

6th Grade Reading Practice Selections 1-2

A Passion for Petals

1 Can you imagine being so crazy about a certain flower that you would trade almost everything you owned just to buy a single bulb? It may sound silly but that is what certain people did about five centuries ago.

2 Tulips are one of the brightest colored flowers in the world. They come in strong shades of red, pink, yellow, purple and more. Certain types have one color on the main body of the petals but a different shade or color on the tips. Some have rounded petals. Others have pointed ones. Thick green leaves surround the vivid blossoms. Tulips are grown from bulbs rather than seeds. The bulbs are planted in the fall or winter. They are also one of the first flowers to come up in the spring.

3 Many people believe that tulips first came from Holland. Actually, they got their start in Turkey. By the early 17th century, tulips had started expanding to other parts of the world. They were a tremendous hit in Holland. The Dutch people loved this cheerful new flower so much that a fad called “tulipomania” developed.

Soon, it spread throughout the country. The demand for the flower kept growing. Some people went so far as to trade great amounts of their wheat, livestock, food, furniture, clothes and treasures for one single bulb. Hard as it is to believe, there were even adults who gave up their land and houses in return for a shipment of tulip bulbs. Families competed against other families to see who could buy the most exotic¹ and unusual ones. They invented glamorous names for each type of bulb. Some of them were even named after famous naval admirals.

4 This passion for tulips did not stop in Holland. As years passed, it spread to other countries. By the early 19th century, England had caught tulipomania too. The English were not willing to pay the extravagant² prices that the Dutch had, but they still agreed to spend ridiculous amounts. It was not unusual for a person to spend fifteen guineas³ for one bulb. That

¹ *exotic*—from another part of the world

² *extravagant*—unreasonably high

³ *guinea*—gold coin used in England from 1663 to 1813 and worth one pound and one shilling

much money was enough to keep an entire family fed, clothed, and sheltered for at least six months.

5 Today tulips are not nearly as rare or expensive as they were centuries ago, but they are still quite popular. They are fairly

easy to grow in most climates. They brighten up any type of garden. Best of all, they remind anyone who sees them that spring is returning!

semi – half
uni – one
bi – two
tri – three
pent – five
oct – eight
dec – 10
cent – 100

1. Using the chart of number prefixes, how long is five centuries?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| A five years | B fifty years |
| C five hundred years | D five thousand years |

2. The suffix “ous” as it is used in tremendous and glamorous means

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| A full of. | B without. |
| C able to. | D somewhat. |

3. When generalizing about the history of tulips, which would be least important?

- A** Tulips have been around for more than five hundred years.
- B** Tulips come up in the spring in a variety of shapes and colors.
- C** The growth of tulips has expanded to all parts of the world.
- D** The spread of tulips to Holland caused a “tulipomania” fad.

4. How does the author help the reader with unknown words?

- A** by writing words in bold print
- B** by placing footnotes on page
- C** by underlining them
- D** by italicizing them

5. If you were to outline this selection, which would be a good subtopic?

- A** Perfect Conditions for Planting
- B** Holland Gets Tulipomania!
- C** The Native Plants of Turkey
- D** Modern Day Tulip News

6. The author probably found most of this information in

- A** an encyclopedia.
- B** a dictionary.
- C** a thesaurus.
- D** an atlas.

Brilliant Reminder

1 Where once it was so brown and flat
 Comes explosion of color so bright
 It is as if a jumbo box of crayons
 Was left out to melt in sunlight.

5 Endless rows of brilliant tulips
 Rising up to meet the sun
 Decorating the earth with beauty
 Where before there was none.

10 Proud messengers of spring's return
 Their thick green leaves reach out
 And not remotely in a whisper
 They announce it with a shout.

15 Placed in the ground in autumn
 They wait in the dirt and the dust
 Popping up when warmth arrives
 To remind everyone to trust.

7. What do “Brilliant Reminder” and “A Passion for Petals” have in common?

- A Both discuss the bright and varied colors of tulips.
- B Both discuss the interesting history of tulips.
- C Both discuss how expensive tulips used to be.
- D Both discuss the best planting conditions for tulips.

8. How are “Brilliant Reminder” and “A Passion for Petals” similar?

- A Both are about tulips.
- B They make the subject seem real.
- C They discuss growth.
- D Both use similes.

9. In “Brilliant Reminder,” all of these phrases personify tulips except

- A “Placed in the ground in autumn.”
- B “Proud messengers of spring’s return.”
- C “They wait in the dirt and the dust.”
- D “They announce it with a shout.”

10. Look at the last word in every other line of “Brilliant Reminder.” Which term describes this characteristic of poetry?

- A rhyme B verse
- C stanza D phrase

11. What is the author’s message in “Brilliant Reminder”?

- A Of all the flowers in the world, tulips are his favorite.
- B After the death of winter, tulips bring the rebirth of spring.
- C Winter always comes back to destroy the green of Earth.
- D Tulips come in a variety of vivid colors every spring.

12. What question is answered in stanza 2 of “Brilliant Reminder”?

- A** What color are the flowers in the poem?
- B** What type of flowers are in the poem?
- C** When do the flowers in the poem bloom?
- D** When are the flowers in the poem planted?

13. What is the rhyme scheme of “Brilliant Reminder”?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A aabb | B abba |
| C abca | D abcb |

6th Grade Sample Reading Selections #1&2

	State Obj.:	DOK:	ANSWER:
1.	1.2.b	1	C
2.	1.2.b	2	A
3.	3.3.b	2	C
4.	5.1.c	2	B
5.	5.1.c	2	B
6.	5.2.b	2	A
7.	4.2.d	2	A
8.	4.2.d	2	B
9.	4.3.d	2	A
10.	4.3.c	2	A
11.	4.3.c	2	B
12.	3.4.f	2	B
13.	4.1.a	2	D