



Reading

Non-Fiction Passages

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. Which the following best fits the overall main idea of the "Let's Move" campaign?
- A campaign to help increase exercise in day to day life
 - A campaign to help the youth of America lead a healthier life style
 - A campaign about eating a healthier diet
 - A campaign to help families eat healthier meals at dinner time

2. Read the following quote.

"The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and security of our nation is at stake." – Michelle Obama

Based on the quotation we can conclude that –

- The future of the United States depends on the physical activity.
- Our country will have a better future if generations to come will be safer.
- Generations to come will be safer.
- Michelle Obama will help other countries around the world.

3. As used in Step 3, what does the word **consumption** mean?

- to eat, drink, or ingest food or drink
- to eat very quickly
- wash or rinse out by pouring large amounts of water over
- eat or drink with a loud sloppy noise

4. Which theme below best fits the overall notion of the campaign?

Let's Move Michelle Obama's Campaign

Let's Move! First Lady Michelle Obama launched the "Let's Move" campaign on February 9, 2010. This campaign was created to bring attention to and end childhood obesity in the United States. The initiative has the goal of "solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation so that children born today will reach adulthood at a healthy weight."

"The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake." – Michelle Obama

The Let's Move campaign centers on five steps that will help youth today lead a healthier lifestyle.

Step 1: Move Everyday - A minimum of 60 total minutes of physical activity per day for every single kid will get him or her moving in the right direction. They will feel better, be less stressed, more attentive in school, and get a better night sleep, all because of one hour of physical activity.

Step 2: Try a New Fruit or Veggie - There are thousands of fruits and vegetables available that most kids have never tried. Fruits and veggies are important for a healthy diet and kids can have more fun eating them by trying new things. Let your kids come grocery shopping with you and pick out their own fruits and veggies to try, turning a healthy lifestyle into something fun for them. Make a challenge to make the most colorful salad possible which will increase the number of nutrients they will get from it.

Step 3: Drink Lots of Water - Keep less soda in the house and increase the **consumption** of water. Only purchase 100% real fruit juice. If the kids want something similar to a soda then add a splash of juice into some sparkling water.

Step 4: Jumping Jacks to Break up TV Time - The statistics for how much television kids watch per day is very high, but it is also a good opportunity to make some big changes. Try doing jumping jacks during commercial breaks and in between shows. Same thing goes for kids that spend all day on the computer, have them run up and down the stairs, do sit-ups or push-ups, stretch, or come up with their own physical activities to break up the time in front of a computer screen.

Step 5: Help Make Dinner - Plan the daily dinner menu together and let the kids help with the experience that...

Practice Test

TEKS ALIGNED

MIDDLE SCHOOL

SET #2

The following reading practice includes:

- 4 reading passages
- 40 Total Multiple choice questions
- Answer Key

“The Flying Tomato” Shaun White – 10 Questions

“The Working Man” Barack Obama – 10 Questions

“Killer Whales” – 10 questions

“Let’s Move” Michelle Obama – 10 questions

STAAR Concepts included:

All four non-fiction passages are aligned with STAAR Test questions.

They include 10 multiple-choice questions
that focus on the following TEKS seen across 4-8th Grade.

Main Idea

Inference

Context Clues

Theme

Author’s Purpose

Summary

Fact / Opinion

Claim /support

“The Flying Tomato”

Shaun White

- 1 Shaun White is one of the most recognized sports stars in the United States. He won back-to-back gold medals in the half-pipe competition. His first gold was in the 2006 Winter Olympics and second in 2010. In addition to his many awards, he also became well known for his red hair. As a result, people often refer to him as the “Flying Tomato.”
- 2 “You know the best thing about competition? There's this whole strategy game, and when it all works out it's like solving that hard math equation. You finally get the answer and you're so happy.”
– Shaun White
- 3 Shaun overcame many **adversities** to get where he is today. Before age five he had two cardiac surgeries due to a congenital heart defect. He began skateboarding soon after, following in his older brother's **footsteps**. Shaun worked extremely hard training for many years. Then his career began to take off. In the 2002 Winter X-Games he won eight medals.
- 4 Shaun recently competed in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic games. After winning gold the past two years, Shaun had all the pressure and eyes on him. Shaun came up just short of medaling in Sochi. This tough loss taught us all a valuable lesson. You can't always win. However, Shaun did not hang his head. He simply reminded us how amazing it is to make it to the Olympic games and no matter how hard you work sometimes it's just not your day. All you can do is keep working and fighting for your next opportunity.

