6th Grade ELA

Midwinter Recess Packet

Ms. Klahr, Ms. Geiger, Ms. Tan, Ms. Ogbebor

This packet must be completed in full on Monday, February 24, 2020.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Independent Reading

Book Title: _____

Book Author: _____

In addition to completing the attached New York State Test questions each day, you ***must*** read a book of your choosing and respond with at least one paragraph **to at least six** of the prompts below. You may not answer the same prompt more than once. Lined paper is attached for your responses.

Additionally, you must log your reading in the reading log below. **You must read on at least six days of the nine days of break.**

Reader Response Questions/Prompts for Fiction –Use evidence from the text.

1. Does the book remind you of another book? Why??
2. Does the season or the time affect the characters or the plot of the story? How important is the place or time to the story?
3. Explain how a character is acting and why you think the character is acting that way.
4. From what you've read so far, make predictions about what will happen next and explain what in the text makes you think it will happen.
5. What types of symbolism do you find in this novel? What do these objects really represent? How do characters react to and with these symbolic objects?
6. Who tells the story? Is this the best person to tell it? Why?
7. How would the story be different if told through another character's eyes?
8. Why do you think the author wrote this story?
9. If you were the author, would you have ended the story in a different way? Why? How so?
10. How does the character's actions affect other people in the story?
11. How does the author provide information or details to make the story seem realistic?
12. How does the author help you feel that you are really there (in both realistic stories and fantasy)?
13. Do you have any unanswered questions about the story? Explain.
14. Copy an interesting/confusing/important/enjoyable passage and explain why you chose it.
15. From what you've read so far, make predictions about what will happen next and explain what in the text makes you think it will happen. How is the book structured? Flashbacks? Multiple points of view? Why do you think the author chose to write the book this way?

Date	Pages Read	Time Read

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 7.

Excerpt from *Last Regrets*

by Paige Hook

1 I sat in my pink-flowered swimsuit on the hot concrete of the driveway, my legs stretched out in front of me, my chipped pink toenails pointing to the sky. I was reflecting on the brilliant defeat the boys had just suffered in yet another water fight with the neighborhood girls.

2 Looking down the driveway to the road, I felt the ground beneath me rumble. My legs began to shake, the leaves on the trees trembled, and I could swear that a flowerpot tumbled over on my neighbor's front porch. The intense rattling increased with every passing second.

3 I got up and started to run, my bare feet smacking against the scalding pavement. I had to hide until I found an excuse. Something, anything, to get me out of it.

4 "Paige," I heard my mom call from the front door, "come inside. Your grandparents just pulled up."

5 "Rats," I whispered. Slowly, I turned around and walked back with my head down, looking at the pavement.

6 When I got to my driveway, I looked up and saw the familiar sight. It was a monster, a big white monster, complete with an "I Love Fishing" bumper sticker. The shadow it made almost covered the entire driveway. But the real problem sat behind the white monster. It looked harmless at first, but I had already spent too many boring afternoons in it this summer. It was a little red fishing boat, my grandpa and grandma's pride and joy.

7 I walked inside the house where my grandparents and my mom were standing around the island in the kitchen. I gave both of my grandparents a hug and proceeded to the cupboard for a glass.

8 "How 'bout some fishing, Paige?" my grandpa asked. "Your two brothers are raring[1] to go."

9 This is what I'd been dreading. "I don't know, Grandpa. It's pretty hot out."

GO ON

10 "It's never too hot to fish. I brought the boat and everything. It's all hitched up behind the RV. I know how much you love riding in the boat."

11 He was wrong. I hated that boat. I liked riding in boats when they were going fast. I liked riding in boats that I could water-ski behind. I'd even settle for tubing if skiing wasn't an option. But fishing boats hardly even moved.

12 "We'll have to buy you a new fishing pole first. Your mom said you lost your last one," said Grandpa.

13 I seemed to lose a lot of fishing poles, but my grandpa never minded. He would just take me to Target to buy another one.

14 In twenty minutes, I found myself walking into the mouth of the monster, complete with pink interior from the dirt-covered floor mats to the darker pink seats. Behind the seats nestled a small kitchenette, littered with what was surely last month's breakfast: two plates covered with syrup, an old waffle box, an empty carton of eggs, and a basket filled with rotten fruit. Across from the kitchenette stood the bathroom, which contributed to the monster's bad case of morning breath. Beyond this was a small bed, piled high with pink blankets, resembling a tongue that could lash out at any time and swallow me whole.

