

Threads & Themes Grade 6, Unit 4, Investigation 1 Summative Assessment

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class:

DIRECTIONS

Read both passages carefully. Then answer the questions that follow. For multiple-choice items, select the best answer. For technology-enhanced items, follow the directions provided.

PASSAGE 1

The Ninth Hole

(1) By the time Maya and her cousin Bennett reached the front gate of Putter's Pond, the storm had been over for hours, yet the whole mini-golf course still lay under a gray film of standing water. Maya worked the padlock with wet fingers while Bennett waited beside her, holding two short-handled shovels he had pulled from the tool shed. The air carried the sour, heavy smell of soaked carpet and turned mud, and Maya could not remember any storm that had left Aunt Dalia's course looking this ruined.

(2) "Aunt Dalia says we should just close it," Maya said, pushing the gate open so that the rusted hinge groaned and gave in. "She says the carpet on hole nine is ruined, the rest of the course will take weeks to dry, and we should forget about opening weekend."

(3) Bennett stepped past her without answering and walked the length of the course, stopping at the low corner of hole nine, where the artificial turf disappeared beneath a flat sheet of muddy brown. Maya watched him and felt her shoulders tighten. She had convinced Aunt Dalia to let them help this summer, promising out loud that they would not be any trouble.

(4) Hole nine was wrecked. Water had filled the lower half of the green, soaking the felt-like turf into a dark, heavy slab. The wooden lighthouse at the far end leaned sideways at a slow, sad angle, and only the tip of the small red flag poked above the water like a lonely reed. Heat rose behind Maya's eyes, quick and unwelcome.

(5) "We should go home," she said, her voice coming out harder than she meant it to. "Aunt Dalia was right. This is finished."

(6) Bennett crouched at the edge of the green and pressed his palm flat against the turf, then walked to the low fence and pressed his palm against the ground there as well, as if listening to something through the skin of his hand.

(7) "Look at this." His voice was quiet but insistent. "The water didn't just collect on hole nine and sit. It ran through the green before it pooled. See how the little pieces of mulch and leaves are pushed across the turf in thin lines, all pointing the same direction?"

(8) Maya crossed her arms with quiet reluctance, saying nothing.

(9) "So the water already had somewhere to go," Bennett said. "If we help it finish the trip, the green drains and the turf has a chance to dry. If we don't, the padding rots and we lose hole nine for the season." He knelt and traced a shallow line through the wet dirt at the edge of the green, pulling it toward a lower patch beyond the fence, where the ground dipped into a weedy strip of the park. "The slope is already here. It's small, but we can work with it."

(10) Maya had expected Bennett to agree with her: to go home or at least to stay quiet. Instead, he was already hunting for one of the shovels, as though the decision had been made hours ago. The frustration in her chest shifted, and she looked down at the flooded green, trying to see what Bennett had seen.

(11) At first she saw only the ruin. Then she began to see the thin dark streaks where the leaves had bunched against the edges of the green, pointing the same way, like small arrows left behind by the water itself. When her eyes traced the path to the lower patch beyond the fence, the flood did not look like a verdict anymore. It looked like a problem with a solution.

(12) "Okay," she said, and knelt beside him.

(13) They worked slowly because the mud kept collapsing back into the line they were cutting. Bennett opened the first trench with the blade of his shovel while Maya pulled the loose leaves and padding out of the way. After fifteen minutes, the channel was only as deep as her thumb, but it ran through a gap in the fence where an older drainage ditch had been forgotten long ago. Water began to trickle along the line they had cut, dirty and unhurried.

(14) Behind them, Aunt Dalia's voice called across the course. "Maya? Bennett? I told you two that hole nine isn't—"

(15) She stopped when she reached the edge of the green and saw the trench. She did not finish the sentence. Maya did not look up. She was busy working the channel with her shovel, keeping the mud from closing the path so that the flood would have somewhere to go.

ITEMS — PASSAGE 1

Item 1

Read this sentence from paragraph 4 of "The Ninth Hole."

The wooden lighthouse at the far end leaned sideways at a slow, sad angle, and only the tip of the small red flag poked above the water like a lonely reed.

What does the author's use of the phrase "like a lonely reed" MOST suggest about hole nine?