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. The facts in paragraph 3-4 contribute to the author's main idea by –
 - a. describing how Shaun White did in the Sochi games
 - b. explaining how Shaun White had a heart defect
 - c. comparing Shaun White to his brother
 - d. highlighting all of Shaun White's accomplishments
2. Read the quote in paragraph 2. Based on the quotation we can conclude that –
 - a. Shaun is happy to compete
 - b. Shaun is not just talented but strategic
 - c. Shaun likes to solve hard math problems
 - d. Shaun solves puzzles

3. As used in paragraph 3, what does the word **adversities** mean?
- a. an unfortunate event or incident
 - b. disaster
 - c. a positive event or circumstance
 - d. fortune or fate
4. Which theme below best fits with paragraph 4?
- a. Knowledge is power
 - b. Enjoy life while you can
 - c. Try, try again
 - d. Believe those who seek the truth
5. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?
- a. To describe Shaun White to the reader
 - b. To inform the reader about Shaun White's accomplishments
 - c. To entertain the reader with popular news
 - d. To persuade the reader to like Shaun White
6. What is the best summary of the story?
- a. Shaun White is well known for his Olympic gold medals in the half-pipe. His success is in part to his strategy and plan. As a young child Shaun overcame a heart defect to follow his brother's love for snowboarding. Through hard work he was able to advance his career winning medals at the X-games and Winter Olympics. Recently, he competed in the Sochi Winter Olympics. Even though he did not get a medal, he taught the world a valuable lesson. You can't always win.
 - b. Shaun White is one of the most recognized sports stars in the United States. He won back-to-back gold medals in the half-pipe competition. His first gold was in the 2006 Winter Olympics and second in 2010. In addition to his many awards, he has also become well known for his red hair. As a result, people often refer to him as the "Flying Tomato."
 - c. Shaun recently competed in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic games. After winning gold the past two years, Shaun had all the pressure and eyes on him. Shaun came up just short of medaling in Sochi. This tough loss taught us all a valuable lesson. You can't always win. Shaun did not hang his head. He simply reminded us how amazing it is to make it to the Olympic games and no matter how hard you work sometimes it's just not your day. All you can do is keep working and fighting for your next opportunity.
 - d. Shaun White is a well-known snowboarder. He overcame a heart defect, won many medals, and taught the world you can't always win.
7. What is the main idea of the excerpt?
- a. Shaun White was successful in all his Olympic games.
 - b. Shaun White had a heart defect.
 - c. Shaun White is a snowboarder.
 - d. Shawn White is a hard working sports figure.

8. Which of the following details from the excerpt shows Shaun White's strong character?

- a. Before age five he had two cardiac surgeries due to a congenital heart defect.*
- b. Shaun White is one of the most recognized sports stars in the United States.*
- c. Shaun did not hang his head.*
- d. After winning gold the past two years, Shaun had all the pressure and eyes on him.*

9. Look at the dictionary entry below.

Footstep \-step\ noun
1. the mark of the foot 2. distance covered by a step 3. a step on which to ascend or descend 4. a way of life, conduct or action

Which definition of the word **footsteps** is used in paragraph 3?

- a.** Definition 1
- b.** Definition 2
- c.** Definition 3
- d.** Definition 4

10. Which is closest to the author's claim in paragraph 4?

- a.** Shaun White is a famous snowboarder.
- b.** Shaun White is an Olympic hero.
- c.** Shaun White needs to work harder when training.
- d.** Shaun White is a good role model.

The Working Man

Barack Obama: August 24th, 2008 in Billings, Montana.

The text of this speech is in the public domain.

Hello Everybody. This Labor Day weekend, we don't just celebrate the end of summer. We also honor the hardworking men and women who have made this country what it is. And, the American labor movement that has fought **tirelessly** to improve their wages, benefits, and working conditions. America was built by its laborers, but today our workers are struggling just to get by, in an economy that no longer works for them. That's why we can't afford four more years of the failed George Bush economic policies. Policies that Senator McCain has proudly embraced and promises to continue.

It's time we had a President who will stand up for working men and women, by building an economy that rewards not just wealth, but work, and the workers who created it. It's time you had a partner in the White House, who knows that the struggles facing working families can't be solved by spending billions of dollars on more tax breaks for big corporations and wealthy CEOs. And, that hardworking families need immediate relief.

That's why, as President, I'll end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and give them to companies that create good-paying jobs, here at home. And, while Senator McCain is proposing \$4 billion in new tax breaks for oil companies that are making record profits, I'll put a \$1000 tax cut into the pockets of 95% of workers and their families.

