

**SYNOPSIS**

Sterling North reveals the details of his own boyhood as he tells the story of his adventures with his pet raccoon, Rascal. Brailsford Junction, Wisconsin, from May, 1918, to April, 1919, provides the setting for the narrative. World War I is just coming to a close in Europe. Each chapter in the book chronicles the events of each succeeding month in the young animal's first year of life from the time of Rascal's capture until his release back into the wilderness. Each also records the reactions of a sensitive, loving, independent eleven-year-old boy to his own environment and especially to his beloved pet.

Apparently, Sterling's family is well-to-do. His father Willard North has a real estate office and is often away researching for a book on Indians which is never published. He owns a considerable amount of property and seems to be well regarded in the town. (Sterling's mother died when the youngster was seven. She was fairly young, forty-seven years old, and her son is convinced that she died from worrying about her family.) His father is a quiet, complacent, detached man who never seems to let anything disturb him: he lives to be ninety-nine. A loving father, he, nevertheless, is unconcerned about planning for his son's care. A brother Herschel is away fighting with the American army in France. Theo, one of his sisters, is married and living out of town, and the other sister, Jessica, is pursuing graduate studies at the University of Chicago.

The boy's life style is not typical: he is building an eighteen foot canoe in the family's living room, and his father often leaves him alone and unsupervised, sometimes for weeks at a time. Still, his environment is filled with loving adults whom he trusts. (The reader will note that in the Wisconsin farm country of 1918, people simply trusted the goodness of their fellow humans; they did not lock doors, etc.) Sterling makes many friends, young and old, human and animal. Perhaps because of the loss of the mother who had cherished him, the youngster feels a special protective tenderness toward women.

He describes the inhabitants of the town who affect his life; Pat Delaney, the saloonkeeper, the Sunderland family—Oscar, his friend, Herman, the short-tempered father, and the gentle mother who rules the family—Joe Hanks, the dim-witted janitor from the Methodist Church who suspects that the German Lutherans of the town are planning to poison its water supply, Wowser, his St. Bernard dog, and many others.

In May as the story begins, Wowser, Sterling, and Oscar have discovered a litter of raccoon kits in Wentworth's

Woods, and, after tangling with the mother, manage to capture one little Rascal. Unweaned, the one-pound raccoon must be fed through a straw until he can learn to eat alone. Poe-the-Crow who lives in the steeple of the Methodist Church which adjoins the North property, immediately becomes Rascal's avowed enemy. Poe has been a problem for Sterling because the boy considers the bird to be his own, but Poe, whose greatest trick is to shout "What fun" from the belfry at church-goers, mourners and celebrants alike, refuses to conform. The Rev. Hooton and his flock often consider taking a shotgun to their raucous tenant. Sterling has managed to stay their hands, but the question of his skunks poses a more serious problem. One Sunday, frightened by a large dog and temporarily unprotected by Wowser, the skunks react predictably, and the Methodist congregation decides that they must go. Sterling takes them back to the woods. Obviously the boy values animals, and with Rascal forms his greatest attachment.

The raccoon's curiosity, intelligence, and clever-even humanlike characteristics endear him to the boy. Rascal learns to catch minnows and crayfish and to sit in a highchair for breakfast. The first time he eats a sugar cube, he washes it with his tongue, thereby melting it. The second time, the quick Rascal gobbles it without the preliminary washing. As he grows, the raccoon romps over the kitchen table to get his sugar. The animal learns to unhook the back screen door to creep inside the house at night to sleep in Sterling's bed; his favorite things are riding on Sterling's bicycle, drinking strawberry pop, and finding shiny objects. He and Poe often tangle over such items, and, using his knowledge of this fact, Sterling is able to find his sister Theo's wedding ring in the church belfry after Poe and Rascal have fought over it. Rascal loves music played on the Victrola, as well human friends such as Joe Hanks and Bumblebee Jim Vandevander, the bald, three-hundred-pound son of their washerwoman, who brings him sweets.

During that happy first summer Sterling's father takes the boy and Rascal to the farm of naturalist Thure Kumlien to hear the call of the whippoorwill. The youngster and his pet explore caves and old Indian burial mounds, swim, fish, and become aware of the beauty of nature. Sterling's mother had been a biologist, and he remembers how she had talked to him about the wonder of God's creation and the evolutionary pattern of all life. His gentle father, too, is sensitive to the wild, and initiates his son in its mysteries.

