

CORE Reading Maze Comprehension 9-A

Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____

A Circle of Friends

The wagon train had reached the foothills of the mountains. Rather than attempting to begin the (grinning, uphill, package) climb with fading daylight, the wagon (master, harness, elevator) decided to make camp for the (pitch, mail, night).

With the rest of the families, (the, how, flat) Wilsons maneuvered their wagon into a (leader, fortune, circle), a formation that was the traditional (body, way, older) for travelers in the West to (suppose, protect, flower) themselves. In addition to providing a (line, floor, call) of defense against enemies from the (outside, anywhere, narrow), the circle of wagons created a (sailor, sense, purple) of community for the families, if (while, fold, only) for a night. It was almost (as, or, pot) if they were within the walls (be, of, tug) a small town, with a bonfire (letter, burning, searched) in the middle and people wandering (around, above, lesson) making small talk with one another.

(Sugar, Scatter, Abby) finished her chores and asked her (brook, mother, scratch) if she could walk among the (hanging, other, crown) wagons. With her regular warning to (be, off, herd) careful and stay inside the circle (as, of, shy) wagons, Mother approved her request. Abby's (mirror, wiggle, father) smiled and winked at her, having (much, fine, post) more confidence in her judgment than (why, dot, her) mother did.

As she wandered from (route, speed, wagon) to wagon exchanging greetings, Abby was (folding, joined, reason) by a few other young people (eager, giant, forget) to have something to do other (what, than, fail) chores. It wasn't long before a (group, rule, learn) of a dozen or so was (batted, sharp, sitting) by the central bonfire sharing their (shelves, thoughts, possible) about what would happen the following (comb, stir, day).

"The mountains seem unbelievably high," suggested (Martin, judge, stretch), "and from here, there seems to (an, ice, be) no obvious way to cross them."

"(Father, Fellow, Squeak) promised me that there is a (beast, pass, must) that is difficult but not dangerous (when, heat, this) time of year," replied Abby. "It (will, lose, spray) take us several days to reach (were, the, fog) summit."

"Has anyone considered the difficulty (do, owl, of) the walk that lies ahead of (in, us, ear)?" wondered Susan. "Have any of us (attempted, circled, glances) to scale mountains this high?"

William (handled, plenty, laughed), and looking around at the other (teenagers, someone, sandwich), said confidently, "We've walked for a (delighted, thousand, adventure) miles in the last few months, (are, lip, so) I don't think the mountains will (be, up, seal) much of a challenge. The real (vegetable, matter, difficulty) will lie beyond the summit when (to, we, fold) are going downhill. Who will restrain (the, was, hour) horses and the wagons?"

With that, (meadows, understand, everyone) laughed and rose to their feet. (It, Web, Net) was a pleasant moment before an (evening, traveling, ascent) that would undoubtedly be the hardest (drip, part, cave) of their journey.

Number Correct _____ Number of Errors _____