

# English

## Reading

**Directions:** In this section of the test, you will show how well you can understand written English. There are several selections and some questions about each one. For each question, mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

### From a book called *Abuelita's Paradise*

by Carmen Santiago Nodar

Marita holds her grandmother's, her *abuelita's*, plaid blanket. Letters on the blanket spell *paraíso*, paradise. Marita holds the blanket and sits in her *abuelita's* rocking chair and remembers the stories that her grandma told her.

"I lived on a farm in Puerto Rico," *Abuelita* would say. "Up in the mountains, where butterflies fly. Where night creeps over the mountains and down again. Where sunlight sparkles the day, and sugarcane reaches the sky."

"Tell me more, *Abuelita*," Marita would say.

"Morning was still night," her grandma would say, "when my father whispered, 'Wake up, *niñita*. Today we see giants -- giant sugarcanes.'"

"After breakfast I would run to get *Pedrito* and *Pablito*, our bulls. My father would hitch them to the cart and put on his *sombrero*. Then out to the fields we'd go."

"Did you wear a *sombrero* too, *Abuelita*?"

"Yes, my father's old one."

"Tell me more," Marita said.

*Abuelita* whispered, "The dew of the rain forest was on me; trees, vines, wildflowers, and giant ferns were all around me; tiny tree frogs sang, '*Coquí, coquí*'; and waterfalls made rainbows just for me."

"It was so long ago," Marita's grandma said, "But Puerto Rico will always be paradise to me."

**1** When Marita sits in the rocking chair, what does she do?

- A She falls asleep.
- B She remembers stories.
- C She writes letters.
- D She reads books with pictures in them.

**2** Marita's grandmother told Marita about what happened when

- A Marita was a girl.
- B the grandmother was a girl.
- C the grandmother's father was a boy.
- D the grandmother moved to San Juan.

**3** The grandmother's father woke her up to see the sugarcane

- A before the sun came out.
- B at ten in the morning.
- C at two-thirty in the afternoon.
- D when the moon first appeared.

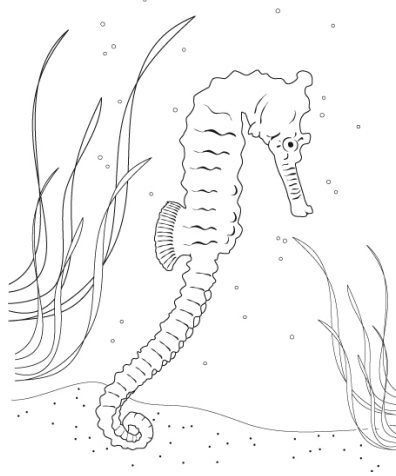
**4** Where did Marita's *abuelita* see rainbows?

- A at the very top of a mountain
- B in the sugarcane fields
- C over deep rivers
- D at waterfalls in the forest

**5** According to the passage, Abuelita used to wake up

- A when it was still dark outside.
- B after the alarm clock went off.
- C after the sun rose.
- D when her mother whispered.





## Seahorses

- 1 Have you ever seen a seahorse? Seahorses don't really look like fish, but they are fish. Like other fish, they have a skeleton, gills to breathe with, and small fins to help them swim through the water. However, seahorses don't have scales like other fish. Instead, seahorses are covered on the outside with hard, bony plates.
- 6 Seahorses live in warm, shallow water. They like to live where there is plenty of seaweed or sea grasses. They hold onto the underwater plants with their tails.
- 8 One of the most remarkable things about seahorses is how quickly they can change color. A seahorse can change its color in the blink of an eye.
- 10 Changing color makes them hard to see as they blend in with the plants around them. In this way they hide from larger fish, crabs, or sea turtles that might want to eat them. Changing color also hides the seahorses from the very small animals they like to eat.
- 13 Seahorses are not large. The biggest seahorse in the world only grows to about 18 inches long, and most types of seahorses are much smaller than that.
- 16 The strangest thing about seahorses is how they are born. The mother seahorse places her eggs into a pouch, or pocket, on the stomach of the father seahorse. After a few weeks, the male seahorse pushes the seahorse babies out of his pouch. When it is born, every seahorse looks like its parents, except that it is so small you can barely see it.

**6** What is the main topic of the passage?

- A sea water
- B seahorses
- C sea turtles
- D baby seahorses

**7** How are seahorses different from most fish?

- A Seahorses don't have a skeleton.
- B Seahorses don't have gills.
- C Seahorses don't have fins.
- D Seahorses don't have scales.

**8** In line 9, what do the words in the blink of an eye mean?

- A helpfully
- B quickly
- C carefully
- D quietly

**9** Seahorses change color to

- A keep their babies warm.
- B look bigger to other animals.
- C hide from other animals.
- D swim quickly through water.

**10** According to the selection, what is the strangest thing about seahorses?

- A Seahorse fathers carry the babies until they are born.
- B Seahorse babies look like their parents.
- C Seahorses live in seaweed or sea grass.
- D Father seahorses are smaller than mother seahorses.