

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Mr. Larson was telling his students about their next task. "We've been talking about how to share information in a presentation, and now you're going to get the chance to do that. I want each of you to choose a book. Then, you'll read that book and tell the class about the book you've chosen."

Ryan slumped down in his seat when he heard Mr. Larson. He was really worried about this assignment. He had never made a speech before, and he was very nervous about speaking in public. He felt absolutely miserable as he left the classroom; he knew that Mr. Larson wouldn't let him get away with not doing the assignment.

1. Which question about the text would help you as you monitor your reading?
- (A) Why doesn't Ryan like Mr. Larson?
- (B) Why is Ryan nervous about making a speech?
- (C) Why doesn't Ryan like to read?
- (D) Why didn't Ryan hear the assignment?

2. What is the setting of this text?
- (A) the library
- (B) a store
- (C) Ryan's home
- (D) Ryan's classroom

3. Which two words tell you that Ryan is not happy about the assignment?
- (A) *assignment* and *doing*
- (B) *heard* and *felt*
- (C) *share* and *presentation*
- (D) *worried* and *nervous*

4. Which is a synonym for *slumped*?
- (A) slept
- (B) stood
- (C) sank
- (D) jumped

5. Which descriptive phrase helps the reader understand Ryan in this text?
- (A) absolutely miserable
- (B) next task
- (C) share information
- (D) choose a book

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

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Total

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1. (Y) (N)

Ryan was very anxious about an assignment Mr. Larson had given the class. Everyone in the class was going to have to make a speech about a book, but Ryan had never made a speech before. Ryan's sister, Tracey, asked him what was wrong.

2. (Y) (N)

"I've never made a presentation before," Ryan explained. "I have no idea how to do it."

Tracey said, "Everybody gets nervous before a presentation. But you can do it. First, you need to write down what you want to say. Then, practice until you really know it. Then, practice in front of someone so you are really ready."

3. (Y) (N)

"I guess I could try doing it that way," Ryan said doubtfully. "It's better than not doing anything and embarrassing myself."

4. (Y) (N)

1. Which is an important statement to understand in this text?

5. (Y) (N)

(A) Tracey tells Ryan to stop worrying and say anything he wants.

(B) Tracey tells Ryan to forget about the assignment.

(C) Tracey tells Ryan to tell Mr. Larson he can't make a speech.

(D) Tracey tells Ryan to write what he wants to say and practice.

3. Which part of speech is *nervous*?

(A) noun

(B) adverb

(C) verb

(D) adjective

4. Which definition of *speech* is used in this text?

(A) dialogue

(B) presentation

(C) words

(D) language

5. What does the word *doubtfully* tell the reader in the last paragraph?

(A) Ryan is not sure whether Tracy is right.

(B) Ryan really wants to make a speech.

(C) Ryan is angry with Tracey.

(D) Ryan is convinced that Tracey is right.

___ / 5

Total

2. Who is the main character?

(A) Tracey

(B) Mr. Larson

(C) Ryan

(D) Ryan's father

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Ryan's teacher, Mr. Larson, had assigned the class to choose a book, read it, and then make a speech about the book. Ryan didn't want to do the assignment because he was nervous. But he had to do the assignment. So he decided to take his sister Tracey's advice. After he read his book, Ryan wrote down the things he wanted to say about it. Then, he organized what he wanted to say. Next, he started practicing. He practiced every day. Finally, he was ready to practice his speech in front of someone. He asked Tracey if she would listen to his speech. She agreed to let him practice in front of her. When Ryan finished his speech, Tracey said, "I know you're nervous about giving a speech, Ryan, but I really think you're ready."

1. Which of these actions is **not** included in the text?
- (A) Ryan puts his speech on tape.
- (B) Ryan writes down the things he wanted to say.
- (C) Ryan practices every day.
- (D) Ryan practices in front of Tracey.

