

COMMON CORE ALIGNED COMPREHENSION ASSESSMENT

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick CCSS Assessment

Name: _____

Score: / 9

Directions:

Use what you know about *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* to answer each of the following questions.

1. What detail from the introduction best supports the idea that Harris Burdick was a mysterious person?

- ☐ A He brought his lunch in a paper bag.
- ☐ B He said he wrote 14 stories but only showed the illustrations.
- ☐ C He wanted to publish a book of poems.
- ☐ D He worked in a bookstore in Boston.

2. What is the main idea of the introduction to *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*?

- ☐ A Burdick had trouble finishing his stories.
- ☐ B Burdick wanted to become a famous artist.
- ☐ C The author wanted to explain how Burdick's pictures were discovered and why they matter.
- ☐ D Peter Wenders collected books written by children.

3. In the story "The Harp," what do we learn about the character based on the caption: "So it's true, he thought. It's really true."?

- ☐ A He is very good at playing music, specifically the harp.
- ☐ B He is confused and needs help.
- ☐ C He feels angry and upset.
- ☐ D He is surprised because something he thought was a myth turned out to be real.

4. What does the word *bizarre* most likely mean as used in the introduction: "...stories that were bizarre, funny, and downright scary"?

- ☐ A Really fun and exciting
- ☐ B Strange or unusual
- ☐ C Sad or boring
- ☐ D Magical or helpful

CCSS Assessment

Common Core Assessment:
One question for each Reading
Informational OR Reading Literature
standard (1-9)

5. How is *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* different from most storybooks? (RL.4.5)

- ☒ A It has illustrations, titles, and captions but no full stories.
- ☐ B It is written as a play with dialogue.
- ☐ C It is a book of poems and illustrations.
- ☐ D It has no pictures at all.

6. Which sentence best shows how the point of view in *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* is different from most stories? (RL.4.6)

- ☐ A The story is told by many characters in first person.
- ☐ B The book switches between a narrator and character dialogue.
- ☒ C The book has no full narrator—it lets the reader imagine the story.
- ☐ D Each story is told by Chris Van Allsburg.

7. In the book, there is an illustration of a boy sleeping in his bed with his window wide open. Small glowing orbs are floating through the air toward him. Which detail from the illustration shows something unusual is happening? (RL.4.7)

- ☐ A The boy is asleep in his bed
- ☐ B The window is open at night
- ☒ C There are glowing orbs floating into the room
- ☐ D The bedroom has a nightstand and lamp

8. Which theme is common in many of the illustrations in *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*? (RL.4.9)

- ☒ A Strange events happening in ordinary places
- ☐ B Kids learning how to be responsible
- ☐ C Odd people and their strange jobs
- ☐ D Famous characters from myths and legends

9. Why is *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* a good example of a story that fits a 4th grade reading level? (RL.4.10)

- ☐ A It includes lots of long, difficult words.
- ☐ B It has many short poems with rhymes.
- ☒ C It asks readers to think deeply, make predictions, and imagine details.
- ☐ D It tells detailed, imaginative, and sometimes creepy stories.

Answer Key