful surroundings.
- B We realize beauty is all around us, but we must take time to notice.
- C We can learn about the natural world when we listen carefully.
- D We should be prepared for sudden changes in nature.

Part B

Which line in the poem helps to support the theme?

- A line 1
- B line 3
- C line 7
- D line 10

12. Select the **two** phrases from the poem that **best** demonstrate the speaker's fondness for nature, then write the letters of the phrases into the box labeled Phrases from the Poem.

A. "Looming in the dark."
(line 2)

B. ". . . rise to a towering
height." (line 3)

C. ". . . feel as though kissed,"
(line 6)

D. ". . . snow peaked tops . . ."
(line 8)

E. ". . . berries bursting with
flavor," (line 12)

F. ". . . sore, blistered feet."
(line 15)

**Phrases from the
Poem**

This is the end of Item Set 1.

ITEM SET 2

Today you will research different kinds of houses. You will read a passage from "Grandpa's Hobbit House." Then you will read a passage from "Straw Houses: No Need to Fear the Big, Bad Wolf" and the article "Itty-Bitty Houses." As you review these sources, you will gather information and answer questions about different kinds of houses so you can write an essay.

Read the passage from "Grandpa's Hobbit House." Then answer questions 1 through 3.

from "Grandpa's Hobbit House"

by Harvey Baumgartner

Copyright restrictions prevent the excerpt from "Grandpa's Hobbit House" by Harvey Baumgartner from MOTHER EARTH NEWS, October/November 2006 from being displayed in this format. Please refer to page 38, beginning at "My adventure in homesteading..." and ending with the sentence "All in all it's a very cozy room." on page 40 from "Grandpa's Hobbit House" by Harvey Baumgartner from MOTHER EARTH NEWS, October/November 2006 © 2006 Ogden Publishing, accessible through your local library.

1. Part A

What is the meaning of the phrase **creative juices started flowing** as it is used in paragraph 7 of the passage from "Grandpa's Hobbit House"?

- Ⓐ planned an approach
- Ⓑ identified a solution
- Ⓒ imagined different ideas
- Ⓓ observed something special

Part B

What happens because Grandpa's **creative juices started flowing**?

- Ⓐ The chickens have a warm coop.
- Ⓑ The chickens lay eggs in the winter.
- Ⓒ The chickens have an unusual coop.
- Ⓓ The chickens are cool during the summer.

2. Part A

What factor did the author of the passage from "Grandpa's Hobbit House" determine to be **most** important when building a house like the one in J.R.R. Tolkien's novel?

- (A) He focused primarily on the physical beauty of the structure.
- (B) He was concerned about the financial strain caused by the structure.
- (C) He concentrated on making the structure environmentally friendly.
- (D) He thought about the possibilities of any necessary expansion.

Part B

Which **two** details from the passage **best** support the answer to Part A?

- (A) "My idea of a homestead started with building a simple home out of native materials." (paragraph 2)
- (B) "I think outhouses are very practical because they don't waste so much water." (paragraph 2)
- (C) ". . . I chose to have lots of windows. . . ." (paragraph 3)
- (D) "My house was built one handful at a time using basic hand tools, all for a cost of about \$3 a square foot." (paragraph 4)
- (E) "The bale construction was much faster than the sod and provides better insulation." (paragraph 6)
- (F) "I needed to build a chicken coop. . . ." (paragraph 7)

3. Part A

In the passage from "Grandpa's Hobbit House," which **two** events lead to the construction of the hobbit house?

- Ⓐ A man realizes he must rebuild his home and decides to use only his hands to build the house.
- Ⓑ A man wishes to add a building to his homestead and builds a chicken coop for his hens.
- Ⓒ A man hopes to create a simpler life and purchases land for a home without modern conveniences.
- Ⓓ A man decides to live more closely with nature and dreams of building a new home while sitting in his peaceful hayfield.

Part B

Which **two** sentences **best** support the response to Part A?

