

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Break Vacation Packet



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Due: Monday, April 9, 2018



**D**irections Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 6.

## A Leap of Faith

by Caren Churchbuilder

- 1 Sam's toes gripped the edge of the diving platform as he tried desperately to calm his nerves. Today was not the day to be nervous; it was the day to be perfect.
- 2 Taking a deep breath, he glanced down at the coach and realized too late that it was a bad idea. She was staring right at him, and she looked very serious. He closed his eyes and began to focus on his breathing when down below he heard someone shout, "Go, Sam!" It was Amy, his older cousin, and the very sound of her voice sent a memory from the past summer flashing through his head.
- 3 "Come on!" Amy had shouted that August afternoon at the town swimming pool. "You're not chicken, are you?" She was teasing him, quite loudly, in front of everyone.
- 4 "Stop it, Amy!" Sam had replied. Then, in an unconvincing voice, he'd added, "I'm not scared."
- 5 "All right, then," she said. "Let me see you jump. It's not *that* high."
- 6 Amy was referring to what Sam thought of as the *very* big, *very* high diving platform at the end of the pool. Sam was a great swimmer and loved to dive off a diving board, but he had a huge fear of heights. Amy, on the other hand, loved to climb anything and everything, especially when it involved diving. She was on her school's high dive team and had been trying to convince Sam to join the junior division so that they could go to competitions together.
- 7 At first, Sam had hated the idea, wondering who on earth would want to dive from something that high up. But he had to admit, Amy made the dive team sound pretty fun. By the middle of the summer, she had talked him into climbing to the top of the dive platform. As he looked down at the water below, Amy had shouted, "Go, Sam!" and with a sudden burst of courage, he had leaped over the edge.
- 8 After that day, Amy had helped Sam practice a simple platform dive. Together, they went to the town pool every day to make sure that Sam was ready, and now here he stood, at the top of the platform overlooking the team pool at tryouts.
- 9 All of Sam's fears returned to him, and he fought the urge to run away and hide. But he heard Amy's voice again, calling his name, and it helped him feel stronger. Opening his eyes, he repositioned himself at the edge of the platform, raised his arms, and stretched upward toward the sky. This was it!

**GO ON**

- 10 With a giant leap, he was airborne, straightening his arms and legs and twisting at the same time. As he turned downward toward the water, he pushed hard to raise his legs up in line with the rest of his body. Suddenly, he was hitting the water, cutting through it like a knife.
- 11 When he came up to the surface, he wiped the water from his eyes and looked over at the coach. She turned to Amy and gave her a thumbs up, and he knew he had made the team. He could hardly believe it! It had been a huge leap of faith, but it had definitely been worth it.
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1

Which sentence explains what Amy wants Sam to do?

- A** “It was Amy, his older cousin, and the very sound of her voice sent a memory from the past summer flashing through his head.” (paragraph 2)
- B** “She was on her school’s high dive team and had been trying to convince Sam to join the junior division so that they could go to competitions together.” (paragraph 6)
- C** “After that day, Amy had helped Sam practice a simple platform dive.” (paragraph 8)
- D** “As he turned downward toward the water, he pushed hard to raise his legs up in line with the rest of his body.” (paragraph 10)

2

Which sentence supports the idea that Amy is important to Sam’s success?

- A** “Today was not the day to be nervous; it was the day to be perfect.” (paragraph 1)
- B** “‘Come on!’ Amy had shouted that August afternoon at the town swimming pool.” (paragraph 3)
- C** “As he looked down at the water below, Amy had shouted, ‘Go, Sam!’ and with a sudden burst of courage, he had leaped over the edge.” (paragraph 7)
- D** “Opening his eyes, he repositioned himself at the edge of the platform, raised his arms, and stretched upward toward the sky.” (paragraph 9)

3

How does Sam best demonstrate a theme of the story?

- A** By trying and failing, he shows that winning is not everything.
- B** By going through with his dive, he shows that fears can be overcome.
- C** By listening to his cousin, he shows that people should always follow advice.
- D** By going to the coach for advice, he shows that you should ask for help when you need it.

**4** Which sentence **best** shows the difference between Amy and Sam at the beginning of the story?

- A** Amy supports Sam; Sam likes to tease Amy.
- B** Amy is a strong swimmer; Sam is afraid of water.
- C** Amy is brave on the high dive; Sam is afraid of heights.
- D** Amy likes to try new things; Sam does not.

