



SAMPLES OF STANDARDS STUDENTS ARE LEARNING THIS NINE WEEKS:

4th Grade ELA

STANDARDS: RL.4.1, RL.4.2, RL.4.3, RI.4.1, RI.4.2, W.4.3

Kids who live on Ali's block like to play in a vacant lot on their street. Ali shows treasures that she finds on the lot to her neighbor, Ms. Snoops, to see if she knows the stories behind them.

Excerpt from One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street

by Joanne Rocklin

- 1 "I had the most wonderful idea yesterday, while I was watering the tree in the empty lot," Ms. Snoops said.
- 2 "Yes! That happens to me all the time! It just happened this morning!" said Ali. "What was your idea?"
- 3 Ms. Snoops went to her desk and brought back a sheet of paper marked with a big handwritten "M." "As soon as I got the idea, I wrote this note to myself, just so I wouldn't forget. I'm embarrassed to tell you I can't remember what the 'M' is for."
- 4 "'M' is for mystery," said Ali, "but that doesn't help you much. How about muffins? Maybe you were thinking of baking your delicious orange muffins. You haven't made those in a while."
- 5 "No," said Ms. Snoops. "It was more important than that."
- 6 "Money? Medicine?" asked Ali.
- 7 "No, it had something to do with you, I believe."
- 8 "Me?"
- 9 "That's right, but I'm not sure how. Well, let's not let this spoil our get-together! What treasures have you brought this afternoon?"
- 10 From her bag, Ali pulled out the round metal disk, the icy-blue stone shaped like a heart, the iron nails, the woolen sock, and the rusty cookie tin with the head inside of it. She spread everything out on the coffee table.

11 Ms. Snoops placed the disk, the nails, and the sock in a separate pile. “These are common household items,” she said. She picked up the scratched metal disk. “This is part of a glass preserve jar. Everyone put up fruits and vegetables in the old days. And if they were lucky to have orange trees in their yards, they made marmalade. I may be the only one around who still puts up her own preserves, however.” She tapped on the iron nail. “A nail is just a nail. And the sock probably fell from an old-fashioned clothesline on a windy day. No particular memories come to mind about these articles. Hmmm . . . But *this* is interesting.”

marmalade = a sweet jelly that contains pieces of fruit

puts up = stores for later use

12 She held up the icy-blue stone. It twinkled in the sunlight from the window. “I would bet dollars to doughnuts this was one of Pug’s stones. He collected unusual ones. That boy’s pockets were so full of stones, sometimes his pants dragged. Pug would probably say this one looked like a heart.”

preserves = a sweet food made of fruit cooked in sugar

13 “But it does!” said Ali. “Don’t you think so?”

14 Ms. Snoops peered at the stone. “I guess you could say that,” she said. “Funny little guy. He drew pictures, too, like his mother. His father didn’t approve much of his artistry. He had an older brother who was good in sports, if my memory serves me.”

15 “How nice that you remember all that,” said Ali. “Sometimes I forget that other families once lived on this street.”

16 “I used to love the old stories when I was your age,” said Ms. Snoops. “I would pick up bits and pieces, do some digging, and fill in the holes myself, metaphorically speaking.”

metaphorically = comparing one thing to another to help explain something

17 “That’s just what I like to do!” said Ali.

18 “That’s what all writers do when they create stories. They steal, disguise, and make things up.”

19 “I’m actually planning on becoming an archaeologist, not a writer,” Ali said. Although she had to admit, sometimes making things up was a lot more fun than sticking to the facts.

archaeologist = a scientist who studies objects from the past to understand ancient peoples and how they lived

20 “No reason you couldn’t be both,” said Ms. Snoops. “When I—”

- 21 Ms. Snoops stopped in mid-sentence. She reached for the rusty metal cookie tin. “What do we have here? Oh, my goodness! Can it be?” She opened the box slowly, then peered inside. “It is! It is! Shirley! Dear old Shirley! It’s so good to see you again!”
- 22 She lovingly removed the head from the box and laid it in her lap. The doll looked up at her with its one good eye, and its smile seemed to say, *Likewise, I’m sure.*
- 23 “I knew this doll when I was a young girl,” murmured Ms. Snoops. “Oh, Shirley, the memories I have of you!”
- 24 Suddenly Ms. Snoops jumped from the couch, still clutching the doll’s head. “That’s it!” she cried. “Memories! ‘M’ is for memoirs! My wonderful idea was to write my memoirs! All these treasures you’ve shown me have brought back my memories, and I am so grateful.”
- 25 “It’s been a lot of fun,” Ali said.
- 26 Ms. Snoops had begun to pace the room. “I will write down all my stories about Orange Street, before I forget them.”

What does paragraph 3 reveal about Ms. Snoops?

- A She rarely gets great ideas.
- B She is an organized person.
- C She sometimes forgets things.
- D She wishes Ali were her daughter.

RL.4.1

Rationale: Option C is Correct. Paragraph 3 reveals that Ms. Snoops is forgetful because she cannot remember why she wrote an M on the paper.

