

# CogAT Verbal

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**Hot Vocab**

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*You are going to master the following vocabulary in this packet.*

**abuse:** to use improperly; to misuse.

**acquaintance:** some knowledge; a person known to one, but not a close friend.

**advocacy:** the act of pleading a cause.

**agile:** able to move or act quickly, physically, or mentally.

**altitude:** vertical distance or elevation above any point or base-level, as the sea.

**arise:** to rise up; to get up.

**balmy:** soft and mild (of air); fragrant.

**blunder:** to make a careless mistake; to do clumsily.

**champion:** to fight for; to speak on behalf of; to defend; to support; to uphold; to advocate.

**compel:** to force (someone) to do something; to drive; to urge.

**cordial:** pleasant; friend and warm; hearty.

**depict:** a picture; a description; the act of drawing or painting; a thing that represents.

**drag:** anything that holds back; obstruction; hindrance; impediment.

**erupt:** to explode; to burst out suddenly.

**forecast:** to predict; to foretell.

**grasp:** to understand; to comprehend.

**ignite:** to kindle; to light.

**integrity:** honesty or sincerity; uprightness; undivided or unbroken condition; completeness; wholeness; entirety.

**liking:** fondness.

**metropolis:** large city; conurbation.

**neglectful:** careless; negligent; heedless.

**option:** choice; the right or freedom to choose.

**persist:** to continue firmly; to stick to it; to continue steadfast against opposition.

**primer:** a basic, grade-school textbook.

**resignation:** quitting a job; patient acceptance of misfortune.

**seep:** leak through.

**squall:** a sudden; violent burst of wind often accompanied by snow or rain.

**tactical:** showing skill in tactics; characterized by skillful maneuvering.

**transparent:** permitting light to pass through freely.

**vial:** a small container used to hold liquids, medicines, and the like.

**Word List 1 \* \* \* \* \***

- (A) abuse
- (B) acquaintance
- (C) advocacy
- (D) agile
- (E) altitude

**Definition Matching:**

Choose the closest word from the previous list to match each definition. Spell it correctly!

1. some knowledge. \_\_\_\_\_
2. able to move or act quickly, physically, or mentally. \_\_\_\_\_
3. the act of pleading a cause.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. vertical distance or elevation above any point or base-level, as the sea.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. to use improperly. \_\_\_\_\_

**Sentence Illustration:**

Choose the best word from the previous list to fit in the sentences. Correct grammar is required!

6. Monkeys are \_\_\_\_\_ climbers. They move very fast on trees.
7. I have some \_\_\_\_\_ with French, but I do not know it well.
8. She is renowned for her \_\_\_\_\_ of human rights.
9. We are currently flying at an \_\_\_\_\_ of 15,000 meters.
10. She is continually \_\_\_\_\_ her position by getting other people to do things for her.

**Word List 2 \* \* \* \* \***

- (A) arise
- (B) balmy
- (C) blunder
- (D) champion
- (E) compel

**Definition Matching:**

11. to force (someone) to do something.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. soft and mild (of air). \_\_\_\_\_
13. to fight for. \_\_\_\_\_
14. to make a careless mistake.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. to rise up. \_\_\_\_\_

**Sentence Illustration:**

16. Martin Luther King, Jr., was remembered for his life's work; he has \_\_\_\_\_ the freedom of the oppressed.
17. The new circumstances \_\_\_\_\_ a change in policy.
18. Someone \_\_\_\_\_ in sending you to the wrong address.
19. The children \_\_\_\_\_ from their seats to salute the flag.
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ odor from herbal medicines are soothing, but are not necessarily healing.

**Word List 3 \* \* \* \* \***

- (A) cordial
- (B) depict
- (C) drag
- (D) erupt
- (E) forecast

***Definition Matching:***

- 21. anything that holds back. \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. to explode. \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. a picture. \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. pleasant. \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. to predict. \_\_\_\_\_

***Sentence Illustration:***

- 26. That lazy, complaining boy is a \_\_\_\_\_ on the team.
- 27. The Fords extended a \_\_\_\_\_ welcome to us as we arrived at the party.
- 28. At the end of a hot summer, violence \_\_\_\_\_ in the inner cities.
- 29. Cooler weather is \_\_\_\_\_ for tomorrow.
- 30. Do you question the accuracy of this \_\_\_\_\_ of Lennon?

