

# **Niagara Falls High School**

## **English 9**

### **Emergency Lessons**

**Directions:** Please use this packet to help practice the reading and writing skills you will need to not only pass the English 9 Final Exam but to find success on the Regents Exam at the end of Grade 10. You may go in any order you wish, but each story or article helps practice a variety of skills.

Included you will find:

#### **I. NONFICTION**

**“Animal Rights- The Future of Zoos”**

- **Writing Prompt and Multiple Choice**

#### **II. Grade 9 Skills Practice**

- **This features short reading selections and corresponding activities**

**Read the article, complete the multiple choice and written response (on a separate piece of paper)**

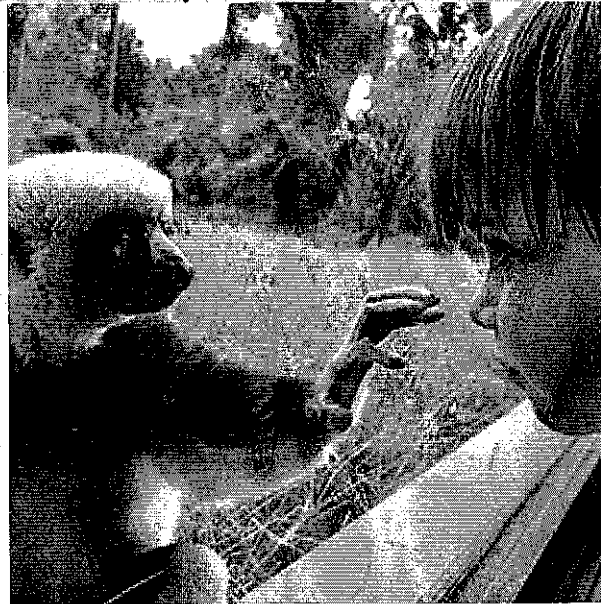
## **Animal Rights - The Future of Zoos**

People have kept animals in cages for thousands of years. But new understanding about the lives of creatures in captivity is transforming how zoos treat and exhibit animals. Are the changes enough?

JR SCHOLASTIC - MAY 13, 2019

By Laura Anastasia

**As You Read, Think About: Is it our responsibility to protect animals from becoming extinct?**



Courtesy of Jacksonville Zoo

Young gorillas wrestle together playfully. Monkeys scale a 50- foot tree. Bonobos shriek and swing on vines. Around them, massive rock formations, tropical plants, and long grasses fill the landscape.

The animals are native to Africa's forests, and this habitat reflects that. But these primates actually live in Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Florida.

Every year, nearly 1 million people visit the zoo to watch the apes and monkeys run overhead through tunnels, to film them climbing, and even to touch hands with them—through the glass.

The primates' expansive enclosure is a far cry from the metal cages that were once standard in zoos, and that's no accident. Zoos used to be almost entirely focused on entertaining humans. But destruction of habitats, illegal hunting, and research about how captivity affects animals' well-being have prompted zoos to embrace conservation and transform how they treat wildlife.

195 million

**Number of visitors U.S. zoos receive annually—equal to more than half the U.S. population**

SOURCE: Association of Zoos & Aquariums, U.S. Census Bureau

Some changes are easy to spot: Enclosures have been expanded. Natural vegetation has replaced concrete. Other changes are more behind-the-scenes: Zoos are teaming up to save endangered species. They're also devoting millions of dollars to research and focusing on teaching visitors about challenges animals face in the wild.

Such efforts have won praise from many people. But zoo critics say that enclosures are still cages, no matter how many trees are in them. They argue that zoos are inhumane, pointing to studies that have shown that animals in captivity suffer from anxiety, boredom, and stress. Wild animals, the critics say, should be free.

Recently, the debate over keeping wildlife in captivity has grown even more heated. This past February, the London Zoo in the United Kingdom tried to mate two Sumatran tigers, a species that is critically endangered. But the male mauled the female to death before zookeepers could intervene. The incident shocked people around the world and caused many to ask: Have zoos transformed enough to truly benefit animals?

