

Year 4 English Sample Question

Cloze Passage

You are going to read an article about Tallgrass. Seven sentences have been removed from the article.

Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap (1-7).
There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Don Clark finds words to describe his workplace in the writings of early-twentieth-century author Willa Cather. The park ranger who leads visitors into the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in east-central Kansas says he feels like the boy from the East who describes being "erased, blotted out" between the prairie earth and the prairie sky in the opening chapter of one of Cather's novels, *My Antonia*.

The tallgrass preserves 10,894 acres of undulating land not only provides that fictional experience in real life but also protects a large swath of one of the world's most diverse ecosystems. (1)_____

Clark points out a black-eared hare and, suddenly, a nighthawk flying across the sky as he maneuvers his minibus along a narrow road through the vast expanse. He admires "ugly" turkey vultures for their powerful flight and for "cleaning up anything that dies on the prairie." He claims that bobcats and coyotes, as well as prairie chickens, prefer to remain hidden.
(2)_____ Pocket gophers, prairie aerators, can be found in small mounds of loose soil.

He slows the bus as it passes six or seven buffalo wallows that have been abandoned for more than a century. Clark predicts that when bison return to the preserve in the coming years, they will instinctively gravitate to the same wallows.

This is one of the country's last large expanses of untilled tallgrass prairie, a rare survivor of the ecosystem that stretched from Indiana to Nebraska when Europeans arrived.
(3)_____

This prairie's grasses will reach 15 to 16 feet into the ground in search of moisture and may grow to be the height of a person. About 100 miles further west, near the centre of Kansas, the tall grass gives way to the high plains prairie. The climate is drier there, with 20 inches or less of rain per year; the altitude is higher, and the grass is shorter.

(4)_____ When explorer Zebulon Pike camped here in 1806, he saw "hills of flint," and the name Flint Hills stuck. The stony soil was left behind by the inland sea that washed across the middle of the continent millions of years ago, and it is most likely what kept this patch of prairie alive: Farmers found it difficult to plough.

However, uncultivated does not imply never being used. (5)_____ A succession of owners grazed cattle on the land that is now the preserve, and they built a three-story mansion and a large barn there. Every spring, cattle continue to graze on the preserve's grasses.

The Park Service plans to keep cattle grazing on most of the land and reintroduce 200 bison to the preserve's 1,100 acres. (6)_____ Fires—whether started by lightning or by Indians—have always served to clean up the prairie on a regular basis, but conservationists believe that blazes were less common in the pre-European era. They claim that returning to a more natural pattern of bushfires will result in a greater diversity of plants.

They also believe it will increase the presence and diversity of wildlife, giving modern visitors the same feeling that Cather's young hero, Jimmy Burden, remembered from his first day on the prairie. (7)_____

Using the following options, Fill the Gaps

- A. Annual burnings, which ranchers use to prevent trees from sprouting, clear away dead vegetation, and stimulate grass growth, will be prohibited.
- B. "If one went a little farther there would be only sun and sky, and one would float off into them, like the tawny hawks which sailed over our heads making slow shadows on the grass," Cather wrote.
- C. In a landscape that many associate with sameness and emptiness, scientists have already identified 400 plant species and 132 bird species, as well as white-tailed deer, coyotes, badgers, foxes, and other animals.
- D. However, some of the preserve's more than 40 grasshopper species are easy to spot.
- E. Balancing a load of split spruce in my arms, I turn and head back to the cabin.
- F. From the preserve's highest point, at 1,500 feet, you can see for up to 23 miles across a flint and limestone-marked landscape.
- G. Cattlemen discovered the nutritious bluestem grasses that dominate the Flint Hills more than a century ago.
- H. An agreement signed three years ago by the National Park Service and the National Park Trust, a private land conservancy that owns the property, ensures that this patch of prairie will remain in its natural state.

Evaluation

You are going to read an article about four descriptions of football players. For Questions 8-22, choose from the descriptions of football players (A-D).

The descriptions of football players may be chosen more than once.

