

Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program

TCAP

English Language Arts Grade 4 Item Release



Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Pedlar of Swaffham

retold by Kendal A. Rautzhan

This is an old English folktale that comes from the real town of Swaffham in England. "Pedlar" is an old way of spelling "peddler."

- 1 IN NORFOLK, ENGLAND, in a village called Swaffham, there once lived a poor pedlar. The pedlar had a cottage, a small yard with a big oak tree, and a loyal dog as his constant companion. Every day he traveled from village to village with his pack on his back.
- 2 "What do you need?" he would shout. "I have gloves, ribbons, pins, needles, thread, necklaces, and wooden spoons."
- 3 Although the townsfolk enjoyed the friendly pedlar's company, he rarely sold anything. He'd often come home tired and hungry. But as poor as he was, the pedlar always made certain that his dog was well fed and that he had a few coins to give his church every week.
- 4 One night the pedlar had an unusual dream. He was standing on London Bridge, surrounded by fine shops and homes. On the River Thames below, graceful swans floated among gleaming ships and rowboats. As the pedlar admired the scene, he heard a voice in the distance.
- 5 "Go to London and stand on the bridge," the voice urged him. "There you will hear happy news."
- 6 When the pedlar awoke the next morning, he paid no attention to the dream or its mysterious message. But that night, he dreamed the same dream again, and the next night, he dreamed it a third time.



- 7 But London is so far away, the pedlar thought. He sorted through his pack, which still held plenty of goods. Perhaps he could sell some things as he traveled, just enough to pay for food and shelter.
- 8 The next morning, the pedlar and his dog set off for London. To his dismay, the journey was even longer and harder than he'd expected. He didn't sell much along the way, so when he finally reached the bridge, his muscles ached from exhaustion.
- 9 Still, the pedlar was encouraged, for the bridge looked just as it had in his dream. There were elegant shops and houses, and hundreds of people bustled about. The River Thames was just as he had dreamed, too, with swans, ships, and little boats rowed by men wearing red caps.
- 10 All day the pedlar stayed on the bridge, waiting to hear the happy news. But instead he heard the shouts of men carrying loads who pushed past him. "Out of my way!" they cried. The next day was the same.
- 11 On the third day, a shopkeeper who had noticed the pedlar standing around approached him.

- 12 "I can see you're from the country," the shopkeeper observed with a haughty smile. "City folks don't want village goods. You don't expect to sell your things here, do you?"
- 13 "No, I suppose not," replied the pedlar.
- 14 "Then what exactly are you doing?" the shopkeeper inquired.
- 15 "Well, sir," the pedlar began, "I'm waiting. For three nights straight, I dreamed that if I came and stood on London Bridge, I would hear good news."
- 16 "You came all this way . . . because of a dream? To hear good news?" the shopkeeper asked in disbelief.
- 17 "Er—yes," said the pedlar, feeling embarrassed.
- 18 The shopkeeper chuckled. "Dreams are nothing but nonsense," he declared. "Why, just last night I dreamed I was in a village with some ridiculous name—Swaffham—outside some poor pedlar's cottage. I started digging around a big oak tree, through stones and dirt, until I discovered a heap of gold coins.
- 19 "Can you imagine if I were to walk all the way to this Swaffham place, just because of some foolish dream? Of course not!" the shopkeeper bellowed. "A man belongs at home, where he can handle his business. My advice? Return to where you came from."
- 20 "I believe I will," said the pedlar, grinning. "Many thanks for your wisdom."
- 21 And without a moment's hesitation, the pedlar and his dog headed back to Swaffham.
- 22 When they arrived home three days later, the pedlar pulled out his shovel and began to dig around the big oak tree. It wasn't long before he came upon the treasure: heaps of gold coins, so many that it took him two days to count them all.



- 23 But the pedlar didn't forget to share his wealth with his beloved village. His church had been crumbling into ruins for many years, so he paid to have it restored to its proper glory. When the pedlar died at a ripe old age, the people of Swaffham put up a statue of him with his pack on his back and his loyal dog by his side.

"The Pedlar of Swaffam" retold by Kendal A. Rautzhan from SPIDER, May/June 2012. Copyright © 2012 Cricket Media. All rights reserved.

00. Read this sentence from paragraph 1.

The pedlar had a cottage, a small yard with a big oak tree, and a loyal dog as his constant companion.

What do the words “loyal” and “constant” suggest about the pedlar’s dog?