### Zoos of the Past

The earliest known menagerie existed in ancient Egypt more than 5,000 years ago (see *Key Moments, above*). Modern zoos, which became popular in the early 1800s in Europe, have continued to capture humans' fascination. That's because zoos let people connect with wild animals in ways that just aren't possible through books or YouTube videos, supporters say.

"Most people won't have the opportunity to travel to Asia or Africa to see orangutans or elephants. But they can visit a zoo and see them up close," says Rob Vernon of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). That group officially certifies zoos that meet strict standards for animal care, conservation, and education.

Just making eye contact with a tiger can leave a lasting impression.

"People are much more likely to want to help conserve an animal if they learn about it and see it up close," Vernon explains.



Tom Mihalek/EPA/Shutterstock

**CAT CROSSING:** New designs, such as the mesh trails at the Philadelphia Zoo, give animals more choice in where they roam.

### Saving Species

Many of the nation's best zoos have made it their mission to protect animals, particularly endangered ones. They do that in part by studying the species they house. At the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., research on elephants is helping scientists develop a vaccine for a potentially fatal virus that affects herds in zoos and in the wild.

In addition, the AZA helps coordinate zoos' efforts to protect more than 500 species. Those efforts include breeding endangered animals and, when possible, releasing them into the wild to help restore dwindling populations. Zoos have helped the black-

footed ferret, the red wolf, and a handful of other species recover from the brink of extinction this way, says Ben A. Minter, a conservation expert at Arizona State University.

### Not a Simple Solution

Such efforts may sound noble, but zoo critics argue that many breeding programs focus more on sustaining zoo populations than saving species—and that many animals being bred aren't endangered. Zoos, critics say, are more concerned with having baby animals, which bring people—and therefore more money—into the parks.

Plus, success stories like the red wolf's are rare, Minter says.

"Each one of these cases takes an enormous effort—

multiple zoos, government agencies, scientists, volunteers. It can take many millions of dollars.

Once it's back in the wild, the animal has to be monitored. It's a never-ending process," he explains.

Efforts to breed certain endangered species, such as giant pandas and lowland gorillas, have proven difficult—and, as in the case of the Sumatran tigers at the London Zoo, sometimes deadly.

And many animals that zoos can breed successfully, including otters and even songbirds, lack the skill they need to survive in the wild.

Plus, some endangered animals don't have a natural habitat to return to, says Lori Marino, a scientist who studies animal behavior in Kanab, Utah.

"If their natural ecosystem is destroyed, then those animals must remain in captivity their entire lives," Marino says. "That is not conservation."



Chuck Eckert/Alamy Stock Photo

**TINY CELEBRITY:** Baby animals, like this polar bear at Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, are a huge draw for visitors.

### Bad for Animals' Health?

Life in captivity is often difficult for animals, Marino says. Many show signs of stress and boredom. Big cats walk in endless loops. Polar bears rock their heads. Elephants sway. Such repetitive behaviors aren't seen in the wild, Marino explains:

"When you see a tiger pacing, that means it is very stressed."

One study found that carnivores with naturally large ranges, such as polar bears, lions, and tigers, show the most stress in captivity. Wild polar bears' home ranges can span 31,000 square miles—about a million times the size of a zoo's typical polar bear enclosure.

Other research has shown that many animals are intelligent and experience a wide range of emotions. Elephants, for example, can recognize themselves in mirrors. They comfort other elephants that are distressed and grieve when a member of their herd dies. Critics say that knowing animals have such complex feelings should stop zoos from keeping them captive, with little control over their lives.

### A New Kind of Zoo

Elephant research has prompted more than 25 zoos in North America to close their elephant exhibits in recent years, sending their herds to sanctuaries with more room to roam.

Sanctuaries resemble animals' natural environment and range more than zoos do, Marino says. In sanctuaries, "the animals' health and well-being are a priority. People aren't getting close to them. They're getting back as much of their freedom as possible," she says.

### Signs of a Good Zoo

#### Seal of Approval

The logo of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums indicates that a zoo treats animals well and devotes money to education and conservation.

#### Creature Comforts

Look closely at the animals' living conditions. Do the animals have enough space? Do their enclosures have enough elements to occupy and stimulate them?

#### Teaching Tools

Zoos should have signs posted about animals' conservation status and life in the wild. They may also have staff available to answer visitors' questions.

