

Appendix F - Sample Reading Passages

Sample 1 Reading Passage, without Suggested Revisions and/or Enhancements

Sample 2 Reading Passage, with Suggested Revisions and/or Enhancements (with segmenting)

¹ Who are the 2% students and how do we design test items and assessments that provide greater access for them?
Results from a pilot study with Georgia students, Karin Hess, Patricia McDivitt, & Melissa Fincher, 2008

Read the following passage about how one person became a writer of children's books. Then answer questions 1–6 in your answer booklet.

A Writer of Good Books

Carol Ryrie Brink lived with her Grandmother Caddie and two aunts on a tiny farm in Idaho. The farm was a great place to live. Besides wonderful tall climbing trees, it had cats and chickens and a barn that held her pony, Tommy, whom she rode all over the countryside and through the streets of town.

Even so, Carol was sometimes lonely. She would climb to the top of her favorite tree and make up stories to entertain herself. Carol knew all about stories. The favorite part of her day was when Grandmother Caddie would sit with her and tell stories about when she was a pioneer girl, and her family had moved from Boston to the wilderness of Wisconsin. Grandmother Caddie told Carol story after story about the adventures of her and her brothers.

Carol loved the stories so much that when she grew up she decided to write a book about them. Thousands of children throughout the world have read and loved *Caddie Woodlawn*, a book based upon her grandmother's recollections of pioneer life in Wisconsin. The book is about an 11-year-old girl and her two brothers during the Civil War living on the Wisconsin frontier. Carol's book won the Newbery Medal in 1936. Each year only one children's book is chosen to win this award.

How did this native Idahoan become one of America's best-loved children's authors? From an early age, Carol loved to read books and write her own stories. In high school and later in college, Carol wrote stories for her school newspapers.

Carol married and had two children. She said it was her son and daughter who inspired her to write for children. Finding time to write wasn't easy with a busy family to take care of. Sometimes an idea would come to her while she was doing laundry or washing the

supper dishes. She would make a quick note and come back to write it out more fully after her children were asleep. It was from these notes that Carol developed her stories, which emerged as butterflies do from their chrysalises.

When their children grew up, Carol and her husband traveled to Scotland and France. The many places she visited and adventures she had gave her more ideas to write about in her books.

In all, Carol Ryrie Brink wrote 27 books. Many of them are about her life in Idaho. Besides the Newbery Medal, she won many more awards, which are listed in the chart.

Book Title	Award Name	Year	Award Description
<i>Caddie Woodlawn</i>	John Newberry Award	1936	Awarded to an author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children
<i>The Headland</i>	Friends of American Writers Award	1955	
<i>Caddie Woodlawn</i>	Lewis Carroll Award	1959	Given annually from 1958-1979 to books deemed to possess the qualities of the book <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> to enable them to sit on the same book shelf
<i>Snow in the River</i>	McKnight Family Foundation Medal	1966	
<i>Snow in the River</i>	National League of American Pen Women Award	1966	
<i>Four Girls on a Homestead</i>	Kerlan Award	1978	Recognition of attainment in the creation of children's literature

As she neared the end of her life, Carol stopped writing books. Instead she turned her attention to writing poetry and painting.

Later when Mary Reed wrote a biography about Carol Ryrie Brink, she summed up Carol's life by saying, "She strove to live in a way that would not harm others, to never waste a day, and to make the most of her life." Almost everyone who reads Carol's books would agree that she was a writer of good books.

Answer questions 1–6 in your answer booklet.

1. Based on information in the passage, why did Carol most likely enjoy hearing her grandmother's stories?

- A** She could listen to her grandmother's stories from the top of a tree.
- B** She enjoyed how her grandmother read stories aloud.
- *C** She thought her grandmother's adventures were unusual.
- D** She liked to imagine her grandmother as a pioneer girl.

2. As used in the passage, what does the word recollections mean?

- A** books
- B** siblings
- C** writings
- *D** memories

3. What inspired Carol to write stories for children?

- A** her horse
- *B** her children
- C** her two aunts
- D** her favorite author

4. According to the chart, which book won two awards in the same year?

- A** *Caddie Woodlawn*
- B** *The Heartland*
- *C** *Snow in the River*
- D** *Four Girls on a Homestead*

5. Which excerpt from the passage contains a simile?

- A "...when her family moved from Boston to the wilderness of Wisconsin."
- *B "...Carol developed her stories, which emerged as butterflies do from their chrysalises."
- C "...Carol and her husband traveled to Scotland and France."
- D "...she turned her attention to writing poetry and painting."

6. Why did the author most likely write the passage?

- *A to give information about an author's life
- B to describe how to write books
- C to tell about a young girl's adventures
- D to highlight special book awards

Sample 2 Reading Passage, with Suggested Revisions and/or Enhancements

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Carol Ryrie Brink lived with her Grandmother Caddie and two aunts on a tiny farm in Idaho. The farm was a great place to live. Besides wonderful tall climbing trees, it had cats and chickens and a barn that held her pony, Tommy, whom she rode all over the countryside and through the streets of town.

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How did this native Idahoan become one of America's best-loved children's authors? From an early age, Carol loved to read books and write her own stories. In high school and later in college, Carol wrote stories for her school newspapers.

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 - *C She thought her grandmother's adventures were unusual.
 - D She liked to imagine her grandmother as a pioneer girl.

2. As used in the passage, what does the word recollections mean?
 - A books
 - B siblings (brothers and sisters)
 - C writings
 - *D memories

Carol married and had two children. She said it was her son and daughter who inspired her to write for children. Finding time to write wasn't easy with a busy family to take care of. Sometimes an idea would come to her while she was doing laundry or washing the supper dishes. She would make a quick note and come back to write it out more fully after her children were asleep. It was from these notes that Carol developed her stories, which emerged as butterflies do from their chrysalises.

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Questions 5 and 6 are about the whole passage.

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D "...she turned her attention to writing poetry and painting."

Simile –a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared

6. The author wrote the passage to

*A inform about an author's life.

B describe how to write books.

C tell about a young girl's adventures.

D highlight special book awards.

