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# The Creative Touch

- Section 1: Reading and Language, pages 6–12
- Section 2: Writing, pages 13–16

# Section 1: Reading and Language

## VOCABULARY

**DIRECTIONS** Read each item carefully. Then choose the best answer. Mark your answer.

- 1 When you assemble something, you —  
(A) look for it  
(B) think about it  
(C) throw it away  
(D) put it together
- 2 An attempt is —  
(F) a copy  
(G) an effort  
(H) a decision  
(J) an example
- 3 A concept is a —  
(A) general idea  
(B) first reaction  
(C) correct answer  
(D) final conclusion
- 4 Someone who is creative is —  
(F) careful  
(G) reliable  
(H) negative  
(J) imaginative
- 5 An experience is —  
(A) a feeling of doubt  
(B) a skill that is useful  
(C) an event in your past  
(D) an idea from someone else
- 6 To influence something is to —  
(F) have an effect on it  
(G) ask questions about it  
(H) give a speech about it  
(J) get enjoyment from it
- 7 An inspiration —  
(A) helps you rest  
(B) makes you panic  
(C) makes you sneeze  
(D) gives you new ideas
- 8 A link is a —  
(F) letter on a keyboard  
(G) command for printing pages  
(H) connection between Web pages  
(J) name at the top of every home page
- 9 To operate is to —  
(A) object  
(B) remove  
(C) inspect  
(D) perform
- 10 To represent something is to —  
(F) do it twice  
(G) insist on it  
(H) stand for it  
(J) try it again
- 11 A result is what happens —  
(A) in a year  
(B) at the end  
(C) on schedule  
(D) from the start
- 12 A site is a —  
(F) computer program  
(G) collection of Web pages  
(H) computer connected to the Internet  
(J) device that helps people use a computer
- 13 Style is a —  
(A) role in a play  
(B) seat in a theater  
(C) way of doing something  
(D) feeling of encouragement
- 14 Someone who is talented is —  
(F) shy  
(G) lonely  
(H) skilled  
(J) technical
- 15 To transfer something is to —  
(A) keep it open  
(B) find it in a dictionary  
(C) locate it on a Web site  
(D) move it from one place to another

GO ON 

## READING AND LITERARY ANALYSIS

**DIRECTIONS** Read the story. Then read each item carefully. Choose the best answer. Mark your answer.

## Grandfather's Gift

Carlos's grandfather gave him a guitar for his birthday. It was beautiful, the color of a golden autumn leaf.

Carlos bought a book at the music store to learn how to play guitar chords. He practiced every day after school, but his fingers seemed as clumsy as a giant's. He struggled to hold down the strings to make the chords. He tried to pluck out melodies, but squeaks flew into his ears.

"I'm never going to learn how to play this," Carlos complained to Grandfather.

"It takes time," Grandfather said. "Few things in life are easy. Just keep trying."

But Grandfather's advice irritated Carlos. He wanted to play the guitar now! He wanted to make it sing and hum. He wanted to strum out a melody like a Country and Western music star!

One afternoon, Carlos practiced for hours. He finally got so frustrated that he flung the guitar into his closet. He heard a deep hollow boom. His heart sank like a stone through

water. Had he ruined the guitar? Had he broken Grandfather's gift?

Feeling ashamed, Carlos fished the guitar out of the closet. Its yellow wood still gleamed. Nothing was broken. He lifted it gently onto his lap and tuned the slender strings. Then he slipped downstairs, carrying the guitar delicately. Grandfather was in the living room, reading. "I heard a noise," he said.

Carlos told him what he had done.

"That's no way to solve a problem," Grandfather said, a frown clouding his face. He set down his book. Then he took the guitar from Carlos, twisted his fingers around the neck, and began to strum.

"I didn't know you could play!"

Carlos said.

"I used to, a little," Grandfather replied.

Carlos's eyes lit up. "Hey, Grandpa, why don't you and I learn to play the guitar together?"

"When do we start?" Grandfather said.

**16** Where does this story take place?

- (F) at school
- (G) at a concert
- (H) in Carlos's home
- (J) at the music store

**17** Which of these best describes Carlos in the story?

- (A) He never gives up.
- (B) He gets frustrated easily.
- (C) He doesn't care about anything.
- (D) He doesn't know what he wants.

READING AND LITERARY ANALYSIS, *continued*

**DIRECTIONS** Read the story. Then read each item carefully. Choose the best answer. Mark your answer.

## Chaiyo's Solo

It was the night of the school concert, and the auditorium was filled with people. We were about to start. The string section was tuning up. They're always on time. Not one of the clarinet players was there. They're always late. The other woodwind players and I were putting our instruments together. I was getting more nervous by the minute.

I thought playing in an orchestra would be fun. This was no fun at all!

