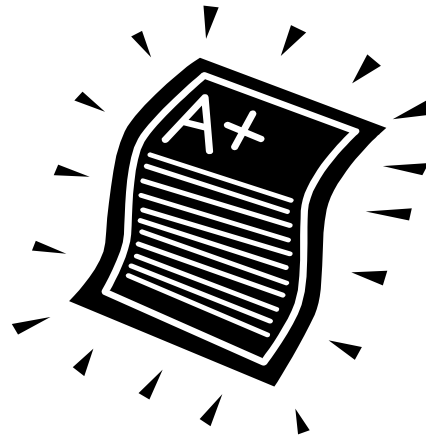


12th Grade Reading/Language Arts Assessment

Name: _____
Date: _____
School: _____
District: _____



*Increasing Achievement for Schools,
Teachers, & Students*

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 12.

North Dakota

The state of North Dakota, specifically the town of Rugby, North Dakota, is the exact geographic center of the North American continent. The state is bordered by the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan to the north, by the state of Minnesota to the east, Montana to the west, and South Dakota to (where else?) the south. Before the arrival of white settlers, North Dakota was inhabited by Native Americans, most of whom were members of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Ojibwe, and Sioux tribes.

As they were in most other western states before the arrival of the white settlers, buffalo herds were prevalent on the plains of North Dakota. When the railroads came to the state in the 1800's, many more settlers relocated from the East to the area, pushing out and replacing the area's Native Americans, eventually causing them to be confined to various reservations. The majority of those who settled North Dakota were German and Scandinavian, the offspring of whom still populate the state today. With their arrival, the buffalo herds were destroyed as the settlers began building homes, plowing, farming, and raising cattle on the land.

North Dakota is an extremely fertile state, producing sunflowers, soybeans, sugar beets, flax, barley, spring wheat, and rye, some of which it produces more of than any other state in the country. Much of the state is highly **arable** land, thanks to the Red River, which runs north and south between North Dakota and Minnesota. The famed Red River Valley, where most North Dakotans live, is found there and regularly floods its banks, which enriches the land for crop growing. Today, most of North Dakota's land is given over to crops and cattle, and its main industries are connected to food processing and farm equipment.

There is one part of North Dakota, however, where farming isn't practiced and cattle do not graze. That is the Badlands, found in the southwestern part of the state. The land there consists of soft rock that the wind has carved for centuries into fascinating shapes. Little, if anything, grows in the Badlands, and the area has been made famous by many books and films about the Old West in America in which the so-called "bad guys" ride into the Badlands in their attempts to elude posses.

North Dakota, the capital of which is Bismarck, actually has very few cities. Two of its best-known ones are Fargo and Grand Forks. North and South Dakota were both admitted to the Union in 1889. The state features an unusual form of legislative government known as a bicameral legislature. This means that the state elects two House Representatives and one Senator from each of the 47 districts, which are apportioned according to population. North Dakota's legislature meets for 80 days during even-numbered years when summoned by the governor.

The population of North Dakota was approximately the same in the early 1900's as it is now, and not a lot else has changed in the state since that time, either. It takes a special breed of people to live in a state with far-flung cities and towns, not to mention record-setting cold weather, but the people who live there love their state and are proud to be called North Dakotans.

North Dakota

1. Another good title for this passage would be:
 - A. The Rivers of North Dakota
 - B. Industrial Products of North Dakota
 - C. The Many Characteristics of North Dakota
 - D. none of the above

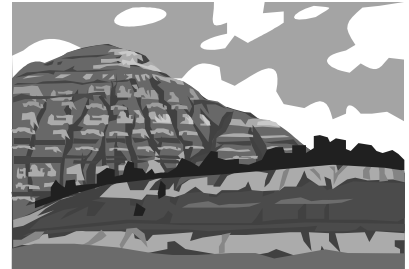
2. Which is a product of North Dakota?
 - A. spring wheat
 - B. sugar beets
 - C. soy beans
 - D. all of the above



3. Who occupied North Dakota before the Scandinavians?
 - A. the French
 - B. Native Americans
 - C. the British
 - D. none of the above
4. What is the main difference between North Dakota's farmland and the Badlands?
 - A. It snows in the Badlands.
 - B. Tourists are attracted to the Badlands.
 - C. Crops do not grow in the Badlands.
 - D. none of the above
5. What caused the number of settlers to increase greatly in North Dakota?
 - A. the expansion of the railroads
 - B. soldiers returning from World War II
 - C. the failure of agriculture in the state
 - D. none of the above
6. What can you infer about North Dakota's growth since the early 1900's?
 - A. The population has greatly increased.
 - B. The population has been reduced.
 - C. The population has stayed about the same.
 - D. none of the above

