

## Grade 7 Writing Warm-ups SCMS Editing

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*Alma's English class is doing a unit on historical fiction. She and her classmates each chose a book from the reading list to read on their own. This is Alma's book report. As you are reading it, think of ways to correct and improve it. Then answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.*

### **A Duck in a World of Chickens**

(1) *Matilda Bone*, by Karen Cushman, is about a fourteen-year-old girl named Matilda who feels out of place, "like a duck among chickens." (2) She struggles to make decisions on her own, relate to new people, and find good uses for her skills. (3) These are problems teens and preteens deal with every day. (4) Which is why *Matilda Bone* is a good book.

(5) The book not only relates to teens and preteens of today, but it also shows life in medieval England. (6) For example, peoples names relate to their personal characteristics, where they live, or their jobs. (7) Also, religion was very important back then. (8) Matilda and her neighbors do not agree on questions of good and evil. (9) Luckily, the author includes a section at the end of the book explaining the culture.

(10) A priest, who taught Matilda Latin, reading, writing, religion, and math, takes her to a small village. (11) He leaves her to serve as an apprentice to a bone-setter while he goes to London for a long-term stay. (12) Matilda is not prepared for the life of Blood and Bone Alley. (13) She is shocked when she suddenly has to shop in the market, prepare plaster for the bones, and restrain patients. (14) "*Saliva mucusque* : spit and slime!" she exclaims, when faced with these "lowly" tasks.

(15) For several months Matilda thinks she has nothing in common with her neighbors. (16) They eat sausages ("where the butcher hides his mistakes," Matilda says) . (17) They wash laundry, sell fish, and help mothers give birth. (18) Matilda tells herself she is a better person than they are. (19) After facing their pain close up though, she sensed her heart changing. (20) Although her neighbors have no use for her education, Matilda finally discovers a way to show the value of her reading and writing abilities: she uses them to help a friend who needs her.

1 What change, if any, should be made to sentence 6?

**A** Change *For example,* to **For example:.**

**B** Change *peoples* to **people's.**

**C** Change *relate* to **relates.**

**D** Make no change.

Read the following passage and watch for any errors that may be present. Then answer the questions that follow.

### You Got a Job Where?

(1) My name is Kathy. (2) I am in 7th grade. (3) I go to Round Lake Middle School. (4) I love school. (5) I have a lot of friends.

(6) It was a sunny fall morning, and I woke up to. (7) "Good morning, Sunshine!" (8) It was my mom. (9) She wakes me up that way every day, even if it is raining. (10) It always starts my morning with a smile. (11) My mom told me that she might have a surprise for me when I got home from school that day. (12) I love surprises!

(13) I come home from school that afternoon, and my mom told me her surprise. (14) She had just accepted a new job at my school! (15) I couldn't believe it! (16) I was going to walk down the school halls with my friend's and see my mom's face! (17) I didn't like that idea. (18) I didn't like that idea at all!

(19) Things didn't start off well the first day mom was at Round lake Middle School. (20) There I was talking to matt, the boy with the gorgeous blue eyes, the cutest boy in the whole 7th grade, and doesn't mom walk by. (21) "Hi, Honey!" she said to me. (22) My face turned bright red as I looked away. (23) I would have no privacy at all with my mom their watching everything. (24) She would know everything I did.

(25) Later that morning I was in math class, and the teacher decided to surprise us with a pop quiz. (26) I was not ready. (27) I definitely needed more review. (28) I left math feeling very unhappy and frustrated. (29) I was walking down the hall to science class when I heard a familiar voice. (30) "Good morning, Sunshine!" (31) I turned to see my mom's smiling face. (32) I smiled back. (33) Maybe having my mom working at my school wouldn't be so bad after all!

- 2 What change should be made to sentence 13?
- F Change *come* to **came**
  - G Change *that* to **this**
  - H Change *her* to **she**
  - J Add a comma after ***mom***
- 3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 16?
- A Change *halls* to **hall's**
  - B Change *friend's* to **friends**
  - C Change *mom's* to **moms**
  - D Make no change
- 4 Which paragraph has the least varied sentence structure?
- F Paragraph 1
  - G Paragraph 2
  - H Paragraph 3
  - J Paragraph 5

*To the student: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.*

### **Join the Board Members!**

(1) This year's first meeting of the Board Members is coming soon. (2) You might skip to another article. (3) Before you do that, listen! (4) It is not about business or politics, and it's not about fundraising either. (5) As a Board Member, your main obligation will be to enjoy yourself. (6) How? (7) You'll play board games!