15 Hanging neatly on hooks above the kitchenette counter were Grandpa's hats, white with stains, like teeth that hadn't been brushed in a while. They all had sayings like "#1 Grandpa" and "King of the Sea." Before he sat down in the driver's seat, Grandpa plucked the nearest hat off a hook and put it on over his bald spot to avoid burning his head in the hot summer sun.

16 My grandpa maneuvered the large RV and boat out of our neighborhood, and in ten minutes, we were at Raccoon River, placing the red fishing boat in the water. I was going to borrow an extra pole that my grandpa kept "just in case." Great.

17 In minutes, all three of us kids had our lines in the water. The sweat running down my body was already stinging my eyes and turning the fake leather seat beneath me into a wet, slippery mess. The breeze that may have made the summer heat bearable was nonexistent on the small lake surrounded by tall trees. It was going to be a long afternoon.

♦♦♦

18 Three hours later, everybody else had caught at least two fish. The boat was once again attached to the back of the RV, and we were on our way home, a waste of another Saturday afternoon.

19 "Wasn't that fun, kids?" asked my grandpa as he peeked back at us through the rear-view mirror.

20 My brothers both responded enthusiastically and then began arguing about who had caught the biggest fish. I continued to stare out of the RV window without answering Grandpa's question.

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[1]**raring:** eager

1 What does paragraph 5 reveal about Paige?

A She fears going out on the lake.

B She wants to avoid her grandparents.

C She prefers the outdoors to coming inside.

D She wants to play with the neighborhood girls.

2 How do paragraphs 8 through 10 develop the plot of the story?

A They give background information about Paige.

B They illustrate Paige's internal conflict.

C They explain why Paige admires her Grandpa.

D They show how Paige and her brothers are alike.

3 Read the sentence from paragraph 14 below.

> **Across from the kitchenette stood the bathroom, which contributed to the monster's bad case of morning breath.**

What does the metaphor mean in the sentence?

A The RV had a rotten smell.

B People slept poorly inside the RV.

C The RV was a cramped place.

D People made a mess inside the RV.

4 Which detail signals a change in the direction of the story?

A Grandpa loans Paige a fishing pole.

B Paige warns her family about the heat.

C Grandpa and Grandma arrive in their RV.

D Paige and the girls beat the boys in a water fight.

5 How does the author **most** develop Grandpa's point of view in the story?

A by having the narrator describe Grandpa

B by sharing Grandpa's thoughts with the reader

C by including dialogue between Grandpa and the kids

D by showing how Grandpa acts with Paige's brothers

6 Which detail would be **most** important to include in a summary of the story?

A Paige loses a lot of fishing poles.

B Grandpa owns many different hats.

C Paige enjoys water-skiing and tubing.

D Grandpa wants to take the kids fishing.

7 Which sentence **best** expresses the theme of the story?

A People usually change as they grow older.

B Sometimes people are embarrassed by family.

C People often cherish their childhood memories.

D Sometimes people make choices to please others.

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 36 through 38.

In this Japanese fairy tale, Urashima Taro, a young fisherman, has saved the life of a tortoise. The tortoise then offers to take him to the underwater Rin Gin, the Palace of the Dragon King of the Sea. Urashima is willing to go, but tells the tortoise that he cannot swim to the bottom of the sea.

Excerpt from *The Story of Urashima Taro, The Fisher Lad*

by Yei Theodora Ozaki

1 "What? You need not swim yourself. If you will ride on my back I will take you without any trouble on your part."

2 "But," said Urashima, "how is it possible for me to ride on your small back?"

3 "It may seem absurd to you, but I assure you that you can do so. Try at once! Just come and get on my back, and see if it is as impossible as you think!"

4 As the tortoise finished speaking, Urashima looked at its shell, and strange to say he saw that the creature had suddenly grown so big that a man could easily sit on its back.

5 The tortoise, with an unmoved face, as if this strange proceeding were quite an ordinary event, said:

6 "Now we will set out at our leisure," and with these words he leapt into the sea with Urashima on his back. Down through the water the tortoise dived. For a long time these two strange companions rode through the sea. Urashima never grew tired, nor his clothes moist with the water. At last, far away in the distance a magnificent gate appeared, and behind the gate, the long, sloping roofs of a palace on the horizon.

7 "Ya," exclaimed Urashima. "That looks like the gate of some large palace just appearing! Mr. Tortoise, can you tell what that place is we can now see?"

8 "That is the great gate of the Rin Gin Palace, the large roof that you see behind the gate is the Sea King's Palace itself."

9 "Then we have at last come to the realm of the Sea King and to his Palace," said Urashima.

