

Student Name: _____



Paper-Based Item Sampler

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development



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Through Glacier Park

an excerpt

by Mary Robert Rinehart

This excerpt was originally published in 1916.

This is about a three-hundred-mile trip across the Rocky Mountains on horseback. It is about fishing, cool nights around a campfire, and long days on the trail. It is about a party of all sorts, from everywhere. It is of men and women, experienced folk and novices, who had yielded to a desire to belong to the road.

If you love your country; if you like bacon, or will eat it anyhow; if you are willing to learn how little you count in the eternal scheme of things; if you are prepared, for the first day or two, to be able to locate every muscle in your body, go ride in the Rocky Mountains.

If you are of the sort that must have fresh cream in its coffee, and its steak rare, and puts its hair up in curlers at night, don't go. Don't read this. Sit in a movie theater and do your traveling.

But if you go—!

It will not matter that you have never ridden before. The horses are safe and quiet. The Western saddle is designed to keep a cowboy in his seat when his rope is around a steer. For the first day or two, dear traveler, you will have to be extracted! After that you will learn that swing of the right leg which clears the saddle and enables you to alight in a vertical position without jarring your spine up into your skull. You will learn about a slicker, a camera, a fishing rod, and fly hook. You will learn about extra boots and sunburn lotion.

I object to the word “park,” especially in connection with the particular National Reserve in northwestern Montana known as Glacier Park. A park is a civilized spot, connected in all our minds with neat paths and clipped lawns. I am just old enough to remember when it meant “Keep-Off-the-Grass” signs also.

There are no “Keep-Off-the-Grass” signs in Glacier Park, no graveled paths and clipped lawns. It is the wildest part of America. If the government had not preserved it, it would have preserved itself.

True, so far most stingy provision has been made. The government offices are a two-roomed wooden cabin. To keep it up, to build trails and roads, to give fire protection for its fourteen hundred square miles of great forest, are given thirteen rangers! Thirteen rangers, and an annual allowance less than half of what is given to Yellowstone Park. With this difference, too, Yellowstone Park has had money spent on it for thirty-two years, while Glacier Park is in the making!

But no stinginess on the part of the government can cloud the ideal which is the purpose for Glacier Park. Here is the last stand of the Rocky Mountain sheep and the Rocky Mountain goat. Here are antelope and deer, black and grizzly bears, mountain lions, and trout. Here are trails along the mountainside. Here are meadows of June roses, true forget-me-nots, larkspur, Indian paintbrush, fireweed,—a thousand sorts of flowers, growing beside snowfields. Here are ice and blazing sun and trails of a beauty to make you gasp.

A congressional committee went out to Glacier Park in 1914, and three of their machines went into the ditch. They went home and voted a little money for roads after that, out of gratitude for their lives. But they will have to vote more money, much more money, for roads. A government mountain reserve without plenty of roads is as valuable as an automobile without gasoline.

Nevertheless,—bad roads or good or none, thirteen rangers or a thousand,—seen from an automobile or from a horse, Glacier Park is a good place to visit. Howard Eaton thinks so. Last July, with all of the West to draw from, he took his first party through Glacier. This year in June, with his outfit on a packhorse, he is going to investigate some new trails. In July he will take a party of riders over them.

Forty-two people set out with Howard Eaton last summer to ride through Glacier Park. They were of every age and temperament. About half were women. But one thing they had in common—the philosophy of true adventure.

Howard Eaton is extremely young. He is a boy, and he takes an annual frolic. He has taken foreign princes and many of the great people of the earth to the tops of high mountains. He has shown them grizzly bears, and their own insignificance, at the same time. He is a sportsman and a splendid gentleman. He has hunted along the Rockies from Alaska to Mexico.

When Howard Eaton first went West, he located in the Bad lands. Those were the “buffalo” days, and it was then that he began taking his friends with him on hunting trips. At first they went as his guests. Even now they are his guests in the truest sense of the word.

By their own insistence, as the parties grew larger, they determined to help defray the cost of the expeditions. Everyone who knows Howard Eaton knows that his trips are not made for profit. Probably they barely pay for themselves. It is impossible to talk to him about money. It does not exist for him. Life for him is twenty-four hours in the open air. Half of that time is in the saddle,—long vistas and the trail of game. Life is the campfire at night and a few hours of quiet sleep under the stars.

