

Session 1, Reading Selection #3

Read this poem about December. Use information from the poem to answer the questions that follow.

December Days Are Short

December days are short, and so
there's not much time to play,
the fun has hardly started
when the sun has gone away.

5 Today, right after breakfast,
while the sky was growing light,
I ran to meet my friends outside
and have a snowball fight.

We began to build a fortress
10 then raced our wooden sleds,
we belly-whopped and spun like tops
and tumbled on our heads.

We stopped for lunch, then once again
threw snowballs for a while,
15 we made a giant snowman
with a really silly smile.

We fed some hungry pigeons
and went sliding on the ice,
my mother brought some cake for us,
20 a dog ate half my slice.

We made another snowman
and we finished off our fort,
then suddenly, the sun went down...
December days are short.

—*Jack Prelutsky*

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English Language Arts, Grade 4

Session 1, Multiple-Choice Questions

- 17 The reader can tell from the poem that the weather is cold because
- A. the children stopped for lunch.
 - B. the mother brought some cake.
 - C. the children slid on the ice.
 - D. there is not much time to play.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 17: Literature/Learning Standard 14

- 18 According to the poem, the MAIN problem with playing outside in December is that
- A. the days are long.
 - B. there is too much snow on the ground.
 - C. there are not enough hours of daylight.
 - D. the sun melts the ice.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 18: Literature/Learning Standard 14

- 19 The rhyming pattern in each stanza is
- A. first and third lines rhyme.
 - B. second and third lines rhyme.
 - C. second and fourth lines rhyme.
 - D. third and fourth lines rhyme.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 19: Literature/Learning Standard 14

- 20 Which word shows that something happened in the PAST?
- A. ate
 - B. are
 - C. meet
 - D. will

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 20: Language/Learning Standard 5