



# CRCT Prep Grade 6 Reading Comprehension

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# Table of Contents

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<b>To the Students</b> .....	v	Air Bags: The Benefits and the Risks ....	117
Jackie Cochran .....	1	Water Cycle .....	121
The Heron and the Hummingbird .....	8	Try Again! .....	124
The Mystery of Dreams .....	13	<i>by Charlotte Elizabeth</i>	
“Confessions of a Sixth-Grade Bully” .....	20	“The New Colossus” .....	127
Pygmalion .....	26	<i>by Emma Lazarus</i>	
Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death .....	29	Young Benjamin Franklin .....	130
<i>by Patrick Henry</i>		<i>by Nathaniel Hawthorne</i>	
Shall We Dance? .....	32	True Manliness .....	135
Perseus and the Prophecy .....	34	“The Place Where the Rainbow Ends” ..	138
Pandora .....	37	<i>by Paul Laurence Dunbar</i>	
Be More Active .....	41	A New Kind of Fun .....	141
Persephone .....	44	Three Poems <i>by Robert Frost</i> .....	145
Awesome Expeditions .....	47	“FIRE AND ICE”	
Bellerophon .....	50	“STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING”	
Echo and Narcissus .....	54	“THE ROAD NOT TAKEN”	
Pelé .....	57	from <i>Understood Betsy</i> .....	148
Athena and Arachne .....	60	<i>by Dorothy Canfield</i>	
Viking Explorers .....	63	“Barbara Frietchie” .....	158
from <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> .....	66	<i>by John Greenleaf Whittier</i>	
<i>by Stephen Crane</i>		from <i>Peter Pan</i> <i>by James M. Barrie</i> .....	161
from <i>Little Women</i> .....	70	“O Captain! My Captain!” .....	171
<i>by Louisa May Alcott</i>		<i>by Walt Whitman</i>	
Vulcan and His Inventions .....	74	“The Cross-Current” .....	174
<i>Otitis Media</i> .....	77	<i>by Abbie Farwell Brown</i>	
from <i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> .....	81	Watseka .....	177
<i>by Jules Verne</i>		“The Sword of Arthur” .....	181
from <i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i>		<i>by John Clair Minot</i>	
Part II <i>by Jules Verne</i> .....	84	Madam C.J. Walker .....	184
from <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> .....	87	Owls .....	190
<i>by Jules Verne</i>		Davy Crockett .....	195
Love Canal .....	90	The Ancient Creek .....	199
Skiing and Snowboarding .....	93	The Origins of the Colony of Georgia ....	204
Cadet Rings .....	98	A Treaty with the Native Americans .....	209
from <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>		Native Americans Travel from Georgia	
Part II <i>by Stephen Crane</i> .....	101	to England .....	213
Nathan Hale, A Young Hero .....	104	Revolutionary War in Georgia,	
from <i>The Happy Prince</i> .....	107	1778–1779 .....	217
<i>by Oscar Wilde</i>		The French Fleet Comes to Savannah ..	222
Is This Something to Eat? .....	110	Siege of Augusta .....	225
Opossums .....	113	Life as a Prisoner .....	228

# VULCAN AND HIS INVENTIONS

All the gods and goddesses had perfect bodies, except one. Vulcan, the son of Jupiter and Juno, was a bright, sweet-tempered lad, but he was born disabled. It is said that Juno was so displeased that her baby was imperfect that she threw him down from heaven.

Many tales are told of the wonderful works this god created. He made the first robots—gold and silver handmaidens with mechanical brains and tongues who became his faithful servants. Vulcan also invented the first wheelchairs —moving tripods which carried him around and even scurried out of the way when not in use.

Vulcan worked at a forge on Mount Olympus and there he designed and built brass palaces for the other gods. He made armor which could not be pierced by any weapon. Vulcan also invented special golden shoes for the gods and their horses. These shoes enabled their owners to walk on air and water as easily as they could walk upon land.

The ancients believed that Vulcan had made the thunderbolts they saw descending fearsomely from the sky. Vulcan made them for his father, Jupiter. When Jupiter became angry, they believed, he would hurl these weapons from Mt. Olympus at the earth below.

Vulcan also worked at his forges, which were built inside special mountains on earth. These mountains were hollow, and one could see smoke and flame rising from them. The ancients named these special mountains after the god they believed to work within them. Can you guess the name?

1. Ancient people believed that thunderbolts were a sign of
  - A. Jupiter's anger.
  - B. Vulcan making shoes.
  - C. Juno's displeasure.
  - D. Vulcan making robots.
  
2. The "special mountains" said to hold Vulcan's forges are most likely called
  - A. smoky mountains.
  - B. hollow hills.
  - C. volcanoes.
  - D. eminences.