I've spent my entire career fighting for working men and women. And so has my running mate, Joe Biden – a man whose heart and values are rooted firmly in the middle class. With him by my side, I am confident that we can take this country in a new direction, and restore that fair shot at your dreams that is the core of what Joe Biden and I **stand** for, and what America stands for, as a nation.

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. Which of the following best fits the overall main idea of the speech?
 - a. Obama is running for president
 - b. Obama will fight to help the working man
 - c. Obama will work hard
 - d. Obama will take us in a new direction
2. Read the following quote.

“Joe Biden – a man whose heart and values are rooted firmly in the middle class.”

Based on the quotation above we can conclude Obama is trying to say -

- a. Biden has a lot of money
- b. Biden can relate to the common man
- c. Biden has strong values
- d. Biden is in the middle class

3. As used in paragraph 1, what does the word **tirelessly** mean?
- a. work very hard
 - b. to never get tired
 - c. continue on and on
 - d. to give up when tired
4. Which theme below best matches the speech?
- a. Knowledge is power
 - b. Things are not always as they appear
 - c. Believe those around you
 - d. Don't give up on your dreams
5. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?
- a. To describe Labor Day
 - b. To inform the reader
 - c. To persuade the audience
 - d. To entertain the audience
6. Which is the best summary of the speech?
- a. It's time we had a President who will stand up for working men and women, by building an economy that rewards not just wealth, but work, and the workers who created it. It's time you had a partner in the White House, who knows the struggles facing working families can't be solved by spending billions of dollars on more tax breaks for big corporations and wealthy CEOs. Hardworking families need immediate relief.
 - b. Barack Obama gave a speech on Labor Day to address the failures of our current economy, and how he will stand up for the working men and women of our country. He will build an economy for them and not the wealthy. Additionally, he will end tax cuts for the wealthy and alongside his running mate, will help make the working man's dreams come true.
 - c. Barack Obama spent his entire career fighting for working men and women, and so has his running mate, Joe Biden. Together they can take this country in a new direction, and restore that fair shot at your dreams that is the core of what Biden and Obama stand for, and what America stands for.
 - d. We can't afford four more years of the failed George Bush economic policies. Policies that Senator McCain has proudly embraced and promises to continue.

7. Which of the following is not a fact expressed in the passage?
- a. Senator McCain is proposing \$4 billion in new tax breaks for oil companies
 - b. Obama will put a \$1000 tax cut into the pockets of 95% of workers and their families.
 - c. Obama will end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas
 - d. We can't afford four more years of the failed George Bush economic policies.
8. We can infer from the passage that Barack Obama will –
- a. help the rich get richer
 - b. cut all taxes
 - c. make changes to help the American people
 - d. always make the right choice
9. Look at the dictionary entry below.

<p>Stand \stand\ 1. to support one's self on the feet 2. to take up or maintain a specific position 3. to hold a course at sea 4. to occupy a place or location</p>
--

Which definition of the word **stand** is used in paragraph 4?

- a. Definition 1
 - b. Definition 2
 - c. Definition 3
 - d. Definition 4
10. Which is closest to Obama's claim?
- a. He will restore the country to a correct order.
 - b. He will work tirelessly for us.
 - c. He will help us out by cutting taxes and providing relief.
 - d. He will make a good president by helping the working man.

Killer Whales

- 1 The Killer Whale, officially named the orca, has been a popular icon over the years. Many have watched them at Sea World, their story in the movie *Free Willy*, and learned facts about them on TV. Though loved by many, the Killer Whale population is **dwindling** making them an endangered species.
- 2 Killer Whales are toothed whales and the largest member of the dolphin family. They are highly social and live in groups. Orcas feed on fish, squid, birds, and marine mammals. Like dolphins, orcas use echolocation - bouncing sound off of objects to hunt. They use a series of high-pitched clicks to locate and stun prey.
- 3 The official worldwide population is unknown, but likely to be around 50,000. Part of the reason for the decline is some individuals hunt Killer Whales for **sport**. Also, major events such as the Exxon oil spill destroyed the whales' environment and many of the things they need to survive.
- 4 Conservation efforts are being made but can be difficult. This is because we still don't know a lot about where Killer Whales spend a significant period of their time each year. Without this information, it makes it hard to know what areas to protect. Additional research is underway and hopefully in the future, with more information, we will have more success in protecting these beautiful creatures.