A) It is dangerous and unsteady.

- B) It appears isolated and abandoned.
- C) It has been damaged beyond saving.
- D) It looks fragile and likely to bend or break.

Item 2

Read this sentence from paragraph 5 of “The Ninth Hole.”

“We should go home,” she said, her voice coming out harder than she meant it to. “Aunt Dalia was right. This is finished.”

How does the narrator MOST help the reader understand Maya’s perspective in this moment?

- A) by stating what Aunt Dalia said to her
- B) by showing Maya’s actions as she reacts to the situation
- C) by describing what her voice sounded like
- D) by directly explaining Maya’s thoughts about the situation

Item 3

Use paragraphs 6 and 7 of “The Ninth Hole” to answer the question.

How do Bennett’s actions in paragraphs 6 through 9 MOST contribute to the plot of the story?

- A) They help Bennett understand the extent of the damage.
- B) They provide Maya with evidence that makes her willing to help.
- C) They show that Bennett does not realize how serious the flood is.
- D) They cause a disagreement that makes Maya feel frustrated.

Item 4

Read paragraph 7 of “The Ninth Hole.”

“Look at this.” His voice was quiet but insistent. “The water didn’t just collect on hole nine and sit. It ran through the green before it pooled. See how the little pieces of mulch and leaves are pushed across the turf in thin lines, all pointing the same direction?”

What does the word insistent MOST likely mean in this context?

- A) calm and relaxed
- B) firm and determined
- C) angry and impatient
- D) confused and unsure

Item 5

Use paragraph 11 of “The Ninth Hole” to answer the question.

How does paragraph 11 MOST contribute to the overall structure of the passage?

- A) It shows Maya’s view toward the damage changing.
- B) It introduces the idea of draining the water from the green.

- C) It describes a problem that disrupts Bennett’s plan.
- D) It shows how upset Maya is that the green has been ruined.

Item 6

Use “The Ninth Hole” to answer the question.

Which statement BEST expresses a central idea of the passage?

- A) Working together can help people find solutions to problems.
- B) Solving a problem requires having the right tools and equipment.
- C) Slowing down to find the cause of a problem can reveal a solution.
- D) Problems can seem worse when people focus only on what is wrong.

Item 7

Read this sentence from paragraph 8 of “The Ninth Hole.”

Maya crossed her arms with quiet reluctance, saying nothing.

The root of *reluctance* comes from the Latin *reluctari*, which means “to struggle against, resist, or oppose.”

Using your knowledge of the suffix -ance, what does the word reluctance MOST likely mean?

- A) the action of struggling against something
- B) a thing or event that causes hesitation
- C) a state of unwillingness to do something
- D) a person who resists something

Item 8

Use “The Ninth Hole” to answer the question.

Which word BEST completes the sentence below?

When faced with a problem, Bennett chooses to _____ his thinking based on what he observes.

- A) submit
- B) deny
- C) reveal
- D) adapt

PASSAGE 2

The Fisherman and the Jinni: A Play in One Act

Adapted from a tale in *One Thousand and One Nights*

CAST

FAIZAN — an old fisherman

THE JINNI — an ancient spirit

A NARRATOR — who sets each scene

SETTING — A rocky stretch of beach at dawn where a small wooden boat rests tilted on the sand. Bits of seaweed lie scattered where the tide has left them.

(16) NARRATOR: For three mornings, Faizan has cast his worn net into the quiet bay. He has caught nothing but weeds, a dented copper tray, and the black, tangled roots of a drowned tree. On the fourth morning, he stands at the edge of the water and speaks quietly to himself.

(17) FAIZAN: One more cast, and then the net goes home empty once again. (He swings the net over his shoulder and sends it spinning out across the water.)

(18) NARRATOR: The net sinks, but this time, when Faizan pulls, it pulls back. He leans forward and strains against the weight. Slowly he drags something heavy up from the sea floor—a sealed brass jar as tall as his knee. The rounded lid is marked with a row of ancient symbols.

