


 COMMON
CORE

Assessment Practice

DIRECTIONS Read these selections and answer the questions that follow.
King Midas had pleased the god Dionysus, and so Dionysus promised to give Midas anything he wished. Midas wished that everything he touched would turn to gold.

from **The King Who Wished for Gold** *retold by Anne Rockwell*

COMMON CORE

RL 2 Determine a theme of a text. RL 3 Analyze how particular elements of a story interact. L 1b Choose among compound, complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas. L 4c Consult general reference materials (e.g., dictionaries) to clarify a word's precise meaning.

- 1 As soon as he reached his palace, the king ordered a grand and extravagant feast to be set before him. All kinds of rare and expensive delicacies were prepared because Midas thought, After all, if I am so rich, why should I spare any expense?
- 2 And then he sat down to eat.
- 3 But the piece of bread he picked up hardened in his hand and turned to gold. Slices of meat became slabs of glimmering gold. He picked up his cup of wine, and slippery liquid gold gagged him so that he could not drink.
- 4 Poor King Midas realized that for all his newfound wealth he would soon starve to death if he could not eat or drink. Suddenly he hated the gift that he had wanted so much. He lifted his hands toward the sky and said, "Please, Lord Dionysus, forgive me for making such a foolish wish. I beg you, set me free from my own greed and stupidity!"
- 5 Dionysus was full of pity for the situation Midas had created for himself. Because he was a kindly and forgiving god, he immediately canceled the charm that had made everything King Midas touched turn to gold.
- 6 But he said to him, "Just to be sure that no trace of this charm remains, I want you to go and wash yourself at the source of the River Sardis. Where the spring spouts forth in clouds of spray, scrub your entire body and hair and beard until you wash all the gold away."
- 7 King Midas did as the god had told him. Dionysus had been right, for sprinkles of gold spangled the stream when he washed himself in it. To this day, gold flows through that river—the very gold that King Midas washed from himself.
- 8 From then on, King Midas was content with his rose garden and never again wished for gold and great wealth.

**Practice
Test**

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KEYWORD: HML7N-768

from **The Three Wishes** *by Ricardo E. Algeria*

- 1 Many years ago, there lived a woodsman and his wife. They were very poor but very happy in their little house in the forest. Poor as they were, they were always ready to share what little they had with anyone who came to their door. They loved each other very much and were quite content with their life together. Each evening, before eating, they gave thanks to God for their happiness.
- 2 One day, while the husband was working far off in the woods, an old man came to the little house and said that he had lost his way in the forest and had eaten nothing for many days. The woodsman's wife had little to eat herself, but, as was her custom, she gave a large portion of it to the old man. After he had eaten everything she gave him, he told the woman that he had been sent to test her and that, as a reward for the kindness she and her husband showed to all who came to their house, they would be granted a special grace. This pleased the woman, and she asked what the special grace was.
- 3 The old man answered, "Beginning immediately, any three wishes you or your husband may wish will come true."
- 4 When she heard these words, the woman was overjoyed and exclaimed, "Oh, if my husband were only here to hear what you say!"
- 5 The last word had scarcely left her lips when the woodsman appeared in the little house with the ax still in his hands. The first wish had come true.
- 6 The woodsman couldn't understand it at all. How did it happen that he, who had been cutting wood in the forest, found himself here in his house? His wife explained it all as she embraced him. The woodsman just stood there, thinking over what his wife had said. He looked at the old man who stood quietly, too, saying nothing.
- 7 Suddenly he realized that his wife, without stopping to think, had used one of the three wishes, and he became very annoyed when he remembered all of the useful things she might have asked for with the first wish. For the first time, he became angry with his wife. The desire for riches had turned his head, and he scolded his wife, shouting at her, among other things, "It doesn't seem possible that you could be so stupid! You've wasted one of our wishes, and now we have only two left! May you grow ears of a donkey!"

GO ON 

- 8 He had no sooner said the words than his wife's ears began to grow, and they continued to grow until they changed into the pointed, furry ears of a donkey!
- 9 When the woman put her hand up and felt them, she knew what had happened and began to cry. Her husband was very ashamed and sorry, indeed, for what he had done in his temper, and he went to his wife to comfort her.
- 10 The old man, who had stood by silently, now came to them and said, "Until now, you have known happiness together and have never quarreled with each other. Nevertheless, the mere knowledge that you could have riches and power has changed you both. Remember, you have only one wish left. What do you want? Riches? Beautiful clothes? Servants? Power?"
- 11 The woodsman tightened his arm about his wife, looked at the old man, and said, "We want only the happiness and joy we knew before my wife grew donkey's ears."
- 12 No sooner had he said these words than the donkey ears disappeared. The woodsman and his wife fell upon their knees to ask forgiveness for having acted, if only for a moment, out of covetousness and greed. Then they gave thanks for all their happiness.

Reading Comprehension

Use "The King Who Wished for Gold" to answer questions 1–4.

1. After Midas sits down to eat, —
 - A. Dionysus sends him to the river
 - B. he wishes to be wealthy
 - C. no one attends his feast
 - D. food turns to gold in his hands
2. Dionysus' behavior is characteristic of a Greek myth when he —
 - A. shows supernatural power
 - B. becomes extremely angry
 - C. proves that he is an immortal
 - D. knows that Midas is a fool
3. The aspect of the natural world that this myth explains is —
 - A. how gold came to be in the river
 - B. why rose gardens became popular
 - C. why rivers have springs
 - D. how thunder forms in the sky
4. Which words in paragraphs 1–3 are clues to the order of events in this myth?
 - A. After all, became
 - B. Ordered, turned
 - C. Before, but
 - D. As soon as, then

Use "The Three Wishes" to answer questions 5–8.

