

Practice Test 1 *(continued)***My Brother and the Song That Doesn't End**

That song was my brother's favorite way to drive me to the brink. You probably know the ditty, which goes something like, "This is the song that doesn't end/Yes, it goes on and on, my friend/Some people started singing it, not knowing what it was/And they'll continue singing it forever just because—." Then it repeats over and over again because, of course, it's the song that doesn't end.

Anyway, my kid brother Jake used to drive me bananas with his rendition of that song. Anytime he wanted something or just felt like being a pest, he'd parade past my room singing it loudly until I surrendered. My brother's seven years younger than I am, so I guess he craves attention. My mom says he looks up to me, but he sure has a peculiar way of showing it!

My brother and his song came in handy one day, though, when I had a conflict with our neighbor. This guy was the crabbiest grouch you've ever seen. If you so much as whistled when you walked by his house, he'd stomp out on the porch and yell at you for making too much commotion. My friend Genevieve approached his walk one time to try to sell him a magazine subscription, and he came out and threatened to have her arrested!

So anyway, I was riding my bike outside Mr. Grouch's house when the brakes failed big-time. There was nothing I could do, so I crashed through his gate and onto his walk. It was only seconds before he dashed out of the house screaming at me. I was dazed and all scraped up, but he didn't care. He just grabbed my bike and stormed back into his house.

"Hey!" I yelled. "That's my bike! Give it back!"

"It's on my property, so it's MY bike now," he roared as he slammed the door.

I couldn't believe it. The guy had actually stolen my bike! Try as I might, I couldn't think of a way to get it back, either. Then a couple of days later as I sat in my room sulking, I heard a terrible racket. I looked out the window, and there was Jake, marching back and forth in front of the neighbor's house. He was banging a garbage can lid and singing at the top of his lungs, "This is the song that doesn't end/Yes, it goes on and on, my friend—"

"What're you trying to do, drive me crazy?" screamed the neighbor.

"Yep," said Jake, "and I'll keep doing it until you return my brother's bike."

He was out there a good half hour, singing his heart out, before the door opened a crack and my bike flew down the stairs and onto the sidewalk. I watched as Jake ran to grab it and wheeled it down the street back to our house.

"Andrew, I got your bike back," he said as he came in the house.



Practice Test 1 *(continued)*

"Yeah, I noticed," I said, smiling. "You know something? You're all right."
He just grinned at me. "So do you want to take me to a movie?" he asked.
"Sure thing!" I laughed.

After that, I realized that my brother wasn't so bad after all. I mean, he is a pest sometimes, but in a crunch, I'd rather have him on my side any day!

19. Which of these events happened last?

- (A) Jake sang in front of Mr. Grouch's house.
- (B) Genevieve went to Mr. Grouch's house.
- (C) Jake came home with Andrew's bike.
- (D) Andrew crashed through Mr. Grouch's gate.

20. When Jake started singing on the sidewalk, you could predict that —

- (F) Jake would be arrested
- (G) Mr. Grouch would call the police
- (H) Jake would drive the neighbor crazy
- (J) Andrew would rescue his little brother

21. You can tell from this passage that —

- (A) Andrew wishes he had more brothers
- (B) Jake does not know how to ride a bike
- (C) the neighbor used to be a nice guy
- (D) Andrew and his family live in a suburban neighborhood

22. According to Andrew, the neighbor was —

- (F) mean
- (G) helpful
- (H) kind
- (J) selfish

23. This story is told from whose point of view?

- (A) Andrew's
- (B) the mother's
- (C) Jake's
- (D) the neighbor's

24. As far as Andrew was concerned, what was the best thing Jake did?

- (F) He banged a garbage can lid.
- (G) He paraded past Andrew's room.
- (H) He got the bike back.
- (J) He sang a song that did not end.



Practice Test 3 (continued)

Directions. Read each passage. Choose the best answer to each question. Mark your answer.