**5** What is the **main** difference between the two settings in the story?

- A** Amy goes with Sam to the team pool but not to the town pool.
- B** Sam feels more pressure at the team pool than he does at the town pool.
- C** Amy and Sam compete at the town pool but not at the team pool.
- D** Sam learns to swim at the town pool, and he learns to dive at the team pool.

**6** How do the paragraphs describing Sam's memories of the past contribute to the reader's understanding of the story?

- A** They show how Sam ended up where he is at the time the story takes place.
- B** They suggest that Sam is now doing something he has always wanted to do.
- C** They indicate that Sam does not want to dive because he is upset with Amy.
- D** They describe the events that explain why Sam is afraid of his diving coach.

**GO ON**



# Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 7 through 15.

## Star Clusters

by Adam Raglan

1 Our star, the Sun, is what astronomers call a field star. It is so far away from other stars that it doesn't really interact with them. Based on our experience of the Sun, it's easy to think all stars are field stars. However, scientists know this isn't true. Stars actually have all kinds of relationships with each other. One type of relationship is called a star cluster.

2 A star cluster is a group of stars in a small area. They are so close that their gravity keeps them from drifting away from each other. (Gravity is the invisible pulling force that all objects make. The Earth's gravity holds you on the planet, and the Sun's gravity keeps the solar system together.) As a star cluster moves, its stars move as a group. If you can imagine the stars being connected to each other by invisible rods and moving through space as a single object, then you've got the idea.

3 Astronomers talk about two types of clusters: globular and open. Many globular clusters are as much as a few hundred light-years<sup>1</sup> across. Open clusters can be about 50 light-years across. This makes them millions of times larger than our solar system. The two types of clusters do not have a lot in common.

4 Globular clusters are spherical (ball-shaped). They can hold millions of stars. Most globular clusters are many billions of years old; some of them are nearly as old as the universe. Many of the stars are red giants, which are much larger, cooler, and older than our Sun. You can't find a globular cluster with your own eyes; they are too distant and too dim. Even with a good telescope, most globular clusters look like tiny smudges. Only the most powerful telescopes can get a good look at one of them.

<sup>1</sup> **light-year:** the distance a beam of light in space can travel in one year. A light year is a measure of distance, not of time.



Globular Cluster M 80 contains hundreds of thousands of stars.

- 5 Open clusters can be any shape. They have hundreds or thousands of stars, not millions. Compared with globular clusters, open clusters are young—just hundreds of millions of years old, not billions. The brightest stars in open clusters are blue giants, which are much larger, hotter, and younger than our Sun. Finally, some open clusters are close enough to Earth that you can find them with a small telescope. You can even see one with your own eyes. The open cluster called the Pleiades appears in the sky between late fall and early spring.
- 6 Globular and open clusters are different in many other ways, including how they form, what their stars are made of, and where they appear in the universe. One of the things they do have in common is that studying clusters has helped astronomers better understand the place of our own Sun—that lonely field star—in the vast universe.
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7

Which detail supports the idea that our Sun is not a part of a star cluster?

- A “It is so far away from other stars that it doesn’t really interact with them.” (paragraph 1)
- B “They are so close that their gravity keeps them from drifting away from each other.” (paragraph 2)
- C “If you can imagine the stars being connected to each other by invisible rods and moving through space as a single object, then you’ve got the idea.” (paragraph 2)
- D “Globular and open clusters are different in many other ways, including how they form, what their stars are made of, and where they appear in the universe.” (paragraph 6)

8

What is the meaning of the word “astronomer” as it is used in the article?

- A a designer and maker of telescopes
- B an astronaut who travels to distant solar systems
- C a writer who creates descriptive names for stars and planets
- D a scientist who studies stars and other objects in space

**GO ON**

**9**

Two main ideas in the article are that open clusters and globular clusters have little in common and that globular clusters are very old. Which sentence from the article provides support for **both** ideas?

- A** “Many globular clusters are as much as a few hundred light-years across.” (paragraph 3)
- B** “You can’t find a globular cluster with your own eyes; they are too distant and too dim.” (paragraph 4)
- C** “Compared with globular clusters, open clusters are young—just hundreds of millions of years old, not billions.” (paragraph 5)
- D** “Globular and open clusters are different in many other ways, including how they form, what their stars are made of, and where they appear in the universe.” (paragraph 6)

**10**

Read this sentence from paragraph 4.

