

Sample 6th Grade Reading Questions ACT Aspire
60 minutes—31 questions—multiple choice and constructed response
(Excerpt of Text)

LITERARY NARRATIVE: This passage is adapted from the novel *White Fang* by Jack London (©1905 by Jack London).

He was different from his brothers and sisters. Their hair already betrayed the reddish hue inherited from their mother, the she-wolf, while he alone, in this particular, took after his father. He was the one little gray cub of the litter. He had bred true to the straight wolf-stock—in fact, he had bred true, physically, to old One Eye himself, with but a single exception, and that was he had two eyes to his father's one.

The gray cub's eyes had not been open long, yet already he could see with steady clearness. And while his eyes were still closed, he had felt, tasted, and smelled. He knew his two brothers and his two sisters very well. He had begun to romp with them in a feeble, awkward way, and even to squabble, his little throat vibrating with a queer rasping noise (the forerunner of the growl), as he worked himself into a passion. And long before his eyes had opened, he had learned by touch, taste, and smell to know his mother—a fount of warmth and liquid food and tenderness. She possessed a gentle, caressing tongue that soothed him when it passed over his soft little body, and that impelled him to snuggle close against her and to doze off to sleep.

From whose point of view is the passage told?

- A. Old One Eye
- B. The gray cub
- C. An unnamed narrator who mainly describes the feelings and actions of the gray cub
- D. An unnamed narrator who describes the thoughts and feelings of each character equally

What is the main purpose of the first paragraph?

- A. To introduce the gray cub and show how he is unique from his siblings
- B. To describe the relationship between the gray cub and his mother
- C. To describe a litter of cubs and show how they feel about the gray cub
- D. To introduce a conflict between the gray cub and Old One Eye

Select the three statements that were true of the gray cub BEFORE his eyes were open.

He played with his brothers and sisters.

He ventured outside of his cave.

He felt sunlight.

He attempted to follow his father.

He recognized his mother.

He thought that his world was gloomy.

As it is used in the passage, what does the highlighted word *betrayed* most nearly mean?

- A. Tricked
- B. Misled
- C. Revealed
- D. Failed

According to the passage, what is the one difference between the gray cub and his father?

- A. The gray cub has some red hair.
- B. The gray cub is a wolf.
- C. The gray cub lives in a cave.
- D. The gray cub has two eyes.

What is the primary purpose of the comparison in the highlighted sentence?

- A. To describe the strong attraction the gray cub has to light
- B. To support the idea that the gray cub depends on his mother for survival
- C. To support the idea that the gray cub will never leave the cave
- D. To explain a scientific concept about plants

Think about the preceding passage as you read the following excerpt.

The excerpt is narrated by Black Beauty, a horse.

The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Some shady trees leaned over it, and rushes and water-lilies grew at the deep end. Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house, which stood by the roadside; at the top of the meadow was a grove of fir trees, and at the bottom a running brook overhung by a steep bank.

While I was young I lived upon my mother's milk, as I could not eat grass. In the daytime I ran by her side, and at night I lay down close by her. When it was hot we used to stand by the pond in the shade of the trees, and when it was cold we had a nice warm shed near the grove.

—Adapted from *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell (©1911 by Barse & Hopkins)

Identify one way in which the gray cub's life in the passage from *White Fang* differs from the horse's life in the excerpt from *Black Beauty*. Use one detail from the passage and one detail from the excerpt to support your answer.

The passage states that the gray cub "had early discovered that one wall of his world was different from the rest" (see highlighted text). Explain how the gray cub feels about this discovery. Use two details from the passage to support your answer.