It all started a month ago when I heard Mr. Skinner, the director, call my name for solo tryouts. Marsha, an oboe player, had signed me up as a joke. I was so mad at her! I never expected to be chosen, of course. Tonight, however, there it was, printed in the program: CHAIYO TANTSETTHI, FLUTE SOLO. Just seeing the words made me feel sick.

The concert began. Halfway through our first piece, I started to relax a little. Marsha played perfectly. She was the one who should be giving a solo—not me! After the second piece, it was my turn to come forward. I was supposed to stand near Leslie and her harp.

The minute I stood up, I knew I was in trouble. My legs felt weak, like noodles. They would barely hold me up. I knocked over two music stands as I moved to center stage.

When I reached Leslie she whispered, "Aren't you graceful?" Her smile glittered. My throat went dry. My hands were so shaky, I didn't know if I could hold my flute. Then Mr. Skinner nodded at me to start.

I raised the flute to my lips. . . . My mind was empty. I couldn't remember what I was going to play! I had forgotten the piece, and now I was really lost.

Just then, I saw my mother sitting in the third row. She was wearing her green dress. She winked at me and smiled, and I smiled back at her. Then I began to remember a beautiful folk song that my mother sings when she cooks, and I started to play.

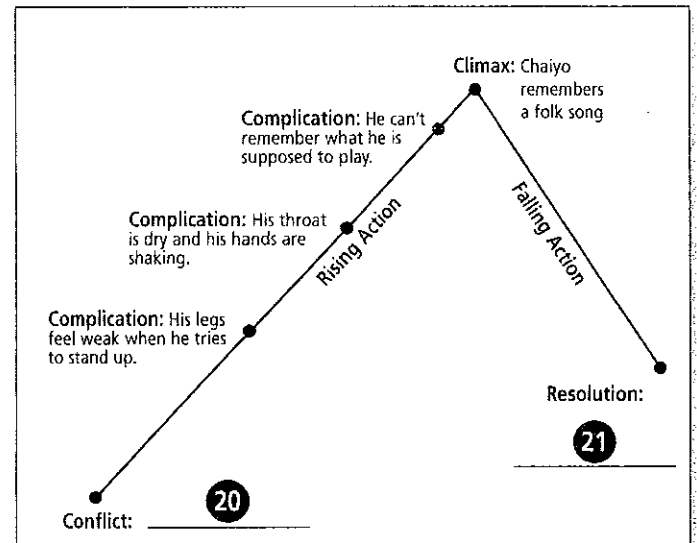
Later, Mr. Skinner said, "That was wonderful, Chaiyo. What happened? I thought you were going to play the Mozart piece."

"My mind went blank," I told him. "But I could still play a song for my mother."

READING AND LITERARY ANALYSIS, *continued*

- 18 What is the setting of this story?
- (F) music class, a month ago
  - (G) the school gymnasium, after lunch
  - (H) Chaiyo's living room, before the concert
  - (J) the auditorium, the night of the school concert
- 19 Which of these phrases best describes Chaiyo?
- (A) graceful and wise
  - (B) cruel and unhappy
  - (C) angry and stubborn
  - (D) serious and anxious

Study this story map for "Chaiyo's Solo."



- 20 What is the conflict in this story?
- (F) Chaiyo does not like playing the flute.
  - (G) Chaiyo feels nervous about performing a solo.
  - (H) Chaiyo is forced to play the flute for his mother.
  - (J) Chaiyo has not practiced enough for his concert.
- 21 What is the resolution in the story?
- (A) Chaiyo speaks to Mr. Skinner.
  - (B) Chaiyo remembers the Mozart piece.
  - (C) Chaiyo plays a folk song for his mother.
  - (D) Chaiyo decides to give up playing the flute.

READING AND LITERARY ANALYSIS *continued*

**DIRECTIONS** Read the passage. Then read each item carefully. Choose the best answer. Use the dictionary if you need to. Mark your answer.

## The Cuatro

Music is an important part of Puerto Rican culture. One of the traditional musical instruments of Puerto Rico is called the *cuatro*. The *cuatro* is a relative of the guitar. It has strings and a hollow body, which fills with sound as the instrument is played, amplifying the tones.

Skilled craftspeople make the *cuatro* by hand. It can take months to assemble just one *cuatro*. *Cuatro* makers start with a wood plank and follow many steps before they complete the instrument.

Between some steps, the *cuatro* maker has to wait as long as a month and a half while the wood airs out. Surely one of the virtues of a *cuatro* maker must be patience!

The beautiful sound of the *cuatro* is not like that of any other instrument. The top of a *cuatro* is made of a wood called *yagrumo*, carved so that it is thin enough to oscillate. This is what gives the instrument its unique sound. It's what makes the *cuatro* "sing."

