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## 3rd Grade Weekly Reading Log

Name: ___________________________________________  Homeroom: ________________________________  Week of: __________________________

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Robert Peary is known as the first explorer to reach the North Pole. But was he really the first? To find out, read this true story. Use information from the selection to answer the questions that follow.

Matthew A. Henson
North Pole Explorer
born 1866 — died 1955
by Wade Hudson

The most northern part of the earth has below-freezing temperatures. Ice covers the area. This is the North Pole.

In 1893, no one had been to the North Pole. That year Admiral Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson set out to reach the North Pole. But they were unsuccessful. They tried again in 1898, but failed. In 1909, they set out once more.

Peary, Henson, and a group that included explorer Robert Bartlett took off for the Pole. They sailed on a long voyage from New York City to Canada. Next, they set up a base camp at Camp Columbia, Canada. The camp was about 450 miles from the North Pole. In March 1909, the group packed dog sleds with food and supplies. Then they headed over the polar sea ice toward the North Pole.

Some of the men suffered from the harsh cold weather. They had to return to the camp. Finally, Peary selected Henson and four Inuit guides — Ootah, Seegloo, Egingwah, and Ooqueah — to make the last leg of the journey. It was early April 1909. They were closer than ever to really reaching the North Pole.

Henson, Peary, and their guides traveled over the ice and snow. Peary's feet were injured. He could not walk as quickly as Henson. So Henson and his guides walked ahead — and disaster struck.

Along the way, Matthew Henson stepped out on a large cake of ice. CRACK! The ice gave away. Henson fell into the icy water below. . . . In only a few minutes, Matthew Henson would have frozen to death.
Suddenly, there was a tug on Henson’s hood. Someone was pulling him from the water. It was Ootah. Quickly, Ootah helped Henson pull off his wet boots and clothes and put on dry ones. Ootah shook the water from the furs Henson wore before the water turned to ice. Then Henson, Ootah, and Seeglo moved on. Admiral Robert E. Peary, Egingwah, and Ooquezah followed. The North Pole was less than thirty-five miles away.

Henson got closer and closer to the Pole. Finally, he stopped. He looked around. Had he reached the North Pole? Henson set up camp there and waited for Peary.

When the Admiral arrived, he made observations from different points. He returned to the camp and made an announcement. The camp was at the exact point of the North Pole. He had Henson and the four guides stand on a ridge and he photographed them. Henson held the American flag. He felt proud. It had been an exciting adventure.

On April 7, 1909, the great explorers began their journey back from the North Pole. They were very happy about their victory.

Robert E. Peary became famous. Peary was awarded a gold medal by the National Geographic Society. Robert Bartlett was also awarded a medal although he didn’t even make the final trip to the North Pole. Matthew Henson was ignored.

For many years, the white world did not recognize Henson’s great achievement. The black community, however, presented him with a number of awards. Finally, on January 28, 1944, Congress authorized a medal for all the men on the North Pole expedition. A year later, Henson was presented with a silver medal for outstanding service to the United States Government.

This great explorer died in 1955. On April 6, 1988, his remains were reburied with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. It was a most suitable honor for a great black American.
Mark your choices for multiple-choice questions 13 through 18 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

13. According to the selection, who saved Matthew Henson's life?
   ② Egingwah
   ③ Ootah
   ④ Seegloo
   ⑤ Ooqueah

14. According to the selection, why did Peary arrive at the North Pole after Henson?
   ② Peary went back to get more food and supplies.
   ③ Peary had hurt his feet and had to walk more slowly.
   ④ Peary stayed at the camp to make new plans.
   ⑤ Peary fell through the ice and nearly drowned.

15. According to paragraph 10, what happened on April 7, 1909?
   ② Robert Bartlett joined Peary and Henson.
   ③ The explorers set up Camp Columbia.
   ④ Peary and Henson left the North Pole.
   ⑤ Henson was given full military honors.

16. In paragraph 2, the word *unsuccessful* tells the reader that in 1893 Peary and Henson
   ② did not reach the North Pole.
   ③ were the first to reach the North Pole.
   ④ reached the North Pole for the last time.
   ⑤ were very tired when they reached the North Pole.

