

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Carl Is on the Case

Characters

CARL: A boy who loves detective mysteries

MIKE: Carl's best friend

MRS. WATSON: A librarian who lives next door to Carl

AGATHA: Mrs. Watson's big orange cat

SCENE 1

- 1 [*Carl is in his living room, reclining on the couch while staring at the television with his friend Mike. Dramatic music and an announcer's voice come from the television: "And now for the Saturday-afternoon mystery movie, 'The Case of the Missing Jewel.'"* A flash of lightning suddenly brightens the room. Carl sits upright. Mike yelps. A boom of thunder sends them racing to the window.]
- 2 **CARL:** A storm to go with our detective movie. I love it!
- 3 [*A scream comes from offstage.*]
- 4 **MIKE:** Did you hear that?
- 5 **CARL:** Yes, I did. We'd better investigate.
- 6 **MIKE:** [*Peeking through the living room curtains.*] Um, maybe we should just leave it alone. We don't want to miss the best part of the movie.
- 7 **CARL:** Don't worry. I'm recording the movie. Let's go find out what's wrong. What's better than a real-life mystery anyway?
- 8 [*Carl exits stage right. Mike groans and reluctantly follows him.*]

SCENE 2

- 9 [*Carl and Mike enter stage left to the front door of Mrs. Watson's house. A spotlight shines on the front door. The rest of the stage is dark.*]
- 10 **MRS. WATSON:** [*Offstage.*] Oh! Oh, no! Oh, no!
- 11 **CARL:** [*Knocks on door.*] Mrs. Watson? It's me, Carl.

- 12 *[The door opens. Mrs. Watson stands just inside. Lights illuminate her living room and the connecting kitchen.]*
- 13 **CARL:** Are you O.K., Mrs. Watson? Can we help you with anything?
- 14 **MIKE:** Or we could just go. You're probably busy. *[Turning to leave.]*
- 15 **MRS. WATSON:** I've lost one of the library's rarest, most expensive books! In over 30 years as a librarian I've never been so careless. Just admitting my mistake is such an embarrassment. Oh, this is a disaster! What am I going to do?
- 16 **CARL:** We'd be happy to help you look for it. *[Pulls a Sherlock Holmes-style detective hat from his back pocket and puts it on his head. A serious look is on his face.]* Where and when did you last see the book?
- 17 *[Mike rolls his eyes.]*
- 18 **MRS. WATSON:** Oh, I'd be so grateful for your help. *[Ushers Carl and Mike into the house.]*
- 19 *[Mrs. Watson's cat comes out from behind the couch.]*
- 20 **MRS. WATSON:** Oh, don't mind Agatha. Now, what was I . . . Oh, yes! I'll tell you what happened. Yesterday, as I was leaving the library, I noticed that the binding of our first edition of *The Raven* had a little tear. So I wrapped the book carefully, brought it home with me, and put it right there on the desk. At least I *thought* that's where I put it.
- 21 *[Mike scratches Agatha behind her ears.]*
- 22 **CARL:** So you're not absolutely positive you put it there?
- 23 **MRS. WATSON:** Yes, I'm positive. Well . . . pretty positive.
- 24 **CARL:** Why don't you and I retrace your steps?
- 25 **MIKE:** *[Pokes around on the desk and then walks around the couch, flips up cushions, peeks underneath, and mumbles.]* It has to be here somewhere.
- 26 **MRS. WATSON:** Let me think. I got home late yesterday. The traffic was simply terrible.

- 27 **MIKE:** [*Nods eagerly.*] My dad was taking me to Ranger Scouts last night, and the traffic was bad.
- 28 [*Carl gives him an annoyed look.*]
- 29 **MRS. WATSON:** I came in through the front door and put my keys on the end table next to the couch.
- 30 **MIKE:** That's where we always keep ours.
- 31 **MRS. WATSON:** Then I walked across the living room to put the book on the desk. That's the last I remember seeing it.
- 32 **CARL:** We're missing something here.
- 33 [*Agatha meows loudly.*]
- 34 **MRS. WATSON:** It's almost time for her supper.
- 35 **MIKE:** Wait a second! Do you feed her at the same time every day?
- 36 **MRS. WATSON:** Every single day!
- 37 **CARL:** And yesterday you got home later than usual, right?
- 38 **MIKE:** My thoughts exactly, Carl!
- 39 **MRS. WATSON:** [*Claps her hands together.*] Oh my goodness, boys! You've solved the mystery. [*Mrs. Watson rushes into the kitchen, the boys following behind. She opens a cupboard and spies the missing book on a shelf next to a box of cat food.*]
- 40 **MRS. WATSON:** I don't know how to thank you.
- 41 **CARL:** [*Grinning.*] Are those your famous freshly baked cookies that I smell?
- 42 **MRS. WATSON:** [*Holds out a plate of cookies.*] I like your fees, boys!

1 Which of these helps Mike solve Mrs. Watson’s problem?

- A** The detail about the Ranger Scouts meeting
 - B** The smell of her cookies
 - C** Her keys on the table
 - D** Agatha’s meowing
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2 This play is divided into two scenes because —

- F** a character in Scene 1 is not present in Scene 2
 - G** the setting changes between Scene 1 and Scene 2
 - H** the conflict is presented in Scene 1 and resolved in Scene 2
 - J** the dialogue begins in Scene 2
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3 Which of these is the best summary of Scene 1?

- A** While Mike is visiting Carl during a rainstorm, they hear someone scream. Mike is frightened by it, but Carl is not.
- B** Carl and Mike watch television during a thunderstorm. They hear a scream, and at first they think it has come from the TV.
- C** As Carl and Mike begin to watch a mystery movie, they hear a scream. Carl goes outside to investigate, and Mike follows.
- D** Mike is peeking through Carl’s curtains when he hears a scream. Someone is yelling for help.

4 Read this excerpt from Scene 2.

MIKE: [*Nods eagerly.*] My dad was taking me to Ranger Scouts last night, and the traffic was bad.

[*Carl gives him an annoyed look.*]

What can the reader infer about Carl from this excerpt?

- F Carl thinks that what Mike is saying isn't important.
- G Carl doesn't believe that the traffic was bad.
- H Carl envies Mike for being a Ranger Scout.
- J Carl thinks that Mike has been rude to Mrs. Watson.

5 In paragraph 8, the word reluctantly means —

- A playfully
- B impatiently
- C admiringly
- D unwillingly

- 6** The playwright included thunder and lightning in Scene 1 most likely to —
- F** create suspense
 - G** indicate that the main characters are afraid
 - H** alarm the audience
 - J** explain the book's disappearance
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- 7** How is Carl different from Mike?
- A** Carl is more honest.
 - B** Carl is more fearful.
 - C** Carl is more curious.
 - D** Carl is more careless.
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- 8** Which of the props used in this play is needed for the resolution of the conflict?
- F** A book
 - G** A set of keys
 - H** The plate of cookies
 - J** A detective hat