

Everett Public Schools Assessment of Student Learning

Student Packet



Benchmark Reading Assessment Grade 10 Grading Period 1

“Crotchety Harry Truman”

“The Spider and the Fly”

“Pandora”

Student: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Period: _____

Informational Passage

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

Crotchety Harry Truman Remains an Icon of the Eruption

By Mike Barber

Seattle Post-Intelligencer Reporter

Thursday, May 11, 2000

- 1 All he did to become a legend was stay on Mount St. Helens and die.
- 2 But there was more to crotchety old Harry Truman than his last stand -- which he really did not want to make, according to family and friends of Truman, who refused to leave his home below the volcano.
- 3 Truman remains an icon of the eruption 20 years after he died at his Mount St. Helens Lodge on the shore of Spirit Lake.
- 4 Truman became the focus of the national media in the days before the eruption, a rugged individual who enjoyed the solitude of the raw frontier, true to himself as he ended 83 years of life with one last act of defiance.
- 5 To others, he was a rude old crank who would refuse to sell a candy bar to a kid.
- 6 In Castle Rock, townsfolk even now debate whether they want to keep the memorial to Truman at the entrance to town.
- 7 A lot of folks feel Truman was simply a crotchety old man who refused to listen to reason, says Barry Murray, who's helping create the Tyee Trail Association's Volcano Loop. "They don't want him to be the icon of the eruption."
- 8 Roberta Dickerson, a former Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce director who runs the trail group, says a lot of townsfolk tolerate the memorial only "because some feel it helps tourism."



Harry Truman -- and his 16 cats -- refused to leave home at the base of Mount St. Helens before the eruption. The 83-year-old operated a profitable lodge on Spirit Lake.
-Associated Press

- 9 Of course, Truman has defenders.
- 10 "We all have many facets to our personality, and he had a whole kaleidoscope," says his niece, Shirley Rosen of Bothell.
- 11 Rosen wrote a personal memoir called *Truman of St. Helens: The Man and His Mountain*. She called her uncle "a salty curmudgeon who lived his life the way he really wanted to live. He was a tough man with a gentle side."

- 12 A lot of folklore isn't true, she said. Truman wasn't an uneducated hermit living in a little cabin in the wilderness, as depicted in a television movie that starred Art Carney. He was a Mossyrock High graduate who shrewdly built up a million-dollar business---despite his unorthodox customer relations.
- 13 Truman owned 54 acres of prime land and a resort. He had a monopoly --100 boats for rent on the lake, Rosen said. "He was a smart man and a hard worker."
- 14 He traveled, going to Detroit to pick up his pink, custom-made 1956 Cadillac at the factory, visiting New York and driving cross-country with his wife and friends.
- 15 But his life before the volcano rumbled was far more interesting than the act that made him famous.
- 16 Born in West Virginia in 1896, Truman came West with his family of self-sustaining mountain folk who quickly took to logging, hunting and farming. On his way to France during World War I, a German U-boat torpedoed his troopship. An Army airplane mechanic, he learned to fly.
- 17 Truman married and had two children. He eventually moved himself and his young family to Spirit Lake in 1926.
- 18 In many ways, Truman was as unpredictable as the land under him. He could show frontier hospitality, and then on a whim toss someone out because he didn't like their looks.
- 19 Tales around Castle Rock have him backing up his edicts with the show of a gun.
- 20 "He could be meaner than a toad at some times, but I remember that he was also encouraging in a kind of you-can-do-it-kid way," Rosen said.
- 21 Verdant Spirit Lake attracted interesting outsiders to Truman's door. In 1936, legendary movie producer Jack Warner shot "God's Country and the Woman" in the backcountry. His crew stayed at Truman's lodge, where Warner and Truman traded shots of bourbon.
- 22 Running the lodge wasn't Truman's only source of support. His part-time work included poaching bear and elk, and flying seaplanes alone from Canada.
- 23 In his 54 years at the foot of the mountain, Truman also carved some outstanding friendships. One was formed in 1953 when he turned away his most famous guest, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.
- 24 When a rumpled and eccentric old guy walked into his lodge, Truman instructed Rosen's sister, Elaine, to "tell the old coot that if he wants a cabin, we don't have any."
- 25 When Douglas left, men nursing beers nearby told Truman who he had just given the bum's rush. Shocked, Truman chased after Douglas and convinced him to return.
- 26 Truman was married three times, divorcing twice and outliving his cherished third wife of 30 years, Eddie, who was his match in fiber and tenacity. He fathered two children with his first wife, Helen Hughes, the daughter of a mill owner.

