



Chicago Public Schools



Test Booklet

Unit Reading Assessment 1

Name

Date

A Cherokee Holiday

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

A Cherokee Holiday

CHARACTERS:

Hyalei Baker, 15-year-old girl
Adsila Baker, 10-year-old girl
Yona Miller, 16-year-old boy
Sharon Baker, 35-year-old mother
Bob Baker, 35-year-old father

Setting: A September morning at a campground in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Two large tents are pitched in background in a wooded area. A picnic table covered with an awning covering it is CENTER STAGE. Lanterns, camp chairs, camp stove, and two large coolers are arranged neatly on the set.

SCENE 1

(HYALEI sits in a camp chair. Her smartphone pings and she smiles as she reads a text.)

SHARON: *(offstage)* Lei! Come and help me get dinner on the table!

HYALEI: *(without looking up)* In a minute, Mom. *(HYALEI begins texting.)*

ADSILA: *(ADSILA enters and holds up her hand to HYALEI)* Look what I found in the creek! It's a salamander. *(She drops it on HYALEI's lap.)*

HYALEI: *(screeching)* Get that nasty thing off me! *(brushes off her shorts)*

ADSILA: It's not nasty at all. It's very clean. *(reaches to pick it up)*

HYALEI: Wait. Let me take a picture of that. It'll show my friends what I have to deal with on this vacation.

ADSILA: MAAAMAAA! *(She runs inside one of the tents. HYALEI snaps photo of salamander, then keeps texting and smiling.)*

(Enter YONA from STAGE LEFT.)

YONA: Hi, there!

(Hyalei ignores him.)

YONA: Excuse me. *(waving a hand in HYALEI's direction)* Hey, I'm speaking to you!

HYALEI: *(not looking up)* I can hear you.

YONA: Okay, but you *are* a little rude.

HYALEI: *(looks up and sighs)* I'm sorry, but I'm in a bear of a mood.

YONA: My name is Yona—that means "bear" in Cherokee.

HYALEI: Oh, stop it with the Cherokee this, Cherokee that! *(points a finger back to the tents)* They dragged me here, kicking and screaming. I'm missing so much at home in

California.

YONA: What are you missing?

HYALEI: My friends! My life!

YONA: So that is what I will call you, Missing Life.

HYALEI: My name is Hyalei. Call me that.

SHARON: (*offstage*) Lei! Put the phone down and set the table...NOW! (*SHARON enters campsite holding five paper plates, plastic forks, potato chips, napkins. HYALEI takes them. Then SHARON notices YONA.*) Yona Miller! It's so good to see you! My, you've grown up. (*HYALEI takes everything and begins setting table.*)

YONA: (*blushing*) I was about to invite Hyalei to the blowgun shoot, because I'm competing and will probably, most likely, win.

SHARON: That's wonderful! Hyalei hasn't quite embraced the Cherokee National Holiday¹ this year.

(*ADSILA brings pitcher of lemonade and starts pouring it into glasses.*)

HYALEI: (*shrugs*) Meh.

ADSILA: (*enthusiastically*) There's a rodeo, a dance competition, a powwow, and a parade with floats and music!

YONA: There's also an archery contest, and I'm going to win. (*pantomimes pulling an arrow with a bow*) I never miss. BULLSEYE!

HYALEI: Okay, point taken. People have a lot of fun at this thing and you're winning all the competitions.

(*BOB enters STAGE LEFT.*)

BOB: Sarcasm does not become you, Hyalei. Remember, your name means "beautiful meadow." The meadow you're currently playing in is more like a patch of dirt.

ADSILA: (*to YONA*) My name means "blossom" in Cherokee.

YONA: You're some kind of beautiful flower, all right. Isn't it fun having a name that really means something?

ADSILA: (*blushing*) There's a coed softball game tomorrow.

(*HYALEI looks suddenly interested.*)

YONA: That's right. I'm playing shortstop, but we're looking for a good pitcher.

ADSILA: You're just in luck! Hyalei is the best pitcher in her league. She's a strike machine!