(8) We play, not only chess, but all sorts of board games, from around the world and different historical eras. (9) Whatever skills you have, there's at least one game where you'll shine. (10) And you'll find yourself surprised in regard to the large amount of knowledge about the world you'll acquire.

(11) I know from my own personal experience that clubs offer great opportunities to meet people and know acquaintances better. (12) I moved here last year from Seattle, Washington. (13) There's much more rainfall there than here. (14) As a result of wet weather conditions, many lunch and recess periods are spent inside. (15) Teachers keep board games on hand to play when outdoor activities aren't possible. (16) Playing these games helped us all get to know each other even better. (17) In Seattle I attended school with people I'd known since kindergarten. (18) I didn't know anyone when I came here.

(19) Do you have childhood memories of playing such games? (20) I remember them as a fun part of family vacations. (21) Everyone was relaxed while sitting around a table playing a game. (22) We shared popcorn with cocoa or root beer, depending on the season. (23) There was a special kind of laughter that comes when, no matter your age or responsibilities, you can let go of all worries and duties and just play!

(24) These days, so many people play computer games that involve sitting there facing just a screen. (25) We tend to forget what's fun about "old-fashioned" games. (26) The most important benefit is seeing other people and enjoying their company!

(27) This year's start-up meeting is scheduled for September 22nd. (28) Our meetings are held on Wednesdays in Room 77, Ms. Sandoval's room, across the courtyard from the cafeteria. (29) If you can't make it to this first meeting, feel free to stop by any Wednesday. (30) You don't have to be an "official" member to play and it don't have to be a rainy day!

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- 5 What is the BEST way to rewrite sentence 4?
- A It isn't about business, politics, or fundraising.
  - B It's not about business, politics, not fundraising either.
  - C It is not about business or politics, and fundraising neither.
  - D It is about neither business nor politics nor about fundraising.
- 6 What is the BEST way to rewrite sentence 10?
- F Also there's the acquiring of the large world of knowledge.
  - G You'll also be surprised at how much you'll learn about the world.
  - H In regard to surprise, you'll find a large amount to know about the world.
  - J You'll find yourself largely surprised in regard to acquired world knowledge.

- 7 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 28?
- A Change meeting to meeting's
  - B Change Wednesday to Wednesday's
  - C Change Sandovals to Sandoval's
  - D Make no change
- 8 The phrase, **start-up meeting**, in sentence 27 can BEST be replaced with which phrase?
- F earliest time
  - G original agreement
  - H beginners' lesson
  - J initial gathering
- 9 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 30?
- A Change *You don't* to **You doesn't**
  - B Change to *play to* to **plays**
  - C Change *it don't* to **it doesn't**
  - D Make no change

**10** Which sentence should be added BEFORE sentence 27?

**F** We hope you will join us and bring some of your friends.

**G** Us hope you will join us and bring some of your friends.

**H** We hope you will join our and bring some of you friends.

**J** Our hope you will join us and bring some of you friends.

*Manuel has written a story for English class, but he needs some help making improvements and corrections. Read his story and see what you can do to help him. When you are finished reading, answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.*

### **It Only Takes a Day**

(1) Sergio was sure he would win. (2) He'd been thinking about the presidency, planning how he would run the Student Council, since he'd come to Oak Grove middle school as a sixth grader. (3) Now he was an eighth grader and it was his turn to be in charge.

(4) His dream had begun when Sergio was in fourth grade. (5) It was somewhat of a shock, and he'd won his classroom election for student council representative. (6) From that point on, he was hooked. (7) His dad even joked with him about being a "future politician." (8) Of course Sergio never laughed at that one.

(9) The announcement had been made at the start of the school year. (10) About Student Council elections, Sergio had been listening carefully to conversations at lunch, in the hallways and classrooms. (11) He was curious if anyone would be running against him. (12) Everyone more or less knew that Sergio had his eye on the presidency. (13) Helping his chances was that for president, it could only be an eighth grader.

(14) While he hadn't heard of anyone running for "his" office, Sergio knew they're would probably be someone else. (15) He'd written the application deadline in his planner. (16) He even used red ink; however, it were the same week his science fair project proposal was due. (17) Sergio had never had as demanding a science teacher as Mr. Dukes, and he'd been working like crazy for two weeks trying to desperate put something together that "the professor," which is what every class called him, would approve.

