3rd Grade ELA
Week 1

Focus:
- Exploring Literary Text
- Word Study
  - Affixes and How They Change Root Words
  - Using Context to Determine the Meaning of Words
  - Identify and Use Antonyms, Synonyms, Homographs, and Homophones

Directions:
- Complete each day’s work.
- Read for 30 minutes each day.
- Complete the reading log on the next page after you read each day.
**Reading Log**

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<td>I wonder why the third pig didn’t help his brothers build better houses?</td>
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Week 1, Day 1
Affixes and How They Change Root Words

Read the passage before answering the questions below.

1. “When we ___review___ the words before the test, make sure you study hard,” Ms. Thomas said to the class. “The more we look at the words and study them, the easier they will be to write.”

2. “Ms. Thomas, will we be ___successful___ if we write them down a bunch of times, too?” asked Beth. “I want to do well, and I think writing the words over and over will help.”

1. If the word view means “to look at”, what would the word review mean?
   A. Not look at
   B. Look at again
   C. Look at more
   D. Not be able to look at

2. Which words from paragraph 2 help the reader understand the meaning of successful?
   F. and I think
   G. write them down
   H. to do well
   J. over and over
Using the Context to Determine the Meanings of Words

Read the passage before answering the questions below.

1. Jamal looked out over all the runners lined up at the starting line. No one smiled or spoke. Everyone seemed deep in thought and serious.

2. Jamal tried to draw his breath. It would not come. Rain had fallen earlier for several hours. It had stopped, but clouds hung dark and low. The air seemed thick and heavy. There was no breeze, and everything was still damp.

3. After Jamal warmed up, he hurdled the low fence next to the track. He wanted to find his brother and give him his coat. As Jamal’s feet took off, one of his shoes caught on the top of the fence. Down he fell in a heap.

1. Which words in paragraph 3 help the reader understand what **hurled** means?

   - A. fell in
   - B. took off
   - C. caught on
   - D. warmed up

2. Which of the meanings for **draw** below best fits the way the word is used in paragraph 2?

   - F. To pull up
   - G. To get an answer
   - H. To stretch
   - J. To take in
Identify and Use Antonyms, Synonyms, Homographs, and Homophones

Read the passage before answering the questions below.

1. “As you look for information, be certain of what you are using,” said Ms. Hall. “Information from books and magazines is good. Give yourself plenty of time to do the work. If you wait too long, time will be against you. Work hard, be smart about what you use, and have fun.”

2. “So if it comes from a book, I can be sure that the information is good to use?” asked Nathan. “I want to finish the work as soon as I can. In fact, I am going to start tonight.”

1. In paragraphs 1 and 2, which word means about the same as certain?
   A fun
   B hard
   C smart
   D sure

2. Which word from paragraph 2 means the opposite of finish?
   F can
   G comes
   H start
   J use
Ask Relevant Questions, Locate Facts and Details, and Support Answers with Text Evidence

Read the passage before answering the questions below.

1 Nan and Alana worked together to get the bicycle in shape for the race. Nan cleaned the chain and put fresh oil on it. She wanted to make sure the bike went fast. Nan tightened all of the nuts and bolts so the bike would be solid. Alana held one wrench on the nuts, while Nan turned another wrench around the bolts. Alana checked each tire to make sure each one had just the right amount of air. She worked the brake handle to see if it would stop the front tire quickly.

2 The two girls stopped working on the bicycle for a bit. They wanted to be fresh for the race. Nan drank from a bottle of water, while she sat in the grass. Alana lay on the bottom step of her front porch. She sucked on a straw stuck in a paper cup full of ice water. Both girls sighed and tried to get a little rest before the race at the park.

1. Why does Nan use oil on the bike?
   A To make the bike go fast
   B To make the bike solid
   C To help the bike stop quickly
   D To help Alana tighten the nuts

2. Nan and Alana stop working on the bike because
   F the bike is ready.
   G they want to rest.
   H the race is about to start.
   J they want to be in the race.
Read the selection before answering the questions below.