What You Make It

Life is what you make it, according to Miss Flora who lives next door. She claims that the choices you make influence what happens to you in life. I must confess that I never really bought into that idea, but I didn't even have a choice when my mom announced I was going to summer camp. Everything I'd heard about camp had to do with bugs, poison ivy, and bad food, so I wasn't exactly pleased to hear that I was going to spend four weeks in the middle of nowhere. Mom wasn't retreating, though, since she thought it would benefit me to get away and learn more about the world around me.

Well, when I got to camp, I didn't see anything I wanted to learn more about, and after four days I was ready to scream. There were too many people in the cabin, and one girl snored and kept me up at night, so camp was less than thrilling.

During free time one day, I wandered down a lonely path into the woods and sat against a tree. Then I saw one of the camp counselors approaching me. "Oh great," I thought, since counselors were always trying to cheer you up or make you laugh.

"Hey," he said, "mind if I have a seat?" I shrugged. I wasn't going to encourage him, but I couldn't exactly stop him either. He sat down alongside me and extended a hand. "I'm Gary," he said, "and you're Erica, right?" I nodded. "You don't exactly look like you're having a good time," he began.

I crossed my arms and gritted my teeth. "Look," I said, "I didn't want to come to camp, I don't like it, I'm not having fun, and it basically stinks." I glared at Gary.

"So there's nothing here at all for you, huh?" he asked.

"Nothing," I answered.

"Let me show you something," said Gary. He got up, and I followed him along the path until I heard a sound like a roaring freight train.

"What's that?" I asked.

"Wait and see," he replied, with a small smile.

When we rounded the corner, I couldn't believe what I saw. There was the biggest waterfall I could ever imagine, right in front of me. "Cool!" I said, and I could feel my eyes getting bigger and a smile tugging at my mouth.

"Still think there's nothing here for you?" asked Gary. "Because there's a whole lot more of this kind of 'nothing' around here."

I had to admit, the waterfall was impressive.

"Look," said Gary, "camp is what you make it. You can be sullen and closed-minded and have a rotten four weeks, or you can take a look around you and see some of the incredible sights and appreciate the opportunity. It would be useless for me to try to make you have fun. You can only do that for yourself. But if you loosen up a little, you might actually have a good time." With that, he turned to walk away, leaving me on the path.



Practice Test 3 *(continued)*

I stood there for a minute before calling after him and running to catch up. "Thanks," I said, "my neighbor says the same thing about life. Maybe you're both right."

Gary smiled. "No problem," he said. We trudged back to camp in silence.

That night, by the campfire, I found myself singing along with everyone else. By the time the four weeks were up, I didn't want to leave. I'd seen some amazing things and made some great friends.

I think it's going to be a good year this year. I mean, I'm going to work to make it one. Maybe if I'm lucky, I'll get to go back to camp next year!

7. What happened to Erica just after Gary introduced himself?

- (A) She found out she was going away to camp.
- (B) She sat down against a tree.
- (C) She met Miss Flora, her next-door neighbor.
- (D) She saw a waterfall.

8. When Gary sat down beside Erica, you could predict that —

- (F) he would help her feel better
- (G) she would not say anything to him
- (H) he would talk about Miss Flora
- (J) she would tell him to go away

9. The mood in the first half of this story is best described as —

- (A) exciting
- (B) glum
- (C) scary
- (D) sad

10. Which word best describes Gary, the counselor?

- (F) creative
- (G) cold-hearted
- (H) caring
- (J) short-tempered

11. What can you tell about Erica from the ending of this story?

- (A) She has many close friends at home.
- (B) She is looking forward to the school year.
- (C) She's a good student who gets mostly A's.
- (D) She often gets into trouble at school.

12. Which is a theme of this story?

- (F) What you get out of life depends on what you put into it.
- (G) Parents are always making kids do things they don't want to do.
- (H) Going to summer camp is a great experience.
- (J) Waterfalls always make you feel better.

13. This passage supports the general idea that —

- (A) most people don't know much about nature
- (B) summer camps are not as good as they used to be
- (C) most kids feel lonely at first when they're away from home
- (D) camp counselors never really help anyone

A large, hollow arrow pointing to the right with the words "GO ON" written inside in a bold, sans-serif font.

