



## Texas Assessment Practice

### ASSESS

Taking this practice test will help you assess your knowledge of these skills and determine your readiness for the Unit Test.

### REVIEW

After you take the practice test, your teacher can help you identify any standards you need to review.



**READING 2A** Determine the meaning of English words derived from Latin roots and affixes. **2B** Use context to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. **2D** Identify common words from other languages that are used in written English. **7** Make inferences and draw conclusions about literary nonfiction. **8** Make inferences about how an author's sensory language creates imagery. **10** Analyze expository text. **10D** Make logical connections between ideas and across texts. **13** Analyze how words, images, and graphics work together. **RC-8(E)** Synthesize texts. **ORAL AND WRITTEN CONVENTIONS** **19A** Use appositive phrases and subordinating conjunctions. **19B** Differentiate between main versus subordinate clauses. **19C** Use parallel structures and consistent tenses.

For more practice, see **Texas Assessment Practice Workbook**.

Practice  
Test



Take it at [thinkcentral.com](http://thinkcentral.com).  
KEYWORD: HML8-770

**DIRECTIONS** Read the two selections and the viewing and representing piece. Then answer the questions that follow.

*Sam Levenson's narrative is based on his childhood in New York City in the 1920s.*

## A Hike in New York City

by Sam Levenson

- 1 At least once each summer we kids went off on a hike, but never without strong opposition from Mama. When it came to the open road, Mama had a closed mind.
- 2 Her method of discouraging us from venturing into the unknown was to make the entire project appear ridiculous:
- 3 "You're going on what?"
- 4 "We're going on a hike."
- 5 "What's a hike?" Mama would ask.
- 6 When we started to explain it, the whole idea did in fact become ridiculous.
- 7 "We go walking, Ma."
- 8 "Walking? For that you have to leave home? What's the matter with walking right here? You walk; I'll watch."
- 9 "You don't understand, Ma. We take lunch along."
- 10 "I'll give you lunch here, and you can march right around the table," and she would start singing a march, clapping her hands rhythmically.
- 11 "Ma, we climb mountains in the woods."
- 12 She couldn't understand why it was so much more enjoyable to fall off a mountain than off a fire escape.
- 13 "And how about the wild animals in the woods?"
- 14 "Wild animals? What kind of wild animals?"
- 15 "A bear, for instance. A bear could eat you up."
- 16 "Ma, bears don't eat little children."
- 17 "Okay. So he won't eat you, but he could take a bite and spit it out! I'm telling you now, if a wild animal eats you up don't come running to me. And who's going with you?"
- 18 "Well, there's Georgie—"
- 19 "Georgie! Not him! He's a real wild animal!" She then went on to list all the conditions for the trip. "And remember one thing, don't tear your pants, and remember one thing, don't eat wild berries and bring me home the cramps, and remember one thing, don't tell me tomorrow morning that you're too tired to go to school, and remember one thing, wear boots, a sweater, warm underwear, and an umbrella, and a hat, and remember one thing, if you should get lost in the jungle, call up so I'll know you're all right. And don't dare come

home without color in your cheeks. I wish I was young and free like you.  
Take soap.”