North Dakota

7. From information in paragraph three, you could conclude that:
- A. much of North Dakota is a swamp
 - B. North Dakota depends on river flooding to enrich its soil
 - C. shipping products on the waterways is important to the economy
 - D. none of the above
8. From its use in the passage, what do you think **arable** means?
- A. good for development
 - B. good for farming
 - C. good for nothing
 - D. none of the above
9. Why did the author mention the Red River Valley?
- A. to remind readers of an old cowboy song
 - B. to refer to North Dakota's greatest tourist attraction
 - C. to emphasize its importance to the state
 - D. none of the above
10. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. North Dakota is an industrial state.
 - B. North Dakota is well-known for tourism.
 - C. North Dakota is stagnating economically.
 - D. none of the above
11. The main idea of the fifth paragraph is:
- A. that North Dakota has an unusual form of state government
 - B. that North Dakota's governor is too controlling
 - C. that North Dakota was admitted to the Union in 1889
 - D. none of the above
12. According to the passage, how are North and South Dakota alike?
- A. They are both farming states.
 - B. They were both admitted to the Union in 1889.
 - C. They both attract tourists.
 - D. none of the above



The Badlands

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 13 through 28.

David Duncan

David Duncan would definitely be recognizable to you, even if you'd never actually been introduced to him personally. What I am **insinuating** is that everybody knows David Duncan or somebody reminiscent of him. As the quarterback, he's the most easily identifiable high school football player. He's the baseball team's prototypical star player, as the pitcher with the most no-hitters, not to mention that he hits more home runs than anybody else. All the teachers deem him perfection personified, and he's a member in good standing of the Honor Society. Additionally, his dad is a wealthy corporate attorney, meaning that David's future plans include matriculation at and graduation from law school. I haven't even alluded to the aspect of his 6'4" height or mentioned that all the girls have been permanently obsessed with him since elementary school.

Anyway, I've been acquainted with this particular version of David Duncan (his actual name) since first grade, even though we haven't exactly been best friends or anything. We did, however, play on some Pee-Wee and Pop Warner teams together, and we were both on the Jayvee football team when we first reached our post-middle school destination. Plus, of course, we've suffered together through numerous classes, from calculus to humanities, and were once romantically inclined toward the same girl. Here, I refer specifically to one Brittany Thomas, a truly attractive and very agreeable young lady.

I encountered her first, then when we mutually terminated our relationship, David and Brittany **initiated** a relationship. Regrettably for David, Brittany's family moved away only a brief time afterwards, but for my part, I was grateful not to see the two of them keeping company. I attempted to despise David when he first initiated the relationship with Brittany, but I was unable to do so because it wasn't as though he had moved in on her while she and I were still involved.

Besides, did I mention that David is a really decent and quite respectable guy? No kidding, he actually is. That's something you don't see a lot, either, because there is a definite scarcity of the really top jocks who are actually civilized in manner. They might be triumphant in popularity contests, like those conducted for Homecoming King, but in reality, they generally aren't the most appreciated guys in school, for good reason.

Anyway, the reason I got to thinking about David Duncan today is I heard something interesting about him this morning. A bunch of us were standing around talking about college and who was going where, and someone said he heard that David Duncan's going to the same college I am. I was astonished! I mean, I get decent grades and all, but I am not exactly in David's league when it comes to intelligence, and I'll bet I don't hit the books as hard as he does, either. Plus, like I said, his dad's super-rich and could afford any college, and I know for certain that David has his choice of a bunch of football and baseball scholarships.

So all day long I'm wondering why a guy like that would go to a small school with a sports program that barely rates a mention on ESPN. I mean, if he wants to play football or baseball, why isn't he going to UCLA? If he really wants to be a big-time attorney, why isn't he going to Harvard or Yale? The college I'm going to has a good

reputation for preparing students for law school, but I want to practice environmental law, and I thought for certain that he would practice corporate law, like his dad.

Then, last period, which is AP English, I heard one of his close friends say that David Duncan doesn't want to play football or baseball in college, and he doesn't want to practice corporate law when he gets out. I heard that he wants to practice some kind of humanitarian law and help what they call emerging nations around the world to better themselves. He wants to stamp out hunger and stuff like that, which I guess is why he's going to my college because people interested in doing that stuff for a career go there to prepare themselves. So, it looks like I haven't seen the last of David Duncan by a long shot, which I guess might not be such a bad thing. I mean, I'll bet if a humanitarian attorney and an environmental attorney got together, they could do some real heavy hitting out there in the world where help is desperately needed. What do you think?