Read the phrase in the box below.

a group that included explorer
Robert Bartlett

17. The word *included* tells us that Robert Bartlett
   ② was part of the group.
   ③ started the group.
   ④ led the group.
   ⑤ was not in the group.

18. At the end of paragraph 5, the words *disaster struck* mean
   ② there was thunder and lightning.
   ③ people fought against each other.
   ④ a surprising thing was found.
   ⑤ something terrible happened.
Write your answer to open-response question 19 in the lined space provided below.

19 Explain why Matthew Henson is famous. Use important information from the selection in your answer.
Waiting for something you really want can be hard. In this fable, the ant must wait a long time. Read this fable to find out what the ant learned from the grain of wheat. Use information from the fable to answer the questions that follow.

The Ant and the Grain of Wheat

BY LEONARDO DA VINCI

1 A grain of wheat, left alone in the field after the harvest, was waiting for the rain so that it could hide once more beneath the soil.

2 An ant saw the grain, loaded it onto his back, and plodded painfully away toward his distant hill.

3 As the ant walked and walked, the grain of wheat seemed to grow heavier and heavier on his weary shoulders.

4 “Why don’t you leave me here?” said the grain of wheat.
The ant replied, “If I leave you behind, we may not have enough provisions for this winter. We ants are so many, and we each have to bring home whatever food we can find.”

“But I am not made only to be eaten,” went on the grain of wheat. “I am a seed, full of life, and I am supposed to give birth to a plant. Listen, dear ant, let us make an agreement.”

The ant, glad to rest a little, put down the grain of wheat and asked, “What agreement?”

“If you leave me here in my field,” said the grain of wheat, “and do not take me to your nest, I shall give back to you, after a year, a hundred grains just like me.”

The ant stared at the grain disbelievingly.

“Yes, dear ant. Believe what I am telling you. If you give me up today, I shall give you a hundred of me—a hundred grains of wheat for your nest.”

The ant thought, “A hundred grains in exchange for one. But that is a miracle. How will you do that?” he asked the grain of wheat.

“That is a mystery,” replied the grain of wheat. “It is the mystery of life. Dig a little hole, bury me in it, and return after a year.”

The following year the ant returned. The grain of wheat had grown a new plant laden with seeds and so kept its promise.
10. What is a lesson this fable teaches?
   A. Do not trust strangers.
   B. False praise gets you nowhere.
   C. Good things come to those who wait.
   D. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

11. Reread paragraph 1 from the fable.
    The grain of wheat is waiting to be
   A. carried on the ant’s back.
   B. left alone after the harvest.
   C. planted by the rain.
   D. rescued by a miracle.

12. Why does the grain of wheat in this fable want to hide once more beneath the soil?
   A. to escape from the ant
   B. to grow into a plant
   C. to make the ant go away
   D. to become a part of the harvest

13. What word BEST describes the grain of wheat in this fable?
    A. humorous
    B. scary
    C. wise
    D. angry

Read the sentence from the fable in the box below.

The ant stared at the grain disbelievingly.

14. What is the subject of this sentence?
    A. ant
    B. stared
    C. grain
    D. disbelievingly
Have you ever heard the phrase “Don’t judge a book by its cover”? Read what happens to a rich man who had not learned that lesson. Answer the questions that follow.

The Guest

Retold by Uma Krishnaswami

Nasreddin is a legendary character who appears in many Asian folktales. He solves life’s problems with a mixture of foolishness and wisdom.

1 Mullah Nasreddin was a wise man. When he spoke, people listened. And so he chose his words and actions as carefully as kings choose their generals.

2 One day a rich man invited the Mullah to a feast at his house. “I would be honored, Mullah sahib,”* said he, “if you would grace us with your presence. Tomorrow night?”

3 “I will come,” agreed Mullah Nasreddin, “tomorrow night.”

4 The following night, the Mullah threw on his shabbiest and most comfortable clothes. “It is a bit chilly,” he said, and added an old black coat. The edges of its sleeves were frayed. The holes in its elbows were patched with swatches torn from old flour sacks.

