eMPower™ ME

STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

Reading

Grade 8

MEA
Maine Educational Assessment

measured progress®

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Practice Test

Directions

You will now read two related passages and answer the questions that follow. Some of these questions will ask you to compare the two passages.

144651A Passage Common

Selection 1

The Teapot

by Hans Christian Andersen

1 There was once a proud teapot; it was proud of being porcelain, proud of its long spout, proud of its broad handle. It had something before and behind—the spout before and the handle behind—and that was what it talked about. But it did not talk of its lid, which was cracked and riveted; these were defects, and one does not talk of one's defects, for there are plenty of others to do that. The cups, the cream pot, and the sugar bowl, the whole tea service, would think much oftener of the lid's imperfections—and talk about them—than of the sound handle and the remarkable spout. The teapot knew it.

2 "I know you," it said within itself. "I know, too, my imperfection, and I am well aware that in that very thing is seen my humility, my modesty. Imperfections we all have, but we also have compensations. The cups have a handle, the sugar bowl a lid; I have both, and one thing besides, in front, which they can never have. I have a spout, and that makes me the queen of the tea table. I spread abroad a blessing on thirsting mankind, for in me the Chinese leaves are brewed in the boiling, tasteless water."

3 All this said the teapot in its fresh young life. It stood on the table that was spread for tea; it was lifted by a very delicate hand, but the delicate hand was awkward. The teapot fell, the spout snapped off, and the handle snapped off. The lid was no worse to speak of; the worst had been spoken of that.

4 The teapot lay in a swoon on the floor, while the boiling water ran out of it. It was a horrid shame, but the worst was that everybody jeered at it; they jeered at the teapot and not at the awkward hand.

5 "I never shall forget that experience," said the teapot, when it afterward talked of its life. "But then, just as I was, began my better life. One can be one thing and still become quite another."

6 "Earth was placed in me. For a teapot, this is the same as being buried, but in the earth was placed a flower bulb. Who placed it there, who gave it, I know not; but given it was, and it became a compensation for the Chinese leaves and the boiling water, a compensation for the broken handle and spout."

7 "And the bulb lay in the earth, the bulb lay in me; it became my heart, my living heart, such as I had never before possessed. There was life in me, power and might. The heart pulsed, and the bulb put forth sprouts; it was the springing up of thoughts and feelings which burst forth into flower."

8 "I saw it, I bore it, I forgot myself in its delight. Blessed is it to forget oneself in another. The flower gave me no thanks; it did not think of me. It was admired and praised, and I was glad at that. How happy it must have been! One day I heard someone say that the flower deserved a better pot. I was thumped hard on my back, which was a great affliction, and the flower was put into a better pot. I was thrown out into the yard, where I lie as an old potsherd. But I have the memory, and that I can never lose."

"The Teapot" by Hans Christian Anderson. In the public domain.

GO ON

144652A Passage Common

Read passage 2. Then answer the questions that follow.

Selection 2

Call of the Wild

by Jack London

1 That night, the huskie, Buck faced the great problem of sleeping. The tent, illumined by a candle, glowed warmly in the midst of the white plain; and when he, as a matter of course, entered it, both Perrault and Francois bombarded him with curses and cooking utensils, till he recovered from his consternation[1] and fled ignominiously[2] into the outer cold. A chill wind was blowing that nipped him sharply and bit with especial venom into his wounded shoulder. He lay down on the snow and attempted to sleep, but the frost soon drove him shivering to his feet. Miserable and disconsolate[3], he wandered about among the many tents, only to find that one place was as cold as another. Here and there savage dogs rushed upon him, but he bristled his neck-hair and snarled (for he was learning fast), and they let him go his way unmolested.

2 Finally an idea came to him. He would return and see how his own team-mates were making out. To his astonishment, they had disappeared. Again he wandered about through the great camp, looking for them, and again he returned. Were they in the tent? No, that could not be, else he would not have been driven out. Then where could they possibly be? With drooping tail and shivering body, very forlorn indeed, he aimlessly circled the tent. Suddenly the snow gave way beneath his fore legs and he sank down. Something wriggled under his feet. He sprang back, bristling and snarling, fearful of the unseen and unknown. But a friendly little yelp reassured him, and he went back to investigate. A whiff of warm air ascended to his nostrils, and there, curled up under the snow in a snug ball, lay Billee. He whined placatingly[4], squirmed and wriggled to show his good will and intentions, and even ventured, as a bribe for peace, to lick Buck's face with his warm wet tongue.

