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Weekly Test Lesson 7

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Lightkeeper's Discovery

It was a warm August day with a moist breeze from the north that first caught Benjamin's attention as he wandered the beach.

"I reckon that storm is just going to miss us," Benjamin said. He inhaled the hidden scent of moisture from a distant storm. Then he gazed off at the thin bank of clouds that were standing like soldiers along the southern horizon. Although he could tell that the nor'easter was passing away from them, he had been well trained by his father to be vigilant. Storms just off the coast could bring unusual surprises.

Benjamin continued to scan the ocean. He noticed a large object bobbing on the whitecaps. His eyes fixed on the object as it washed ashore. It looked like a long piece of wood from a clipper ship. Benjamin's eyes leaped from the fallen piece of wood to a solitary shadow creeping out of the fog bank from the south. At the same time, the faint silhouette of a distant forsaken ship bobbed toward shore.

"Land sakes! It's sure as sunrise that the ship is taking on water," Benjamin said. He saw the ship ambling sideways as it broke the horizon.

In a situation like this, he knew every second mattered. He dashed back to the lightkeeper's house that abutted Rocky Point Lighthouse. His father served there as lightkeeper and manager of the lifesaving crew.

"Hey, Pa," Benjamin managed between weak breaths. "You've got to come and see this. I think a ship is taking on water and coming close to the breakers."

Pa looked up from the lightkeeper's journal he was writing and gazed out the window through a small spyglass. He could clearly discern a wounded ship taking on water as the sailors tried to lower lifeboats hastily into the surf.

"You go alert the lifesaving crew, and I'll see what I can do to signal them," Pa said. He turned from the window with a hint of worry on his brow. "I doubt the sailors know these waters well. If they did, there is no way they would approach the breakers like that. They'll be dashed to pieces."

Benjamin rushed into the larger house attached to the lightkeeper's home. He rang a captain's bell, alerting the lifesavers.

"What is happening?" one of the elder lifesavers said, interrupting his chess game.

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“Ship’s taking on water not far from the breakers, and the crew is abandoning,” Benjamin offered. “Looks like they might hit the breakers if they’re not careful.”

The men in the shack jumped up. They made quick work of readying themselves and two of their own lifeboats for the tough task of rescuing the sailors. Benjamin raced out with the crew and joined his father. Pa had waded out into the surf and feverishly waved his hands to motion the sailors away from the breakers. A few minutes later, the first lifesaving boat arrived and began rescuing the sailors.

“Looks like all’s well that ends well,” Pa said with a smile. “Life in the lighthouse has trained you well. If you weren’t on the lookout, I reckon we might not have noticed the ship until it was too late.”

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Reading

- 1 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Read the selection from the text.

It was a warm August day with a moist breeze from the north that first caught Benjamin's attention as he wandered the beach.

"I reckon that storm is just going to miss us," Benjamin said. He inhaled the hidden scent of moisture from a distant storm. Then he gazed off at the thin bank of clouds that were standing like soldiers along the southern horizon. Although he could tell that the nor'easter was passing away from them, he had been well trained by his father to be vigilant. Storms just off the coast could bring unusual surprises.

What is the effect of the author's word choice in this paragraph?

- (A) It describes the setting.
- (B) It builds a sense of sadness.
- (C) It resolves a central problem in the text.
- (D) It explains the purpose of the lifesaving crew.

Part B

How does the author create the effect in part A?

- (A) by describing the sights, sounds, and smells
- (B) by giving information about beaches
- (C) by telling the character's feelings
- (D) by relaying facts about storms

- 2 Read the sentence from the text.

He could clearly discern a wounded ship taking on water as the sailors tried to lower lifeboats hastily into the surf.

Why does the author use the word wounded?

- (A) to confuse the reader
- (B) to create a sense of relief
- (C) to build tension in the text
- (D) to add an element of fantasy

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- 3 Benjamin tells Pa about the sinking ship. What does Pa’s reaction indicate?
- (A) The ship is in danger.
 - (B) The storm is getting closer.
 - (C) The lighthouse is in danger.
 - (D) Life in a lighthouse is exciting.

- 4 Read this sentence from the text.

“Looks like all’s well that ends well,” Pa said with a smile.

What does the phrase all’s well that ends well mean? Use clues from the text to support your answer.

- 5 How are Pa and Benjamin alike?
- (A) Both are fond of stormy weather.
 - (B) Both manage the lifesaving crew.
 - (C) Both are forced to abandon a ship.
 - (D) Both have learned to read nature well.

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- 6 Mark the boxes to indicate whether each sentence is an example of dialect.

	Dialect	Not Dialect
“I reckon that storm is just going to miss us,” Benjamin said.		
“Land sakes! It’s sure as sunrise that the ship is taking on water,” Benjamin said.		
“I doubt the sailors know these waters well.”		
“What is happening?” one of the elder lifesavers said, interrupting his chess game.		

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Writing

7 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.

- (A) The man dug into the erth.
- (B) We caught several fish from the pier.
- (C) We should volunteer at the book fair.
- (D) The mayor of the city gave an exciting speech.

8 Which sentence contains an error in grammar usage?

- (A) We served cake and coffee at the party.
- (B) Chin raced my brother and I down the hill.
- (C) My mother and I fed the chickens and ducks.
- (D) Coach called Ava and Madison to the outfield.

9 Read the sentence. Underline the **two** words that receive the action.

The little cat ate raw tuna and fresh salmon.

10 Jessica is writing about her camping trip. Read the paragraph from her essay and complete the task that follows.

My family took a camping trip. We set up our tent and then decided to go for a walk. We walked down a path, and stopped to pick up stuff to make a fire. When we got back, my mom built a fire. The smell of marshmallows soon filled the air.

Rewrite the paragraph to add more detail. Be sure to include vivid details and sensory words.
