

Yeatman-Liddell College Preparatory Middle School

Winter Break Packet

English Language Arts

2014-2015

Vocabulary Activities

Directions: As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then circle the answer you have chosen.

1. It is a delight to drive around and see the bright foliage in the fall. The trees paint the Maryland landscape with beautiful shades of red, yellow, and orange.

Foliage means _____.

- A. rocks
- B. colors
- C. leaves
- D. flowers

2. We used candles and flashlights to illuminate our room at Camp Schmidt.

Illuminate means _____.

- A. darken
- B. brighten
- C. see
- D. decorate

3. Firefighters wear special gear to shield their bodies from intense heat.

Shield means _____.

- A. prevent
- B. help
- C. injure
- D. protect

Directions: Read each sentence. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Circle the answer you have chosen.

4. My bedroom was cold because of a draft in the room.

In which sentence, does the word draft mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- A. My teacher is going to read over the first draft of my research paper.
- B. The President is going to draft everyone who is 18 years old into the military.
- C. Congress will draft a bill to protect endangered animals.
- D. We placed towels and blankets under the door to prevent a draft.

5. Some people raise their voices when they become upset.

In which sentence, does the word upset mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- A. Sue's sudden sickness upset her plans for the day.
- B. My parents were upset with me because of my poor grades.
- C. The Redskins upset the Dallas Cowboys last Sunday.
- D. The child upset the glass of soda that was on the table.

At Home on the Ice

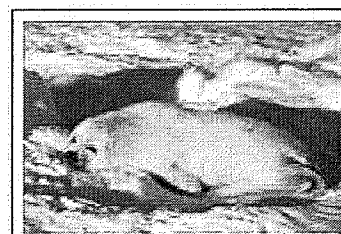
By Elizabeth Schleichert

- *Not even a chinful of snow bothers this harp seal pup. For her, ice is very nice.*

It's a good bet *you* wouldn't settle in here for a nap. But little Haley doesn't seem to mind! That's because Haley is a *harp seal* pup. And she's right at home here on the snow-covered frozen-over sea.

Haley was born in this frigid, windswept place. Good thing she has a thick coat of fur. Like your winter jacket, her fur helps keep the cold out and body heat in. It's also good that Haley spends her days mostly snoozing or resting. That means she's not using up a lot of energy. Instead, she's building up a thick layer of fat, which she'll soon need.

Harp seals are sometimes called saddleback seals because of the dark, saddlelike marking on the back and sides of their light yellow or gray bodies



Harp Seal Pup: Sleeping on the Ice

(Credit: Hiroyuki Matsumoto/Getty Images)

Harp Huddle

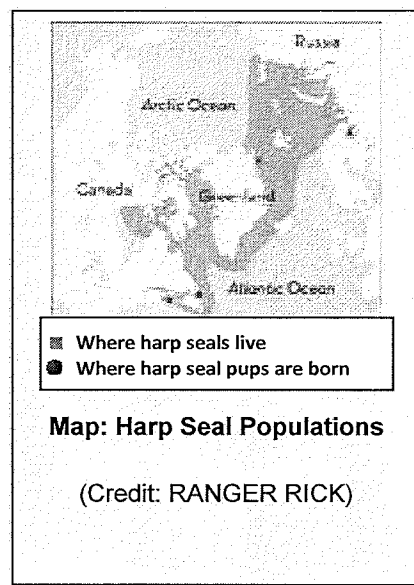
Haley's icy home lies off the coast of Canada. Harp seals spend relatively little time on land and prefer to swim in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. These sleek swimmers cruise the chilly waters and feed on fish and crustaceans.

Harp seals are a highly migratory species, and have been known to travel great distances. Haley's mom was one in a group of harp seals that migrated here. To get to the ice, they swam more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) south from their summer feeding grounds.

By the early spring, the moms here had hauled out onto the ice. They each gave birth to a single pup, and Haley was one of them.

Growing Up and Out

- At birth, Haley weighed 24 pounds (11 kg) and had a yellow-white coat. But she didn't stay that size for long. Now, about every three hours, she is filling up on Mom's milk. It is extra rich, with more than 10 times the fat in cow's milk. So Haley is gaining about five pounds (2.2 kg) a day. Before long, her coat will turn white, she'll triple her weight, and turn into a roly-poly blimp! Harp seals can grow up to be 1.7 to 2.0 m (5 to 6 feet) long and weigh from 140 to 190 kg (300 to 400 pounds).
- Your mother would be really worried if you got that fat. But Haley needs to put on weight. Why? Her white fur coat won't keep her warm in the chilly ocean, where she'll soon be living. But a thick layer of blubber (fat) will do the trick, working as a cozy dive suit in the frigid water.