(19) FAIZAN: (turning the jar slowly in his hands, marveling at his newfound luck) It's heavy . . . and sealed! Whatever lies inside has been waiting here a long time. (He works at the lid with the corner of a flat stone. With a sudden pop, the old seal breaks apart. To Faizan's amazement, dark smoke rises from the jar. It grows wider and taller until it towers above him.)

(20) NARRATOR: The smoke gathers into the shape of a towering figure, completing its transformation: its eyes glitter like wet coals, and its arms fold across a broad chest. When the Jinni finally speaks, his voice is the sound of stone grinding against stone.

(21) THE JINNI: Fisherman, prepare yourself. Today will be your last!

(22) FAIZAN: (stumbling back across the wet sand) My last? I have just freed you. Surely you owe me kindness, not harm.

(23) THE JINNI: I intended kindness once. For the first hundred years in that jar, I swore to make rich any hand that opened it. No hand came. For another hundred, I swore to grant three wishes. Still no hand. For a third hundred, I swore eternal gifts. Nothing. In the long centuries that followed, my patience soured. I made a different vow: the one who finally freed me would perish by my power.

(24) FAIZAN: (quietly, almost to himself) So the waiting itself is what changed him. (He looks from the Jinni to the jar and back.) Great spirit, before you act on your vow, answer me one thing. I cannot believe that a being as vast as you could truly fit inside this small vessel.

(25) THE JINNI: I lived inside that jar for eighteen hundred years. I remember every dark inch of it.

(26) FAIZAN: I hear your words, but my eyes will not accept them. You stand taller than the palm trees behind me. The jar would not hold one of your arms.

(27) THE JINNI: (leaning down until his face nearly touches the fisherman's) You dare doubt what I have told you?

(28) FAIZAN: I do not mean to doubt you. I mean only that a simple man believes what his own eyes can see.

(29) NARRATOR: The Jinni draws himself up to his full height. His pride flares, and his folded arms come apart.

(30) THE JINNI: Then watch, fisherman. Watch carefully, and learn the truth. (He narrows his eyes in concentration. His form begins to blur at the edges. Dark smoke bleeds back out of his body and curls downward toward the open jar. The figure shrinks steadily. The smoke pours into the mouth of the vessel thread by thread. Soon only a thin wisp hangs above the rim. Then it disappears with a soft hiss.)

(31) FAIZAN: (stepping forward quickly, he presses the vessel's lid firmly into place) Eighteen hundred years taught you patience. Perhaps another eighteen hundred will teach you mercy.

(32) NARRATOR: The Jinni's voice rises from inside the jar, muffled and furious. He promises favor, wealth, and anything at all—if only the lid is lifted once more. Faizan does not answer. He carries the jar to the tideline and heaves it into the water. As it floats out past the break wall, it catches the light of the rising sun and then vanishes beneath the waves.

(33) FAIZAN: (gathering up his net) My net returns home empty once again, but I return home with it. That is enough. (He turns and walks slowly down the beach, his bare feet pressing small prints into the wet sand.)

END OF PLAY

ITEMS — PASSAGE 2

Item 9

Read this sentence from paragraph 20 of “The Fisherman and the Jinni.”

The smoke gathers into the shape of a towering figure, completing its transformation: its eyes glitter like wet coals, and its arms fold across a broad chest.

Using your knowledge of the prefix -trans and the suffix -ation, what does the word transformation MOST likely mean?

- A) the process of changing from one form to another
- B) the action of moving away from a place
- C) the state of being shaped in a particular way
- D) the act of forming something again

Item 10

Read paragraph 20 of “The Fisherman and the Jinni” to answer the question.

Which TWO details would be easier for an audience to understand by watching a live, acted version of this scene than by reading the play?

- A) the order the events in the scene happen
- B) how the Jinni's voice sounds when he speaks
- C) what the Jinni promised during his time in the jar
- D) the way the Jinni moves as he forms from the smoke
- E) the exact words the Narrator uses to describe the Jinni

Item 11

Read this line from paragraph 21 of "The Fisherman and the Jinni."

"Fisherman, prepare yourself. Today will be your last!"

How does the Jinni's word choice in this line affect the mood of the scene?

- A) It creates a respectful mood, as if the Jinni is warning Faizan.
- B) It creates a threatening mood, making the danger feel immediate.
- C) It creates a dramatic mood, emphasizing the importance of the moment.
- D) It creates a mysterious mood, hinting that the Jinni knows something Faizan does not.