**or•gan•ic** *adj.* Involving gardening or farming methods that do not incorporate artificial fertilizers, food additives, or poisons for killing insects.

**or•gan•ize** *v.* To put together or set up in a logical, orderly way.

**or•na•ment** *n.* Something that adorns, enhances, or makes more beautiful; a decoration.

**or•phan•age** *n.* An institution run by an organization or the government for the care of abandoned children.

**or•tho•ped•ist** *n.* A physician who treats injuries of the bones, joints, and muscles.

**os•cil•late** *v.* To swing or move back and forth between two points.

**os•prey** *n.* A large, hawk with black and white feathers that eats fish.

**out•bound** *adj.* Going in an outward direction; headed away.

READING AND LITERARY ANALYSIS, *continued*

22. If something is hollow, it —

- (F) is filled with wood
- (G) sounds like a guitar
- (H) has strings around it
- (J) has an empty space inside it

23. Read this main idea.

Cuatro makers are skilled craftspeople.

Which of these details supports this main idea?

- (A) Cuatros are played in Puerto Rico.
- (B) The wood takes a long time to air out.
- (C) Tones are amplified in the cuatro's body.
- (D) Cuatro makers follow many steps to complete the instrument.

24. Virtues are —

- (F) loud sounds
- (G) strong fears
- (H) good qualities
- (J) multiple steps

25. Read this main idea.

Cuatro makers must have patience.

Which of these details does not support this main idea?

- (A) A cuatro has a hollow body.
- (B) It can take months to assemble one cuatro.
- (C) Craftspeople skillfully make cuatros by hand.
- (D) A cuatro maker may have to wait a month and a half between some steps.

26. The word oscillate means to —

- (F) hum quietly
- (G) wait several months
- (H) move back and forth
- (J) carve planks of wood

27. The word unique means —

- (A) rare
- (B) loud
- (C) calm
- (D) steady

28. What is the main idea of the last paragraph of the passage?

- (F) The cuatro "sings."
- (G) The top of a cuatro is made of yagrumo.
- (H) Yagrumo is carved so that it is very thin.
- (J) The sound of a cuatro is not like that of any other instrument.

29. Read this paragraph.

The cuatro is played at many dances and celebrations. Musicians use it to play jazz and other modern styles of music.

Which of these is the best main idea sentence to add to the beginning of the paragraph?

- (A) Not many people have heard cuatro music.
- (B) Today, the cuatro is more popular than ever.
- (C) Today's cuatros are different from those of long ago.
- (D) Several instruments are descended from the Spanish guitar.

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

**DIRECTIONS** Below is a story about a young artist. Read the story. Then read each item carefully. Choose the best answer. Mark your answer.

Elena waits for her art teacher, Mr. Marsh. She wants to tell him her news. She has sold her first painting! The painting shows the river at the edge of town. The mayor bought it. Said it would remind her to preserve the open space.

Finally, Mr. Marsh comes in. Elena tell him the story. Mr. Marsh laughs and clap.

Then smiles. "It is time for an exhibit. Students, teachers, and others wants to see your art," he says.

Elena will have her own art show! She cannot believe it. As she leaves, her teacher says, "Think about this. At the exhibit, suppose buyers or an admirer ask who you are. What will you say?"

"I the luckiest art student alive," says Elena.

Mr. Marsh shakes his head. "No, you will say 'I am Elena Mondragón, and I am an artist.'"

**30** In number 1, Said it would is best written —

- (F) Say it would
- (G) She say it would
- (H) She said it would
- (J) as it is written

**31** In number 2, Elena tell is best written —

- (A) She tell
- (B) Elena tells
- (C) Elena and Mr. Marsh tell
- (D) as it is written

**32** In number 3, Mr. Marsh laughs and clap is best written —

- (F) Mr. Marsh laugh and claps
- (G) Mr. Marsh laughs and claps
- (H) Mr. Marsh laugh and laughs
- (J) as it is written

**33** In number 4, Then smiles is best written —

- (A) Then smile.
- (B) Then he smile
- (C) Then he smiles.
- (D) as it is written

**34** In number 5, Students, teachers, and others wants is best written —

- (F) Student, teacher, and other wants
- (G) Students wants teachers and others
- (H) Students, teachers, and others want
- (J) as it is written

**35** In number 6, She cannot believe it is best written —

- (A) Cannot believe it.
- (B) She cannot believe.
- (C) She cannot believes it.
- (D) as it is written

**36** In number 7, buyers or an admirer ask is best written —

- (F) buyer or an admirer ask
- (G) buyers or an admirer asks
- (H) buyers or an admirer asking
- (J) as it is written

**37** In number 8, I the luckiest is best written —

- (A) I the lucky
- (B) I is the luckiest
- (C) I am the luckiest
- (D) as it is written

**STOP**



# Section 2: Writing

## PROCESS AND STRATEGIES

**DIRECTIONS** Read about the description that Tairi plans to write. Then read each item carefully. Choose the best answer. Mark your answer.

