

# **Irvington Public Schools**



## **Grade 4**

## **2019**

## **Summer Packet**

**Read the passage. Then answer the questions.**

### **What It Takes**

“Maestro?” The old violinist turned to see a man in a tuxedo reaching out to shake his hand. This was one of the duties that went with being famous. Wherever he went, strangers would ask for his autograph, or they’d ask if they could stand next to him for a photograph—sometimes they just stared.

He didn’t mind, as long as the fans did not invade his privacy. At a concert hall like this, he liked to know that people still remembered him. He had retired from the concert stage years ago after performing on concert stages all over the world for more than 60 years. He liked it when people called him “maestro.” This Italian word for “master” was used in every country to show the deepest respect, and he felt he had earned it.

His family had been poor. When he was just a child in Vienna, Austria, he decided to become the greatest violinist in the world. He spent his childhood and his teenage years practicing endlessly, and as a young man, he had worked nights to pay for his classes. He almost starved so he could save money, and he knew the pain of rejection when the Viennese Imperial School of Music turned him down twice before finally taking him on as a student.

The maestro smiled and shook the stranger’s hand. “I’m sure you won’t remember me,” the stranger said. “My name is Basil Harrison.”

The moment he heard the stranger’s name, the maestro’s mind flashed back to a hot summer afternoon 30 years earlier, back when he taught master classes at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music. The auditions were tough, and he accepted only a handful of the best applicants. The maestro could be very severe—some might say cruel.

He remembered the pale boy who auditioned that day. The boy had chosen to play a challenging piece by the composer Bach. The composition was a minefield for the most experienced musicians, but the young violinist soared like an eagle over every danger. He turned the minefield into a meadow filled with flowers. The maestro also gave him a very fast and complicated polka to play. The boy played it flawlessly. He made the notes leap and swirl!

The great man had made no comment that day. He did not applaud. He did not even smile. He asked how long the boy had been playing and why he had

chosen the violin. He asked if he planned to be the world's greatest violinist and what would he be prepared to go through to make that dream come true. Finally, he asked the boy what he would do if he failed to get into the Conservatory.

Thirty years later, here was that same boy standing in front of him. "What did you decide to do with your life?" he asked.

"I'm a lawyer. Of course, I'm sorry my dream of being a violinist never came true. I guess I wasn't good enough."

The maestro looked him sternly in the eye. "You were brilliant," he said. "The best violinist who ever auditioned for me."

The man looked as if fireworks had just exploded. For a few moments he was unable to speak, and when he found his voice again it was not much more than a whisper. "Why did you tell me I didn't have what it takes? Those were your words: 'Sadly, he doesn't have what it takes to be a first-class concert violinist.'"

"You remember I asked what you would do if you failed to get into the Conservatory? What was your reply?"

"I said I'd put away my violin and never touch it again."

"And that's what you did?"

"Yes."

The maestro smiled. "You see, I was right," he said.

What conclusion about the narrator is supported by the passage?

- A The narrator is the same person as the stranger in the story.
- B The narrator understands the maestro because they both play the violin.
- C The narrator is not a character in the story but knows what the maestro is thinking.
- D The narrator is not a character in the story and can tell only what the characters say and do.

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “He didn’t mind, as long as the fans did not invade his privacy.
- B. “The maestro smiled and shook the stranger’s hand.”
- C. “Thirty years later, here was that same boy standing in front of him.”
- D. “The man looked as if fireworks had just exploded.”

Which words **best** describe the maestro?

- A. serious and quiet
- B. warm and respected
- C. confused and unsure
- D. stern and demanding

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “The old violinist turned to see a man in a tuxedo reaching out to shake his hand.”
- B. “He spent his childhood and his teenage years practicing endlessly, and as a young man, he had worked nights to pay for his classes.”
- C. “The maestro could be very severe—some might say cruel.
- D. “He asked how long the boy had been playing and why he had chosen the violin.”

Read the sentence from the passage.

“He remembered the pale boy who auditioned that day.”

What does the root aud- in the word auditioned mean?

- A. relating to something that is not pleasant
- B. relating to something heard or listened to
- C. relating to something that happened in the past

D. relating to something that is not well known

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “The boy had chosen to play a challenging piece by the composer Bach.”
- B. “He did not applaud.”
- C. “He asked how long the boy had been playing and why he had chosen the violin.”
- D. “Thirty years later, here was that same boy standing in front of him.”

Read the sentences from the story.

“The composition was a minefield for the most experienced musicians, but the young violinist soared like an eagle over every danger. He turned the minefield into a meadow filled with flowers.”

Why did the author **most likely** use the underlined sentence?

- A. to show why the boy wanted to be a violinist
- B. to show how well the boy played his instrument
- C. to show why the boy did not succeed as a violinist
- D. to show how disappointed the maestro was in the boy

**Part B:** Which detail from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “He did not even smile.”
- B. “Of course, I’m sorry my dream of being a violinist never came true.”
- C. “‘You were brilliant,’ he said. ‘The best violinist who ever auditioned for me.’”
- D. “‘You see, I was right,’ he said.”