- 20 Since the consent was specifically granted for the next day only, that night none of us slept. There was always a chance that it might rain. Brother Albert stayed at the crystal set<sup>1</sup> all night like a ship’s radio operator with his earphones on, listening to the weather bulletins and repeating them aloud for the rest of us. “It’s clearing in Nebraska. Hot air masses coming up from the Gulf. They say it’s good for planting alfalfa. Storm warning off the coast of Newfoundland. It’s drizzling in Montreal.”
- 21 At 6:00 A.M. we were ready for Operation Hike, rain or shine, but we had to wait for Papa to get up. We didn’t need his permission, but we did need his blanket.
- 22 Into the valley of Central Park we marched, bowed down with knapsacks, flashlights, a compass-mirror (so you could tell not only where you were lost, but who was lost), a thermos bottle (semi-automatic—you had to fill it but it emptied by itself), and an ax. Onward! Forward! Upward! Philip was always the leader. He was the one to get lost first. Jerry was the lookout. He would yell, “Look out!” and fall off the cliff. None of us knew how long we were supposed to march. We went on because we didn’t know what to do if we stopped. One brave coward finally spoke up. “I can’t go on anymore. The heat is killing me. Let’s start the fire here.”
- 23 No hike was complete without Georgie and his Uncle Bernie’s World War I bugle. This kid had lungs like a vacuum cleaner. With him outside the walls of Jericho, they could have sent the rest of the army home. He used to stand on a hill and let go a blast that had the Staten Island ferries running into each other.
- 24 Lunch, naturally, had been packed in a shoe box—sandwiches, fruit, cheese, and napkins all squashed together neatly. The lid would open by itself every twenty minutes for air.
- 25 It happened every time, the Miracle of the Sandwiches. One kid always got a “brilliant idea.” “Hey, I got a brilliant idea. I’m tired of my mother’s sandwiches. Let’s everybody trade sandwiches.” All the kids exchanged sandwiches and miraculously we all ended up with salami.
- 26 Albert was the true nature lover. “You know, you can learn a lot about human nature from the ants,” he always said as he lifted up rock after rock to study his favorite insects. And he was right. While he was studying the ants, someone swiped his apple.
- 27 We came home with color in our cheeks—green. To make sure we could go again, we didn’t forget Mama. We brought her a bouquet. She took one whiff and broke out in red blotches.

---

1. **crystal set:** a radio.