1. “I have so much to do before I can go to the game,” complained Stacy. “I don’t know if I will be able to get it all done.”

2. “You better get started with your jobs,” said Mom. “If you keep at it, you should finish before it is time for us to go to the game and then to the store right after.”

3. Stacy washed the dishes and dried them. She put them away. Next, she gave the dog a bath. She was beginning to mop the kitchen floor when Dad came into the room.

4. “I got home early from work. Let me take over here for you,” said Dad. “You can work on putting away your clothes.”

5. Dad took the mop and cleaned the floor. Stacy was able to put away her clothes just in time to leave for the game.

1. What is Stacy’s main problem in the story?
   A  She has to go to the store.
   B  She has a lot of work to do.
   C  Her dad has to work all day.
   D  Her mom has to stay home.

2. Why is Dad important to Stacy?
   F  He mops the floor.
   G  He washes the dishes.
   H  He puts away clothes.
   J  He gives the dog a bath.
Week 1, Day 2
Ask Relevant Questions, Locate Facts and Details, and Support Answers with Text Evidence

Read the passage before answering the questions below.

1. The class went into the science room. Each student sat at a table and waited for directions. Ms. Bly handed out pieces of paper and explained what the students were to do during the class. She told them to get started when they were ready. The students wrote down all that they did on a piece of paper. Everyone finished before the end of class.

2. Ms. Bly asked for someone to tell about the work from the class. Julie raised her hand. She explained all that she had done and what had happened. Julie went over the answers for each of the questions. As she finished, Ms. Bly pulled down a large screen from the front of the room.

1. What happens when Julie finishes talking?
   A) Ms. Bly asks a question.
   B) Ms. Bly pulls down a screen.
   C) The students write on paper.
   D) The students sit at tables.

2. How does the reader know that Julie talks in class?
   F) Ms. Bly gives a piece of paper to the students.
   G) Julie goes into the science room.
   H) Julie raises her hand.
   J) Ms. Bly gives directions to the class.

Read the passage before answering the questions below.

1. Taylor stopped in the small clearing. She took off her back pack and untied a small bundle from the bottom. With a quick flick of her wrists, Taylor rolled out a tent big enough for one person. In a matter of minutes, she had set up the tent on a pile of soft leaves. A rim of rocks served as her cooking spot. A roaring fire soon blazed inside the ring. Taylor smoothed out her sleeping bag. She lay down for a short rest inside the tent before lunch.

2. Several hours later, Taylor woke up with a start. She leaped out of the tent to check on the fire. The wind was still. The fire glowed softly, safe inside its ring of rocks. A group of birds took off, startled by Taylor’s sudden moves. Two squirrels hurried up a nearby tree. A mother deer rushed her baby fawn away through the bushes to safety. Taylor sighed deeply and sat down on an old tree stump next to the fire. She wished her friends could see her now.

3. Why does Taylor go into the tent?
   A) To put in leaves
   B) To get a cooking pot
   C) To find her pack
   D) To get some rest

4. Why does Taylor leap out of the tent?
   F) She is tired from her hike.
   G) She is worried about her fire.
   H) She wants to prepare her lunch.
   J) She wants to be with her friends.
Ask Relevant Questions, Locate Facts and Details, and Support Answers with Text Evidence

Read the passage before answering the questions below.

1. Amelia trailed the rest of the runners. She took in long, deep breaths. Her arms were pumping and her legs were pushing all the way down the track. Amelia still came in last. As the other runners clapped and smiled because of how they finished, Amelia hung her head.

2. “I sure wish I would not always end up in last place,” moaned Amelia to her friend, Rose. Rose stood on the track with Amelia.

3. “Come over to my house tomorrow after school,” said Rose. “I’m going to get you running faster.”

4. Amelia showed up at Rose’s house the next day. It was only three houses down from her own. Rose met her, and they went into Rose’s backyard. She had marked off a starting and finishing line.

5. “If you are able to get a quicker start and lift your knees higher, you will go faster,” said Rose. “Let’s get you to practice with this timer to check how long it takes you to go from start to finish.”

