

Gr. 6, Theme 1, Story 1 Reading Maze Comprehension

Hatchet

Hatchet is about the adventures of Brian, a thirteen-year-old boy stranded in the Canadian wilderness after a plane crash. As the story begins, Brian awakens **(quickly, in, frightened)** the night to the sound of **(three, crazy, an)** animal in his cave shelter. Afraid, **(he, she, they)** kicks his leg and throws his **(fear, trying, hatchet)** at the sound. Instantly, he feels **(Brian, sharp, watched)** pain in his leg. The animal, **(a, attacked, several)** porcupine, has slapped him with its **(bat, tail, finger)** which is covered with sharp quills. **(Porcupine, Ranger, Brian)** knows he must remove the quills. **(Breathing, running, tweezers)** deeply, he pulls them out, one **(at, by, this)** one. Pain now fills his leg. **(Stealing, Hope, Feeling)** that he can't take life alone **(in, and, but)** the wilderness, Brian cries himself to **(work, sleep, boredom)**.

As Brian sleeps, he dreams about **(his, her, their)** father and his friend Terry. In **(two, day, this)** dream, Terry builds a fire and **(jumps, points, stares)** to it. When Brian wakes at **(daybreak, thunder, home)**, he knows that he must build **(red, a, flaming)** fire.

Brian remembers that when he **(hung, placed, threw)** his hatchet at the porcupine, it **(hit, smashed, deleted)** the wall of a cave and **(torch, sent, light)** out sparks. He tries using dried **(grass, cabinets, water)** and twigs and even a torn-up-twenty-dollar **(frames, bill, papers)** to start a fire from the **(sky, bush, sparks)**, but they don't work. Finally, he **(tries, throws, plans)** using thin bark from a birch **(bird, rock, tree)**. This catches the sparks, glows, but **(runs, quickly, someone)** dies out. Then Brian remembers that **(fire, people, hatchets)** needs air. He tries blowing gently **(under, over, on)** the bark and it bursts into **(flame, whole, pieces)**. As he gathers wood to feed **(Terry, the, huge)** fire, Brian realizes that he has **(found, brought, made)** a new but hungry friend.

Total Correct:_____

Total Errors:_____

Gr. 6, Theme 1, Story 2 Reading Maze Comprehension

Passage to Freedom

Passage to Freedom describes the courageous acts of a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania in 1940, during World War II. The story is told from the **(direction, point, mouth)** of view of Hiroki Sugihara, the **(diplomat's, principal's, neighbor's)** five-year-old son.

Early one morning, hundreds **(were, as, of)** men, women, and children crowded around **(the, iron, pearly)** gate in front of the Sugihara **(tree, family's, lived)** house. The family gathered in the **(party, class, living)** room to discuss what the people **(wanted, ate, mailed)**. Hiroki's mother explained that the people **(where, were, who)** refugees, Jews from Poland, who had **(danced, flew, run)** away from their homes to escape **(with, from, beside)** Nazi soldiers.

The refugees asked Mr. **(Diplomat, President, Sugihara)** for visas to permit them to **(travel, swim, breathe)** through the Soviet Union to Japan. **(Her, Japan's, Hiroki's)** father explained that he needed permission **(from, between, below)** the Japanese government to give visas **(after, to, the)** all the people. Mr. Sugihara repeatedly **(suspended, broke, asked)** the Japanese government for permission to **(destroy, write, color)** the visas, but his government had **(already, blanket, yelled)** told him "no."

Mr. Sugihara knew **(what, everything, that)** if he did not help the **(short, growing, cause)** crowd of refugees, they would die. **(We, You, He)** decided to disobey his government and **(write, chisel, paint)** the visas. Every day for a **(century, month, second)** Mr. Sugihara wrote thousands of visas.

(Finally, Secondly, Happily,) the Soviet government and Japanese government **(gave, cooked, ordered)** the Sugihara family to move. Still, **(Adam's, Malichi's, Hiroki's)** father kept writing visas. Even as **(an, the, its)** family's train was pulling away from the **(dock, port, station)**, he handed visas out the window **(from, there, to)** the refugees. As a young boy, **(she, Hiroki, you)** did not fully understand the **(ignorance, importance, ability)** of his family's actions. He understands **(past, then, now)**.

Total correct: _____

Total errors: _____

Gr. 6, Theme 1, Story 3 Reading Maze Comprehension

Climb or Die

As the story of *Climb or Die* begins, Danielle and her brother, Jake, are alone in a blizzard. Their parents have been injured in **(of, a, these)** car crash. The children decide to **(climb, swim, glide)** to a weather station at the **(thing, top, mountain)** of Mount Remington to get help. **(An, Other, The)** mountain is steep and icy, and **(Danielle, Debby, Dan)** and Jake do not have ice-climbing **(ritual, adventure, equipment)**. Still, they decide to use the **(hundred, only, art)** tools they have – two hammers, two **(screwdrivers, clothes, purses)** and a nylon dog leash.

As **(we, you, they)** struggle up the icy cliff, both **(of, far, see)** them learn something about themselves, Danielle **(discovers, falls, grows)** that she likes figuring how to **(solve, get, develop)** out of a jam. Jake learns **(when, that, to)** overcome his fears and keep on **(staying, going, stopping)**.

