

2017 NJCL READING COMPREHENSION TEST
LEVELS ½ & 1

The passages on which the following questions are based are on the **BACK** page of this test. Tear off that page for easier access between the passages and the questions.

Questions 1-10 refer to Passage One, “Proserpina.”

1. What is Proserpina doing in the first sentence of the passage?
A. picking flowers
B. wandering in Sicily
C. playing in a field
D. helping her mother make the flowers grow
2. According to line 1, how did Pluto’s chariot approach her?
A. stealthily
B. fiercely
C. quickly
D. without warning
3. What is the specific relationship between Pluto and Proserpina?
A. he is her brother
B. he is her cousin
C. he is her maternal uncle
D. he is her paternal uncle
4. Which of these is NOT one of the ways in which the flight of Pluto’s chariot is described?
A. high in the sky
B. through fields
C. a terrible flight
D. through lakes
5. What does Proserpina do while in Pluto’s chariot?
A. she cries and calls for her mother
B. she shouts with her friends
C. she frightens her mother and makes her cry
D. her friends shout her name
6. How does Pluto open a way into the Underworld?
A. he drives down a road up to the deep sea
B. he goes to the top of a tall mountain
C. he places a scepter into a deep spring
D. he builds a tall monument and opens it
7. According to lines 4-5, how long does Ceres search for Proserpina before finding her?
A. a day and a night
B. many days and nights
C. she searches every day and rests at night
D. Ceres doesn’t find her
8. According to line 5 and the word “**fessa**,” why does Ceres give up hope?
A. she had searched everywhere
B. she was tired
C. she forgot about Proserpina
D. she was angry
9. What does Ceres do in lines 5-6 in the sentence “**Valdē...negābat**”?
A. She takes to the air to continue her search.
B. She withdraws from the lands in frustration.
C. She asks the Earth itself where to find Proserpina.
D. She refuses to let things grow on Earth.
10. In context of the passage, by which of these phrases could the word “**ubique**” best be replaced?
A. **quō tempore**
B. **in omnibus locīs**
C. **ad hoc**
D. **cum omnibus amīcīs**

Questions 11-20 refer to Passage Two, “The Siege of Veii.”

11. Which of these can best be inferred from the first sentence of this passage?
A. Rome already had established their empire.
B. The conflict with Veii was not Rome’s first war.
C. The Romans lost the battle at Lake Regillus.
D. The siege of Veii was a lesser-known conflict.
12. What does the phrase “**Rōmānī cum finitimīs oppidīs multa bella gerēbant**” tell us about the wars that the Romans fought?
A. They were with nearby towns.
B. They were fought fiercely.
C. Romans fought their wars against the same foe.
D. The wars lasted for many years.
13. To whom/what does the word “**quōrum**” (line 1) refer?
A. the Romans
B. the towns
C. Lake Regillus
D. the wars

14. In line 2, which of these is NOT one of the things that is learned about the town of Veii?
 A. It had been fortified. B. It had natural defenses.
 C. It had been built by hand. D. It was built near a natural lake.
15. Which of these best describes the war as told in the sentence in lines 2-3 (**Decem...frūstrā**)?
 A. After ten years, the war was still going on. B. After ten years, Veii had defeated Rome
 C. After ten years, Rome had defeated Veii. D. It took ten years for Rome to breach Veii's walls.
16. How did the "**mīrum prodigium**" affect the Romans?
 A. It gave the Romans' spirits a great lift. B. The Romans decided to give up on the war.
 C. The Romans were greatly disturbed. D. The Romans were extremely excited.
17. What do we learn about the water in Lake Albanus in lines 3-4 (**Nam...crēvit**)?
 A. It was noticed that it was colder than usual. B. It had grown unusually deep.
 C. It frequently achieved the depths that it was at. D. It flowed naturally into the sea.
18. Based on the context of the sentence in line 5 (**Numquam...ēmissa erit**), what is the best meaning for the word **priusquam** in that sentence?
 A. before which B. until C. after D. whenever
19. In lines 5-6, what do the Romans do to gain knowledge about the future?
 A. They seek advice from the envoys of the Delphic oracle.
 B. The oracle at Delphi sends envoys to the Romans with advice.
 C. They send envoys to the oracle at Delphi.
 D. They ask the Delphic oracle to come to them.
20. According to the oracle at the end of the story, what would happen if Lake Albanus did not drain?
 A. The Romans would never capture Veii. C. The floods would destroy both peoples.
 B. Veii would seize Rome. D. The sea would rise and destroy Rome.

Questions 21-30 refer to Passage Three, "Daedalus."