3. How was Vulcan different from the other gods?
- A. He was bright.
  - B. He was perfect.
  - C. He was sweet-tempered.
  - D. He was disabled.
4. In the fourth paragraph, the word *fearsomely* means
- A. carefully.
  - B. frighteningly.
  - C. fearfully.
  - D. quietly.
5. Which of the following statements is an opinion?
- A. Vulcan created special shoes for the gods and their horses.
  - B. No weapon could break through the armor that Vulcan had made.
  - C. The gods looked ridiculous in Vulcan's golden shoes.
  - D. Vulcan created the first form of a wheelchair.
6. The author asks a question about mountains
- A. to show that Vulcan is a real person.
  - B. to connect Vulcan's story with real life.
  - C. to complain about the dangers of nature.
  - D. to prove that all mountains are alike.
7. According to the passage, which of these is true of the gods of ancient Greece?
- A. They were important to the people.
  - B. They were actually humans.
  - C. They were cruel to one another.
  - D. They were hidden away in mountains.



# from “THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE” – Part II

*by Stephen Crane*

The guns squatted in a row like savage chiefs. They argued with abrupt violence. It was a grim pow-wow. Their busy servants ran hither and thither.

A small procession of wounded men were going drearily toward the rear. It was a flow of blood from the torn body of the brigade.

To the right and to the left were the dark lines of other troops. Far in front he thought he could see lighter masses protruding in points from the forest. They were suggestive of unnumbered thousands.

Once he saw a tiny battery go dashing along the line of the horizon. The tiny riders were beating the tiny horses.

From a sloping hill came the sound of cheerings and clashes. Smoke welled slowly through the leaves.

Batteries were speaking with thunderous oratorical effort. Here and there were flags, the red in the stripes dominating. They splashed bits of warm color upon the dark lines of troops.

The youth felt the old thrill at the sight of the emblems. They were like beautiful birds strangely undaunted in a storm.

As he listened to the din from the hillside, to a deep pulsating thunder that came from afar to the left, and to the lesser clamors which came from many directions, it occurred to him that they were fighting, too, over there, and over there, and over there. Heretofore he had supposed that all the battle was directly under his nose.

As he gazed around him the youth felt a flash of astonishment at the blue, pure sky and the sun gleamings on the trees and fields. It was surprising that Nature had gone tranquilly on with her golden process in the midst of so much devilment.

1. According to the passage, the word *emblems* means
  - A. shapes.
  - B. scenery.
  - C. soldiers.
  - D. symbols.

2. By the end of the passage, what did the youth come to realize?
- A. He had the power to change the things around him.
  - B. The troops on both sides of the battle were the same.
  - C. Nature continued to go on even in troubled times.
  - D. The battle was much smaller than he had first imagined.
3. Which word BEST describes the mood of this passage?
- A. hopeful
  - B. cheerful
  - C. wild
  - D. angry
4. Which of the following BEST describes how the youth felt about the flag?
- A. He was pleased every time he saw it.
  - B. He felt that the flag was too small.
  - C. He was fearful every time he saw it.
  - D. He felt that the flag was too colorful.





When **Robert Frost's** father died in 1885, Robert was eleven years old. The family left California. They settled in Massachusetts. Frost attended Lawrence High School. He later married the girl who had tied him there for the best grades. He then entered Dartmouth College. He remained there less than one semester. Returning to Massachusetts, Frost taught school. He also worked in a mill and as a newspaper reporter. From 1897 to 1899, he attended Harvard College as a special student. He left without a degree. Over the next ten years, he wrote (but rarely published) poems and operated a farm in Derry, New Hampshire. Frost supplemented his income by teaching at Pinkerton Academy.

## THREE POEMS

*by Robert Frost*

### “FIRE AND ICE”

Some say the world will end in fire,  
Some say in ice.  
From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favour fire.  
But if it had to perish twice,  
I think I know enough of hate  
To say that for destruction ice  
Is also great  
And would suffice.

### “STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING”

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.  
My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.  
He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.  
The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

### “THE ROAD NOT TAKEN”

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted  
wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,  
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

1. To which of the following senses do the first two lines of “Fire and Ice” appeal?
  - A. sight
  - B. smell
  - C. hearing
  - D. touch
  
2. What does the speaker in “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” want to do?
  - A. meet the farmer
  - B. stay in the woods
  - C. get back home
  - D. go to sleep
  
3. In “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” why doesn’t the speaker remain to watch the snow fall in the woods?
  - A. The owner of the woods will be returning soon.
  - B. The horse is warning him that danger is near.
  - C. The evening is too cold to be standing outside.
  - D. The speaker has certain places he needs to be.
  
4. Which word BEST describes the mood in “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”?
  - A. bored
  - B. reflective
  - C. foolish
  - D. cowardly
  
5. At the end of “The Road Not Taken,” how does the speaker feel?
  - A. The speaker wishes that he could live his life over again.
  - B. The speaker prefers to take walks in the morning.
  - C. The speaker is happy with how his life has turned out.
  - D. The speaker thinks that he missed his one chance to fall in love.