- 27 After Eddie's death in 1975, Truman fell into depression and regularly took flowers to her grave.
- 28 Just before St. Helens came to life in March 1980, Truman had been slowed by a series of mishaps and seemed to be deteriorating, said George Barker, who was the Skamania County Sheriff's resident deputy at Spirit Lake.
- 29 "That winter I was more concerned about an elderly guy staying warm and having food; he was getting older and getting tired," Barker said.
- 30 When the mountain started acting up, Truman seemed to come alive as well –especially when reporters started coming in on the helicopters that would land near his lodge.
- 31 "When they began coming around, he got another shot in life," Barker said. "He enjoyed the attention."
- 32 Rosen says Truman's unwillingness to leave the mountain had more to do with protecting his property than making a statement. Others say the headlines contributed to his refusal to come off the mountain –he felt obliged to live up to his press.
- 33 "I think he kind of got himself talked into a Catch-22 situation to stay," Barker said. "He wanted to come down. He was very much afraid of earthquakes. He felt, like everyone else, that he would be able to see lava start to ooze down and a news helicopter would come in and scoop him up at the last minute."
- 34 Nature had other ideas. The searing blast came at 300 mph.
- 35 "One scientist told us Truman probably had time to maybe turn his head," Rosen said.
- 36 Moments later, Spirit Lake was buried by landslides and mudflows. "We figure he's 150 feet under the (present) lake," Rosen said. "His pink Cadillac, 16 cats, everything is buried with him –along with probably a lot of loot" from the lodge safe.
- 37 "There's no way to get to it," Rosen said. "He took it all with him –not a lot of people can say that. And I say, 'Good for him.'"

Selection from –Seattle Post-Intelligencer, May 2000

Benchmark Reading Assessment
Grade 10 – Grading Period 1
“Crotchety Harry Truman”

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

1. What is the main idea in the selection? [IC11]

 - ☐ A. Harry Truman created a legendary business.
 - ☐ B. Harry Truman was disliked by most of his neighbors.
 - ☐ C. Harry Truman settled at Spirit Lake in 1926.
 - ☐ D. Harry Truman was a tough man with a gentle side.

2. What does Shirley Rosen mean when she says, “We all have many facets to our personality, and Truman had a whole kaleidoscope” in paragraph 10 of the selection? [IC13]

 - ☐ A. Harry Truman was a cranky old man who made people angry.
 - ☐ B. Harry Truman was a foolish old man who would not leave the mountain.
 - ☐ C. Harry Truman had a variety of personalities, including pleasant and nasty.
 - ☐ D. Harry Truman had multiple personalities including airplane mechanic and resort owner.

3. What is the meaning of the word *coot* in paragraph 24 of the selection? [IC14]

 - ☐ A. Odd person
 - ☐ B. Mean man
 - ☐ C. Friendly person
 - ☐ D. Veteran hunter

4. What is the purpose of the caption under the photograph on page 2? [IA15]

 - ☐ A. To explain how Harry Truman and his 16 cats lived
 - ☐ B. To describe the picture of Harry Truman and tell about his 16 cats
 - ☐ C. To help the reader understand that Harry was a gentle old man
 - ☐ D. To identify what is in the picture and give additional information

5. Which sentence best summarizes Barker's view of why Truman did not leave the mountain in paragraph 33 of the selection? [IC02]

- ☐ A. He thought Truman stayed because he wanted the publicity for his business on Mount St. Helens.
- ☐ B. He thought Truman did not believe the mountain would really erupt.
- ☐ C. He thought Truman believed a helicopter would save him and miscalculated the time needed to evacuate.
- ☐ D. He thought Truman did not want to leave his cats behind when he got into the helicopter to escape the lava flow.