(18) After countless consultations with Mr. Dukes before school, reviewing the proposal, Sergio finally received the okay on his idea. (19) Going to his planner to check this accomplishment off his list, his eyes bulged in disbelief. (20) The application for Student Council elections was due . . . yesterday.

- 11** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 20?
- A** Change the comma after *myself* to a period
  - B** Change its to it's
  - C** Remove the semicolon after *anymore*
  - D** Make no change
- 12** What change is needed in sentence 16?
- F** Remove the semicolon after *ink*
  - G** Change *were* to **was**
  - H** Change *science fair* to **Science Fair**
  - J** Change *proposal* to **proposel**

- 13** What is the BEST way to revise sentence 5?
- A** It was somewhat of a shock, but he had won his classroom election for student council representative.
  - B** It was somewhat of a shock, so he had won his classroom election for student council representative.
  - C** It was somewhat of a shock, then he had won his classroom election for student council representative.
  - D** No revision is needed.
- 14** What is the MOST appropriate word to replace consultations in sentence 18?
- F** conferences
  - G** debates
  - H** seminars
  - J** interviews

*Megan has written a story for English class but she needs some help making improvements and corrections. Read her story and see what you can do to help her. When you are finished reading, answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.*

### **It's Just a Test**

(1) During sixth grade, I forgot tests were not the end of the world. (2) You see I had Mr. Simms, who everyone knows is the hardest Science teacher. (3) I begin the year struggling on his ultra-hard tests. As my average declined on the increasingly difficult tests, I decided I could do better.

(4) To make a turnaround, I was determined and found help from my parents, my older sister who also had Mr. Simms years ago, and my friend Allison. (5) They all help me study and taught me ways to improve my study habits.

(6) After some concentrated studying for an energy test, I was ready. (7) Allison told me I knew the material as well as she did.

(8) I sat down next to Allison in English class and asked her how the science test was since she'd just taken it. (9) She said she'd aced it and I would to. (10) I noticed my clammy palms, although she was attempting to build my confidence, and the test was three hours away.

(11) Finally, with my heart racing, I spinned my pencil anxiously as Mr. Simms distributed the tests. (12) I thought I took my time. (13) I thought I did well. (14) But that afternoon I saw my score: 78. (15) Allison got a 100. (16) I waited until I got home to cry. (17) If I knew that material, why couldn't I get a 100?

(18) My counselor, she suggested after a chat that we try a schedule change so I'd have science first period so I wouldn't have to be apprehensive all day about those troublesome tests. (19) We tried it out, and I got an A on the very next test. (20) I don't get a schedule change when I'm stressed anymore; I just remind myself, "You know the material, and it's just one test."

- 15** What change should be made in sentence 3?
- A** Change *increasingly* to **increasingally**
  - B** Change *begin* to **began**
  - C** Add a comma after ***declined***
  - D** Change *struggling* to **strugling**

- 16** What change should be made in sentence 5?
- F** Change *ways* to **way's**
  - G** Change *taught* to **taugh**
  - H** Add a comma after ***ways***
  - J** Change *help* to **helped**

*Roxana has written a book report for English class and needs you to complete a peer-editing conference. She needs you to read her report and suggest ways she might improve and correct her paper. When you have finished reading, answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.*

### **Hard Lessons in "The Necklace"**

(1) "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant tells about a woman who longs to be rich and admired. (2) When her husband arrives with a ball invitation, the wife pouts because she has nothing to wear. (3) The husband gives her money for a beautiful dress, and the woman isn't satisfied; she needs jewels also.

(4) Her husband suggests that she borrow something from her wealthy friend. (5) The friend willingly let's her borrow a necklace.

(6) Despite looking beautiful and having a wonderful time, the night is ruined when they arrive home and she realizes the diamond necklace is missing. (7) Being unsuccessful in finding them, the husband and wife hurry to replace it. (8) Finding a necklace almost identical but costing much more than them had, the husband and wife borrowed money. (9) After ten years of hard work, they paid off their debts.

(10) Soon after, the woman saw her friend. (11) Her friend didn't recognize her because she looked old and run-down. (12) The woman told her friend what had happened and boasted proud that all the debts were paid. (13) Her shocked friend told her it was unfortanate because the necklace she had loaned her was fake.

