Everett Public Schools
Assessment of Student Learning

Student Packet

Benchmark Reading Assessment
Grade 7
Grading Period 1

"Hector, the Stowaway Dog"
"The Sea"
"Are Dogs Dumb?"

Student: _____   **Date:** _____

Teacher: _____   **Period:** _____

Literary Passage
Directions: Read the following selection and answer the questions.

Hector, the Stowaway Dog
by Captain Kenneth Dodson

1   Second Officer Harold Kildall of the Hanley noticed the dog first. The Hanley, a freighter, was one of five ships loading at the Government Dock in Vancouver, British Columbia, on April 20, 1922. Checking chain lashings, Kildall glanced up to see a large smooth-haired terrier, white with black markings, coming aboard by the gangplank. Once aboard, the dog stood absolutely still, looking and listening all about the deck. He sniffed at the deck cargo of fresh-sawed timbers and at the sacks of grain being loaded into the last hatch. Then he returned ashore, only to board the next ship, which was loading apples, flour and fir logs for England. Here the terrier again sniffed at the cargo and about the decks and living quarters, then slowly went ashore.

2   The dog's strange actions made Kildall curious. Now he watched the dog board a freighter loading paper pulp for East Coast ports. The dog boarded the other ships in turn, examining each in the same careful fashion. After that, busy getting ready for sea, Kildall forgot the whole thing. And at noon the Hanley got under way for the long trip to Japan.

3   Early the next morning the dog was found lying on a mat outside the cabin of the Hanley's captain. Unseen, he had come aboard again and stowed away for the voyage. The captain, who loved dogs, tried to be friendly, but the terrier would not warm up to him. Kildall and others tried, too, to win him over. To all of them he remained distant and cool. He just walked about the captain's deck, sniffing the salt air.

4   Late that first morning, when Kildall went below to eat, the dog followed him and stood at the galley door, waiting expectantly. The cook gave him his best leftovers. When Kildall climbed to the bridge to take over the watch, the dog followed close behind, walked through the pilothouse, took a turn through the chart-room, then ran up the ladder to the flying bridge and stood beside the compass housing. Seeming to be satisfied, he lay down in a comfortable corner and went to sleep. Obviously this stowaway was an old sea dog.

5   For 18 days the Hanley sailed across the northern rim of the Pacific. Day after day her officers and men tried to make up to the dog but he remained aloof. He allowed his head to be patted but showed no return of affection. When not "on watch" with Kildall, he remained at the captain's door, going below decks only for his meals.

6   When the coast of Honshu was sighted, the stowaway sniffed the land breeze and stared straight ahead as the land came in sight. His interest grew as the Hanley moved through the Yokohama breakwaters to its anchoring place near some other ships unloading cargo.

7   While directing cargo work, Kildall noticed that the dog was very alert, his tail switching from time to time and his nostrils quivering nervously as he stared at the other ships. The nearest of these, the Simaloer, was, like the Hanley, unloading squared timbers into the harbor.

8   Soon the Hanley swung with the tide so that her stern pointed in the direction of the Simaloer, now some 300 yards away. At once the dog's attention centered on her. He ran to the rear of the ship, as close to her as possible, and sniffed the air with rising excitement. While Kildall watched, a sampan came alongside the Simaloer, took two sailors aboard and set off for shore on a course that carried the boat close under the Hanley's stern.

9   Whining softly, the dog watched. Suddenly he began running back and forth in wild excitement, barking madly. This caught the attention of the passengers in the sampan. Shading their eyes against the sun, they stared at the Hanley's stern.

10 Suddenly one of them jumped to his feet and began shouting and waving his arms, motioning to the sampan man and slapping the other sailor on the back. His excitement matched the dog's. Now, as the sampan came alongside the Hanley's boarding ladder, the dog became so worked up that he jumped into the water. The shouting man pulled him aboard the sampan and hugged him close, wet coat and all. The dog whined with joy and licked his face. Obviously a dog and his master had been reunited.

11 The reunion of the stowaway and his happy owner became the talk of the crews of both ships. The dog's name, it turned out, was Hector. His owner, W. H. Mante, second officer of the Simaloer, had the same duties and the same watches to stand as Kildall had on the Hanley. At Government Dock in Vancouver, the Simaloer had changed its position to take on fuel while Hector was off for a last run before the long voyage. Mante searched the waterfront wildly but failed to find Hector in time—and the Simaloer sailed without him.

12 What mysterious sense could have guided Hector's careful search for the one ship out of many that would carry him across an ocean to rejoin his master? Did the kind of cargo the Hanley carried and perhaps other signs tell him that the Hanley was headed for the same port as his own ship? Did he then attach himself to the officer whose duties were like his master's? Any answers would be the guesswork of men, who know only that it happened.

Selection from - Spring 2000 Massachusetts Department of Education

Fill in the bubble next to the letter of the best answer.