6. After about twenty minutes of hard practice, Amelia beamed at her friend. The timer showed that Amelia was running faster.

3. What happens when Amelia’s race is over?
   - A She pumps her arms and legs.
   - B She claps and smiles.
   - C She moans to her friend.
   - D She takes deep breaths.

4. How is Rose important to Amelia?
   - F Rose sees Amelia at school.
   - G Rose shows Amelia how to run.
   - H Rose meets Amelia on the track.
   - J Rose tells Amelia where to run.
Ask Relevant Questions, Locate Facts and Details, and Support Answers with Text Evidence

Read the passage before answering the questions below.

1. “I think I will let someone else work on the doghouse,” said Robert. “Maybe they can do a better job.”

2. Robert took one last look at his work. The roof was not straight. Each corner seemed to be crooked. Several pieces of wood were too short. Nails stuck out all over. A couple of boards had large cracks in them.

3. Walter walked through Robert’s backyard gate and said, “Hi, Robert. I would like to get to the library and check out a book. I have nothing else to do. Do you want to come?”

4. “Sure,” said Robert with a smile on his face.

5. “Maybe we can stop at the store and get some food for Spike, my dog,” added Walter. “He is out of food and really hungry. I’m afraid he might start eating the bushes if I don’t feed him.”

1. Robert decides not to finish the doghouse because he
   A. believes his pet is hungry.
   B. wants to go to the store.
   C. wants to leave with his friend.
   D. believes he has done a poor job.

2. Walter is in Robert’s backyard to
   F. help work on the doghouse.
   G. look for his library book.
   H. see Robert’s dog, Rover.
   J. ask Robert to come with him.
Week 1, Day 3
Ask Relevant Questions, Locate Facts and Details, and Support Answers with Text Evidence

Read the selection before answering the questions below.

1. Kareem’s day did not go well. He woke up late for work. There was no hot water for his shower. His favorite soap was all gone. Two buttons tore off of the first shirt he picked to wear. The second shirt was too small. After searching deep in his closet, Kareem finally found a clean shirt. His socks had a big hole in each toe, and the belt for his pants broke.

2. When Kareem did make it down to breakfast, he was out of cereal and bread. Quickly eating a banana and washing it down with a glass of milk, Kareem rushed into his garage. He discovered the right front tire on his car was out of air. When he tried to open the garage door, it would not move. It was locked. The key was somewhere in Kareem’s house, but he could not remember.

3. Holding his head in his hands, Kareem moaned softly. He sat on the steps of his front porch. A moment earlier, he had called one of his friends, Karl. Karl said that he would come and get Kareem and take him to work.

3. What is Kareem’s problem before he discovers that the shirt he puts on is too small?
   A. He is out of breakfast cereal.
   B. He has a hole in each sock.
   C. The soap he likes the most is gone.
   D. The belt he wears around his pants breaks.

4. Karl helps Kareem solve one of Kareem’s problems by
   F. fixing Kareem’s flat tire.
   G. looking for Kareem’s key.
   H. picking Kareem up and taking him to work.
   J. taking Kareem to his house.
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

Read the selection before answering the questions below.

1. What is the theme of this fable?
   A. To share with friends
   B. To know how to fish
   C. To have enough food
   D. To be able to live alone

2. Who wants to fish by himself?
   F. A fox
   G. A bird
   H. A bear
   J. A raccoon

A rabbit asked a bear if he wanted to go fishing. The bear said he did indeed want to go fishing but alone.

“I do not want to share any of what I catch with you,” the bear said.

As the bear was leaving for the river, a bird, a raccoon, and a fox all stopped him to ask if he would like to have company fishing. To all, the bear said, “No, I do not want any company. I prefer to fish alone.”

The bear lumbered down to the river. He found his spot and started to fish by himself. The bear could almost taste the fish as he searched the water. The rabbit, bird, raccoon, and all of the other animals went off together. They began to fish and have a fun time.

