

A Fiction Story: The Day of the Great Wave by <i>Marcella Fisher Anderson</i>	56
Listening Directions: Graphic Organizer	
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking	
Short Response Questions: Short Answer Format	

An American Tall Tale: Davy Crockett	62
Listening Directions: Graphic Organizer	
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking	
Short Response Questions: Short Answer Format	

Unit 3: Writing

Tips for Answering Essay Questions	68
---	----

Previewing the Lesson: SQ3R	69
-----------------------------------	----

A Biography: Rosa Parks' Famous Bus Ride	70
Short Response Questions: Short Answer Format	

A Diary: The Diary of Rosa Parks	74
Short Response Question: Short Answer Format	
Prewriting: Essay Organizer	
Combined Essay: Character Study	

Previewing the Lesson: SQ3R	79
-----------------------------------	----

A Poem: Thinking by <i>Walter D. Wintle</i>	80
Short Response Question: Short Answer Format	

A Nonfiction Article: Brad Parks: A Man with Dreams by <i>Ruth Hamel</i>	82
Short Response Question: Short Answer Format	
Prewriting: Essay Organizer	
Combined Essay: Drawing Conclusions	

Unit 4: Editing Practice

(To be used with Units 1 and 2)

Editing Rules	88
Pedro's Journal	90
Woodman, Spare that Tree	91
Anastasia: A Memoir	92
Backyard Bird Watching	93
Hodja-din Visits a Friend	94
The Wind	95
The Orangutan: Man of the Woods.....	96
Nothing Stops Paul Revere	97
Cheetahs Are Fastest	98
The Day of the Great Wave	99
Davy Crockett	100

Unit 5: Test

Part I: Reading

A Fiction Story: **Distant Lights** by *F. Anthony Reckart*..... 103
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking

A Poem: **I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud** by *William Wordsworth* 107
Objective Questions: Interpreting Poetry

A Government Article: **The Legislative Branch: Making the Laws** 111
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking

Part II: Listening

A Science Article: **The Secret of the Beautiful Butterflies** by *Susan E. Quinlan* 116
Listening Directions: Note Taking
Objective Questions: Critical Thinking
Short Response Questions: Short Answer Format

Part III: Writing

A Social Studies Article: **The Underground Railroad** 122
Short Response Questions: Short Answer Format

A Poem: **The Runaway Slave** by *Walt Whitman*..... 125
Short Response Question: Short Answer Format
Prewriting: Student's Choice
Combined Essay: Making an Inference

Part IV: Editing

Editing Passages 131

Editor's Page 132

Guide for **Revising** and **Editing** Essays

About SQ3R



SQ3R is the key to comprehension. The more you know about something before you read it, the better you'll understand it. SQ3R is simple, quick, and efficient.

*You will use
SQ3R for
every reading
selection in
this book.*



SURVEY

Look through the article quickly.
Read the introductory paragraph.
Then look at all:

- headings and subheadings
- captions
- pictures
- italic or boldface print

QUESTION

Read the author's questions at the end of the selection.
They give clues to the reading content as well.

HINT: Look for the answers when you read the article!



R
E
A
D

Read the selection slowly. If what you read does not make sense, it means that you might have read something wrong, REREAD.

HINT: Sometimes it may be necessary to read something two or more times to understand it.