Item 12

Read this sentence from paragraph 23 of "The Fisherman and the Jinni."

I made a different vow: the one who finally freed me would perish by my power.

What does the word perish MOST likely mean in this sentence?

- A) to be harmed or made to suffer
- B) to be rewarded with wealth
- C) to die violently or be destroyed
- D) to be trapped or imprisoned

Item 13

Use paragraph 23 of "The Fisherman and the Jinni" to answer the question.

How does the Jinni's description of his four vows MOST help to develop his character?

- A) It shows how his long waiting turned early kindness into anger.
- B) It explains why he feels bitter toward Faizan for breaking the seal.
- C) It proves that he has become too weak to keep any of his promises.
- D) It reveals that he has always planned to harm whoever freed him.

Item 14

How does paragraph 30 MOST contribute to the plot structure of the play?

- A) It marks the turning point, resolving the conflict.
- B) It builds the rising action, intensifying the conflict.
- C) It introduces the main conflict, advancing the plot.
- D) It begins the falling action, after the conflict has been resolved.

Item 15

Read this sentence from paragraph 32 of “The Fisherman and the Jinni.”

He carries the jar to the tideline and heaves it into the water.

A student looks up the word *heaves* in the dictionary and finds the following four definitions.

Which definition BEST confirms the meaning of heaves as it is used in the sentence?

- A) to lift or pull with great effort
- B) to throw something heavy
- C) to rise and fall in a steady motion
- D) to make a long, loud breath or sound

Item 16

Which statement BEST expresses a central idea of the play?

- A) Patience is a skill that develops over a lifetime.
- B) Kindness shown once will always be returned.
- C) A clever person can outsmart a more powerful enemy.
- D) Old promises should always be honored exactly as spoken.

Item 17

How does the Narrator MOST help the audience understand the play?

- A) The Narrator explains the Jinni’s past and how his time in the jar changed him.
- B) The Narrator summarizes the events at the end of the play so the audience knows what happened.
- C) The Narrator tells the audience what Faizan is thinking at every moment.
- D) The Narrator describes the setting and actions the audience cannot hear through dialogue alone.

ITEMS — BOTH PASSAGES

Item 18

How do “The Ninth Hole” and “The Fisherman and the Jinni” develop a similar idea? Choose EXACTLY two answers.

- A) Both texts show that people can solve difficult problems by thinking carefully.

- B) Both texts show that people can solve difficult problems only by avoiding risks.
- C) Both texts show that people can solve difficult problems only by working together as a team.
- D) Both texts show that people can solve difficult problems by waiting patiently.
- E) Both texts show that people can solve difficult problems by taking action.

LANGUAGE

Item 19

Read the sentence based on “The Fisherman and the Jinni.”

He tricked him into returning to the jar, but in the end he went inside.

Which revision BEST improves the sentence by using clear pronoun references and an intensive pronoun correctly?

- A) Faizan himself tricked the Jinni into returning to the jar, but in the end he himself was the one who went inside.
- B) Faizan tricked the Jinni into returning himself to the jar, but in the end he was the one who went inside.
- C) Faizan tricked the Jinni into returning to the jar, but in the end it was the Jinni himself who went inside.
- D) He tricked the Jinni into returning to the jar, but in the end it was the Jinni himself who went inside.

Item 20

The sentences below describe ideas from “The Fisherman and the Jinni” and “The Ninth Hole.”

Sort each sentence into the correct category based on whether it uses formal or informal/casual language.

Category 1: Formal Language

Category 2: Informal/Casual Language

- A) Faizan got the Jinni to get back in the jar.
- B) Maya thinks the course is totally ruined and freaks out.
- C) Bennett examined the situation to determine a solution.
- D) Aunt Dalia started hollering at them from way across the course.
- E) The Jinni becomes enraged and attempts to harm Faizan.
- F) Both texts highlight the idea of choices and their consequences.

SPELLING

Item 21

Write the spelling word you heard:

Item 22

Write the spelling word you heard:

Item 23

Write the spelling word you heard:

Item 24

Write the spelling word you heard:
