**Name:** **Date:**

**Grade 7 Standard Benchmark 1**

**Read the selection. Then, choose the best answer to each question.**

**Chasing Dreams**

**Dog:**

Each day I sit and wait,

Sit and wait, down by the gate.

If I hear a rumble down the way,  
I bark and say, come out and play!

*5* Then suddenly I see, I see—

Yes, it’s he, my enemy,

A blur of rubber, glass, and steel,

Mysterious threat, delectable meal!

I cannot wait, it is too late,

*10* Too late, too late, to hesitate,

I launch myself toward my unknown fate—

And promptly crash into the gate.

Each day, I sit and wait,

Sit and wait, down by the gate,

*15* Dreaming of the day the gate won’t hold.

No car can escape a dog who’s bold!

**Dog Owner:**

Silly old dog! A dreamer at heart.

He tries every day, though it’s plain from the start:

For all of his barking, his fussing each day,

*20* The gate will stop him, the car get away.

When will he learn? Why won’t he give up?

Yet my dog dreams his dream, that foolish old pup.

But maybe, just maybe, he’s got something right:

A dream gives us hope, and hope shines a light.

*25* It’s a reason to try, and try again the next day.

We all need a dream, I guess you might say.

**1.** **Which of the following best explains how the poet arranges the stanzas in the dog’s section of the poem?**

1. The first stanza tells where the dog is and what he is doing. The next three stanzas explain why the chase fails.
2. The stanzas alternate between the dog describing waiting for the car to come and the chase when it arrives.
3. The first two stanzas tell what happens as the dog waits. The last two stanzas tell what happens as he chases the car.
4. **The first three stanzas tell the story of the dog’s daily car chase. The fourth stanza explains the dog’s feelings about the chase.**

**2.** **The author repeats the opening lines of the poem (lines 1 and 2) in lines 13 and 14. The author includes this repetition most likely to —**

1. present events in a clear sequence.
2. emphasize that the dog is a patient creature.
3. **emphasize that the dog’s habits stay the same.**
4. help readers appreciate the rhythms of a typical day in the dog’s life.

**3. What is the effect of the author’s use of “rumble” in line 3, “bark” in line 4, and “crash” in line 11?**

1. It creates a steady rhythm and adds to the playful feeling of the poem.
2. It creates a steady rhythm and makes readers fear what will happen next.
3. **It helps readers imagine the action and adds to the playful feeling of the poem.**
4. It helps readers imagine the action and makes them fear what will happen next.

**4. What is the theme in this passage?**

1. Good things come to those who keep hoping.
2. **Hope, even if it is foolish, helps people find joy in life.**
3. A dream, even if it is enjoyable, is misleading and should not be trusted.
4. People don’t always get what they hope for, but they need to accept their fate.

**5. What textual evidence best supports the answer to number 4?**

1. “Then suddenly I see, I see—  
   Yes, it’s he, my enemy” (Lines 5-6)
2. “I cannot wait, it is too late” (Line 9)
3. “No car can escape a dog who’s bold!” (Line 16)
4. **“But maybe, just maybe, he’s got something right:  
   A dream gives us hope, and hope shines a light.” (Line 23-24)**

**6. The author uses the phrase “delectable meal” in stanza 2.**

Then suddenly I see, I see—  
Yes, it’s he, my enemy,  
A blur of rubber, glass, and steel,  
Mysterious threat, delectable meal!

The phrase “delectable meal” is a metaphor for—

1. **the car.**
2. the dog’s life.
3. the owner’s dreams.
4. the dog’s dinner

**7. How does the structure of the poem contribute to its meaning?**

1. The repetition of phrases emphasizes the dog's persistence and determination to catch the car.
2. The use of rhyme creates a light-hearted tone, contrasting with the seriousness of the dog's pursuit.
3. The abrupt ending highlights the dog's failure and disappointment, reinforcing the futility of its efforts.
4. **The alternating stanzas between the dog's perspective and the dog owner's perspective provide insight into both characters' viewpoints.**

**Read the selection. Then, choose the best answer to each question.**

**Jayden’s Saturday**

*1* Jayden lay on his bed, watching the lights dance across the ceiling. The lights were reflections from the pool outside his family’s second-floor apartment. Jayden thought about the pool long and hard. At that moment, he decided, there was nothing he wanted to do more than leap in with the other kids, preferably by cannonballing off the diving board. Too bad he couldn’t. Instead, he was stuck inside for the weekend, catching up on his project.

*2* The week had started off so well, too. One day after the next—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday—chores all done, check, homework complete, check. “Is this my son?” his mother had said. “Looks like someone who got bitten by the responsibility bug! I’m impressed.” But then Thursday hit. That was the day Mr. Graydon reminded the class that the American history project was due Monday.

