Name:_____

WINTON WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GRADE 3

READING / LANGUAGE ARTS

BLIZZARD BAG

#1

All assignments in this packet must be completed for full credit. This assignment will be a part of your quarter grade.

Due: _____



The Gorilla's First-Aid Kit

By Cynthia Berger

The Impenetrable Forest looks like its name—a solid wall of green. John Berry must crawl on all fours to get through the tangle of plants. A soft, low noise, like someone clearing his throat, filters through the leaves. It's the sound of a mountain gorilla telling the others in her group, "Here I am." Dr. Berry hears the sound of noisy chewing and smacking lips.

To the gorillas, the forest in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park looks like one big salad bowl. Each morning, these gorillas roll from their leafy nests, wander a few feet away, plop down, and start eating. Just within reach are dozens of different plants.

These plants may also be healthful in another way. Some plants of the rain forest contain chemicals that are medicines—compounds that kill germs or parasites, or relieve aches or itches. Dr. Berry is here to see

and they taste like pineapple. Pretty good!" he says.

On the other hand, he doesn't care for the taste of rotten wood, but gorillas eat it with gusto.

Dr. Berry also collects samples of plants that gorillas eat. He dries them and takes them back to Cornell University to test their chemical properties. The field station in Uganda where he stays has no electricity and the air is cold and damp, so drying plants is tricky. He uses a special drying table with a wire-mesh top and a lamp underneath.

At Cornell, Dr. Berry grinds up the dry fruit or leaves and mixes them with water or alcohol to extract the chemicals. He puts little drops of the extract onto a flat round plate filled with a jelly-like food for microbes. Then he smears across the plate a sample of the kinds of microbes he wants to test. Finally, he leaves the plate in a warm place where the microbes can grow. If the extract kills the microbes or stops them from growing, it will leave a clear spot on the plate. Everywhere else the plate will be covered with colonies of microbes.

The Gorilla's Diet

So far, Dr. Berry has counted seventy-one different kinds of plants on the gorilla menu. Three of these foods seem like possible sources of wild medicines.

One is the wild ginger plant. Nine feet tall, it has bright-red sweet, finger-sized fruits. Another is *Dombeya*, which has edible bark. After examining gorilla droppings, the scientists concluded that the apes who eat either wild ginger fruits or *Dombeya* bark are not infected with bacteria.

A third promising plant is the giant lobelia. Dr. Berry says it looks like a plant that Dr. Seuss might have drawn: a crooked, fifteen-foot-tall stalk topped with clusters of bushy leaves. Gorillas sometimes make trips to a nearby mountaintop just to eat the roots and leaves. Dr. Berry thinks the plant may contain some helpful chemical.

In will take some time to test all the plants in the gorilla's diet. But who knows? If the work of the chemical prospectors pans out, someday people may benefit from rain-forest medicine taken from the gorilla's first-aid kit.

(839)

5. But other studies suggest that animals deliberately choose certain plants for their healthful **properties**.

   Which definition of **properties** is used in the sentence?

   Property (präp'ar tē) *n.*, *pl.* –ties 1 : the right to possess, use, and dispose of something; ownership (*property* in land) 2 : a thing or things owned; possessions collectively; esp. land or real estate owned 3 : a specific piece of land or real estate 4 : any trait or attribute proper to a thing or person.

   - o A. definition 1
   - o B. definition 2
   - o C. definition 3
   - o D. definition 4

6. Complete the chart with examples of cause and effect from the selection.

Cause	Effect
Chimpanzees pick young, fuzzy leaves from one plant and roll them around in their mouths before swallowing them whole.	
	Rainforests are good places for chemical prospectors to look for new medicines.

10. After examining gorilla droppings, the scientists concluded that the apes who eat either wild ginger fruits or *Dombeya* bark are not infected with bacteria.

    What conclusion about wild ginger fruits and Dombeya can you make from the sentence?

    _____

    _____

    _____

11. Write a sentence to explain what is described in each section of the selection.

    Animal Pharmacists

    _____

    _____

    _____

    Gorilla Sounds

    _____

    _____

    _____

    The Gorilla's Diet

    _____

    _____

    _____

Name:_____

WINTON WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GRADE 3

READING / LANGUAGE ARTS

BLIZZARD BAG

#2

All assignments in this packet must be completed for full credit. This assignment will be a part of your quarter grade.

Due: _____



Have You Ever Seen a Sleeping Horse?

By Jack Myers

Most of us have not seen a sleeping horse. Often I have seen horses standing very quietly, sometimes several side by side. I thought that's how horses might do their sleeping. I was wrong. Horses have their own special way of sleeping.

Scientists have learned how to study sleep in people. Now they are using some of the same methods to study other animals. Recently I found a report by two French scientists on their study of sleep in horses.

Fortunately, there's a way to tell what's going on in an animal even when it's asleep. Muscle and nerve activity always causes small electric currents. And these can be recorded from wire contacts attached at different places on the horse's body surface. The wires lead to a machine that produces a record in the form of a graph. The easiest activity to record is the strong beat of the heart. Contacts against the side of a horse give a graph with a regular spacing of sharp spikes, one for each squeeze of the heart muscle.

Recordings also are made at different places on the head. Those records usually look like wavy lines, some smooth and regular, some jerky with many bumps and wiggles. You might call them brain waves. They tell a little

can relax. That's when it will have its REM sleep. So a horse does a lot of lying down and getting up during the night.

When a horse is tethered tightly in a narrow stall or when being transported in a trailer, it can't go to sleep. Then it becomes especially irritable and unpleasant, just as you do when you don't get enough sleep.

