Inference Skill Check

Making Inferences · Grades 3–5 · Try 2

Name or code _____ Date _____

Read each passage and circle one answer for each question.

Passage 1 · The Art Cabinet

1 On Monday morning, the class hamster's cage was empty. The little door was open a crack.

2 "Pepper is gone!" said Malik.

3 Ms. Chen asked everyone to search quietly. Kids looked under desks and behind the bookshelf. Nobody found anything.

4 At lunch, Malik noticed something by the art cabinet. Tiny pieces of shredded paper were scattered on the floor. A trail of sunflower seed shells led under the cabinet door.

5 Malik lay on his stomach and peeked inside. In the back corner was a pile of torn-up construction paper. In the middle of the pile, something small and brown was curled up, sound asleep.

6 Ms. Chen smiled and handed Malik a sticky note. "Write a reminder for the cage," she said.

7 Malik wrote in big letters: CHECK THE LATCH!

1. Why is there most likely a pile of torn paper in the cabinet?

Circle ONE letter.

A The class has stored Pepper's empty cage in the corner.
B Pepper has used the torn-up paper to make a sleeping place.
C Malik has piled the paper there while searching the room.
D Someone has left a small brown toy among the paper.

2. What does Malik most likely want to stop from happening again?

Circle ONE letter.

A Pepper getting out of the cage again.
B Art paper being put in the wrong place.
C Paper scraps being left on the floor.
D Pepper being woken while trying to sleep.

Passage 2 · The Tryout

1 Priya's hands were shaking as she walked onto the stage for her tryout. Her mouth felt dry. The music teacher, Mr. Okafor, smiled from the front row. He held a clipboard and a pencil.

2 Priya lifted her violin. For three weeks she had practiced the same song every night. Her dog, Biscuit, had learned to leave the room when she started.

3 The first notes came out thin and squeaky. Priya stopped. She closed her eyes and took a long breath. She thought about the song one note at a time. Then she started again from the beginning.

4 This time the notes were smooth. When she finished, Mr. Okafor wrote something on his clipboard and nodded.

5 That night, a paper on the fridge said “Spring Concert: Priya, violin.” Biscuit stayed in the room while she practiced.

3. How does Priya most likely feel when she walks onto the stage?

Circle ONE letter.

A annoyed by the teacher’s writing

B eager to show the class her new violin

C nervous about playing for the teacher

D relaxed after practicing the song at home

4. What does the paper most likely mean for Priya?

Circle ONE letter.

A She is still waiting for a tryout date.

B She will help the teacher judge other tryouts.

C She has a ticket for the front row of the concert.

D She will play her violin in the concert.

Passage 3 · How Penguins Stay Warm

1 Emperor penguins live in one of the coldest places on Earth. In the Antarctic winter, the wind can blow faster than a car on a highway. The temperature can drop far below freezing. Yet these birds stay out on the ice for months.

2 Their first protection is their feathers. Penguins have short, stiff feathers packed tightly together. Underneath is a thick layer of fat. Feathers and fat work like a winter coat and a sleeping bag at the same time.

3 Their second protection is each other. In the worst storms, thousands of penguins press together in a tight group called a huddle. The birds in the middle stay warm. The birds on the outside face the wind.

4 But the penguins don’t stay in one spot. The huddle slowly shifts. Birds from the edge work their way in, and birds from the middle move out. Over time, many penguins take a turn near the warm center.

5. Why might a penguin at the edge move toward the middle of the huddle?

Circle ONE letter.

A To stay beside the same birds for the whole night.

B To find food that other birds have saved there.

C To get enough space to spread its wings.

D To reach shelter from the wind in the middle.

6. What would happen if the birds stopped changing places in the huddle?

Circle ONE letter.

A The middle birds would face the wind more often.

B The outside birds would spend more time in the warmest spots.

C The outside birds would have fewer chances to warm up.

D The middle birds would have to grow longer feathers.

Teacher use: ____ / 6