Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Score\_\_\_\_\_\_/20**

Getting the main idea\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(1-4) Key facts\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(5-9) Making inferences \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (10-15) Vocabulary through usage\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (16-20)

**Quarterly Reading Benchmark 3: “Terror in the Woods”**

**DIRECTIONS:** *Read the following passage and annotate key points and make comments in the margin about how the different points relate to each other and what inferences one can make from the article. Underline or circle or cross out material, which ever method works best for you. Explain why you selected your answer.*

One November afternoon last year, in Maine, a searching party came to the end of a tragic trail. At their feet on the forest floor was the lost hunter for whom they were looking. The hunter was dead. The cause of death was overexertion. Yet, the man had been healthy. He was last seen only five miles from where he was found. He had been lost for only eight hours.

Clearly, the hunter had fallen into the panic that overcomes many who are lost in the woods. Woodsmen call this becoming “bushed.” When bushed, even well-balanced persons often will do surprising things. Some, like the dead hunter, run madly through the forest, trying to get out. They stumble over fallen trees. They get up, shaken and bruised. They then rush on even faster. At last, their bursting hearts quit and they drop.

In others, the shock of being lost soon brings on a condition that is like amnesia. The victim walks aimlessly through the woods. When found, he cannot remember his name or anything else about himself. Still others suffer from hallucinations; they think they are being chased by wild beasts.

The dead hunter had carried a compass, candy bars, matches, warm clothing, a rifle, even a belt ax. He could have been lost a week without serious harm—if he had kept his head. But when he was found, he was without rifle, ax, even outer clothing. Hampered by them in his mad rush, he had thrown them away, even though the weather was below freezing.

More often than not, a bushed person will throw away the very things that would keep him alive. One lost hunter, found dead in the woods had thrown away his gun and coat and shoes. Four of his friends had become lost while looking for him. They also threw away their guns before making their way to safety.

Deputy Commissioner Earle Bradbury of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game tells of an experience. Bradbury and two wardens were searching for a lost hunter who was suffering from a kind of amnesia. “The man’s tracks in the snow led toward a wide, paved highway. The tired wardens were sure they would find him there. But they found he had crossed the road without seeing it and had gone into the deep woods on the other side! “When at last they saw their man, they shouted to him. To their amazement, he started running away from them. “Catching up, they had to fight with the crazed man before they could quiet him. And they had to carry him out of the woods—he wouldn’t walk.”

A few years ago, a hunter became lost near Maine’s Moosehead Lake. He thought he was being chased by men bent on killing him. From a trapper’s deserted cabin he was ready to shoot his would-be rescuers. For several hours they reasoned with him. Finally, he came to his senses and ran towards them with tears of relief on his cheeks.

The most tragic case on which Maine wardens worked is hard to believe. Warden Supervisor Charles Harriman was in charge of a searching party that finally caught up with a lost hunter, except for socks, he was naked. He had torn off the rest of his clothing. In his hand was his hunting knife. He was so afraid of being lost that he killed himself!

Can anything be done to stop such needless suffering and loss of life? Harriman, one of the most woods-wise men in the North Country, has this to say: It should be drummed into sportsmen’s heads that a person lost in the woods, who remains calm, will be safer than if he were at home, dodging traffic. If he acts according to prearranged plans when hunting with others, or if he tells someone just where he is going when he is hunting alone, he will hardly ever be in the woods longer than overnight before he is found. But suppose he is lost two, three, or four days? He can find enough fuel. He can shoot birds and animals for food. But even though a man has nothing to eat for a week, what of it? It won’t hurt him seriously.

“The idea that anything in the forest will harm a man is childish. Can’t people stop believing fairy tales? Thousands of us—wardens, guides, woodsmen—are in the woods all the time. Many times, when weather permits, we just roll up in a blanket when night comes. There is no one who has ever been attacked in our North Woods. I have had animals come near me only twice. Once, a mouse tried to build a nest in my pocket while I slept. Another time, a chipmunk filled one of my boots full of prune pits during the night.”

Those who get their living in the woods greatly admire the Boy Scouts. No one in Maine can remember a Scout, or anyone who ever has been an active Scout¸ becoming “bushed.” Their training seems to give them self-reliance.

One November day in 1938, an early blizzard roared down on Maine’s forests. Thousands of hunters were marooned. That night, with the blizzard raging, Warden Supervisor Daniel Malloy trudged through the forest, seeking a hunter who had not shown up. “I had traveled three miles when I saw a campfire,” he said. It was built in front of a little lean-to. In this shelter, snug as a bug, was a boy about 12 years old. I expected to be greeted by shouts of joy. But the youngster was madder than a hornet. Seems he was out rabbit hunting when the storm overtook him. So, mindful of his Scout training, he had done exactly the right thing. He planned to make his way back home next morning. All he had on his mind was the hope that his experience would win him a Scout award. And I had come along, threatening to spoil the whole thing. Soon afterward, I found the man I was looking for. He was wandering around babbling, near exhaustion. Strange, isn’t it? In one night I had run across a little boy who had used his brain and a big man who hadn’t.”