- A.** that he is a brave little dog
- B.** that he has learned many tricks
- C.** that he is quiet and well-behaved
- D.** that he goes everywhere with the pedlar

00. Read this sentence from paragraph 7.

But London is so far away, the pedlar thought.

What does this sentence tell the reader about the pedlar?

- A.** He wants an excuse not to obey the voice in the dream.
- B.** He thinks that going to London will make his fortune.
- C.** He knows that he must do whatever the voice tells him.
- D.** He is so upset by the dreams that he cannot fall asleep.

00. Read this sentence from paragraph 7.

He sorted through his pack, which still held plenty of goods.

Based on the story, what are the “goods” in his pack?

- A.** things to eat along the journey
- B.** extra clothes and shoes
- C.** gifts for friends in the village
- D.** things like ribbons, pins, and spoons

00. The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

Which words **best** describe the pedlar?

- A. generous and kind
- B. clever and smart
- C. impatient and in a hurry
- D. proud and vain

Part B

Which of the following **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “‘What do you need?’ he would shout. ‘I have gloves, ribbons, pins, needles, thread, necklaces, and wooden spoons.’” (paragraph 2)
- B. “But as poor as he was, the pedlar always made certain that his dog was well fed and that he had a few coins to give his church every week.” (paragraph 3)
- C. “‘For three nights straight, I dreamed that if I came and stood on London Bridge, I would hear good news.’” (paragraph 15)
- D. “When they arrived home three days later, the pedlar pulled out his shovel and began to dig around the big oak tree.” (paragraph 22)

00. What does the word exhaustion mean as it is used in paragraph 8?

- A.** confusion
- B.** cold
- C.** tiredness
- D.** boredom

00. Read these sentences from the last paragraph.

But the pedlar didn't forget to share his wealth with his beloved village. His church had been crumbling into ruins for many years, so he paid to have it restored to its proper glory.

What do these sentences show about the pedlar?

- A.** He is not too proud or greedy even after he becomes rich.
- B.** He cares more about the village than about himself.
- C.** He still lives in the same house that he lived in when he was poor.
- D.** He used up all his money on the church and has nothing left.

00. Read this sentence from paragraph 19.

“Can you imagine if I were to walk all the way to this Swaffham place, just because of some foolish dream? Of course not!” the shopkeeper bellowed.

What does the word bellowed tell the reader about the shopkeeper?

- A.** that he is kind
- B.** that he is shouting
- C.** that he is curious
- D.** that he is laughing

- 00.** How does the last picture help the reader understand the story?
- A.** It shows how the dog helped the pedlar dig up the treasure.
 - B.** It shows the exact number of gold coins that were buried in the ground.
 - C.** It shows how excited the pedlar was when he found the treasure.
 - D.** It shows the shopkeeper's dream about the village of Swaffham.

00. Which is the **best** summary of the story?

- A.** A pedlar and a shopkeeper realize that their lives will soon change completely. The pedlar becomes rich, even though he was poor before. The shopkeeper becomes poor because he didn't believe the dream he had. At the end, the pedlar gives all his money to the church.
- B.** A poor pedlar tries very hard to make money but is not successful. The people in the village like him, and he makes sure to give money to the church. He finally decides to go to London after having the same dream three times. While in London, his luck changes.
- C.** A pedlar meets a shopkeeper on a bridge in London. They talk about the dreams they both had. The shopkeeper thinks the pedlar is foolish, and the pedlar goes back to his village along with his little dog. There he lives happily ever after.
- D.** A poor pedlar has a dream that he should go to London to hear good news. When he goes there, a shopkeeper tells him that he had a dream about a treasure. When the pedlar goes home, he finds the treasure right where the shopkeeper said it would be.

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

"Top of the World!"

Excerpt from *To the Top of Everest*

by Laurie Skreslet and Elizabeth MacLeod



- 1 The long ridge between the South and Main Summits is 300 m (985 ft.) of treacherous cornices, overhanging masses of snow that can collapse beneath you at any time. Fall on the south side, and you'd go straight down to Camp Two. Off the north side you'd plummet into Tibet.
- 2 Sungdare, Lhakpa Dorje and I shortened the rope between us and agreed that if one fell over the side, the person tied to him would jump off the other side, and the rope would save them both. They'd then climb back up the rope and continue. The alternative of one climber pulling another off the same side of the ridge was far more terrifying.

