

CORE Reading Maze Comprehension 9-B

Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____

A Strange Place to Practice

The beach wasn't very crowded because the weather was horrible. A few people bundled up in (out, pat, bad) weather gear were fishing in the (surf, dress, avoid). They must have been very uncomfortable, (belonging, considering, bracelet) the crashing waves, the low temperature, (and, for, hunt) the blowing wind.

Snuggling into her (apartment, raincoat, puppet), Joanne wondered what motivated people to (it, be, fan) so dedicated to something that seemed (important, awfully, whisper) unrewarding. She almost never saw anyone (catch, guess, early) a fish, they were out in (light, drum, every) kind of weather, and they were (almost, slowly, piece) always alone. Every time she came (he, win, to) this section of beach, day or (bird, night, slide), at least one person was fishing (from, bake, hall) the shore or the jetty of (edge, listen, rocks) that reached several hundred yards into (the, man, roof) ocean.

About ten minutes later, Joanne (backed, reached, bravest) the jetty and scrambled up some (huge, slow, stop) rocks to the relatively flat part (on, if, rag) top. She stepped carefully from rock (to, be, sing) rock until she reached the far (mill, tired, end) of the jetty. Several of her (lower, friends, across) were already there, sitting with their (backs, wave, drink) to the driving rain. They greeted (when, her, soon) as warmly as possible, given the (bundle, conditions, haystack), and made room for her to (sit, pole, plan) among them.

"Whoever had the brilliant (shadow, stove, idea) to have rehearsal for the school (note, play, wipe) here should be thrown out of (the, won, hug) drama club," she suggested. Pausing a (finger, moment, brushed) for effect, she added, "Oh, it (she, pea, was) my idea, so I guess I (earn, should, short) be banned from the club, meaning (I, of, as) can return home."

As she pretended (up, to, in) get up and leave the gathering, (health, decide, Daniel) grumbled, "Not on your life." He (alarmed, throat, shifted) a bit to find a more (comfortable, astonished, growling) position and insisted, "Nobody gets to (squeeze, plain, leave) under any circumstances, especially the genius (saw, who, rob) suggested this location."

"Actually, this is (a, or, say) pretty good location to rehearse, considering (wet, the, curl) play is about a shipwreck in (stormy, managed, growl) weather," argued Elizabeth. "The weather should (trade, cave, help) us get into our roles more (disappointed, thoroughly, cardboard)."

The rain slowed down and then (bundled, stopped, hollow), although the wind continued to blow. (The, Why, Bed) six of them pulled their scripts (they, from, flow) under their coats and formed a (circle, visitor, lovely). As they did, Joanne began to (blossom, careless, understand) a little better what motivated the (space, people, steer) who were fishing. Despite the weather, (this, why, bead) was a beautiful spot, especially if (dog, paid, you) were doing something that interested you.

Number Correct _____

Number of Errors _____