

Grade

8

English Language Arts

# Assesslet

Narrative

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## Directions

- Read all the directions for each question carefully and think about the answer.
- This Assesslet contains one passage and five items. Questions 1, 2, and 3 are selected-response items where you choose the one **BEST** answer. Answer each question by filling in the circle **on your answer document**.
- Question 4 is a constructed-response item. Write your answer on the lines provided **on your answer document**.
- Question 5 is an extended writing prompt. Use the scratch paper provided to plan your writing. Then, write your essay on the lines provided **on your answer document**.
- Be sure to write your answers in the spaces provided **on the answer document**.

## Right Place, Right Time

It has been said that you are exactly where you are supposed to be at exactly the right time. Looking back on it now, I believe that this is true. The move to Georgia was the fourth one for my family since I began first grade. I was going into the eighth grade anxious at the thought of starting yet another new school year with no friends. I decided that if it was meant to be, it was up to me, Jared Johnson, to find at least one friend before the new school year began.

As it turned out, Jessie lived just one block over from me, and we were inseparable all summer. Jessie showed me all of her favorite places to explore. We cooled ourselves in the creek behind her house catching crawfish and bullfrogs.

She could match me shot for shot, pitch for pitch, and mile for mile, and she was the best friend I had ever had. When school began, we had four classes together, and we shared a locker where we would leave each other quirky jokes and notes of encouragement.

As summer faded, we returned to Georgia, and I couldn't wait to see Jessie and give her a souvenir of the New York skyline. I raced to her house as soon as I got unpacked. I knocked on her door with anticipation, excited to see her and talk about everything we had done since we last saw each other. When the door opened, I knew in a gut-wrenching instant that something had changed. I saw her standing in the doorway, taller, tanner, and leaner.

I left Jessie's house bewildered. She had changed over the summer, and an invisible shift had occurred in our relationship that I could not explain. When our first year of high school began the next week, Jessie and I shared only one class together, yet I was optimistic we would be able to talk.

A few days later, I was walking down the hall when someone stuck a foot out and tripped me, sending me hurtling against a wall of lockers and sending my glasses in another direction. I could hear snickers and see blurry fingers point at me. I slowly got up, and, as I groped along the floor for my glasses, I heard that sweet voice come to my rescue. There was Jessie telling the other kids to leave me alone or else. A quiet hush descended on the scene as she reached down to help me up.

She said that she was so angry with me for leaving her for the summer, and she missed me so much that she sought out other friends only to find herself caught up in the drama of being in the "cool" crowd. She apologized for hurting my feelings, and promptly proceeded to grab a handful of mud and make a ball with it, hurling it at me at warp speed. chest, and as I hurled a mud ball back at her, the healing be

1. Which **BEST** describes **the tone of the** passage?

- A. **hopeful**
- B. **hopeful**
- C. **playful**
- D. **reflective**

2. Which of the following **BEST** describes the theme **of the passage** ?

- A. Friends will hurt you no matter what.
- B. Betrayal is a natural part of friendship.
- C. **Being true to yourself is the best way to live.**
- D. Friendship requires forgiveness and acceptance.

3. Which of the following **statements from the story BEST** reflects the theme of the story?
- A. **By the time he returned home from the creek, he learned of the changes and decided to stay there only to find it a completely unfamiliar place.**
- B. She had changed over the summer, and an invisible shift had occurred in our relationship that I could not explain.
- C. She said, "I'm Jessie," as she put her arm through mine, and we walked out of the building together.
- D. When we had exhausted our anger, hurt, and frustrations, we began laughing hysterically standing in the middle of the creek covered in mud.

4. Jessie's character says twice, "I'm Jessie." **How does the story BEST**

How does the story **reflect** this as a **character's** **change**? Cite two details from the passage to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines provided **on your answer document**.

5. The story is told from Jared’s point of view. [REDACTED] that something has changed about her, and about their relationship.

Rewrite the visit [REDACTED] character’s transformation over the summer and her shift in attitude toward Jared.

Use the scratch paper provided to plan your writing. Then, write your story on the lines provided **on your answer document**.