(14) This story greatly displays irony because the women expected the necklace to be real because her friend was rich, but the fact was that her friend had fake jewels not real ones. (15) It seems as if the author is trying to tell us to watch out things aren't always what they seem. (16) This is true. (17) Students at school often think that someone is a certain way based on the way they dress or the friends they have. (18) Just because you wear designer cloths doesn't mean you're rich. (19) And just because you're in the band doesn't mean you're not athletic. (20) To learn the lesson of this story, I think we all need to.

- 17** What is the BEST way to revise sentence 3?
- A** The husband gives her money for a beautiful dress, and the woman isn't satisfied; she needs jewels also.
  - B** The husband gives her money for a beautiful dress, but the woman isn't satisfied; she needs jewels also.
  - C** The husband gives her money for a beautiful dress, for the woman isn't satisfied; she needs jewels also.
  - D** The husband gives her money for a beautiful dress but the woman isn't satisfied; she needs jewels also..

- 18** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?
- F** Add a comma after *friend*
  - G** Change *willingly* to **willing**
  - H** Change *let's* to **lets**
  - J** Make no change

- 19** What change needs to be made to sentence 7?
- A** Change *them* to **the necklace**
  - B** Remove the comma after *them*
  - C** Change *unsuccessful* to **unsuccessful**
  - D** Change *to* to **too**

- 20** What change should be made in sentence 14?
- F** Change *women* to **woman**
  - G** Change *jewels* to **juels**
  - H** Remove the comma after *rich*
  - J** Change *not* to **and**

- 21** What change, if any, needs to be made to sentence 18?
- A** Change *cloths* to **clothes**
  - B** Change *you're* to **your**
  - C** Add a comma after *cloths*
  - D** Make no change

**22** What change should be made in sentence 8?

**F** Change *them* to **they**

**G** Add a comma after ***identical***

**H** Change *borrowed* to **borrow**

**J** Remove the comma after ***had***

*To the student: Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow.*

### **Furry Little Clowns**

(1) As pets, they re a lot of trouble and even more fun. (2) They're curious, intelligent, affectionate, and playful. (3) Full of energy, they love jumping, bouncing, and running around, especially as babies. (4) They are particularly fond of tunnels. (5) They can squeeze through some surprisingly tight spaces, even some doors. (6) These furry little fellows are amusing and full of surprises.

(7) This mystery pet is a ferret! (8) It's related to skunks, weasels, badgers, and otters. A male ferret is called a "hob," a female a "jill," and a baby a "kit." (9) A ferret can weigh from 1 to 5.5 pounds and measure 17 to 24 inches in length. (10) Male ferrets are about twice the size of they female friends. (11) A ferret can live for six to ten years. (12) Ferrets come in a variety of beautiful colors with lovely names cinnamon, chocolate, and sable.

(13) Ferrets require special care, to protect them and your home. (14) They can swallow things that hurt them. (15) They also like to "steal" and hide things. (16) You might be able to discover your ferret's own personal hiding place. (17) Once you ve done this, you'll know where to look when something's missing!

(18) Ferrets are sociable and need company, they are not suitable pets for people who are often away from home. (19) Some ferrets also enjoy being with cats, dogs, or other ferrets. (20) Cages are available, but your ferret should be free to roam in your home as much as possible. (21) When taken outside, a ferret must be on a leash so that it doesnot get lost.

(22) Before thinking about adopting any pet, you must educate yourself. (23) Bringing an animal into your home is one of the most biggest changes you can make in your life. (24) Read all you can! (25) You can also visit lively, helpful websites where dedicated ferret friends share ideas and information.

- 23** What change, if any, should be made to sentence 10?
- A** Change **they** to **their**.
  - B** Change **of** to **from**.
  - C** Change **size** to **sizes**.
  - D** Make no change.
- 24** What change, if any, should be made to sentence 21?
- F** Change **doesnot** to **doesn't**.
  - G** Remove the comma after **outside**.
  - H** Change **lost** to **lossed**.
  - J** Make no change.
- 25** To correct sentence 23, which word should be deleted?
- A** *into*
  - B** *most*
  - C** *you*
  - D** *biggest*

Read the following passage and look for possible errors. Then answer the questions that follow.

### Exchange Student

Dear Mom and Dad,

(1) Well I made it! (2) The plane trip was really long, but we arrived on time. (3) Your host family was waiting for you when she got off the plane. (4) They seem really nice. (5) The drive from the airport was a little scary. (6) You can't beleive what it is like driving on the left side of the road. (7) I felt like we were going to be in an accidnt with every turn we took! (8) I ended up closing my eyes until we were at the Clermonts. (9) We arrived just in time for dinner so I have now had my first real French meal!! (10) Boy is it different then ordering out for a pepperoni pizza!