*3* “Which project?” Jayden had thought. Then he remembered—the project he had decided to deal with “later.”

*4* Confident he could catch up, Jayden began working Thursday evening. He finished his notes and made his outline. When Friday came, though, he couldn’t bring himself to miss the pickup baseball game in the field behind the apartment complex. Saturday morning was there before he knew it.

*5* “Can I go with Tony’s family to the zoo today?” he asked his dad at breakfast.

*6* “Reality check, buddy,” said his dad. “Aren’t you the guy with a report on Teddy Roosevelt to write this weekend?”

*7* “Aw, man!” said Jayden. “But Tony invited me last week.”

*8* “No ‘aw, man’ about it,” said his dad. “We’ll invite Tony over next weekend to go swimming. The sooner you get that report done, the sooner you can go outside.”

*9* “Got it,” said Jayden, looking down at the floor.

*10* And that was how Jayden had ended up lying on his bed feeling sorry for himself on a sunny Saturday morning.

*11* “Ugh,” he thought. “All I want to do is go outside and, like, hang out with Tony.” He thought about his favorite pitcher and whether anyone ever made him do homework on the weekends.

*12* Just then, he heard a knock on his bedroom door. His dad poked his head in.

*13* “OK, squid,” said his dad. “I just got off the phone with Tony’s dad. Tonight is barbeque night at our house with Tony’s family, followed by a movie at the theater. You’ve got six hours to get that report in some kind of shape—think you can do it?”

*14* It took Jayden a second to register what his dad had just said. “Do it?” he stammered. “I don’t know.”

*15* “Well, there’s only one way to find out, Jayden,” said his dad, gently. “That’s to start working on it right now.”

*16* Jayden started to grin. “Got it!” he said, as he swung his feet to the floor and headed toward the pile of books on the kitchen table.

**8. Which of the following inferences about Jayden is best supported by the details in the story?**

1. Jayden has perfect work habits.
2. **Jayden is becoming more responsible.**
3. Jayden enjoys spending time alone in his room.
4. Jayden does not get along very well with his father.

**9. Which quotation from the passage best supports the answer to number 8?**

1. “Jayden lay on his bed, watching the lights dance across the ceiling.” (paragraph 1)
2. **“One day after the next—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday—chores all done, check, homework complete, check.” (paragraph 2)**
3. “Confident he could catch up, Jayden began working Thursday evening.” (paragraph 4)
4. “‘No ‘aw, man’ about it,’ said his dad.” (paragraph 8)

**10. Which of the following ideas is explicitly stated in the passage?**

1. Jayden’s dad wants his son to have some fun on the weekend.
2. Jayden does not get enough work done while he is at school.
3. **Jayden chose to put off work on his American history project.**
4. Jayden is a big sports fan who is most interested in baseball.

**11. Which is the textual evidence that most clearly supports the answer to number 10?**

1. “The week had started off so well, too.” (paragraph 2)
2. **“Then he remembered—the project he had decided to deal with ‘later.’” (paragraph 3)**
3. “He thought about his favorite pitcher and whether anyone ever made him do homework on the weekends.” (paragraph 11)
4. “‘Tonight is barbeque night at our house with Tony’s family, followed by a movie at the theater.’” (paragraph 13)

**12. Choose the best summary of the passage.**

1. Jayden really likes swimming, but he can’t go because he has a project to work on. He is disappointed that he can’t swim and is angry with his dad.
2. Jayden wants to go to the zoo with Tony, but his dad needs his help. Jayden has to stay home all weekend.
3. **Jayden did not finish a project for school and now he has to do it on the weekend. He learns his lesson about not waiting until the last minute.**
4. Jayden feels sorry for himself because it is the weekend, and he has to stay home. He misses all of the fun that he could have.

**13. Which of the following is the best restatement of a theme of the story?**

1. It is better to think things through before taking action.
2. Parents should make their children learn hard lessons.
3. People should work hard all the time so they do not fall behind.
4. **It is better to try to fix a problem than to just feel sorry for yourself.**

**14. Which quotation from the passage best supports the answer to number 13?**

1. “Jayden thought about the pool long and hard.” (paragraph 1)
2. “Instead, he was stuck inside for the weekend, catching up on his project.” (paragraph 1)
3. “‘Aw, man!’ said Jayden. ‘But Tony invited me last week.’” (paragraph 7)
4. **“‘Well, there’s only one way to find out, Jayden,’ said his dad, gently. ‘That’s to start working on it right now.’” (paragraph 15)**

**15. Which best describes the central conflict and how it is resolved?**

1. Jayden had been excited about the weekend, but then was disappointed because he had to work on his project.
2. **Jayden had been dreading finishing his project, but then he became motivated so that he could have a barbeque with Tony.**
3. Jayden had been happy about being responsible, but then stopped being as responsible and helping his family with chores.
4. Jayden had been motivated to work on his schoolwork but then lost his motivation toward the end of the week.

