

Rotorua Boys' High School

Year 9 – 2013 AsTTle Reading Test.

Instructions.

1. Do not write on this booklet.
2. All answers must be recorded on the answer sheet provided.
3. Please ensure that your name and class are on the sheet.
4. Start with the "Attitude Questions" which are on this page.
5. Read each text and answer all of the questions.

Attitude Questions.

Record your response on the Attitude section of the answer sheet.

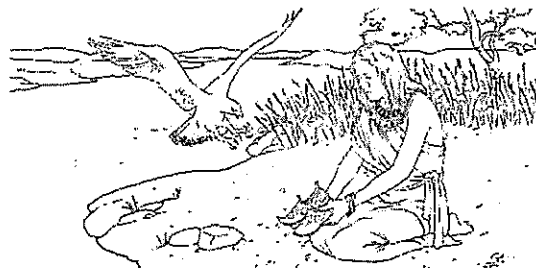
Choose a circle to show how much each sentence is like you

	Very Unlike Me 1	Unlike Me 2	Like Me 3	Very Like Me 4
01. I like reading at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
02. I am good at reading.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
03. My teacher thinks I am good at reading.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
04. My Mum and Dad think I am good at reading.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
05. I enjoy reading in my own time (not at school).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
06. I like going to the library to get something to read.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Use the following information to answer questions 01 to 05

Rhodopis and the Slippers

- 1 Long ago Rhodopis left her home in Greece and went far away to Egypt, where she worked as a housemaid. Rhodopis didn't look like the other housemaids, so they often mistreated her.
- 2 "Rhodopis, make us something to eat! Wash our clothes!" the housemaids screamed. They also blamed Rhodopis for all their mistakes.
- 3 One day the master of the house saw Rhodopis dancing as she did her work. He was charmed by how gracefully Rhodopis danced, so he had a special pair of beautiful slippers made for her. Angered by the gift, the other housemaids treated Rhodopis even worse than before.
- 4 A month later, the pharaoh, or ruler, of Egypt announced a great feast. Even servants were invited, as long as they finished their work. However, the housemaids gave Rhodopis so much of their work that she wasn't able to go.
- 5 Later, while everyone was at the feast, Rhodopis sat alone by the Nile River. "What good are these?" she asked as she pulled the slippers from her feet. Suddenly a falcon flew down and stole one slipper. With a heavy heart, Rhodopis watched as the falcon flew away.
- 6 At the same time that Rhodopis sat on the shore of the river, the pharaoh's son Amasis sat alone at the great feast. To his surprise a falcon dropped a slipper onto his lap. Amasis knew this was a sign. The maiden who wore the slipper would be his princess.
- 7 The next day Amasis began his search. Women young and old tried on the slippers, but it fitted none of them. Soon Amasis arrived at the house where Rhodopis lived. The other housemaids oiled their feet, but still the slipper wouldn't fit. Then Amasis saw Rhodopis watching from a distance and called her over. The slipper fitted perfectly.



A Star for a Prince

- 1 In Persia long ago a girl named Settareh, which means "star," was born with a star-shaped mark on her cheek. Settareh's mother died. Later her father married another woman who already had two daughters of her own. Shortly afterward Settareh's father became ill and died, leaving Settareh to be raised by her stepmother.
- 2 Settareh's stepmother and stepsisters treated her very unkindly. They took her fine clothes and made her wear their old clothes. She had to do many of their chores. They let her eat only what was left after they had finished, so she often went hungry.
- 3 One day the family was invited to the prince's royal ball. The stepmother gave her daughters and Settareh money to buy new dresses in town. While Settareh looked for a dress to buy, she felt weak. As she bought something to eat, she thought, "I will still have enough money for a dress."
- 4 "Please can you spare some food?" a beggar asked. The beggar looked thin and weak from starvation. Without a thought Settareh spent the rest of her money on food for the beggar.
- 5 "Please take this," the beggar smiled, offering Settareh a small blue jug. Although it was cracked, Settareh accepted the old woman's gift.
- 6 "Fool!" Settareh's stepsisters laughed when she returned without a dress. Later they left for the ball without her.
- 7 "If only I had a dress," Settareh sighed, holding the jug. Suddenly she was wearing a beautiful dress and matching anklets around her ankles.
- 8 "But how will I get to the ball?" No sooner had Settareh spoken than she was there.
- 9 Fearing her stepmother and stepsisters would see her new dress, Settareh stayed where they wouldn't notice her. She was sitting alone when the prince walked up and introduced himself. She had a wonderful time talking and laughing with the prince. Then she noticed the time. She fled so she could be home to change before the stepmother and stepsisters arrived.
- 10 The prince was heartbroken as he watched Settareh leave. As he walked sadly outside the palace, he came across one of her anklets on the ground. He decided that he must find Settareh again and make her his wife. The next day he began his search. He asked every woman in the land to try on the anklet but it was too small. Finally he came to Settareh's house. Her stepsisters pushed and pushed, but the anklet would not fit. The prince was about to leave when he saw small footprints in the dirt. "Who made these?" he demanded.
- 11 "I did," Settareh said from behind her stepsisters. Keeping her head down, she slipped on the anklet. When she looked up at the prince, he recognised the star on her cheek.