The reader is introduced to the town bully Slammy Stillman, who is always the victor in tormenting Sterling and is one of the few flaws on the rural landscape.

## RASCAL

The war hardly intrudes on this idyllic scene until Rollie Adams, a young man who is a favorite in town, is killed in Europe. The patriotic efforts of the citizens are detailed. The girls knit khaki wristlets and the boys collect peach pits used in making charcoal for gas masks. Both collect tin foil. Rascal helps in this project because he is so attracted to bright objects. Sterling plants his own war garden. Rascal tastes sweet corn from this garden, and Sterling's real trouble begins. At night the young raccoon forages in the neighbors' gardens, and Mike Conway, Walter Dabbett, Cy Jenkins, and the terrible-tempered Rev. Gabriel Thurman from a gospel-preaching denomination complain and demand that Rascal be caged. The boy is upset to think of the animal being confined, but he has to promise to do so.

To postpone the deed, Sterling's father takes his son with Rascal on a two-week camping trip to the North Woods area around Lake Superior. Willard North does not tell his son until after they arrive that he has to testify as an expert witness in a trial case in a Superior, Wisconsin, court and will be gone most days during that period. This allows Sterling and his pet companion time to wander freely. At night the boy and his father sleep in the open. After trying unsuccessfully to sleep in hammocks, they finally elect to sleep on the ground. One day while exploring, Sterling and Rascal come upon an isolated cabin and a man trout fishing. They are fascinated by Bert Bruce who allows them to share his sport and his friendship. Later, Mr. North also becomes his friend, and the two men talk long into the nights about the woods, animals, and Indians. During this period, Sterling sees his first bear, first porcupine, and first deer, and he catches his first trout.

When the Norths return from Lake Superior, Sterling takes Rascal to Garth Shadwick's Harness and Leather Emporium to be fitted for a leash and collar. Mr. Shadwick, a sympathetic man, is angry to think about what people demand of small animals, and he fashions a beautifully braided leash and a calfskin collar with a silver plate engraved with the raccoon's name. He refuses to take anything but a quarter for it.

Cy Jenkins, the lumber dealer from whom Sterling buys his two-by-fours and chicken wire, is a different character altogether. He cheats the boy and takes all the money he has. The boy teaches Rascal gradually not to be afraid of the collar. He builds him a twelve-foot square cage which encloses his favorite tree, some areas of grass and clover, the bait pool filled with minnows, and part of the barn where a shelter has been devised. Letting the raccoon be in and out as he constructs the cage, Sterling still cannot find the heart to lock Rascal inside.

A highlight of the summer is the annual Irish Picnic and Horse Fair. This year Sterling is aware of a bet made secretly between two neighbors to see whose method of transportation is the faster. Sterling's friend Mike Conway has a trotter named Donnybrook, a special favorite of Rascal. The bad-tempered minister, Rev. Thurman, has a Model T which he boasts can beat the horse. During the ensuing race, Donnybrook easily outdistances the car because of Rev. Thurman's impatient cranking of the engine

which gets him off to a poor start. Sterling is clearly delighted with the outcome; the minister has always threatened harm to Rascal.

At the picnic the boy and his friend Oscar participate in a pie-eating contest. Sterling comes in first because Rascal helps him finish the pie; Oscar is second. The contest is loudly and hotly disputed by Slammy Stillman, so the judges award the blue ribbon and the \$3 prize to Oscar; they do give the real Big League autographed baseball to Sterling. After the happy day at the picnic, with school about to start, Sterling finally and sadly cages Rascal. Wowser and Donnybrook console the small raccoon from a distance. Sterling continues his gardening and selling copies of "The Saturday Evening Post." He wants to buy canvas to finish the sides of his canoe.

The start of school is postponed so that the children can help their families harvest the farm crops. When it finally opens, Sterling's biology teacher Miss Whalen invites the students to bring their pets on different days. When he brings Rascal to class, the teacher explains to all of them about the special things that raccoons can do. The day is a success for Sterling and Rascal until Slammy spitefully slaps the raccoon and is bitten. Rascal then has to be confined for fourteen days in case of a rabies infection even though the teacher knows that Slammy has provoked the attack. The bully recovers, and Sterling can take Rascal out again on a leash.