1. What is the meaning of the word *aloof* in paragraph 5 of the selection? [LC04]

   O **A.** Upset
   O **B.** Angry
   O **C.** Distant
   O **D.** Friendly

2. What is the main idea in the story? [LC01]

   O **A.** Hector was stuck aboard the wrong ship as a stowaway.
   O **B.** Hector interfered with Officer Kildall's duties while he was a stowaway.
   O **C.** Hector was not affectionate to Officer Kildall but was still accepted by the crew.
   O **D.** Hector has been separated from his owner and must search a great distance to find him.

3. What does the author, in paragraph 4, mean when he says, "Seeming to be satisfied, he lay down in a comfortable corner and went to sleep. Obviously this stowaway was an old sea dog."? [LC03]

   O **A.** Hector had lived on a ship at sea before.
   O **B.** Hector was old and sea sick and needed rest.
   O **C.** Hector was very old and needed to lie down often.
   O **D.** Hector would become used to living at sea very soon.

4. According to the story, which word best describes Second Officer Harold Kildall? [LA05]

   O **A.** Patient
   O **B.** Careless
   O **C.** Confused
   O **D.** Possessive

5. How did Second Officer Harold Kildall most likely react to Hector returning to his old master? [LC03]

   O **A.** He was saddened to lose the dog and will find a dog of his own.
   O **B.** He will search for lost dogs on his future voyages.
   O **C.** He was curious to know how the dog found his master.
   O **D.** He will ask for the dog to be returned to him.

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 10 of "Hector, the Stowaway Dog?" [LC01]

   O **A.** The dog caused a stir on the boat.
   O **B.** The dog found his owner.
   O **C.** The dog licked the face of the sampan man.
   O **D.** The dog whined and jumped into the water.

7. Which sentence best summarizes paragraph 1? [LC02]

   O **A.** Kildall of the Hanley wondered why the smooth-haired terrier sniffed the sacks of grain.
   O **B.** A dog boarded the Hanley in Vancouver and walked the gang plank.
   O **C.** Kildall of the Hanley noticed a dog sniffing around his ship, going ashore, and then sniffing around another ship.
   O **D.** A dog stowed away on a ship and hid in the fresh sawed lumber.

8. **Short Answer - 2 pts**

   In your own words, write a summary of the story. Include a **summarizing statement** and **three** main events from the story in your summary. [LC02]

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9. **Short Answer - 2 pts**

The story shows the power of loyalty and love. Provide **two** details from the story to support this idea. [LC01]

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Literary Passage: Poem
Directions: Read the following selection and then answer the questions.

The Sea
by James Reeves

1   The sea is a hungry dog,
2   Giant and grey.
3   He rolls on the beach all day.
4   With his clashing teeth and shaggy jaws
5   Hour upon hour he gnaws
6   The rumbling, tumbling stones,
7   And 'Bones, bones, bones, bones!'
8   The giant sea-dog moans,
9   Licking his greasy paws.
10 And when the night wind roars
11 And the moon rocks in the stormy cloud,
12 He bounds to his feet and snuffs and sniffs,
13 Shaking his wet sides over the cliffs,
14 And howls and hollos long and loud.
15 But on quiet days in May or June,
16 When even the grasses on the dune
17 Play no more their reedy tune,
18 With his head between his paws
19 He lies on the sandy shores,
20 So quiet, so quiet, he scarcely snores.

Fill in the bubble next to the letter of the best answer.

10. What object does the poet personify? [LA05]

  ○ **A.** The cliffs
  ○ **B.** The sandy shores
  ○ **C.** The dog's paws
  ○ **D.** The grasses

11. What is the theme of the poem? [LC01]

  ○ **A.** Hunger can be destructive.
  ○ **B.** Happiness comes from enjoying your surroundings.
  ○ **C.** Character reveals personal beliefs.
  ○ **D.** Nature changes dramatically over time.

12. Which sentence best summarizes lines 10 -14 of the poem? [LC02]

  ○ **A.** During storms, the sea becomes restless.
  ○ **B.** At night, the moon shines on the sea.
  ○ **C.** From the cliffs, the sea appears dangerous.
  ○ **D.** As wind increases, clouds hover over the sea.

13. **Extended Response - 4 pts**

According to the poem, describe how the poet feels about the sea. Provide **three** details from the poem to support your answer. [LA05]

Informational Passage
Directions: Read the following selection and then answer the questions.

"Are Dogs Dumb?"
by Karen Hopkin

1   Chimps can use sign language to talk to their trainers. Monkeys can learn to count. A crow can figure out how to use a stick to get at the hard-to-reach grub. Chickens can learn to play checkers. Even worms can be taught to run mazes. So which animal is the smartest? You're probably thinking that chimps are smarter than chickens, and that crows are smarter than worms. And that you're smarter than all of them.

