



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
2010**

**Grade 7  
Reading**

# Reading

① The root *quest* in the words question and request means

- A. mark.
- B. speak.
- C. seek.
- D. join.

*Use the definitions below to answer the question.*

**condition** *n* 1. state of health or well-being  
2. social status 3. the state of usability  
4. demand or requirement

② Which is the **best** definition of the word condition as it is used in this sentence?

Mark said he would accept the job on one condition.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

Read this passage from the novel *Rebel Glory* about a hockey game and then answer the questions that follow.

## Late for the Game

*Sigmund Brouwer*

“Move! Move! Move!” Teddy shouted in the dressing room in Medicine Hat. Teddy’s face was red and the little veins on his nose looked like wriggle worms. “Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!”

Coach Blair moved beside him. “They’re doing the best they can,” he said. “No sense making it worse.”

Teddy took a breath and calmed himself. “But you said we didn’t want to delay the game. And opening face off is any minute and—”

“Teddy, they’re doing their best,” Coach Blair repeated. “These kids are already nervous enough.”

We were.

I probably wasn’t supposed to overhear their conversation, but I was sitting on the dressing room bench closest to them. I was already dressed in my hockey gear and only had to tie my skates, giving me time to look around.

The dressing room was a mess. Some of the guys had been in so much of a hurry that their street clothes were in heaps on the floor. Others were shouting for their sticks. Or tape. Or equipment adjustments.

Jason Mulridge caught my eye. He winked, as if to say, “What’s the big deal?” Jason, the guy with the face all the girls in high school wanted to smother with kisses, was so cool. The only time I’d seen him rattled was the cockroach incident. Jason, like me, had also dressed quickly enough that he only needed to tie his skates. And like me, he preferred to keep his skates loose for as long as possible and always undid them between periods. Your feet get plenty of punishment during the game. No sense making it worse by keeping them tight during rests.

“Three minutes left,” Coach Blair said quietly. “Who won’t make it?”

Maybe a dozen hands went up.

“All right,” he said. “We’ll start the game with whoever’s ready. Looks like Mulridge and McPhee

on defense. Hog, Mancini, and Shertzer up front. We’ve got another full line to hold the fort till the rest of you make it to the bench. I don’t want to give the Medicine Hat fans more to cheer about by delaying this game.”

Just before I bent to tie my skates, I saw nods from those who would be starting the game with me. They were ready. I knew we could do it.

**13** John Mancini was ready—no surprise—to open the game for his shift as centerman. But then, he was always ready for anything. Skinny, quick, and short-tempered, he caused more brawls than a shipful of rowdy sailors. The latter characteristic surprised a lot of people, since Mancini had blond hair and the face of an angel.

Louie Shertzer, our big redheaded right winger, was just the opposite. You’d think someone with a carrot-top like his would get mad at anything. Nope. Nothing riled this guy, not even when we called him by his nickname, Sumo, because he was built as wide as a Japanese Sumo wrestler.

Hog Burnell, the left winger, was also just finishing the last knots on his skates. This guy’s upper body was so big that when he didn’t wear shoulder pads under his sweater, you couldn’t tell the difference. Plus he was tough. I’d seen him take a puck in the face and just grunt, then score a goal and finally go back to the bench for five stitches.

When our team walked through the tunnel out to ice level, boos and jeers greeted us.

We skated three times around our half of the rink, fired a half-dozen shots on Robbie Patterson, our goalie, and that was it for warm-ups. I didn’t even have time to build up my usual pre-game nervousness. Usually I skated in my own world and watched the crowd and worried if I was going to make an idiot of myself in front of those thousands of people. This game, the ref dropped the puck at center before I’d even taken a deep breath.

Mancini fought hard for the puck as the crowd roared. He managed to spin and throw a hip into the opposing center, while at the same time flicking the puck back toward me.

Their winger rushed in.

**20** I stickhandled the puck briefly. With no time to warm-up, I didn't have any feel. So instead of trying a fancy move, I did the safe thing. I fired the puck across to Mulridge, who in turn banked it up the

boards to Hog on the left wing. Hog caught the puck in his skates without losing a stride, booted it ahead to his stick, ducked around the defenseman, with Shertzer taking out his winger and Mancini busting in hard from the other side. Just like that, our first play of the game was a two-on-one.\*

\*two-on-one: two players against one player

- 3 Before the game, how does the narrator show that he is an experienced hockey player?
- A. He waits to lace up his skates until the game starts.
  - B. He eavesdrops on Teddy and Coach Blair.
  - C. He waves to the crowd to see their reaction.
  - D. He tries to relax when he enters the rink.

- 4 What makes the narrator confident about going out to the rink?
- A. Coach Blair picked the best players.
  - B. Enough players felt ready to start the game.
  - C. The other team seemed inexperienced.
  - D. Most fans at the game shouted their support.

- 5 In paragraph 13, the word shift means
- A. a change in direction.
  - B. a swing in mood.
  - C. an exchange of energy.
  - D. a turn to play.

- 6 In paragraph 13, the word brawls means
- A. fights.
  - B. cheers.
  - C. mistakes.
  - D. feelings.

- 7 Explain how the narrator's descriptions help the reader understand the characters. Use specific information from the passage to support your answer.

8 Why is this hockey game different from other games for the narrator?

- A. The coach has picked players who usually do not play well.
- B. The narrator has no time to become nervous about his playing.
- C. The crowd watching the game is very unfriendly toward the team.
- D. The narrator decides to pass the puck rather than keep control of it.

9 Why does the team receive “boos and jeers”?

- A. They spend too much time warming up.
- B. They are the visiting team at the rink.
- C. They start the game before the ref drops the puck.
- D. They make a mistake on the very first play of the game.

10 In paragraph 20, why does the narrator decide to do “the safe thing”?

- A. His teammates are making mistakes as they skate.
- B. He has not had enough time to prepare himself to play.
- C. His coach has told him not to take any chances.
- D. He is feeling very nervous about playing in front of people.

11 Based on the information in the passage, what makes Coach Blair a good coach?

- A. He is understanding about the feelings of his players.
- B. He is determined to win no matter what the cost.
- C. He is able to predict the reactions of the other team.
- D. He is willing to delay the game no matter what the results.

12 Identify the main problem in the passage and explain how it affects the main character. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

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