Meanwhile, zoos are exploring new ways to prioritize animals' needs. In 2011, the Philadelphia Zoo in Pennsylvania introduced a trail system for its animals. Tigers, red pandas, and other creatures cross the zoo overhead in mesh bridges and tunnels that give them more choice in where and when they roam. About 20 zoos worldwide have followed this approach.

And Jacksonville Zoo's year-old great ape exhibit features several computerized learning stations that allow gorillas to communicate with zookeepers by pressing certain symbols, shapes, and colors. The technology helps reduce boredom and gives the gorillas a chance to have a say in their care. A massive tree at the exhibit's center houses an area from which the zoo's staff can study the apes—without intruding into their space.

### Finding the Right Balance

Are such changes enough to make life in zoos positive for animals? The debate over whether zoos are ethical continues. But the upgrades have attracted visitors. U.S. zoo attendance has risen by 20 percent over the past 15 years.

Still, even supporters know that zoos must maintain a delicate balance of keeping their animals happy, giving visitors access to them, and protecting animals from extinction in the wild.

Says Vernon, "Zoos today must exist for a higher purpose."

**Write About It!** Is it OK to keep animals in zoos? Find at least three pieces of evidence in the article or sidebars to support your opinion. Then use that evidence and additional research to write an argument essay.

**Test Prep**

## Know the News: The Future of Zoos

Read the article on pp. 10-14, then answer the questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the article?
  - Ⓐ More than 25 zoos have closed their elephant exhibits in recent years.
  - Ⓑ People have been collecting and displaying animals for thousands of years.
  - Ⓒ Many zoos are changing the way they treat and exhibit animals.
  - Ⓓ Gorillas, monkeys, and bonobos at the Jacksonville Zoo have a large enclosure.
2. Which detail best supports that central idea?
  - Ⓐ The Philadelphia Zoo introduced a trail system for its animals that lets them cross the zoo overhead in mesh bridges and tunnels.
  - Ⓑ Baby animals often increase zoo attendance.
  - Ⓒ Studies have shown that animals in captivity suffer from anxiety, stress, and boredom.
  - Ⓓ The debate over keeping animals in captivity has grown more heated.
3. Based on context clues in the following statement, what does *expansive* mean? "The primates' expansive enclosure is a far cry from the metal cages that were once standard in zoos."
  - Ⓐ cramped                      Ⓒ old-fashioned
  - Ⓑ wild                          Ⓓ spacious
4. How are zoos today different from in the past?
  - Ⓐ Zoos today are solely focused on entertainment.
  - Ⓑ Zoos today devote millions of dollars to conservation and research.
  - Ⓒ Zoos today do not breed endangered species.
  - Ⓓ Zoos today are no longer controversial.
5. According to zoo critics, which is one reason zoos are inhumane?
  - Ⓐ Some animals in captivity suffer from anxiety and stress.
  - Ⓑ Zoo animal enclosures have gotten larger.
  - Ⓒ Many animal species are endangered.
  - Ⓓ Jacksonville Zoo has computerized learning stations for its gorillas.
6. Why does the author mention zoos' breeding efforts for the red wolf and the black-footed ferret?
  - Ⓐ to emphasize how difficult it is to help wild animal populations recover
  - Ⓑ to show how zoos have helped prevent some species from becoming extinct
  - Ⓒ to highlight the importance of enclosures that reflect animals' natural habitats
  - Ⓓ to convince readers that zoos should not breed endangered animals
7. Which detail best supports the idea that life in captivity is often difficult for animals?
  - Ⓐ Zoo attendance has increased by 20 percent over the past 15 years.
  - Ⓑ Some endangered animals do not have a natural habitat to go back to.
  - Ⓒ Big cats walk in endless loops in captivity but not in the wild.
  - Ⓓ Many animals raised in captivity lack the skills to survive in the wild.
8. Which best describes the structure of the article?
  - Ⓐ chronological              Ⓒ compare/contrast
  - Ⓑ cause and effect          Ⓓ problem/solution
9. Which statement *cannot* be supported by information in the article?
  - Ⓐ Improvements in zoos will likely end the debate over keeping animals in captivity.
  - Ⓑ Many zoos will likely continue to transform how they treat and exhibit animals.
  - Ⓒ In the eyes of zoo critics, animal sanctuaries are more humane than zoos.
  - Ⓓ Many species are endangered because of poaching and habitat loss.
10. Which word best describes Philadelphia Zoo's animal trail system and Jacksonville Zoo's computerized learning stations for gorillas?
  - Ⓐ standard                      Ⓒ limiting
  - Ⓑ controversial              Ⓓ innovative