- Ⓐ "My adventure in homesteading began about four years ago, when I decided to make some changes in my life to reconnect with Mother Earth." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ "As I felt the cool earth below me and gazed at the expansive sky above, I began to imagine a dwelling, and then a homestead." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓒ "I wanted an earth-friendly living structure, and my intuition said to build it round, like a Navajo hogan, so the energy could flow around it." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓓ "I began the two-month project of creating a home by forming a circle of red cedar posts set upright in the ground." (paragraph 3)
- Ⓔ "My house was built one handful at a time using basic hand tools, all for a cost of about \$3 a square foot." (paragraph 4)
- Ⓕ "Somehow, I always manage to have chickens; they seem to be part of my life here on Earth." (paragraph 7)

Read the passage from "Straw Houses: No Need to Fear the Big, Bad Wolf." Then answer questions 4 through 6.

from "Straw Houses: No Need to Fear the Big, Bad Wolf"

- 1 In the story of the three little pigs, the one who built his house of straw did not fare well; the big, bad wolf huffed and puffed and blew his house down.
- 2 But builder Michael Furbish, who made his own home from bales of straw and an elementary school of the same material, says in reality, straw houses are not only sturdy but also good for the environment.
- 3 Straw—the stalks of plants like wheat, oats, and barley—is considered a waste material and is commonly used for farm animal bedding. But more and more people are discovering that straw baled into rectangular blocks is an excellent, inexpensive building material. "Our mental picture is that a straw bale is light," says Furbish. "But each bale weighs about 40 pounds (18 kilograms). We stack them like bricks and then spray plaster—mud, essentially—on the inside walls to coat them one and a half to two inches [3.8 to 5.1 centimeters] thick. Then we put stucco on the outside. So a straw building is really like a fortress, and it is not going to rot as long as water is kept out of the bales."
- 4 There are two ways to make a straw-bale structure. You can build load-bearing walls with them, which means the walls support the roof. Or you can build a post-and-beam wooden frame that supports the roof and fill in the walls with straw bales.
- 5 Either way, the walls are there to stay. And they provide great insulation, helping keep straw homes in cold climates cozy in winter and those built in hot places like the desert cool in summer.
- 6 Straw is considered a "green" (good for the environment) building material because it is a renewable resource: A whole new crop can be grown and harvested every year, easily "renewing" the supply.
- 7 Also, planting and harvesting straw uses relatively little energy. "Most other building materials require a lot of energy use in production and manufacturing at a factory," explains Furbish. "With straw-bale construction, you are getting a building product without using much energy at all."

From "Straw Houses: No Need to Fear the Big, Bad Wolf" NGS Staff from NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS/National Geographic Creative

4. Part A

What is the meaning of the word **insulation** as it is used in paragraph 5 of the passage from "Straw Houses: No Need to Fear the Big, Bad Wolf"?

- (A) a product that is always available
- (B) a layer that protects
- (C) a substance that is easily made
- (D) a material that lasts

Part B

Which detail from paragraphs 5–7 helps the reader understand the meaning of **insulation**?

- (A) ". . . the walls are there to stay."
- (B) ". . . helping keep straw homes in cold climates cozy in winter and those built in hot places like the desert cool in summer."
- (C) ". . . it is a renewable resource: A whole new crop can be grown and harvested every year, easily 'renewing' the supply."
- (D) ". . . planting and harvesting straw uses relatively little energy."

5. Part A

According to the passage from "Straw Houses: No Need to Fear the Big, Bad Wolf," what are **two** reasons for covering the walls of a straw house with mud and stucco?

- (A) to increase the size of the home and maintain a steady temperature
- (B) to create a shape for the bales and prevent them from shifting
- (C) to make them stronger and more water resistant
- (D) to add decoration to the house and make it more airtight

Part B

Which detail **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) "So a straw building is really like a fortress, and it is not going to rot as long as water is kept out of the bales." (paragraph 3)
- (B) "Either way, the walls are there to stay." (paragraph 5)
- (C) "And they provide great insulation, helping keep straw homes in cold climates cozy in winter and those built in hot places like the desert cool in summer." (paragraph 5)
- (D) "With straw-bale construction, you are getting a building product without using much energy at all." (paragraph 7)

6. Determine whether each reason supports the point that straw houses are sturdy or the point that straw houses are good for the environment. Write an "X" into the appropriate column in the table for each reason listed.

Reason	Straw houses are sturdy.	Straw houses are good for the environment.
Each bale of straw weighs about 40 pounds.		
Straw is a renewable resource.		
Inside walls are covered with up to two inches of plaster.		
Outside walls are coated with stucco.		
Not much energy is needed to produce straw.		

Read the article "Itty-Bitty Houses." Then answer questions 7 through 9.

