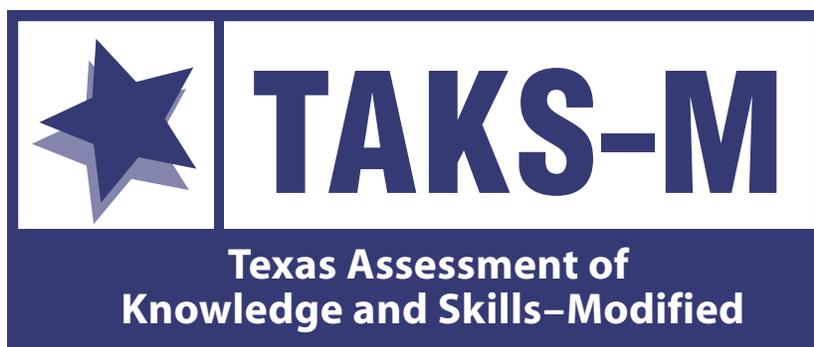


STUDENT NAME _____



**GRADE 4
READING**

Administered April 2009

READING



A Family Tradition

This is a story about a boy named Carl. His family is German American. His father, uncles, and cousins all play in a polka band. Sometimes they play at German festivals. Playing polka music is a German tradition, or custom. Carl's father expects him to play a musical instrument called an accordion. He practices, but he is not a good player. Carl really does not like the polka music the band plays. Now read the story to find out what Carl decides to do. Then answer the questions that follow.

A Family Tradition

1 Carl could hear the band playing polka music. He was waiting to fill his plate. Carl could smell sausage. He was very hungry. Carl liked the food at the German festival.

2 "Carl, dance with me!" said his cousin Erica. "You can eat later!"

3 "I have been in line for 10 minutes," Carl said. "I am not leaving now."

4 Erica went to find someone else to dance with. More people were starting to dance. They all knew the steps well.

5 "Your father's band is good," a woman said to Carl. "Is everyone in the band from your family?"

6 "Yes. My dad and my uncles started the band in school. Now two of my cousins play in it," Carl said.

1 Read this dictionary entry for the word step.

step \ˈstep\ *noun*

1. one of the flat surfaces on a stairway

2. a repeated pattern in a dance

3. the sound made when someone is walking

What is the meaning of steps as it is used in paragraph 4?

A Meaning 1

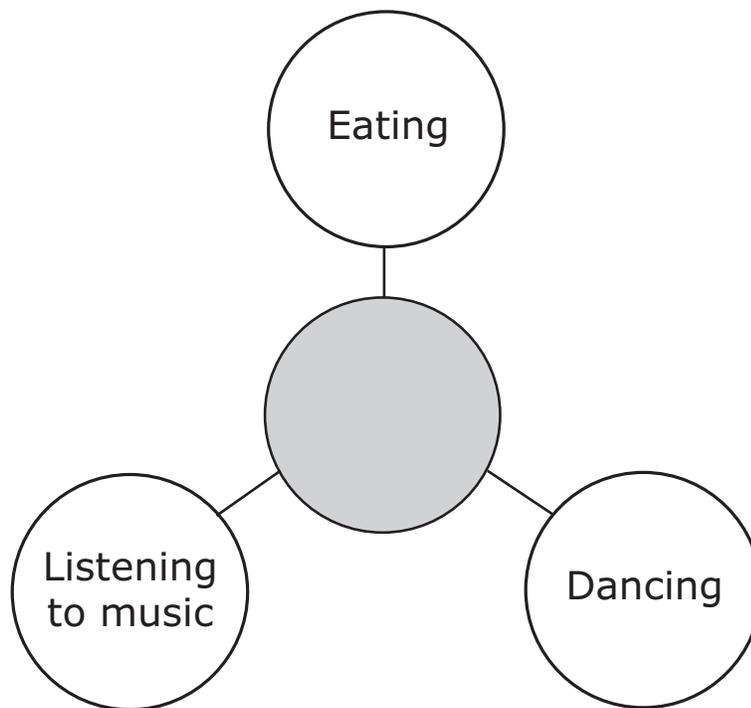
B Meaning 2

C Meaning 3

2 Why doesn't Carl want to dance with Erica?

- F** He knows that he is not a good dancer.
- G** He is hungry and wants something to eat.
- H** He is upset that he is not playing in the band.

