



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Second Passage

**Directions:** Read the following passage. Use information from the passage to answer the questions that follow.

### Jenks and the Fire

Washed, scaled, and gutted, the trout was ready to roast, and yet there was no fire. Jenks hadn't even located a fire area. Sunshine faded along with his spirits.

"I should've built the fire first," Jenks moaned, "before the sun started to set." His heart thumped wildly, blood roared in his ears, and he gulped air with ragged gasps.

"Don't panic," he ordered himself. "That's the first rule of survival."

Fear rooted him in place. The longer he delayed, the darker the sky grew.

"What'll happen to me if I can't build the fire?" he wondered. "I'll freeze to death, all alone. Or ravenous animals—bears, panthers—will surround me."

The sky turned steely gray, and its dreariness smothered the last bits of the sun's gold.

"Snap out of it," Jenks said to himself. "Hurry."

He rapidly selected a fire area and hunched over it. With his calloused fingers, he clawed away prickly weeds and revealed bare earth.

Next, Jenks built a miniature mound of dry grass and parched pine needles. Bristles bit his palms. Stacking dry twigs, he constructed a tiny tepee around it.

"Perfect!" he cried with soaring confidence. "Almost finished."



The fire would start instantly. Jenks was certain. All he had to do now was plunk a lit match between the twigs. The grasses heaped beneath them would burst into flames.

Jenks yanked a box of matches from his pocket and fumbled to open it. He gawked at its contents. His heart stamped into his throat. A single match remained.

“Hey, no pressure,” Jenks chuckled.

He brushed the match against the scratch pad. Pfft! With a sizzle, the flame flared. It glowed blue and yellow on the wooden match. Jenks sighed in relief.

Whoosh! A sudden gust of wind blasted over Jenks. It knocked the cap from his head and extinguished his flame.

“No, no! I don’t believe this!” Jenks cried. He rocked forward, clunking his head on a rock. He started to toss it aside but stopped. He lifted it up and peered closely. Quartz, clear and smooth, peeked from its tip.

In a flash, Jenks ripped a pocketknife from his belt hook. He huddled over his tepee and smacked the quartz against the knife like a flint. A spark flashed, and the tinder ignited. He fueled the flames with knobby branches. With his fire blazing, Jenks realized he was starving.

“Cooking time—finally,” he said.



# Comprehension

**Directions:** Read the questions below and choose the best answer.

## 1. Part A

How does the setting of this passage make Jenks’s challenge more difficult? Write an X on the line beside your answer.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Wild animals are lurking nearby, waiting for him to sleep.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He needs to build a fire quickly because night is coming.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He has to clear the plants from the area to build a safe fire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He must have a fire for warmth because it is winter.

## Part B

Which **two** details from the passage support the answer to Part A?  
**Choose 2 answers.**

- a. “‘I should’ve built the fire first,’ Jenks moaned, ‘before the sun started to set.’”
- b. “‘With his calloused fingers, he clawed away prickly weeds and revealed bare earth.’”
- c. “‘I’ll freeze to death, all alone. Or ravenous animals—bears, panthers—will surround me.’”
- d. “‘Fear rooted him in place. The longer he delayed, the darker the sky grew.’”

### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**Literature 1.** Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.



## 2. Part A

What does Jenks’s struggle to start a fire show about his character?

- a. He is overcome with fear and feels sorry for himself.
- b. He can control his fear and put his survival skills to work.
- c. He remains confident that finding food is most important.
- d. He is inexperienced and not skillful at wilderness survival.

## Part B

Which **two** details from the passage offer the best support for your answer to Part A? **Choose 2 answers.**

- a. “His heart thumped wildly, blood roared in his ears, and he gulped air”
- b. “‘Don’t panic,’ he ordered himself. ‘That’s the first rule of survival.’”
- c. “Jenks yanked a box of matches from his pocket and fumbled to open it.”
- d. “‘Snap out of it,’ Jenks said to himself. ‘Hurry.’”
- e. “With his fire blazing, Jenks realized he was starving.”
- f. “He rocked forward, clunking his head on a rock.”

### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**Literature 2.** Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.



### 3. Part A

What does Jenks do when the fire lit by his last match is quickly blown out? Write an X on the line beside your answer.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Jenks uses a rock and his knife to start a fire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jenks finds more matches in his pocket.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jenks sits down and begins to eat the trout.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jenks decides that he should wait until morning.

### Part B

Which detail from the passage offers the best support for the answer to Part A?

- a. “Fear rooted him in place. The longer he delayed, the darker the sky grew.”
- b. “Jenks yanked a box of matches from his pocket and fumbled to open it.”
- c. “It knocked the cap from his head and extinguished his flame.”
- d. “He huddled over his tepee and smacked the quartz against the knife like a flint.”

#### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**Literature 1.** Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.



# Vocabulary

**Directions:** Read the questions below and choose the best answer.

## 1. Part A

“Next, Jenks built a miniature mound of dry grass and parched pine needles.” What is the meaning of the word “parched”? Circle your answer below.

stripped from a branch

dark in color

lacking moisture

in a large pile

## Part B

Which word from the sentence helps you understand the meaning of “parched”?

“Next, Jenks built a miniature mound of dry grass and parched pine needles.”

- a. “built”
- b. “miniature”
- c. “dry”
- d. “needles”

### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**Language 4.** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 5 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. **Language 4.a.** Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. **Language 5.c.** Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words.



2. The sentence “Fear rooted him in place” is an example of figurative language. What does the phrase “rooted in place” mean in the passage?
- a. made unable to move
  - b. connected to something
  - c. planted in the ground
  - d. forced to move away

#### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**Literature 4.** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes. **Language 5.** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. **Language 5.b.** Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.



3. “His heart stamped into his throat.” What does this sentence mean?  
Draw a line from “His heart stamped into his throat.” to your answer.

“His heart stamped into  
his throat.”

Jenks had heartburn.

Jenks felt anxious.

Jenks was in a hurry.

Jenks felt pleasure.

#### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**Literature 4.** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes. **Language 5.** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. **Language 5.a.** Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context.