**Word List 4 \* \* \* \* \***

- (A) grasp
- (B) ignite
- (C) integrity
- (D) liking
- (E) metropolis

***Definition Matching:***

- 31. to understand. \_\_\_\_\_
- 32. to kindle. \_\_\_\_\_
- 33. fondness. \_\_\_\_\_
- 34. honesty or sincerity. \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. large city. \_\_\_\_\_

***Sentence Illustration:***

- 36. Every evening this terminal is filled with the thousands of commuters who are going from this \_\_\_\_\_ to their homes in the suburbs.
- 37. When Denny crooned “Baby, light my fire,” literal-minded Lucy looked around for some paper to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 38. She is a quick learner since she can \_\_\_\_\_ my meaning at once.
- 39. Lincoln, whose personal \_\_\_\_\_ has inspired millions, fought a civil war to maintain the integrity of the Republic and advocated that the United States should remain undivided for all time.
- 40. She has a \_\_\_\_\_ for expensive liqueurs.

**Word List 5 \* \* \* \* \***

- (A) neglectful
- (B) option
- (C) persist
- (D) primer
- (E) resignation

**Definition Matching:**

- 41. a basic, grade-school textbook.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 42. careless. \_\_\_\_\_
- 43. quitting a job. \_\_\_\_\_
- 44. choice. \_\_\_\_\_
- 45. to continue firmly. \_\_\_\_\_

**Sentence Illustration:**

- 46. When I left school I wanted to travel, but I had no money so I had no \_\_\_\_\_ but to work.
- 47. For decades, the foundation of American schooling was the old-fashioned \_\_\_\_\_, from which children studied subjects ranging from history to poetry to arithmetic.
- 48. When the dissatisfaction with the company grew and grew, Dave finally brought up his \_\_\_\_\_ and started a new job.
- 49. I'm sure my boss thinks I've been \_\_\_\_\_ of my duties recently.
- 50. The government \_\_\_\_\_ with its ambitious public works program, despite the massive costs involved.

**Word List 6 \* \* \* \* \***

- (A) seep
- (B) squall
- (C) tactical
- (D) transparent
- (E) vial

**Definition Matching:**

- 51. a small container used to hold liquids, medicines, and the like. \_\_\_\_\_
- 52. leak through. \_\_\_\_\_
- 53. a sudden. \_\_\_\_\_
- 54. showing skill in tactics. \_\_\_\_\_
- 55. permitting light to pass through freely.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Sentence Illustration:**

- 56. The thief peeked through the \_\_\_\_\_ window to make sure no one was present.
- 57. Although it was not snowing all that hard, we had to delay our trip because the \_\_\_\_\_ made visibility too poor for safe driving on the hill's narrow roads.
- 58. The drug is stored in a tightly sealed \_\_\_\_\_ to keep away from children.
- 59. My dog Lucy is sipping water that \_\_\_\_\_ through the cracked water fountain.
- 60. He made a \_\_\_\_\_ error in agreeing to argue with an opponent who was a professional debater.

**Review List 1 \* \* \* \* \***

- (A) abuse
- (B) acquaintance
- (C) advocacy
- (D) agile
- (E) altitude
- (F) arise
- (G) balmy
- (H) blunder
- (I) champion
- (J) compel

***Definition Matching:***

- 61. to get up. \_\_\_\_\_
- 62. fragrant. \_\_\_\_\_
- 63. a person known to one, but not a close friend. \_\_\_\_\_
- 64. able to move or act quickly, physically, or mentally. \_\_\_\_\_
- 65. the act of pleading a cause. \_\_\_\_\_
- 66. to do clumsily. \_\_\_\_\_
- 67. to speak on behalf of. \_\_\_\_\_
- 68. to drive. \_\_\_\_\_
- 69. vertical distance or elevation above any point or base-level, as the sea. \_\_\_\_\_
- 70. to misuse. \_\_\_\_\_

**Review List 2 \* \* \* \* \***

- (A) cordial
- (B) depict
- (C) drag
- (D) erupt
- (E) forecast
- (F) grasp
- (G) ignite
- (H) integrity
- (I) liking
- (J) metropolis

***Definition Matching:***

- 71. fondness. \_\_\_\_\_
- 72. to burst out suddenly. \_\_\_\_\_
- 73. to foretell. \_\_\_\_\_
- 74. to light. \_\_\_\_\_
- 75. uprightness. \_\_\_\_\_
- 76. to comprehend. \_\_\_\_\_
- 77. a description. \_\_\_\_\_
- 78. obstruction. \_\_\_\_\_
- 79. friend and warm. \_\_\_\_\_
- 80. conurbation. \_\_\_\_\_

**Review List 3 \*\*\*\*\***

- (A) neglectful
- (B) option
- (C) persist
- (D) primer
- (E) resignation
- (F) seep
- (G) squall
- (H) tactical
- (I) transparent
- (J) vial

***Definition Matching:***

- 81. negligent. \_\_\_\_\_
- 82. the right or freedom to choose.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 83. patient acceptance of misfortune.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 84. permitting light to pass through freely.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 85. leak through. \_\_\_\_\_
- 86. a basic, grade-school textbook.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 87. a small container used to hold liquids,  
medicines, and the like. \_\_\_\_\_
- 88. to stick to it. \_\_\_\_\_
- 89. violent burst of wind often accompanied  
by snow or rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 90. characterized by skillful maneuvering.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Synonym Replacement**

Select the closest meaning to match the underlined word or phrase.