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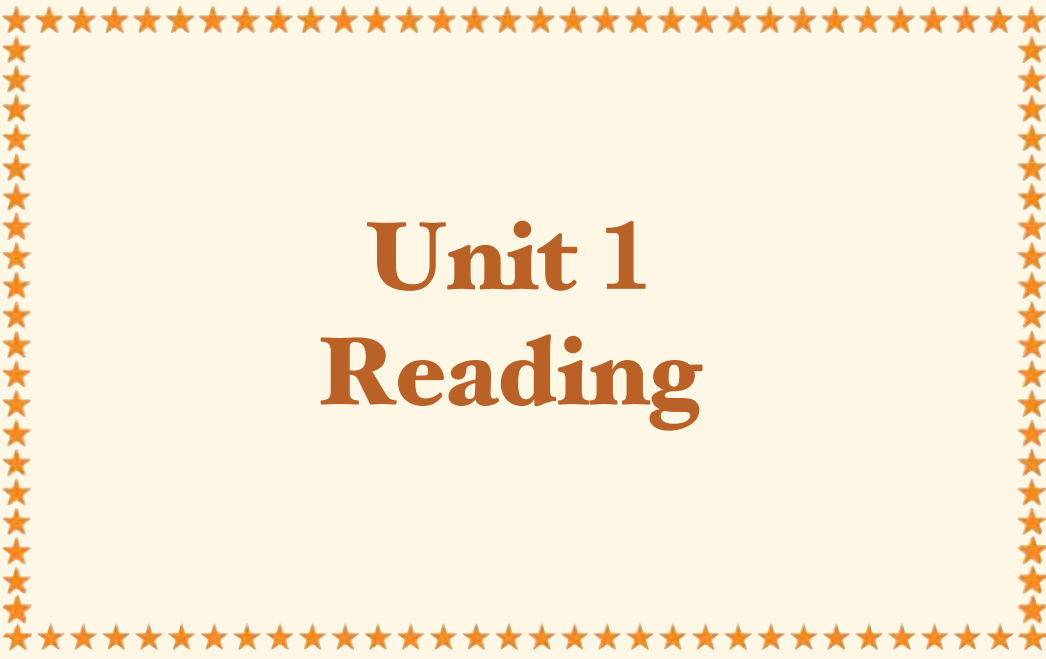
Say what you have read aloud. If you cannot retell it in your own words, it means that you did not understand it. REREAD. It helps to take notes on what you have read.

HINT: Just the act of writing will help you remember the material!



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Several days before a test, review your notes. Try to state the information in your own words. Have someone else ask you questions from your notes. In this book at the beginning of each unit, review the techniques for being a smart reader, writer, and test taker.



Unit 1

Reading

Test Taking Skills for Multiple Choice Questions

*Be a smart test taker.
Just follow these
suggestions!*



1. Read **all** answers given. Answer “a” may seem like a good answer at first. But answer “d” may be even better.
2. If you think you know an answer, skim through the choices to find it. Then check all the other choices to be sure.
3. Look back at the story for clues to the answers. It helps to underline the proof for your answer.
4. If you are not sure of an answer, circle the question and skip it for now. When you come to the end, go back. Words in other questions may help you remember.
5. NEVER LEAVE A BLANK. It will **always** be marked wrong. Take an “educated guess.”
6. An educated guess means that first you cross off all of the answers you know are wrong. You can usually do this with two of the four answers. Then you have a 50-50 chance of getting it right. Take a guess.
7. Key words in the questions, such as BEST, MOST, and MAINLY are often written in capitals or dark print. Pay special attention to these important words.
8. The words AFTER and BEFORE tell us that the question deals with the sequence of events. Pay special attention to the order of what happened in the story.
9. Be careful of words such as BUT, NOT, and EXCEPT. They tell that there is a change in the question.
10. The wrong answer choices often have words used in the story. Do not be fooled. Look for the right IDEA.

Pedro's Journal

by Pam Conrad

August 3, 1492

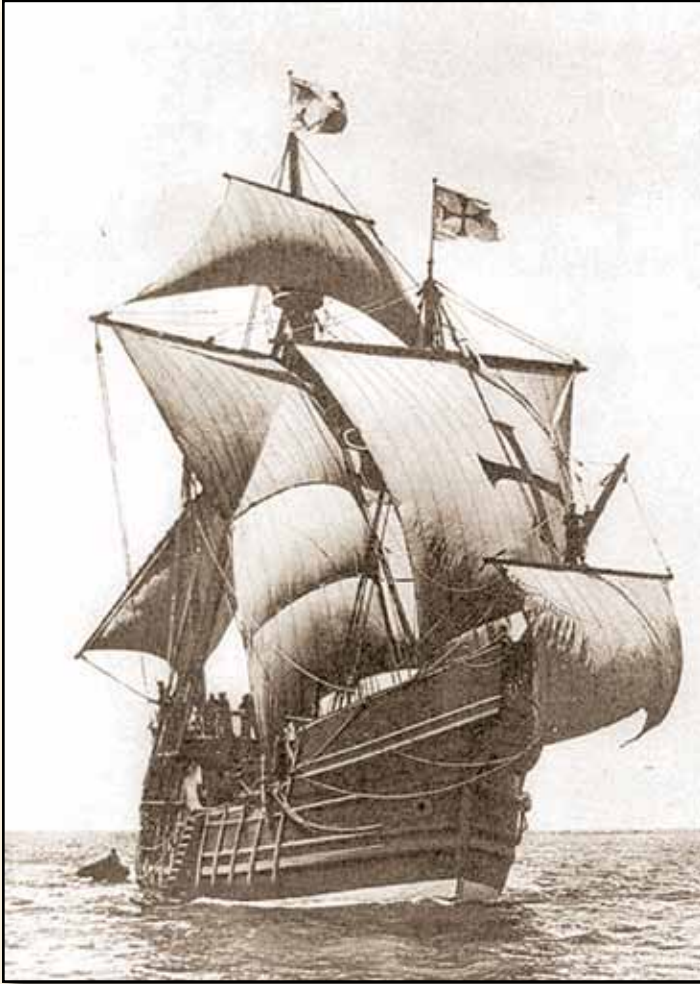
The ship's roster of the *Santa Maria* has me down as Pedro de Salcedo, ship's boy. And the captain of this ship, who calls himself "Captain General of the Ocean Sea," has hired me not for my great love of the sea, and not for my seamanship. But because I have been taught to read and write. He thinks it will be useful to have me along.