3 Another lesson. So that was the way they did it, eh? Buck confidently selected a spot, and with much fuss and wasted effort proceeded to dig a hole for himself. In a trice the heat from his body filled the confined space and he was asleep. The day had been long and arduous[5], and he slept soundly and comfortably, though he growled and barked and wrestled with bad dreams.

4 Nor did he open his eyes till roused by the noises of the waking camp. At first he did not know where he was. It had snowed during the night and he was completely buried. The snow walls pressed him on every side, and a great surge of fear swept through him—the fear of the wild thing for the trap. It was a token that he was harking back through his own life to the lives of his forebears; for he was a civilized dog, an unduly civilized dog, and of his own experience knew no trap and so could not of himself fear it. The muscles of his whole body contracted spasmodically and instinctively, the hair on his neck and shoulders stood on end, and with a ferocious snarl he bounded straight up into the blinding day, the snow flying about him in a flashing cloud. Ere he landed on his feet, he saw the white camp spread out before him and knew where he

[1]**consternation:** frustration

[2]**ignominiously:** feeling ashamed

[3]**disconsolate:** unhappy

[4]**placatingly:** trying to make someone less angry

[5]**arduos:** difficult

was and remembered all that had passed from the time he went for a stroll with Manuel to the hole he had dug for himself the night before.

5 A shout from Francois hailed his appearance. "Wot I say?" the dog-driver cried to Perrault. "Dat Buck for sure learn queek as anyt'ing."

6 Perrault nodded gravely. As courier for the Canadian Government, bearing important despatches, he was anxious to secure the best dogs, and he was particularly gladdened by the possession of Buck.

"Call of the Wild" by Jack London. In the public domain.

147605A Evidence-Based Selected Response D Common

1. In **Selection 1**, the teapot says, "I know, too, my imperfection, and I am well aware that in that very thing is seen my humility, my modesty."

What does this line reveal about the teapot?

A It seems to be flawed, but the others know it is not.

B Its flaws keep it from thinking it is better than the others.

C Its appearance is less flawed than the appearance of the others.

D It thinks that admitting its flaws will make others think it is not proud.

147602A Multiple Choice D Common

2. Which sentence **best** states a central theme of **Selection 1**?

A It is important to be proud of things that happened in the past.

B It is better to be aware of one's imperfections than to be proud.

C It is important to take pride in what one can achieve when working with others.

D It is better to take pride in helping others than to take pride in one's appearance and abilities.

147616A Multiple Choice D Common

3. When Perrault and Francois greet Buck "with curses and cooking utensils" in **Selection 2**, how does this **most directly** move the story forward?

A It makes Buck fight with other dogs.

B It makes Buck try to find his team-mates.

C It makes Buck lie down unhappily to sleep.

D It makes Buck seek somewhere else to sleep.

GO ON

147624A Multiple Choice A Common

4. Based on the context in **Selection 2**, what does it mean that the tent is illumined?

A It is full of light.

B It is warming up.

C It is hidden in the shadows.

D It is located in a new place.

147604A Evidence-Based Selected Response C;B Common

This question has two parts. Make sure to answer both parts of the question.

5. Which statement **best** reflects the theme of **Selection 1**?

A Hardship can make one appreciate the past.

B Loyal friends will help each other in hard times.

C Accepting change can lead to a fresh view on life.

D Rest and returning to familiar places can help to give a new perspective.

Which evidence from **Selection 1** supports the answer above?

A "The teapot lay in a swoon on the floor."

B "One can be one thing and still become quite another."

C "For a teapot, this is the same as being buried."

D "Who placed it there, who gave it, I know not."

147628A Constructed Response Common

6. Analyze the ways in which both **Selection 1** and **Selection 2** reinforce a lesson or moral. Identify the lesson each selection teaches and then analyze how that lesson is supported by the selection. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support your answer.

STOP