

Sunshine State Standards **Review and Practice** Grade 6 Reading Comprehension with Extra Writing Practice

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Read the passage "The Heron and the Hummingbird." Then answer Numbers 1 through 8.

THE HERON AND THE HUMMINGBIRD

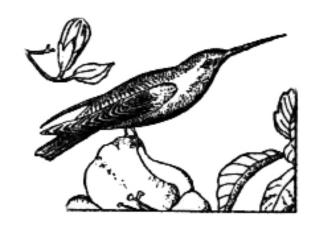
adapted from a folk tale told by the Hitchiti Tribe

Heron and Hummingbird were great friends, even though they were not at all alike. While Heron was tall with long legs and a long beak, Hummingbird was tiny and moved his wings and body very fast. The two had one thing in common, however; they both loved to eat fish. Heron feasted on large fish while Hummingbird ate only minnows, and the two fished together nearly every day.

After a while, both Heron and Hummingbird noticed that there were fewer fish in the water to eat. "I am not sure that there are enough fish in the world for both of us to eat every day," said Hummingbird. "Maybe we should race to see which one of us owns all of the fish." Hummingbird considered Heron his friend, but he knew that he could fly faster than Heron. His body was light as a feather and he could flap his wings so quickly that they made a humming sound. Heron couldn't do that.

Heron was also worried that there would not be enough fish for both of them to eat, so he agreed. The two birds decided





to race for four days and agreed that the finish line would be an old dead tree next to a faraway river. Whichever of them reached the top of the tree first on the fourth day of the race would have the right to eat all of the fish in the lakes and rivers.

The two friends started out the next morning. With a slow heavy motion, Heron flapped his giant wings as Hummingbird quickly flitted around him. Sometimes Hummingbird would get ahead of Heron, but then he would become distracted by the brightly colored along the flowers he saw Hummingbird couldn't resist the flowers and would stop to feast on their sweettasting nectar. However, whenever Hummingbird noticed Heron getting ahead of him, he zoomed ahead again quickly, flapping his tiny wings too quickly to be seen. Soon Hummingbird left Heron far behind.

W	his speech shows that Patrick Henry valued his freedom very much. Think abou what he was willing to do to protect his freedom. Why do you think that freedon was so important to him? In five sentences, explain why freedom is important an
	ow it affects you.
_	

4. Read this sentence from the story "Persephone."

He could not return her, he said, if she had eaten anything in the underworld, for the Fates decreed that no being who ate the food of the dead could return.

Based on this sentence, what does the word decreed mean?

- F. suggested
- **G.** complained
- H. sang
- I. decided

- 5. According to the story, when does winter begin each year?
 - A. when Persephone leaves her mother
 - B. when Hades returns to the underworld
 - **C.** when mortals eat the food of the dead
 - D. when Demeter begins her work again
- 6. The author's main reason for writing "Persephone" was
 - **F.** to explain the difference between dark and light.
 - **G.** to show readers the importance of certain foods.
 - **H.** to describe to readers the proper way to grow crops.
 - **I.** to use a myth to explain the changing seasons.

The **Statue of Liberty** was to be in recognition of the friendship established during the American Revolution. Sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was commissioned to design a sculpture. It was to be completed in 1876. That was the centennial year of the American Declaration of Independence.

The statue was a joint effort between America and France. It was agreed upon that the American people were to build the pedestal. The French people were responsible for the statue. However, lack of funds was a problem. In the United States, a wide variety of events were held to raise money. Emma Lazarus wrote this poem in 1883 to help raise money for the pedestal. At that time, Brooklyn was not yet part of New York City.

The original Colossus had been built in Rhodes 2,300years ago. It celebrated a victory over invaders and freedom. The statue was 110 feet high. The Liberty statue is the same size. The Colossus in Rhodes stood upon a 50-foot pedestal near the harbor. The Liberty pedestal is much bigger.

"THE NEW COLOSSUS"

by Emma Lazarus

NOT like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command

The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Now answer Numbers 1 through 12. Base your answers on the article "Madam C.J. Walker."

- 1. The author's main reason for beginning this article with a quote to
 - **A.** encourage readers to follow their hearts.
 - **B.** provide readers with practical information.
 - C. capture the reader's attention right away.
 - **D.** persuade the reader to start a business.
- 2. Read this sentence from the article "Madam C. J. Walker."

The city also was home to a substantial African-American community.

Based on this sentence, what does the word substantial mean?

- F. large
- G. struggling
- H. thriving
- I. friendly
- 3. Why did Madam Walker move her business to Indianapolis?
 - **A.** She would be located near many other thriving businesses.
 - **B.** She wanted women to have the opportunity to get better jobs.
 - **C.** She thought that she would be happier if she lived near her daughter.
 - **D.** She knew that being near railroads would help her business grow.