Which sentence expresses something important that Ali and Ms. Snoops have in common?

- A They both like old-fashioned fruit preserves.
- B The icy-blue stone is a mystery to both of them.
- C They both enjoy making up stories.
- D Shirley the doll means a lot to both of them.

RL.4.3

Rationale: Option C is Correct. Both Ali and Ms. Snoops gain enjoyment from listening to and making up stories.

Which theme is **best** supported by paragraph 21?

- A Childhood toys should be kept forever.
- B Important lessons can be learned from the past.
- C Nothing brings more joy than to talk with a friend.
- D Something that seems worthless may be special to someone.

RL.4.2

Rationale: Option D is Correct. Even though the doll head that was found only had one good eye, it held great memories to Ms. Snoops of a special time in her life.

Many motion pictures have exciting and thrilling action scenes. The people who perform in these scenes are called stunt performers. They often stand in for the movie stars when the risk of injury is greater.

Excerpt from *Stunt Performers*



by Tony Hyland

- 1 Do you want to be a stunt performer?
- 2 Could you be a stunt performer, performing spectacular stunts in front of an audience or movie camera?
- 3 Stunt performers perform aerial acrobatics in circuses or dangerous stunts for the movies. Circus performers can swing on the flying trapeze high above the audience. Stunt actors can crash speeding cars in movie stunts.
- 4 We all love watching exciting stunts. Most people will enjoy the show and go home. For the stunt performers, this is the day's work. They'll be back doing more spectacular stunts the following day.
- 5 Stunt work is an extreme job. The training is hard and the stunts can be dangerous. But performers enjoy the thrill of their work and push themselves hard to do more spectacular stunts.
- 6 Perhaps you could be a stunt performer one day.
Stunt actor or circus performer?
- 7 Stunt actors work in movies and television shows. They work hard to make it look as if someone else is doing the stunt. Circus performers work just as hard

to be the stars of the show.

- 8 Stunt actors dressed up as the stars in a movie do all the dangerous and difficult scenes. Movie scenes can be edited to cut out some parts and put others in. Film crews can take hours to shoot an action scene. The audience only sees a few exciting moments.
- 9 Circus artists perform spectacular stunts live, in front of an audience. If the stunt goes wrong, there is no chance to do it again.

Life as a stunt performer

- 10 Stunt actors lead a busy and energetic life. They must be fit and strong. Many start off in martial arts or gymnastics, where they learn to develop flexibility and fall safely.
- 11 Experienced stunt actors learn many extra skills such as horse riding, working with explosives, and scuba diving. Some become specialists in one skill, such as stunt driving.
- 12 Stunt actors work wherever movies or television shows are made. Hollywood is known as the movie capital of the world. Other places with busy movie or television studios include Vancouver in Canada, and Queensland in Australia. Stunt actors often work on location. This means filming in remote places such as deserts, jungles, and mountains. Stunt actors working on these jobs are away from home for weeks, or even months.

Circus life

- 13 Circus life is also busy and active. Performers need to be strong and agile. They need a good sense of balance and a head for heights. The circus is not a place for shy people; circus performers enjoy being the center of attention. Most circus acts are performed to music. The rhythm of the music gives the performers cues for each section of their act.
- 14 Many circuses travel from town to town. They stay for a week, and then move on. Circus performers are used to this traveling life. Many have no other home but the circus. They live in large caravans or trailers. Circus families often travel together, with the children learning to join their parents' act. Circus children don't usually go to school. They study by correspondence, or have a teacher who travels with the circus.

Risks and dangers

- 15 Stunt performers of all types know that their jobs are risky. They don't let the risks stop them. Their skills and training usually keep them safe. Some of the risks for stunt performers are:
- 16 **Falls** Stunt performers are used to falls, and know how to land safely. But a fall from the highwire or trapeze can be deadly.
- 17 **Sports injuries** Stunt performers are hard on their bodies. They often suffer exactly the same sprains and knee damage that sports stars do.
- 18 **Fire and explosions** Movie fires and explosions are spectacular, but if something goes wrong, stunt actors can be badly hurt.
- 19 **Accidents** A slight miscalculation, or a piece of damaged equipment, can cause a bad accident. That's why performers practice their stunts and check their equipment closely.
- 20 **Bad weather** Wind and rain on a movie set can create unexpected hazards for stunt actors.

Which sentence from the article **best** explains why stunt performers are willing to do such a dangerous job?

- A** "For the stunt performers, this is the day's work." (paragraph 4)
- B** "But performers enjoy the thrill of their work and push themselves hard to do more spectacular stunts." (paragraph 5)
- C** "They work hard to make it look as if someone else is doing the stunt." (paragraph 7)
- D** "This means filming in remote places such as deserts, jungles, and mountains." (paragraph 12)

RI.4.1

Rationale: Option B is correct. Stunt performers enjoy the thrill and excitement of accomplishing spectacular stunts.