Before long, the bear had caught more than his share of fish. The more he fished, the more he caught. The bear wanted to tell someone, but there was no one around. The other group of animals had caught not one fish but were talking and laughing with each other.

The bear looked over at all of the fish he had caught. They would feed him for a while, but he was still not happy. He realized that he needed more than food to be happy.
The Legend of Molly McBride

1 Molly McBride grew up in a small cabin near the Ohio River. Her mother and father were farmers. Molly, along with her two brothers and one sister, helped grow crops, raise animals, and take care of the farm.

2 Molly learned many things as she lived with her family. She knew how to ride a horse, shoot a rifle, take care of her sister, milk the cows, read, write, and plant the north forty acres with any of three crops by the time she was fifteen years old.

3 As Molly grew older, she was able to do even more to help around the farm. She dug a new well, replaced the fence around the farm, and help neighboring farmers plant their crops. Molly was always helping someone.

4 Molly left home when she turned twenty-one years old. Carrying all she could on her pack horse, Molly headed westward. With a promise to write every week, she waved goodbye to her family. She wanted to find and explore new places.

5 Everywhere Molly traveled was an adventure. Her quick smile and willingness to help anyone brought Molly new friends all over. She would stay in a town for a while and then move on.

6 One day, Molly came to small town in west Texas. She settled in with a family after helping it repair its broken fences. Molly enjoyed the people’s company because they reminded her of her own family back in Ohio.

7 Molly found out that the farmers and ranchers were having a difficult time. No rain had fallen for months. Wells were running out of water. The Millers, the family Molly was living with, were drawn to their last bucketfuls of water. With a quick smile, Molly told them not to worry. She would find them water and help them dig a new well.

8 As the sun made its way into the sky one hot day, Molly walked the dry plains around the Miller’s home. After several hours, Molly used a thin stick to mark a spot on the dusty field. Grabbing a sharp shovel, she began to dig slowly and deliberately.

9 After several hours, the hole was deep enough for Molly to stand up to her waist. She would dig some, toss out the dirt, rest a little, and keep on digging. The well grew even deeper. As night began to fall, Molly was using a bucket to haul out the dirt and spread it over the field. The members of the Miller family were helping Molly. They brought out lanterns and food to keep her going. Every time they would ask to help dig, Molly grinned and turned them down.
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

10 As the clock struck midnight, the ground at the bottom of the hole began to get moist. As Molly jabbed the end of the shovel into the floor of the hole, water trickled out. She dug a little more and the water began to flow. Molly grabbed onto the rope ladder and scrambled out of the hole.

11 The ranch family gathered around and slapped Molly on the back, thanking her all the while. She grinned, thanked them back, and headed off to a warm shower. She knew her work here was done. After a good night’s rest, Molly gathered her belongings and headed for the next town. From then on, everywhere Molly traveled, she helped dig wells. She seemed to know just where to look for water. As with the first well in west Texas, Molly dug each one herself.

1. Molly leaves home to
   A learn to ride a horse.
   B find new places.
   C take care of her sister.
   D become a writer.

2. What is the theme of this legend?
   F Help people any way you are able
   G Leave home at an early age
   H Family is the most important thing
   J Work alone whenever you can
Father Earth

1 Long ago, Father Earth set out to find a place to call his own. He wanted to be far away from his many brothers and sisters, the stars. Father Earth had grown tired of living near the others in his family. He searched for a spot in the sky where he could do what he wanted. After years of having someone watching over him, he longed to take care of himself. He would miss his parents and the rest of his family, but he needed to move on.

2 After a long journey across the heavens, Father Earth found what he was looking for. As the lights of his family twinkled in the far off distance, Father Earth settled in for a quiet rest. He looked forward to living on his own.

3 Father Earth fell asleep. Not long afterward, he awoke with a shiver. He was cold. Father Earth saw that his lakes and rivers were frozen solid. Even the great oceans were beginning to ice over.