An epidemic of Spanish influenza hits the town and, in November, Sterling gets very sick. Worried, Willard North takes his son to be cared for at the nearby farm home of his brother, the boy's Uncle Fred and Aunt Lillie. There the lad enjoys a woman's kindness and care, rides horses, enjoys family life, and passes his twelfth birthday. Rascal, as usual, is with him. Everyone forgets Sterling's birthday when a false announcement of peace is made. Later, Sterling's father gives him an heirloom watch.

On November 11, 1918, the true Armistice is signed in France, and Sterling knows that his brother Herschel will be safe and soon home. On that day, the boy, looking through a fur trappers' catalogue, sees a picture of a raccoon caught in a trap. He throws the catalogue out and hangs his trap away. He signs a permanent treaty with all birds and animals.

The coming of winter finds Rascal increasingly sleepy and Sterling busily trying to earn money shoveling snow for Christmas presents. Fortunately, his sister Jessica sends him \$10. It is Sterling who plans and puts up the Christmas decorations including the tree. He has to protect it with its shiny ornaments from Rascal with chicken wire, and he decorates the unfinished canoe in the living room with gaily-colored ribbons and presents. Jessica is appalled to discover the household arrangements when she comes home to celebrate the holiday with her father and Sterling. Their gift exchange is lovely. Willard gives his son and daughter each three agates highly polished by a jeweler. These are the agates which had been found in the North Woods, and he gives to Rascal a seventh agate, the very one which the raccoon had discovered. Jessica gives Sterling the canvas he needs to finish his canoe, Theo sends Sterling a pair of ice

## RASCAL

skates. (The author mentions that he will only use these for three winters until he contracts polio. That disease will disable him, and while he will learn to walk again, he will never again ice skate. It will be Theo too who will nurse him during that period.) His love for his sisters is evident. During one afternoon of ice skating, the boy, with Rascal perched on his head like a coon cap, taunts Slammy Stillman, causing him to fall on the ice, and Sterling is never bothered again by the bully.

A warm spell of "case" weather in February causes the farmers from miles around to gather day and night to help one another to take the tobacco leaves from the drying sheds to pile in the stripping house and cover with canvas. Sterling and his father hurry in the middle of the night to Uncle Fred's farm and, it is here that his Aunt Lillie tells him that she believes that someday he will be a writer and will describe all this activity. She adds that that was his mother's wish for him.

As the spring arrives, so does trouble. Rascal learns to get out of his cage and raids Rev. Thurman's henhouse, and Sterling's sisters insist that their father hire a housekeeper. Mrs. Quinn detests Rascal. With the coming of mating season, Rascal becomes increasingly restless and irritable, and Sterling realizes that the time has come to offer his pet his freedom. Sterling's friends, Art Cunningham and Royal Ladd, aid him in finishing his canoe, and he and Rascal take the long trip up Koshkonong Creek to the lake. The boy removes his pet's collar and leash. Perched in the prow of the canoe, Rascal hears the mating call of the female raccoon and, glancing back at Sterling, leaps into the water, swimming to join his mate. Sterling paddles swiftly and sadly back to Brailsford Junction.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Poet, newspaperman, author and editor, Sterling North was born in 1906 in Edgerton, Wisconsin. He began his literary career as a poet in the early 1920's while a student at the University of Chicago. After graduation he became a cub reporter for the *Chicago Daily News* and later its book reviewer. He left for New York in 1933 where he began writing a syndicated column in addition to reporting. He retired in 1956 to become founder and general editor of North Star Books, which later published a historical series for children and a biographical series for teenagers. He summed up his philosophy in this quotation from *Contemporary Authors*: "It has been my life-long crusade to fight the comics and terror T.V. shows while editing and writing books which I hope will give bright young Americans a deeper and richer sense of our culture, past and present."

### CRITIC'S CORNER

*Rascal: A Memoir of a Better Era* was published in England with the subtitle: *A True Story of a Pet Raccoon*. A charming true animal story, it is also a tale of life in a small Wisconsin village in 1918. *Rascal* was awarded the Dutton Animal Book Award, the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Memorial Children's Book Award, American Library Association

Aurianne Award and was the runner-up for the Newbery Medal. Hal Borland commented that "Young people will cherish it and readers who grew up in that 'better era' will appreciate its honest nostalgia." In 1966 North followed *Rascal with Raccoons Are the Brightest People*.

### INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. To contrast fiction and non-fiction by appreciating the autobiographical format of *Rascal*
2. To recognize the author's personal background as the basis for his judgments and behavior
3. To determine the author's values by noting his descriptions of various characters and incidents in the book
4. To compare the rural America of 1918 with today's country living
5. To contrast Willard North's method of raising Sterling with those resulting in the "typical" boyhood of most Americans
6. To analyze Sterling North's writing style and his use of dialogue
7. To examine the author's vivid descriptions of nature's beauty
8. To observe the gentle thread of humor which decorates the story
9. To study the author's use of detail to personify the raccoon Rascal
10. To identify and evaluate the many themes in *Rascal*

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences or thought units that have particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. trapping (p. 17)  
*[catching fur-bearing animals by a device which snaps shut tightly when stepped on or jiggled. The animals are then skinned and the skins sold. Sterling decides to give up trapping after Rascal becomes his pet.]*
2. chirring (p. 111)  
*[making a shrill, trilling sound almost like the sound of an insect. This is one of the sounds that Rascal uses when he is happy.]*
3. . . . gazing rapturously ahead. (p. 56)  
*[rapturously describes how full of joy or pleasure one can feel. This is the way Sterling describes Rascal when he is riding in the family car or on Sterling's*

## RASCAL

bicycle. Rascal's pure pleasure in so simple a thing as a ride always serves to enhance Sterling's appreciation of life.]

4. . . . a lusty and infectious laugh (p. 76)

[*Infectious means tending to spread to others. Mike Conway, a good-natured neighbor of the Norths, breaks the strain of a tense situation with his laugh. After Sterling introduces Rascal to the delights of sweet corn, he begins raiding the fields of the neighbors. When the culprit is discovered, a committee of irate neighbors meets with the Norths. Threats of setting traps and shooting fly through the air until Mr. North suggests that Rascal be leashed and caged. The plan appears doomed until Mike finds humor in the situation and breaks out into laughter. The others catch his mood and agree to the plan, thus permitting Rascal to remain as a member of the North household.*]

5. . . . a wonderful two-week reprieve (p. 77)

[*A reprieve is a postponement of a punishment. The idea of leashing and penning Rascal sets bitterly with Sterling. "You can put criminals in jail. But you can't put my good little raccoon in jail." (p. 76) Sterling's immediate reaction is to run away to the woods with Rascal. His father listens sympathetically and then offers to take boy and raccoon for a two-week trip to Lake Superior.*

*This trip gives them an opportunity to enjoy to the fullest their favorite pastimes of fishing, swimming, canoeing and romping in the beautiful wilderness they both love. It is a touch of Eden before the agonizing realities of life take over.]*

6. . . . just as though he were a person—which he definitely believed he was. (p. 79)

[*This phrase refers specifically to food for Rascal on the Lake Superior trip since he wasn't fed a special diet, but it can apply to almost any section of the book. Sterling encourages Rascal in his belief that he is a true member of the family. Quite soon after Rascal acquires official North status, Sterling brings down his highchair so that the raccoon can eat at the table. When Rascal discovers the delights of Sterling's bed, he becomes his owner's bedfellow. (pp. 32, 34) This causes a problem when Sterling's sister Theo returns home for a visit and takes over Sterling's room. When Rascal invades her bed, Theo demands that the raccoon be put out of the house. Sterling retorts with the following: "Well, OK, . . . but you're sleeping in Rascal's bed. And he has just as many rights around here as you have." (p. 49) These words sum up Sterling's attitude toward Rascal. It is no wonder that the little raccoon believes that he is human.]*