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. What is the main idea of the article?

- a. Killer Whales are endangered and need our protection.
- b. Killer Whales are in the dolphin family.
- c. Killer Whales are popular icons.
- d. Killer Whales are on the decline.

2. Read the following quote.

“Additional research is underway and hopefully in the future,
with more information, we will have more success
in protecting these beautiful creatures.”

Based on the quote we can conclude that -

- a. Killer Whales are beautiful creatures
- b. Killer Whales need our help
- c. Killer Whales are our future
- d. Killer Whales are interesting to research

3. As used in paragraph 1, what does the word **dwindling** mean?
- a. to dive down
 - b. to search for
 - c. to waste away
 - d. to become less
4. Which of the following themes best describes the article?
- a. Treat others as you would want to be treated
 - b. Enjoy life while you can
 - c. We have a responsibility for the environment
 - d. Believe those who are seeking the truth
5. What is the author's purpose when writing this article?
- a. To describe what Killer Whales look like
 - b. To inform the reader what Killer Whales eat
 - c. To entertain the reader with exciting facts about Killer Whales
 - d. To persuade the reader to help protect Killer Whales
6. What is the best summary of the article?
- a. Killer Whales are popular animals, but their population is declining. They are in the dolphin family and have some similar qualities. Their population is unknown, but has been affected by hunting and disasters, such as oil spills. With more research we can better protect these beautiful creatures.
 - b. Conservation efforts are being made but can be difficult. This is because we still don't know a lot about where Killer Whales spend a significant period of their time each year. Without this information, it makes it hard to know what areas to protect. Additional research is underway and hopefully in the future, with more information, we will have better success in protecting these beautiful creatures.
 - c. Killer Whales are toothed whales and the largest member of the dolphin family. They are highly social and live in groups. Orcas feed on fish, squid, birds, and marine mammals. Like dolphins, orcas use echolocation - bouncing sound off of objects to hunt and use a series of high-pitched clicks to stun prey.
 - d. Killer Whales need our help. Efforts need to be made to help their population growth.
7. Which of the following is an opinion expressed in the article?
- a. Killer Whales are toothed whales and the largest member of the dolphin family.
 - b. The Killer Whale's officially named is the orca
 - c. Hopefully, in the future we will have more success in protecting these beautiful creatures.
 - d. Orcas feed on fish, squid, birds, and marine mammals

8. We can infer from the article that –
- a. Killer Whales eat a large quantity of food.
 - b. Orcas are endangered.
 - c. Orcas are amazing creatures.
 - d. Killer Whales live in the Atlantic Ocean.

9. Look at the dictionary entry below.

Sport \ spôrt\

- 1. an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which a team competes against one another
- 2. a person who behaves in a good or specified way
- 3. wear or display
- 4. stalking, pursuing, or otherwise seeking a wild animal and killing it, or at least attempting to kill it

Which definition of the word **sport** is used in paragraph 3?

- a. Definition 1
 - b. Definition 2
 - c. Definition 3
 - d. Definition 4
10. Which best matches the author's claim in paragraph 4?
- a. We need to learn more about Killer Whales in order to help their population.
 - b. Scientists are doing all they can to help Killer Whales.
 - c. Many people are trying to help Killer Whales by increasing their available food source.
 - d. There is much to be done and a lot of work to finish in order to help.

Let's Move

Michelle Obama's Campaign

Let's Move! First Lady Michelle Obama launched the "Let's Move" **campaign** on February 9, 2010. This campaign was created to bring attention to and end childhood obesity in the United States. The initiative has the goal of "solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation so that children born today will reach adulthood at a healthy weight."

"The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake." – Michelle Obama

The Let's Move campaign centers on five steps that will help youth today lead a healthier lifestyle.

Step 1: Move Everyday - A minimum of 60 total minutes of physical activity per day for every single kid will get him or her moving in the right direction. They will feel better, be less stressed, more attentive in school, and get a better night sleep, all because of one hour of physical activity.

Step 2: Try a New Fruit or Veggie - There are thousands of fruits and vegetables available that most kids have never tried. Fruits and veggies are important for a healthy diet and kids can have more fun eating them by trying new things. Let your kids come grocery shopping with you and pick out their own fruits and veggies to try, turning a healthy lifestyle into something fun for them. Make a challenge to make the most colorful salad possible which will increase the number of nutrients they will get from it.

Step 3: Drink Lots of Water – Keep less soda in the house and increase the **consumption** of water. Only purchase 100% real fruit juice. If the kids want something similar to a soda then add a splash of juice into some sparkling water.

