



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2011**

**Grade 5
Reading**

Reading

The teacher called out the students' names in alphabetical order.

- ① What does order mean as it is used in the box?
- A. neatness
 - B. instruction
 - C. items
 - D. arrangement

Use the definitions below to answer the question.

hold v 1. to grasp 2. to set aside 3. to have a belief 4. to keep from doing something

- ② Which is the **best** definition of the word hold as it is used in this sentence?
- The librarian will hold Marty's book at the front desk until she comes to pick it up tomorrow.
- A. definition 1
 - B. definition 2
 - C. definition 3
 - D. definition 4

Read this folktale from Africa and then answer the questions that follow.

Natural Habits

retold by Pleasant DeSpain

LONG AGO IN the deep jungle, Monkey and Rabbit were sharing a meal. Monkey was feasting on ripe yellow bananas while Rabbit munched on juicy green leaves.

While they ate, each practiced the habits most natural to him. Monkey scratched; first his head, then his chest, then his arms and, of course, his legs. He scratched and scratched during the entire meal.

3 While Monkey scratched, Rabbit turned his head; first to the right, then to the left, then behind him, and then above. He was on the lookout for an enemy attack, and not once during the meal did he refrain from looking about.

Finally Monkey said, "Please stop turning away from me when I'm talking. It's not polite."

"Look who's complaining about good manners," said Rabbit. "You've been scratching the whole time. Scratching is more impolite than looking for enemies."

"Then I'll stop scratching," said Monkey. "It's easy for me to keep still."

"It's just as easy for me to stop looking," said Rabbit. "In fact, I'll bet that I can keep still longer than you can."

"I'll bet you can't," said Monkey. "And the loser will feed the winner for a week."

"Agreed!" cried Rabbit. "The first to move loses."

So they sat facing each other, neither scratching nor looking about. Ten minutes went by, then ten more. Both grew anxious, but neither moved. When thirty minutes had elapsed, the situation had become unbearable. Monkey itched so badly that he felt like screaming! Rabbit was so frightened of his enemies that he was trembling.

Finally Monkey said, "Let's tell each other stories to pass the time."

"All right," said Rabbit. "You go first."

"My story," began Monkey, "is about the time that I got separated from my mother when I was just three months old. I was too young to be in the jungle all alone and I nearly got killed.

"First, I got hit on the head by a falling branch. It was small, but you should have seen the lump on my head. It was right here" He rubbed his head with his paw, scratching at the terrible itch. "Then I ran into a hornet's nest and got stung on my chest, and here on my arms . . ." Of course he scratched away those itches as well.

"I tried to run away, but tripped over a vine and nearly broke my leg. I had a big swelling right here . . ." *Scratch, scratch, scratch.*

Rabbit realized that Monkey was trying to trick him and said, "Now I'll tell a story. One night when I was young, my mother went on an errand and told me to keep watch over my many brothers and sisters. It was so dark that even the moon stayed hidden behind the clouds, and I jumped at every jungle sound.

"First, I heard a twig snap somewhere to my right . . ." He used the opportunity to look to his right. "Then I heard a strange cry coming from somewhere on my left . . ." His head spun to the left.

"Soon a large bird fluttered its wings behind me . . ." He looked behind. "But just then something fell from the trees above . . ." And up into the sky he looked.

Monkey began laughing and said, "I guess we can't change the habits that are natural to us."

"No," laughed Rabbit, "we can't. The bet is off. We will just have to feed ourselves for the next week."

- 3 Rabbit keeps looking away from Monkey because Rabbit is
- A. watching for danger.
 - B. smelling sweet things.
 - C. looking for more food.
 - D. hearing strange noises.
- 4 In paragraph 3, the phrase refrain from means to
- A. fear.
 - B. stop.
 - C. ask about.
 - D. complain about.
- 5 At the end of this folktale, why do Monkey and Rabbit laugh?
- A. They realize their food is gone.
 - B. They each think they have won the bet.
 - C. They think they have overcome their habits.
 - D. They realize each has been tricking the other.
- 6 What will **most likely** happen the next time Rabbit and Monkey share a meal?
- A. Monkey will run away and Rabbit will find another friend.
 - B. Monkey and Rabbit will quit telling stories to each other.
 - C. Monkey and Rabbit will make another bet to break their habits.
 - D. Monkey will keep scratching and Rabbit will keep looking around.
- 7 What does the folktale tell about the animals' natural habits? Explain your answer using details from the folktale for support.

Read this article about what happens when Kemoy Gourzang, a fifth grader, finds a wallet full of money. Then answer the questions that follow.

Lost and Found

by the editors of Weekly Reader

Imagine you are walking to school when suddenly you spot a wallet in the street. After picking it up, you realize that it's stuffed full of \$10, \$20, and \$50 bills. The cash adds up to \$500! There's no one in sight to claim the missing money. What would you do?

If you were Kemoy Gourzang, you'd hand the wallet over to your principal as soon as you arrived at school. That's just what the fifth grader from New York City did when he found himself in that exact situation recently.

"I have lost money before," Kemoy, 10, told *WR News*. "I knew if [the wallet] was mine, I would have wanted it back."

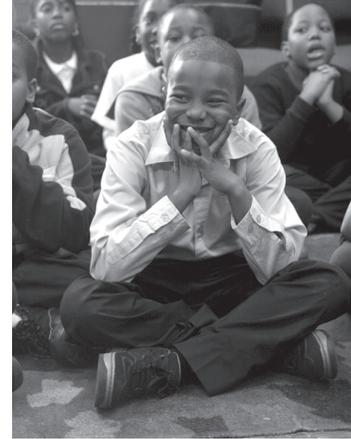
Joy-Ann Morgan, the principal at Public School 198, immediately called the owner of the wallet, using the ID inside. The man had not realized he had lost it. Morgan says he was panicked by her call but that he was happy to learn that an honest kid had found his wallet.

5 "This is what we want to teach our students," Morgan explained to *WR News*. "It's not even that honesty is the best policy—it's the only policy."

6 Kemoy has learned that doing the right thing pays off. His school district made a **citizenship** award in honor of his deed. A person who has good citizenship is responsible and does the right thing. Now New York City officials will be on the lookout for other children and teens who do good deeds and deserve to be recognized.

7 Kemoy has also received gifts from complete strangers. People have presented him with money, gift cards, and even sneakers.

8 As for the owner of the wallet? He thanked Kemoy when he went to the school to pick up his wallet. He also gave the student a \$100 reward. "He told me I was the most honest person he ever met," Kemoy says. "It makes me feel really [happy]."



- 8 What would Kemoy **most likely** suggest to someone who found a wallet full of money?
- A. Keep the money in a safe place.
 - B. Spend the money as soon as possible.
 - C. Let an adult know about the money.
 - D. Tell friends about the money.

- 9 Based on paragraph 5, which action **best** supports the principal's statements?
- A. admitting to breaking a dish
 - B. taking plenty of time to finish homework
 - C. walking to school with a close friend
 - D. forgetting a book at school

- 10 In paragraph 6, a deed is
- A. an offer.
 - B. a promise.
 - C. a question.
 - D. an action.

- 11 Which sentence **best** summarizes paragraphs 7 and 8?
- A. People showed Kemoy how proud they were of him.
 - B. People wanted to talk to Kemoy about what had happened.
 - C. People learned that Kemoy liked many different things.
 - D. People told Kemoy about times when they had lost something.

- 12 Explain how Kemoy showed good citizenship **and** how people reacted to what he did. Use information from the article to support your answer.

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