13. This story is mostly about:
- A. how to win friends and influence people
 - B. one young man's observation of a classmate
 - C. how to get into law school
 - D. none of the above
14. Which detail tells you the narrator's opinion of most athletes?
- A. He says most of them are all-star players.
 - B. He says they are all potential dropouts.
 - C. He says there are not many who are civilized.
 - D. none of the above
15. What happened right after the narrator and Brittany broke up?
- A. Brittany went to law school.
 - B. Brittany moved away.
 - C. Brittany began seeing David.
 - D. none of the above
16. How are David and the narrator different?
- A. One will go to a fancy college, and the other won't.
 - B. One plays basketball, and the other doesn't.
 - C. One is tall, and the other is short.
 - D. none of the above



17. What caused the narrator to be surprised in AP English?
- A. He heard that Brittany and David broke up.
 - B. He had to take an unexpected exam.
 - C. He heard something about David and college.
 - D. none of the above
18. What can you infer from the passage about the personality of the narrator?
- A. He thinks about people other than himself.
 - B. He is a loner.
 - C. He doesn't like rich people.
 - D. none of the above
19. The narrator is thinking that he might partner with David in the future because:
- A. they could become famous corporate attorneys
 - B. they could start a professional baseball team
 - C. they could do some good for people who need help
 - D. none of the above
20. The passage reads, “. . . David and Brittany **initiated** a relationship.”
What does **initiated** mean the way it is used in the passage?
- A. finished
 - B. started
 - C. considered
 - D. none of the above
21. Why did the author write the last paragraph?
- A. to give the reader some insight into how the two boys think
 - B. to show the reader that both boys are on the AP track
 - C. to show how important it is to be a humanitarian
 - D. none of the above
22. Which is the best summary of this passage?
- A. All jocks are not created equal.
 - B. People are not always what they seem to be.
 - C. School is easy when you are on the AP track.
 - D. none of the above



David Duncan

23. What can you infer about Harvard and Yale law schools from the passage?
- A. Their graduates often become successful in a big way.
 - B. They are tough schools to get into.
 - C. They have a lot of student-athletes.
 - D. none of the above
24. Which detail belongs in a summary of this passage?
- A. Teachers only like Honor Society students.
 - B. It's good to know people before you make up your mind about them.
 - C. Playing on Pee-Wee and Pop Warner teams prepares you for pro-ball.
 - D. none of the above
25. Why did the narrator drop out of sports?
- A. because he was injured in a game
 - B. because he was more interested in calculus and humanities
 - C. because he was bored with running track
 - D. none of the above
26. What was the author's purpose for writing the first sentence?
- A. to show the reader that the narrator is jealous of David Duncan
 - B. to let the reader know that David Duncan is a snob
 - C. to give the reader an overall picture of David Duncan
 - D. none of the above
27. The narrator writes, "What I am **insinuating** . . ."
- What does **insinuating** mean the way it is used here?
- A. complaining
 - B. suggesting
 - C. thinking
 - D. none of the above
28. From the narrator's reaction to what he heard about David, you can tell that:
- A. he is annoyed that David will over-shadow him in college
 - B. he believes David's friends are making up stuff about David
 - C. he is pleased they might have the chance to work together one day
 - D. none of the above

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 29 through 41.

Yo-Yo Ma

Yo-Yo Ma is a world-famous Chinese-American cellist who is considered to be the best cellist playing today. Born in Paris in 1955, he has played the cello since the age of 5. His mother, Marina Lu, was a singer. His father, Hiao-Tsiun Ma, was a well-known conductor and composer who also played the violin. His father journeyed to France from Mainland China to study music. There, he met Ma's mother, who had moved to Paris in 1949, and they were married and had two children.

Ma's parents began early to teach their children music. From his father, Ma learned to analyze and study music. From his mother, he learned an appreciation for the beauty and the emotional aspect of music, a combination which he has consistently displayed in his work. Ma's first instrument was the violin, but his sister was playing violin at the time, so he decided to play the cello. Because the cello was so big, his father had to create a special stand by stacking telephone books underneath the instrument so the boy could play it comfortably. Ma's father taught music by breaking pieces into small parts, which Ma would learn and then combine with more parts he would learn the next day.