01. In *A Star for a Prince*, why does Settareh feel weak as she walks around town looking for a new dress?

- She is tired of looking for a dress.
- She is excited about buying a new dress.
- She is suffering from hunger.
- She is nervous about the ball.

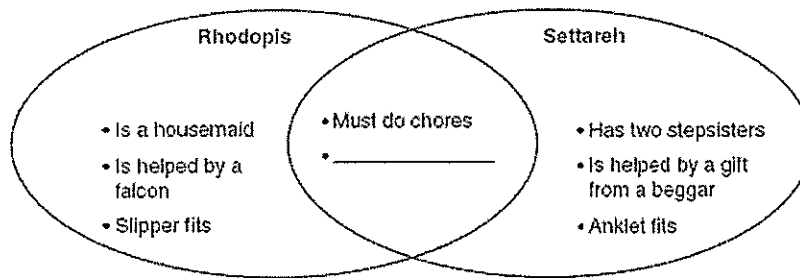
02. In *Rhodopis and the Slippers*, how does Rhodopis feel as she sits by the Nile River?

- Frightened of the large falcon flying over
- Curious about why the other housemaids are mean
- Upset that she cannot wear her slippers
- Hopeless because she cannot go to the feast

03. What is paragraph 7 of *Rhodopis and the Slippers* MOSTLY about?

- A new slipper Amasis brings for Rhodopis
- Why Rhodopis watches from a distance
- Amasis's efforts to find the owner of the slipper
- The oil used by the housemaids before trying on the slipper

04. Which information in the list below belongs on the blank line?



- Is jealous of others
- Secretly attends the ball
- Must wash all the clothes
- Meets a special man

05. Which of the following **BEST** completes the summary below?

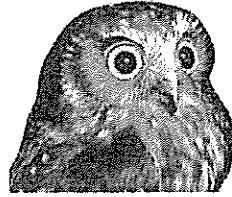
Summary of *Rhodopis and the Slippers*

Rhodopis is a housemaid who dances so gracefully that she receives a pair of slippers from the master of the house. The other housemaids become upset. They make her do extra work so that she can't go to the pharaoh's feast.

- She must wash all the clothes and make food for the others to eat. She is very tired and upset at the end of the day.
- Rhodopis sits by the Nile River with her beautiful slippers. She cries because she can't go to the feast with the other housemaids.
- As Rhodopis sits alone with her slippers, a falcon takes one and drops it onto the lap of Amasis, the prince. Amasis searches for Rhodopis and finds her.
- Amasis finds a slipper at the pharaoh's feast. He has many different women try on the slipper, but it fits none of them.

End of Section

Read Ruru The Morepork and answer questions 06 to 09



Ruru, the Morepork

Like most New Zealanders, I know the distinctive call of the native owl, Ruru the Morepork, which floats out of the darkness at night demanding a second serving of the Sunday roast like the ghost of a hungry child.

However, it was only a few years ago I got a really good look at the bird. I had just launched a petrel (a type of sea bird) into the night sky, when, out of the corner of my eye I saw a small missile flying through the air and the very next moment the petrel was knocked to the ground.