4 “My insides are fine,” said Father Earth. “It’s my outside that needs heat.” He quickly made volcanoes erupt all over. Gathering the very hot lava, Father Earth formed a huge ball. It glowed. Father Earth put it in the heavens nearby. Soon the rivers, lakes, and the great oceans were flowing once again. From that time on, Father Earth was warmed by the hot glowing gases of the ball we call the sun.

3. What is the myth mostly about?
   - A The sky is very big.
   - B Father Earth had a big family.
   - C Father Earth made the sun.
   - D The stars let off their own light.

4. Why does Father Earth make heat?
   - F To help his brothers
   - G To help the stars in the heavens
   - H To help his outside
   - J To help his parents
Week 1, Day 4
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

Read the selection before answering the questions below.

1. Bubbles rose to the top of the water as it flowed over big rocks. The water gurgled on its way under a wooden bridge. Tiny fish popped up in search of food. Tall trees shaded the river on both banks. Malcolm yawned as he sat on the bank and peered at the early evening outdoor scene. He had never seen anything like it.

2. School was out for the summer. Malcolm had joined his grandparents for the month of June. He had been invited to visit with them. His parents taught summer school and worked to get ready for the next school year. Malcolm had jumped at the chance to spend time with his grandparents. Grandpa loved to cook, and Grandma told great stories. Time seemed to stand still up at their house in the high forest.

3. Malcolm’s grandparents had built their house several hundred feet up a gentle hill. The swiftly moving river raced along at the bottom of the hill. Floods had risen halfway up the hill but never reached the house. There was no rain in the future for at least a week. Even then, it was predicted to be just mild rain showers. It was great fishing weather.

4. Malcolm spotted a flock of birds making its way across the darkening sky. The lead bird dropped into one of the many trees standing on the banks of the river. The others followed. Soon the air was filled with their singing. Every so often, one of the birds would fly out of the tree. It would grab a bug of some kind that Malcolm was not able to see and return to its spot among the leaves.

5. Long, soft shadows stretched along the banks of the river as the sun disappeared behind tree-covered hilltops. Turning his head slowly from side to side, Malcolm saw a doe and her fawn approach a small pool of water at the edge of the river. As the mother watched, the fawn dipped its head into the cool water. After a long moment, the fawn lifted its head and wagged a stubby tail. The mother deer took several quick drinks of her own. She led her baby quietly back into the safety of nearby trees.

6. “Malcolm, it’s time for supper,” said a deep, booming voice from up the hill.

7. “Coming, Grandpa,” answered Malcolm. He looked around, breathed deeply, smiled, and rose from the ground. Malcolm climbed slowly up the hill.

1. **The theme of this story is to**
   - A. travel during the summer.
   - B. take care of animals.
   - C. have a good summer.
   - D. take time to enjoy nature.

2. **Why is Malcolm visiting his grandparents?**
   - F. To go hunting
   - G. To spend time with them
   - H. To take care of them
   - J. To build a house
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

Read the selection before answering the questions below.

The Tiger and the Monkey

1. The tiger walked softly through the underbrush toward the group of monkeys. None of them knew the tiger was nearby. He crept closer and closer. Just as he was ready to pounce on the nearest monkey, he fell into a big pit.

2. The sides were too steep for the tiger to climb out. The monkeys heard the tiger. They all ran away. One little monkey stayed behind. He looked over the side of the pit.

3. “What do you want?” the tiger growled at the monkey.

4. “I am here to help you,” said the monkey.

5. “How can you help me?” asked the tiger.

6. “Just you wait and see,” replied the monkey. He left and returned a few minutes later. The monkey pulled and heaved several long branches down into the pit. He left and returned with more branches. After a few more trips, the monkey told the tiger to try and climb out. With giant leaps, the tiger scrambled out of the pit. He stopped to thank the monkey, but the monkey was nowhere in sight. The tiger went on his way.

7. Several months later, the tiger was hunting for his supper. He surprised a monkey resting on a large rock. The tiger was all set to eat the monkey when he realized who it was. The tiger stopped, grinned at the monkey, and walked away.