**Only the most powerful telescopes can get a good look at one of them.**

What idea from the article does this sentence support?

- A** Globular clusters are huge.
- B** Globular clusters are distant.
- C** Globular clusters are old.
- D** Globular clusters are spheres.

**11**

Which of these describes one way in which open clusters and globular clusters are the same?

- A** Both contain stars that are larger than our Sun.
- B** Both are impossible to see without a telescope.
- C** Both are formed through the same process.
- D** Both contain stars connected by invisible rods.



- 12** Based on information in the article, which statement is **most likely** true?
- A** Stars do occasionally escape from both kinds of star clusters.
  - B** Stars exist for a longer period of time if they are in open clusters.
  - C** People who are not scientists tend to think that all stars are field stars.
  - D** Globular and open clusters are similar in more ways than astronomers think they are.

- 13** Which detail about globular clusters does the photograph on page 4 make clear?
- A** Globular clusters are extremely old.
  - B** Globular clusters are made up of billions of stars.
  - C** Globular clusters are spherical in shape.
  - D** Globular clusters are impossible to see without a good telescope.

- 14** Which detail would be **most** important to include in a summary of the article?
- A** The gravity of Earth holds everything on the planet.
  - B** Star clusters look like a single object in space.
  - C** Globular stars are so tiny they just look like smudges.
  - D** Scientists have learned more about our own Sun by studying clusters.

- 15** Which sentence from paragraph 2 supports the idea that star clusters are held together by gravity?
- A** "A star cluster is a group of stars in a small area."
  - B** "As a star cluster moves, its stars move as a group."
  - C** "Open clusters can be about 50 light-years across."
  - D** "The two types of clusters do not have a lot in common."

**GO ON**



**D***irections* Read this article. Then answer questions 36 and 37.

## Women's Suffrage

by Shirley Chino

1 Last week our school was used as a polling place for an election. Many people visited our school so that they could vote. Men and women, people who were young and people who were old, and people of different backgrounds cast their ballots. About one hundred years ago, however, polling places looked different. Back then, we would not have seen women lining up to cast their votes. Is it because women didn't care? No, they cared a great deal. Instead, they were not there because they were not allowed to vote. Thankfully, the women's suffrage movement changed that!

### What is suffrage?

2 Suffrage means "the right to vote." The founders of our country thought that the people should get to elect government representatives. That is why they created a democracy. They also thought it was important for people to vote on important decisions in the country. That is why elections began. However, each state had its own rules about elections, and these rules included who could or could not vote. In most cases, the right to vote was given only to white men who owned property.

3 In the 1870s, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution changed the rules about who could vote. This amendment said that all men could vote, no matter what race or color they were. Although this was a great step in the right direction, women still did not have the right to vote in national elections.

### How did women get the right to vote?

4 As the country grew and elections became even more important, women began to talk with each other about voting. Some women published articles explaining why women should have the right to vote. In 1848, a group of women including Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized a meeting in New York to discuss women's rights. Stanton studied the Declaration of Independence and then created a list of changes that were necessary to make women recognized as being equal to men as citizens of the United States. One of those things was the right to vote.

5 The meeting went well, but women still did not get the right to vote. However, many people agreed it was a step in the right direction. After the meeting, some people who did not believe in women's suffrage began to mock the efforts of the people at the meeting; they made fun of them in speeches and in newspapers. Yet, the organizers of the meeting were not angry. They believed any attention was good attention.

**GO ON**

6 In the years that followed, more people became interested in women's suffrage. One of these women was Susan B. Anthony. She spoke often about how important it was for all people to be treated equally. People, both men and women, listened to her and to others; many joined in fighting for her cause. Finally, in 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified and went into effect. This amendment gave women the right to vote.

**Why is the right to vote so important?**

7 When a person gets to vote, he or she has a voice in a big decision. By voting, the person participates in making important choices, and, consequently, he or she is seen as a valuable person in society. But the right to vote means even more than that. The 19th Amendment shows that men and women are equal under the law; it gives them equal benefits and privileges.