91. Twenty sixteenth-century schooners were moored in the bay the day before the race.  
 (A) stopped  
 (B) launched  
 (C) anchored
92. Asthma is a chronic disease whose chief symptom is difficulty in breathing.  
 (A) principal  
 (B) large  
 (C) supreme
93. Before taking such a test, one had better brush up on his or her vocabulary.  
 (A) translate  
 (B) revise  
 (C) review
94. Photographs are sharpest when the photographer properly focuses the camera.  
 (A) clearest  
 (B) most attractive  
 (C) quickest
95. The Center for Disease Control reported that the epidemic of the viral disease called acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis shows no signs of abating.  
 (A) subsiding  
 (B) recurring  
 (C) worsening
96. Many stand-up comedians have a completely inane sense of humor.  
 (A) senseless  
 (B) harmless  
 (C) sparkling
97. Few people like someone who meddles in the affairs of others.  
 (A) participates  
 (B) interferes  
 (C) delights
98. Charlie Chaplin was known for his comical performances.  
 (A) polished  
 (B) poignant  
 (C) funny
99. The earth is usually represented by a sphere.  
 (A) cube  
 (B) block  
 (C) globe
100. The speaker demonstrated his knowledge of the subject by his excellent lecture.  
 (A) repeated  
 (B) showed  
 (C) created
101. He hurled the statue to the floor with such force that it shattered.  
 (A) pulled  
 (B) pushed  
 (C) threw
102. The onset of some diseases come without warning.  
 (A) beginning  
 (B) infection  
 (C) spread
103. The political leader was revered by the people of his country.  
 (A) distrusted  
 (B) loved  
 (C) detested

104. Placing tags on ducks and geese as they migrate is one method of studying the behavior of birds.
- (A) sleep for winter
  - (B) move from one place to another
  - (C) flee their enemies
105. Relatively simple in concept, the assembly line revolutionized industry.
- (A) Comparatively
  - (B) Certainly
  - (C) Relevantly

**Reading: The coelacanth is a .....**

Line	The coelacanth is a prehistoric ancestor of today's bony fish. Scientists had studied fossils of this strange fish. But they never thought they would see a live one. They believed that the coelacanth had died out millions of years ago.	Line
5	Then in 1938, some men were fishing off the shores of East Africa. In their net they found a large, oily fish. Its stocky body was covered with round, blue scales. Sharp teeth lined its mouth. Its large tail had a small fin on it. But strangest of all were its other strong fins. They could rotate and looked more like flippers or legs than fins.	5
10	After reaching port the men told the head of a nearby museum about their unusual catch. She quickly called in an expert to identify the dead, smelly fish. "This is a coelacanth," the excited scientist said. "It's a living fossil!"	10
15	News about the strange find flashed around the world. A reward of four hundred dollars was offered to anyone who caught another coelacanth. In 1952, a second fish was finally caught near the Comoro Islands of Africa. Since then, more than two dozen have been pulled out of the deep waters in that area. Scientists have examined them and preserved some for future study. But two important questions remain. How have these ancient fish survived? And why haven't they changed in 60 million years?	15

106. The coelacanth \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) is a small fish  
(B) has existed for millions of years  
(C) is very common  
(D) is only a legendary symbol
107. Which word in paragraph 2 means "heavy and thick"?
- (A) strong  
(B) oily  
(C) stocky  
(D) sharp
108. Which paragraph tells where the first living coelacanth was found?
- (A) 1  
(B) 2  
(C) 3  
(D) 4
109. past : future = destroy :
- (A) examine  
(B) preserve  
(C) catch  
(D) announce
110. The word "port" [line 10] means
- (A) harbor  
(B) a computer outlet  
(C) left side of a ship  
(D) a market place

**Reading: About 20 kinds of fish called**

About 20 kinds of fish called piranhas live in the streams of South America. Their sides are silvery and their bellies are yellow or red. Their backs may be green, blue, or black. The smallest ones are fully grown at four inches. Larger ones may grow up to 18 inches long.

