**5th Grade: Unit 3: Clues to a Culture**

**(R.L) Literature based Summative Evaluation**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION: *How do authors use point of view to develop topics and themes?***

This test assesses the following Common Core Standards and is based on multiple short reading passages:

**RL.5.1** Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

**RL.5.6** Describe how a narrator’s or speaker’s point of view influences how events are described.

**RL.5.9** Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

**W.5.9** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection and research.

**L.5.2d** Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to indicate titles of works.

**Answer Key & Standards Assessed:**

*Part 1*

**Part A:** B; D RL.5.1 RL.5.4

**Part B:** C; A RL.5.6 RL.5.1

**Part C:** A; C RL.5.6 RL.5.1

**Part D:** RL.5.6, W.5.9 and L.5.2d

1. Each diary entry is written using first person point of view and the words “I” or “we.”
2. The diary entries include descriptive details from the passage
3. Mama’s entry includes details about what she did, what she saw, why she was angry with Pinch, and how she felt when she hit Andeg.
4. Pinch’s entry includes details about what he did with the berries, how he felt while he was watching them, and how he felt when he was sick.

*Part 2*

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| **Part E:** RL.5.9, W.5.9  Students will use the compare/contrast thinking skill to determine the categories they should use to compare, and fill in the details from each text.  **Part F:** RL.5.9, W.5.9  Students will transfer the information from the chart to the correct section of the graphic organizer, showing how the passages approached the topic in similar and different ways.)  **Part G:** RL.5.6, W.5.9 and L.5.2d  Students will write a well organized essay that compares and contrasts how the authors approached the topic of going on a journey or voyage. |

**Part 1**

**Today you will read an excerpt from *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich. Read the passage, and complete the multiple choice questions and the writing task.**

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| Chapter 6: “Pinch”  taken from *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich  Big Pinch got in trouble and Omakayas was glad. Here’s how it happened.  One day, Mama found a bush of late-bearing chokecherries. They were plump, so ripe that they had turned a deep blackish-purple color. She picked until her fingers turned red-black at the tips. When she returned, bearing her load of berries, Mama’s eye lit on Big Pinch.  “I have a job for you,” she said. His eyes got beady and his lip turned out. He pouted at her, but she paid his lowered looks no mind.  “I’m spreading these berries on the bark sheaves so they will dry,” she went on, and then she proceeded to spread out the berries on clean birchbark, in the warmest patch of sun she could find. “You watch them carefully now, Big Pinch. Keep the birds away. Listen, my son.” Mama narrowed her eyes at Pinch so that he would know he was trusted with an important task. “This is our winter seasoning and food. You’ll be glad of them when we are hungry in little spirit moon.”  She gave Big Pinch a long, ferny branch to wave and made him sit next to the berries. Then she turned her back on him and went out to the lake with Grandma to check their fish nets. She took Neewo along with her, put him carefully in his tikinagun, petted and kissed him. Angeline and Omakayas were sent to town. They were to sweep out and prepare the family cabin for the winter move. Big Pinch was left alone.  It was hard being Big Pinch, harder than his sisters would ever know. They didn’t understand how good it felt to fill a stomach that so rarely got full. They didn’t realize how good it felt to shove handfuls of berries into his greedy mouth. Pinch looked at the berries. Bored, he shooed away a few small chickadees. Andeg sat with him, on a low branch. But Andeg knew better than to eat the berries. If only, thought Pinch sadly, those berries didn’t look *so delicious!* Mama had found a patch of chokecherries that were much more luscious than most. These were the biggest, fattest berries Pinch had ever seen! It didn’t seem as though it would hurt to eat a few. Pinch sneaked one, then a few more, then a handful. Andeg cawed three times, and seemed to disapprove. Pinch made a face at the bird. The berries tasted as good as they looked, better. Richer, blacker, without that mouth-puckering chokecherry taste. He might just have another handful.  Well, he thought not long after he finished that bunch, a handful more would not hurt. And then, just to balance the look of the berries, he took more from one side. The other. He spread the berries out and then the bark looked full again. Pinch waited. The sun blossomed slowly, so slowly, and it took such a long time to dry the berries. Pinch tried to amuse himself, but with nobody there to bother, he was at a loss. Andeg didn’t want to play and flew out of the reach. There was nobody to annoy except himself!  Another handful. Another and another. Pinch rearranged the berries once again. Now there seemed to be plenty of berries on the bark-they were well spaced, it was true, but the bark sheaves looked full. He kept nibbling, spacing, arranging, and rearranging until sleep overcame him and he curled up tight and nodded away.  “Pinnnnnch!” It was Mama’s threatening voice. She was standing tall over the berries and she wasn’t the least big fooled by Pinch’s berry arrangement. “What happened? Where are the berries I picked, you sleepy boy!”  Pinch woke, jumped up rubbing his eyes, blinking. It was true! There were very few berries on the bark sheaves. Had he eaten so many? How could he? Big Pinch was horrified, embarrassed at himself.  “Pinnnchhhh!” Mama was using her very angry voice now, and Pinch felt so terrible that his brain raced and he seized suddenly upon a blaming lie.  “Andeg ate them. Bad Andeg!”  Pinch pointed up and sure enough, Andeg, sitting out of reach on a high branch, certainly looked guilty as he glared down and preened his new growth of feathers. Mama, furious that her work was all for nothing, shook her fist in the air and called out to Andeg.  “Come on down and eat the rest of them!”  Andeg, not understanding, hopped down to nearly within her reach and cocked his head in a friendly way as though to inquire, “Are you sure?”  “AAAAYyaaaah!”  Mama took Andeg’s friendliness as a sign that he really had eaten up the berries. Mama grabbed a stick, shook it hard. Andeg croaked in alarm. With a shout, she threw back her arm, took sudden aim at the bird, and hurled the stick at Andeg.  “CaaaaaH!” Andeg was hit. Although not seriously hurt, he jumped fearfully from branch to branch and fluttered out of reach, then farther, farther away, until he was lost from view.  “See what you made me do?” Mama called, but immediately she sat down sorry, knowing that the fault lay strictly with herself. “I must get the better of myself. I must. I must.” She shook her head. “How could I?” Now her daughter’s pet was frightened, and even if he had eaten all of the berries she worked so hard to pick, Mama loved the crow and never meant to scare him. How betrayed by humans the bird must feel. she thought guiltily. And here she had trained him to eat from her hand! Now he was frightened off.  “Come back,” she called hopefully into the woods. “Ombay!”  But the bird, still crying out in confusion, only fled deeper into the woods. Mama sat down sadly, ashamed of herself. That was how Omakayas found her mother when she returned from her town errand. Mama told what had happened, how Andeg had eaten the berries Pinch was watching, and how she had gotten angry, frightened Andeg off, how she was now sorry to have done so and would help Omakayas find the bird.  “Surely, he will come to you,” said Mama.  Just as she was explaining why it was she had lost her temper and how hard she had worked to find those berries, Big Pinch groaned.  “What’s wrong?” Mama asked.  “Oooooh.” Big Pinch lay down holding his stomach. “It hurts. Oooooh. It hurts.”  “Saaa!”  Mama bent over her boy, inspecting him. “A stomachache, eh?” She was immediately suspicious. Gently but firmly, she took his hands in hers, uncurled them, saw the telltale juice marks of bruised chokecherries that darkened his fingertips, then the pitiful, berry-stained smile that sealed his guilt!  “Pinch,” she said, and this time her voice was worse than angry. It was disappointed. “You lied. The ghost foot carries off liars in the night! As for your stomachache, there is no medicine but enduring the consequences of your greed. You’ll have to suffer, Pinch. Maybe this will teach you!”  With that, she and Omakayas left him to Angeline and went off into the woods seeking Andeg. |