8 The 19th Amendment wasn't just the end of a long fight for rights. Rather, it opened the door to new opportunities. Women began to be more active in politics, and they began to work at jobs that had once been solely reserved for men. New laws were passed, such as Title IX, which gave women more opportunities in education and sports. Life improved for both men and women because freedom and justice are good for a country.

9 The next time you see a polling place or a commercial on television for an election, you might think about the people and the process that made that possible for all.

**36**

How does the author of “Women’s Suffrage” support the point that the 19th Amendment helped to create new opportunities for women? Use **two** details from the text to support your response.

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**37**

What main idea of the article “Women’s Suffrage” is supported by paragraphs 4 through 6? Use **two** details from the article to support your response.

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**GO ON**



## Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 38 and 39.

# Sara Sees Red

by Brendan Wolfe

- 1 As usual, Sara was lost inside her head, her boots crunching along the trail as she revisited a recent conversation with a classmate. She plotted the back-and-forth of what was said the way she might chart a graph problem in math class, or the way an author might draft a scene of dialogue: as if it were an equation to be solved, or a piece of art to be composed. Real life didn't work that way, of course. It wasn't algebra; it wasn't an exciting novel. But for Sara that was the point. She must fix it so that it was.
- 2 When the clouds began to darken, the jays and finches winged across her path with unusual agitation.<sup>1</sup> They had noticed a slight shift in the wind, the telltale drop in barometric pressure, and they shouted their warnings to whoever cared to listen. This didn't include Sara. She undertook her weekly outing with the sole purpose of crawling deep inside herself, away from all the bleating sounds of city life and oh-so-many troubling conversations. Her obliviousness<sup>2</sup> served as a kind of refuge. As she climbed the sometimes-bumpy trail, dodging stones and the occasional copperhead snake, she hoped to find a peaceful place to sit.
- 3 The woman appeared as Sara rounded a bend. Several years older than Sara and underdressed for this altitude, the woman lay sprawled across the path, her leg snapped like a twig in a storm. Sara gasped. The woman turned her head in Sara's direction and their eyes met for a single, terrifying moment.
- 4 "Can you help me?" the woman said.
- 5 Sara could only stare at her. The woman wore a navy-blue T-shirt with the logo of an athletic company, and cargo shorts. Her legs were matted with sweat, dirt, and tiny flecks of red. Sara saw what might have been a cap some distance away, but no water bottle, no backpack.
- 6 "Please," the woman said. She was out of breath, fatigued by the obvious pain. Her eyes briefly fluttered and then closed.
- 7 Assuming the tactic of a surprised snake, Sara didn't move. She had not counted on anyone else hiking this particular trail. In fact, over the past weeks she had come to think of it as hers alone. When she reached the summit, nothing could separate her from the sun. The air itself, thin as it was, seemed to step aside so that all she knew were warmth and deep quiet. Who was this person to intrude upon that?
- 8 A clap of thunder startled Sara into a full gallop. Back down the path she raced, only stopping when her lungs reached their capacity. Hands on her knees, she gasped for breath, choking back tears.

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<sup>1</sup> **agitation:** a condition of being upset

<sup>2</sup> **obliviousness:** a state of being unaware or forgetful of one's surroundings

9 "Please," the woman had said.

10 Sara rummaged through her pack until she pulled out a small black cell phone. No signal. Her legs felt rubbery, so she sat down in the dirt, idly watching the first drops of rain break through the tree cover.

11 Why had she said "please"? As Sara wondered about that single word, she found herself rewriting the scene in her head. She kept thinking, Shouldn't she have been more dramatic, especially if she was really hurt that bad? She imagined a blood-curdling scream like she had read about in a pirate novel. Then she imagined herself to be the kind of person she knew she wasn't. In her mind, when the woman attempted to pull herself to her feet to meet Sara, Sara shook her head to stop her. Then Sara gently braced the woman's back against a tree. In Sara's head, it was the woman who hesitated to speak, not Sara.

12 By now the skies had opened up, turning the trail slick with mud and dangerous. Feeling a chill, Sara ducked under a bush, away from a responsibility she hadn't asked for and didn't know how to meet. She waited there, hoping that courage would strike like lightning.

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**38**

In "Sara Sees Red," how does the mountain trail seem different to Sara when she sees the injured woman than it had seemed to her in the past? Use **two** details from the text to support your response.