The bigger piranhas have a very bad reputation. But they seem to deserve it. Even though piranhas will eat bread and fruit used as bait, they mostly dine on other fish. Sometimes they even eat each other. That's why they are also known as cannibal fish.

Triangle-shaped teeth line the strong jaws of the piranhas. These teeth are sharp and can slash off pieces of flesh with lightning speed. Piranhas devour their food in no time at all. They usually choose an animal that is hurt or weak. When the fish attack, the water around them foams and churns. Then in just a few minutes, the water grows still again. Little is left of the victim. The flesh has been stripped from its bones.

But piranhas don't always act this way. Sometimes they ignore people and animals in the water around them. No one is certain why they attack at one time and not at another. The water level and temperature, the time of year, or the food supply might make the difference. The truth about the dreaded piranhas seems to be that they are as changeable as they are dangerous.

111. Piranhas \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) never eat bread or fruit
  - (B) eat only people
  - (C) sometimes eat each other
  - (D) hibernate
112. Which word in paragraph 3 means "eat greedily"?
- (A) slash
  - (B) splash
  - (C) devour
  - (D) choose
113. Which paragraph tells where piranhas live?
- (A) 1
  - (B) 2
  - (C) 3
  - (D) 4
114. fully : completely = feared :
- (A) dreaded
  - (B) shaped
  - (C) greedy
  - (D) stripped
115. Which word does not belong to the following group?
- (A) attack
  - (B) slash
  - (C) ignore
  - (D) bite

**Reading: “I just can’t take care of**

“I just can’t take care of Jeffie again, Mom! I have to go to practice. They’ll throw me off of the team if I keep missing so many practices.” Joella brushed away some hot tears and looked at her mother, sitting slumped at the kitchen table, her head resting in her hands.

“I can’t help it, Jo,” her mother sighed. “I have to go to work, and I can’t afford to pay for a sitter this week. Could you take him with you?”

“Take him with me! Take a baby to practice? Wheel him into the gym in his stroller? Change his diapers in the huddle? Burp him on the bench? They’d throw me off of the team for sure!” Joella glared at Jeffie who blew a bubble and grinned at her toothlessly.

“Please, Jo,” said her mother. “Just try it. You’re afraid they’ll drop you anyway if you don’t go. At least, if you took him, you’d be there.”

“All right, all right, all right!” Joella groaned through clenched teeth. “I’ll try it, but, if they laugh at me, I’m staying home from school tomorrow.” She picked up Jeffie, buckled him into his stroller, grabbed a bottle from the refrigerator, checked the diaper bag for supplies as she stuffed the bottle in, patted her mother on top of the head, and raced out the door.

The school was just a few blocks away. Joella ran most of the way, steering the stroller expertly. She slowed down once she reached the school grounds and almost turned around at the door of the gym. It was too late, however. The boys were just leaving their practice, and the gym door burst open.

“Look what Joella’s got,” said Rick Glover, the captain of the boys’ team. “Hey, Joella, is

he your secret weapon? Are you girls going to finally win a game this week?” He laughed, but he reached over her head and held the heavy door open until both Joella and the stroller were safely inside.

“Joella, you are crazy!” said her best friend, Francie. “Coach Cramer, look what Joella brought to practice!”

“Good decision, Joella,” Coach Cramer yelled from the other end of the floor. “We need you! Put the stroller between the bleachers so that the baby won’t get hit with a ball.”

Jeffie gurgled and waved his arms as the girls gathered around to smile and make faces at him. Then, as the balls flew up and down the gym and the girl’s feet pounded, Jeffie fell asleep. He woke up during the team meeting at the end of practice. Joella scooped him up and gave him his bottle while the coach outlined the plays she planned to try at the next day’s practice.

“Bring Jeffie again tomorrow if you can, Joella,” said Coach Cramer finally. “He can be our mascot. Maybe he will bring us good luck. We certainly had a good practice today. Can I give you a ride home? It’s dark out.”

“No need, Coach,” said a voice by the gym door. “I’ll walk them home. I had to come back to get something I left in my locker.” The voice belonged to Rick Glover. “Okay, Joella?” he asked. “You’re on my way.”

“Thanks, Rick,” said Joella. “That will be easier than trying to fit the stroller in Coach Cramer’s car.” Joella tucked Jeffie’s blankets around him, and they started to leave the gym. “See you tomorrow, everybody,” she called back to the team. “Thanks for letting me bring Jeffie to practice.”