Read the sentence from the passage.

“Those were your words: ‘Sadly, he doesn’t have what it takes to be a first-class concert violinist.’”

What does the phrase “first-class” **most likely** mean, as it is used in the passage?

- A. hoping for greatness
- B. truly excellent
- C. very determined
- D. famous worldwide

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “He spent his childhood and his teenage years practicing endlessly, and as a young man, he has worked nights to pay for his classes.”
- B. “The maestro smiled and shook the stranger’s hand.”
- C. “The boy had chosen to play a challenging piece by the composer Bach.”
- D. “He asked if he planned to be the world’s greatest violinist and what would he be prepared to go through to make that dream come true.”

Match each statement about a character with the detail from the passage that **best** supports it.

Basil is surprised that the maestro remembers him.

“He almost starved so he could save money...”

The maestro overcame challenges to become a violinist.

“The man looked as if fireworks had just exploded.”

Basil thinks he had not performed well.

“He did not even smile.”

The maestro is admired by many people.

“Wherever he went, strangers would ask for his autograph...”

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “He spent his childhood and his teenage years practicing endlessly, and as a young man, he has worked nights to pay for his classes.”
- B. “The maestro smiled and shook the stranger’s hand.”
- C. “The boy had chosen to play a challenging piece by the composer Bach.”
- D. “He asked if he planned to be the world’s greatest violinist and what would he be prepared to go through to make that dream come true.”

Match each statement about a character with the detail from the passage that **best** supports it.

Draw lines to match each character with **three** details describing the character.

maestro

is regularly asked to pose for photographs with fans

maestro

was rejected twice by the Viennese Imperial School of Music

maestro

gave up his goal of becoming a great violinist

Basil Harrison

was rejected once by the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music



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**Read the passage. Then answer the questions.**

### **It's a Dog's Life**

Everybody who has ever had a dog has wished their four-legged friend could live longer. After all, dogs are people's best friends. They greet us in the morning when we wake up. They wait patiently for us while we head to school or work. And they are faithfully there to meet us at the end of a long day. Dogs play with us, comfort us when we are sad, and stay by our side whenever we need them. If only they could stay there forever. But the fact of the matter is that dogs do not live nearly as long as people do.

#### **How Old Does This Breed Get?**

Dogs come in many different shapes and sizes. They are grouped into different types, or breeds. Each breed has an average life span. A breed has specific traits that relate to the dog's overall health. These traits usually have to do with how large the dog is and how much it weighs. Some dogs are more active than others. Some dogs become overweight easily or have heart problems. All of these things help to create the average life span of a dog breed.

People often choose a dog because its breed has a long average life span. For example, someone might buy a Miniature Poodle because it is likely to live up to 15 years or more. Miniature Poodles have one of the longest life spans of all breeds. Other breeds, such as the Irish Wolfhound, have shorter life spans of about six years. This is about half the length of time as a Poodle. But there is certainly no guarantee that every Miniature Poodle will live a long and healthy life. Every dog is an individual, just like every person. There is no way to know how long it will live. And, of course, a dog's life span also depends on how well its owner takes care of it.

#### **Does Age Really Matter?**

The average life span of all dog breeds is 13 years. If we measured that on the same scale as human years, each dog year would equal about seven human years. No wonder dogs seem to grow up so fast!

In the end, we can only hope that our dogs will live long, happy lives by our sides. Instead of looking for a long-lasting breed, it is more important to look for a dog that fits your lifestyle and personality. In fact, many people have found the “perfect” dog while visiting their local animal shelter. Shelter dogs make wonderful pets because they are so grateful to be given a home. As an added bonus, these dogs are often a mix of breeds, so they have the best traits from each.

Whatever dog you end up with, the best thing you can do is forget about how long it will live. Instead, you should enjoy the time you spend with it. If you focus on making happy memories, then your dog will stay in your heart long after it has left your side.

### Human Years and Dog Years

What does the information in the section titled “Does Age Really Matter?” show about the author’s point of view?

- A. The author believes the best dog to choose is one that will live longer than ten years.
- B. The author believes a new dog owner should figure out how many human years old a dog is before choosing it as a pet.
- C. The author believes a dog owner should always choose a dog that is expected to live longer than other breeds.
- D. The author believes the most important part of choosing a dog is selecting one that the dog owner will get along well with.

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “If we measured that on the same scale as human years, each dog year would equal about seven human years.”
- B. “Instead of looking for a long-lasting breed, it is more important to look for a dog that fits your lifestyle and personality.”
- C. “Whatever dog you end up with, the best thing you can do is forget about how long it will live.”

- D. “If you focus on making happy memories, then your dog will stay in your heart long after it has left your side.”

Which conclusion can be drawn from reading this passage?

- A. Dog owners can expect most dog breeds to live more than ten years.
- B. A dog that eats healthy food but does not get any exercise will not live very long.
- C. Dog owners should buy breeds that have long life spans.
- D. People who buy dogs from a shelter are happier than people who buy them elsewhere.