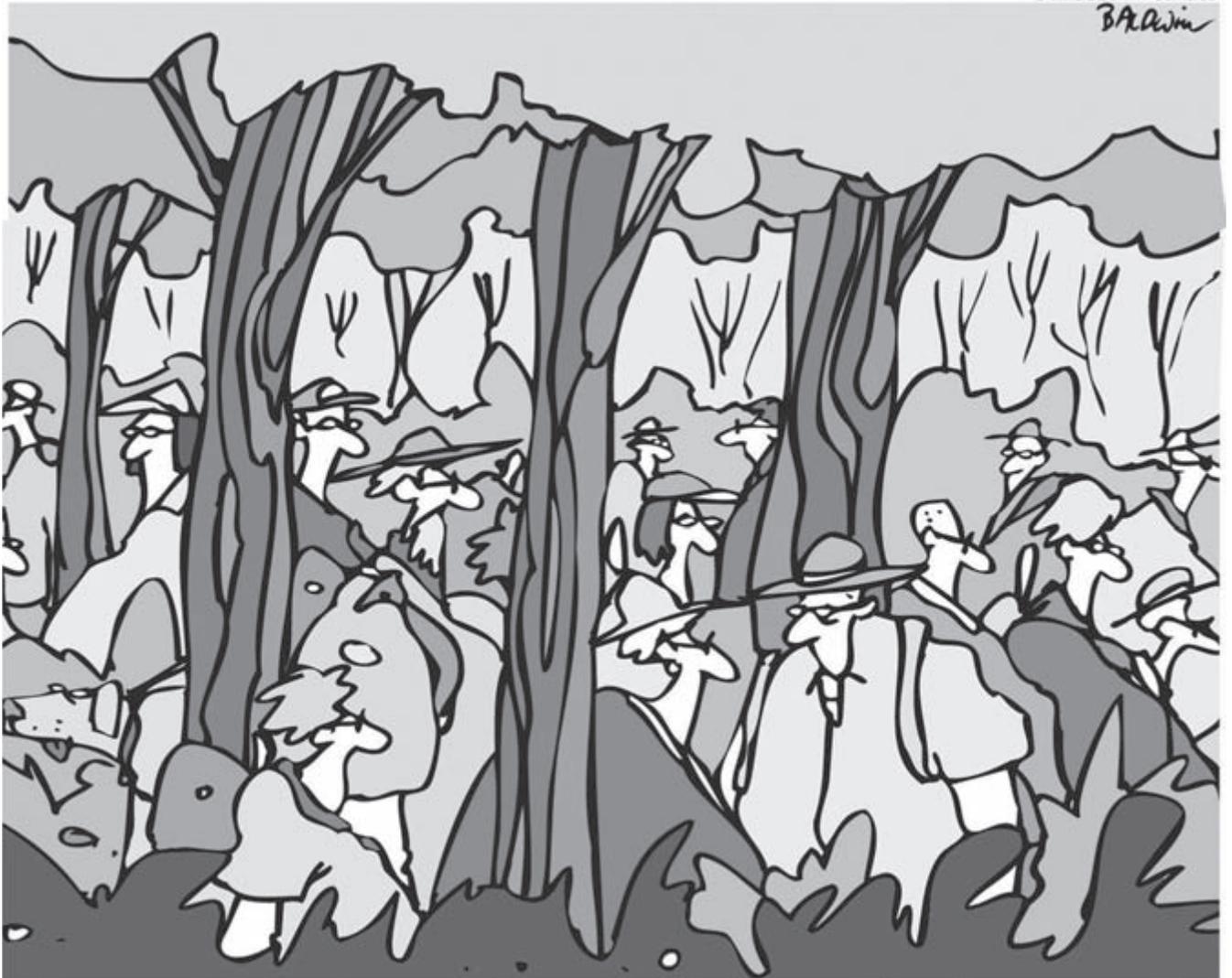


# The Heckscher Playground

*from The Park and the People: A History of Central Park*

*by Roy Rosenzweig and Elizabeth Blackman*

- 1 The shortage of public space in Manhattan increased the demands placed on Central Park in the twentieth century, especially since new generations did not go to the park just to enjoy its beautiful natural landscape. More and more visitors came to Central Park hoping to play, to be entertained, to see something—a show or spectacle—just as those who could afford it did at Coney Island or the movie house. And park administrators, politicians, and reformers all sought to meet these expectations, to demonstrate that the city's grandest public park had kept pace with the times.
- 2 Although most progressive reformers regarded playing fields, field houses, and gymnastic equipment as essential park features, before the 1920s, the playground movement had only a limited physical impact on Central Park. In the 1890s reformers had successfully introduced a small sand garden in the shadow of Umpire Rock on the southwest Playground. By 1912 play supervisors ran five summer programs for children in the park, but without equipment. In the spirit of the playground movement, park officials did now permit a number of competitive sports—including soccer, field hockey, and football, as well as the traditional baseball and croquet—on the meadows. Commissioners made only tentative gestures, however, toward building new facilities. As late as the 1920s, only about 9 percent of the park's terrain was devoted to playfields or special programmed events.
- 3 The Heckscher Playground at 61st Street and Seventh Avenue, added only in 1926, became the sole equipped playground within the park. It was bitterly opposed by several real estate and civic groups, including the League of Women Voters and the Federation of Women's Clubs. The Central Park West and Columbus Avenue Association, which represented West Side property owners, argued that "Central Park was designed as a park where people could go and rest and walk and drive and that it was intended to be maintained with grass and trees." But the area at 61st and Seventh Avenue was designated as a playground in the original Greensward plan of 1858 and had long been in use for children's play and sports. In a political climate sympathetic to the reformers' playground movement, philanthropist August Heckscher used his personal prestige to persuade park officials to ignore the opposition and accept his gift of an equipped playground, 4.5 acres, including swings, merry-go-rounds, spiral slides, jungle gyms, a field house, and a wading pool just south of Umpire Rock.



It's great to get away from it all, except for the crowds.

## Reading Comprehension

Use “A Hike in New York City”  
(pp. 770–771) to answer questions 1–15.