21. According to the first paragraph, which of the following is NOT true about Daedalus?
 A. He built a maze B. He created many useful things
 C. He was Athenian by birth. D. He was a brilliant man.
22. What relation to Daedalus was Perdix?
 A. Perdix was his nephew. B. Perdix was his cousin.
 C. Perdix was his uncle D. Perdix was his son.
23. What do we learn about Perdix in lines 1-2 (**Sed Perdix...antecellit**)?
 A. Perdix was unable to match Daedalus because he was just a boy.
 B. Perdix surpassed Daedalus' skill.
 C. Daedalus was angry at Perdix's lack of understanding, even though he was just a boy.
 D. Perdix learned almost as much as Daedalus.
24. To whom or what does the word **cui** in line 2 refer?
 A. Daedalus B. Daedalus' teachings C. Perdix D. Athens
25. What crime is committed as described by the sentence in lines 2-3 (**Cui...iacit**)?
 A. kidnapping B. bribery C. treason D. murder
26. In the context of this passage, what is the subject of the verb **nūntiat** in line 3?
 A. Daedalus B. Perdix C. The Athenian people D. Perdix's mother
27. Which of these best describes the reason that Daedalus took his son to Crete?
 A. The Athenians did not believe what Daedalus had said.
 B. He wanted to go to Crete to discover Perdix's true killer.
 C. Daedalus wanted to find somewhere to learn new skills.
 D. Daedalus thought that he might find Perdix there.
28. How did Daedalus characterize his exit from Athens to the king of Crete?
 A. willing B. unfair C. hasty D. justified
29. To whom/what does the word **sē** in line 5 refer?
 A. the king of Crete B. Daedalus' skills C. Daedalus D. Athens

30. Why is the king so eager to accept Daedalus?
 A. The king hopes that Daedalus will help him deal with the Minotaur.
 B. The king had heard of Daedalus' many skills.
 C. The king had only recently come to power and needed help.
 D. The king hoped to persuade Daedalus to create things for him.

Questions 31-41 refer to Passage Four, "The House in the Woods."

31. According to the first sentence of this passage, how many people made a journey through the mountains of Asia?
 A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
32. In lines 1-2, what do we learn about the journey that was taken?
 A. It was a vacation. B. The family was forced to make the journey.
 C. The journey had been planned for a long time. D. There was a tragedy during the journey.
33. Which of the following statements about the house that the family comes upon is NOT true?
 A. It was vacant. B. It was old.
 C. It was beautiful. D. It was too small for humans.
34. What does the family decide in lines 2-3 (**Itaque...constituērunt**)?
 A. They decide to stay for the night. B. They decide that they will never leave.
 C. They decide not to stay at all. D. They decide to wait and see if anyone else appears.
35. When is a voice heard from the forest in line 4?
 A. after many nights B. every night C. many times at night D. late at night
36. Whose voice is heard in line 4 in the sentence (**Multā nocte...clāmāvit**)?
 A. The young girl's B. The father's C. The mother's. D. An unknown person's
37. Which of these best describes the reaction to the voice?
 A. The father hides under the bed the rest of the night. B. The father keeps watch all night after hearing it.
 C. The father ignores the vice and goes to sleep. D. The mother and father tell the girl to hide.
38. Which of these statements is true about the mother's response to the voice in line 5?
 A. She says that she will be right out. B. She doesn't respond at all.
 C. She speaks from the window. D. She sleeps peacefully after she responds.
39. How does the girl respond to the voice?
 A. She mimics what the voice says. B. She hurries to hide.
 C. She calls back to the voice. D. She says nothing.
40. According to the first two sentences of line 7, what unusual thing does the girl see?
 A. an empty grave B. time moving slowly C. a wailing ghost D. a walking skeleton
41. What does the girl ask at the end of line 7?
 A. What is it? B. Who are you? C. Where are you? D. What happened?

Questions 42-50 refers to Passage Five, "Callisto."

42. What is the first thing that the Muse says?
 A. Look at the starry sky. B. Look at the stars in the sky.
 C. Look at seven stars. D. Watch the sky to see if there are stars.
43. How many stars make up Ursa Major and Ursa Minor?
 A. 7 B. 14 C. 2 D. 20
44. Whose anger was responsible for Callisto's being transformed into a constellation?
 A. Arcas' B. Jupiter's C. Juno's D. Callisto's own
45. Which of these is NOT conveyed about Callisto in the first paragraph?
 A. She is a mother. B. She is a nymph.
 C. She becomes Ursa Major. D. She is beautiful.
46. Why was Jupiter in Arcadia?
 A. He was looking for beautiful women. B. He was running through the fields.
 C. He was trying to make crops grow. D. He loved the land of Arcadia.
47. Which of these best describes the way that Jupiter came to love Callisto?
 A. gradual B. unexpected C. inevitable D. immediate

48. In line 6, how are Callisto's clothing and hair described?
- A. carefully adorned
 - B. dressed to go for a swim
 - C. carelessly thrown together
 - D. dressed as if she were going to meet someone
49. What can we infer about Callisto based on lines 6-7 (**Callistō...errābat**)?
- A. she was lost in the woods
 - B. she enjoyed hunting
 - C. she was a goddess the equal of Diana
 - D. it was her first time in the forest
50. Based on context, what is the meaning of the admittedly not-Latin I vocabulary word **iaculum**, which is derived from the verb **iaciō**?
- A. javelin
 - B. shield
 - C. net
 - D. sword

