One Land, Many Trails

Level 5, Theme 5

Theme Skills Test Record

Student _____ Date _____

Student Record Form

	Possible Score	Criterion Score	Student Score
Part A: Drawing Conclusions	5	4	
Part B: Propaganda	5	4	
Part C: Making Judgments	5	4	
Part D: Story Structure	5	4	
Part E: Information and Study Skills	5	4	
Part F: Prefixes *un-*, *dis-*, *in-*, *re-*; Suffix *-ion*	5	4	
Part G: Stressed and Unstressed Syllables	5	4	
Part H: Syllabication	5	4	
Part I: Changing Final *y* to *i*	5	4	
Part J: Spelling	10	8	
Part K: Vocabulary	10	8	
Part L: Grammar	10	8	
Part M: Writing Skills	5	4	
TOTAL	80	64	
Total Student Score x 1.25 =			%

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Name _____

Drawing Conclusions

Read the passage. Then read each question and fill in the circle next to the best answer.

The Pony Express

The Pony Express marked one of the most exciting times in the history of the West. Three men formed the business in 1860. They wanted to show the government that they could deliver mail between Missouri and California. They hoped that the government would eventually hire them and their new business would make a lot of money.

The men planned for a relay of riders to carry the mail between the states. They set up stations every ten to fifteen miles where the riders could change horses. The stations formed a 2000-mile trail. Next, the owners hired riders to carry the mail. To do this, they posted the following ad:

"Wanted. Young, skinny, wiry fellows. Not over 18. Must be expert riders. Willing to risk death daily."

Riders who signed on with the Pony Express had a very tough job. They galloped at full speed from station to station. At each station, they leapt from one horse, mounted another, and raced ahead. When a rider had traveled about seventy-five to one hundred miles, he handed the mail off to a new rider, who continued the journey.

The difficult trip took about ten days in the summer and twelve to sixteen days in the winter. The shortest trip was the delivery of a copy of the speech that Abraham Lincoln gave when he became President. It took only seven days and seventeen hours.

When the Pony Express began, customers paid five dollars to have a letter delivered. Later, however, the price dropped to one dollar. The Pony Express ended in 1861 when the telegraph, which allowed people to send messages by telegram, was invented. Even though the Pony Express did not last very long, its brave, young riders will always be remembered.



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1. Why did the owners of the Pony Express set up a relay rather than sending one man at a time?

- ○ **A.** The relay made the delivery of the mail faster.
- ○ **B.** The relay made the delivery of the mail more exciting for the riders.
- ○ **C.** Riders didn't want to face the dangers of the trip alone.
- ○ **D.** Riders wanted to see other people as they worked.

2. Why did each rider ride more than one horse?

- ○ **F.** All the horses needed to be exercised.
- ○ **G.** There were different horses waiting at each station.
- ○ **H.** Riding more than one horse made the trip more interesting.
- ○ **J.** The horses became tired after running so hard.

3. How many relay stations were set up?

- ○ **A.** a few
- ○ **B.** a dozen
- ○ **C.** a half-dozen
- ○ **D.** many

4. Why did the trip take longer in winter?

- ○ **F.** The riders followed a different trail.
- ○ **G.** The riders spent a long time at each station.
- ○ **H.** Bad weather made traveling more difficult.
- ○ **J.** The horses couldn't run as fast in the winter.

5. Why did the Pony Express end the same year that the telegraph was invented?

- ○ **A.** Many horses were sick that year.
- ○ **B.** The telegraph allowed people to send messages more quickly than the Pony Express.
- ○ **C.** All the Pony Express riders went to work for the telegraph companies.
- ○ **D.** The owners of the Pony Express sold their business to the telegraph companies.



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B

Name _____

Propaganda

Read the passage. Then read each question and fill in the circle next to the best answer.

Cowboys Needed

Rusty McCall needs cowhands to help him round up and break wild mustangs. If you need some money, this may be the job for you.

"The job is exciting and just plain fun. There's nothing more thrilling than climbing on the back of an untamed mustang," says McCall, known all around the West for his riding skills.

If you want to apply, you must be an expert roper and rider. You must also have experience rounding up horses. All the cowboys who helped during the last roundup had the best time of their lives. They received some of the highest pay in the area.

You will be paid one whole dollar a day. In addition, each cowboy will receive three hot, delicious meals every day. Comfortable housing will be provided in the bunkhouses at the ranch. The bunkhouses hold sixteen men each.

Don't miss out! Cowboys from far and wide will soon be trying to rope this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Sign up now so you won't be left in the dust.

1. What is the purpose of this passage?
   - ○ **A.** to describe the life of a cowboy
   - ○ **B.** to encourage cowboys to work for Rusty McCall
   - ○ **C.** to evaluate the life of a cowboy
   - ○ **D.** to express an opinion about wild mustangs

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Go on

2. Which statement is an example of overgeneralization?

- ○ **F.** Rusty McCall needs cowhands to help him round up and break wild mustangs.
- ○ **G.** If you want to apply, you must be an expert roper and rider.
- ○ **H.** All the cowboys who helped during the last roundup had the best time of their lives.
- ○ **J.** The pay is one whole dollar a day.

