

# AzMerit Reading Practice Test 2018-19

Name:

1



Read these sentences from the passage.

"Later he explained how he suddenly became inspired by this special tale. 'I was sitting in the hall, telling the kids a story, and suddenly this [tale] moved right in and took possession. I shoed the children away, and grabbed a piece of paper that was lying there on the rack, and began to write.'" (paragraph 11)

What does the word inspired mean?

- Ⓐ bored by something
- Ⓑ afraid of something
- Ⓒ full of ideas about something
- Ⓓ brave enough to do something

2



Which sentence from the passage shows that L. Frank Baum's book was famous?

- Ⓐ "L. Frank Baum would often entertain his sons and their friends with his creations." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ "The store became a favorite stop for the children of the community." (paragraph 9)
- Ⓒ "About this time Frank began creating stories for his children and their friends about Dorothy's adventures in the magical land of Oz." (paragraph 10)
- Ⓓ "Bookstores demanded more copies, and Frank received thousands of letters from children begging him to write more about Oz." (paragraph 12)

3



This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

## **Part A**

What does the word published mean in paragraph 12?

- A) written by the author
- B) created with pictures
- C) voted on as a favorite book
- D) printed as a book to buy

## **Part B**

Select the phrase that supports your answer in Part A.

- 12 The creator of Oz didn't have to wait long to see the success of his American fairy tale. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was published in 1900 and became the best-selling children's book of the year. Bookstores demanded more copies, and Frank received thousands of letters from children begging him to write more about Oz.

Select **two** sentences from the section "Growing Up" that the author uses to support the idea that L. Frank Baum was interested in writing as a child.

### Growing Up

- 5 Lyman Frank Baum was born to a wealthy family in Chittenango, New York, in 1856. He spent most of his childhood living at a beautiful country estate called Rose Lawn. A serious heart condition made it necessary for him to be tutored at home, and one of his favorite pastimes was reading and creating stories. At a young age, Frank, as he preferred to be called, showed a talent for writing, and when he was fifteen, his father bought him a printing press. Frank and his brother, Harry, printed a popular newspaper entitled the *Rose Lawn Home Journal*.
- 6 By the time Frank turned eighteen, he knew that he wanted to become an actor. With money from his father, Frank formed a Shakespearean acting troupe, and in 1880 became the manager of a string of opera houses owned by his father. In 1881, his first play, *The Maid of Arran*, in which he played the lead, became an instant success.

Which sentence from the passage describes how Baum came up with the name "Oz" quickly?

- Ⓐ "Baum looked around the room until he noticed a filing cabinet . . ." (paragraph 3)
- Ⓑ ". . . but most of them came to hear the exciting stories Frank would tell." (paragraph 9)
- Ⓒ "'I was sitting in the hall, telling the kids a story, and suddenly this [tale] moved right in . . .'" (paragraph 11)
- Ⓓ "'It really seemed to write itself.'" (paragraph 11)

L. Frank Baum found the most success as a  after he .

Which **two** events from Baum's life influenced his choosing to become an author?

- Baum became the manager of opera houses.
- Baum married a woman he met at a party.
- Baum spent time making up tales for his sons.
- Baum grew up living on a country estate.
- Baum told stories to the children who visited his store.

Select **one** sentence from the passage that shows the evidence the author uses to support the idea that L. Frank Baum enjoyed entertaining children.

“At a party in 1881, Frank met a young woman named Maud Gage. The following year the two were married, and in time had four sons. Frank, a devoted father, spent hours spinning tall tales for his children. During this time, Frank’s businesses experienced many setbacks and his poor health continued to plague him.

In 1888, Frank decided to try his luck on the western prairie. He moved his family to the boomtown of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Once settled in Aberdeen, Frank wasted little time in setting up his new business, a variety store called Baum’s Bazaar. The store became a favorite stop for the children of the community.” (paragraphs 7–9)

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

### **Part A**

Select the sentence that explains what L. Frank Baum’s famous story *The Wizard of Oz* and his life have in common.

- A) The Wizard in the story and L. Frank Baum both liked to tell stories.
- B) The story *The Wizard of Oz* and the life of L. Frank Baum share similar lessons.
- C) The story *The Wizard of Oz* and the life of L. Frank Baum take place at the same time.
- D) The characters in the story and L. Frank Baum achieve success with the help of others.

### **Part B**

Select **two** sentences from the passage that support your answer in part A.

12 The creator of Oz didn’t have to wait long to see the success of his American fairy tale. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was published in 1900 and became the best-selling children’s book of the year. Bookstores demanded more copies, and Frank received thousands of letters from children begging him to write more about Oz. Encouraged by the success of the book, Frank went on to write more than a dozen other books about Oz. After Frank’s death in 1919 other authors continued the series, completing an additional twenty-six books.

13 Baum’s life seemed to fit the theme that he’d made so famous in his first Oz story: people hold within themselves the things that they are searching for. L. Frank Baum had struggled through his adult years searching for the right career, when all along, just like Dorothy and her friends, he held within himself his greatest gift: the gift of storytelling.

Read this paragraph from Passage 1.

11 The other birds all stood in wonder. "He will be punished," they whispered.

What does the phrase "in wonder" show about the peetweet's actions?

- Ⓐ They are exciting.
- Ⓑ They are magical.
- Ⓒ They are shocking.
- Ⓓ They are amusing.

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

In Passage 1, how is the sparrow different from the peetweet?