GO ON

10 "Yes, indeed," answered the tortoise, "and don't you think we have come very quickly?" And while he was speaking the tortoise reached the side of the gate. "And here we are, and you must please walk from here."

11 The tortoise now went in front, and speaking to the gatekeeper, said:

12 "This is Urashima Taro, from the country of Japan. I have had the honor of bringing him as a visitor to this kingdom. Please show him the way."

13 Then the gatekeeper, who was a fish, at once led the way through the gate before them. The red bream, the flounder, the sole, the cuttlefish, and all the chief vassals of the Dragon King of the Sea now came out with courtly bows to welcome the stranger.

14 "Urashima Sama, Urashima Sama! Welcome to the Sea Palace, the home of the Dragon King of the Sea. Thrice welcome are you, having come from such a distant country. And you, Mr. Tortoise, we are greatly indebted to you for all your trouble in bringing Urashima here." Then, turning again to Urashima, they said, "Please follow us this way," and from here the whole band of fishes became his guides.

15 Urashima, being only a poor fisher lad, did not know how to behave in a palace; but, strange though it was all to him, he did not feel ashamed or embarrassed, but followed his kind guides quite calmly where they led to the inner palace. When he reached the portals a beautiful Princess with her attendant maidens came out to welcome him. She was more beautiful than any human being, and was robed in flowing garments of red and soft green like the under side of a wave, and golden threads glimmered through the folds of her gown. Her lovely black hair streamed over her shoulders in the fashion of a king's daughter many hundreds of years ago, and when she spoke her voice sounded like music over the water. Urashima was lost in wonder while he looked upon her, and he could not speak. Then he remembered that he ought to bow, but before he could make a low obeisance the Princess took him by the hand and led him to a beautiful hall, and to the seat of honor at the upper end, and bade him be seated.

16 "Urashima Taro, it gives me the highest pleasure to welcome you to my father's kingdom," said the Princess. "Yesterday you set free a tortoise, and I have sent for you to thank you for saving my life, for I was that tortoise. Now if you like you shall live here forever in the land of eternal youth, where summer never dies and where sorrow never comes, and I will be your bride if you will, and we will live together happily forever afterwards!"

36 Read this sentence from paragraph 6.

Urashima never grew tired, nor his clothes moist with the water.

What effect does the sentence have on the tone of the story? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

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GO ON

37 How does paragraph 15 help develop Urashima's point of view? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

38 Read this sentence from paragraph 16.

> **"Yesterday you set free a tortoise, and I have sent for you to thank you for saving my life, for I was that tortoise."**

How does this sentence contribute to the structure of the story? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

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GO ON

42 The authors of "The Thirst for First Is the Worst" and "Excerpt from *The Importance of Winning*" have different opinions about whether athletes should be committed to winning. What are the authors' different points of view about this topic? How is this point of view revealed in each article? Use details from **both** articles to support your response.

In your response, be sure to

- describe the authors' different opinions about whether athletes should be committed to winning
- explain how this point of view is revealed in each article
- use details from **both** articles to support your response

STOP

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 41 and 42.

Excerpt from *The Importance of Winning*

by Andy Jobanek and Billy Low

1 The way sports are watched, the way sports are played, the uniforms athletes wear and the money athletes make all change over time. But sports' nature as competition, whether recreational or serious, remains constant. The whole point of shooting the basketball at the basket or running fast in a race is to improve chances of winning. So how important is winning in sports? More specifically, to what extent should winning be emphasized at the many levels of organized sports?

2 For those who see sports as outlets for recreation and exercise, the answer is fairly straightforward: winning should take a backseat as long as participants enjoy playing the game.

3 But for athletes, coaches and parents who see sports as more than a casual hobby, the answer is less clear. Let's think in terms of parents who would very much like to see their child reach the highest levels of sport. My argument is that beginning levels should develop in youths a genuine passion for sports that fosters, at the high school level and above, the necessary emphasis on winning.

4 Few will deny that fun is more important than winning in youth leagues. But to focus on developing enthusiasm for sports requires more than turning off the scoreboard. Kids will have fun running around carefree anywhere. Organized sports will create real interest in sports if they show a youth athlete how much he or she can learn about playing sports.

5 However, once an athlete reaches the high school level, winning should be a priority. It should be assumed that high school athletes have developed that passion that draws them to spend so much time playing their sport.

6 A league title may pale in comparison to the self-discipline and work ethic athletes gain from competitive sports, but such qualities develop out of a commitment to winning. If athletes only value having a good time and "bonding with teammates," why should they bother to wake up early to lift weights or choose to get rest instead of partying? Emphasis on winning points an athlete or team to a goal they must continue to chase until their game or season or career ends.