3. What form of propaganda is used in the following statement?

"There's nothing more thrilling than climbing on the back of an untamed mustang," says McCall, known around the state for his riding skills.

- ○ **A.** testimonial
- ○ **B.** bandwagon
- ○ **C.** transfer
- ○ **D.** faulty cause and effect

4. What form of propaganda is used in the last paragraph of the passage?

- ○ **F.** bandwagon
- ○ **G.** overgeneralization
- ○ **H.** testimonial
- ○ **J.** transfer

5. Which of the following statements about the job is most likely to be true?

- ○ **A.** The bunk beds are comfortable.
- ○ **B.** The meals are all delicious.
- ○ **C.** The cowboys will have fun.
- ○ **D.** The bunkhouses hold sixteen men each.

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C

Name _____

Making Judgments

Read the journal entry. Then read each question and fill in the circle next to the best answer.

May 9, 1856

Journal Entry written by Clyde Snider

The school I go to is a small frame house with only one room. It has a blackboard and five rows of desks. During recess, we play in a nearby field or under the big oak tree in the schoolyard. I really enjoy walking to school every day.

My teacher's name is Miss Tucker. She's kind and patient, and I've learned a lot from her. In the winter, she arrives early to start a fire in the wood-burning stove. At noon, she cooks a meal for us while we play outside.

Miss Tucker brings books, maps, and supplies to school whenever she can find them. She makes difficult lessons easy to understand, and she gives us lots of practice exercises to help us learn. I enjoy all my subjects, although mathematics is sometimes hard for me.

The students range from first grade through eighth grade. Even though everyone has to study something different, Miss Tucker makes lessons for everyone. Sometimes the older students help the younger ones.

Unfortunately, I have a problem at school, and his name is Jamie Livermore. Jamie used to be a good friend of mine, and he's the best marble player in the county. Lately, though, he's been a bother. Whenever I need to work in class, he starts talking to me. He keeps talking until I turn around and ask him to be quiet. Then we both get into trouble. Yesterday, we had to stand in front of the class for fifteen minutes as punishment. Last week, we had to chop wood after school. I don't mind chopping wood, but I don't like being punished because Jamie doesn't follow the rules.

Tomorrow we're going to write a play about the explorers. Miss Tucker wants me to help two of the younger students. Tomorrow night, I'll write in my journal about what happens.

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Go on

1. Which fact supports the judgment that Miss Tucker is a good teacher?

- ○ **A.** She makes Jamie and Clyde chop wood.
- ○ **B.** She is good at explaining things.
- ○ **C.** She builds fires in the winter.
- ○ **D.** She is kind and patient.

2. Which fact supports the judgment that Clyde is a good student?

- ○ **F.** He likes to walk to school.
- ○ **G.** He likes his teacher.
- ○ **H.** He and Jamie used to be good friends.
- ○ **J.** He helps out the younger students.

3. Which of these judgments could be based on the fact that Jamie talks in class?

- ○ **A.** Jamie gets his friend in trouble.
- ○ **B.** Jamie is not a good student, especially in math.
- ○ **C.** Jamie is one of the best marble players in the county.
- ○ **D.** Jamie is a popular student.

4. From the information in the journal, what judgment can you make about Clyde's school?

- ○ **F.** The school was very different from today's schools.
- ○ **G.** The students in Clyde's school learned more than today's students do.
- ○ **H.** Miss Tucker was always well prepared.
- ○ **J.** Going to school then was more fun than it is today.

5. From the information in the journal, which judgment can you make about one-room schoolteachers in the 1800s?

- ○ **A.** The teachers had to like to walk.
- ○ **B.** The teachers had an easy job.
- ○ **C.** The teachers had to work very hard.
- ○ **D.** The teachers did not need to know much.



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D

Name _____

Story Structure

Read the passage. Then read each question and fill in the circle next to the best answer.

The Trip to Town

Sally and her sister Amanda sat in the back of the wagon as it bumped along the road. "I can't wait to get to the general store," Sally said. "Ma said we could buy fabric to make new dresses. What color will you choose?"

Just as Amanda opened her mouth to answer, the wagon jerked to a stop. The horses tossed their heads, unable to pull the wagon any farther.

Pa climbed down and looked at the back left wheel. "It's stuck," he explained. "Everybody climb down and help me unload these sacks of grain. Unless we work quickly, we won't have time to go to the general store."

The family began lifting a dozen sacks of grain from the wagon. Pa needed to sell the grain at the market in town. While they worked, Sally hoped she didn't have to wait for next week's trip to get the fabric for her new dress.

When the wagon was finally empty, Pa helped Ma into the driver's seat. Ma picked up the reins. Then Pa slowly lifted the back of the wagon while Ma snapped the reins gently. The wagon lurched, then rolled easily forward. They reloaded the grain and soon they were on their way again.