6. **Short Answer- 2 pts**

In your own words, write a summary of the selection. Include a **summarizing statement** and **three** important ideas from the selection in your summary. [IC12]

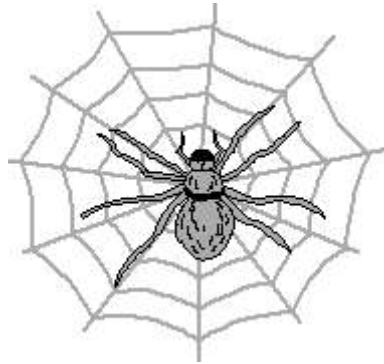
Literary Passage: Poem

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

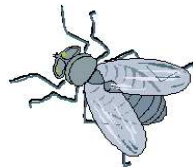
Spider and the Fly

By Mary Howitt

- 1 “Will you walk into my parlor?” said the Spider to the Fly,
 “’Tis the prettiest little parlor that ever did you spy,
 The way into my parlor is up a winding stair,
 And I’ve many curious things to show when you are there.”
 “Oh no, no,” said the little Fly, “to ask me is in vain,
For who goes up your winding stair can ne’er come down again.”



- 2 “I’m sure you must be weary, dear, with soaring up so high;
 Will you rest upon my little bed?” said the Spider to the Fly.
“There are pretty curtains drawn around; the sheets are fine and thin,
 And if you like to rest awhile, I’ll snugly tuck you in!”
 “Oh no, no,” said the little Fly, “for I’ve often heard it said,
 They never, never wake again, who sleep upon your bed!”
- 3 Said the cunning spider to the Fly, “Dear friend, what can I do,
 To prove the warm affection I’ve always felt for you?
 I have within my pantry, good store of all that’s nice;
I’m sure you’re very welcome---will you please to take a slice?”
 “Oh no, no,” said the little Fly, “kind Sir, that cannot be,
 I’ve heard what’s in your pantry, and I do not wish to see!”



4 “Sweet creature!” said the Spider, “you’re witty and you’re wise,
How handsome are your gauzy wings, how brilliant are your eyes!
I’ve a little looking-glass upon my parlor shelf,
If you’ll step in one moment, dear, you shall behold yourself.”
“I thank you, gentle sir,” she said, “for what you’re pleased to say,
And bidding you good morning now, I’ll call another day.”



5 The Spider turned him round about, and went into his den,
For well he knew the silly Fly would soon come back again.
So he wove a subtle web, in a little corner sly,
And set his table ready, to dine upon the fly.
Then he came out to his door again, and merrily did sing,
“Come hither, hither, pretty Fly, with the pearl and silver wing;
Your robes are green and purple—there’s a crest upon your head;
Your eyes are like the diamond bright, but mine are dull as lead!”

6 Alas, alas! How very soon this silly little Fly,
Hearing his wily, flattering words, came slowly flitting by;
With buzzing wings she hung aloft, then near and nearer drew,
Thinking only of her brilliant eyes, and green and purple hue—
Thinking only of her crested head---poor foolish thing! At last,
Up jumped the cunning Spider, and fiercely held her fast.
He dragged her up his winding stair, into his dismal den,
Within his little parlor—but she ne’er came out again.

7 And now dear little children, who may this story read,
To idle, silly flattering words, I pray you ne’er give heed;
Unto an evil counselor, close heart and ear and eye,
And take a lesson from this tale of the Spider and the Fly.

Selection from -Public Domain



Benchmark Reading Assessment
Grade 10 – Grading Period 1
“Spider and the Fly”

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

7. What is the theme of the poem? [LC01]
- ☐ A. Beauty leads to success.
 - ☐ B. Evil always wins.
 - ☐ C. Good overcomes evil.
 - ☐ D. Beware of flattery.
8. Based on the information in the poem, what inference can the reader make about the spider? [LC03]
- ☐ A. He thinks slower than the fly.
 - ☐ B. He loves the fly.
 - ☐ C. He is smarter than the fly.
 - ☐ D. He is being friendly to the fly.
9. Which word could the author have used in stanza 4 instead of *looking glass*? [LC04]
- ☐ A. Mirror
 - ☐ B. Camera
 - ☐ C. Window
 - ☐ D. Television
10. Which two objects does the poet compare using a metaphor? [LA05]
- ☐ A. Insects and children
 - ☐ B. The web and a house
 - ☐ C. Wings and gauze
 - ☐ D. The fly and a princess

11. Which sentence summarizes stanza 2? [LC02]

- ☐ A. Fly rejects the Spider's lures, then due to flattery returns and is caught in the web.
- ☐ B. Spider lures the Fly with food, and so the Fly joins the Spider in the pantry.
- ☐ C. While Fly admires the pretty curtains, she is accidentally caught in Spider's web.
- ☐ D. When Spider tries to entice Fly to rest on his bed, Fly adamantly rejects the idea.

