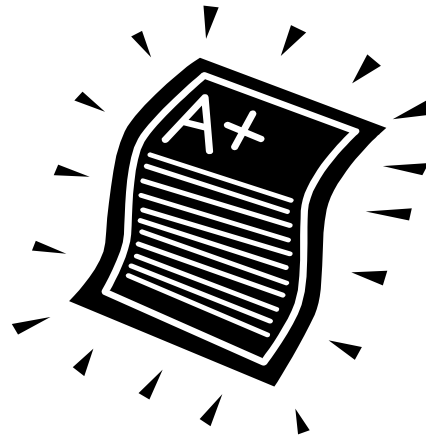


6th Grade Reading/Language Arts Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_



*Increasing Achievement for Schools,  
Teachers, & Students*

Post Test

*Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 14.*

### **All About Allergies**

We all hear and use the word “allergy.” It’s in advertising and on TV commercials all the time. We talk about allergies with our friends, but do you know the origin of the word? Do you know the actual definition of “allergy?” The word “allergy” comes from two Greek words, “allos” and “ergon.” “Allos” means “other,” and “ergon” means “reaction.” The term was first used in 1906 by a European pediatrician.

Doctors had known for a long time that many people sneezed a lot. They saw people with red eyes and rashes on their skin, but doctors never thought that such reactions, or **symptoms**, might be from everyday things like dust, pollen, fur, etc. With allergies, people’s immune systems cause them to react just that way. In other words, some people display allergy symptoms when they react to ordinary things that cause little or no reaction in other people. Almost anyone can be allergic to almost anything.

These symptoms as a rule appear in one of two forms. One form is called “**local**.” The other is called “**systemic**.” Local symptoms can affect the nose, eyes, throat, or skin. These symptoms can take many forms, like coughing or sneezing. Other forms of local symptoms are eyes turning red or an itchy rash appearing on the skin. For example, millions of people have hay fever, a common local symptom caused by pollen. The symptoms caused by hay fever might be sniffles, sneezing, teary eyes, and sometimes a sore throat, but the symptoms are generally no worse than that.

However, some people can get a systemic reaction from pollen. For these people, breathing in pollen, being bitten by an insect, or touching poison oak is dangerous. Such events can cause their airways to swell shut and cut off their breathing. Next, they can go into a coma and even die if they don’t receive timely medical assistance.

No one knows why some people have allergies and others don’t, but there are several tests that can tell what a person’s allergic reaction will be. These tests can also tell how strong that reaction will be. One is the skin test. In this test, small amounts of allergens that might be causing a reaction are scratched or injected into the skin. It takes about 30 minutes to learn if the person being tested has an allergy. This shows up in different forms. These can range from a reddening of the skin to a severe case of itchy hives.

There are several treatment options for people with allergies. The easiest one is limiting or ending contact with the allergen. This can range from not having pets to wearing a mask outdoors, but people can also get treatments. One treatment is injecting the person with the allergen. Several types of injections work well. This can reduce or do away with the person’s sensitivity to whatever is causing the problem. Another treatment uses medicine taken orally. Allergies are no fun for anyone, but luckily, there are treatments for most allergies, and they work for most people most of the time!

1. What would be another good title for this passage?

- A. How to Cure All Allergies
- B. Some Types and Causes of Allergies
- C. Allergy Testing
- D. Allergy Medicine Works



2. What causes hay fever?

- A. poison oak
- B. wasp stings
- C. pollen
- D. dust mites

3. What happens when you have an allergic reaction to something?

- A. You show symptoms, such as a runny nose.
- B. You have to see a doctor.
- C. You have to take medicine.
- D. all of the above

4. How are “local” symptoms different from “systemic” symptoms?

- A. There is no difference.
- B. A “local” symptom can kill you; a “systemic” symptom cannot kill you.
- C. A “systemic” symptom can kill you; a “local” symptom cannot kill you.
- D. “Local” symptoms are very similar to “systemic” symptoms.

5. One thing that can cause a “systemic” symptom is:

- A. sneezing
- B. coughing
- C. scratching
- D. none of the above

6. What can you infer about pollen from this passage?

- A. Bees like it.
- B. It makes some people sneeze.
- C. It causes a yellow dust.
- D. Everyone is allergic to pollen to some degree.



