

# CORE Reading Maze Comprehension 9-A

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## A Circle of Friends

The wagon train had reached the foothills of the mountains. Rather than attempting to begin the (**grinning, uphill, package**) climb with fading daylight, the wagon (**master, harness, elevator**) decided to make camp for the (**pitch, mail, night**).

With the rest of the families, (**the, how, flat**) Wilsons maneuvered their wagon into a (**leader, fortune, circle**), a formation that was the traditional (**body, way, older**) for travelers in the West to (**suppose, protect, flower**) themselves. In addition to providing a (**line, floor, call**) of defense against enemies from the (**outside, anywhere, narrow**), the circle of wagons created a (**sailor, sense, purple**) of community for the families, if (**while, fold, only**) for a night. It was almost (**as, or, pot**) if they were within the walls (**be, of, tug**) a small town, with a bonfire (**letter, burning, searched**) in the middle and people wandering (**around, above, lesson**) making small talk with one another.

(**Sugar, Scatter, Abby**) finished her chores and asked her (**brook, mother, scratch**) if she could walk among the (**hanging, other, crown**) wagons. With her regular warning to (**be, off, herd**) careful and stay inside the circle (**as, of, shy**) wagons, Mother approved her request. Abby's (**mirror, wiggle, father**) smiled and winked at her, having (**much, fine, post**) more confidence in her judgment than (**why, dot, her**) mother did.

As she wandered from (**route, speed, wagon**) to wagon exchanging greetings, Abby was (**folding, joined, reason**) by a few other young people (**eager, giant, forget**) to have something to do other (**what, than, fail**) chores. It wasn't long before a (**group, rule, learn**) of a dozen or so was (**batted, sharp, sitting**) by the central bonfire sharing their (**shelves, thoughts, possible**) about what would happen the following (**comb, stir, day**).

"The mountains seem unbelievably high," suggested (**Martin, judge, stretch**), "and from here, there seems to (**an, ice, be**) no obvious way to cross them."

"(**Father, Fellow, Squeak**) promised me that there is a (**beast, pass, must**) that is difficult but not dangerous (**when, heat, this**) time of year," replied Abby. "It (**will, lose, spray**) take us several days to reach (**were, the, fog**) summit."

"Has anyone considered the difficulty (**do, owl, of**) the walk that lies ahead of (**in, us, ear**)?" wondered Susan. "Have any of us (**attempted, circled, glances**) to scale mountains this high?"

William (**handled, plenty, laughed**), and looking around at the other (**teenagers, someone, sandwich**), said confidently, "We've walked for a (**delighted, thousand, adventure**) miles in the last few months, (**are, lip, so**) I don't think the mountains will (**be, up, seal**) much of a challenge. The real (**vegetable, matter, difficulty**) will lie beyond the summit when (**to, we, fold**) are going downhill. Who will restrain (**the, was, hour**) horses and the wagons?"

With that, (**meadows, understand, everyone**) laughed and rose to their feet. (**It, Web, Net**) was a pleasant moment before an (**evening, traveling, ascent**) that would undoubtedly be the hardest (**drip, part, cave**) of their journey.

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Errors \_\_\_\_\_