Last night I boarded the *Santa Maria* with forty others and made ready to begin this uncertain journey to India. I saw my mother standing alone on the dock wrapped in her black shawl. She lifted her hand to wave. I turned away quickly. I have never been away from our home. I have never been on a ship as great as this one. I dedicate this journal, this parcel of letters and drawings, to my dear mother. I pray she will not lose me, her young boy. She calls me *Pedro de mi corazon*, Pedro of my heart.

We are a fleet of three ships. The *Nina* and *Pinta* are with us. This morning in the darkness, with no one watching or waving good-bye, we left the harbor at Palos and headed out for the sandbar on the Saltes River. There we waited for tide and wind and then made way for the Canary Islands. We are to be the first ships ever to run a course west to the Indies, Marco Polo's land. Here palaces are built of gold and mandarins wear silk brocade and pearls the size of ripened grapes.

A couple of the men are seasick. They are already mumbling that we will never see this India our Captain General is so certain he will find. Me, I have no knowledge of maps or charts or distant journeys. I am only a ship's





boy. There are three of us. I am beginning to suspect that we will do all the work no one wants to do. Already the Captain favors me and has called upon me to write and to copy certain of his writings. I believe he is testing me and will find I am capable and write a good hand.

The Captain told me he was pleased to see my stomach is as strong as my handwriting. He has encouraged me to sketch some of the things I see around me. Perhaps I am a natural seaman, although I must admit that looking over the side of this creaking ship into the swelling water can fill me with terror.

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Recite five interesting facts about the start of the voyage.

Objective Questions

Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

1. Why was Pedro chosen to join the crew?
 - a. He is an excellent cook.
 - b. He is a hard worker.
 - c. He loves the sea.
 - d. He can read and write.

2. On the ship, what job does the author of this journal hold?
 - a. He is second in command to the captain.
 - b. He is in charge of the ship's boys.
 - c. He is one of the lowest level workers.
 - d. He is in charge of distributing mail.

3. How has the author organized this journal?
 - a. listing two sides of an argument
 - b. listing events in order of importance
 - c. telling a story
 - d. comparing two or more things

4. Read the following lines from the story.

I saw my mother standing alone on the dock wrapped in her black shawl. She lifted her hand to wave. I turned away quickly.

Why did Pedro probably turn away?

- a. He had already said good-bye.
- b. He thought he might cry.
- c. He didn't want to talk to his mother.
- d. He thought her being there was embarrassing.

Objective Questions

5. From the facts presented, the reader can conclude that the captain is:
- a. Pedro's father
 - b. Christopher Columbus
 - c. an Indian general
 - d. the king of Spain
6. What do they hope to find at the end of the voyage?
- a. a new continent
 - b. Marco Polo's home
 - c. the riches of the East
 - d. the Pacific Ocean
7. How many voyages has Pedro made before this one?
- a. only one other
 - b. two
 - c. many
 - d. none
8. How do the sailors feel about the voyage they have undertaken?
- a. uneasy
 - b. confident
 - c. hopeful
 - d. understanding

Continue...

Objective Questions

9. Read the following sentence from the story.

The Captain told me he was pleased to see my stomach is as strong as my handwriting.

By this, the captain means that:

- a. Pedro's handwriting is difficult to read.
- b. The boy does not get seasick easily.
- c. The captain does not know how to read and write.
- d. Pedro has developed a strong and muscular body.

10. This type of story most closely resembles:

- a. a true life experience
- b. a fantasy tale
- c. a science fiction article
- d. a free form verse

For **Editing Practice**, please go to page 90.