2   But where do those rankings come from? Okay, you probably are smarter than the average worm. But why do we assume that bigger beasts are smarter than the smaller ones? Or that furry critters are brainier than slithering wrigglers that are coated in slime?

3   And how come we think dogs are so smart? Sure, a dog might be clever enough to fetch his leash when he wants to go out. But the same mutt might also bark at the vacuum cleaner and spend a whole hour chasing his own tail. Is Rover really any brighter than a hamster, a chicken, or that kid who's always eating Play-Doh? How can you measure an animal's brain power?

4   The hardest part is coming up with the right test. A dog can't sit down with a No. 2 pencil and take a multiple choice exam. So the test has to be something the dog can learn to do: select a block by nudging it with a nose or a paw, for example. The test also has to be something the dog wants to do: a dog might stare at that block all day without budging - until she figures out that there's a treat hidden underneath.

5   Norton Milgram and his co-workers at the University of Toronto at Scarboourgh use treats to give dogs a Canine IQ test. The dog is presented with a tray with a blue block on it; underneath the block is a treat. The animal moves the block and gets the treat. So far, so good. Now the test gets tricky. The dog is presented with the same tray, but this time it has both a blue block and a yellow coffee can lid (or white bowl or black square of cloth) on it: the treat is now under the yellow lid (or white bowl, etc.). The test: how long does it take for the dog to learn that the treat is always under the new item on the tray? The smarter the dog, the quicker she'll find the treat.

6   That seems simple enough, but things become more complicated when you try to compare different kinds of animals. Monkeys wipe the floor with dogs on this test. Dogs may have to try hundreds of times before they select the yellow lid nine out of ten times. Monkeys learn much more quickly to find the hidden treat. Does that mean monkeys are smarter than dogs?

7   Not necessarily. The test was originally designed for monkeys, and it gives them an unfair advantage: by nature monkeys are curious and like to check out new things. Dogs on the other hand, tend to be wary about approaching new things. As Stephen Budiansky reports in *The Truth About Dogs*, one pooch was so scared of the yellow lid that he had to be excused from the study.

8   If the test is made more dog-friendly, on the other hand, canines do just fine. Instead of introducing a yellow lid, the treat is put under another blue block on the opposite side of the tray. Dogs learn as quickly as any monkey that the treat is always on the side opposite the first block they saw.

9   Even if you could find a test that was perfectly fair to all animals, in a way it's silly to ask whether one kind of animal is smarter than another. All animals have the ability to learn things that are important to them. Otherwise they wouldn't survive. A chicken doesn't need to be a chess champion to figure out where to get food or how to run from a predator. So a chicken is as smart as it needs to be to earn a living as a chicken.

10 If you still believe that dogs are much smarter than chickens, it's probably because dogs are good at learning the things we want them to learn: fetching a newspaper, for example. Try to convince a chicken to do that! The truth is most dog tricks take advantage of dogs' built-in behavior patterns-things that dogs are born knowing how to do or learn easily. Chasing and retrieving are leftover hunting behaviors. For a dog, fetching the paper or a tennis ball is not a reflection of intelligence. It's basically a demonstration that dogs will be dogs.

11 Canines may not be the deepest thinkers in the world. But perhaps that's for the best. The life of a dog- sitting alone all day, waiting for everyone to come home-can be pretty boring. Super-smart animals would probably get totally stressed out, says Serpell. Look at it this way: if dogs were any smarter, they probably wouldn't choose to hang around us.

Selection from - Released test item from the Massachusetts Department of Education

Fill in the bubble next to the letter of the best answer.

14. Which sentence summarizes the selection? [IC12]

   ○ **A.** Chickens and monkeys are smarter than dogs.
   ○ **B.** Dogs are less intelligent than most people think.
   ○ **C.** If dogs were smarter they wouldn't want to be with humans.
   ○ **D.** It is difficult to know and test the intelligence levels of animals.

15. In paragraph 6 of the selection, what does the author mean when she says, "Monkeys wipe the floor with dogs on this test."? [IC13]

   ○ **A.** Dogs perform far worse than monkeys do on this test.
   ○ **B.** Monkeys and dogs clean the floor together on this test.
   ○ **C.** Monkeys are trained to clean the floor faster than dogs.
   ○ **D.** Dogs perform equally compared to monkeys on an appropriate test.

16. What is the meaning of the word *wary* in paragraph 7 of the selection? [IC14]

   ○ **A.** Curious
   ○ **B.** Excited
   ○ **C.** Cautious
   ○ **D.** Unconcerned

17. What is the meaning of the word *reflection* as it is used in paragraph 10 of the selection? [IC14]

   ○ **A.** Sign
   ○ **B.** Statement
   ○ **C.** Prediction
   ○ **D.** Mirrored image

18. What is the purpose of the italic words in paragraph 7 of the selection? [IA15]

   ○ **A.** To signal a title
   ○ **B.** To signal a quote
   ○ **C.** To signal emphasis
   ○ **D.** To signal importance