1. Read the sentences from the passage.

Last July, with all of the West to draw from, he took his first party through Glacier. This year in June, with his outfit on a packhorse, he is going to investigate some new trails. In July he will take a party of riders over them.

Which word is closest in meaning to investigate as it is used in the sentence?

- A. announce
- B. compare
- C. explore
- D. repair

2. Read the paragraphs from the passage.

If you love your country; if you like bacon, or will eat it anyhow; if you are willing to learn how little you count in the eternal scheme of things; if you are prepared, for the first day or two, to be able to locate every muscle in your body, go ride in the Rocky Mountains.

If you are of the sort that must have fresh cream in its coffee, and its steak rare, and puts its hair up in curlers at night, don't go. Don't read this. Sit in a movie theater and do your traveling.

Based on this information, who does the author think is **best** suited for a trip to Glacier Park? Choose **two** answers.

- A. people who prefer to be comfortable
- B. people who are interested in adventure
- C. people who like to prepare interesting food
- D. people who want to try challenging experiences
- E. people who prefer to be in control of situations

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

Part A

Which statement expresses a main idea of the passage?

- A. Glacier Park will begin to decline without financial support.
- B. Glacier Park is quickly becoming crowded with tourists.
- C. Glacier Park needs more experienced guides.
- D. Glacier Park impresses those who visit it.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer in part A?

- A. Here are ice and blazing sun and trails of a beauty to make you gasp.
- B. But they will have to vote more money, much more money, for roads.
- C. This year in June, with his outfit on a packhorse, he is going to investigate some new trails.
- D. He is a boy, and he takes an annual frolic.

4. Choose **two** sentences that show the effects that low funding had on Glacier Park. Record the answers in your answer document.
- A. Thirteen rangers worked there.
 - B. Grizzly bears were present.
 - C. More roads were needed.
 - D. Most tourists camped at night.
5. Which phrases from the passage support the author’s point that Glacier Park is unique? Choose **two** answers.
- A. long days on the trail
 - B. a party of all sorts
 - C. no graveled paths and clipped lawns
 - D. offices are a two-roomed wooden cabin
 - E. a thousand sorts of flowers
6. What is the author’s purpose for writing the passage?
- A. to inspire appreciation for Glacier Park
 - B. to compare Glacier Park to other national parks
 - C. to persuade people to volunteer at Glacier Park
 - D. to describe how Glacier Park was first discovered

7. Choose the sentence that supports the idea that Howard Eaton helped tourists from other countries visit Glacier Park.
- A. Forty-two people set out with Howard Eaton last summer to ride through Glacier Park.
 - B. They were of every age and temperament.
 - C. About half were women.
 - D. But one thing they had in common—the philosophy of true adventure.
 - E. Howard Eaton is extremely young.
 - F. He is a boy, and he takes an annual frolic.
 - G. He has taken foreign princes and many of the great people of the earth to the tops of high mountains.
8. The chart shows causes and possible effects related to Glacier Park. Match each cause to its effect based on information in the passage. Identify **one** effect for each cause. Do **not** use an effect more than once. Record the answers in your answer document.

	1. Effect: The government chose to give more support.	2. Effect: People learned to train and ride horses.	3. Effect: More people became interested in the area.	4. Effect: Travelers moved to the mountains to live permanently.
A. Cause: Howard Eaton investigated the area.				
B. Cause: A congressional committee visited the park.				

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Artwork

Courteously, Carlos passed out brushes to the chattering group gathered round the table. His mom was the activity director at the Tate Senior Center, and she had asked him to help with this day's painting lesson. Carlos had really wanted to spend his afternoon building his model bridge.

Swallowing a sigh, Carlos handed out sheets of paper next. Then he thankfully slipped into the empty seat next to Ms. Webb, who was the quietest resident he knew. Hopefully, he could sit by her and read his mystery book without an interruption.

However, before long, Ms. Webb grumbled. Glancing sideways, Carlos watched her plop her brush down on the table with a frown. Seconds later, she grasped it again and splattered a storm of red raindrops across her paper. With an irritated groan, she looked around the room.

"Would you like another paper?" Carlos asked, slipping his bookmark into his book.

"I'd really love a black pencil and sketch pad," Ms. Webb answered in a yearning tone.

"I'll see what I can do," offered Carlos. He walked over and rummaged through his mom's box of supplies and found a black crayon and some copy paper. When he offered them to Ms. Webb, her face glowed like a rising sun.