7. I was suddenly completely happy, in love with the loony world and with my father and Rascal. (p. 81)

[*A completely unplanned, hilarious experience*

*prompts this statement from Sterling on the first night of the Lake Superior trip. The emotion Sterling feels at this moment sets the tone of the entire trip. The Norths decide to sleep in navy hammocks out in the open. When Mr. North demonstrates how to stay in a hammock, it refuses to cooperate; and he is flipped upside down. His father's rude fall brings forth a peal of laughter from Sterling. Sterling then decides to show his father how to do it and almost immediately finds himself on the ground. Mr. North cannot restrain his laughter and Rascal seems to understand the situation by scampering around. Just then a loon joins in the laughter as if he too were savoring the joke. The laughter, the beautiful woods and the joy of two weeks of total freedom overwhelm Sterling. "Two weeks of absolute freedom! Each hour was savored." (p. 89) He feels as if his whole world is perfect. This emotion sets the tone of the entire trip. A bit of paradise is promised and delivered.]*

8. . . . I was both overwhelmed with the ecstasy of ownership and frightened by the enormous responsibility we had assumed. (p. 23)

[*These are the emotions that Sterling experiences the very first time he holds the baby raccoon in his hands. The tiny little animal nuzzles up to Sterling immediately as if to say, "I trust you and put myself into your hands." This one-pound bundle of mischief has captured Sterling's heart. Sterling knows enough about baby animals to realize that this little kit's life literally depends on him. To keep the kit alive, train him and love him is Sterling's sole responsibility.]*

9. But I thought it would be wise to have Rascal's approval and assistance; it might lessen his terror when he found that his freedom had vanished. (p. 108)

[*After their idyllic two weeks of freedom, Sterling realizes that he must face the inevitable—leashing his beloved raccoon. Because of his deep love for Rascal, he knows that he must go slowly and gently in the process of restricting him. Sterling takes Rascal with him when he goes for the "ball and chain." He permits his pet to examine the merchandise and sniff the smells of the harness shop. Before he slips the collar on him, he allows the raccoon to feel and smell it—telling him all the while that it's his newest treasure. Fortunately Rascal likes his shiny name-plate buckle and the texture of the leather. (p. 110)*

*Sterling applies the same tactics for acceptance when he begins building Rascal's cage. (p. 117) Because he so prizes freedom and the love of nature himself, Sterling is sensitive to the possible fears that a restricted environment might evoke in his pet. By enlisting his pet's aid, going slowly and lovingly in his building and endeavoring to make this new home as attractive as possible, Sterling is applying a sound psychological principle. When the fateful day approaches, Sterling's fears are justified—Rascal*

## RASCAL

does realize that he has been penned up. Unable to withstand the raccoon's terrified pleading, Sterling brings him back to bed for a last night of reassurance. Since Sterling is honor-bound to keep Rascal in his cage, he endeavors to make it even more attractive by moving Wowser's doghouse nearer to the cage to offer Rascal more companionship. "I did what I could to make the imprisonment more bearable. I always shared at least one meal a day in Rascal's cage and we were together before and after school." (p. 134)]

10. I burned my fur catalogues in the furnace and hung my traps in the loft of the barn, never to use them again. Man had stopped killing other men in France that day, and on that day I signed a permanent peace treaty with the animals and the birds. (pp. 160-161)

[One of the winter joys that Sterling had always looked forward to was the winter muskrat trapping season. While oiling his traps for the coming season, Sterling has a disquieting thought. He watches his beloved raccoon sniff and examine his traps. Slowly it dawns on him that just such a contraption might be used on Rascal. When he sees a picture of a raccoon caught in a trap in a fur buyers' magazine, his mind is made up. He vows never again to harm any of the woodland creatures. "How could anyone mutilate the sensitive, questing hands of an animal like Rascal? I picked up my raccoon and hugged him in a passion of remorse." (p. 160) In a sense, Sterling has swung full circle—from a lover of animals who, nevertheless, feels no remorse at trapping selected fur-bearers to a lover of animals who feels they are entitled to live their lives free from man's dangers.]

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

#### Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. In the first chapter we are shown that Sterling loves animals. What are the pets he has before he acquires Rascal?