If you have a dog or cat, you may be surprised that horses sleep so little. Dogs and cats often sleep ten or twelve hours a day. In the distant past, when they were wild animals, they were predators. Their hunting trips often were short. In between there were long dull periods when they slept.

Horses, cows, and sheep are herbivores. They need to spend a lot of time grazing to get enough grass. And in the wild they were prey animals. It was safer to be awake most of the time and sleep only in short naps.

Anyway, you can understand why you're not likely to see horses sleeping. They sleep only at night, only lying down, and only for a few short naps.

(762)

rope, etc 3 : to conduct (water, steam, rope, etc.) 4 : to be the first or foremost among; be at the head.

- o A. definition 1
- o B. definition 2
- o C. definition 3
- o D. definition 4

5. Which is the easiest activity to record?

- o A. brain waves of a horse
- o B. beat of the horse's heart
- o C. contacts against the side of the horse
- o D. none of the above

6. "**Recordings** also are made at different places on the head. Those **records** usually look like wavy lines, some smooth and regular, some jerky with many bumps and wiggles.

7. What does the abbreviation SW stand for in the reading selection?

_____

_____

8. In which way is a sleeping horse similar to a sleeping person during SW sleep?

- o A. the muscles relax
- o B. the heart slows

12. What are the two ways a horse lays down to sleep?

13. What is the effect of a horse being tethered tightly in a narrow stall or being transported in a trailer?

14. What explanation is given for why horses sleep only in short naps?

15. Which detail from the selection supports the fact that it was safer for horses, cows, and sheep to be awake most of the time?

- o A. Dogs and cats were once predators.
- o B. Horses, cows, and sheep were prey animals.
- o C. Horses, cows, and sheep are herbivores.
- o D. Dogs and cats often had short hunting trips.

Name:_____

WINTON WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GRADE 3

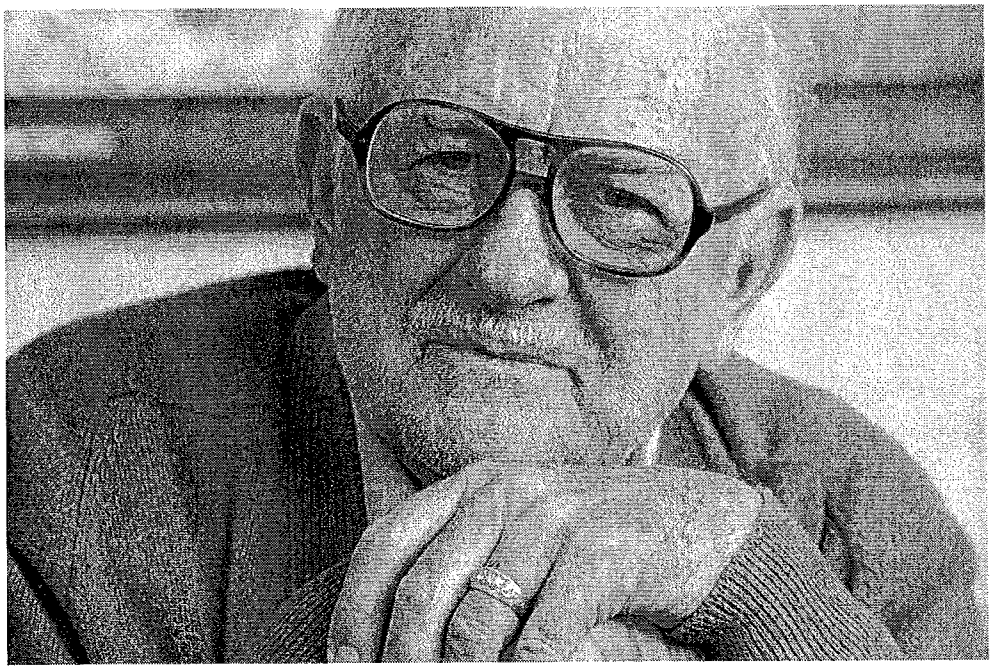
READING / LANGUAGE ARTS

BLIZZARD BAG

#3

All assignments in this packet must be completed for full credit. This assignment will be a part of your quarter grade.

Due: _____



My Grouchy Grandpa

My grandpa Leo lives with us now. Some people say he's a grouch. I guess I can understand why they say that.

He doesn't smile much, especially since Grandma died.

He sure complains a lot: "This coffee is too hot!" "This pillow is too lumpy!" "Channel Eleven comes in lousy on this television!" "Who hid my cigars?"

He's always telling everyone that life was better in the old days.

He tells my parents that they are nuts to live in a big city like Buffalo instead of a small town like Trumansburg, where he and Grandma used to live.

And he can't read a newspaper without groaning and grumbling about "phony baloneys" and "crooks" and "nitwits" and "knuckleheads."

But there's something else about my Grandpa: he really, really, really loves me. Do you know how I know?

It's the way he says to me, "Hey, Maddy, the baseball game is on. Come and watch it with me!" And then we watch the game, and he explains everything. He gets all excited when he tells me one more time about his favorite players from the old days, like Robin Roberts and Rich Ashburn and Puddin' Head Jones.

Answer questions 6-10 about, My Grouchy Grandpa.

6. From what you read in the reading selection, how does the speaker feel about his grandpa?

_____

_____

Give three details from the selection to support your answer.

A. _____

_____

B. _____

_____

C. _____

_____

7. Which event occurs as a result of the speaker's discussion with his mom?

- A. The speaker realizes that his grandpa is grumpier than he thought.
- B. The speaker realizes that he makes his grandpa smile in the inside.
- C. The speaker realizes that his grandpa gives the biggest hugs ever.
- D. The speaker realizes that his mother is smart.