7. What can you conclude about allergy treatments?

- A. All of them work all of the time.
- B. None of them ever work.
- C. Most of them work most of the time.
- D. none of the above

8. From its use in this passage, what does **symptom** mean?
- A. It is a sign of something.
  - B. It is a very bad illness.
  - C. It always makes you itch.
  - D. none of the above
9. What was the author's purpose for writing the first paragraph?
- A. to explain what a pediatrician is
  - B. to show that Greeks discovered allergies
  - C. to explain the origin of the word "allergy"
  - D. none of the above
10. The best summary of the last paragraph is:
- A. there are no treatments for allergies
  - B. the only allergy treatment is an injection
  - C. the only allergy treatment is medicine taken by mouth
  - D. none of the above
11. Where might you find more material about allergies?
- A. in a medical textbook
  - B. in a science fiction magazine
  - C. in a thesaurus
  - D. none of the above
12. What is the main idea of this passage?
- A. that allergies can strike anyone
  - B. that allergies cannot be treated
  - C. that allergy medicines cost a lot of money
  - D. none of the above
13. What do hives make you do?
- A. sneeze
  - B. cry
  - C. itch
  - D. none of the above
14. If you are lucky, what happens after you are treated for an allergy?
- A. You have to go to the hospital.
  - B. The symptoms go away.
  - C. You miss school for a few days.
  - D. none of the above



*Read the following selection. Then answer questions 15 through 28*

### **Are We Really “Saving” Daylight?**

Do you like Daylight Saving Time? Do you hate Daylight Saving Time? Did you know that Congress recently voted to extend it? Daylight Saving Time, also known as DST, is the local time designated to be used by certain areas for part of each year. This time is set at one hour forward from the region’s standard official time. This system, in which time is adjusted forward during the spring and summer months, was designed to “save” daylight. It does this by allowing people to work and attend school during daylight hours rather than wasting time by sleeping during daylight hours.

DST was first used by the German government in 1916, to conserve resources during World War I. Great Britain started using it soon after, as did the United States. In the United States, Congress established time zones based on railroad times. At that time, most people went to bed earlier and got up earlier than we do today. They did not like DST, and the law was later cancelled.

DST was used again in the United States during World War II, from 1942 until 1945. Then, in 1966, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act. This meant DST would begin on the last Sunday of April and end on the last Sunday of October. The law also indicated that any state not wanting to use DST did not have to do so. That law was changed in 1972. It now lets states with more than one time zone use DST as they like. During the 1973 energy crisis, DST started earlier for two years. The DST law was changed again in 1986. At that time, DST started on the first Sunday in April. Because day lengths in the tropics do not change much, Hawaii does not observe DST.

People who like DST say that it helps more than it hurts, but DST is not well liked, and many areas do not use it. The main claim of those who like DST is that it reduces energy use. Those who dislike DST say it does not save much energy. They say it is too much trouble to change clocks twice a year. They claim that setting clocks forward and “losing” an hour disturbs sleep patterns, and they can prove these problems are real. Among the problems DST causes are lost worker productivity and a rise in the number of severe auto wrecks. They also point to the dangers of having students wait beside roads to catch school buses in the dark.

People who do not like DST say the savings in lighting costs is not worth the increase in summertime air-conditioning costs. They say that the amount of sunlight available when people come home from work means they don’t need electric lights, so energy is not really being saved. They say those people will use more air-conditioning during late-afternoon peak load times, causing more energy use. People working in **agriculture** dislike DST because animals eat and sleep on their own times.

*Are We Really "Saving" Daylight?*

All things considered, it will be interesting to see what happens now that Congress has extended DST!

15. What is the main topic of the first paragraph?
- A. opposing DST
  - B. supporting DST
  - C. explaining DST
  - D. debating DST



16. Where did DST first begin?
- A. the United States
  - B. Great Britain
  - C. Germany
  - D. all of the above

17. What happened right after DST was used in the United States during World War II?
- A. It was never used again.
  - B. It was dropped in 1945.
  - C. It was made permanent in 1945.
  - D. It was extended by Congress.

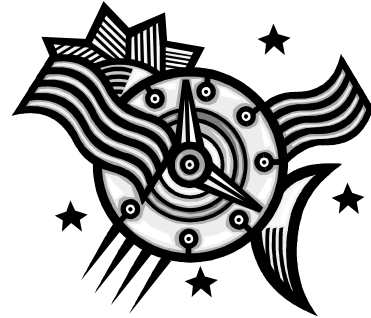
18. How does DST affect farmers differently from everyone else?
- A. Animals are involved.
  - B. There is no difference.
  - C. School buses are involved.
  - D. Farmers have to get up too early already.

