



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2006**

**Grade 6
Reading**

Reading

1 A synonym for the word flag is

- A. save.
- B. signal.
- C. name.
- D. tear.

2 In the words disagree and disbelieve, the prefix *dis* means

- A. opposite of.
- B. instead of.
- C. above.
- D. beyond.

Read this poem about a kayaker. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Kayak

Over the briny wave I go,
In spite of the weather, in spite of the snow:
What cares the hardy Eskimo?
In my little skiff, the paddle and lance,
5 I glide where the foaming billows dance.

Round me the sea-birds slip and soar;
Like me, they love the ocean's roar.
Sometimes a floating iceberg gleams
Above me with its melting streams;
10 Sometimes a rushing wave will fall
Down on my skiff and cover it all.

But what care I for a wave's attack?
With my paddle I right my little kayak,
And then its weight I speedily trim,
15 And over the water away I skim.

- 3 Lines 10 and 11 describe what happens when
- A. the kayak floats safely over the wave.
 - B. a large wave sinks the kayak.
 - C. the kayak jumps the big wave.
 - D. a wave quickly covers the kayak.

- 4 In line 14, the word trim means to
- A. cut off extra pieces.
 - B. decorate or paint.
 - C. adjust or balance.
 - D. defeat in a game.

- 5 The speaker in this poem is a person
- A. picking up the kayak.
 - B. paddling the kayak.
 - C. wishing to go kayaking.
 - D. watching the kayaker.

- 6 The imagery in this poem appeals **most** to the sense of
- A. sight.
 - B. taste.
 - C. smell.
 - D. sound.

- 7 Using your own words, describe the events in this poem in the order that they happen. Use details from the poem to support your answer.

Read this article about the art of building a ship inside a bottle. Then answer the questions that follow.

Sailing Forever—Inside a Bottle

Pat Brodowski

Look closely . . . this bottle has a sailing ship inside. It's a tiny ship, floating over white-tipped waves. Sails puff from masts held into the wind by ropes of thread. On deck, a tiny sailor navigates.

2

It's a day at sea captured in miniature. But how did it get inside a bottle? It seems like magic, but it's not.



One of the secrets, model-maker William Westervelt will tell you, is that the ship is built first. Then it's launched through the bottleneck to sail upon an ocean of clay.

A sailor probably made the first ship in a bottle. In the 1800s, ocean voyages took months. A sailor had time for carving, knot tying, and model making. His model was secure inside the bottle and could be given as a gift when he returned home.

Making such a model takes many hours. Westervelt often begins by finding a sunken piece of history—a shipwreck. Wood from the wreck becomes his model's hull. He finds pictures of the ship, then collects stories of its life at sea.

After research, the first step is to carve the hull. It can take up only about one-half of the diameter of the bottleneck because masts and sails will take up the other half. Masts are made out of tiny dowels lashed together to imitate those of real ships.

There's a secret to sailing ships into bottles. Each mast is hinged to the ship's deck with tiny wooden pins. The masts and their paper sails fold against the ship's hull like wings on a bird.

How the masts unfold inside the bottle is another secret. On real ships, ropes called rigging attach masts and sails to the deck. On models, the rigging is thread. Long rigging threads are slipped through the hull. These threads extend out of the bottle after the ship is inside.

Once the ship is nestled into its soft clay sea, Westervelt pulls the extended rigging threads, lifting the hinged masts up and setting the sails straight. Later, he trims the extra thread.

Now you know the secret of sailing a ship into a bottle. It's not magic, but it is tricky. Maritime museums often display these models, so the next time you're near the ocean, take a look for these tiny ships, sailing forever—inside a bottle.

- 8 In paragraph 2, the word miniature means the ship is
- A. painted inside the bottle.
 - B. a small-scale copy.
 - C. a time capsule.
 - D. glued on the side of the bottle.

- 9 William Westervelt's first step in building a ship in a bottle is
- A. buying a bottle.
 - B. finding a shipwreck.
 - C. researching the ship.
 - D. rigging the mast.

- 10 Inside the bottle, the "white-tipped waves" are made out of
- A. water.
 - B. paper.
 - C. clay.
 - D. wood.

- 11 The last step in building a ship in a bottle is
- A. making the sails.
 - B. hinging the mast.
 - C. trimming the thread.
 - D. carving the hull.

- 12 Describe the process of building a ship in a bottle. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

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Grade 6 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand¹	WV	WV	LI	WV	LA	LA	LI	WV	II	II	II	II
GLE Code	5-3	5-2	5-4	5-3	5-5	5-6	5-4	5-2	5-7	5-7	5-7	5-7
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	3
Item Type²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	B	A	D	C	B	A		B	B	C	C	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, SA = Short Answer, CR = Constructed Response