"Itty-Bitty Houses"

by Dan Oko

- 1 Wisecracks about low overhead aside, many Americans are embracing the idea that a bigger home is not always better. Concerns about carbon footprints and energy costs mean that where McMansions once sprouted, a small-house movement has taken root. Just ask Brad Kittle, who runs Tiny Texas Houses, a company specializing in very small dwellings—the largest has a 12-by-28-foot floor plan—constructed almost entirely from salvaged wood. In 2007, Kittle built four homes. This year he built ten. And he plans to start leading tiny-house-building seminars. "I can't build enough to keep up with demand," he says.
- 2 Kittle is not alone when it comes to diminutive home design. The blogosphere buzzes with tales of individuals living in micro-structures of less than 100 square feet.
- 3 Of course, not everybody wants to downsize so radically. That's one reason architect Sarah Susanka advocates that people tailor their expectations according to comfort, not sacrifice. A small-living guru, Susanka is author of *The Not So Big House* (Taunton, 1998), recently updated for its tenth anniversary. "Each household is different," she says. "Basically, the ideal house is a third smaller than what people think they need. I tell them, if you live with less space, you get a lot more bang for your buck."
- 4 That message resonates. Gopal Ahluwalia, vice president of research at the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C., believes that between the mortgage meltdown and the green building boom, the door is closing on crazy-big houses. "We're seeing a trend toward stabilization," he says. "I don't think the size will go up any more."

"Itty-Bitty Houses" by Dan Oko, SIERRA MAGAZINE, January/February 2009. Used by permission of the author.

7. Part A

According to the article "Itty-Bitty Houses," what are the two causes that are creating the demand for smaller houses?

- Ⓐ the desire to save the planet and the desire to save money
- Ⓑ posts on social media and companies that only build small homes
- Ⓒ the wish to live more simply and the wish to get back in touch with nature
- Ⓓ architects who design ideal homes and the need to recycle building materials

Part B

Which detail from the article **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ ". . . many Americans are embracing the idea that a bigger home is not always better." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ "Concerns about carbon footprints and energy costs mean that where McMansions once sprouted, a small-house movement has taken root." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓒ ". . . the largest has a 12-by-28-foot floor plan—constructed almost entirely from salvaged wood." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓓ "The blogosphere buzzes with tales of individuals living in micro-structures of less than 100 square feet." (paragraph 2)

8. Part A

Based on the article "Itty-Bitty Houses," how is Sarah Susanka's relationship to the small-house movement different from that of Gopal Ahluwalia?

- (A) While Susanka believes some small houses are too extreme to be comfortable, Ahluwalia supports the idea that houses must be much smaller than they are now.
- (B) While Susanka promotes smaller homes as a way to save money, Ahluwalia promotes smaller homes because they are good for the environment.
- (C) While Susanka actively supports the idea that people ought to live in smaller homes, Ahluwalia merely reports that houses are no longer continuing to get bigger.
- (D) While Susanka is convinced that small houses will become increasingly popular over time, Ahluwalia believes the desire for smaller houses will not last very long.

Part B

Select the **two** details from the passage that **best** support the answer to Part A.

- (A) ". . . he plans to start leading tiny-house-building seminars." (paragraph 1)
- (B) "Of course, not everybody wants to downsize so radically." (paragraph 3)
- (C) "'Basically, the ideal house is a third smaller than what people think they need. . . .'" (paragraph 3)
- (D) "'Each household is different,' she says." (paragraph 3)
- (E) ". . . the door is closing on crazy-big houses." (paragraph 4)

9. Part A

Read these sentences from paragraph 1 of "Itty-Bitty Houses."

In 2007, Kittle built four homes. This year he built ten.

How do these sentences contribute to the passage?

- A They support the author's point that Texas Tiny Houses only builds very small homes.
- B They support the author's point that smaller homes are good for the environment.
- C They support the author's point that small houses cost less to live in than bigger houses.
- D They support the author's point that a small-house movement has become well established.

Part B

Which other sentence contributes to the passage in the way described in the answer to Part A?

- A "I can't build enough to keep up with demand," he says." (paragraph 1)
- B "That's one reason architect Sarah Susanka advocates that people tailor their expectations according to comfort, not sacrifice." (paragraph 3)
- C "I tell them, if you live with less space, you get a lot more bang for your buck." (paragraph 3)
- D "I don't think the size will go up any more." (paragraph 4)

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