[Wowser, the St. Bernard, skunks, wood chucks, a crow, and several cats. (p. 18)]

2. In what way do the ice skates prove to be such a good gift?

[Sterling loves to skate and he uses the skates for three winters. By the fourth winter he is in a wheel chair. Even though he recovers the use of his legs, he can never skate again. His skates help him in getting revenge on his long-time enemy Slammy Stillman. (pp. 174-175)]

3. How do the children help the war effort?

[The girls knit khaki wristlets and the boy's collect

peach pits used in making charcoal for gas masks. Both collect tin foil. Rascal helps in collecting tin foil because he is so attracted by bright shiny objects. (p. 72)]

4. For what reason is the opening of school postponed that fall?

[The postponement is a direct result of the war. With so many young men in the army, the crops have to be harvested by the men left at home. Even the women and the children must help. (p. 112)]

5. What does Rascal do with his first lump of sugar? Why does he do this? What does he do with the second lump?

[He washes it, therefore it melts. Raccoons wash all their food. Rascal is mystified and keeps looking in his paw for the sugar. He starts to wash the second lump, and then he seems to remember what happened to the first lump, so he pops it into his mouth without the traditional washing. (p. 33)]

#### Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. Many times Sterling says that Rascal is highly intelligent. Give one or two incidents in the story that prove Rascal's intelligence.

[The first time the reader is exposed to Rascal's intelligence is the sugar episode. He never washes sugar again. Sterling must also move the sugar bowl so that Rascal does not help himself. After watching the cats, Rascal learns how to open the screen door which affords him the pleasure of coming and going at will just like any other member of the household. He again copies the cats when he sees that they get free squirts of milk at milking time. He makes certain that he too gets his share. (p. 154) After discovering the delights of sweet corn, Rascal finds it more expedient to raid the neighbor's gardens than his own fenced-in yard. "When Rascal had learned a lesson, he had learned it for life." (p. 33)]

7. Who is Slammy Stillman? Why is he important in the story?

[Slammy Stillman is first introduced as the town bully who never plays fair. He is the only youngster who protests loudly when the town forbids war games. (p. 71) In physical battles with Sterling, Slammy always emerges the victor. When Sterling finds that Slammy is seated directly opposite him in the blueberry pie eating contest at the Irish Picnic, he is determined to defeat this "... biggest, greediest, meanest twelve-year-old in town." Slammy is rapidly ahead in this contest too, until Rascal jumps up on the table and helps Sterling eat his pie. When the rule-breaking Slammy notices this aid, he stops eating and begins screaming "cheater." Since the judges can find no rules to cover this situation, they only partially disqualify Sterling and Rascal, giving first prize to Sterling's trapping partner Oscar Sunderland. The

## RASCAL

boy and his raccoon receive second prize. In Sterling's own words—"It was a delicious victory." (pp. 127-128)

Sterling brings the raccoon to school to "show him off" to his biology class and Bully Slammy again reinforces his name when he snaps a rubber band in Rascal's face. Naturally Rascal reacts by biting Slammy's hand. Although Rascal has only defended himself, he must be confined for fourteen days until it is certain that Slammy does not have rabies. (pp. 140-141) Sterling's feelings about Slammy can be summed up in these words "Slammy, unfortunately, did not die of rabies." (p. 143)

The opportunity to defeat Slammy once and for all presents itself to Sterling on the ice-skating pond. Sterling is an excellent skater, so he and Rascal decide to rush the wobbly Slammy. Without ever touching him, they turn quickly, causing Slammy to fall down. The jeering laughter of all the skaters completely ridicules Slammy, and he never bothers Sterling and Rascal again. (p. 175)]

8. Why can Wowser be described as an excellent babysitter?

[An ideal baby-sitter should be intelligent, kind, gentle and responsible. Wowser fits this definition to perfection. "Wowser was an exceptionally intelligent and responsible watchdog, guarding our house and lawns and gardens and all my pets." (p. 15) It is Wowser who finds Rascal and he immediately accepts him—sniffing and licking him affectionately. When the baby raccoon is brought home, the St. Bernard stands guard at the foot of the oak tree which is Rascal's first home at the North's. The first time the raccoon ventures out of his hole, Wowser is visibly disturbed until Sterling reassures him. (p. 30) Rascal is taught where the limits of the North property are by Wowser who nudges him back to home base whenever he starts to stray. (p. 32)

After Rascal is penned up, the dog's house is moved to just outside the raccoon's door. "Well aware of his trust, Wowser lay just outside the cage, his huge muzzle and deep, compassionate eyes turned toward the small prisoner just inside the wire." The two animals even talk to each other and the St. Bernard often ends their "conversation" with a howl of sympathy as if to say, "I understand your predicament." "There was real companionship in that back yard." (p. 134)]

### Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. Why is Sterling so fond of Aunt Lillie? Describe his feelings towards her.