3 Look at this web of information from the story.



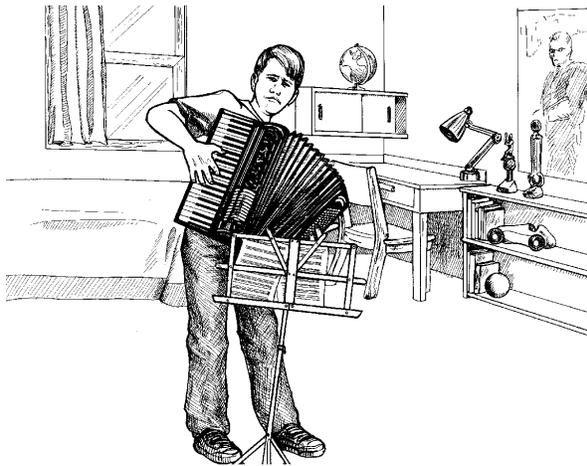
What would be the best title for the web?

- A** What Erica Wants Carl to Think About
- B** What Happens at the Festival
- C** What Causes Carl to Feel Upset

7 “When will you play in the band?” the woman asked Carl.

8 Carl did not like this question. He tried not to show the discomfort her question made him feel. Everyone in his family had to play in the band. His father even chose the accordion for Carl to play. Carl’s father had told stories about his family from Germany. They kept playing German music when they came to Texas. It helped them remember German customs. So Carl had started his accordion lessons.

9 Carl remembered practicing every day. He tried to do his best. But he was still a bad accordion player. It was hard to play the accordion. But it was not just the accordion. Carl did not like polka music. He did not think he would ever like it. His father did not know Carl felt this way.



10 The festival ended. The family went home. Carl went to his room. He thought about his family up on the stage. They had looked happy making music.

11 Carl did not feel that way. He was proud to be German American. He just did not want to play the accordion.

12 Carl went to talk to his father.

4 Why has Carl never talked to his father about his problem?

F Carl's father is too busy playing in the band.

G Carl thinks his father might tell him that he is not good enough to be in the band.

H Carl is afraid that he will disappoint his father.

5 What does the word discomfort mean in paragraph 8?

A Confused again

B Full of energy

C Not relaxed

6 Which sentence best shows that Carl knows his father wants him to join the band?

F *"When will you play in the band?" the woman asked Carl.*

G *His father even chose the accordion for Carl to play.*

H *They kept playing German music when they came to Texas.*

7 What is paragraph 8 mainly about?

A When Carl started taking music lessons

B How important German music is to Carl's family

C Why Carl's family moved from Germany

**Use the whole story "A Family Tradition" on
pages 6–8 to answer questions 8–10.**

8 How has Carl changed by the end of the story?

- F** He has decided to practice harder than he had before.
- G** He has learned to like polka music more.
- H** He is ready to tell his father how he really feels.

9 What is Carl worried about in this story?

- A** Talking to adults he does not know
- B** Having to dance with his cousin
- C** Not wanting to play in the family band

10 What will Carl most likely do after this story ends?

- F** Try to find a different way to honor his family's customs
- G** Ask Erica to teach him how to dance
- H** Find out what life is like in Germany





Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal

This selection is about part of the Old West. Long ago outlaws, or criminals, took over the land known as the Indian Territory. Judge Parker hired 200 deputy U.S. marshals. These marshals were like sheriffs and were hired to capture outlaws. A man named Bass Reeves was one of those marshals. He was very good at riding horses and shooting guns. He also changed the way he dressed to confuse and catch the outlaws. Now read the selection to find out how Bass Reeves became a hero of the Old West. Then answer the questions that follow.

Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal

- 1 Long ago parts of the Old West were not very safe. Outlaws were everywhere. They wore masks and robbed banks and trains.
- 2 One part of the Old West was called the Indian Territory. There were not many deputy U.S. marshals in this area. People who broke the law liked to hide there. No one was there to make them follow rules and obey laws in this wild place.
- 3 In 1875 Judge Parker took charge of the court in the Indian Territory. This was the only court for many miles. The judge before Parker had not been able to stop crime. There had been more than 100 murders in just two years.
- 4 Judge Parker wanted to make the Indian Territory a safer place. He hired 200 marshals. Their job was to catch outlaws and bring them to court. Many of these marshals were brave. But a man named Bass Reeves may have been the bravest of them all.

11 What are paragraphs 2 and 3 mainly about?

- A** The number of people killed in the Indian Territory
- B** Why the Indian Territory was not safe
- C** How many marshals lived in the Indian Territory

12 Why was the Indian Territory such a dangerous place before Judge Parker took charge?

- F** Trains often broke down there.
- G** The area covered many miles.
- H** There were not many marshals to stop crime.

13 Which of these best shows how Judge Parker tried to make the Indian Territory safer?

- A** Judge Parker ruled over the court for the Indian Territory.
- B** The judge before Judge Parker was not able to solve the outlaw problem.
- C** Judge Parker hired many marshals to catch outlaws in the Indian Territory.

5 Reeves had been a slave in Texas. One day he had a fight with his owner. He ran away to live in the Indian Territory. He learned all about the territory. Reeves even learned the many languages of the people who lived there. This helped him to be a better marshal. He was also very good at riding horses and shooting guns.



Bass Reeves

Courtesy of Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma Library

14 What is one reason Bass Reeves was a good marshal?

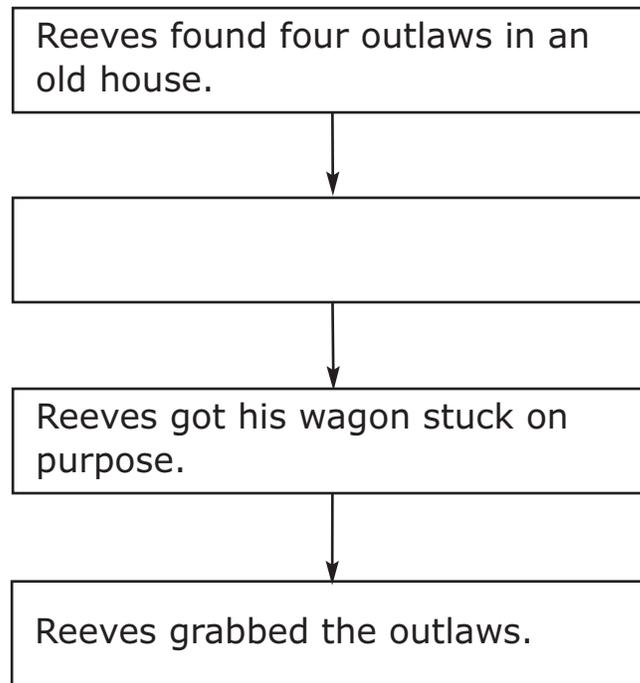
- F** He spoke many languages.
- G** He liked to argue with people.
- H** He once lived in Texas.