- When do the children set out on their hike?
  - Before Albert hears the weather report
  - At six o'clock in the morning
  - After they get Papa's blanket
  - As soon as they eat lunch
- Which words and phrases from the passage help the reader follow the order of events?
  - At least, in the woods
  - On a hike, right here
  - That night, at 6:00 A.M.
  - Open road, rain or shine
- The Latin word *ponere* means “to put.” What does the word *opposition* mean in paragraph 1?
  - Punishment
  - Resistance
  - Influence
  - Approval
- The Latin word *ridere* means “to laugh.” What does the word *ridiculous* mean in paragraph 2?
  - Enjoyable
  - Silly
  - Realistic
  - Unusual
- Reread the first four sentences in the passage. Which sentence tells you this will be a funny story?
  - Sentence 1
  - Sentence 2
  - Sentence 3
  - Sentence 4
- The author sets the tone by using —
  - long sentences
  - ironic comments
  - specialized vocabulary
  - detailed descriptions
- In paragraph 19, Mama says “if you should get lost in the jungle, call up so I'll know you're all right.” This statement is ironic because —
  - it is easy to get lost in a big city park
  - Mama is afraid that the children will get lost
  - the children are not all right if they are lost
  - the New York City park is not a jungle
- The phrases “Operation Hike” and “the Miracle of the Sandwiches” are funny because they —
  - express a child's innocent point of view
  - show Mama's concern for her children
  - can be interpreted in different ways
  - make everyday events seem important
- Which words in the passage help to create an informal style?
  - Opposition, ridiculous, rhythmically
  - Kids, swiped, squashed
  - Hike, walk, marched
  - Coward, insects, bouquet
- With the exclamations “Onward! Forward! Upward!” in paragraph 22, the author emphasizes the boys' —
  - excitement about the hike
  - fear of getting lost
  - need for their mother
  - interest in climbing a hill
- In paragraph 23, the image that compares Georgie's lungs to a vacuum cleaner shows that he —
  - has strong lungs
  - speaks very loudly
  - likes to play the bugle
  - has dirt in his lungs

- 12 In paragraph 25, the quotation marks around “brilliant idea” suggest that this phrase is an example of —  
**F** understatement  
**G** verbal irony  
**H** vivid imagery  
**J** symbolism
- 13 Reread the last paragraph. What is ironic about the children’s gift to Mama?  
**A** The children bring Mama a gift so that she will let them go hiking again.  
**B** The children find flowers in Central Park to bring to Mama.  
**C** Mama has an allergic reaction to the bouquet.  
**D** Mama is surprised by the children’s gift.
- 14 The word *salami* appears in paragraph 25. Use clues in the following sentence to choose the foreign origin of *salami*.  
 Maria often serves cubed *salami*, crusty bread, and pasta for lunch.  
**F** French                      **H** Italian  
**G** German                      **J** English
- 15 The word *bouquet* appears in paragraph 27. Use clues in the following sentence to choose the foreign origin of *bouquet*.  
 The artisans at a shop near the Eiffel Tower in Paris fashion flowers into elegant *bouquets*.  
**A** French                      **C** Arabic  
**B** Greek                      **D** German

Use “The Heckscher Playground” (p. 772) to answer questions 16–20.

- 16 Which happened first in the development of Central Park?  
**F** A philanthropist paid for a playground with equipment.  
**G** Reformers built a small sand garden for children.  
**H** Play supervisors ran five summer programs for children without equipment.  
**J** Sports such as soccer were allowed on the meadows.
- 17 One element of the authors’ style is the use of —  
**A** mostly short sentences  
**B** mostly long sentences  
**C** all short sentences  
**D** a mix of long and short sentences
- 18 Which phrases from the passage help the reader follow the order of events?  
**F** More and more, had kept pace  
**G** Before the 1920s, as late as  
**H** In the park, in the spirit of  
**J** In the shadow, on the meadows
- 19 The word *croquet* appears in paragraph 2. Use clues in the following sentence to choose the foreign origin of *croquet*.  
 A crude version of what is now *croquet* was first played over a thousand years ago by lonely shepherds in the south of France.  
**A** English                      **C** French  
**B** Greek                      **D** German

- 20** The Latin root *centrum* means “center.” What does *Central* mean in the phrase *Central Park* in paragraph 1?
- F Very large part
  - G A colorful thing
  - H Near the middle
  - J Circular in shape