19. According to people who don't like DST, what does DST cause?
- A. wars
  - B. wrecks
  - C. blackouts
  - D. energy conservancy

20. What can you tell about DST from this passage?
- A. It doesn't help anyone.
  - B. It is loved by everyone.
  - C. It causes arguments.
  - D. It helps more than it hurts.

*Are We Really "Saving" Daylight?*

21. What can you conclude about DST and wartime?
- A. It is never used in wartime.
  - B. It is often used in wartime.
  - C. It causes more direct bomb hits.
  - D. none of the above
22. Based on its use in this passage, what is the meaning of the word **agriculture**?
- A. landscaping
  - B. industry
  - C. farming
  - D. none of the above
23. Which is more important to the author of this passage?
- A. entertaining the reader
  - B. scaring the reader
  - C. educating the reader
  - D. both A and C
24. What is the best summary of this passage?
- A. DST affects all people in different ways.
  - B. DST is a new, untried idea.
  - C. DST is useless and annoying.
  - D. none of the above
25. Where would you look for a history of DST?
- A. in an index
  - B. in an encyclopedia
  - C. in a thesaurus
  - D. none of the above
26. According to the passage, how is Hawaii different from the rest of the United States?
- A. Hawaii's days are all about the same length.
  - B. Hawaii has no seasons.
  - C. Hawaiians don't speak English.
  - D. none of the above



*Are We Really “Saving” Daylight?*

27. What effect does setting clocks forward have?
- A. It is annoying.
  - B. It causes sleep loss.
  - C. It makes people eat breakfast too early.
  - D. It is necessary during wartime.
28. What can you infer about sleep loss from this passage?
- A. It puts many people in bad moods.
  - B. It really doesn't bother anyone.
  - C. It creates proven problems.
  - D. It makes workers more dynamic for employers.

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*Read the following selection. Then answer questions 29 through 44.*

### **The Perfect Day**

The daytime shadows were growing longer, and the sky resembled a canvas of aubergines, pinks, and blues. I had been apprehensive about making this trip. Not really overwrought about the trip itself, but worried about the person I would be seeing in less than an hour.

I had reflected about the day's events as the car made its way along the familiar stretch of highway. It had been a typical day. I had awakened to the blaring sound of my clock radio at precisely 6:10 a.m. I can even remember what the DJ was saying . . . that today was going to be one of those days that makes people wish they lived here. It would be one of our *perfect* Florida days. After that statement, I had **nebulously** hit the snooze button for another 10 minutes, rolled over on my side, and tried to pretend that I was still asleep. I had barely opened my eyes, but I realized the sun was beginning to brighten the room and that I must face the **inevitable**.

I continued with my morning rituals of making coffee, ironing clothes, showering, and grabbing a hurried breakfast. I dressed and left for work, just like always. *The DJ was right*, I thought to myself as I traveled through the deserted neighborhood streets. *It is a perfect day*. I waved to two of the neighborhood teens that were waiting at the entrance of our subdivision for the school bus. They nodded but did not wave back, and again I smiled as I remembered that I had behaved the same way when I was their age.

Now, less than 12 hours later, my world has been turned upside down, and I found myself thinking back to the day that I made the honor roll for the first time. You would have thought I had won an Academy Award! My grandmother had fixed a special meal for me. The table was dressed in the finest linens, and we were using her Sunday dishes.

*The Perfect Day*

Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, buttered rolls, and pecan pie were placed lovingly on the table, all my favorites! Nana had hugged me tight and whispered into my ear how proud she was for me. I could almost smell her lilac bath spray and feel those loving arms around me.

My eyes were suddenly cloudy, and the lump in my throat made it difficult to breathe. I blinked away the ensuing tears, and I tried to concentrate on the road. It was starting to get dark, so I turned on my headlights. As I approached the hospital, I could feel my chest starting to tighten. “She will be okay,” I repeated several times to convince myself. *She is so lucky that Mr. Luciano came to check in on her . . . I wonder where I am supposed to park?*

I drove toward the emergency room entrance and scoured the lot for an open parking space. There were none, and I could feel the blood rushing to my cheeks. “Nana,” I softly mouthed, “I’m coming!”

I circled the lot again, and I waited while a car slowly backed up to leave. *Hurry-up*, I thought impatiently as I tapped the steering wheel. *How long does it take to put a car in reverse?* I quickly pulled into the space, swung open the door, and moved with a determined gait toward the entrance.