Although the morepork was only half the size of the petrel, I think she would have tried to eat the larger bird if we had not been standing around. But instead she glowered at us from the nearest tree with her huge yellow eyes, allowing us plenty of time to examine her as she scrutinised us back. This experience reminded me of the symbolism of the morepork in Māori culture.

Māori mythology

Ruru is an important part of Māori mythology and tradition. Many of the carved figures seen on Māori meeting houses have had their eyes modelled on Ruru. When performing the war dances of the haka and the pukana, the **glaring** looks from the Māori warriors are imitating the fiery little owl.

In Māori mythology, Ruru, which hunts by night on silent wings and has a melancholy hooting call, is associated with the spirit world. In fact, the special ancestral spirit of a family group is thought to take the form of Ruru. Known as Hine-ruru, the "owl woman", Māori traditionally believed that these owl guardians had the power to protect, warn and advise.

According to such beliefs, the presence of a morepork sitting nearby, knocking on a window or even entering the house signifies a death in the family. The high, piercing call of the morepork is thought to herald bad news. The ordinary call indicates good news is on the way. There seems to be a lot of good news going on around New Zealand today as Ruru is widespread. The morepork call is said to be the most common native animal sound heard at night.

06. Adjectives are describing words. Which of the underlined words in the following sentence are adjectives?

The high piercing call of the morepork is thought to herald bad news.
1 2 3 4 5

- 1, 2 and 5
- 3, 4 and 5
- 1, 4 and 5
- 2, 3 and 4

07. The words ***glowered***, ***scrutinised***, ***examine*** and ***glaring*** as they are used in the text, all refer to

- hunting skills.
- ways of looking at things.
- Māori carvings.
- petrels or types of sea birds.

08. Which of the following is **NOT TRUE** according to the text? Māori believe Hine-ruru had the power to

- advise.
- vanish.
- protect.
- warn.

09. According to Māori mythology, which of the following morepork calls signifies trouble?

- A curious call
- A melancholy, hooting call
- A high, piercing call
- An ordinary call

End of Section

Use the following information to answer questions 10 to 14.

DIRECTIONS

Read each passage. You will see two parts in bold. Choose the answer that shows the best way to write each bold part. If a bold part should not be rewritten, choose "No mistake." (Remember to check for spelling, capitalisation and punctuation mistakes.)

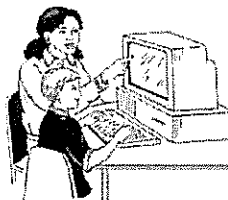
People often believe that bigger is better. **However, computers became much better when we learned. To make them smaller.** The first computers were very large because they were made of so many big parts. One computer was 100 feet long! **Then, about 25 years ago, several Americans invented a computer chip. The chip was small.** One microchip soon did the work of a room-sized computer.

My little brother loves spiders I decided to help him learn more about them. At the library we found a stack of books about spiders. **We were surprised to find out how many different kinds of spiders there are and how many different ways they hunt.** Then we decided to look for a video about spiders. The librarian helped us find a great video of spiders in action.

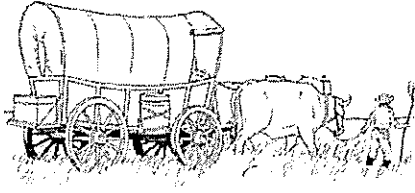
Have you ever looked closely at a dollar bill? **In addition to numbers and pictures, every bill includes the name. It is the name of the U.S. treasurer.** The name Romana Acosta Bañuelos appeared on all dollar bills made between 1971 and 1974. **Bañuelos was the first Mexican American woman. To serve as U.S. treasurer.** She wrote cheques for money spent by the government. She also made sure that worn-out bills were destroyed.



My favourite school activity is tutoring time. **Twice a week Mr. Garza takes us to Ms. Nelson's classroom we work with her students.** We tutor them in different subjects. **I help a student named David. David is learning to use the computer.** He gets very excited when he learns something new. I feel great when I see him succeed.