Step 4: Jumping Jacks to Break up TV Time - The statistics for how much television kids watch per day is very high, but it is also a good opportunity to make some big changes. Try doing jumping jacks during commercial breaks and in between shows. Same thing goes for kids that spend all day on the computer, have them run up and down the stairs, do sit-ups or push-ups, stretch, or come up with their own physical activities to break up the time in front of a computer screen.

Step 5: Help Make Dinner - Plan the daily dinner menu with your kids. If it is made into a fun experience that they have some say in, they will not just learn about making healthy choices, they will be excited to do so.

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. Which the following best fits the overall main idea of the “Let’s Move” campaign?

- a. A campaign to help increase exercise in day to day life
- b. A campaign to help the youth of America lead a healthier life style
- c. A campaign about eating a healthier diet
- d. A campaign to help families eat healthier meals at dinner time

2. Read the following quote.

"The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake." – Michelle Obama

Based on the quotation we can conclude that –

- a. The future of the United States depends on the physical activity of future generations.
- b. Our country will have a better future if generations to come are healthier.
- c. Generations to come will be safer.
- d. Michelle Obama will help other countries around the world become healthier.

3. As used in Step 3, what does the word **consumption** mean?

- a. to eat, drink, or ingest food or drink
- b. to eat very quickly
- c. wash or rinse out by pouring large amounts of water over
- d. eat or drink with a loud sloppy noise

4. Which theme below best fits the overall notion of the campaign?

- a. things are not always as they appear
- b. actions speak louder than words
- c. rules are put in place to help protect us
- d. making changes to improve your healthy can lead to a better future

5. What is the author’s purpose in writing this passage?

- a. To describe to the reader how to eat healthy
- b. To inform the reader about what healthy food to buy
- c. To entertain the reader with exciting new way to exercise
- d. To persuade the reader to make healthy changes

6. What is the best summary of the campaign?
- a. Plan the daily dinner menu with your kids. If it is made into a fun experience that they have some say in, they will not just learn about making healthy choices, they will be excited to do so.
 - b. The Let's Move campaign, led by Michelle Obama, is bringing attention to childhood obesity. The goal is to help youth of American reach adulthood at a healthy weight. By following the programs 5 steps, families can lead a healthier life style. Five Steps: move every day, try new fruits and vegetables, drink water, exercise during TV breaks, and make dinner together.
 - c. There are thousands of fruits and vegetables available that most kids have never tried. Fruits and veggies are important for a healthy diet and kids can have more fun eating them by trying new things. Let your kids come grocery shopping with you and pick out their own fruits and veggies to try, turning a healthy lifestyle into something fun for them. Make a challenge to make the most colorful salad possible, which will increase the amount of nutrients they will get from it.
 - d. The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake.
7. Which of the following is not a fact expressed in the passage?
- a. Michelle Obama launched the "Let's Move" campaign on February 9, 2010
 - b. try doing jumping jacks during commercial breaks and in between shows
 - c. kids can have more fun eating healthy by trying new things
 - d. keep less soda in the house and increase the consumption of water
8. We can best infer from the passage that the United States has –
- a. a childhood obesity problem
 - b. healthier food then other countries
 - c. a more physically active population
 - d. made laws mandating a healthy lifestyle

9. Look at the dictionary entry below.

campaign \kam'pān \ verb

1. a series of military operations intended to achieve a particular objective 2. work in an organized and active way toward a particular goal, typically a political or social one 3. the competition by rival political candidates and organizations for public office 4. To race

Which definition of the word **campaign** is used in the first paragraph?

- a. Definition 1
- b. Definition 2
- c. Definition 3
- d. Definition 4

10. Which of the following is the author's claim?

- a. let's get up and move
- b. we can end childhood obesity
- c. there are 5 easy steps you can follow to lead a healthier life
- d. keep less soda in the house

Answer Key:

“Flying Tomato”

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. D
8. C
9. D
10. D

“The Working Man”

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. C
9. B
10. D

“Killer Whales”

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. D
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. D
10. A

“Let’s Move”

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. D
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. C

Thank you

for downloading this resource!

I hope you found this resource helpful.
Please email me if you have any questions at
contact@englishquiz.org

Please visit <https://www.englishquiz.org> for more products

Terms of use:

Permission to copy for individual single classroom use only.
Redistributing, editing, selling or posting any part of this product on
the internet is strictly prohibited. Doing so is a violation of the
Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Thank you!