**SKILLS PRACTICE LITERARY TEXT**

**from "The Gift of the Magi," O. Henry** *Read this passage from "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. Then, answer the following question(s).*

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a gray cat walking a gray fence in a gray backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling—something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honor of being owned by Jim.

1. The following question has two parts. Answer Part A first, and then Part B.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Part A** Which description of Della does the passage **most clearly** support?

- a. a habitual shopper
- b. a loving wife
- c. a wealthy heiress
- d. a hopeless dreamer

\_\_\_\_\_ **Part B** Which sentence is **most effective** in supporting this description?

- a. Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag.
- b. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present.
- c. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated.
- d. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which statement **best** describes the conflict that Della faces?

- a. She does not have enough money to buy her husband a gift.
- b. She refuses to admit that she and Jim are poor.
- c. She likes to shop, but she and Jim have no money.
- d. She is disappointed that Jim must work on Christmas.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Della wants to buy a gift for her husband that is "fine and rare and sterling." In this context, which of the multiple meanings of *sterling* applies?

- a. a type of silver strengthened with a small amount of another metal
- b. made of strengthened silver
- c. payable in British money
- d. of superior quality

**LITERARY TEXT**

**Summary of "The Gift of the Magi," O. Henry**

*The following paragraph briefly summarizes "The Gift of the Magi," a short story by O. Henry. Read the passage, and then answer the question(s).*

In the story "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry, the character Della sells her beautiful, long hair to a wigmaker in order to buy a watch chain for Jim, her husband, as a Christmas gift. At the same time, unbeknownst to Della, Jim sells his watch, which he greatly treasures, to buy Della beautiful hair combs. Near the end of the story, the two exchange their gifts, and they are each moved by the sacrifice the other has made.

4. The following question has two parts. Answer Part A first, and then Part B.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Part A** Which theme do the actions of Della and Jim suggest **most** clearly?

- a. Being wealthy makes life easier.
- b. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
- c. Love is the greatest gift.
- d. Time heals all wounds.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Part B** Which piece of evidence from the summary **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. Della sells her beautiful, long hair to a wigmaker....
- b. Jim sells his watch, which he greatly treasures....
- c. [T]he two exchange their gifts....
- d. [T]hey are each moved by the sacrifice the other has made.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which of the following options **best** describes how the author could create a frame story for "The Gift of the Magi"?

- a. The author could tell some events from Jim's perspective and some from Della's.
- b. The author could tell Jim and Della's story through letters the two exchange with one another.
- c. The author could tell another story in which a character narrates Jim and Della's story.
- d. The author could tell a story about something that happened to Jim and Della in the past.



**INFORMATIONAL TEXT** Read the passage about Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. Then, answer the following question(s).

- (1) Did you know that a 1906 novel led to a law that changed the way Americans process food? That novel was Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. The book exposed harsh working conditions and unsanitary practices in the urban meatpacking plants of Chicago. *The Jungle* forced light into the dark corners of big business.
- (2) Sinclair filled *The Jungle* with facts to show America how poorly immigrants and the working class were treated by the big companies, which were driven by greed. The *Chicago Tribune* wrote that Sinclair "set out to write a book that would do for workers what *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had done for slaves half a century earlier."
- (3) But Sinclair was surprised that it was his horrific description of how meat was processed that caused the bigger uproar. It infuriated Americans. Sinclair remarked, "I aimed at the public's heart and by accident I hit it in the stomach." The outrage was heard in the White House. President Theodore Roosevelt ordered an investigation into the book's claims and found that everything Sinclair wrote was true. The meatpacking companies had tried to keep a lid on their shameful practices. With a single book, Sinclair had exposed them.
- (4) Roosevelt pressured Congress to pass the 1906 Pure Food and Drug and Federal Meat Inspection Acts, and they did. The acts changed the ways in which food and drugs are handled in the United States.
- (5) Sinclair's book was the catalyst for improvements in sanitary conditions in manufacturing plants. He was an author who would not be silenced. The corrupt businessmen he exposed called Sinclair a "muckraker" (literally someone who rakes "muck"), but the people who benefited from Sinclair's "muckraking" enjoyed better labor laws and safer food and drugs.

