

GRADE 8

# Strong reading skills are the foundation learning!

Is your child struggling with reading comprehension, fluency, or vocabulary?

Brighterly's expert reading tutors make lessons fun, personalized, and effective - whether your child is just starting out or ready to level up their literacy skills.

From phonics to reading confidence, we're here to help your child love reading - and get better at it every day.



## Why Learn with Brighterly? ✨



Assessment-Based Learning



Custom Curriculum



Homework Support



Engaging Platform

 **Read the story carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.**

### **The Power of the Printing Press**



Before the 15th century, books were copied by hand, often by monks working in monasteries. This process was slow, expensive, and limited the number of people who could access written knowledge. As a result, most books were rare and only available to wealthy individuals or powerful institutions like churches and universities. Literacy was low because ordinary people simply had little access to reading materials.

In the mid-1400s, a German inventor named Johannes Gutenberg changed history with the invention of the movable-type printing press. Unlike handwritten manuscripts, the press could produce multiple copies of a text quickly and with remarkable accuracy. For the first time, ideas could spread widely and efficiently. The printing press dramatically reduced the cost of books, making them available to a broader audience.



This new access to knowledge had far-reaching effects. Literacy rates began to rise, and more people gained the ability to learn independently. The spread of printed materials also fueled major historical movements. For example, Martin Luther's ideas during the Protestant Reformation spread rapidly because of printed pamphlets and translated Bibles. Similarly, the scientific discoveries of the Renaissance reached audiences far beyond the laboratories and universities where they began.

The invention of the printing press also shifted the balance of power in society. Knowledge was no longer controlled exclusively by religious leaders and the wealthy elite. Ordinary citizens could now read, share, and debate new ideas. This democratization of knowledge laid the foundation for modern education, scientific progress, and even democratic government. The printing press, therefore, was not just a machine—it was a turning point in human history.

## **PART 1: Multiple Choice**

 **Choose and circle the letter of the correct answer**

**Q1: What is the main idea of the passage?**

- A.** Monks copied books slowly by hand.
- B.** The printing press transformed society by spreading knowledge.
- C.** Johannes Gutenberg became famous after his invention.
- D.** The Protestant Reformation was the most important movement in history.

**Q2: Which detail from the passage best supports the idea that books were rare before the printing press?**

- A.** "The printing press dramatically reduced the cost of books."
- B.** "Books were copied by hand, often by monks working in monasteries."
- C.** "Ordinary citizens could now read, share, and debate new ideas."
- D.** "The invention of the printing press also shifted the balance of power in society."

**Q3: How did the printing press affect literacy rates?**

- A.** Literacy rates fell because books became confusing.
- B.** Literacy rates stayed the same.
- C.** Literacy rates rose because books became more available.
- D.** Only priests and nobles were allowed to read.

**Q4: What does the word elite most nearly mean in the passage?**

- A.** Ordinary people
- B.** Wealthy and powerful people
- C.** Scientists and inventors
- D.** Students and teachers



**Q5: Why does the author describe the printing press as “a turning point in human history”?**

- A.** Because it was the first machine ever invented.
- B.** Because it gave only scientists access to books.
- C.** Because it changed how people accessed and shared knowledge.
- D.** Because it ended the Renaissance.

**Q6: Which detail from the passage best supports the idea that books were rare before the printing press?**

- A.** To entertain readers with a story about Gutenberg
- B.** To persuade readers to build their own printing press
- C.** To inform readers about the impact of the printing press on history
- D.** To explain why monks stopped copying books

## Part 2: Short Answer

**Q7:** Cite one piece of evidence from the passage that shows how the printing press helped spread new ideas.

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**Q8:** Explain how the printing press influenced the Protestant Reformation.

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**Q9:** Why does the author organize the passage by starting with life before the printing press?

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**Q10:** Do you agree that the printing press was one of the most important inventions in human history? Explain your answer with reasoning.

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# ✓ Right Answers



## **PART 1: Multiple Choice**

 **Choose and circle the letter of the correct answer**

**Q1: What is the main idea of the passage?**

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## Part 2: Short Answer

**Q7: Cite one piece of evidence from the passage that shows how the printing press helped spread new ideas.**

Example: Luther's pamphlets and translated Bibles spread quickly  
because of printing.

**Q8: Explain how the printing press influenced the Protestant Reformation.**

It spread Martin Luther's ideas widely, allowing many people to read his  
criticisms of the church.

**Q9: Why does the author organize the passage by starting with life before the printing press?**

To show the contrast between limited access to books before and  
widespread access after, making the impact clear.

**Q10: Do you agree that the printing press was one of the most important inventions in human history? Explain your answer with reasoning.**

Answers will vary; strong responses should include reasoning about  
knowledge, education, science, or democracy.

**Example Answer:**

Yes, I agree that the printing press was one of the most important inventions in history because it made knowledge available to more people. Before the press, only the wealthy and powerful could own books, but afterwards ordinary citizens could learn to read and share ideas. This helped spark major changes like the Protestant Reformation and the Scientific Revolution. Without the printing press, education, democracy, and science might not have developed as quickly.