(11) There are many plans for us for the next week. (12) The Clermonts are going to take me to all the famous French toorist attractions. (13) I would like to see the Eiffel Tower. (14) The Arc de Triomphe is supposed to be beautiful too. (15) One thing is for sure, I will not be bored due to lack of entertainment. (16) I am going to school with Josephine today. (17) The school day here is so much shorter than ours. (18) They dismiss us at 12:00 pm! (19) I can't wait to meet some of there friends. (20) I was a little nurvous that they might not be able to understand me. (21) We will see how good they speak English because I don t think my French will be enough! (22) I think I need to stop and buy more film. (23) Josephine is a great hostess. (24) Me and her have a long list of things I want to do together.

(25) I am sure it is not the same without me! (26) How is everything back home? (27) It is hard to believe how many miles there is between us. (28) I miss you all. (29) I promise to take lots of pictures so I can tell you about everything when I get home. (30) Will you do me a favor? (31) Will you have a pepperoni pizza waiting when I get there?

Love,

Courtney

- 26** Which of the following is the **BEST** way to rewrite sentence 24?
- F** Her and I have a long list of things we want to do together.
  - G** Me and her have a long list of things we want to do together.
  - H** She and I have a long list of things we want to do together.
  - J** We have a long list of things we want to do together, her and me.

- 27** Which of the following is the **BEST** way to rewrite sentence 24?
- A** Her and I have a long list of things we want to do together.
  - B** Me and her have a long list of things we want to do together.
  - C** She and I have a long list of things we want to do together.
  - D** We have a long list of things we want to do together, her and me.

- 28** Which is the **MOST** effective **conjunction** to combine sentences 13 and 14?
- F** also
  - G** but
  - H** and
  - J** if

- 29** Which is the **BEST** way to rewrite sentence 3?
- A** A host family was waiting for I when I got off the plane.
  - B** My host family was waiting for us when we got off the plane.
  - C** The host family was waiting for you when I got off the plane.
  - D** My host family was waiting for me when I got off the plane.

- 30** Choose two sentences in paragraph 1 that can be combined effectively using a conjunction. Write the two sentences as one, using that conjunction.

To the student: Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow.

### The Explorer

(1) Being human, we're curious about new places, people, ideas, and things. (2) We have access to so much information! (3) Say there's a topic I want to learn about. (4) I conduct research and find out all I need to know. (5) When I experience a sudden yearning to expand my knowledge, there are many places libraries, the Internet, and educational television where I can "surf" for new areas of interest.

(6) What if I lived in ancient times? (7) The world was not known much about then. (8) Most people made their own food and shelter and stayed close to home, knowing only the area where they lived. (9) When they did venture out, they traveled for only a few days. (10) This didn't take them very far. (11) They knew little to nothing about this great planet: its land forms, bodies of water, wildlife, and other human cultures. (12) It was all there, waiting to be discovered!

(13) Most early travelers were searching for new and better things. (14) Trade developed from this sharing, and then money came into the picture. (15) Greed then sent people looking far and wide for ways to increase their wealth, such as by finding desirable things to sell elsewhere at handsome profits.

(16) There have always been, however, rare individuals who are born adventurers, passionate about investigations into the unknown. (17) True explorers were excited, not about wealth, but about discovering more and more of this amazing world. (18) Of course, that's the kind of explorer myself would be!

(19) An explorer's life wasn't without its problems. (20) It was risky, for one thing. (21) Another challenge would be leaving my loved ones for long periods of time. (22) My family would miss me terribly while I exploring.

(23) Now we Earthlings look up at a clear night sky, bejeweled in stars and planets, and ask ourselves, "What's out there?"

- 31** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 18?
- A** Change *myself* to **I**.
  - B** Change *that's* to **thats**.
  - C** Change *of* to **off**.
  - D** Make no change.
- 32** What is the **BEST** way to rewrite sentence 19?
- F** An explorers' life wasnt without its problem's.
  - G** An explorer's life wasn't without its problems.
  - H** An explorer's life wasnt without its problem's.
  - J** An explorers' life wasn't without its problems.
- 33** What change, if any, should be made to sentence 18?
- A** Change *tells* to **told**.
  - B** Add a comma after *herself*.
  - C** Change *they* to **them**.
  - D** Make no change.