A group of hunters in strange territory should spend the first evening with a guide, getting to know the area. In which direction do the brooks and streams run? Where are the landmarks? Where are the deep swamps? Are there any camps in which a person could stay in case of a storm? Before each day’s hunt, the group should understand where each member shall hunt and what he shall do if he becomes lost. Shall he stay where he is when he becomes lost? Shall he make for some predetermined road or stream? Once having agreed on plans, all hands should stick to them. Many a hunter has been shot because he deserted plans and wandered into another hunter’s line of fire.

The safest thing for a lost person to do, especially if it is getting late, is to build a fire and a lean-to. Then, stick it out there until he is found. The road or stream he would try to reach may be farther away than he thinks. Stumbling around in the dark, trying to find wood to burn is no fun.

So remember, if you are lost in the woods, you won’t lose your life until you lose your head. Your only possible enemy, besides yourself, is exposure. And, if you are smart, you will carry a small ax (not a knife) for cutting wood. You can keep warm even if the weather is below freezing.

Once, deep in the woods, a trapper came across an old Native American sitting beside a fire. Since the reservation was far away, the trapper greeted the old brave with, “Chief, what’s the matter? You lost?” For a while, the chief thought about the strange words of the white man then he grunted and answered: “No, Chief not lost, wigwam lost.”

I think he had something there.

MAIN IDEAS

1. The safest thing for a person lost in the woods before nightfall is to

a. build a crude flag

b. build a fire and lean-to and wait

c. climb a tree and look for a trail

d. head for the nearest stream

e. yell for help

2. A person lost in the woods won’t lose his life unless, the author, says he loses his

a. axe

b. shoes.

c. head

d. drinking

e. knife

3. Hunters in strange woods should spend the first night with a guide

a. making trail markers

b. getting to know the area

c. building a campfire

d. cleaning guns

e. telling stories

4. The idea that anything in the woods will harm a man is

a. true

b. proved every day

c. silly

d. true only in the woods of Europe

e. sure to happen in June but not in September

KEY FACTS

5. The most tragic case on which wardens worked was a lost hunter who killed himself with

a. poison

b. an overdose of medicine

c. a rifle

d. a revolver

e. a hunting knife

6. No one in the State can remember a Boy Scout who got

a. shot by another hunter

b. a merit badge for hunting

c. marooned

d. bushed

e. lost in the woods

7. A mouse once tried to build a nest in the warden’s

a. shoe

b. bedroll

c. pocket

d. lunchbox

e. hat

8. All the events in the story took place in the State of

a. Maine

b. Vermont

c. New Hampshire

d. Montana

e. Minnesota

9. A hunter was so confused he crossed, without knowing it,

a. a wide paved highway

b. a raging mountain stream

c. a burning bridge

d. a bog of quicksand

e. a snake-filled swamp

10. In the 1938 blizzard thousands of hunters were marooned. During the storm the warden found in the woods

a. a Native American chief

b. a Native American squaw

c. a crazed trapper

d. a twelve-year-old boy

e. a lost airplane pilot

MAKING INFERENCES

11. The purpose of this article is to

a. puzzle

b. frighten you

c. inform

d. amuse you

e. surprise you

12. A person lost in the woods, above all else, should be

a. excited

b. worried

c. amazed

d. amused

e. calm

13. Boy Scout training helps those who enter the woods because

a. it teaches you to look after yourself

b. it teaches you to think of others

c. it teaches you to be kind to animals

d. it teaches you to know the names of birds

e. it teaches you earn merit badges

14. The author tells the story of the old Native American, the fire and the wigwam to show that

a. a Native American knows how to build a fire

b. Native Americans should not leave their reservations

c. even Native Americans get lost in the woods

d. the Native American had lost his wigwam

e. a man is not lost if he knows where he is

15. The author tells the story of the Boy Scout lost in the woods to show that even a young boy can use his

a. compass

b. rifle

c. axe

d. brains

e. hunting rifle

WORD MEANINGS

16. *Landmarks* are signs which help a hunter

a. keep away from posted land

b. find his way in the woods

c. avoid deep swamps

d. to fool wild animals

e. wipe out his trail

17. A *bushed* hunter is one who suffers from

a. hunger

b. panic

c. loneliness

d. bruises

e. exhausted

18. When a hunter has *hallucinations*, he probably

a. has extra rations with him

b. has chills

c. has remembered to bring his compass with him

d. isn’t lost at all

e. thinks he is being chased by wild animals

19. If a hunter has a plan that is *pre-arranged*, the plan has been arranged

a. before he enters the woods.

b. after he enters the woods

c. the day after he leaves the woods.

d. while he is leaving the woods

e. just after he leaves the woods

20. *Terror* is to *panic* as *crazed* is to

a. happy

b. exhausted

c. found

d. lost

e. mad