



Name _____ Date _____ Examiner _____

wrote choices surprise appointment

comb firmness nation protection

kneel noisy weather energy

shook circle thirty already

third perhaps disturb understood

spoil heavy destroy rectangle

bread whistle fraction exercise

squirm sweater rewritten performance

crumbs wrestler unhealthy election

known instead enjoyment invention

woolen return honesty different

hurtful listen perfectly subtraction

competition transportation celebration imagination

shoes water anyone question

Many years ago, a gigantic brown serpent was looking for food on the forest floor, as he often did. But on this day, he noticed some purple flowers and decided to gobble them all up instead. As the serpent glided deeper into the forest, something got his attention. His body looked different. He noticed that there were patches of purple everywhere on his body. “Strange,” he said to himself, “but it kind of looks good.”

Later, when the serpent came upon a meadow with thousands of yellow flowers, he was interested to see what would happen. In the blink of an eye, the flowers disappeared as he ate them. Then the serpent turned his head to look at his body. Soon, bright yellow patches began to appear. The serpent was overjoyed. “This is superb! I will be the most attractive serpent in the forest,” he exclaimed. As he wound his way back into the forest, the serpent snapped up every flower he found.

By the end of the day, the serpent’s skin was covered with patterns of purple, yellow, red, and pink. He slithered down to the river to see his reflection in the water. “I am the most handsome serpent in the forest,” he said proudly. “I will be the envy of all the other animals.” With that, the serpent climbed up on a tree limb and coiled his entire body so he could admire himself.

Not far in the distance, a flock of noisy birds was perched on the limbs of a tree. When the birds spotted the serpent, they were outraged and surrounded him. “Look what you have done!” they screeched. “You have destroyed all the colors in the forest!”

At first, the serpent was surprised because he didn't think he had done anything wrong. But then he understood that the birds had a point. It was not his intention to spoil the forest. The serpent started to explain his actions, but the birds weren't listening to anything he had to say. He began to question his actions and was left with a difficult choice to make. He shed his skin and slowly wriggled out of it, leaving his colorful skin behind.

The birds soon found the skin. They looked at their gray feathers and wondered what they would look like if they were colorful. So, they wrapped themselves in the serpent's skin. Soon their feathers turned purple, yellow, red, and pink. When they had used up all of the serpent's skin, the birds had bright feathers.

Comprehension questions:

What happened when the serpent ate the flowers?

How did the birds react? Why?

Explain why birds today have bright feathers.



Proficiency Test #9 (Spelling Dictation)

wrong stood know pointed nation ready
thirsty package turned enjoy December vacation

Many birds fly south when the weather gets colder.

The girls were very noisy at the surprise birthday party last Saturday.

The president was asked many questions about water pollution.

We took off our muddy shoes so the house wouldn't get dirty.

We grabbed our bags and headed for the train station.

If you hurt your wrist, you might not be able to write.



Name _____ Date _____

Examiner _____ Grade _____

PROFICIENCY TEST SUMMARY

Errors noted below become instructional goals.

READING

Phonetic Words

One-syllable root words

Root words + suffixes

Multisyllable words

Red Words

Text Reading (fluency & comprehension)

SPELLING

Phonetic Words

One-syllable root words

Root words + suffixes

Multisyllable words

Red Words

Comments