

# READING

## ***GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SCORING GUIDELINES FOR READING***

### **3 Points**

- The response provides a complete answer to the task (e.g., a statement that offers a correct answer as well as text-based support).
- The response provides specific, appropriate, and accurate details (e.g., naming, describing, explaining, or comparing) or examples.

### **2 Points**

- The response provides a partial answer to the task (e.g., indicates some awareness of the task and at least one text-based detail).
- The response attempts to provide sufficient, appropriate details (e.g., naming, describing, explaining, or comparing) or examples; may contain minor inaccuracies.

### **1 Point**

- The response provides an incomplete answer to the task (e.g., indicating either a misunderstanding of the task or no text-based details).
- The response provides insufficient or inappropriate details or examples that have a major effect on accuracy.
- The response consists entirely of relevant copied text.

### **0 Points**

- The response provides insufficient material for scoring.
- The response is inaccurate in all aspects.

Categories within zero reported separately:

BLK (blank) .....No response or written refusal to respond or too brief to determine response

OT .....Off task/topic

LOE.....Response in a language other than English

IL.....Illegible

PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage about what happens on a vacation. Then answer questions 1–9 in your answer booklet.

## The Mystery Eggs

by Theresa Bubulka

Rain dripped from Clara’s hair. She took off her glasses and grabbed a towel from a pile on the bedroom floor.

“Put that back,” her cousin Melanie demanded.

Clara sighed. She and Melanie shared a room in their families’ vacation cabin. Melanie was two years older than Clara. That meant Melanie gave the orders and Clara obeyed. Clara dropped the towel back onto the pile.

“Careful,” Melanie warned.

Clara shook back her wet hair. She found her glasses and looked closely at the pile of towels that Melanie was rearranging. “What’s in there?” she asked.

“Promise not to tell?” Melanie asked.

Clara nodded.

Melanie continued. “I found a nest of bird eggs, so I brought them back here. I’m going to help them hatch.”

“You shouldn’t take them from their mother,” said Clara.

“I found them on the ground. I waited around all morning, and the mother never showed up.” Melanie lifted the towel that covered the eggs. “Aren’t they beautiful?”

Clara saw fourteen eggs resting on a bed of leaves. They were long and narrow and the color of sand. She touched one. It was slimy and moist.

“Melanie, I don’t think those are bird eggs,” said Clara.

“Of course they are,” replied Melanie. “I should know. I found them.”

Clara sighed. Melanie did know lots of things—mostly city things. When they were at the cabin, it seemed that Melanie was always wishing she were in the city with her friends, while Clara was hiking in the woods or swimming in the lake. Clara knew those eggs weren’t bird eggs. But how was she going to prove it to Melanie? Clara went downstairs, got an egg from the refrigerator, and walked back upstairs.

“Look,” said Clara. She handed Melanie the egg. “This egg is hard and brittle. And it’s rounder than your eggs.”

Clara knelt by Melanie’s eggs. “Your eggs have little bumps on them.” She pointed to an egg in the corner. “That one has a tiny dent in it. And they stick together. Bird eggs don’t do that.”

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"You mean *chicken* eggs don't do that," replied Melanie. "We don't know what kind of bird laid these eggs. We'll find out when they hatch."

"But, Melanie, other animals lay eggs, like turtles and lizards."

Melanie frowned. "I'm right. You'll see."

Clara stared at the eggs and worried. Snakes laid eggs. She was sure that Melanie's eggs were snake eggs.

The next morning Clara watched Melanie fuss over the eggs.

"They could hatch today," explained Melanie. "When we get back from breakfast, there might be baby birds."

Or baby snakes, thought Clara.

Melanie went downstairs for breakfast. Clara eyed the eggs and made a decision. It didn't matter what Melanie thought. Those eggs belonged outside. She didn't want wild things playing hide-and-seek in her bedroom. She cradled the eggs in their towel and put them in her backpack.

Outside Clara set the backpack under a tree and unzipped it. The eggs were O.K. She started to put the nest on the ground when she heard Melanie calling her for breakfast. Quickly she pulled the flap up to hide the eggs and went inside.

After they had finished breakfast, Clara had to help Melanie with the dishes. She was drying the last dish when Melanie took the trash outside.

Clara rushed out in time to see Melanie bending over the backpack.

"No!" shouted Clara. But it was too late.

Melanie reached for the backpack. "Hey, something moved." She pulled her hand back. "What do you have in there?"

"The eggs. I didn't want snakes hatching in our bedroom."

"You aren't supposed to mess with my stuff. Besides, they aren't snake eggs," said Melanie.

"Then you open it," Clara challenged.

Cautiously, Melanie pulled back the flap. Two baby snakes slipped to the ground. Melanie jumped back swiftly.

"I was right," said Clara. "They *are* snake eggs."

Clara smiled. She had made the right decision. Clara watched the tiny snakes dart quickly out of sight. She wondered what kind of snakes they were. Melanie backed away as Clara inched closer to the backpack.

"Look," Clara said. "Another one's about to hatch. See—the egg is cracking."

"You look," Melanie said. "How many eggs are left?"

"Just ten," Clara said. "And I'm going to watch them all hatch."

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### **MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEMS**

#### **B.1.1.1**

1. Where do **most** of the events in the passage take place?
- \* A vacation cabin
  - B country farmhouse
  - C house near a city park
  - D city apartment building

#### **A.1.4.1**

2. What is the main reason Clara does **not** think the eggs belong to a bird?
- A Their nest was made of leaves.
  - \* B They were a different shape and color than a bird's egg.
  - C Melanie found them near the cabin.
  - D They were a much rounder shape than bird's eggs.

#### **A.1.3.1**

3. What does Clara enjoy doing when she is at the cabin?
- A cooking breakfast
  - B reading about snakes
  - \* C hiking in the woods
  - D talking about her friends

#### **A.1.4.1**

4. Clara takes the eggs out of the bedroom because she
- A wants to upset Melanie.
  - B likes taking care of them.
  - C plans to surprise her cousin.
  - \* D thinks they should hatch outside.

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### A.1.1.2

5. Read the sentence from the passage.

“She didn’t want wild things playing hide-and-seek in her bedroom.”

Which word is the opposite of wild?

- A crazy
- B silly
- \* C tame
- D quiet

### A.1.3.1

6. How does Melanie most likely feel about snakes?

- A She is fascinated by them.
- \* B She is frightened of them.
- C She wants to learn more about them.
- D She wants to take one home for a pet.

### A.1.3.1

7. Read the sentence from the passage.

“She cradled the eggs in their towel and put them in her backpack.”

The author uses the word “cradled” to

- A describe the eggs.
- B describe how soft the towel is.
- C explain where Clara puts the eggs.
- \* D show how Clara handles the eggs.

### A.1.3.1

8. When Melanie refuses to return the eggs, Clara feels

- \* A frustrated.
- B amused.
- C interested.
- D delighted.

