

## 1 Text-Based Comprehension

**Directions:** Read the following passage. Use information from the passage to answer the question below. Click the circle next to the best answer.

### Red Kayak

by Priscilla Cummings

Up the creek, a couple private docks extended out into the water; then there was a long strip of riprap near a construction site. From that point on, it was just shoreline with trees and a lot of brown cell bush. I kept going, but toward the head of the creek, a marsh taken over by a patch of tall phragmites warned me of shallow water, and I turned the boat around, not wanting to run aground. I sped up and came back down the creek, closer to the opposite bank.

Still no sign of a red kayak or a yellow life jacket. All I wanted to do was open the throttle and head downriver to where the others were searching. My hands ached they were so cold. I stuffed one hand in the pocket and hit the cell phone. I pulled it out and saw that I had "1 missed call." Turning off the motor so I could hear, I speed-dialed home to see if Mom knew anything.

"Brady—hi!" she said. "Dad called. He said they found Mrs. DiAngelo."

"They did?"

"Yes. Downriver, near Spaniard's Neck."

"Is she okay?" I asked.

"She's alive," Mom said. "But just barely. They have not found Ben."

"They didn't?"

"No. They lost the kayak, Brady. So Ben is out there somewhere in the water in his life jacket."

"Oh, man, it's *cold* Mom—"

"I know . . . I know it's cold. Are you all right? Can you do this, Brady?"

"I'm all right. I'm fine," I assured her. "I need to keep looking!"

I ended the call and put the phone back in my pocket. We had to move really fast now. If Ben was in the water, his time was limited.

Tilly started barking as I picked up speed.

"Quiet!" I hollered.

**Part A:** Which word best describes the narrator at this point in the story?

- A pleased
- B comfortable
- C worried
- D lost

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Tilly started barking as I picked up speed.

"Quiet!" I hollered.

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage best supports your answer to question 1?

- A "He said they found Mrs. DiAngelo."
- B "I know . . . I know it's cold."
- C "I'm all right. I'm fine."
- D "I need to keep looking!"

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**Part A:** What conflict does the narrator face in this passage?

- A The boat is running out of gas.
- B He needs to find Ben quickly.
- C It will soon be too dark to see.
- D He is late joining the others.

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"Quiet!" I hollered.

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage helped you identify the conflict you selected in question 3?

- A "My hands ached they were so cold."
- B ". . . I speed-dialed home to see if Mom knew anything."
- C "Tilly started barking as I picked up speed."
- D "If Ben was in the water, his time was limited."

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**Part A:** After he hears the news about Mrs. DiAngelo and Ben, how does the narrator respond to the challenge?

- A He plans to start searching more quickly.
- B He plans to slowly search every inch of shoreline.
- C He plans to turn around and head for home.
- D He plans to wait for more news from the others.

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**Part B:** Which detail best supports your answer to question 5?

- A ". . . I turned the boat around, not wanting to run aground."
- B "All I wanted to do was open the throttle and head downriver . . ."
- C "We had to move really fast now."
- D "My hands ached they were so cold."

## 7 Vocabulary

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**Part A:** Which meaning of the homograph "bank" is used in the first paragraph of the passage?

- A place for keeping or lending money
- B ground along a body of water
- C row or close arrangement of things
- D long pile or heap

## 8 Vocabulary

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**Part B:** Which detail from the first paragraph helped you figure out the meaning of the homograph "bank"?

- A "turned around"
- B "sped up"
- C "closer to"
- D "the creek"

9 **Vocabulary**

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**Part A:** Based on context clues in the passage, what is the best definition of the word "phragmites"?

- A plants that grow in or near water
- B piles of loose rocks along a shore
- C large wading birds that eat fish
- D houses built on stilts over water

10 **Vocabulary**

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**Part B:** Which context clue helped you answer question 9?

- A "brown cell bush"
- B "head of the creek"
- C "marsh taken over"
- D "opposite bank"

11 **Vocabulary**

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Tilly started barking as I picked up speed.

"Quiet!" I hollered.

**Part A:** Which word is a synonym for the word "hollered" in the last sentence in the passage?

- A asked
- B whispered
- C shouted
- D sighed

12 **Vocabulary**

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"Quiet!" I hollered.

**Part B:** Which detail in the sentence helped you choose the synonym in question 11?

- A the exclamation mark
- B the period
- C the pronoun /
- D the uppercase letter Q

13 **Writing – Constructed Response**

**Directions:** For the following activity, write your response on a sheet of paper.

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Based on the information in the passage from the selection *Red Kayak*, write a short description of what the narrator, Brady, is like. Think about what his words and actions tell you about him.

Introduce the topic and then develop it using details from the text. Conclude with a sentence that sums up the description. Be sure to check your writing for correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling and correct any errors in grammar.

14 **Writing – Extended Response**

**Directions:** For the following activity, write your response on a sheet of paper.

You have read two texts about how people deal with emergency situations.

- *Red Kayak*
- "What Will I Do in an Emergency?"

Imagine that Brady calls 9-1-1 after he finds Ben, and you are the dispatcher who answers his call. Write a dialogue between you and Brady. Use details from both texts to establish the situation, organize an event sequence, and show the responses of the characters. Remember to check your writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.