12. **Extended Response- 4 pts**

What problem does Spider experience? What are **three** steps he takes to solve this problem? Include information from the poem in your answer. [LA05]

Literary Passage

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

Pandora

- 1 While Prometheus, the courageous Titan, was enduring his punishment for giving man fire far to the north in Scythia, Zeus, who was called Lord of High Thunder because he delighted in thunder, proceeded with his next objective, the punishment of man. Once again he called upon his son, Hephaestus, the smith.
- 2 “Hephaestus,” he commanded, “I want you to create a beautiful woman from the same ingredients that Prometheus, the clever Titan, used to create his beloved mortals. I want her to be beautiful enough to be a blessing, yet evil enough to be a punishment for mankind.”
- 3 Strong-armed Hephaestus obeyed his great father’s order, giving the girl the face of a goddess but human voice and strength. Then grey-eyed Athena dressed her in silver clothing and placed an embroidered veil upon her head. Hephaestus crowned her with a golden wreath of intertwined wild animals, a marvel which he, alone, could devise. When they had finished, the children of Zeus led the mortal girl out among the immortal gods.
- 4 The Olympians gasped in admiration at the beautiful creature the renowned smith had created. The Graces placed golden necklaces around her neck, while the Seasons placed spring flowers among the golden animals of her crown.
- 5 Then the Lord of Olympus directed golden Aphrodite to give her the qualities of love and desire. Finally, in order to ensure that woman would be a source of sorrow to man, Olympian Zeus instructed his cunning son, Hermes, to give the girl an inquisitive and deceitful nature.
- 6 As far-seeing Zeus commanded, all obeyed. Swift-footed Hermes decided that this mortal girl should be called Pandora because so many Olympians had given her gifts. Finally, as his gift, the Lord of High Thunder gave Pandora a sealed jar and told Hermes the Wayfinder to accompany her down to earth, where he should present her to gentle Epimetheus from the immortals.



- 7 Epimetheus could not resist such an appealing gift. Even though his brother Prometheus had warned him never to accept any gift from Mount Olympus because it might prove to be a source of evil, gentle Epimetheus could not believe that anyone as beautiful as Pandora could bring anything but delight. Therefore, he immediately married her.
- 8 Soon thereafter, Pandora became curious about what the sealed jar contained. No sooner had she broken the seal and lifted the lid from the great jar than its contents flew out into the air, scattering everywhere. Olympian Zeus had filled the jar to the brim with evils for man, thousands of sorrows and sicknesses that now hovered, some to attack by day, and others to steal in by night. Only one spirit remained behind in the jar. Hope had become caught under the rim, and it could not fly away before Pandora replaced the lid. Through the contents of the jar, the Lord of High Thunder completed his terrible revenge against Prometheus, thereby warning both gods and mortals not to challenge his authority.

Selection from -

Benchmark Reading Assessment
Grade 10 – Grading Period 1
“Pandora”

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

13. What is the main idea of the story? [LC01]

- ☐ A. Pandora is the reason for evil and sorrow in the world.
- ☐ B. Pandora was a beautiful woman made by the gods.
- ☐ C. Pandora was a curious woman.
- ☐ D. Pandora was a mortal.

14. **Short Answer- 2 pts**

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

15. Based on the information in the story, what assumption can the reader make about the meaning of Pandora’s name? [LC03]

- ☐ A. Pandora means all gifts.
- ☐ B. Pandora means made by the gods.
- ☐ C. Pandora means curious and inquisitive.
- ☐ D. Pandora means meant for mortal man.

16. What is the meaning of the word *brim* as it is used in paragraph 8 of the story? [LC04]

- ☐ A. Top
- ☐ B. Spill
- ☐ C. Middle
- ☐ D. Overflow

17. How does Zeus feel about Pandora releasing the evils, sorrows and sicknesses on mankind? [LA05]

- ☐ A. Frustrated
- ☐ B. Satisfied
- ☐ C. Comfortable
- ☐ D. Angry

18. Which sentence best summarizes paragraph 8? [LC02]

- ☐ A. Pandora's great beauty was responsible for the release of evil.
- ☐ B. Pandora's innocence was responsible for the release of evil.
- ☐ C. Curiosity led Pandora to open the jar and release evil.
- ☐ D. Evil led Pandora to open the jar and attack Zeus.