Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Monday, November 5, 2012**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Skills and Strategies: Genre and Purpose**  Dear Commissioners:  I have enjoyed for many years the privilege of living in one of the safest neighborhoods in the country. Today, a large majority of this community feels that our security is compromised by a serious threat. You alone can help us to remove this danger from our lives. There have been a number of serious accidents at the crossroads and crossings along Main Street due to increased traffic through our town. We beg you to place effective street lamps along all the crossroads and crossings as soon as possible. By doing this, you will save many lives and earn our gratitude.   Sincerely,  Debbie Green  The author's purpose for writing this letter is to  a.persuade the commissioners to place street lamps along the road.  b. thank the commissioners for providing such a safe neighborhood.  c. describe to the commissioners the accidents along the crossroads.  d. inform the commissioners about the safety in the neighborhood. | **Vocabulary**  In their pine-bough snow enclosure, with a crackling fire before them, they ate from their sack of dried meat and drank the **concoction** of strengthening swamp tea leaves that Nokomis had plucked from bushes as they walked.  As used above, what does concoction mean?  a. mixture b. dried fruit c. solid d. poison  Underline one detail that supports your answer choice. |
| **Adjectives and Adverbs**  **Mr. Lentini taught me a lot, but he was also the          teacher I ever had**  Which word or phrase best completes the sentence above?  a. most harsh  b. harsher  c. harshest  d. more harsh | **Conventions**  Which sentence is punctuated correctly?  a. Max was being chased by three large, angry, vicious pit bulls.  b. Max was being chased, by three large angry vicious pit bulls.  c. Max was being chased, by three large, angry, vicious, pit, bulls  d. Max was being chased by three, large angry, vicious pit bulls |

**Tuesday, November 6, 2012**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Skills and Strategies: Figurative Language**  Timmy suddenly turned on Felix, and with his fists and arms churning like the beaters in an electric mixer, he plowed into the bigger boy. Catching Felix off guard, he swung at him, and as he backed up to avoid getting hit, he tripped and sprawled backwards.Timmy jumped on him in an instant, like ugly on an ape. At that moment, two of Timmy’s friends appeared and pulled him off Felix, who scrambled to his feet and ran away.  **What is meant by the simile "like the beaters in an electric mixer"?**  a. Timmy had enough and was ready to mix it up.  b. Felix was caught off guard like flour in a mixer.  c. Electricity was flowing through Timmy’s torso.  d. Timmy was swinging his arms and fists rapidly. | **Vocabulary**  The fifth grade boys, bursting with new importance, ordered the fourth graders this way and that, while the smaller boys tried to include themselves without being **conspicuous.**  As used in this sentence, what does the word conspicuous mean?  a. hidden b. fast c. obvious d. shy  Underline one detail that supports your answer choice. |
| **Adjectives and Adverbs**  **We humbly proclaim this country to be a republic.**  What is the adverb in the sentence above?  a. humbly  b. republic  c. country  d. proclaim | **Conventions**  Mr. Adkins lives next door. Late last night, I heard Mr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dog barking.  a. Adkins  b. Adkins’es  c. Adkins’  d. Adkin’s |

**Wednesday, November 7, 2012**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Skills and Strategies: Figurative Language**  **Which passage below is written in third person?**  **\**  Like a boil that can never be cured as long as it is covered up but must be opened with all its pus-flowing ugliness to the natural medicines of air and light, injustice must likewise be exposed, with all of the tension its exposing creates, to the light of human conscience and the air of national opinion before it can be cured. ***from "Letter from Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King, Jr.***  **Martin Luther King, Jr. compares injustice to**  **a.** a boil  b. medicine  c. national-opinion  d. pus-f;lowing | **Vocabulary**  If you look at old pictures in the *Two Mills Times,* you see that the Knot was about the size and shape of a lopsided volleyball. It was made of string, but it had more **contortions**, ins and outs, twists and turns and dips and doodles than the brain of Albert Einstein himself.  As used above, what does contortions mean?  a. soft edge b. sharp twist c. straight line d. circular  Underline one detail that supports your answer choice. |
| **Adjectives and Adverbs**  **Serena's jokes were always          when she was at soccer practice than when she was in class.**  Which word best completes the sentence above?  a. offensiver  b. offensivest  c. more offensive  d. most offensive | **Conventions**  Which sentence is punctuated correctly?  a. The show starts at 700, don’t be late  b. The show starts at 7:00; don’t be late.  c. The show starts at 7:00, don’t be late  d. The show starts at 700 don’t be late. |