3. Which of the following is the best theme of this fable?

   A. Have many friends  
   B. Watch out for enemies  
   C. Help those who help you  
   D. Stay in good shape

4. What does the monkey do for the tiger?

   F. Brings some branches  
   G. Finds food  
   H. Looks for other animals  
   J. Goes on his way
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

Read the selection before answering the questions below.

The Legend of William Harris

1. William Harris grew up in the mountains of Colorado. He learned to hunt, grow his own food, and make his own clothes. William learned to read and write with the help of an old fur trader, Harrison.

2. When William was a young man, he moved to a small town in western Colorado. His only living relative, an aunt, had asked him to come. She needed his help. William closed up his cabin, told Harrison goodbye, and made his way through snow-covered mountains to his aunt’s house.

3. William arrived at Aunt May’s house a week later. She welcomed him and remarked how much he had grown since she had last seen him, fifteen years earlier. As she fed William a hot meal and let him warm up, Aunt May told him of her trouble.

4. The mayor of the town was the richest person in town. He owned most of the businesses. He handpicked the sheriff and controlled just about everything that happened in the town. The longer he was in charge, the worse he treated the people of the town. With the sheriff in his back pocket, there was little the people could do. That is why Aunt May asked for William to come. She thought he could help.

5. William was only one person, but he knew the mayor was doing wrong. The sheriff would be no help. William had to take matters into his own hands. He opened his own business. He became a blacksmith.

6. The mayor charged the townspeople much more than the actual value to purchase goods and services. Many of the safes in the businesses owned by the mayor began to be short money soon after William arrived. So did the bank’s safe, owned by the mayor. The townspeople started to find envelopes of money mysteriously appear on their doorsteps. They did not know what to make of it. Neither did the mayor.

7. The mayor tried to protect his money even more. But each time he put extra people on guard at any of his businesses, money from others would end up missing. The mayor did not have enough guards to watch over every business. Keeping the money in safes did not work either. It disappeared no matter where it was kept.

8. Word began to get around that William had something to do with the money leaving the mayor’s hands and ending up with the townspeople. He, of course, said he knew nothing about it. He was glad, however, that the people had the money they needed to not have to worry about the mayor any longer.

9. Not long afterward, the mayor was forced to sell his businesses. He had great debts to pay. With barely a sound, he quit being mayor and left town. The sheriff was fired. The townspeople hired a new sheriff, elected a new mayor, and began to live fair and just lives again. William said goodbye to his aunt, promised to visit her more often, and went back to his cabin in the mountains. The people of the town wished William well and remember him to this day.
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

1. Who treated the townspeople badly?
   A  The mayor  
   B  The blacksmith  
   C  Aunt May  
   D  Harrison

2. What is the theme of this legend?
   F  Live in a small town  
   G  Do not worry about money  
   H  Make things right  
   J  Do not forget your family
Week 1, Day 5
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

Read the selection before answering the question below.

Leaves for Shade

Many years ago, the trees on Earth were able to move from place to place. They liked to travel around and not stay too long in one spot. Most of the trees were kind and caring. However, some of the trees always seemed to be getting into mischief. These trees liked to play tricks on the other plants and animals.

One day, a stand of trees decided to play a trick on a group of elephants. The elephants were trying to stay out of the hot sun. They used the trees for shade. The trees kept moving away from the elephants. Climbing steadily into the sky, the sun beat down on the elephants. After several hours, the elephants grew weary and pleaded with the trees to stay in one place. The trees just laughed and skittered away to a new spot. This left the elephants out in the full heat of the sun.

Upset, the elephants tromped to Mother Nature’s home in the jungle. They asked for a meeting. She agreed. The elephants told Mother Nature all that had happened with the trees.

Mother Nature listened well. She was deeply concerned, for this was not the first group of animals to come to her about the mischief of the trees. Mother Nature thought long and hard. She made a decision. From that day forward, all trees would stay in one spot. No longer would they be able to move around on their own. Roots would go into the ground to soak up food and water. The trees would live out their lives in one place.

3. What is this myth mostly about?

A  Elephants play tricks
B  Trees have to stay in one place
C  Mother Nature finds food and water
D  The sun makes for a hot day
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

Read the selection before answering the question below.