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PASSAGE ONE

Proserpina

1 In Sicilia quondam Proserpina, filia Cereris, in agrō flōrēs carpēbat. Subito Plūtōnis, frātris Cereris, currus ad
2 agrum celeriter appropinquat. Deus pulchram deam videt atque statim amōre capitur. Nec ūlla mora est. Iam
3 Proserpina captiva in currū terribilis deī altē in caelō per agrōs lacūsque volat. Nequiquam dea territa matrem et
4 comitēs clāmat et lacrimat. Mox Plūtōn sceptrum in altum fontem condit et viam in Tartara aperit. Interea Cerēs
5 filiam diēs noctēsque quaesiverat sed non reppererat. Denique fessa dea omnem spem deposuit. Valdē irāta
6 frūgēs terrīs negābat. Ubique dīra inopia erat.

PASSAGE TWO

The Siege of Veii

1 Post proelium ad lacum Regillum, Rōmānī cum finitimīs oppidīs multa bella gerēbant; quōrum clārissima est
2 obsidiō Veiōrum. Id oppidum et nātūrā locī et manū ēgregiē munītum est. Decem annōs Rōmānī eius moenia
3 obsidēbant, sed frūstrā. Dēnique mīrum prodigium ēvēnit, quod animōs omnium magnopere perturbāvit. Nam
4 aqua in lacū Albanō in altitudinem insolitam crēvit, atque finitimōs agrōs inundāvit. Deinde vātēs quīdam Veiēns
5 sic cecinit: “Numquam Rōmānī Veiōs expugnābunt, priusquam aqua ex lacū Albanō ēmissa erit.” Lēgātī ā
6 Rōmānīs ad oraculum Delphicum missī sunt. Quibus ā deō sic responsum est: “Nisi aqua ex lacū Albano in mare
7 influet, Veiōs non occupabitis.”

PASSAGE THREE

Daedalus

1 Daedalus, nātū Atheniensis, vir summō ingeniō, multās ūtilēs artēs invēnit. Sed Perdix, eius sorōris fīlius, quī ā
2 Daedalō docēbātur, etiam puer, celeriter magistrō antecellit. Cui Daedalus invidet et dēnique eum ex altā rūpe
3 praecipitem iacit. Deinde puerum decidisse nūntiat. Cui autem Athēniēnsēs nōn crēdidērunt. Quam ob rem
4 Daedalus cum fīliō Icarō ad Mīnoem, rēgem Crētae, effūgit. Eī Daedalus dixit sē Athēnīs iniūstē expulsus esse;
5 sē autem parātum esse rēgī multīs rēbus servīre. Nec difficile erat id rēgī persuadēre. Nam dīrum monstrum,
6 nōmine Minotaurus, nuper in Crētā apparuerat, cui corpus hominis erat, sed caput taurī.

PASSAGE FOUR

The House in the Woods

1 Puella Graeca cum patre mātreque iter per montēs Āsiae faciēbat, quod ex patriā fugere propter bellum coāctī
2 erant. Multōs post diēs ad villam antīquam et pulchram vērunt, in quā hominēs nōn iam habitābant. Itaque ibi
3 semper manēre constituērunt.
4 Multā nocte magna vōx ignota nōmen patris ex silvā clāmāvit. Pater, “Absum,” respondit atque ob timōrem
5 reliquam noctem sub lectō iacēbat. Secundā nocte in silvam vocāta est māter. Eī vocī ex fenestrā, “Crās veniam,”
6 respondit, et dormīre temptābat. Tertiā nocte appellāta est puella, quae nihil dīxit, sed in silvam contendit.
7 Ibi brevī tempore alba ossa hūmāna vīdit. Mox ossa surrēxērunt atque ad eam ambulāre incipiēbant. “Quis es?”
8 inquit puella territa.

PASSAGE FIVE

Callisto

1 “Spectāte stellās in caelō,” dīxit Mūsa. “Ecce septem stellae, Ursa Maior, et septem aliae stellae, Ursa Minor.
2 Ursa Maior est Callistō, et Ursa Minor est Arcas, filius eius. Propter iram rēgīnae deōrum, Iuppiter nympham et
3 filium eius in stellās in caelō trānsformāvit.”
4 Callistō erat nympa cuius forma erat pulchra. In Arcadiā habitābat. Dum Iuppiter silvās et agrōs in Arcadiā,
5 terrā deō cārā, cūrat, nympham pulchram fōrmōsamque spectāvit et statim eam amāvit. Certē Callistō erat
6 fōrmōsa. Fibula vestimentum retinēbat et vitta neglectōs capillōs retinēbat. Callistō per silvās cum Diānā et
7 ceterīs nymphīs errābat. Iaculum portābat.”