YONA: Nah, she can't be that good. (*looks directly at HYALEI*) Are you that good?

HYALEI: (*smiling*) I'm better than good.

BOB: So, my beautiful daughter? Will you help out Yona's team?

HYALEI: I guess...

SHARON: Adsila, Bob, let's bring out the dinner. Yona, you will eat with us.

(YONA nods, and BOB and SHARON pull food and drinks from the cooler.)

YONA: So both your parents are Cherokee?

HYALEI: Yes, but you wouldn't know it from their names. Their parents wanted them to have English names, so they were named Sharon and Bob.

YONA: It's nice to see more people use Cherokee names. My parents did the same thing. When I was six, I wanted to be called John or Bill or Colin.

HYALEI: *(unbelieving)* Colin?

YONA: Yeah, Colin. But then I had to do a report about my heritage in fourth-grade social studies, and I began to see what a really cool people we are. I like coming to Cherokee National Holiday¹ each year. It makes me feel, I don't know, more *American*. We can be Americans, but not all Americans can be Cherokee.

HYALEI: Don't you miss your friends back home?

YONA: They'll be there when I get back. For now, I'm making new ones. *(gently nudging her shoulder)* Like you, right?

HYALEI: Easy, pal. I'm not a cowboy in your rodeo.

YONA: As long as you pitch on my team, I'm all right with that.

(HYALEI's phone pings several times.)

YONA: What's that?

HYALEI: *(laughing)* My friends say they love the salamander, and they wish they could be here, too.

YONA: Life's funny like that.

END OF SCENE

¹A yearly event held since 1953 that celebrates the signing of the Cherokee Constitution in 1839.

1. Which line of dialogue supports the inference that Yona is outgoing and confident?
 - A. **YONA:** (*blushing*) I was about to invite Hyalei to the blowgun shoot, because I'm competing and will probably, most likely, win.
 - B. **YONA:** Isn't it fun having a name that really means something?
 - C. **YONA:** Yeah, Colin. But then I had to do a report about my heritage in fourth-grade social studies, and I began to see what a really cool people we are.
 - D. **YONA:** Life's funny like that.

2. What evidence from the text supports the inference that Hyalei's parents are proud of their Cherokee heritage?
 - A. They speak the Cherokee language.
 - B. They live in California on a Cherokee reservation.
 - C. They cook authentic Cherokee food.
 - D. They gave both their daughters Cherokee names.

A New View

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

A New View

Loralee paced her room, nervously biting her freshly painted nails when her mother, Barbara, entered, carrying a basket of neatly folded clothing.

"I was hoping you would help me with the laundry tonight, Lorelee," Barbara scolded, a severe frown on her face. "Seriously, you have no idea what it was like for us growing up. In the 1890s, we had no radios, no records, no washing machines, no telephones...it was a different time."

"It really is a different time than when you were young, Mom," Lorelee began. "Girls are doing lots of unconventional things in the 1920s, like going to college, cutting their hair, watching movies at the cinema, entering dance contests..."

"Lorelee, I am not interested in hearing this because you know how I feel about things girls are doing these days," Barbara asserted, shaking her head disapprovingly. "Women should raise their girls to grow up and take care of their husbands and families. This 'New Woman' nonsense is ruining the traditions our country is based on."

As soon as Barbara left the room, Lorelee removed her bathrobe to reveal a sleek dress that fell just above her knees, decorated with sequins and fringe. Lorelee managed to successfully climb down the tree outside her bedroom window and make her way to the ground. She started to creep across the lawn when, in a frightening instant, the porch light flipped on.

"Lorelee!" Her father's voice fractured the silence of the night, and Lorelee stopped dead in her tracks. She turned around slowly to find her father, Jack, standing on the front porch. Horribly terrified, Lorelee slunk toward Jack.

"Oh, Lorelee, what in heaven's name are you doing climbing down the tree in a flapper's dress?" Jack asked.

"Dad, I just wanted to go to the pavilion for an innocent dance contest," Lorelee admitted. "I love to dance, and Mom would never have given me permission because she is completely against dancing."