Curious, Carlos watched as Ms. Webb swiftly drew with the crayon. She sketched a lady with a beaming smile. Suddenly, Carlos blinked in astonishment. It was a cartoon picture of his mother.

"You're an artist!" Carlos exclaimed, and Ms. Webb chuckled.

"When I was in college, I spent several summers drawing cartoon portraits of people in the park," Ms. Webb explained. Then she began another sketch.

This time, Carlos watched as a man with exaggerated dancing feet flowed from her crayon. He recognized Mr. Bell, who constantly moved about.

"Did you study art?" Carlos asked Ms. Webb next, pushing his book aside.

"I learned building design," Ms. Webb replied.

Instantly, a million questions bubbled through Carlos. Soon, he and Ms. Webb were discussing towers, bridges, and mystery novels, too.

"Hey, it's time to clean up," Mom said, breaking into their conversation. "Will you please collect the brushes, Carlos?"

Carlos glanced at the clock with startled eyes. An hour had flown by! He felt an unexpected wave of disappointment as he stood to help Mom.

"Here, take this sketch," Ms. Webb smiled, giving him her final cartoon. It showed the two of them merrily chatting. "It'll remind you to visit me."

"Thanks! I'll definitely do that," Carlos assured her. It was a promise that would be easy to keep.

Swimming Lessons

On the first day of summer vacation, I sat at the kitchen table like an outcast stranded on a desert island.

“What’s wrong?” Mom asked, stirring her tea.

“Carla is spending a month with her grandparents, and Kisha left for summer camp this morning,” I announced. Kisha, Carla, and I were like the three musketeers.

“It is going to be so boring without them,” I added with a heartfelt moan.

For a moment, Mom stared into her cup of tea like it held some mysterious wisdom. Then she gazed at me.

“Margaret . . . would you like to take swimming lessons at the community center with me?” she asked. “Our neighbor Ms. Robbins volunteered to teach me. We could learn together.”

I opened my mouth and closed it again, unsure what to say.

“Sure,” I finally blurted. *A swimming pool was better than a desert island*, I told myself.

Surprisingly, when Mom and I arrived for our first lesson, she splashed into the pool like she was part mermaid, while I inched down the ladder with a nervous shiver. Ms. Robbins smiled reassuringly and gave us both ample time to get comfortable in the water.

As our lesson progressed, I eventually learned to propel myself across the pool, clutching a float and kicking my feet. However, Mom was soon sailing across that pool as swiftly as a dolphin. I gasped for breath whenever I tried to match her speed.

When our lesson ended, Mom and I rode home together.

“You never told me you were an Olympic athlete,” I half-joked, eyeing Mom. My own arms and legs felt like lead weights.

“The only sport I’ve ever mastered is sailing,” Mom laughed aloud. “Grandpa taught me when I was young. I’ve always loved the ocean.”

“You know how to sail?” I asked, astonished. The information added another shade of color to my ever-changing picture of Mom.

“I love the ocean, too,” I admitted next, “especially whales. I’ve been reading books about how they communicate.”

Before long, Mom and I were talking about whale songs, dolphins, and our favorite memories of going to the beach.

“Will you be ready for another lesson tomorrow?” Mom asked as we parked in the driveway.

“Yes!” I answered with resounding certainty. I had suddenly realized that those lessons offered me something far more important than swimming skills; they would give me the chance to form growing bonds with my mother. It was going to be a great summer after all.

9. Read the sentence from “Artwork.”

Soon, he and Ms. Webb were discussing towers, bridges, and mystery novels, too.

Which inference can **best** be made about Carlos and Ms. Webb from the sentence?

- A. They both like art.
 - B. They have common interests.
 - C. They have become good friends.
 - D. They both prefer to talk rather than listen.
10. Which sentences from “Artwork” show how the narrator’s point of view helps to develop the character of Carlos? Choose **two** answers.
- A. Carlos had really wanted to spend his afternoon building his model bridge.
 - B. Glancing sideways, Carlos watched her plop her brush down on the table with a frown.
 - C. He walked over and rummaged through his mom’s box of supplies and found a black crayon and some copy paper.
 - D. He recognized Mr. Bell, who constantly moved about.
 - E. Instantly, a million questions bubbled through Carlos.

11. Read the paragraphs from “Swimming Lessons.”

Surprisingly, when Mom and I arrived for our first lesson, she splashed into the pool like she was part mermaid, while I inched down the ladder with a nervous shiver. Ms. Robbins smiled reassuringly and gave us both ample time to get comfortable in the water.

