Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Reading and Understanding Poetry and Pourquoi Tales

(Answers, for Teacher Reference)

This assessment has two parts. In Part I, you will read a new frog poem and answer questions to show your understanding. In Part II, you will read a new pourquoi tale and answer questions about the story's plot and purpose. Be sure to read both texts carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.

Part I: Read the poem "The Spring Peepers" and answer the questions below.

The Spring Peepers

Peep-peep

We steal your sleep.

In score

Of choruses

We cheep.

Beneath our chin's

A thin balloon

To help our song

From March till June

Each spring

We sing

To bring

A mate

And make you stay

Awake too late.

Source:

Florian, Douglas. "The Spring Peepers." *Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs: Poems and Paintings*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2005. N. pag. Print.

1. **Part A**: In this poem, what does "We steal your sleep mean"?

   A. Burglars come in at night.

   B. The frogs sing only at night.

   C. <u>The frogs croak so loudly, no one can sleep.</u>

   D. The frogs sleep all night.

   Part B: Which lines from the poem support your answer in Part A?

   A. "We sing / To bring"

   B. <u>"And make you stay / Awake too late."</u>

   C. "Beneath our chin's / A thin balloon"

   D. "To help our song / From March till June"

2. List three pairs of rhyming words in this poem.

   Options include:
   - *peep, sleep, cheep*
   - *balloon, June*
   - *spring, sing, bring*
   - *mate, late*

3. According to the poem, how do the spring peepers use the "thin balloon" beneath their chins?

   A. to hold water when they swim

   B. to help them sleep

   C. <u>to sing</u>

   D. to eat

4. Choose the correct dictionary definition of the word score as it is used in this poem.

   A. /skor/: the record of the total points earned in a game or test

   B. <u>/skor/: the printed or written form of a musical piece</u>

   C. /skor/: a group of 20

   D. /skor/: the making of a goal, run, or basket in sports

   E. /skor/: to give a grade to

Part II: Read the pourquoi tale and answer the questions below.

Why Do Frogs Hop?

One hot day before frogs could hop, Frog took a walk to sit in the shade of a tree next to the pond. He was hoping to catch a delicious dragonfly for his lunch, so he sat very still. He was so still that Snake nearly didn't see him. He was about to slither by when he heard Frog's growling stomach. Snake thought Frog looked tasty. This thought made Snake's stomach rumble loudly! Frog heard the sound and quickly turned around.

"I'm only very small. I won't fill you up, Snake," Frog croaked. Snake thought about this, and his stomach growled again. Frog was very small, but Snake was very hungry.

Clever Frog knew that Snake liked to race because he could swim very fast. "Race me across the pond," Frog suggested. "You can eat me if you win. If I win, you let me go."

Snake immediately agreed. He knew that it would take Frog much longer to swim across or walk around because he was so small. "This is too easy," he thought.

"Three, two, one, go." Frog knew he couldn't swim as fast as Snake and it would take even longer to walk around the pond, but he needed to win. He could see some large leaves floating on the pond. If he could get from one leaf to the next, he might just make it across the pond faster than Snake. The only way was to hop. He had never hopped before, but perhaps his long back legs would help him make a giant leap. Hop! He made it to the first leaf!

Hop, hop, hop, Frog jumped from one leaf to the next. He landed on the other side of the pond just a second before Snake slithered out of the water.

Snake was angry to have been beaten by a small frog. Frog hopped joyfully back across the leaves to return to the other side of the pond.

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1. **Part A**: What is the problem in the story? Underline the correct response.

    A. Frog is hungry and wants to catch a dragonfly.

    B. <u>Frog needs to win a race against Snake.</u>

    C. Snake is hungry and needs to eat.

    D. It is a very hot day, so Frog needs shade from a tree.

   Part B: What details from the text best support your answer to Part A? Underline the correct response.

    A. "One hot day before frogs could hop, Frog took a walk to sit in the shade of a tree next to the pond."

    B. "Snake thought Frog looked tasty. This thought made Snake's stomach rumble loudly!"

    C. "He was hoping to catch a delicious dragonfly for his lunch, so he sat very still."

    D. <u>"Race me across the pond," Frog suggested. "You can eat me if you win. If I win, you let me go."</u>

2. How does the main character respond to the problem? Use details from the text to explain what he thought, did, said, or felt.

    Sample response: Frog thinks of a way that will help him to win and tries it out.

3. How is the problem in the story solved/resolved? Underline the correct response.

    A. Frog wins the race by swimming quicker than Snake.

    B. Snake wins the race and eats Frog.

    C. Frog wins the race by walking quickly around the pond.

    D. <u>Frog wins the race by hopping across the leaves on the pond.</u>

4. What is the purpose of this narrative? Use details from the text to explain your answer.

    Sample response: To explain why frogs hop. Frog had to hop to save himself from Snake. "If he could get from one leaf to the next, he might just make it across the pond faster than Snake. The only way was to hop."

5. The text says, "Snake was angry to have been beaten by a small frog. Frog hopped joyfully back across the leaves to return to the other side of the pond."

    Part A: What does *return* mean? *Re-* means again or back. Underline the correct response.

    A. to turn in a circle

    B. <u>to go back to the same place again</u>

    C. to move backward from one place to another

    D. to do the same thing again

    Part B: If you know that joy means happiness, what do you think *joyfully* might mean?

    Sample response: to do something with joy