<p>A. In addition to representing Brazil at the international level, Neymar also represents Paris Saint-Germain in the French league. He is regarded as one of the world's best players. Neymar, like many other Brazilian football stars, began his career as a street footballer. However, his father, who had played professional football, encouraged him to take the game seriously in order to become a professional. Neymar joined the 'FC Santos' junior divisions when he was just 11 years old. He was admitted into the youth program of the famed Spanish club 'Real Madrid,' but he chose to remain in Brazil after being promised a greater salary. During his time at 'Santos,' Neymar scored fantastic goal after spectacular goal, and his abilities were the buzz of the town. As a result, the world's most powerful clubs competed to sign him. He joined 'Barcelona' in 2013 and quickly made an impression before winning the treble for the Catalan club in 2015.</p>	<p>C. Lionel Messi is an Argentine former professional footballer who is regarded as one of the finest players in global history. He was the first player in history to win three European Golden Shoes, as well as the first player in history to win five FIFA Ballons d'Or. During his playing career, he broke several world records, including the most goals scored in La Liga, a La Liga season, a calendar year, a single season, and a Champions League match. Born from a football-obsessed family in central Argentina, he had an early interest in the sport and spent his youth playing football with his siblings. He joined Newell's Old Boys' youth squad when he was a small boy and began playing for FC Barcelona's under-14 team when he was 13 years old. Messi made his competitive debut as a 17-year-old and soon established himself as a key member of the Barcelona team.</p>
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<p>B. Swedish footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic plays for Manchester United in the United Kingdom. He was Sweden's national team captain from 2010 to 2016 when he announced his retirement from international football. Ibrahimovic, one of the most prolific attackers, is well known for his strength, accuracy, and stamina. He is the second-most decorated active footballer of all time, having won 33 awards in his career. Beginning his career in the late 1990s, he quickly rose through the ranks of the Swedish national football team due to his exceptional talent and abilities. He is one of eleven players who have made more than 100 appearances for Sweden's national team. He is Sweden's all-time leading international goal scorer. He played for his country in the 2002 and 2006 World Cups, as well as multiple UEFA European Championships. He has won Sweden's top honour for a football player, the Golden Ball trophy, an unprecedented 11 times.</p>	<p>D. Cristiano Ronaldo, a Portuguese footballer, is widely considered as one of the finest players to have ever played the game, and his achievements over the last decade have only served to reinforce that perception among football fans. Ronaldo grew raised in Madeira, Portugal, but after graduating from Sporting CP's junior system, he was promptly signed by the English team Manchester United when their great manager Sir Alex Ferguson saw his skill as a winger. Ronaldo spent six years at Manchester United, where he honed his skills as a deft, fast, and dangerous winger capable of scoring goals and creating chances for his teammates. He won several trophies for Manchester United and also shined for Portugal before becoming the world's most expensive player when he transferred to Real Madrid. He has shattered some of the most notable goal-scoring records that had stood for many years at Real Madrid, as well as guided the team to significant titles.</p>
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Which description of football players mentions:

8.	Being targeted by the world's big teams
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Comparative Text

Read the extracts below then answer the questions.

EXTRACT A: from *The Princess and The Goblin* by George MacDonald

“Why, where can you have been, princess?” asked the nurse, taking her in her arms. “It’s very unkind of you to hide away so long. I began to be afraid—” Here she checked herself.

“What were you afraid of, nursie?” asked the princess.

“Never mind,” she answered. “Perhaps I will tell you another day. Now tell me where you have been.”

“I’ve been up a long way to see my very great, huge, old grandmother,” said the princess.

“What do you mean by that?” asked the nurse, who thought she was making fun.

“I mean that I’ve been a long way up and up to see My great grandmother. Ah, nursie, you don’t know what a beautiful mother of grandmothers I’ve got upstairs. She is such an old lady, with such lovely white hair—as white as my silver cup. Now, when I think of it, I think her hair must be silver.”

“What nonsense you are talking, princess!” said the nurse.

“I’m not talking nonsense,” returned Irene, rather offended. “I will tell you all about her. She’s much taller than you, and much prettier.”

“Oh, I dare say!” remarked the nurse.

“And she lives upon pigeons’ eggs.”

“Most likely,” said the nurse.

“And she sits in an empty room, spin-spinning all day long.”

“Not a doubt of it,” said the nurse.

“And she keeps her crown in her bedroom.”

“Of course—quite the proper place to keep her crown in. She wears it in bed, I’ll be bound.”

“She didn’t say that. And I don’t think she does. That wouldn’t be comfortable—would it? I don’t think my papa wears his crown for a nightcap. Does he, nursie?”

“I never asked him. I dare say he does.”

“And she’s been there ever since I came here—ever so many years.”

“Anybody could have told you that,” said the nurse, who did not believe a word Irene was saying.

“Why didn’t you tell me, then?”

“There was no necessity. You could make it all up for yourself.”

“You don’t believe me, then!” exclaimed the princess, astonished and angry, as she well might be.