- 3 Quickly, carefully, we climbed in an unchanging routine — dig in the ice ax, take three breaths, then one step, start again.
- 4 Just below the sharp ridge to the top is the Hillary Step, a high rock wall. As we scaled the Step, I knew we would make it. I felt I was being lifted by the . . . wishes of all our friends back in Canada.
- 5 At exactly 9:30 a.m., we reached the top. It was October 5, 1982, and I was the 131st person to climb the world’s tallest mountain. What a privilege. The world lay spread out below in all directions. We could see forever. It was cramped though — the summit is only as big as a large coffee table.
- 6 I shot photo after photo of Sungdare and Lhakpa Dorje and the amazing sights all around me. Then they took photos of me with my other camera. It wasn’t until I got back to Canada that I realized the camera had malfunctioned, so there are no photos of me on top of Everest. The only image of me on the summit is in the reflection of Sungdare’s and Lhakpa Dorje’s sunglasses.
- 7 Our Canadian flag was with Kiwi at Camp Three, so I planted my oxygen bottle on the summit. It still held oxygen and had a big happy face drawn on it with a marker. It was better than a flag. It would prove we’d been there, provide oxygen for another climber reaching the top, and leave a Canadian smiling face on the top of the world.

From TO THE TOP OF EVEREST by Laurie Skreslet and Elizabeth MacLeod. Copyright © 2009. Used by permission of Kids Can Press. All rights reserved.

00. Based on the suffix **-ous**, what does the word mountainous mean?

- A.** below the mountain
- B.** belonging to mountains
- C.** from a mountain
- D.** having mountains

- 00.** The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

Based on paragraphs 1 through 3, which sentence **best** describes a challenge the climbers encountered on the ridge between the South and Main Summits?

- A.** The snow was very deep, so the climbers had difficulty walking.
- B.** The climbers could easily fall if the surfaces they moved along broke off.
- C.** The ropes the climbers used were very short, so it was hard for them to move.
- D.** The climbers who kept falling had to be pulled up by other climbers.

Part B

Which detail from the passage supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** “. . . overhanging masses of snow that can collapse beneath you at any time.” (paragraph 1)
- B.** “Sungdare, Lhakpa Dorje and I shortened the rope between us . . .” (paragraph 2)
- C.** “. . . if one fell over the side, the person tied to him would jump off the other side. . . .” (paragraph 2)
- D.** “. . . dig in the ice ax, take three breaths, then one step, start again.” (paragraph 3)

- 00.** What is the meaning of the word planted as it is used in paragraph 7?
- A.** put into the ground to grow
 - B.** filled with seeds or plants
 - C.** fixed or set firmly in place
 - D.** introduced as a new idea

- 00.** Which statement **best** describes the structure of paragraph 7?
- A.** It explains why the author decided to leave his oxygen bottle on the summit.
 - B.** It describes the flag that the author had left behind at the camp.
 - C.** It lists the steps the author took to leave the bottle on the summit.
 - D.** It states how others felt about his decision to leave the bottle on the summit.

- 00.** In paragraph 5, what evidence does the author use to support the idea that reaching the summit of Everest was very special?
- A.** The view from the top spread out in all directions.
 - B.** The author reached the top at exactly 9:30 a.m.
 - C.** The author was only the 131st person to climb the mountain.
 - D.** The summit was only as big as a large coffee table.

- 00.** Which sentence **best** states a main idea of the passage?
- A.** Climbers have trouble on the ridge between the summits of Mount Everest.
 - B.** The author and two companions climb Mount Everest and reach the summit.
 - C.** Climbing Mount Everest is easier if climbers have companions to help them.
 - D.** The author can see far in every direction from the top of Mount Everest.

- 00.** What do the details in paragraph 6 suggest about the author?
- A.** The author was a better photographer than his companions.
 - B.** The author’s companions played a trick on him when they photographed him.
 - C.** The author has fewer photographs of his achievement than he expected to have.
 - D.** The author dislikes the photograph of his reflection in a climber’s sunglasses.

- 00.** Which sentence **best** belongs in a summary of the passage?
- A.** The ridge between two of Mount Everest’s summits is almost a thousand feet long.
 - B.** The climbers slowly made their way up Mount Everest using ropes and ice axes.
 - C.** The author’s friends had wished him well before he started his climb.
 - D.** The author carried an oxygen bottle with a happy face drawn on it.

- 00.** The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

Which sentence **best** describes the overall structure of the passage?