"I understand that you love to dance, Lorelee, but these sneaky, disobedient antics are unacceptable," Jack asserted. "This is no way to treat your mother."

Shame filled Lorelee's belly as she realized that her father was right. Her mother worked hard all day to keep their house and organize their lives.

"Your mother was raised to be a traditional woman," Jack said. "Times are changing, and you want to change with them. We both understand this, but under no circumstances do we want our sixteen-year-old daughter traipsing around the city at night. If you want us to respect your views, you need to respect our responsibility to keep you safe."

Jack's rational argument made Lorelee feel worse because she had never considered her parents' viewpoints.

"I am really sorry, Dad, because I do respect you," Lorelee began. "I just want a different life than the one Mom has envisioned for me."

"Well, I think this conversation is an endeavor that we will have to tackle when we are all well rested," Jack said. "For tonight, you are grounded until further notice."

Loralee knew she would have to find new strategies for articulating her views to her parents. Seeing things from their perspective humbled Lorelee. Their rules were perhaps not as ridiculous as she had previously believed but maybe were simply protective. She had a realization that her parents were really just people too. Knowing this made her more confident that they could somehow find a middle ground regarding what a young woman of 1926 should be.

- 3.** The reader can infer that Lorelee's mother does not work outside of the home. Which sentence from the text *best* supports this inference?
- A.** Lorelee paced her room, nervously biting her freshly painted nails when her mother, Barbara, entered, carrying a basket of neatly folded clothing.
 - B.** "I was hoping you would help me with the laundry tonight, Lorelee," Barbara scolded, a severe frown on her face.
 - C.** "Women should raise their girls to grow up and take care of their husbands and families."
 - D.** Her mother worked hard all day to keep their house and organize their lives.
- 4.** In the text, Lorelee offers an apology to her father. Explain whether her apology was sincere or not. Be sure to use specific details from the text to support your response.

A Wish for Silence

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

A Wish for Silence

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

ELI, *mid-20s*

JOSIE, *mid-20s, ELI's wife*

OLD MAN *in a dark suit with a trench coat and fedora*

YOUNG MAN, *mid-20s, in a jogging suit with headphones on*

SETTING: *A simple stage with a door, upstage right; a couch, center; and a park bench, downstage left.*

There is a knock at the door. ELI is sitting on the floor with his back to the door and his head resting on his knees. The knocking continues, and ELI closes his eyes in an attempt to silence the noise. Then, there are multiple knocks at the door. It sounds as if a group of people are pounding on the door. JOSIE, ELI's wife, enters to answer the door, but stops when she sees ELI.

JOSIE: Eli? The door. Someone is at the door.

ELI: *(Still sitting with his head on his knees as the knocking continues.)* Yes. Yes, I've noticed the knocking.

JOSIE: Are you going to answer it?

ELI: No, I don't think that I'm going to.

JOSIE: Are you serious?

ELI: Maybe. Yes. Or, no. I don't know.

JOSIE: You're acting very bizarre. Now please get out of the way so that I can open the door. *(Tries to step around ELI, but he throws his body against the door. The knocking becomes more frantic.)*

ELI: Oh! I just wish they would go away! *(The knocking abruptly stops. ELI stands and puts his ear against the door.)* Listen. It stopped. It actually stopped!

JOSIE: That's usually what happens when someone knocks on a door, and no one answers it. *(ELI carefully opens the door slightly.)*

ELI: It's real! The wishes are real! They come true!

JOSIE: Eli, you're starting to scare me.

ELI: *(Takes JOSIE's hand and leads her to the couch, where they sit.)* I was in the park today having my usual lunch—

JOSIE: Ahh. Did you eat that old leftover potato salad? *(Aside)* Maybe that explains it. ..

ELI: No! I had a ham sandwich, like I do every day. But never mind that, you need to listen to me. *(ELI gets up, crosses into his own story, and sits down at the park bench. He pantomimes taking a sandwich out of his briefcase and putting it on his lap.)* I was sitting

on the park bench, enjoying the sunshine, when an old man who looked as if he was something right out of a black-and-white movie sat down next to me.