A few inches at a time, **(under, the, is)** pair keep climbing. At last, the **(snow, car, mountain)** grows less steep. The snow stops. **(They, We, Parents)** have reached the summit but, to **(my, their, your)** horror, there is no weather station **(out, of, in)** sight. In disappointment and fear, they **(embrace, fall, stand)** each other and cry.

Suddenly, the **(sea, cattle, clouds)** part, and Danielle and Jake see **(the, at, on)** weather station on another summit nearby. **(Talking, Shaking, Making)** from excitement and cold, the pair **(think, stagger, sing)** across the ridge and through huge **(snowdrifts, snowballs, puddles)** to the weather station. They pound **(from, on, to)** the door and wait. Though they **(see, hear, smell)** faint music coming from inside, no **(thing, one, animal)** answers. Finally, Jake bangs on the **(door, swing, porch)** with a hammer. As two startled **(birds, men, things)** open the door, Jake holds out **(his, our, mine)** empty pack and cries, “Trick or treat!”

Total Correct: _____

Total Errors: _____

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

In The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, Charlotte is the only girl on a ship headed for America in the 1830s. When she tells the crew that **(she, they, crew)** wants to replace a crew member **(for, when, who)** has died, they don't like the **(attention, food, idea)**. They say she'll bring more trouble **(than, too, again)** good to the ship. But Charlotte **(can't, is, doesn't)** determined to prove herself. Even when **(three, they, a)** sailor shows her how rough her **(hands, mind, eyes)** will become, she does not change **(his, her, America's)** mind.

To test Charlotte's determination and **(ability, spelling, directions)** the crew challenge her. She must **(determine, climb, be)** to the top of the royal **(crown, window, yard)** – and come back down again. If **(she, he, it)** slips and falls into the sea, she **(has, will, did)** drown. If she falls to the **(deck, ceiling, chair)** she could break her neck.

Charlotte **(gives, accepts, rejects)** the challenge. Focusing on the ropes, or rigging, **(that, had, for)** form a ladder to the top, **(They, He, Charlotte)** begins to climb. Soon she **(realizes, wakes, sings)** that she could have taken a **(but, more, the)** direct route to the top, but **(it, their, could)** is too late to begin again. **(As, During, Being)** she continues to climb, she feels **(those, the, them)** ship roll in the waves and **(evenly, sweetly, nearly)** slips. With every step, the sea **(looks, disappears, thinks)** bigger and the ship below looks **(brown, smaller, ugly)**. The higher she goes, the more **(calmly, violently, slowly)** the ship swings back and forth. **(At, In, The)** last, dizzy and weak, Charlotte reaches **(it, the, this)** top.

Coming down is even harder. **(Charlotte, Crew, We)** must grope for each foothold on the **(benches, swords, ropes)**. To make matters worse, the wind **(howled, begins, was)** to blow. Suddenly, Charlotte's foot slips **(but, to, and)** she falls. Her legs get tangled **(for, off, in)** the rigging, and she hangs head **(over, hang, band)**. Shaking with fright, she manages to **(drive, sleep, pull)** herself up and continue down. As **(she, our, his)** collapses onto the deck, the crew **(jumps, crashes, shouts)** "Huzzah!" With a joyful heart, Charlotte **(realizes, forgets, fought)** she has made it.

Total Correct: _____

Total Errors: _____

Answer Key for Gr. 6, Theme 1, Reading Mazes Comprehension

Hatchet

1. in
2. an
3. he
4. hatchet
5. sharp
6. a
7. tail
8. Brian
9. Breathing
10. by
11. Feeling
12. in
13. sleep
14. his
15. this
16. points
17. daybreak
18. a
19. threw
20. hit
21. sent
22. grass
23. bill
24. sparks
25. tries
26. tree
27. quickly
28. fire
29. on
30. flame
31. the
32. made

Passage to Freedom

1. point
2. diplomat's
3. of
4. the
5. family's
6. living
7. wanted
8. were
9. run
10. from
11. Sugihara
12. travel
13. Hiroki's
14. from
15. to
16. asked
17. write
18. already
19. that
20. growing
21. He
22. write
23. month
24. Finally
25. ordered
26. Hiroki's
27. the
28. station
29. to
30. Hiroki
31. importance
32. now

Climb or Die

1. a
2. climb
3. top
4. The
5. Danielle
6. equipment
7. only
8. screwdrivers
9. they
10. of
11. discovers
12. get
13. to
14. going
15. the
16. mountain
17. They
18. their
19. in
20. embrace
21. clouds
22. the
23. Shaking
24. stagger
25. snowdrifts
26. on
27. hear
28. one
29. door
30. men
31. his

The True Confessions

1. she
2. who
3. idea
4. than
5. is
6. a
7. hands
8. her
9. ability
10. climb
11. yard
12. she
13. will
14. deck
15. accepts
16. that
17. Charlotte
18. realizes
19. more
20. it
21. As
22. the
23. nearly
24. looks
25. smaller
26. violently
27. At
28. the
29. Charlotte
30. ropes
31. begins
32. and
33. in
34. over
35. pull
36. she
37. shows
38. realizes