**Thursday, November 8, 2012**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Skills and Strategies: Point of View**    Thought of as the "Moses" of her people, Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman became a legend during her lifetime. Since she was denied any real childhood or formal education, Tubman labored in physically demanding jobs. Although she had heard of kind masters, she never had one in her life. She vowed from an early age that she would strive to free her people. In 1844, at age 24, she married John Tubman, a freeman. In the summer of 1849 she decided to make her escape from slavery. She set out by herself with only the North Star to serve as her guide. She made her way to freedom in Pennsylvania. A year later, she returned to Baltimore to rescue her sister, then began guiding others to freedom. Travel became more dangerous with the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, but she was not deterred. She continued her work despite rewards offered by slave owners for her capture totaling $40,000.  **What point of view is this told from? Underline at least two sentences that support your answer choice.**  a. It changes from first person to third person  b. second person  c. third person  d. first person | **Vocabulary**  Claudia, who had eaten cereal and drunk pineapple juice, scolded him about the need to eat properly. Breakfast food for breakfast, and lunch food for lunch. Jamie **countered** with complaints about Claudia’s narrow-mindedness.  As used above, what does countered means?  a. say the same b. say opposite c. say nothing d. shouted loudly |
| **Adjectives and Adverbs**  Even though Vera is two years younger than her sister, Vera has always been the          of the two girls  Which word or phrase **best** completes the sentence above?  a. most lanky  b. lankiest  c. lankier  d. more lanky | **Conventions**  Which sentence is punctuated correctly?  a. At the age of 46, Bill Clinton was elected president for the first time.  b. At the age of 46, Bill Clinton, was elected president, for the first time.  c. At, the age of 46, Bill Clinton, was elected president for the first time  d. At the age of 46, Bill Clinton was elected president for the first time |

**Friday, November 9, 2012**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Skills and Strategies: Following Directions**   |  | | --- | |  | | RECORDING THE OUTGOING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR YOUR CORDLESS TELEPHONE For best results when recording, you should be about 9 inches from the microphone, and eliminate as much background noise as possible.   1. Make sure the answering machine is ON. 2. Press and hold the announce button. You need to hold the button until you finish the announcement. 3. Begin talking after you hear the beep. 4. Release the button when you finish your announcement.   If you choose not to record an outgoing announcement, a default announcement will play. To return to the default announcement after you have recorded your own outgoing announcement, press the announce button and release it when you hear the beep.  How long should you hold the announce button?  Underline the answer to this question: What should you do first if you fail to record successfully? | | **Vocabulary**  Not that his whole year at Hogwarts had been fun. At the very end of last term, Harry came face-to-face with none other than Lord Voldemort himself. Voldemort might be a ruin of his former self, but he was still terrifying, still **cunning**, still determined to regain power.  As used above, what does cunning mean?  a. shy b. rude c. sly d. unintelligent |
| **Adjectives and Adverbs**  Pedro hit the golf ball the          of his teammates on the first hole  **Which word or phrase best completes the sentence above?**  **Pedro hit the gulf ball the \_\_\_\_\_\_of all his teammates.**  a. powerfulliest  b. powerfullier  c. most powerfully  d. more powerfully | **Conventions**  Which of the following sentences needs to be changed because of a capitalization problem?  a. Maurice enjoyed reading about the work of James d. Watson.  b. Franklin's research went largely unnoticed for a number of years.  c. Watson and Crick are credited with discovering the shape of DNA.  d. The work of Rosalind Franklin helped uncover DNA's unusual shape. |