At the age of 5, Ma gave his first public recital at the University of Paris. When he was 6, the family moved to New York, where his father became a teacher at a school for musically gifted children. Many students at the school were the children of famous musicians. One of them was the child of a well-known violinist, Isaac Stern, who quickly noticed Ma's talents and recommended that he study with an eminent instructor at the Julliard School of Music in New York. **Ma progressed quickly with his music, and at age 8, he appeared on American television in a concert conducted by Leonard Bernstein.** Then, at the age of 9, he made his public debut in a recital at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Ma's musical life went much more easily than did his life at home. Although he was attending American schools and had American friends, he was receiving a very strict Chinese upbringing at home. His friends were encouraged by their parents to be independent and outspoken, whereas Ma was expected to remain quiet and **submissive** at home and was discouraged from expressing opinions of his own. In addition, his parents ignored the world outside of their home, requiring that their children speak only Chinese at home and teaching them only Chinese culture and values. Because he felt so restricted at home but could say or do nothing to alleviate his situation, Ma began to cut classes and hang out in the streets. As a result, his parents sent him to the Professional Children's School, where he entered an accelerated academic program and completed high school at the age of 15.

Tired of being thought of as different from everyone else because he was brilliant and talented, Ma began thinking more like his American friends and soon found himself **questioning whether he should continue his musical studies.** Knowing that he ought to go to college, he entered Harvard, and while he was there, he attended a concert by world-renowned cellist Pablo Casals, **whose performing inspired him to continue with his own.** **Soon, however,** Ma's numerous requests to play concerts began to interfere with his studies, and he again contemplated dropping out of college. Encouraged by his father to remain in school, Ma decided to play one concert per month, which he did until he graduated at the age of 21.

After college graduation, Ma married his longtime girlfriend, and they settled in Boston and started a family. He was soon performing 150 concerts a season, most of them on the road, but he decided to cut back in order to spend more time with his family after

their children were born. Continuing to play a limited concert schedule, Ma has made over 50 recordings, and he has received eight Grammy awards. He currently plays in his own project, The Silk Road Ensemble, and records on the Sony Classical label. One of his most recent projects was the soundtrack to the film *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*.

29. What is this passage primarily about?
- A. how difficult it is to play music and attend college
 - B. the difficulty of being raised in a foreign culture
 - C. the life and career of a famous cellist
 - D. none of the above
30. Which detail best shows the attitude of Ma's parents toward child raising?
- A. They thought all children should make straight A's in school.
 - B. They thought all children should not have any friends.
 - C. They thought all children should learn to play music.
 - D. none of the above
31. What happened before Ma's father met Ma's mother?
- A. They both lived in China.
 - B. They both sang opera.
 - C. They both moved to Paris.
 - D. none of the above
32. How was Ma different from his friends?
- A. Ma was brighter and more talented than most of them.
 - B. Ma was not allowed to study American history in school.
 - C. Ma was not allowed to speak English at school.
 - D. none of the above
33. What caused Ma to continue playing music while he was at Harvard?
- A. His mother encouraged him to continue playing.
 - B. An interested counselor encouraged him to continue playing.
 - C. He was inspired after seeing Pablo Casals in concert.
 - D. none of the above
34. What can you infer about Ma's current life from the passage?
- A. He is successful at combining his personal and musical lives.
 - B. The number of concerts he plays interferes with his family life.
 - C. He has become a musical failure.
 - D. none of the above

35. You can conclude from the passage that:
- A. living in Paris is good for musicians
 - B. talented people are unkind to others
 - C. it isn't always easy to be talented
 - D. none of the above
36. From its use in the passage, what does **submissive** mean?
- A. resistant
 - B. compliant
 - C. sarcastic
 - D. none of the above
37. The author wrote the first paragraph to:
- A. tell about the difference in Paris and Mainland China
 - B. explain that Ma left Paris at the age of 10
 - C. give the reader some background on playing the violin
 - D. none of the above
38. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. The life of a professional musician is not a happy one.
 - B. Yo-Yo Ma is a brilliant and talented, world-renowned musician.
 - C. If you want to be a successful musician, you must stay in school.
 - D. none of the above
39. What happened soon after Ma was admitted to study at Julliard?
- A. He was noticed by a famous violin player.
 - B. He became a violin player.
 - C. He appeared at Carnegie Hall.
 - D. none of the above
40. The best summary of the second paragraph is:
- A. Ma was immersed in music at an early age.
 - B. Cellos are too large for little kids to play.
 - C. Ma's parents did not help him to learn music.
 - D. none of the above



Yo-Yo Ma



41. Where might you find the history of cellos?
- A. in the “C” book of an encyclopedia
 - B. in an atlas
 - C. in a world history textbook
 - D. none of the above
-

42. A dictionary can also be called:
- A. an index
 - B. a glossary
 - C. a thesaurus
 - D. none of the above

43. An encyclopedia does **not** give you:
- A. geographical facts
 - B. historical facts
 - C. up-to-the-minute information
 - D. none of the above

44. What is another word for **footnote**?
- A. annotation
 - B. footer
 - C. definition
 - D. none of the above

North Dakota – 12.0
David Duncan – 12.0
Yo-Yo Ma – 12.0