Tairi wants to write about how her uncle creates a flower garden on his balcony. She plans to describe the process of planting and caring for the flowers.

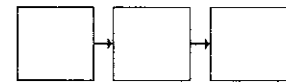
- 1 When you describe a process, you want your readers to —
- (A) laugh at the humor
  - (B) get involved or take action
  - (C) form an opinion on the subject
  - (D) picture how something happens
- 2 Before she starts writing, Tairi should —
- (F) add important details
  - (G) share her work with a partner
  - (H) check her spelling and capitalization
  - (J) think about her purpose and audience
- 3 The best way for Tairi to organize her ideas is to —
- (A) take photographs of different gardens
  - (B) list the kinds of flowers that can be planted in pots
  - (C) list in order the steps in making a flower garden on a balcony
  - (D) compare flower gardens and vegetable gardens on a Venn diagram

- 4 Which graphic organizer will best help Tairi organize her ideas?

(E) T-chart



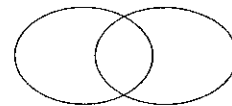
(G) flow chart



(H) tree diagram



(J) Venn diagram



**PROCESS AND STRATEGIES, *continued***

**DIRECTIONS** Read the draft of the description that Tairí wrote. Then read each item carefully. Choose the best answer. Mark your answer.

### Planting a Flower Garden

(1) My uncle lives in an apartment in the city. (2) Every April, though, he becomes a gardener.

(3) First, Uncle Luis clean all his flowerpots from last year.

(4) Then he goes to the nursery to buy young plants and bages of soil and fertilizer.

(5) When he gets home, he figures out how to arrange the pots on his balcony. (6) Then he mixes the soil and fertilizer. (7) He places each empty flowerpot in its place. (8) He fills the pots with soil and he plants the seedlings.

(9) All Spring and Summer, Uncle Luis takes good care of his plants. (10) He protects them from insects. (11) He removes dead leaves and flowers. (12) He keeps the plants looking fresh and healthy. (13) He makes sure that the plants get enough sunlight. (14) He gives them just the right amount of water.

(15) Uncle Luis's balcony so pretty and bright! (16) His apartment looks pretty, too, because he fills it with bouquets of flowers.

PROCESS AND STRATEGIES, *continued*

- 5 In the first paragraph, Tairí wants to tell more clearly what she will describe. Which of these should she add after sentence 2?
- (A) I like to garden, too.
  - (B) He likes the gardens in the city parks.
  - (C) He lives on the third floor of a ten-story building.
  - (D) He grows beautiful flowers in pots on his balcony.
- 6 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?
- (F) Change *from* to *in*
  - (G) Change *year* to *Year*
  - (H) Change *clean* to *cleans*
  - (J) Make no change
- 7 Which of these should Tairí add after sentence 3 to help her readers picture the process?
- (A) The pots have saucers.
  - (B) The pots are on his balcony.
  - (C) He does the same thing every year.
  - (D) He uses hot water and a high-pressure hose.
- 8 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?
- (F) Change *he* to *him*
  - (G) Change *goes* to *went*
  - (H) Change *bage*s to *bag*s
  - (J) Make no change
- 9 Tairí wants to make the order of the steps in sentences 5–8 clearer. She should put —
- (A) sentence 7 after sentence 5
  - (B) sentence 8 after sentence 6
  - (C) sentence 6 before sentence 5
  - (D) sentence 7 before sentence 5
- 10 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 9?
- (F) Delete the comma after *Summer*
  - (G) Change the period to an exclamation mark
  - (H) Change *Spring and Summer* to *spring and summer*
  - (J) Make no change
- 11 How can Tairí improve sentences 10–13?
- (A) Delete sentence 10
  - (B) Break up sentence 11: **He removes dead leaves. He also removes dead flowers.**
  - (C) Combine sentences 11 and 12: **To keep the plants looking fresh and healthy, he removes dead leaves and flowers.**
  - (D) Add this sentence after sentence 13: **He rotates the pots one-quarter turn every week.**
- 12 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 15?
- (F) Insert *gets* before *so*
  - (G) Insert *my* before *Uncle*
  - (H) Insert *very* before *pretty*
  - (J) Make no change

STOP

GO ON 

**WRITTEN COMPOSITION: ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

**DIRECTIONS** Read the writing prompt, then write your description on a separate sheet of paper.

**WRITING PROMPT**

Write a description of an activity you know how to do well. The activity might be writing music, playing a sport, or anything that uses a special talent you have. Describe the activity so that your classmates will be able to picture how you do the activity.