As our lesson progressed, I eventually learned to propel myself across the pool, clutching a float and kicking my feet. However, Mom was soon sailing across that pool as swiftly as a dolphin. I gasped for breath whenever I tried to match her speed.

Which **two** sentences explain what the underlined figurative language suggests about Mom?

- A. Mom has difficulty paying attention to the swimming teacher.
- B. Mom swims very gracefully.
- C. Mom is afraid to swim to the deep end of the pool.
- D. Mom is able to swim very fast.
- E. Mom wishes she had taken swimming lessons when she was a child.

12. The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which sentence **best** expresses the theme of “Swimming Lessons”?

- A. Summer vacation is a time for relaxation.
- B. Taking up a new sport or hobby can be beneficial.
- C. Helping people older than we are brings great rewards.
- D. Sometimes we connect to people or make friends in surprising ways.

Part B

Which statement from the passage **best** supports the answer in part A?

- A. On the first day of summer vacation, I sat at the kitchen table like an outcast stranded on a desert island.
- B. “Margaret . . . would you like to take swimming lessons at the community center with me?” she asked.
- C. “The only sport I’ve ever mastered is sailing,” Mom laughed aloud. “Grandpa taught me when I was young. I’ve always loved the ocean.”
- D. I had suddenly realized that those lessons offered me something far more important than swimming skills; they would give me the chance to form growing bonds with my mother.

13. The chart shows characteristics of the main characters from “Artwork” and “Swimming Lessons.” Match each phrase with the character that it describes. Choose **three** phrases for each character. Each phrase is used only once. Record your answers in the answer document.

Characteristic	1. Carlos in “Artwork”	2. Margaret in “Swimming Lessons”
a. polite and helpful		
b. bored and lonely		
c. surprised by a parent’s talents		
d. surprised by an elderly woman’s talents		
e. interested in mysteries and models		
f. interested in sailing and whales		

14. In which ways are “Artwork” and “Swimming Lessons” the same? Choose **two** answers.
- A. Both passages include a young person who wants to spend time with friends.
 - B. Both passages present a message about forming relationships.
 - C. Both passages take place in a community center where older people meet to learn new things.
 - D. In both passages, the main character teaches an older person how to do something.
 - E. In both passages, the main character changes from having little interest to becoming interested in others.

15. Turn to pages 6 and 7 of your answer document. Read the Writer's Checklist and then complete the Text-Dependent Analysis Question.

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16. Read the paragraph.

Many people mistakenly believe that the words “buffalo” and “bison” refer to the same animal, but they are two different types of animals found in different locations. The buffalo lives in Africa and South Asia. _____, the bison lives in North America and Europe.

Which phrase **best** links the ideas within the paragraph?

- A. After all
- B. In contrast
- C. For instance
- D. In other words

17. Read the paragraph from a story.

When the doors of the community center were opened that Saturday morning, students from all over town rushed in. They had been waiting to find out the results of the art contest. Each first place winner would advance to the next level. Jimena found her project—a model airplane she had constructed and painted herself—and saw a second place ribbon hanging from it.

Which sentence **best** concludes the paragraph?

- A. She knew she could do better and was determined to try again.
- B. She noticed her friend had won in a painting category.
- C. She had completed the entire project without help.
- D. She had even made two planes and had entered her favorite.

18. Read the paragraph.

Alicia and Rachel are taking turns jumping rope to raise money for charity. They have been jumping for a while, and their goal is to continue until noon. If they are successful, they _____ for two hours.

Which word or phrase correctly completes the sentence?

- A. jumped
- B. had jumped
- C. have jumped
- D. will have jumped

19. Which sentence shows correct punctuation?

- A. No Jamie is going directly from home to Anchorage.
- B. Yes this, is the day that Cam is traveling to Juneau.
- C. Will you remember to set an alarm, Aidan?
- D. Are you going to buy some apples Christa?

20. Read the sentences.

A trip from Earth to Neptune would take 12 years. Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun.

Which revision **best** combines the sentences?

- A. A trip from Earth to Neptune would take 12 years, and Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun.
- B. As Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun, therefore, a trip from Earth to Neptune would take 12 years.
- C. A trip from Earth to Neptune, which is the farthest planet from the Sun, would take 12 years.
- D. As Neptune, being the farthest planet from the Sun, is far, a trip from Earth to Neptune would take 12 years.

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