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| **Answer the questions using the excerpt you just read from *The Birchbark House*.** | |
| **Part A**  What does the word **bearing** mean as it is used in paragraph 1?   1. Eating quickly 2. Carrying or holding 3. Picking from a bush 4. Looking around   Which of the following quotes from the text could best be used to support your answer?   1. They were heavy 2. “She picked until her fingers turned red-black at the tips.” 3. “I have a job for you,” she said. His eyes got beady and his lip turned out.” 4. “When she returned, bearing her load of berries, Mama’s eye lit on Pinch.”   **Part B**  In which point of view is the above passage from *The Birchbark House* written?   1. First person 2. Second person 3. Third person   Which of the following quotes from the text could best be used to support your answer?   1. “She gave Big Pinch a long, ferny branch…” 2. “Pinnnchhhh!” Mama was using her very angry voice now…” 3. “I must bet the better of myself. I must. I must.” She shook her head. “How could I?” 4. “…You’ll have to suffer, Pinch. Maybe this will teach you!” | **Part C**  How are Mama’s and Pinch’s points of view about the berries different?   1. Mama sees them as food to store for the winter; Pinch sees them as a way to satisfy his hunger while he is guarding them. 2. Mama thinks they are important; Pinch does not care if they get eaten by the birds 3. Mama sees them as important food to store for the winter; Pinch does not like chokecherries. 4. Mama does not care if Pinch eats a few of the berries; Pinch works hard to keep the birds away.   Which of the following combination of quotes from the text could best be used to support your answer?   1. “This is our winter seasoning and food. You’ll be glad of them when we are hungry in little spirit moon.” **and** “How had he eaten so many? How could he? Big Pinch was horrified, embarrassed at himself.” 2. “Mama bent over her boy, inspecting him.” **and** “Big Pinch got in trouble and Omakayas was glad.” 3. “This is our winter seasoning and food. You’ll be glad of them when we are hungry in little spirit moon.” **and** “They didn’t understand how good it felt to fill a stomach that so rarely got full. They didn’t realize how good it felt to shove handfuls of berries into his greedy mouth.” |

**Part D**

Write two diary entries about the event that happened in the passage you just read…one from Mama’s point of view/perspective and one from Pinch’s point of view/perspective.