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**GO ON**

39

How would “Sara Sees Red” be different if the narrator were the injured woman rather than Sara? Use **two** details from the text to support your response.

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# Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 40 through 42.

## from *Stone Fox*

by John Reynolds Gardiner

- 1 Searchlight sprang forward with such force that little Willy couldn't hang on. If it weren't for a lucky grab, he would have fallen off the sled for sure.
- 2 In what seemed only seconds, little Willy and Searchlight had traveled down Main Street, turned onto North Road, and were gone. Far, far ahead of the others. They were winning. At least for the moment.
- 3 Stone Fox started off dead last. He went so slowly down Main Street that everyone was sure something must be wrong.
- 4 Swish! Little Willy's sled flew by the schoolhouse on the outskirts of town, and then by the old deserted barn.
- 5 Swish! Swish! Swish! Other racers followed in hot pursuit.
- 6 "Go, Searchlight! Go!" little Willy sang out. The cold wind pressed against his face, causing his good eye to shut almost completely. The snow was well packed. It was going to be a fast race today. The fastest they had ever run.
- 7 The road was full of dangerous twists and turns, but little Willy did not have to slow down as the other racers did. With only one dog and a small sled, he was able to take the sharp turns at full speed without risk of sliding off the road or losing control.
- 8 Therefore, with each turn, little Willy pulled farther and farther ahead.
- 9 Swish! The sled rounded a corner, sending snow flying. Little Willy was smiling. This was fun!
- 10 About three miles out of town the road made a half circle around a frozen lake. Instead of following the turn, little Willy took a shortcut right across the lake. This was tricky going, but Searchlight had done it many times before.
- 11 Little Willy had asked Mayor Smiley if he was permitted to go across the lake, not wanting to be disqualified. "As long as you leave town heading north and come back on South Road," the mayor had said, "anything goes!"
- 12 None of the other racers attempted to cross the lake. Not even Stone Fox. The risk of falling through the ice was just too great.
- 13 Little Willy's lead increased.
- 14 Stone Fox was still running in last place. But he was picking up speed.

**GO ON**

- 15 At the end of five miles, little Willy was so far out in front that he couldn't see anybody behind him when he looked back.
- 16 He knew, however, that the return five miles going back into town would not be this easy. The trail along South Road was practically straight and very smooth, and Stone Fox was sure to close the gap. But by how much? Little Willy didn't know.
- 17 Doc Smith's house flew by on the right. The tall trees surrounding her cabin seemed like one solid wall.
- 18 Grandfather's farm was coming up next.
- 19 When Searchlight saw the farmhouse, she started to pick up speed. "No, girl," little Willy yelled. "Not yet."
- 20 As they approached the farmhouse, little Willy thought he saw someone in Grandfather's bedroom window. It was difficult to see with only one good eye. The someone was a man. With a full beard.
- 21 It couldn't be. But it was! It was Grandfather!
- 22 Grandfather was sitting up in bed. He was looking out the window.
- 23 Little Willy was so excited he couldn't think straight. He started to stop the sled, but Grandfather indicated no, waving him on. "Of course," little Willy said to himself. "I must finish the race. I haven't won yet."
- 24 "Go, Searchlight!" little Willy shrieked. "Go, girl!"
- 25 Grandfather was better. Tears of joy rolled down little Willy's smiling face. Everything was going to be all right.
- 26 And then Stone Fox made his move.
- 27 One by one he began to pass the other racers. He went from last place to eighth. Then from eighth place to seventh. Then from seventh to sixth. Sixth to fifth.
- 28 He passed the others as if they were standing still.
- 29 He went from fifth place to fourth. Then to third. Then to second.
- 30 Until only little Willy remained. . . .



40

Read these sentences from paragraph 17 of *Stone Fox*.

**Doc Smith's house flew by on the right. The tall trees surrounding her cabin seemed like one solid wall.**

What do the phrases "flew by" and "like one solid wall" tell the reader about Searchlight and Little Willy? Use two details from the story to support your response.

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41

In the excerpt from *Stone Fox*, why is little Willy confident about crossing the frozen lake when the others won't attempt it? Use two details from the text to support your response.

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**GO ON**

## *Planning Page*

You may PLAN your writing for question 42 here if you wish, but do NOT write your final response on this page. Write your final response on pages 29 and 30.