Jeffie came to practice every day for the rest of the week. Joella's mother relaxed. Joella relaxed. And Jeffie seemed to actually sparkle. Every afternoon Rick "forgot" something in his locker so that he was there when it was time for Joella and Jeffie to walk home after dark.

The game they had been practicing for was scheduled for Friday evening. Joella's mother did not have to work so Joella was not responsible for Jeffie. But, when she arrived at the gym alone, everyone panicked. "Where's Jeffie?" they chorused. "We can't play without Jeffie! The coach saved two seats on the aisle right in back of the bench."

Joella panicked too. "I'll call my mother," she said and dashed for the pay phone in the lobby of the gym. The phone rang and rang. Her mother wasn't answering. Joella dragged herself back into the gym. The game started. Joella's team played hard, but they were down by two at the half.

Then, from out of the blue, Rick appeared with Joella's mother and Jeffie. "They were by the door," he said. "They didn't want to disturb anyone, and Joella's mother wasn't sure where to sit." He helped them get settled in the two seats that had been saved for them. Then he changed his mind and sat in one of the seats himself so that he could hold Jeffie up to see the action.

Joella and the other girls on the team were ecstatic. They gave a big cheer.

Two! Four! Six! Eight!  
Who do we appreciate?  
Jeffie! Jeffie!  
RAH-RAH-RAH!

Jeffie waved his hands in the air and beamed. He bounced and wiggled. He liked this place with all the noise and the people who obviously loved him.

The second half began. Joella's team played like tigers. They passed, they faked, they shot, and they scored! Feet thudded up and down the floor. People yelled and cheered. Jeffie loved every minute of it. He waved his hands in the air and made baby noises along with the crowd. And then, in the last period with just a few seconds left to play, Joella sank a jump shot that won the game.

Joella's mother grabbed Jeffie so that Rick could jump up and down and yell, but Jeffie started to cry so Rick held him and they jumped up and down together.

After all of the yells and the handshakes were over, the girls came back to the bench. They patted Jeffie and cooed over him. The coach thanked Joella's mother for bringing him. "Can he keep coming to practices?" she asked. "He is our good luck charm, you know."

"And look at this," said Rick reaching into his pocket. "I got him a trophy." Rick produced a rattle shaped like a basketball. Jeffie took it and gurgled. Then he bopped Rick on the head with it and laughed. "He likes it," said Rick. "That must be a good sign!"

Joella's mother waited with Jeffie and Rick until the girls' team meeting was over. When Joella was ready to leave, Rick said, "Tonight I can walk all three of you home. Okay?"

Rick lifted Jeffie's stroller up the steps and saw them safely inside their door before he left. "What a nice boy he is," Joella's mother commented as she picked up Jeffie.

"I know," smiled Joella.

"And what a nice girl you are," her mother went on. "I'm so proud of you."

"I know," laughed Joella, giving her mother a hug. Jeffie just waved his new rattle.

116. Which one of these things happened last?  
(A) Joella called her mother from the gym.  
(B) Rick found Joella's mother and Jeffie.  
(C) Rick gave Jeffie a basketball rattle.  
(D) Joella's team won the basketball game.
117. The girls on Joella's basketball team panicked because ...  
(A) Joella's mother did not answer the phone.  
(B) Joella's mother was not sure where to sit.  
(C) They were down by two points at the half.  
(D) Joella arrived at the game without Jeffie.
118. Which word best describes the relationship between Joella and her mother?  
(A) one-sided  
(B) loving  
(C) cold  
(D) demanding
119. Which is the best summary of this story?  
(A) Joella's baby-sitting responsibilities turn into good luck when Jeffie is adopted as the team mascot and Rick decides to befriend both of them.  
(B) Joella tells her mother that she is afraid that the team will drop her because of her baby-sitting responsibilities.  
(C) Joella loves Jeffie but she does not want to take him to basketball practice because she is afraid everyone will make fun of her.  
(D) Joella is embarrassed when members of the boys' basketball team see her enter the gym with Jeffie in a stroller.
120. "And Jeffie seemed to actually sparkle" means...  
(A) Jeffie looked as if he were covered with glitter.  
(B) Jeffie had a bright, cheerful expression.  
(C) Jeffie's face reflected the lights in the gym.  
(D) Jeffie's smile came and went rapidly.
121. A good description of Rick might be ...  
(A) helpful and kind.  
(B) conceited and self-absorbed.  
(C) violent and angry.  
(D) nervous and upset.
122. At the beginning of this story, Joella's mother seems to be ...  
(A) happy.  
(B) depressed.  
(C) angry.  
(D) frantic.
123. Why do you suppose Joella's mother stood by the door when she brought Jeffie to the game?  
(A) She thought Jeffie might not last through the whole game, and she wanted to be able to get him out quickly if he started to cry.  
(B) She was not sure where she and Jeffie should sit.  
(C) She wanted to see Joella play but was not sure if Joella wanted Jeffie to be there after she had taken care of him all week.  
(D) The gymnasium was crowded and it was hard to maneuver the stroller to get to the bleachers.
124. At the end of this story, the setting is ...  
(A) inside of the school gym.  
(B) outside of the school gym.  
(C) outside of Joella's house.  
(D) inside of Joella's house.