- 6 Reeves had never learned to read, but he was smart. He put on disguises to help him in his work. He changed his looks to help him catch outlaws. He did this instead of using his gun most of the time.
- 7 One time Reeves was trying to catch two outlaw brothers. He put on old clothes. He walked with a cane. He put holes in his hat. Then Reeves walked to the brothers' house. Their mother was tricked by the way Reeves looked. She gave him some food and asked him to stay the night. Later the outlaws came home. They went to sleep. Then Reeves grabbed them. He took them to Judge Parker's court.
- 8 Another time Reeves found four outlaws in an old house. He dressed as a farmer and drove an old wagon. He got his wagon stuck on purpose. He wanted the outlaws to help him. The outlaws were happy to help so he would leave. The outlaws lifted the wagon. Then Reeves grabbed them. He took them to Judge Parker's court.
- 9 Reeves was a marshal for 32 years. He caught more than 3,000 outlaws. Sometimes it took him a long time to catch an outlaw. But he almost always did.
- 10 People loved Bass Reeves. Outlaws were scared of him. He was brave and smart. Bass Reeves was a true hero of the Old West.

15 How did Bass Reeves catch outlaws?

- A** By finding ways to trick them
- B** By asking Judge Parker for help
- C** By working with the other marshals

16 Look at the diagram below.



Which of these belongs in the empty box?

- F** Reeves walked to the brothers' house.
- G** Reeves dressed as a farmer.
- H** Reeves became a marshal.

17 In paragraph 6, what does the word disguises mean?

- A** Dangerous outlaws
- B** Places to hide
- C** Types of costumes

18 How did Bass Reeves help people in the Indian Territory?

- F** He caught many outlaws.
- G** He drove a wagon well.
- H** He did not like to hurt people.

**Use the whole selection "Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal"
on pages 14–18 to answer questions 19–22.**

19 What is the best summary of the selection?

- A** Bass Reeves was a marshal in the Old West. He thought of smart ways to catch outlaws in the Indian Territory. He caught more than 3,000 people. He made the Old West a safer place.
- B** Bass Reeves had been a slave in Texas. He ran away to the Indian Territory. He learned some new languages. He was good at shooting guns.
- C** Bass Reeves lived in the Old West a long time ago. He became a marshal in the Indian Territory. It was a dangerous place to live. One time he caught two brothers.

20 Which of these best shows that Bass Reeves was a true hero?

- F** He helped solve a problem in the Old West.
- G** He learned to speak new languages.
- H** He escaped from slavery.

21 Why was this selection written?

- A** To tell what life was like in the Indian Territory
- B** To convince people to become marshals
- C** To tell about an interesting person from the Old West

22 How did Bass Reeves probably feel about his job?

- F** He liked using different ways to catch outlaws.
- G** He wished there were more outlaws to catch.
- H** He thought that the Indian Territory was too large for him to watch over.





My Name Is Mei-Ying

This is a story about a girl named Mei-Ying (MAY-YING). She does not like her Chinese name. Her mother and father tell her how special Chinese names are, but Mei-Ying likes to be called Maya. A new girl named Haloke (ha-LO-key) comes to Mei-Ying's school. Haloke is a Navajo American Indian. The girls at soccer practice tease Haloke about her name. Now read the story to find out what happens with Mei-Ying and Haloke. Then answer the questions that follow.

My Name Is Mei-Ying

- 1 "Mei-Ying?"
- 2 Maya did not like to be called by her Chinese name. She acted like she did not hear her father. "Mei-Ying!" he said louder.
- 3 "Dad, I told you I want to be called Maya," she said. "All my friends call me that. Mei-Ying is too different." She looked down. She did not want to see her father's face.
- 4 "Be proud of your name," her father said. "Chinese names are special."
- 5 "I know," Maya said. "I like being Chinese. I just do not like my Chinese name."
- 6 Maya's father did not argue. He shook his head. He walked away.



23 Why does Maya act like she does not hear her father calling her?

- A** She wants to be left alone.
- B** She does not like to be called by her Chinese name.
- C** She knows he wants to argue.

7 That night Maya's mother told her more about Chinese names. People in China think that a good name will make a person happy. Maya's grandparents helped choose a good name for Maya.

8 Maya knew her friends would not want to hear this. It was better to be called Maya. Her friends thought Maya was a cool name.