5. What is one theme of this tale?
- A. The key to happiness is being content with what you have.
 - B. Things that glitter are not really gold.
 - C. Wanting gold causes all the trouble in this world.
 - D. It doesn't pay to be selfish.
6. What is another theme of this tale?
- A. Work hard and you will succeed.
 - B. Sharing with others can bring an unexpected reward.
 - C. Nobody wants to have unattractive features.
 - D. Working in the woods does not make a good career.
7. The quality that the woodsman stands for in this tale is —
- A. foolishness
 - B. honesty
 - C. laziness
 - D. simplicity
8. After the wife grows donkey ears, the —
- A. old man grants three wishes
 - B. woodsman comforts his sad wife
 - C. wife shares her food with a stranger
 - D. old man knocks on the door

Use both selections to answer questions 9–10.

9. Which value is most likely prized by the cultures that gave us these two stories?
- A. Respect your elders.
 - B. Be kind to strangers.
 - C. Appreciate what you have.
 - D. Work steadily toward a goal.
10. What theme is repeated in both selections?
- A. Poor people should be happy with what they already have.
 - B. Greed causes trouble, whether you are rich or poor.
 - C. Sharing one's wealth enriches everyone.
 - D. Wealth can bring happiness if it is handled correctly.

SHORT CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

Write two or three sentences to answer this question.

11. On the basis of "The King Who Wished for Gold," what human traits do you think the ancient Greeks valued?

Write a paragraph to answer this question.

12. What lessons do King Midas and the couple in "The Three Wishes" learn about happiness and wealth?



11.

12.

Vocabulary

Use your knowledge of dictionaries to answer the following questions.

1. Read the dictionary entry for the word *spare*.

spare \spâr\ *v.* 1. to treat leniently or mercifully 2. to hold back; withhold 3. to give out of one's own supply *adj.* 1. extra 2. free to other use; unoccupied 3. thin or lean

Which definition represents the meaning of *spare* in the following sentence?

King Midas didn't want to spare any expense, so he ordered an expensive feast.

- A. Definition *v.* 1
- B. Definition *v.* 2
- C. Definition *adj.* 1
- D. Definition *adj.* 2

2. Read the dictionary entry for the word *spring*.

spring \sprĭng\ *v.* 1. to move upward or forward quickly 2. to arise from a source *n.* 1. an elastic device that keeps its shape after being compressed 2. a natural flow of water

Which definition represents the meaning of *spring* in the following sentence?

King Midas washed himself carefully in a spring.

- A. Definition *v.* 1
- B. Definition *v.* 2
- C. Definition *n.* 1
- D. Definition *n.* 2

3. Read the dictionary entries for words spelled "fell."

fell¹ \fĕl\ *v.* to cut or knock down

fell² \fĕl\ *adj.* 1. of an inhumanly cruel nature; fierce 2. capable of destroying

fell³ \fĕl\ *n.* the hide of an animal; pelt

Which entry word represents the meaning of *fell* in the following sentence?

In "The Three Wishes," the woodsman's job is to fell trees.

- A. Entry word *fell*¹
- B. Entry word *fell*²
- C. Entry word *fell*³
- D. None of these

Revising and Editing

DIRECTIONS Read this passage and answer the questions that follow.

(1) One of the most famous magicians was Harry Houdini. (2) Houdini's original name was Erich Weisz. (3) Houdini was born in Hungary in 1874. (4) He later moved to America. (5) Houdini did not get very far in his education. (6) But he loved to read. (7) One day, he read a book by Robert-Houdin, a famous magician. (8) He decided he would be a magician too. (9) He named himself "Houdini" after Robert-Houdin.

1. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 1 and 2 into a complex sentence?
 - A. One of the most famous magicians was Harry Houdini; Houdini's original name was Erich Weisz.
 - B. Harry Houdini's original name was Erich Weisz, and he was one of the most famous magicians.
 - C. One of the most famous magicians was Harry Houdini, whose original name was Erich Weisz.
 - D. Harry Houdini was one of the most famous magicians, and his original name was Erich Weisz.
2. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 3 and 4 into a compound sentence?
 - A. Houdini, who was born in Hungary in 1874, later moved to America.
 - B. After he was born in Hungary in 1874, Houdini moved to America.
 - C. Although he was born in Hungary in 1874, Houdini later moved to America.
 - D. Houdini was born in Hungary in 1874; he later moved to America.
3. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 5 and 6 into a complex sentence?
 - A. Although Houdini did not get very far in his education, he loved to read.
 - B. Houdini did not get very far in his education, and he loved to read.
 - C. Houdini did not get very far in his education, so he loved to read.
 - D. He loved to read; however, Houdini did not get very far in his education.
4. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 8 and 9 into a compound sentence?
 - A. Although he decided he would be a magician too, he named himself "Houdini" after Robert-Houdin.
 - B. He decided he would be a magician too, because he named himself "Houdini" after Robert-Houdin.
 - C. He named himself "Houdini" after Robert-Houdin, even though he decided he would be a magician too.
 - D. He decided he would be a magician too, and he named himself "Houdini" after Robert-Houdin.

STOP