The Finish

Jamal kept his eyes staring at the top of the hill. He knew if he could get there, he would be able to make it the rest of the way. Thinking back, Jamal remembered several smaller hills on the course before the finish line. His father had walked the race course with him a month earlier. The whole race was three miles long. With only a small portion left, Jamal felt pretty good about finishing.

The gloves covering his hands were beginning to wear thin. He hadn’t wanted to wear a new pair. They would be stiff. Jamal worried that they might rub his fingers raw. It would prevent him from doing his best. Not only would new gloves keep him from doing well, his fingers would hurt.

Suddenly, something charged past him. Jamal saw a brown shape out of the corner of his eye. He thought it looked like a bear. It was big. Looking around, Jamal saw one of the biggest dogs he had ever seen. The dog was rushing toward him. Its tail was wagging and a pink tongue flapped from side to side out of an open mouth. The dog brushed up against Jamal’s wheelchair and knocked it over. Jamal sprawled onto the side of the road. Luckily, he fell on the grass strip that ran between the road and sidewalk. It cushioned his tumble. Still, he fell hard on his side. The wheelchair slid a few feet on the grass and stopped up against the sidewalk.

Jamal lay still for a few minutes. He took several deep breaths. The dog was nowhere to be found. It had disappeared as quickly as it had come. Jamal had been alone on the course, so no one had seen him fall. As far as he could tell, he was not hurt. The wheelchair was scraped and scratched. One of the wheels spun slowly as the chair rested on its side. Nothing else seemed to be hurt. He worried that he would not be able to finish the race.

Jamal realized that if he wanted to finish, he would have to get himself back into the wheelchair. Slowly, he began to pull his body toward the chair. He reached out with his arms and dragged his hips and legs along the grass. With sweat dripping off his face, Jamal made it to the chair. He set it up and climbed aboard. With a deep sigh, Jamal rested a moment.

The wheelchair slipped carefully over the curb. Jamal pushed against the wheels. He built up speed slowly going up the hill. Other racers were beginning to show up. Jamal paid them no mind as he kept his eyes once again on the top of the hill.

Jamal’s arms ached as he pushed the wheelchair the last few feet to the top. A quick look back showed a long string of racers behind him on the hill. He had just a few more blocks to go. With a thin smile, Jamal sped off. He was going to finish and finish well ahead of most of the other racers.
Paraphrase Themes and Supporting Details of Fables, Legends, Myths, or Stories

4. What is the best theme for the story?

   F  Plan ahead
   G  Take care of your things
   H  Do your best when times get hard
   J  Keep yourself in good shape
Sequence and Summarize Main Events and Explain Their Influence on Future Events

Read the selection before answering the questions below.

1. Mi Soo sat straight up in bed. Something was not right. Faint light was coming through her bedroom window. She stretched and moaned. She thought ahead about the day at her job. Job! Mi Soo leaned over and pushed the button on her alarm clock. Rubbing her eyes, she looked at the little red lights of the clock. They shone six o’clock. Mi Soo gasped. Her alarm had not gone off. She was late for work.

2. Mi Soo swept her feet over the side of the bed and jumped down. The floor was cold, so she slipped on some house shoes. The room was still dark. Mi Soo turned on the lamp on a table next to her bed. Shaking her watch and then slipping it on, Mi Soo rushed into her bathroom. She turned on the shower. While waiting for it to warm up, she picked the clothes she wanted to wear and laid them out on her bed. She ate a hurried breakfast after her shower. Mi Soo put on her clothes. She fed her cat and went off to work.

1. Why is paragraph 1 important to the story?
   A. It tells that Mi Soo is late for work.
   B. It tells that Mi Soo forgot to feed her cat.
   C. It tells that Mi Soo is tired.
   D. It tells that Mi Soo forgot to set her clock.

2. Before Mi Soo checks her alarm clock, she
   F. jumps out of bed.
   G. rushes into the bathroom.
   H. thinks about her job.
   J. eats breakfast.