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “Some dogs are more active than others.”
- B. “People often choose a dog because its breed has a long average life span.”
- C. “The average life span of all dog breeds is 13 years.”
- D. “In fact, many people have found the ‘perfect’ dog while visiting their local animal shelter.”

Read the paragraphs under the heading “How Old Does this Breed Get?” Then answer the question that follows.

Which phrase **best** describes how the author chose to organize this section?

- A. by listing dog breeds in the order of their life spans
- B. by comparing and contrasting different dog breeds
- C. by explaining the causes and effects of choosing the wrong breed
- D. by stating the problems that some breeds have and how to solve them

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. “Some dogs become overweight easily or have heart problems.”
- B. “People often choose a dog because its breed has a long average life span.”
- C. “This is about half the length of time as a Poodle.”
- D. “And, of course, a dog’s life span also depends on how well its owner takes care of it.”

Why is looking at the graph important to understanding the information in the passage? Select **two** answers.

- A. The line graph shows how a dog ages faster than a human.
- B. The line graph shows which dog breed readers should buy based on life span.
- C. The line graph shows readers a dog’s age compared to a human’s age.

- D. The line graph suggests that most dogs live to be 91 years old in dog years.
- E. The line graph explains that dogs do not live to be older than 13 in human years.

Which sentence from the passage **best** states the main idea?

- A. “Dogs play with us, comfort us when we are sad, and stay by our side whenever we need them.”
- B. “But the fact of the matter is that dogs do not live nearly as long as people do.”
- C. “A breed has specific traits that relate to the dog’s overall health.”
- D. “Instead of looking for a long-lasting breed, it is more important to look for a dog that fits your lifestyle and personality.”

**Read the directions. Then answer the questions.**

Which sentence is correct?

- A. If I wrote a graphic novel, I would call it *Jamie’s Adventures At The Park*.
- B. If I wrote a graphic novel, I would call it *Jamie’s Adventures at the Park*.
- C. If I wrote a graphic novel, I would call it *Jamie’s adventures at the Park*.
- D. If I wrote a graphic novel, I would call it *Jamie’s adventures at the park*.

Select the **two** sentences that use correct verb tenses.

- A. I think he will be making an excellent tuba player.
- B. He will be playing the tuba in the band this year.
- C. For the last two years he been playing the flute.
- D. He be wanting to do something different this year.
- E. We think he will be very good at everything he tries to do.

Choose the **two** sentences that do **not** contain spelling errors.

- A. Jacob gave the library a call and their closed today.
- B. I am not going to the party because I do not fill well.
- C. Jennifer was so hungry that she ate two large tacos.
- D. We went to the mall and met George and Teresa there.
- E. The soup is to hot to eat, so we will have to let it cool down.

A student is writing a story for her teacher about a talent show. Read the draft of part of her story.

When we saw a flyer for the school talent show in the hallway, Annabelle and I decided we would both enter. I would sing, and she would perform a gymnastics

routine. I was \_\_\_\_\_ the day of the talent show because I was afraid I would make a mistake and the crowd would laugh at me. However, I had no reason to be. I gave my best performance ever, and the crowd applauded when I finished.

Which word **best** fills in the blank in the paragraph?

- A. awful
- B. fine
- C. Great
- D. nervous

A student is writing a review for his teacher about a play he recently saw with his class. Read the draft of the review.

On Friday our class went on a field trip to see the play “The House of Magic.” I thought it was okay. Most of the actors were very good, and I liked the characters they played. My favorite character was Minerva because I thought she was very funny. I also think they did a very good job on the bright, colorful set. If I were reading the story instead of watching it, I would picture the set to look a lot like it did. However, I also think the play was too long. There were many scenes in the play that were boring and did not add to the story very much. I nearly fell asleep during the part where they were having dinner.

Choose a more exact way to say what the writer means in the underlined words.

- A This play was an average length.
- B There was the usual amount of actors in the play.
- C There were both good and bad things about this play.
- D This was one of the most interesting plays I have ever seen.

A student is writing an opinion letter for her teacher about tigers. Read the draft of the letter and complete the task that follows.

Tigers are the greatest wild animals on Earth. They are graceful, strong, and very beautiful. They have always been the kings of jungles of Asia. But the number of tigers in the wild is dropping. These tigers are being hunted in great numbers. More tigers are being killed than are being born in the wild. Soon we may have no tigers.

It is very important that countries where tigers live in the wild do something about this. We should encourage the governments of these countries to pass laws against hunting tigers. While many countries already have these laws, not all of them are enforced.

The student wants to make sure her words will convince her audience of the importance of saving tigers. Choose the sentence that would **best** replace the underlined sentence.

- A. Therefore, more tigers are not alive.
- B. If we are not careful, tigers will fight back.
- C. As a result, tigers are greatly endangered.
- D. Someday, we will only be able to see tigers in zoos.