

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

Lights Out

Characters

DEXTER: Younger brother

LEO: Older brother

- 1 *[Night. A boys' bedroom with two beds. A nightstand with a lamp is by each bed. Dexter is in the stage-right bed. Leo is in the stage-left bed. The lights are out. The curtain opens.]*
- 2 **DEXTER:** Leo. *[Long pause.]* Leo? *[Pause.]* Leo, you awake?
- 3 **LEO:** No.
- 4 **DEXTER:** Yes, you are.
- 5 **LEO:** No, I'm not. Go to sleep, Dexter.
- 6 **DEXTER:** Maybe we're forgetting something. I'm going to go check.
- 7 **LEO:** Stay in bed! Dad made a list. We packed everything except our bathroom stuff and Mr. Snowball.
- 8 **DEXTER:** *[Sits up in bed and turns on his lamp.]* We have to pack Mr. Snowball! I can't go without Mr. Snowball!
- 9 **LEO:** You can't *sleep* without Mr. Snowball either! He's in bed with you right now, goof!
- 10 **DEXTER:** *[Picks up a stuffed polar bear and strokes its head.]* Mr. Snowball doesn't like it when you call me a goof.
- 11 **LEO:** Don't worry. We'll put the bear in the backpack you are going to take on the bus. Now turn the light off! *[Dexter turns off light.]* Good night, Dex.
- 12 **DEXTER:** *[After a long pause.]* Leo, are you going to miss Chloe Barnett as much as I'd miss Mr. Snowball if I left him behind?
- 13 **LEO:** *[Sits up in bed and turns on his lamp.]* What? What makes you ask that?
- 14 **DEXTER:** Well?

- 15 **LEO:** The only reason she was here was to work on a science project. That's it.
- 16 **DEXTER:** Oh, right. So why was she laughing at all your dumb jokes?
- 17 **LEO:** Why shouldn't she laugh? I'm a funny guy.
- 18 **DEXTER:** [*With an insincere tone.*] Yeah, and I'm president of the United States.
- 19 **LEO:** We were just doing a science project.
- 20 **DEXTER:** So are you going to miss her?
- 21 **LEO:** [*Turns off light.*] Just go to sleep.
- 22 **DEXTER:** Leo, why can't Dad go with us?
- 23 **LEO:** He has to work. You know that.
- 24 **DEXTER:** [*Turns on light.*] What if we get lost?
- 25 **LEO:** We'll be on a bus. The bus driver travels the same route every day. How's he going to get lost?
- 26 **DEXTER:** But we've never been on a trip without Dad or Mom before.
- 27 **LEO:** Dad says Mrs. Jackson is going to chaperone us. You know that. She'll stay with us until Grandma meets us at the bus station in Dallas. What could go wrong?
- 28 **DEXTER:** We might have to eat those terrible sandwiches Mrs. Jackson makes.
- 29 **LEO:** And that's the *only* thing that could go wrong. Now sleep!
- 30 **DEXTER:** I'm nervous . . . and I miss Mom.
- 31 **LEO:** Mom's tour of duty¹ is over in two weeks. And Grandma's going to take us to meet her at Fort Dix as soon as she gets off the plane.
- 32 **DEXTER:** What do you miss most about Mom?
- 33 **LEO:** I miss her telling you to go to sleep. Turn off the light, Dexter. We have a big day tomorrow!

¹A tour of duty is a military assignment to a specific location.

- 34 **DEXTER:** [*Lies back down but leaves light on.*] Do you miss Mom reading bedtime stories to us?
- 35 **LEO:** You can read to yourself now.
- 36 **DEXTER:** It's not the same.
- 37 **LEO:** And you're too old for bedtime stories anyway.
- 38 **DEXTER:** Mr. Snowball isn't too old for them.
- 39 **LEO:** He's even older than you are. He used to be mine before I gave him to you. [*Gets out of bed, turns off Dexter's lamp, and gets back in bed.*] Good night, Dex.
- 40 **DEXTER:** "Goodnight comb. Goodnight brush. Goodnight . . ." [*Dexter sniffles as if he is about to cry.*]
- 41 **LEO:** ". . . little old lady whispering hush." [*Long pause.*] Dexter?
- 42 **DEXTER:** Huh? [*Dexter sniffles.*]
- 43 **LEO:** That was my favorite book, too. You still have it?
- 44 **DEXTER:** Yep.
- 45 **LEO:** I'll read it to you. If you want.
- 46 **DEXTER:** Really? [*Turns on light, gets out of bed with his stuffed bear, gets a book off the shelf, and gets into bed with Leo.*]
- 47 **LEO:** [*Reads.*] "In the great green room there was a telephone, and a red balloon, and a picture of . . ." Dexter? [*Dexter is asleep. Leo gets out of bed and turns off lamp.*]
- 48 [*The curtain closes.*]

40 Why is Dexter awake during most of the play?

- F** He is nervous about traveling without his parents.
- G** He has difficulty falling asleep without his mother reading to him.
- H** He is anxious about staying with Grandma.
- J** He is worried about forgetting Mr. Snowball.

41 This play has just one scene because —

- A** only two characters speak
- B** the setting is indoors
- C** the setting does not change
- D** no new characters are introduced

- 42** Which of these is an important idea explored in this play?
- F** Taking a trip can be a rewarding experience.
 - G** Children often find comfort in things that are familiar.
 - H** It is sometimes difficult to live far away from grandparents.
 - J** Family members often disagree with each other.

-
- 43** The prefix *in-* helps the reader know that the word insincere in paragraph 18 means —
- A** without understanding
 - B** with careful thought
 - C** explaining what is meant
 - D** not meaning what is said

44 Read paragraph 10.

DEXTER: [*Picks up a stuffed polar bear and strokes its head.*] Mr. Snowball doesn't like it when you call me a goof.

By having Dexter refer to Mr. Snowball's emotions, the playwright is —

- F emphasizing that Leo does not understand Dexter's actions
- G suggesting that Dexter is quite young
- H showing that Mr. Snowball used to belong to Leo
- J showing that Dexter is ignoring his brother

45 Which of these is the best summary of the play?

- A Leo is trying to sleep, but his younger brother Dexter keeps talking to him about a bus trip the boys will be taking the next day. Leo finally reads Dexter his favorite book, and Dexter falls asleep.
- B Leo and Dexter are about to go on a bus trip without their mom or dad, and Dexter keeps talking about it. Dexter asks Leo whether he is going to miss a girl who came over to work with him on a science project for school.
- C Dexter and Leo have a conversation about missing their mom and about how they will take a bus trip to Dallas the next day. Leo says Dexter is too old for bedtime stories but admits that he used to like the same story.
- D Dexter, Leo's younger brother, wakes Leo up to ask whether they've packed everything and whether they might get lost when they go on a bus trip the next day. Leo tells Dexter that nothing will go wrong.

46 Dexter's lines throughout the play suggest that he —

- F** doesn't think Leo listens to him
- G** depends on Leo to help him feel secure
- H** does not approve of Leo's friendship with Chloe Barnett
- J** likes to annoy Leo whenever possible



**STAAR
GRADE 5
Reading
March 2015**