Map: Harp Seal Populations

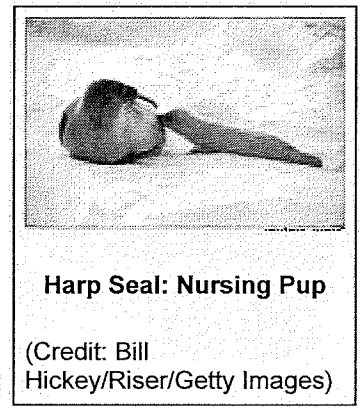
(Credit: RANGER RICK)

Hanging with Mom

- 7 Haley hunkers down near Mom. She doesn't go off and play with the other pups on the ice. (Harp seal pups mostly ignore each other.) At times, Mom may dive down through a nearby crack in the ice and grab a small snack such as a fish.
- 8 When Mom surfaces again, Haley is waiting—and seems happy to see her!

Surviving on Her Own

- 9 When Haley is just 12 days old, Mom suddenly leaves—for good. So soon? Is Mom a meanie? Well, no. That's the harp seal way of raising pups! The weather is getting warmer and the drifting ice where Baby and Mom have been living will soon start to break up, so the two can't linger there. Besides, except for maybe a quick snack, Mom has hardly eaten while nursing and has lost a lot of weight. So, off she goes to get her fill of fish. She then has to find a mate, molt (shed her coat), and finally migrate back north again.



After Mom leaves, Haley, too, will shed her white baby coat. She'll grow a new one, a silvery-gray coach with irregular dark spots, that's better suited to life in the water. Before long—*plop!*—she'll disappear down into her new watery home. *Bye, Haley!*

RANGER RICK

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Directions: Answer the questions below after you read "At Home on the Ice."

6. Paragraph 7 is *mostly* organized by
- A. problem and solution
 - B. main ideas and details
 - C. chronological order
 - D. cause and effect
7. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?
- A. to inspire people to learn more about seals
 - B. to entertain people with a story about a baby seal
 - C. to persuade people to keep baby seals safe
 - D. to inform people about the life of a baby seal

8. Which idea best paraphrases the main idea of the section "Growing Up & Out?"

- A. Haley drinks her mother's milk every three hours.
- B. Haley gains weight fast to protect her in the cold water.
- C. Haley weighed very few pounds when she was born.
- D. The milk Haley gets from her mom helps her gain weight.

9. Read this sentence from paragraph 9 of the passage.

The weather is getting warmer and the drifting ice where Baby and Mom have been living will soon start to break up, so the two can't linger there.

What does linger mean in the sentence above?

- A. remain
- B. sleep
- C. hunt
- D. move

10. Choose a text feature from the article. Explain how the text feature helps the reader understand the article. Use details from the article to support your choice.



Talking in Their Sleep

by Edith M. Thomas

"You think I am dead,"
The apple tree said,
"Because I stoop,
And my branches droop,
And the dull gray mosses over me grow!"

But I'm still alive in trunk and shoot;
the buds of next May
I fold away –
But I pity the withered grass at my root."

"You think I am dead,"
The quick grass said,
"Because I have parted with stem and blade!
But under the ground,
I am safe and sound
With the snow's thick blanket over me laid.

I'm all alive, and ready to shoot,
Should the spring of the year
Come dancing here –
But I pity the flower without branch or root."

"You think I'm am dead,"
A soft voice said,
"Because not a branch or root I own.
I never have died, but close I hide
In a plummy seed that the wind has sown.

Patient I wait through the long winter hours;
You will see me again –
I shall laugh at you then,
Out of the eyes of a hundred flowers.

Writing Prompt

Directions: In the poem, “Talking in Their Sleep,” Edith M. Thomas wrote as if she were an apple tree during the winter. Write a poem that describes the winter landscape outside your home. In your poem, be sure to use what you learned from, “Talking in Their Sleep,” as you write.

To create a well-written story:

- Write a beginning that gets the reader into the world of the poem and helps them understand what is going on.
- Use transition words to help readers understand when events happened.
- Use details (dialogue, description) to show exactly what happened in the poem and how the speaker was thinking and feeling.
- Write an ending, ideally one that connects to what the poem is really about.
- Include proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

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