OLD MAN: (*Gesturing at the seat next to ELI.*) Is this seat taken?

ELI: Ah, no. Not at all. Go right ahead.

OLD MAN: Thank you. (*Sits down very close to ELI and stares intently at him. ELI smiles and takes a bite of his sandwich.*) Three wishes you will have if you wish to wish a wish to come true.

ELI: (*Nodding and beginning to pack up his lunch.*) Right. I think it's time for me to get back to work.

OLD MAN: (*Putting a hand on ELI's arm to stop him, smiling broadly.*) Three wishes you will have if you wish to wish a wish to come true.

ELI: Thank you, but I really do need to get to work—

OLD MAN: (*Moving his face close to ELI's, still smiling.*) Three wishes you will have if you wish to wish a wish to come true. (*Repeats the same phrase over and over until ELI finally explodes in frustration.*)

ELI: Okay! Okay! I'll make a wish if it will make you stop! I wish to become famous! There you go! That's a perfect little wish for you.

OLD MAN: (*Suddenly stops.*) Very well. If it is fame you seek, then it is fame you will receive.

ELI: (*ELI jumps in surprise as if seeing something startling as the OLD MAN exits.*) Then, just like that, the old man disappeared. He was gone. I stood up from the bench, and I tried to find him; but when I turned around, this guy came running up to me with such a wild look in his eyes that I was in fear for my life.

YOUNG MAN: (*Running toward ELI and jumping up and down excitedly.*) Eli? Is it really you?

ELI: Excuse me, do I know you?

YOUNG MAN: No, but I know you! I've finally found you! Hey everyone! (*Motioning toward the audience to join him.*) I've found Eli! I've finally found him. Over here! (*ELI runs back to JOSIE, pantomiming fending off a crowd of people. YOUNG MAN exits.*)

ELI: Everywhere I went, I was suddenly being pursued by strangers who screamed and yelled my name.

JOSIE: Good heavens!

ELI: It was all I could do to stay one step ahead of the mob. I ran home and locked the door, but they followed me and started knocking. But then I made another wish—

JOSIE: (*Suddenly realizing what is going on.*) You wished that they would go away.

ELI: (*Grasps JOSIE's shoulders and looks directly into her eyes.*) I wished that they would go away, and they did. Somehow that old man has the power to grant wishes, and I frivolously wasted two. But, now. Now, I have one wish left, and we have to be very careful how we use it.

JOSIE: What will we wish for? How will we decide? When will we make such a wish? Do you really think such a thing to be true? Who is this old man? Why did he come to you?

ELI: Darling, please. I need time to think. (*Shaking his head and beginning to pace in a small circle.*)

JOSIE: What if we wish for more wishes? Our good fortune would be endless. Oh, Eli, this is so exciting!

ELI: Please. I just wish you'd be quiet long enough for me to think!

JOSIE: I'll call my mother and—(*JOSIE continues to speak, but her voice is silent.*)

ELI: Oh no! Josie! (*JOSIE begins to panic. Her hands fly to her throat.*) Our final wish! There must be more left. I wish for my wife to speak again! (*JOSIE is still silent as tears begin to stream down her face. ELI embraces her.*) I wish for her silence to end! I wish for everything to return as it had been! Oh, no! The old man! I'll find the old man! He has to give me another wish! He has to fix this!

(*ELI rushes out the door. JOSIE tries to call out to ELI, but of course, her voice is silent.*)

END OF SCENE

5. Read these lines from the text.

There is a knock at the door. ELI is sitting on the floor with his back to the door and his head resting on his knees. The knocking continues, and ELI closes his eyes in an attempt to silence the noise.

What inference about Eli is BEST supported by these lines?

- A. He knows who is on the other side of the door.
- B. He expects his wife to handle social calls.
- C. He is too tired to get up and answer the door.
- D. He is an unfriendly person.