In 1840 Daniel and his family left Vermont. They travelled to Missouri. There they joined a wagon train headed for California. During the journey Daniel took care of the oxen that pulled their wagon. Whenever they crossed a river or travelled through a snowstorm, Daniel guided the oxen. **Many families losing their oxen on the way to California.** Daniel's oxen, however, made it all the way.



10. Then, about 25 years ago, several Americans invented a computer chip. The chip was small.

Which is the best way to rewrite this?

- Then, about 25 years ago, several Americans invented a computer chip, but it was small.
- Then, about 25 years ago, several small Americans invented a computer chip.
- Then, about 25 years ago, several Americans invented a computer chip that was invented to be small.
- Then, about 25 years ago, several Americans invented a small computer chip.

11. In 1840 Daniel and his family left Vermont. They travelled to Missouri.

Which is the best way to rewrite this?

- In 1840 Daniel and his family left Vermont or travelled to Missouri.
- In 1840 Daniel and his family left and travelled to Vermont and Missouri.
- In 1840 Daniel and his family left Vermont and travelled to Missouri.
- In 1840 Daniel and his family left Vermont, and Daniel's family travelled to Missouri.

12. Bañuelos was the first Mexican American woman. To serve as U.S. treasurer.

Which is the best way to rewrite this?

- Bañuelos was the first Mexican American woman to serve as U.S. treasurer.
- Bañuelos the first Mexican American woman to serve as U.S. treasurer.
- Bañuelos was the first Mexican American woman, she served as U.S. treasurer.
- No mistake.

13. In addition to numbers and pictures, every bill includes the name. It is the name of the U.S. treasurer.

Which is the best way to rewrite this?

- In addition to numbers and pictures, every bill includes the name, but it is the name of the U.S treasurer.
- In addition to numbers and pictures, every bill includes the name, and the name on the bill is the name of the U.S treasurer.
- In addition to numbers and pictures, every bill includes the name of the U.S treasurer.
- In addition to numbers, pictures, and the name of the U.S treasurer, every bill includes the name.

14. We were surprised to find out how many different kinds of spiders there are and how many different ways they hunt.

Which is the best way to rewrite this?

- We were surprised to find out how many different kinds of spiders there are. And how many different ways they hunt.
- We surprising to find out how many different kinds of spiders there are and how many different ways they hunt.
- We were surprised to find out how many different kinds of spiders there are and we were surprised by how many different ways they hunt.
- No mistake.

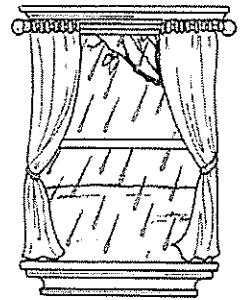
End of Section

Use the following information to answer questions 15 to 17

The poem A Drowsy Day describes impressions of a rainy day. Read the poem below. Use information from the poem to answer the questions that follow.

A Drowsy Day

- 1 The air is dark, the sky is grey,
The misty shadows come and go,
And here within my dusky room
Each chair looks ghostly in the gloom.
Outside the rain falls cold and slow-
Half-stinging drops, half-blinding spray.
- 2 Each slightest sound is magnified,
For drowsy quiet holds her reign;
The burnt stick in the fireplace breaks,
The nodding cat with start awakes,
And then to sleep drops off again,
Unheeding Towser at her side.
- 3 I look far out across the lawn,
Where huddled stand the silly sheep;
My work lies idle at my hands,
My thoughts fly out like scattered strands
Of thread, and on the verge of sleep-
Still half awake-I dream and yawn.
- 4 What spirits rise before my eyes!
How various of kind and form!
Sweet memories of days long past,
The dreams of youth that could not last,
Each smiling calm, each raging storm,
That swept across my early skies.
- 5 Half seen, the bare, gaunt-fingered boughs
Before my window sweep and sway,
And chafe in tortures of unrest.
My chin sinks down upon my breast;
I cannot work on such a day,
But only sit and dream and drowse.



-Paul Laurence Dunbar

towser - traditional name for a dog

chafe - to feel irritated or impatient

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15. Verse 4 provides a clue about the speaker's

- cat.
- friends.
- age.
- work.

16. The last two lines of verse 4 let the reader know that during the speaker's youth, he

- would daydream frequently.
- experienced good and bad times.
- played outside during storms.
- was happy all of the time.