- Ⓐ The sparrow is happy to help, while the peetweet behaves badly.
- Ⓑ The sparrow knows how to help the waters, while the peetweet does not.
- Ⓒ The sparrow is thirsty, while the peetweet is uninterested in finding water.
- Ⓓ The sparrow worries that he is too small, while the peetweet worries that he is too big.

**Part B**

Select **two** sentences that support the answer in Part A.

- "There is work to be done that only my birds can do." (paragraph 1)
- "And can even as small a bird as I show them where to go?" asked the sparrow eagerly." (paragraph 4)
- "Yes," said the Father, "even my little humming-bird can help me." (paragraph 5)
- "They never showed me where to go," said the lazy bird." (paragraph 10)
- "When you are thirsty, you must look for a hollow in the rock where the rain has fallen, and there only shall you drink." (paragraph 12)

Read the sentence from Passage 1.

"Some should go to the seas, some should go to the lakes in the hollows among the mountains, and some should make rivers that will dance over the rocks and through the fields on their way to the sea." (paragraph 3)

What does the phrase "dance over the rocks" help the reader to understand about the water's movement?

- Ⓐ The water floods into the fields.
- Ⓑ The water forms pools in the hollows.
- Ⓒ The water finds the shortest route to the sea.
- Ⓓ The water flows quickly through the mountains.

Select **three** statements that belong in a summary of Passage 1.

- The Great Father even asks the smallest humming-birds to help.
- The peetweet tells the Great Father that he does not want to help.
- The peetweet is slow and is the last one to fly to the Great Father.
- The sparrow asks the Great Father whether even small birds are also able to help.
- The Great Father punishes the peetweet by allowing him to only drink water from rocks.
- The Great Father calls all birds to come help the waters find their way into the mountains.

Read the sentence from Passage 2.

“I have fasted for many days,” said the Great Spirit to the woman.” (paragraph 15)

What is the meaning of the word fasted as used in this sentence?

- Ⓐ slept
- Ⓑ traveled
- Ⓒ not eaten
- Ⓓ not worked

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

#### Part A

What is a theme in Passage 2?

- Ⓐ Patience is always rewarded.
- Ⓑ It can be difficult to please people.
- Ⓒ There is a price to pay for being greedy.
- Ⓓ People should learn to control their temper.

#### Part B

Which detail from Passage 2 supports the theme in Part A?

- Ⓐ “You can have this cake,” she said, “if you will wait for it to bake.” “I will wait,” he said.” (paragraph 15)
- Ⓑ “Then the woman made another cake. It was still smaller than the others had been at first, but when she went to the fire for it, she found it the largest of all.” (paragraph 18)
- Ⓒ “The Great Spirit was angry when he heard the words of the woman. He rose up from where he sat and threw back his cloak.” (paragraph 19)
- Ⓓ “You shall no longer be a woman and live in a wigwam. You shall go out into the forest and hunt for your food in the bark of trees.” (paragraph 19)

Click the boxes to show whether each idea comes from Passage 1, Passage 2, or both.

	Passage 1	Passage 2	Both
<b>Those who act selfishly are punished.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Birds and water depend on each other.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Situations can be different than they appear to be.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explain how the actions of the Great Father in Passage 1 and the Great Spirit in Passage 2 are similar.

Write your answer in the space provided.

Which sentence summarizes the recording?

- Ⓐ Many people apply to become NASA astronauts.
- Ⓑ A lot of preparation goes into becoming a NASA astronaut.
- Ⓒ NASA only accepts people who have good grades in school.
- Ⓓ NASA astronauts go with experts their first time into outer space.

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

Which point do both passages make?

- Ⓐ Many astronauts find their jobs rewarding.
- Ⓑ Many astronauts face danger in their careers.
- Ⓒ A person must compete with many others to become an astronaut.
- Ⓓ A person must be in good physical shape to succeed as an astronaut.

**Part B**

How does the speaker in the recording support the answer in Part A?

- Ⓐ by claiming that astronauts must know a lot about science and math
- Ⓑ by stating that NASA's astronaut training involves a lot of time and energy
- Ⓒ by suggesting that astronauts must be fearless in order to succeed
- Ⓓ by stating the number of people who apply to and become NASA astronauts

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

According to the speaker in the recording, what is one of the most important things an astronaut needs to succeed?

- Ⓐ physical strength
- Ⓑ a graduate degree
- Ⓒ skill in working with people
- Ⓓ a background in engineering

**Part B**

How does Passage 1 support this claim?

- Ⓐ by explaining how astronauts will use their physical strength
- Ⓑ by showing that space travel requires many people working together
- Ⓒ by showing how knowledge of engineering is used throughout training
- Ⓓ by explaining that graduate school helps astronauts do important research

What does the speaker in the recording suggest about the training an astronaut receives after being accepted into the NASA astronaut corps?

- Ⓐ Training is varied and thorough.
- Ⓑ Training can be risky and shocking.
- Ⓒ Many people fail to complete training.
- Ⓓ Some people complete training but choose other jobs.

There are five highlights in the passage to show which word or phrase may be incorrect. For each highlight, click the word or phrase that is correct.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>22.</b> A. into the earth.<br/>B. around the earth.<br/>C. before the earth.<br/>D. near the earth.</p> | <p><b>23.</b> A. Worked, on the tracks, from the east, the<br/>B. worked, on the tracks from the east, the<br/>C. worked on the tracks from the east, the<br/>D. worked on the tracks, from the east the</p> |
| <p><b>24.</b> A. neither<br/>B. either<br/>C. both<br/>D. not only</p>  | <p><b>25.</b> A. revelutionized<br/>B. revolutionized<br/>C. revalutionised<br/>D. revulutionised</p>  |