[Aunt Lillie is a gentle, compassionate woman who gives abundantly of her time and love. In Sterling's own words, ". . . there must be few such human beings as Aunt Lillie." (p. 149) We are first introduced

to her during the flu epidemic when Sterling's father takes him to Aunt Lillie who has never refused a sick child. An aura of contentment seems to envelop her, and this feeling spreads to all who come in contact with her. Although she works hard, she believes that she has found her Utopia. ". . . when she died she wanted to come back to the farm and do it all over again, because this was her idea of heaven." (p. 146) Gentle Aunt Lillie loves her coarser husband deeply and everyone who enters their home absorbs the warmth of the family.

Compliments from her menfolk are rare and this oversight disturbs Sterling, so he compliments her whenever he can. Aunt Lillie realizes that Sterling is fond of her, and she instinctively knows what to say to him to make him feel wanted—even to telling him that he's like a fourth son to her. (p. 148) Whenever Sterling talks about Aunt Lillie he uses positive, gentle words. He mentions that she has retained traces of her former beauty. She realizes that tranquility and serenity are important, so she sets aside a portion of each evening to read to the family. (p. 152)

Sterling finds himself appreciating Aunt Lillie even more because she is genuinely fond of Rascal. It is she who introduces the raccoon to the delicious taste of honey and delights in his antics when he gorges himself. "'Oh, Sterling, what a charming little animal.' She put an arm around me as we watched, and I suddenly had an overwhelming desire to tell her how much she meant to me." (p. 156)

Indeed, she seems to function as a substitute mother for Sterling. She is very similar to Sterling's mother whom he so respected and loved. It is this gentle woman who first recognizes Sterling's love of the simple life and sees in him the talent to capture it forever in words. "I think I know what your mother would have wished . . . I think she would have wanted you to be a writer." (p. 180)]

10. In your opinion does Sterling's father do a good job raising his son? Explain.

[Very early in the story Sterling states that his father allows him to live his own life. (p. 18) Many of the housewives complain that Mr. North is not bringing his son up properly, yet the love and respect that Sterling feels for his father proves that Mr. North's formula is the correct one. Not one time in the story does Sterling criticize his father. Sterling's love and respect for his father literally leap from the pages. Since Mr. North is rather a solitary man who enjoys his own world, the time he shares with Sterling is doubly precious to Sterling. Sterling truly enjoys his father's company. There is no generation gap here.

Much of Sterling's love of nature can be attributed to his father who also loves nature. Sterling drinks up his father's tales of Thure Kumlien, a pioneer naturalist. (p. 55) When Mr. North learns that Sterling has never heard a whippoorwill, he takes a day off

## RASCAL

from work to introduce his son to the wonders of the bird. He understands what hearing a whippoorwill will mean to his nature-loving son. "Those were rare and gala days when my father took me rambling." (p. 56) Mr. North never worries about Sterling when he feels that his son can handle a particular situation. Sterling appreciates the fact that his father has confidence in his abilities and judgment.

Mr. North understands how much his son needs the companionship of his raccoon, so he makes no objections when Rascal shares their meals. (p. 32) Father really comes to the fore during the corn episode and his handling of the irate neighbors. It is he who offers the plan which allows Rascal to remain a part of the family. Mr. North knows how Sterling feels because the boy has to chain and pen Rascal, so, without any fanfare which would have added to the boy's misery, he suggests a two-week idyllic trip to Lake Superior so that Sterling and Rascal can have one last delicious fling. He handles it matter-of-factly. "Why tomorrow I suppose . . . I'll just put a sign on the office door." (p. 77) Characteristically he does not tell Sterling the real reason for the trip. Mr. North knows what the important things in life really are.