17. In line 2 of verse 5, **sweep and sway** is an example of

- irony.
- alliteration.
- hyperbole.
- symbolism.

End of Section

Read the newspaper article and answer questions 18 to 20

‘Intolerable’ behaviour caused Te Wiata’s exit

By BRONWYN SELLS

Actor Rima Te Wiata walked off the stage in the middle of the play *Woman Far Walking* in frustration, after three cellphones rang and two pagers beeped in the audience.

Anna Robertshawe, business manager for the theatre company said, “The last straw was when Te Wiata was distracted by a man in the second row eating sweets.”

The response to her sudden departure was mixed.

Te Wiata was criticised by an audience member, Ron Wilson, who said she demanded that the man leave and swore loudly before leaving the stage.

In support of the actress, the theatre company said the disruptions had become intolerable for Te Wiata and she was unable to proceed with the *Witi Ihimacra* play. Anna Robertshawe said the venue, Auckland’s Herald

Theatre, was intimate and disruptions were magnified by the audience being close to the stage. She apologised for “this unexpected and very unfortunate incident” and said tickets for that Monday’s performance would be refunded.

Another audience member, retired Maori Professor Ranginui Walker said Te Wiata’s actions were justified because she was being insulted spiritually and professionally. Professor Walker said Te Wiata had been performing an emotional scene about influenza deaths in the Maori community in 1918 and she was “quite right in doing what she did. The behaviour was crass. You’re not at a movie. When you’re at a play it’s a live performance. But worse still, it’s also wairua – spiritual. When Maori are performing a thing like that they are actually with their ancestors, performing on behalf of their ancestors, the past and the

present are one.”

“They’re giving it their all, the emotional output is just draining and to see some crass individual at the front, eating sweets, is just intolerable.”

He said audience members were stunned and some sitting near him were “tut-tutting” that the “spell was broken by this unseemly behaviour.”

Veteran actor Raymond Hawthorne said last night it was very hard for an actor when disruptions occurred but walking out was a last resort. “My natural inclination is just to plough on regardless, but this problem of cellphones ringing and pagers going in theatres is a dreadful thing.”

New Zealand Herald,
22 June 2000

18. What is the **BEST** word to describe how Te Wiata felt when she left the stage?

- Insulted
- Spiritual
- Distracted
- Insecure

19. Which of the following is an opinion?

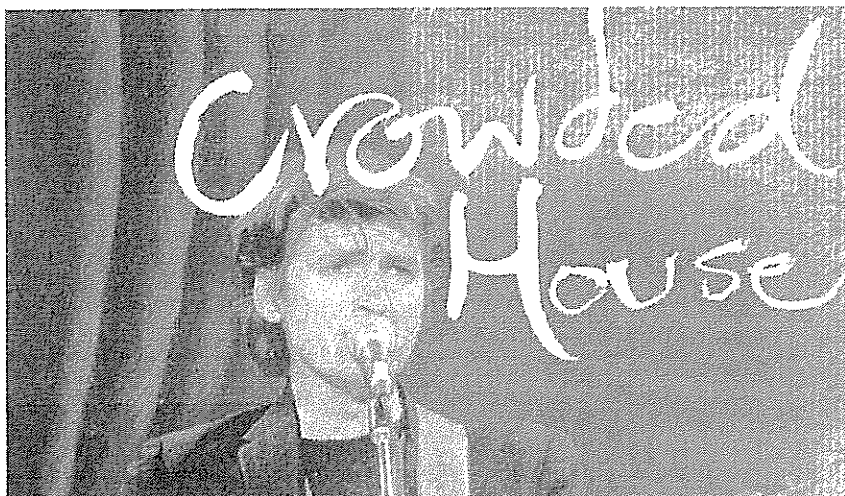
- Professor Walker said Te Wiata had been performing an emotional scene...
- Actor Rima Te Wiata walked off stage in the middle of the play...
- The response to her sudden departure was mixed.
- This problem of cellphones ringing... in theatres is just dreadful.

20. The word closest in meaning to ***demanded***, as it is used in the text, is

- expected.
- requested.
- insisted.
- asserted.