**16. How does Jayden's desire to go swimming and hang out with Tony influence his decision to work on his history project?**

1. Jayden chooses to skip his history project to spend time with Tony, neglecting his responsibilities.
2. Jayden decides to go swimming with Tony instead of working on his history project, prioritizing fun over work.
3. **Jayden's desire to hang out with Tony motivates him to finish his history project quickly so he can spend time with his friend.**
4. Jayden ignores Tony's invitation and dedicates his weekend solely to completing his history project, demonstrating his commitment to his responsibilities.

**Read the selection. Then, choose the best answer to each question.**

**A Future Without Cash**

*1* Cultures are always evolving—often in subtle ways that many of us are not even aware of. One way that the business world is changing is in its level of dependence on cash. In decades past, cash was king. Debit and credit cards were only an option. Today, in growing numbers, that is no longer true. That is a change for the better, both for business owners and for their clients or customers.

*2* For business owners, being cashless means no longer having to store and transport bills and coins. No employee has to go to and from the bank to make deposits or get more change. Without any cash on the premises, there is far less risk of being robbed.

*3* Going cashless helps the economy as well. A recent study by Tufts University found that the United States spends about $200 billion per year by continuing to use cash. The report stated that taking cash out of circulation would “unlock massive savings—in time and money.”

*4* Finally, doing away with the use of bills and coins is easier on everyday Americans. Many smartphones have payment apps that can be used instead of plastic cards. Everyone enjoys using a smartphone, and we must trust digital applications with our personal information or fall behind the times.

*5* Of course, there are people who protest this next step in the economy's evolution. About one out of 13 households are “unbanked.” This means they do not have any traditional checking or savings accounts. Instead, all of their purchases and payments are done in cash. Those ten million Americans, however, might take this shift in currency options as motivation to finally get bank accounts.

*6* Other people think that doing away with cash is illegal or unconstitutional. It is neither. Both the Federal Treasury and the Federal Reserve support the right to refuse cash. All private businesses are legally allowed to determine their own payment policies. As the Treasury states, there is no law “mandating that a private business, a person, or an organization must accept currency or coins as payment for goods or services.” The Treasury further states that no private business has to accept cash unless there is a state law that says otherwise. To date, the only state foolish enough to have such a law has been Massachusetts.

*7* Life is all about change. While some may drag their feet, that change includes leaving cash behind and accepting plastic. Holding on to bills and coins is like insisting on riding horses and buggies in the age of the automobile. It is outdated, old-fashioned, and unnecessary.

**17. Which of the following statements best paraphrases paragraph 6?**

1. Federal and state laws differ in their rules for businesses that refuse cash. While federal law allows the practice, many state laws, such as one in Massachusetts, forbid it.
2. Many people believe that states can refuse cash. However, this is only the case in Massachusetts, which has foolishly passed a law allowing businesses to refuse cash.
3. Some people do not realize that federal law allows businesses to refuse cash. This law overrules state laws, such as one in Massachusetts, that require businesses to accept cash.
4. **There are no federal laws preventing businesses from refusing cash purchases. Businesses are only forced to accept cash if state law requires it, but only Massachusetts has such a law.**

**18. According to the passage, what are some benefits of businesses becoming cashless?**

1. **Decreased risk of robbery, easier management of deposits, and reduced need for physical transportation of cash.**
2. Increased reliance on paper money, elimination of digital payment options, and decreased security measures.
3. Greater convenience for employees, increased risk of theft, and less flexibility in payment methods.
4. Enhanced security measures, reduced reliance on digital payment options, and increased transportation of cash.

**19.** How does the passage address concerns about the legality of businesses refusing cash?

1. It emphasizes that businesses are legally required to accept cash as payment for goods and services.
2. It states that businesses must accept cash according to federal law, but not according to state law.
3. **It clarifies that businesses have the legal right to refuse cash as payment, with support from federal entities.**
4. It argues that businesses should only accept cash payments to prevent illegal transactions.

**20. What are two related central ideas in the text?**

1. **Our society is becoming a cashless society.  
   Going cashless is more efficient than relying on cash.**
2. Most people think it is illegal to go cashless.  
   Debit and credit cards have been an option for years.
3. Everyone wants a cashless society.  
   Society should embrace new ideas.
4. Businesses should go cashless.  
   People benefit from having bank accounts.