125. At the end of this story, the mood is ...  
(A) sad.  
(B) happy.  
(C) anxious.  
(D) angry.
126. This story is an example of ...  
(A) science fiction.  
(B) historical fact.  
(C) realistic fiction.  
(D) pure fantasy.
127. Because there is a goal at each end of the playing area, basketball is most like ...  
(A) baseball.  
(B) football.  
(C) figure skating.  
(D) track.
128. When basketball season is over, Joella and Rick will probably ...  
(A) remain good friends.  
(B) dislike each other.  
(C) ignore each other.  
(D) talk about each other.
129. A good title for this story would be ...  
(A) Rick Glover, Basketball Star.  
(B) The Girl's Basketball Team.  
(C) How Jeffie Helped Joella.  
(D) Joella and her Mother.
130. The word *mascot* means ...  
(A) something adopted as a good luck symbol for a team.  
(B) something used to distract the other team from winning.  
(C) cheerleader.  
(D) flag waver.
131. The word *ecstatic* means ...  
(A) miserable.  
(B) delighted.  
(C) hysterical.  
(D) depressed.

**Reading: A Winning Team .....**

## A Winning Team

<sup>1</sup>Jamal’s main ambition was to play big-league baseball like his favorite catcher, Billy Hawkins. Jamal’s baseball glove was always either on his hand or close by under his desk at school, under his chair when he ate, or under his pillow while he slept.

<sup>2</sup>Jamal’s teacher, Ms. Sampson, asked his parents to come in for a meeting. “Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins,” she said, “Jamal is not living up to his potential. He could be doing better in his math, spelling, and social studies. He seems distracted.” It was true. Jamal did have trouble thinking about long division, world explorers, or American literature. His favorite part of the school day was recess, when he could take out his glove and play catch.



<sup>3</sup>Jamal’s parents told him to leave his glove at home. Jamal became depressed. He was lost without his glove. He stopped talking in class. At recess, he stood around with sad eyes and drooping shoulders. His parents said, “There must be a better way than this.” They came up with a plan and secretly set it in motion.

<sup>4</sup>One day, Ms. Sampson introduced a special guest to the class—Billy Hawkins! Jamal was

thrilled! Billy Hawkins said, “If you want to be a ball player, it’s important to study hard in school.”

<sup>5</sup>Jamal was puzzled. “What does school have to do with baseball?” he asked.

<sup>6</sup>“I’ll show you by giving you a little baseball test,” said Billy. “I’ll ask you three questions. Each student who answers all three questions correctly will win two tickets to a Leopards game!”

<sup>7</sup>Jamal was sure he would be able to answer the questions, but there were some surprises in store. The first question was, “How do you figure out a player’s batting average?” Jamal wasn’t sure how to do the math on that one. For the second question, Billy Hawkins handed out copies of a magazine article about baseball. It contained several words that Jamal didn’t understand. The third question asked which team had won the World Series in the year George Bush became President of the United States. Though Jamal knew about the World Series winners, he didn’t know much about Presidents.

<sup>8</sup>He wasn’t the only one who had trouble. No one got all three answers right. Luckily, the students would have another chance the following week. “If you combine your efforts,” Billy Hawkins said, “maybe everyone will win tickets to the game.”

<sup>9</sup>That week, they all helped each other. Jamal told his classmates what he knew about batting averages and the World Series. The students who were good with numbers taught the others how to figure the averages. The strong readers helped with the difficult words, and the best history students helped the others learn important dates and names. When they took the second baseball test, they

were able to answer all of the questions correctly, and the whole class won tickets to the next Leopards game!

<sup>10</sup>That Saturday afternoon at the stadium, Jamal bought a souvenir baseball. After the game, he asked his hero to sign it. It read, “To Jamal: Keep working hard in school. See you in the big leagues! Billy Hawkins.”

132. The word distracted is derived from the Latin root tract, meaning “to draw.” Based on this information, the reader can tell the literal meaning of to distract is
- (A) to be unhappy with.
  - (B) to draw poorly.
  - (C) to draw away.
  - (D) to be confused.

133. What do Jamal’s parents have in common with Billy Hawkins?
- (A) They are related to each other.
  - (B) They are friends of Ms. Sampson.
  - (C) They are interested in professional baseball.
  - (D) They want the students to understand the importance of school.

134. To help the students correctly answer all the questions, Billy Hawkins suggests that they
- (A) go home and ask their parents.
  - (B) conduct research at the library.
  - (C) work together as a group.
  - (D) watch more baseball on television.

135. What is the main problem in this story?
- (A) Jamal is more interested in baseball than in school.
  - (B) Jamal is disappointed when he meets Billy Hawkins.
  - (C) Jamal’s parents are upset that he wants to be a baseball player.
  - (D) Jamal doesn’t fully understand how to determine baseball batting averages.

136. For Jamal, the baseball at the end of the story will most likely be a symbol of
- (A) his parents’ concern.
  - (B) his new attitude about school.
  - (C) his knowledge of history.
  - (D) his time in Ms. Sampson’s class.

**Reading: Which Twin Are You? .....**

## Which Twin Are You?

<sup>1</sup>I was hurrying to class one morning when Hillary Barnes, the most popular girl in school, stopped me. “Are you the twin who won the art contest?” she asked.



<sup>2</sup>“No, that’s Christine. I’m Katie,” I said.

<sup>3</sup>We’re not identical twins; we look quite different. Still, we’re the Carpenter Twins. It was maddening having a twin straight out of a fairy tale. She could defeat Snow White in a beauty contest and attract friends like the Pied Piper! Compared to Christine, I felt like one of Cinderella’s stepsisters.

<sup>4</sup>In math class I rummaged through my backpack, searching for my homework. “Here, Katie,” said Christine, offering a crumpled paper. “It was under your pillow.”

<sup>5</sup>“Thanks,” I mumbled. She’d made my bed again! Truly she was an amazing sister. How could I be angry with her? It wasn’t her fault I was the one with wild, unmanageable hair and no talent.

<sup>6</sup>I’d tried to be artistic too. One Saturday Christine gave me a painting lesson. My red and green blended into brown, making my bouquet of roses resemble a rusty tractor! While pitching a fit over this sad result, I knocked over the real vase of flowers, spilling water onto Christine’s painting. Instead of becoming angry, though, she turned the whole mess into a dreamy masterpiece. You could look at it five different ways and see five different things. With this brilliant

creation, she won First Prize in the art contest.

<sup>7</sup>The bell rang, and I slapped my math book shut. “Katie, don’t forget our basketball game after school,” reminded Christine.

<sup>8</sup>“I won’t,” I said. Joining Christine’s basketball team was my latest effort to be like her. Though I’d practiced hard all season, my shots still bounced off the rim of the basket. I stumbled when trying to dribble the ball. Once a pass I threw hit Coach Struthers in the shoulder, practically knocking her over.

<sup>9</sup>This was a new day, a new game. As I was stretching, breathing slowly, thinking positive thoughts, Christine called, “Katie, here!” She tossed me a ball. I leapt for it; it slipped through my fingers and flew into the bleachers. No one was seated right there, but my relief disappeared when the ball crashed into the tape recorder that was used to play The Star Spangled Banner before each game.

<sup>10</sup>I muttered apologies as I picked up the broken pieces of the recorder. Coach looked at the mess and asked, “How are we going to play the song now?”

<sup>11</sup>Christine suggested, “Let Katie sing it! She’s always singing at home.”

<sup>12</sup>Coach asked, “Would you?” I found myself nodding.

<sup>13</sup>Coach announced the national anthem and everyone stood. Standing before a microphone, I looked at the flag and took a deep breath. The notes seemed to flow from deep inside me, and my voice was steady and clear. When I finished, the gym was silent. Then it filled with cheering. As the game started, teammates patted my back and gave

me the “thumbs up” sign. Laura Jamison said, “You should try out for the school musical!” I nodded and said that I might.

<sup>14</sup>The next morning, Hillary Barnes stopped me in the hallway and asked, “Are you the twin who sings?”

<sup>15</sup>“Yes, that’s me,” I answered, grinning as I walked to class.

137. The author wrote this story most likely to —
- (A) show that people are talented in different ways
  - (B) explain why some people are not talented
  - (C) inform readers about making the most of bad situations
  - (D) persuade readers to always be kind to others

138. Why did the author include paragraphs 2 and 3?
- (A) To compare the twins
  - (B) To introduce a fairy tale
  - (C) To reveal Katie and Christine’s last name
  - (D) To describe Christine’s friends

139. Which question does paragraph 8 answer?
- (A) Is Christine taller than Katie?
  - (B) How often does the team practice?
  - (C) In what grade are the twins?
  - (D) Why does Katie join the basketball team?

140. Which detail from the story supports the idea that Katie does a good job singing at the basketball game?
- (A) She looks at the flag and takes a deep breath.
  - (B) A teammate says she should try out for the school musical.
  - (C) Coach Struthers asks her to sing before the game.
  - (D) Her sister says she is always singing at home.

141. How has Katie changed at the end of the story?
- (A) She has found something she can do well.
  - (B) She knows she has as many talents as her sister.
  - (C) She has learned to sing and play basketball.
  - (D) She is now the most popular girl in school.

142. Based on the events described in this story, Katie can best be described as —
- (A) foolish
  - (B) clumsy
  - (C) sneaky
  - (D) healthy

143. Which is the best summary of this story?
- (A) A girl finds out she has her own talents.
  - (B) Two sisters make up after a long fight.
  - (C) A girl learns to work as part of a team.
  - (D) Two sisters learn not to be jealous of each other.

144. Which paragraphs in the story could have this heading: Problems on the Basketball Court?
- (A) Paragraphs 3 and 4
  - (B) Paragraphs 5 and 6
  - (C) Paragraphs 8 and 9
  - (D) Paragraphs 12 and 13



# Answer Key

## Hot Vocab

1. (B) acquaintance
2. (D) agile
3. (C) advocacy
4. (E) altitude
5. (A) abuse
6. (D) agile
7. (B) acquaintance
8. (C) advocacy
9. (E) altitude
10. (A) abusing
11. (E) compel
12. (B) balmy
13. (D) champion
14. (C) blunder
15. (A) arise
16. (D) championed
17. (E) compelled
18. (C) blundered
19. (A) arose
20. (B) balmy
21. (C) drag
22. (D) erupt
23. (B) depict
24. (A) cordial
25. (E) forecast
26. (C) drag
27. (A) cordial
28. (D) erupted
29. (E) forecast
30. (B) depiction
31. (A) grasp
32. (B) ignite
33. (D) liking
34. (C) integrity
35. (E) metropolis
36. (E) metropolis
37. (B) ignite
38. (A) grasp
39. (C) integrity
40. (D) liking
41. (D) primer
42. (A) neglectful
43. (E) resignation
44. (B) option
45. (C) persist
46. (B) option
47. (D) primer
48. (E) resignation
49. (A) neglectful
50. (C) persisted
51. (E) vial
52. (A) seep
53. (B) squall
54. (C) tactical
55. (D) transparent
56. (D) transparent
57. (B) squalls
58. (E) vial
59. (A) seeps
60. (C) tactical
61. (F) arise
62. (G) balmy
63. (B) acquaintance
64. (D) agile
65. (C) advocacy
66. (H) blunder
67. (I) champion
68. (J) compel
69. (E) altitude
70. (A) abuse
71. (I) liking
72. (D) erupt
73. (E) forecast
74. (G) ignite
75. (H) integrity
76. (F) grasp
77. (B) depict
78. (C) drag
79. (A) cordial

- 80. (J) metropolis
- 81. (A) neglectful
- 82. (B) option
- 83. (E) resignation
- 84. (I) transparent
- 85. (F) seep
- 86. (D) primer
- 87. (J) vial
- 88. (C) persist
- 89. (G) squall
- 90. (H) tactical

- 118. B
- 119. A
- 120. B
- 121. A
- 122. B
- 123. B
- 124. D
- 125. B
- 126. C
- 127. B
- 128. A
- 129. C
- 130. A
- 131. B

**Synonym Replacement**

- 91. C
- 92. A
- 93. C
- 94. A
- 95. A
- 96. A
- 97. B
- 98. C
- 99. C
- 100. B
- 101. C
- 102. A
- 103. B
- 104. B
- 105. A

**Reading: A Winning Team .....**

- 132. C
- 133. D
- 134. C
- 135. A
- 136. B

**Reading: Which Twin Are You? .....**

- 137. A
- 138. A
- 139. D
- 140. B
- 141. A
- 142. B
- 143. A
- 144. C

**Reading: The coelacanth is a .....**

- 106. B
- 107. C
- 108. B
- 109. B
- 110. A

**Reading: About 20 kinds of fish called .....**

- 111. C
- 112. C
- 113. A
- 114. A
- 115. C

**Reading: "I just can't take care of ....."**

- 116. C
- 117. D