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| ***Mama’s Diary Entry*** |  | ***Pinch’s Diary Entry*** |
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**Part 2**

**You will now read two historical fiction stories and complete the compare and contrast tasks at the end. Think about how the authors approach the topic of going on a journey or voyage.**

Story 1: “**The Long Voyage”**

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| Granny Robertson grew up in a village in Scotland. As a young girl she spun wool, along with her mother and sisters, for her father and brothers to weave into cloth. Many men in their part of Scotland were trained as weavers. When she was eighteen, Granny married a young weaver from a neighboring village, and they set up house in a two-room stone cottage-one room for the family and one room for the loom. From that village and many others like it, hundreds of lengths of woolen tartan were sent to the cities for sale.  By the time the Robertsons had a young family, times were hard. Gradually the woolen factories took work away from the home weavers. One autumn day, a man from the Settlers’ Society called a meeting in the schoolhouse. He talked about the free land and good opportunities in America. Uprooting a family was a scary idea, but the Robertsons were more worried about finding work in Scotland. Finally they decided they would have to take the chance.  They bought tickets on a ship that was leaving the following April. All winter they planned and packed. Letters from friends in America warned them to bring warm clothes and good stout boots. Pewter dishes, iron pots, and frying pans were stowed into two big boxes. Granny packed her spinning wheel and Granddad his wooden loom so they could make their own cloth again once they had sheep. Everything else was sold-their furniture, their chickens and pigs, even their few china dishes.  Settlers traveled to America by ship. Few had seen a sailing ship before they arrived at the dock. The living quarters were cramped. The Robertsons had three bunks for six people and a narrow aisle to store their boxes. If they wanted privacy, they hung blankets in front of their bunks.  Granny Robertson and her family were lucky they had brought their own food with them. Many had no money to buy extra food and spent the six weeks eating ship’s biscuit, a rock-hard bread often full of weevils. Some were weak from years of poor food. In the crowded ships they caught such diseases as typhoid fever and died.  Many people were seasick, no one had enough water to wash properly, and the toilets were just pails that were emptied overboard every day. Before long, the smell below deck was unbearable. If the weather was fine, the passengers escaped onto the deck for fresh air and exercise. But often the weather was rough and the hatches were battened (tied) down to keep out the seawater. If the weather was very rough, the passengers weren’t allowed to light candles for fear of fire, so they had to huddle in the dark, in the wildly pitching ship, wondering if they would survive.  After six to nine week of this, they heard the welcome cry “Land ho!” The first part of their adventure had ended. The second part, finding a new home, was about to begin. |

*Taken from: A Pioneer Sampler: The Daily Life of a Pioneer Family in 1840 by Barbara Greenwood (1994)*

Story 2: “**The Difficult Journey”**

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| The wagon train left early this morning. I told my friends goodbye, since I would be staying here in Denver. We had been traveling for many months. It was June when we left St. Louis but it was October now. I would not stay with the wagon train any longer. When we left St. Louis, we were very excited. We were going all the way to the ocean. We would go to California.  Then we had our first problem. The first day a wheel came off our wagon. It was cracked, and we could not fix it ourselves. We were not very far from St. Louis, so John rode back there on his horse. He came back with another wheel, but that took a day while the other families waited.  Then we ran into our second problem—a big rainstorm. It caused so much mud that the oxen pulling our wagons could not get the wagons to move. We had to wait for the rain to stop and the mud to dry. That meant we lost two more days.  We were tired and it had been just two weeks. Still, we kept on traveling. After the rainstorm cleared, we had to stop because the Brown family got ill. We waited a few days, but they gave up. They turned back around.  It was hard work every day, but we carried on. By the time we arrived in Denver, though, it was too much. We were going to leave the wagon train. That night we told the wagon master.  He asked us to change our minds. He told us, “The worst is over now,” but I knew it would not get any easier. The mountains we had just crossed were only the beginning. It had been such hard work to get where we are now. It would be even harder to reach the ocean. So we chose to remain here in Denver.  Today I have gone to look for a job. There are many jobs in the mines so I will take one of them. And we will get a home. I am glad that living in a tent next to the covered wagon is over. We will have a place where we can live. Even though I will miss my friends, I will not miss all the troubles. |

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**Part E: Category chart**

Use this chart to list the most important categories of information to compare about the two stories, in how they approach going on a journey or voyage. A few sample categories and notes have been included. You are expected to fill in every category.

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| **Title: “The Long Voyage”** | **Category** | **Title: “The Difficult Journey”** |
| Granny’s family (6 people) | Who was going on the trip | Narrator, wagon master, and other unknown people |
|  | How they traveled |  |
|  | Challenges they faced |  |
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**Part F: Compare/Contrast Graphic Organizer**

Transfer the information listed above to the graphic organizer below, showing how the stories are similar and different in regard to going on a journey or voyage.

**Title: “The Long Voyage”**  *Similarities* **Title: “The Difficult Journey”**

**Part G: Compare/Contrast Essay**

Now write a paragraph that discusses the similarities and differences between the two stories, in how they approach going on a journey or voyage. Include at least two pieces of evidence or proof from the texts to support your thinking.

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