6. The following question has two parts. Answer Part A first, and then Part B.

           **Part A** Which central idea is **most clearly** supported by the ideas in the passage?

- a. The best way to enact a legal reform is to use popular books to reach the masses.
- b. It is the duty of journalists to anger corporations and the people who run them.
- c. A fight for a particular cause may have unintended consequences, bad or good.
- d. The only way to enact lasting change in America is to appeal to the president.

           **Part B** Which piece of evidence **best** supports the central idea from Part A?

- a. The corrupt men who ran businesses did not like Sinclair.
- b. Sinclair wanted to write a book similar to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- c. President Roosevelt finally decided to read the book because of the outrage from Americans.
- d. Sinclair cared about poor working conditions, but his book led to changes in meat processing.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. The passage quotes Sinclair as saying, "I aimed at the public's heart." (paragraph 3) Which answer choice **most accurately** restates his meaning?

- a. I tried to cause readers physical pain.
- b. I questioned people's ability to feel compassion for others.
- c. I tried to create public sympathy for a cause.
- d. I tried to make people ill when they read *The Jungle*.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. The words underlined in each of the following sentences share the same denotation, or literal meaning, as the word *infuriated* in paragraph 3 of the passage. Which word has a **more negative** connotation than *infuriated*? Base your answer on context as well as on your knowledge of words.

- a. The buzzing of the fly around his head irritated Nate.
- b. It enraged Miguel when another driver wrecked his car.
- c. The fact that Ian was late for the second time angered Darshon.
- d. The long wait in line agitated Jan, who needed to be home at four.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Which sentences **best** support the author's claim that Sinclair's book accomplished something different from what Sinclair had hoped? Choose **two** options.

- a. Did you know that a 1906 novel led to a law that changed the way Americans process food? (paragraph 1)
- b. *The Jungle* forced light into the dark corners of big business. (paragraph 1)
- c. But Sinclair was surprised that it was his horrific description of how meat was processed that caused the biggest uproar. (paragraph 3)
- d. Sinclair remarked, "I aimed at the public's heart and by accident I hit it in the stomach." (paragraph 3)
- e. He was an author who would not be silenced. (paragraph 5)

**Standards and Skills Questions (Without Text Selections)**

*Identify the choice that best answers the question.*

- 10.** The following question has two parts. Answer Part A first, and then Part B.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Part A** Read this opening paragraph of a story. What can you **most reasonably** predict will happen later?

Colin slipped in and out of the lab quickly, the stolen documents hidden in his jacket. He easily made his way to the freight elevator and took it to the basement, unaware of the tiny camera in the corner. He was sure he would never be suspected of the theft.

- a. Colin will misplace the documents.
- b. Colin will have to decode the documents.
- c. Colin will get away without any problem.
- d. Colin will be suspected of the theft.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **11.** Read the sentence below and answer the question that follows.

Your dog escaped from your house, in fact, she dug a hole; in my lawn.

Which of the choices below fixes the misplaced punctuation?

- a. Your dog; escaped from your house, in fact she dug a hole in my lawn.
- b. Your dog escaped from your house; in fact, she dug a hole in my lawn.
- c. Your dog escaped from your house in fact; she dug a hole in my lawn.
- d. Your dog escaped from your house, in fact she dug; a hole in my lawn.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **12.** Read the sentence. Then, answer the question that follows.

My sister and I laughed like hyenas at the clown balancing on a ball.

Which noun in the sentence does the underlined participial phrase modify?

- a. sister
- b. I
- c. hyenas
- d. clown

- \_\_\_\_\_ **13.** Based on context clues, what is the meaning of the underlined word?

Having eaten a three-course meal with his family, Jerome felt completely satiated.

- a. tired
- b. miserable
- c. satisfied
- d. nervous