

CORE Reading Maze Comprehension 8-A

Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Basketball Saturday

On almost every Saturday morning, Henry and his friends did the same thing. As soon as there was enough (**light, bridge, warm**) to see, they met at the (**nest, park, brown**) near his house for a few (**stares, games, knock**) of basketball. Afterward, they went down (**an, mud, to**) the firehouse for a pancake breakfast.

(**About, When, Spot**) Henry arrived at the park, Christie (**was, land, few**) already there. They were usually the (**first, great, empty**) to arrive, and the rest of (**way, took, the**) players trickled in over the next (**cloudy, fifteen, stopped**) minutes. Christie was standing beside a (**picnic, kitten, threw**) table laying out enormous sheets of (**soup, round, poster**) paper. On the paper were the (**station, results, closer**) of games that had been played (**up, am, day**) to the current date.

The most (**hungry, numbered, interesting**) part of this basketball league was (**some, that, camp**) every player was a member of (**several, frightened, evening**) teams. On the same Saturday, each (**circus, slowly, player**) would be part of at least (**sky, two, get**) teams. Although it sounds confusing, the (**system, branch, already**) worked well for a number of (**sounds, reasons, terrible**). Everybody got to play on at (**least, bounced, rocky**) one winning team. Players who weren't (**if, bus, so**) good were often on a team (**down, with, ready**) some of the best players, and (**paints, nights, players**) never became angry with members of (**the, hot, face**) other teams because they would eventually (**if, put, be**) on the same team as the (**others, changes, picked**).

Henry helped Christie put the poster (**brother, string, paper**) up on the bulletin board near (**are, the, wait**) basketball court. If someone who didn't (**ring, afraid, know**) the system looked at the team (**cutting, standings, planted**), they would think that hundreds of (**players, footprints, answers**) were involved.

"Your record keeping system (**is, or, ate**) very impressive," said a voice from (**into, behind, card**) them. Henry and Christie turned to (**bat, fill, see**) one of the high school basketball (**bread, coaches, silver**) behind them. She was a regular (**visitor, haircut, widest**) to the Saturday morning games, as (**ride, face, was**) the coach of the boys' team. (**Us, In, Lay**) addition to these coaches, some of (**the, car, lion**) parents often came to the games (**try, and, sure**) joined the players for breakfast afterward.

(**Day, Jar, All**) of the players were a little (**embarrassed, snowflake, mountain**) to be playing in front of (**mouths, adults, closes**), but they also felt a sense (**of, an, fun**) pride. Over the years, many of (**rat, the, like**) players from the Saturday league were (**points, chosen, shade**) for the high school teams. Christie (**bat, lake, and**) Henry spent a few minutes talking (**with, since, well**) the coach, and then they excused (**anybody, themselves, frightened**) when other players started arriving. They (**would, hurry, bumpy**) warm up for a few minutes, (**sea, give, and**) then the first game of the (**Saturday, ground, wonder**) Morning Basketball League would begin.

Number Correct _____

Number of Errors _____