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## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Practice Reading Passages

### A NEW KIND OF GUARD

**Posture** – A position of the body

- 1 The coyote silently sneaks around the western sheep farm. He spots a delicious dinner waiting for him beyond the fence. No guard dogs have barked a warning. He slowly creeps a little closer and just as he is about to jump across the fence, a strange noise fills the air. It sounds like a creaky door. Suddenly, something large hits the fence. The coyote retreats into the night, unsure of what he saw and heard.
- 2 The coyote's surprise is a new guard making its home in the west. This large, furry animal looks out of place protecting sheep, chickens and cattle. The new animal keeping a close eye on the herds is the llama, a four-footed animal related to camels.
- 3 The llama was first used to help humans do chores more than 5,000 years ago in South America. When the Spanish brought horses and other animals to the area, llamas almost died out. They could only be found in the highest mountains. However, in recent years, there is a growing interest in the animals. One reason is their use as guards on ranches.

- 4 For some reason, llamas show a fierce reaction to wolves and coyotes. When a llama spots one of these animals stalking a herd, it immediately changes its posture to let others know that danger is near. Next, it lets out a special and unusual cry of alarm. It sounds like a rusty hinge on an old door. Finally, the llama runs toward the hunter, trying to kick it away. Bravely, the llama places itself between the herd he is protecting and the threat. Nothing seems to frighten them. In fact, Dan Goodyear, the owner of a llama farm in Pennsylvania, says that, "When their mind is set, they seem to







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**10. Which would be the best title for this selection?**

- A “Llamas Move to the High Mountains”
- B “The Battle Between Wolves and Llamas”
- C “Tips for Spinning Llama Fur”
- D “Llamas on Patrol at Western Ranches”

**11. In supporting the idea of using llamas as guards, which detail would be least important to include?**

- A Llamas are generally helpful creatures.
- B Ranchers are interested in using llamas as guards.
- C Llama farms are increasing across the country.
- D Llamas are related to camels.

**12. What would be a good subtopic in an outline?**

- A Llamas in the mountains
- B Llamas’ reactions to threats
- C Joining the Llama Association of North America
- D Dan Goodyear’s llama farm in Pennsylvania

**13. What conclusion can you make about José?**

- A He is not interested in working very hard at anything.
- B José likes to volunteer at the community center.
- C José enjoys eating many different kinds of food
- D He does not like to see unattractive pieces of ground.

**14. An example of a simile in this selection is**

- A “a delicious dinner waiting for him beyond the fence.”
- B “the four-footed animal related to camels.”
- C “a strange noise fills the air.”
- D “it sounds like a rusty hinge on an old door.”

**15. Which phrase from the selection represents the use of vivid imagery?**

- A “...slowly creeps a little closer.”
- B “Nothing seems to frighten them.”
- C “...llamas can be used for their fur.”
- D “One reason is their use as guards on ranches.”

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**16. Which resource would give the best information about what a llama looks like?**

- A a thesaurus  
B an encyclopedia  
C a dictionary  
D a novel

**17. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase “delicious dinner” mean?**

- A chickens  
B sheep  
C cows  
D horses

**18. Which book would give more information about where llamas came from?**

- A “*Charlie the Llama*”  
B “*Llama Hiking, Packing, and Trekking*”  
C “*Llama, Alpaca, and Camel Health*”  
D “*Learning More About Llamas*”

**19. Why does the statement “Llamas like to have a job” have quotation marks around it?**

- A It is a direct quote from a person.  
B It is an important statement.  
C It is a sentence from the encyclopedia.  
D It is the author speaking to the reader.

**20. Which section in your science book will help you find more information about llamas?**

- A glossary  
B table of contents  
C index  
D title page

**21. What is the best way to make sure words are spelled correctly when using a computer?**

- A look up the words in a dictionary  
B locate the words in a thesaurus  
C go to spelling and grammar on the tool bar  
D find “language” under tools on the computer

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***5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Test Practice***  
***Non-Fiction Selection-“A New Kind of Guard”***

	State Obj.:	DOK:	ANSWER:
1.	1.2.a	2	D
2.	1.2.a	2	B
3.	1.3.a	2	D
4.	1.3.a	2	A
5.	3.1.a	1	A
6.	3.2.a	2	B
7.	3.2.b	2	B
8.	3.2.b	2	A
9.	3.3.a	2	C
10.	3.3.c	2	D
11.	3.3.c	2	D
12.	3.3.d	2	B
13.	3.2.c	2	D
14.	4.3.b	3	B
15.	4.3.c	3	A
16.	5.1.a	2	B
17.	4.3.c	2	B

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18.	5.1.b	2	D
19.	5.1.c	2	A
20.	5.1.a	2	C
21.	5.1.a	1	C

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22. 5.1.f

23. 5.2.a

24. 5.2.a

25. 5.2.c

26. 5.2.d

27. 4.1.c

28. 5.2.e