End of Section

Read Crowded House and answer questions 21 to 24



- 1 Neil Finn is simply one of the most accomplished, emotive songsmiths in the world. His evocative, textured and structurally intriguing works possess an often-breathtaking sweep that draws and holds and lingers. Deft and inventive, they set new standards for the contemporary pop song.
- 2 Young Neil became a true force to be reckoned with when he joined his big brother Tim's well-established band Split Enz in 1977 and furnished the hypnotic *I Got You*, the number one record of 1980. *One Step Ahead*, *History Never Repeats* and *Message To My Girl* documented the flowering of his songwriting skills.
- 3 Originally called the Mullaney (after Neil's middle name) that outfit became Crowded House after enduring cramped conditions in a rented Hollywood bungalow while recording their first album. A sense of fun was an integral aspect of their live performances.
- 4 Debuting with the 1986 Crowded House album, the trio stormed the US top ten with the enduring *Don't Dream It's Over* and *Something So Strong* and by 1992 were in the UK Top Ten with *Weather With You*. The third and fourth albums - *Woodface* (with Tim Finn), and *Together Alone* - both made the British top ten. This set up such a base of popularity that the 1996 hits collection *Recurring Dream* went to number one there, just as the much-loved band was bidding farewell before 150,000 fans on the steps of Sydney Opera House. A sad loss certainly, but those songs... they'll live forever. It's only natural.

21. The first paragraph focuses on

- outlining the rise to fame of Crowded House.
- paying tribute to the talents of Neil Finn.
- explaining the motivation behind Neil Finn.
- detailing the success of Crowded House.

22. The overall purpose of the text is to

- explain how Crowded House was formed.
- compare Crowded House to Split Enz.
- give recognition to the success of Crowded House.
- encourage New Zealand's music industry.

23. What words are used in the text to describe the songs written by Neil Finn?

- Flowering and enduring
- Integral and much-loved
- Honest and original
- Evocative and inventive

24. Describing Neil Finn as a "**songsmith**" rather than as a "**songwriter**" gives the impression that Neil Finn's music

- is unique and carries significant meaning.
- has been crafted rather than produced.
- is written for a serious audience.
- is representative of everyday people.

Use the following information to answer questions 25 to 29

Directions: Read the poems and answer the questions that follow.

It Couldn't Be Done

Edgar A. Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
5 So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
10 At least no one ever has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
15 He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be
done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you, one
by one,
20 The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

Be the Best of Whatever You Are

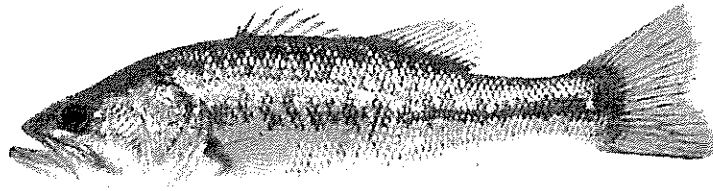
Douglas Malloch

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley — but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

5 If you can't be a bush be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass—
Be the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
10 There's something for all of us here,
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,
And the task you must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun be a star;
15 It isn't by size that you win or fail—
Be the best of whatever you are!



25. Which words from Guest's poem show his attitude toward the phrase "*it couldn't be done*"?

- Chuckle, grin, sing
- Scoffed, couldn't, cannot
- Doubting, failure, dangers
- Replied, worried, started

26. The rhythm in both of these poems contributes to a mood that is

- shocking.
- upbeat.
- gloomy.
- foolish.

27. What is one way the author of "*Be the Best of Whatever You Are*" emphasises the theme in his poem?

- The use of action words throughout the poem
- Employment of an abab rhyme scheme
- Repetition of the phrase "If you can't"
- Punctuating with dashes and semicolons

28. The last two lines in each stanza of "*It Couldn't Be Done*" give the reader a sense of

- failure.
- happiness.
- confusion.
- accomplishment.

29. The speakers in both poems would **PROBABLY** disagree with which of the following statements?

- Work hard at whatever task you take on and be proud of it.
- You'll never know what you can accomplish until you give it your best effort.
- You shouldn't accept the role you are given - keep waiting for something better.
- If you don't succeed at something, keep trying until you do.