“Did you expect me to believe you, princess?” asked the nurse coldly. “I know princesses are in the habit of telling make-believes, but you are the first I ever heard of who expected to have them believed,” she added, seeing that the child was strangely in earnest.

The princess burst into tears.

“Well, I must say,” remarked the nurse, now thoroughly vexed with her for crying, “it is not at all becoming in a princess to tell stories and expect to be believed just because she is a princess.”

“But it’s quite true, I tell you.”

“You’ve dreamt it, then, child.”

“No, I didn’t dream it. I went upstairs, and I lost myself, and if I hadn’t found the beautiful lady, I should never have found myself.”

“Oh, I dare say!”

“Well, you just come up with me, and see if I’m not telling the truth.”

EXTRACT B: from The Flower Princess by Abbie Farwell Brown

Once upon a time there was a beautiful Princess named Fleurette, who lived in a white marble palace on the top of a high hill. The Princess Fleurette was very fond of flowers, and all around the palace, from the very gates thereof, a fair garden, full of all kinds of wonderful plants, sloped down to the foot of the hill, where it was snugly inclosed with a high marble wall. Thus the hill was like a great nosegay rising up in the midst of the land, sending out sweet odors to perfume the air for miles, bright with color in the sunshine, and musical with the chorus of birds and the hum of millions of bees.

One part of the garden was laid out in walks and avenues, with little vine-clad bowers here and there, where the Princess could sit and read, or lie and dream. There were fountains and statues among the trees, and everything grand and stately to make a garden beautiful. Another part of the garden was left wild and tangled, like a forest. Here all the shyest flowers grew in their own wild way; and here ran a little brook, gurgling over the pebbles in a race to the foot of the hill. There never was seen a more complete and beautiful garden than this of the Princess Fleurette.

Now the fame of the Princess's beauty, like the fragrance of her garden, had been wafted a long way, and many persons came to prove it. A continual procession of princes from lands near and far traveled the long road that wound from the foot of the hill up and up and up to the entrance of the palace. They came upon their noble steeds, with gold and jeweled harness most gorgeous to see, riding curiously up amid the flowers, whose perfume filled their hearts with happiness and hope. The further they rode the more they longed to tarry forever in this fair place. And when each one at last dismounted at the palace gate, and, going into the great hall, saw the Princess herself, more fair than any flower, sitting on her golden throne, he invariably fell upon his knees without delay, and begged her to let him be her very ownest Prince.

But the Princess always smiled mischievously and shook her head, saying,—

"I have no mind to exchange hearts, save with him who can find mine, where it is hidden among my flowers. Guess me my favorite flower, dear Prince."

This she said to every prince in turn. She did not greatly care to have any prince for her very ownest own, for she was happy enough among her flowers without one. But the Prince, whoever he might be, when he heard her strange words, would go out eagerly into the garden and wander, wander long among the flowers, searching to find the sweetest and most beautiful, which must be his lady's favorite.

For questions 23 – 30, choose the option (A, B, C or D) which you think best answers the question

9. Why didn't Princess Fleurette put all of her flowers in the garden?

- A.** Some flowers could inhibit the growth of other flowers
- B.** Certain flowers needed a similar environment to their native land
- C.** Some flowers needed an abundance of water
- D.** Certain flowers grew best in an untamed manner

Poetry

Filling Station

Oh, but it is dirty!

—this little filling station,
oil-soaked, oil-permeated
to a disturbing, over-all
black translucency.

Be careful with that match!

5

Father wears a dirty,

oil-soaked monkey suit
that cuts him under the arms,
and several quick and saucy
and greasy sons assist him
(it's a family filling station),
all quite thoroughly dirty.

10

Do they live in the station?

It has a cement porch
behind the pumps, and on it
a set of crushed and grease-
stained wickerwork;
on the wicker sofa
a dirty dog, quite comfy.

15

20



Some comic books provide
the only note of color—
of certain color. They lie
upon a big dim doily
draping a taboret
(part of the set), beside
a big hirsute begonia.

25



Why the extraneous plant?
Why the taboret?
Why, oh why, the doily?
(Embroidered in daisy stitch
with marguerites, I think,
and heavy with gray crochet.)

30

Somebody embroidered the doily.

Somebody waters the plant,
or oils it, maybe. Somebody
arranges the rows of cans
so that they softly say:

35

esso—so—so—so

to high-strung automobiles.

40

Somebody loves us all.

20. What does the word “monkey suit” in Line 8 refer to?

A. A ragged cloth

- B. A dungarees
- C. A suit that is as dirty as the monkey's fur
- D. A uniform



Scholarly