24 What is the most likely reason that Mei-Ying has changed her name to Maya?

F She thinks the name Maya makes her sound smarter.

G She thinks her grandparents would like the name Maya.

H She thinks the name Maya will help her fit in with the other kids.

9 There was a new girl at soccer practice the next day. The coach said, "Everyone, meet Haloke."

10 "What kind of name is *Haloke*?" a girl asked.

11 Haloke looked right at the girl. "It is a Navajo name," she said. "My name means 'salmon.'"

12 Another girl scoffed, "You are named after a *fish*?" She made a face. The others laughed.

13 "That is right," Haloke said in a firm voice.

25 What does the word scoffed mean in paragraph 12?

- A** Listened carefully
- B** Solved a problem
- C** Made fun of

26 In paragraphs 11 through 13, Haloke can best be described as —

- F** foolish
- G** confident
- H** excited

- 14 Soccer practice started. Soon everyone saw that Haloke was a good player. Maya was glad to have another good player on the team. Later Maya was getting ready to leave. She heard some of her friends talking.
- 15 "What a stupid name!" someone said. "If I were named after a fish, I would not tell people."
- 16 Maya heard something move behind her. She turned. She saw Haloke running away.
- 17 "Haloke, wait!" Maya yelled. She ran after Haloke.
- 18 Haloke looked at Maya. Haloke was mad. "What do you want?" she asked.
- 19 "I am sorry they were so mean," Maya said.
- 20 The angry look left Haloke's face. She asked, "Is your name Maya?"
- 21 Maya stopped to think. "No," she said. "It is Mei-Ying."

27 In paragraph 20, what does the sentence below show?

The angry look left Haloke's face.

- A** Haloke begins to feel better.
- B** Haloke changes her mind often.
- C** Haloke was never mad.

28 Which word best describes the girls when Haloke comes to soccer practice?

F Unfriendly

G Shy

H Helpful

29 What can the reader tell about Haloke at the end of the story?

A She wants to tell the coach what has happened.

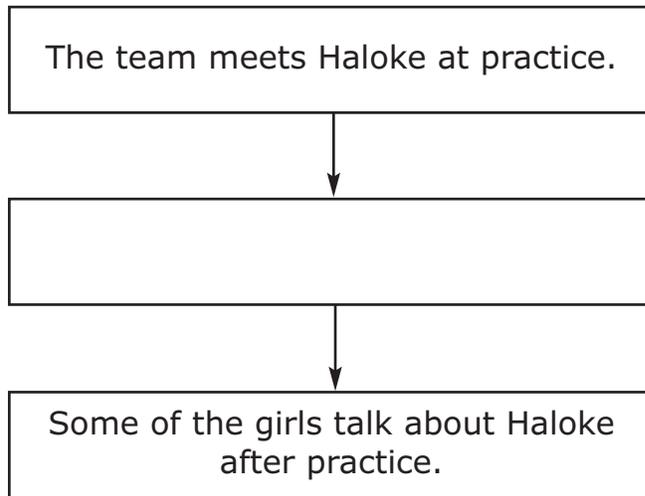
B She does not blame Maya for the other girls acting mean.

C She will not play on the soccer team anymore.

**Use the whole story "My Name Is Mei-Ying" on
pages 24–28 to answer questions 30–32.**

- 30** Why does Maya say that her name is Mei-Ying at the end of the story?
- F** She does not want to be friends with the people who call her Maya.
 - G** Haloke's pride in her name has made Maya become proud of her Chinese name.
 - H** She thinks she will have better luck if she starts to use her Chinese name again.
- 31** How would Maya's father probably feel about what happens at the end of the story?
- A** Pleased
 - B** Confused
 - C** Jealous

32 The chart below shows the order of some events from the story.



Which of these belongs in the empty box?

- F** Maya runs after Haloke to talk to her.
- G** Haloke plays soccer with the team.
- H** Haloke asks Maya her name.



**TAKS-M GRADE 4
READING
APRIL 2009**