At midmorning, they reached the edge of town. Sally saw people strolling along the wooden sidewalks. "Is there time to go to the general store, Pa?" she asked. Then she held her breath.

Pa reached into his pocket and pulled out a watch. He smiled as he answered, "I suppose we can spare a few minutes." Soon Sally was standing in front of racks of brightly colored fabrics. She immediately saw the green fabric she wanted. Before she knew it she was back in the wagon, rolling and bumping toward home.

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Go on

1. Who is the main character in this story?

- ○ **A.** Pa
- ○ **B.** Ma
- ○ **C.** Amanda
- ○ **D.** Sally

2. Where does most of the story take place?

- ○ **F.** at the family home
- ○ **G.** in the general store
- ○ **H.** on the road to town
- ○ **J.** at the market

3. What is the problem in the story?

- ○ **A.** Pa has to sell a dozen sacks of grain.
- ○ **B.** The wagon gets stuck.
- ○ **C.** The horses toss their heads nervously.
- ○ **D.** There is not enough fabric for two dresses.

4. What is one of the steps that helps to solve the problem?

- ○ **F.** Pa takes a watch out of his pocket.
- ○ **G.** Amanda opens her mouth to speak.
- ○ **H.** Sally chooses a green fabric.
- ○ **J.** The family unloads the grain.

5. What is the most important reason that the family needs to get to town?

- ○ **A.** Pa needs to sell the sacks of grain.
- ○ **B.** They need to get the wagon wheel fixed.
- ○ **C.** The girls need to buy fabric.
- ○ **D.** Pa needs to get a new watch.

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E

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Information and Study Skills

Read paragraphs A, B, C, and D. Then answer the questions that follow. Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

A. From the diary of Annie Stanley, 1850

The early days were the worst. My husband left for work before dawn and mined for gold all day. One day, I decided to open a hotel. I started by serving hot meals to miners at a cost of a dollar a meal. Soon, I had saved enough money to build a hotel with five guest rooms. . . .

B. From *Encyclopedia of the West*

Because he needed lumber for his ranch, James Sutter sent about twenty men to the American River to build a sawmill in late 1847. James Marshall was one of these men. In January, 1848, at the river, Marshall found a lump of gold the size of a small pea. Soon after, he found another and another. Men with him began to find gold, too. Word of Marshall's discovery spread quickly. By the end of 1848, people along the east coast had heard the news. . . .

C. From *California Times* newspaper, June 7, 2001

Gold Fever: The Story of the 49ers, an exciting exhibition, will open today at the Museum of History. Visitors to the exhibition will view tools used by the miners, paintings showing events that occurred during the period, and photographs of actual events. . . .

D. From *The Real Story About the 49ers*, by Rupert McDonald, director of the *Gold Rush Association*

In my opinion, although the 49ers changed history, they ruined one of the most beautiful regions in our country. . . .

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Go on

1. Which source provides an eyewitness account?

- ○ **A.** A
- ○ **B.** B
- ○ **C.** C
- ○ **D.** D

2. Which sources would be most likely to contain biased information?

- ○ **F.** A and B
- ○ **G.** B and C
- ○ **H.** C and D
- ○ **J.** A and D

3. Which source would be most likely to provide objective details about the daily life of many people during the Gold Rush?

- ○ **A.** A
- ○ **B.** B
- ○ **C.** C
- ○ **D.** D

4. Which source would be most likely to have accurate information about dates of important events during the Gold Rush?

- ○ **F.** A
- ○ **G.** B
- ○ **H.** C
- ○ **J.** D

5. What is the author's purpose for writing paragraph **A?**

- ○ **A.** to describe her experiences
- ○ **B.** to explain how to mine for gold
- ○ **C.** to state her opinion about the Gold Rush
- ○ **D.** to help people learn more about the Gold Rush



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F

Name _____

Prefixes *un-*, *dis-*, *in-*, *re-*; Suffix *-ion*

Choose the correct meaning for each underlined word. Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

1. Charles was unprepared for the test.

- ○ **A.** not prepared
- ○ **B.** well prepared
- ○ **C.** badly prepared
- ○ **D.** prepared before

2. Becky disagreed with his decision.

- ○ **F.** agreed before
- ○ **G.** did not agree
- ○ **H.** partly agreed
- ○ **J.** mostly agreed

3. The colts were inactive in the cold.

- ○ **A.** very active
- ○ **B.** able to be active
- ○ **C.** more than active
- ○ **D.** not active

4. The ranch hands rebuilt the corral.

- ○ **F.** built before
- ○ **G.** did not build
- ○ **H.** built again
- ○ **J.** took apart

5. The reflection of the rising sun shone in the lake.

- ○ **A.** something that is not reflected
- ○ **B.** something that is reflected
- ○ **C.** badly reflected
- ○ **D.** to reflect



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