5 On his feet, Mullah Nasreddin slipped a pair of ragged sandals.

6 When darkness fell he arrived at the rich man’s doorstep. A servant opened the door. “What do you want, old man?” the servant demanded.

7 “Your master has invited me to his feast,” said the Mullah.

8 The servant peered suspiciously at him. “Wait here,” he said. “I’ll be back in a moment.”

9 The servant went in. His whispers carried to the door. “An old beggarman, O my master... says he is your guest...”

10 The rich man came to the courtyard to take a look. Seeing the old man in his ragged clothes, he waved a hand to the servant, then went back to join his elegant guests.

11 The servant returned to the door. “My master does not know you,” he said.

12 “He invited me to his feast,” insisted the Mullah.

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*sahib — a respectful title or term of respect
The servant laughed. "Nonsense! Invited you? A ragged old beggar? My master’s friends are noblemen and kings. Be off before I take a stick to you!"

So Mullah Nasreddin went home. He changed into his finest silk garments. He wore a black woolen vest with silver trim. He put his best cap on his head and added a handsome high-collared coat. He sprinkled rose water on his face and hands. He combed his beard.

Smiling to himself, he made his way back to the rich man’s house and knocked at the door.

Once again, the servant opened it. Once again, the Mullah said, "Your master has invited me to his feast."

This time the servant bowed respectfully and ushered him in.

"Welcome, welcome, Mullah sahib." And the rich man himself showed the Mullah to his special seat at the feast.

"At last, Mullah sahib," said the guests. "We have all been waiting for you."

The food arrived. "Serve Mullah Nasreddin first," said the rich man. The Mullah smiled at everyone. Then he began to get busy with his food.

But he did not eat.

"Hai hai!" cried the guests.

"Mullah sahib! What are you doing?" cried the rich man.

For Mullah Nasreddin had begun to spoon the soup over his best cap. He crumbled the bread and sprinkled the crumbs over the shoulders of his handsome high-collared coat. He took apart the shish kebab and fed it lovingly to his sleeves.
The rich man's voice trembled. "Mullah sahib, do you not like the food?"

In reply, Mullah Nasreddin dribbled the delicate yogurt and cream sauces over his fine silk garments and best black woolen vest with silver trim. Then he sat back and beamed at everyone.

There was a shocked silence. Then the rich man said, "O most respected Mullah Nasreddin, you never do anything without a reason. Has someone offended you?"

The Mullah replied, "When I arrived in rags, you turned me away. Now that I am dressed in finery, you treat me with honor. Clearly it is my clothes you are welcoming and not me. So it is only fitting that they should eat this delightful food you have prepared for them."

The rich man hung his head in shame. He said, "Mullah sahib, forgive me. I was blind. I saw only your clothes and could not recognize the wearer. I will never again judge people by how they look or by the clothes they wear." And, in truth, he never did.

What is the MAIN purpose of paragraph 1?
A. to describe the setting of the story
B. to explain why the Mullah is like a king
C. to explain why kings choose their generals
D. to describe an important character trait of the Mullah

Why does the rich man in the story MOST LIKELY invite the Mullah to the feast?
A. The rich man needs advice.
B. The rich man admires the Mullah.
C. The rich man wants everyone in the village to come.
D. The rich man needs help preparing delightful food.
In paragraph 28, what does the Mullah mean when he says, "Clearly it is my clothes you are welcoming and not me"?

A. He means that the rich man likes to wear fine clothes.
B. He means that the rich man does not accept him in old clothes.
C. He means that the guests like to dress nicely.
D. He means that the guests are very rude to him.

What is the MOST important lesson the rich man learns in this story?

A. Clumsiness should be avoided.
B. Servants should be told to be kind.
C. Do not be rude to a wise man.
D. Appearances are not the most important thing.
Write your answer to open-response question 14 in the space provided in your Student Answer Booklet.

The introduction to the story states that Mullah Nasreddin "solves life's problems with a mixture of foolishness and wisdom."

a. Give an example of something Mullah Nasreddin does that can be seen as BOTH foolish and wise.

b. Explain how this action can be seen as foolish and how it can be seen as wise.

Use important and specific information from the story to support your answer.