7 That emphasis does not mean throwing a chair in response to a loss. It means an athlete puts in the work to turn a "good try" into a made basket or completed pass. It means a player shows up to practice on time and ready to play. In short, a desire to win pushes an athlete to be his or her best.

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 39 and 40.

The Thirst for First Is the Worst

by Reilly Blum

1 About a decade ago, I swam competitively. It was serious stuff. We 6-year-olds had a lot to remember like keeping track of all the strokes, but most importantly, we had to swim faster than everyone else.

2 I cultivated quite the collection of ribbons, even a few for first and second place. But winning was not my ultimate goal.

3 Instead, I wanted a ribbon of every color. Blue, red, orange, white, green, pink—One day I was furious after winning a first place blue ribbon. I already had a few of those, and what I really needed was a green one. I should have finished in sixth place.

4 I didn't understand the competitive aspect of the team—I swam fast so I could exit the chilly pool, not so I could win. I worked to improve my times, but I completely ignored the competition to focus on my own personal goals.

5 For someone focused on winning, losing can be hard to stomach. In my experience, it is far more fulfilling to enjoy the work, game or swim meet than to constantly compare myself to others.

6 Here's a case in point. Last summer I tried being more competitive in cross-country. It wasn't very fun, and I didn't run any faster. Many of my times were slower when I set out to run against my teammates (and my competitors) than when I was running with them.

7 My experience is fairly typical. One study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* highlights this. It grouped children in three ways: two kids competing *against* each other, two players working for a high combined score, and two kids *cooperating* to land more free throws than another team.

8 The kids cooperating to beat another team got the highest scores.

9 While winning can be gratifying, it certainly isn't everything. For some people, extreme competition may be conducive to excellence, and that's perfectly OK. For me, however, it just leads to stress.

10 My 6-year-old self didn't see the value in winning. Sure, I may have won a few first-place blue ribbons, but that doesn't mean much. I was far more satisfied to finally get the sixth-place ribbon that rounded off my rainbow collection.

11 Though I have certainly evolved from my preadolescent self, I retain that spirit.

MSTA – MATH REVIEW
WINTER BREAK
6TH GRADE

40 Abdi has two electric train sets: A and B. Each train is on its own circular track. He starts both trains at the same time. Train A returns to its starting point every 12 seconds. Train B returns to its starting point every 9 seconds. If the trains continue traveling, what is the **least** amount of time, in seconds, that both trains will arrive at the starting points at the same time?

Show your work.

Answer _____ seconds

GO ON

41 Winston earns $140.00 by selling 56 hot dogs at a concession stand at school. Using the same rate for the cost of one hot dog, how many more hot dogs would Winston need to sell to earn a total of $175.00?

Show your work.

Answer _____ hot dogs

GO ON

42 At the end of a baseball game, the players were given the choice of having a bottle of water or a box of juice. Of all of the players, 12 chose a bottle of water, which was $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total number of players. Write and solve an equation to determine p, the total number of players at the baseball game.

Show your work.

Answer _____ players

GO ON

43 Tristan is comparing two number patterns based on the information below.

- Both patterns start with the number 1.
- Pattern A follows the rule "add 3".
- Pattern B follows the rule "add 4".

How do each of the first 5 terms in Pattern A compare to the first 5 terms in Pattern B ? As part of your answer, list the first 5 terms of each pattern.

Explain your answer.

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_____

44 Mr. Jackson orders lunches to be delivered to his workplace for himself and some coworkers. The cost of each lunch is $6.25. There is also a one-time delivery fee of $3.50 to deliver the lunches. What expression could Mr. Jackson use to find the cost of ordering *n* lunches?

Expression _____

Use your expression to find the total cost of delivering 5 lunches.

Show your work.

Answer $ _____

GO ON

45 A recipe uses $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups of milk to make 10 servings. If the same amount of milk is used for each serving, how many servings can be made using 1 gallon of milk?

Show your work.

Answer _____ servings

GO ON

46 A store sells two different packages of glue sticks as described below.

- Package A: 18 glue sticks
- Package B: 12 glue sticks

Write an equation for Package A and an equation for Package B that represent the total number of glue sticks, g, in p packages.

Package A _____

Package B _____

Mr. Davis buys 5 packages of the Package A glue sticks. Ms. Wilson buys 8 packages of the Package B glue sticks. Use your equations to find the difference in the total number of glue sticks that each person purchased.

Show your work.

Answer _____ glue sticks

STOP