- A.** It describes what the climbers saw as they climbed Everest and when they reached the summit.
- B.** It presents one problem the climbers faced as they climbed Everest and then tells how they solved it.
- C.** It compares the thoughts of the author with those of his climbing companions.
- D.** It presents, in time order, the climbers' actions and experiences as they approached and reached the summit of Everest.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** shows this structure?

- A.** “. . . if one fell over the side, the person tied to him would jump off the other side, and the rope would save them both.” (paragraph 2)
- B.** “Quickly, carefully, we climbed in an unchanging routine—dig in the ice ax, take three breaths, then one step, start again.” (paragraph 3)
- C.** “As we scaled the Step, I knew we would make it.” (paragraph 4)
- D.** “The world lay spread out below in all directions.” (paragraph 5)

- 00.** The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

Which sentence states a main idea of the passage?

- A.** People who climb Mount Everest come from many countries around the world.
- B.** People who climb Mount Everest must know how to use climbing ropes.
- C.** People who climb Mount Everest face a dangerous challenge.
- D.** People who climb Mount Everest can only stay at the top for a short time.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the correct answer to Part A?

- A.** "Fall on the south side, and you'd go straight down to Camp Two. Off the north side you'd plummet into Tibet." (paragraph 1)
- B.** "Quickly, carefully, we climbed in an unchanging routine—dig in the ice ax, take three breaths, then one step . . ." (paragraph 3)
- C.** "I felt I was being lifted by the . . . wishes of all our friends back in Canada." (paragraph 4)
- D.** "It was cramped though—the summit is only as big as a large coffee table." (paragraph 5)

Metadata- English

Passage

Passage UIN	Grade	Passage Title	Lexile Level	Word Count
TN835493	4	The Pedlar of Swaffham	810L	737

Metadata Definitions:

Passage UIN	Unique letter/number code used to identify the passage(s) that go with this item.
Grade	Grade level or Course.
Passage Title	Title of the passage(s) associated with this item.
Lexile Level	Readability level for passage.
Word Count	Count of words in the passage.

Items

Page Number	UIN	Grade	Item Type	Key	DOK	TN Standards
5	TN335668	4	MC	D	2	4.RL.CS.4
6	TN435684	4	MC	A	2	4.RL.KID.3
7	TN135675	4	MC	D	2	4.RL.CS.4
8	TN235634	4	Composite	A; B	2	4.RL.KID.3
9	TN335693	4	MC	C	2	4.RL.CS.4
10	TN235722	4	MC	A	2	4.RL.KID.3
11	TN535707	4	MC	B	2	4.RL.CS.4
12	TN435714	4	MC	C	2	4.RL.IKI.7
13	TN035727	4	MC	D	2	4.RL.KID.2

Metadata Definitions:

UIN	Unique letter/number code used to identify the item.
Grade	Grade level or Course.
Item Type	Indicates the type of item. MC= Multiple Choice; MS= Multiple Select
Key	Correct answer. This may be blank for constructed response items where students write or type their responses.
DOK	Depth of Knowledge (cognitive complexity) is measured on a three-point scale. 1 = Recall or simple reproduction of information; 2 = Skills and concepts: comprehension and processing of text; 3 = Strategic thinking, prediction, elaboration.
TN Standards	Primary educational standard assessed.

Metadata- English

Passage

Passage UIN	Grade	Passage Title	Lexile Level	Word Count
TN731713	4	Top of the World!	1000L	371

Metadata Definitions:

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Grade	Grade level or Course.
Passage Title	Title of the passage(s) associated with this item.
Lexile Level	Readability level for passage.
Word Count	Count of words in the passage.

Items

Page Number	UIN	Grade	Item Type	Key	DOK	TN Standards
16	TN256654	4	MC	D	2	4.FL.VA.7a.ii
17	TN056543	4	Composite	B; A	2	4.RI.KID.1
18	TN656555	4	MC	C	2	4.RI.CS.4
19	TN356628	4	MC	A	2	4.RI.CS.5
20	TN156635	4	MC	C	2	4.RI.IKI.8
21	TN756534	4	MC	B	2	4.RI.KID.2
22	TN456547	4	MC	C	2	4.RI.KID.1
23	TN656540	4	MC	B	2	4.RI.KID.2
24	TN056559	4	Composite	D; B	3	4.RI.CS.5
25	TN656537	4	Composite	C; A	3	4.RI.KID.2

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