2. What is Ryan's assignment?
- (A) to watch a television show
- (B) to do a set of worksheets
- (C) to read a book and give a speech
- (D) to read a book and write a report

3. How many syllables are in the word *organized*?
- (A) four syllables
- (B) three syllables
- (C) one syllable
- (D) two syllables

4. Which is a synonym for *advice*?
- (A) practice
- (B) organize
- (C) speech
- (D) suggestion

5. What does it mean to *organize*?
- (A) practice
- (B) put in order
- (C) write down
- (D) choose

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

RYAN'S BIG SPEECH

It was a very important day for Ryan—he was about to make his first public speech. His teacher, Mr. Larson, had assigned the class to choose a book, read it, and then make a speech about it. Ryan had chosen a book he liked. He had read it carefully. Then, he had written down what he wanted to say about the book and prepared a speech. He had practiced his speech many times, but he was still nervous. Ryan didn't know whether he would be successful. He didn't want to embarrass himself in front of the entire class.

Finally, Mr. Larson said the words Ryan had been dreading: "Okay, Ryan, let's hear what you have to say. Come up and give us your presentation." Ryan gulped a few times. He couldn't help still feeling somewhat anxious. Then, he gathered his notes, straightened up and walked slowly to the front of the room. Mr. Larson sat down in one of the front-row seats and gave Ryan an encouraging smile as he nodded for him to begin. Ryan cleared his throat, glanced at his notes, and plunged into his presentation.

For a moment or two, Ryan still felt very nervous. But as he went through his speech, he felt less and less like running away. He had practiced often enough so that nothing in his speech was new to him anymore. It wasn't long before he relaxed a little and was able to almost enjoy what he was doing. By the time Ryan finished his presentation, he felt almost comfortable.

When Ryan stopped speaking, everyone in the class applauded. Mr. Larson said, "That was a very well-prepared presentation, Ryan. You did an excellent job." Ryan thought about how much he had practiced to get ready for his speech, and he felt proud. He still didn't like making speeches, but now he knew he could do it.



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DIRECTIONS

Read "Ryan's Big Speech" and then answer the questions.

1. How does Mr. Larson feel?

- (A) happy about Ryan's presentation
- (B) afraid of Ryan's presentation
- (C) angry about Ryan's presentation
- (D) jealous of Ryan's presentation

2. Which statement is accurate?

- (A) Ryan's classmates make fun of him.
- (B) Ryan is too nervous to speak.
- (C) Ryan gives a good speech.
- (D) Ryan forgets his speech.

3. What is the purpose for reading this text?

- (A) to be entertained
- (B) to learn how to give a speech
- (C) to understand why a person should give a speech
- (D) There is no purpose for reading this text.

4. What makes Ryan relax while he is giving his speech?

- (A) Mr. Larson smiles at him.
- (B) He has practiced, so nothing in his speech is new to him.
- (C) His presentation is last, so he can listen to other students.
- (D) Mr. Larson tells him that he will do a fine job.

5. Which of these describes Mr. Larson?

- (A) frightening
- (B) supportive
- (C) forbidding
- (D) distracted

6. Who might best relate to Ryan's experience?

- (A) a teacher getting ready to give a test to her students
- (B) a coach who won a big game
- (C) a ballerina before a recital
- (D) a mother taking her son to the dentist

7. What lesson does Ryan learn?

- (A) If you practice, you can succeed.
- (B) Never make a speech in public.
- (C) Teachers do not want you to make speeches.
- (D) Practicing takes too much time.

8. What would Ryan likely say about making a speech?

- (A) It is easy to make a speech.
- (B) Don't make a speech in public.
- (C) Practicing is not very useful.
- (D) It takes practice, but it's not so bad.

SCORE1. Y N2. Y N3. Y N4. Y N5. Y N6. Y N7. Y N8. Y N

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Total

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DIRECTIONS

Reread the text "Ryan's Big Speech." Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.

SCORE

___ / 4

Have you ever had to do something that made you nervous? Write about what happened.