**Use “A Hike in New York City” and “The Heckscher Playground” to answer questions 21–23.**

- 21** Reflect on an adult’s attitude about children using Central Park in the 1920s in “A Hike in New York City.” How is that attitude reflected in “The Heckscher Playground”?
- A Children were not generally welcome in the park in the 1920s.
  - B The park was designed for adults and children to share.
  - C A philanthropist wanted to provide a playground in the park.
  - D The original plan for the park included a playground.
- 22** Think about the children’s desires in “A Hike in New York City.” How did their desires relate to the changes that took place in “The Heckscher Playground”?
- F People stayed away from the park.
  - G Organizations added children’s activities and equipment to the park.
  - H The city decided that the park should remain the same.
  - J More organizations began to oppose changes to the park.

- 23** Which statement from “A Hike in New York City” reflects the reformers’ attitude in “The Heckscher Playground”?
- A *There was always a chance that it might rain.*
  - B *We went on because we didn’t know what to do if we stopped.*
  - C *I wish I was young and free like you.*
  - D . . . *it was so much more enjoyable to fall off a mountain than off a fire escape.*

**Use the visual representation on page 773 to answer questions 24 and 25.**

- 24** The cartoonist creates humor by —
- F placing a crowd where it does not belong
  - G showing typical behavior in a park
  - H illustrating tall trees
  - J including both men and women
- 25** The cartoonist makes the caption humorous by —
- A writing about how much fun it would be to be in a crowd in the woods
  - B claiming that he “gets away” from crowds while being in a crowd at the same time
  - C stating that he wants to get away from crowds
  - D explaining that he really wants to be in a crowd of people

### SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

**Write a short response to each question, using text evidence to support your response.**

- 26** Find two examples of irony in “A Hike in the Park” and identify each as situational, verbal, or dramatic irony.
- 27** Find two examples of Sam Levenson’s humor, and explain how the words, images, or sentences contribute to the humor.

## Revising and Editing

**DIRECTIONS** Read this passage and answer the questions that follow.

(1) Central Park occupies 843 acres of land in New York City. (2) It is the most visited park in the nation. (3) When the city bought the land in the mid 1800s, it had to be cleared of farms, livestock, and open sewers. (4) The city held a competition for the new park's design. (5) Officials chose a plan. (6) The completed park looked natural. (7) It consisted of artificial lakes and imported trees and shrubs. (8) Now the park is a popular spot for bird watching. (9) It is an oasis for migrating birds.

- 1 How might you use an appositive phrase to combine sentences 1 and 2?
  - A Central Park is the most visited park in the nation and occupies 843 acres of land in New York City.
  - B The most visited park in the nation is Central Park, and it occupies 843 acres of land in New York City.
  - C Central Park, the most visited park in the nation, occupies 843 acres of land in New York City.
  - D Occupying 843 acres of land in New York City, Central Park is the most visited park in the nation.
  
- 2 How might you combine sentences 4 and 5 to form one compound sentence?
  - F The city held a competition for the new park's design, choosing a plan.
  - G The city held a competition for the new park's design, and officials chose a plan.
  - H After the city held a competition for the new park's design, officials chose a plan.
  - J The city held a competition for the new park's design and chose a plan.
  
- 3 How might you combine sentences 6 and 7 to form one complex sentence?
  - A The completed park looked natural, but it consisted of artificial lakes and imported trees and shrubs.
  - B Though the completed park looked natural, it consisted of artificial lakes and imported trees and shrubs.
  - C The completed park looked natural but consisted of artificial lakes and imported trees and shrubs.
  - D The completed park looked natural, consisting of artificial lakes and imported trees and shrubs.
  
- 4 How might you use an appositive phrase to combine sentences 8 and 9?
  - F Migrating birds now make the park an oasis and a popular spot for bird watching.
  - G Because it is an oasis for migrating birds, the park is now a popular spot for bird watching.
  - H The park, an oasis for migrating birds, is now a popular spot for bird watching.
  - J The park is an oasis for migrating birds, so now it is a popular spot for bird watching.