“Hey, Miss,” I heard a voice yell. “You forgot to turn your lights off!” It took a couple of seconds to register that the voice was yelling at me. “Miss, Miss,” I heard again. This time I turned to see that I had indeed left the lights on and waved thankfully at the older couple as they walked back to their car. I quickly opened the car door, turned off the lights, and quickened my steps as I approached the emergency-receiving desk.

“May I help you?” the nurse looked up over her black rimmed glasses.

“Yes. I am here to see my grandmother, Mrs. Pantelli. She was brought in earlier by ambulance. Do you know where I can find her?”

“She has been placed in the ICU,” the nurse remarked matter-of-factly. “Down the hall and to your left. Check in at the reception area.”

29. What is the main idea of this passage?
- A. This was a very typical day for the author.
  - B. Grandmother has always been kind and loving to the author.
  - C. The author has dealt with many emotions throughout the day.
  - D. Something has happened to the author’s grandmother.



30. What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?
- A. to explain what happened to her grandmother
  - B. to narrate how something changed a perfect day
  - C. to describe what happened to her grandmother
  - D. to compare how this day was like every other day
31. Where would be the BEST place to find out more information about a specific illness?
- A. an "I" encyclopedia book
  - B. a dictionary
  - C. a medical encyclopedia
  - D. a chemistry textbook
32. Read the following sentence from the passage: *"I had barely opened my eyes, but I realized the sun was beginning to brighten the room and that I must face the inevitable."* What does the author suggest is **inevitable**?
- A. the news
  - B. that she must buy new blinds for the windows
  - C. that her grandmother is not well
  - D. that she has to get-up out of bed
33. In what way is the following an appropriate comparison? *"The daytime shadows were growing longer, and the sky resembled a canvas of aubergines, pinks, and blues."*
- A. It was starting to get dark.
  - B. The sky looked like a painting.
  - C. The sky did not look real.
  - D. The sun was no longer visible.
34. What effect did the news about her grandmother have on the author?
- A. The author thought about the special way her grandmother had treated her.
  - B. The author got emotional as she envisioned her grandmother.
  - C. The author became impatient as she approached the hospital.
  - D. all of the above

35. What happened right after the narrator was told she had left on her lights?
- A. She looked at her car.
  - B. She waved to the elderly couple.
  - C. She opened the car door.
  - D. She went inside the emergency room.
36. Which BEST describes the tone of the passage?
- A. The author loves and is worried about the fate of her grandmother.
  - B. The author is angry that the day did not turn out to be perfect.
  - C. Mr. Luciano may have saved her grandmother's life.
  - D. The author has many morning routines.
37. Look at this sentence from the passage: “. . . *I had **nebulously** hit the snooze button . . .*” What is another word for **nebulously**?
- A. slowly
  - B. quickly
  - C. groggily
  - D. angrily
38. Which statement BEST supports the idea that the day was an emotional one for the author?
- A. The author did not want to get-up in the morning.
  - B. The author had cloudy eyes, a lump in the throat, and difficulty breathing.
  - C. The author waved to students at the bus stop.
  - D. The road to the hospital was one that was familiar.
39. What do both the waiting for a parking space and leaving the car lights on tell you about the author?
- A. The author was impatient and distracted because she needed to see her grandmother.
  - B. The author was very angry at herself for leaving the lights on and running down the car battery.
  - C. The author had experienced an otherwise copacetic day.
  - D. all of the above

*The Perfect Day*

40. What is the BEST summary for the second paragraph?
- A. The course of a typical day is changed after learning unsettling news.
  - B. The day began as a typical morning.
  - C. The author gets up every morning at 6:10 a.m.
  - D. The author is upset about having to go to the hospital.
41. All of the following methods contribute to the author's creation of a climax except:
- A. being worried about making the trip
  - B. getting ready for work
  - C. the author's world being turned upside down in less than 12 hours
  - D. repeating that her grandmother would be okay
42. What was the purpose of the DJ's statement?
- A. to show what a good memory the author had
  - B. to show the setting of the story
  - C. to illustrate the irony of the perfect day
  - D. to describe a typical day
43. What conclusion can you infer from the passage?
- A. that her grandmother was in an accident
  - B. that the author was raised by her grandmother
  - C. that the grandmother does not live alone
  - D. that her grandmother is alive
44. What would be the BEST way to get directions to a hospital?
- A. look in a phone book
  - B. the Internet
  - C. call the local radio station
  - D. call the local university



*All About Allergies – 6.8*  
*Are We Really “Saving” Daylight? – 6.9*  
*The Perfect Day – 6.0*