Peace is declared on Sterling's twelfth birthday and everyone is so excited that the birthday boy is almost forgotten. When Mr. North realizes that it is his son's birthday, he does not apologize for forgetting. He knows what reaching the age of twelve signifies and presents his son with a very special gift—his own watch. Sterling knows that his father is telling him that he has ceased to be a child and is entering manhood. "For several generations that old watch has passed from father to son. (And may the tradition long continue.)" (p. 159)

When Sterling finally realizes that he must give Rascal his complete freedom, he does not explain his plan to his father. All he tells his father is that he and Rascal will be away all afternoon and evening on a long canoe ride. Mr. North senses what Sterling has to do but to say anything would only add an additional burden to the already heavy one Sterling is carrying. He gives his blessing by a sympathetic look. (p. 186)

It would seem that Mr. North is the greatest influence in Sterling's life. "Obviously there was much I still could learn from my father, who explained complicated matters so simply." (p. 83) Sterling knows that his father loves and respects him as an unique individual. The book offers abundant proof that the son feels the same way about his father.]

### Question 11 Creative Level

11. If you had your choice of pets, what kind would you choose? Why? How would you prepare to live with it?

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Research and prepare reports on the period of World War I both in America and on the battlefields of Europe.
2. Describe a scene from this story from Rascal's viewpoint, Rev. Thurman's, Poe-the-Crow's.
3. Dramatize a scene from *Rascal*. Suggestions: the confrontation between Slammy Stillman, Rascal, and Sterling in the biology class, the celebration of the Armistice and Sterling's birthday, the Christmas gift exchange.
4. Rewrite the ending of the story having Rascal returning with Sterling to Brailsford Junction.
5. Debate the following statement:  
Autobiographical writing is too subjective, too biased to contain adequate, truthful description.
6. Choose an episode from your own life and describe it. Try to incorporate the use of dialogue.
7. Topics for Discussion or Composition:  
To Love Is to Set Free  
Fur Trapping  
Parental Responsibility and Discipline
8. Read another of Sterling North's books, *Raccoons Are The Brightest People*, or *The Yearling* by Marjorie Rawlings or *Old Yeller* by Frederick Gipson. Discuss the similarities and differences.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ethridge, James and Kopala, Barbara, (ed.). *Contemporary Authors*. Vol. 5-8, rev. ed. Detroit: Gale Research, p. 834.  
[Biographical material, complete listing of works.]

### Reviews:

*Atlantic Monthly*. Dec., 1963, p. 154.

*Christian Science Monitor*. Aug. 8, 1963, p. 11.

*Harper's*. September, 1963, p. 118.

*Library Journal*. Sept. 15, 1963, p. 3378.

*New York Times Book Review Section*. Aug. 25, 1963, p. 24.

## RASCAL

### VOCABULARY TEST

Match each underlined word with its definition listed below. Write the letter of the definition in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. He weighed less than one pound when I discovered him, a furry ball of utter dependence and awakening curiosity, unweaned and defenseless.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. But at just this moment the four little raccoons set up such a plaintive quavering that we all felt miserable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Oscar suggested that I had bats in my belfry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Far out on the first limb, the outraged animal took a firm stance, facing me, her eyes glowing balefully in the moonlight.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Three of the little raccoons, hearing their mother's call, trundled with amazing swiftness into the hazel brush to follow her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. He waded in and began feeling all over the bottom, his sensitive prehensile fingers telling him all that he needed to know about this minnow pond.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Anglers who have never taken this particular mutation of channel catfish find it hard to believe that these fish will strike almost any lure . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Rascal extended a tentative paw as I brought it into shallow water, but retreated precipitously when the thrashing tail drenched him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I pacified Rascal with another penny and resumed work on my canoe in the living room.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. But she was a martinet concerning deportment, dress, house-keeping, and much besides.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The crow's raucous criticism followed me all the way down that shaft.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. When the market was rising, he pyramided his paper profits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. It is even more exciting to move from one arboreal region into another than to move from watershed to watershed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Still trusting this bright, clear August weather, fringed everywhere with goldenrods and asters, we consigned ourselves to the canopy of the sky.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Two weeks of absolute freedom! Each hour was savored.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. A sunny hillside was festooned with blueberries nearly as large and dark as grapes, their leaves lacquered deep red.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. He had no intimation that this free life would go on forever.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. He stood transfixed at the prow, fascinated but trembling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Making the leash took a little longer, but again the harness maker worked with amazing dexterity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. But I knew that his imprisonment could not be postponed forever, particularly after he developed a craving for a new nocturnal delight, the grapes hanging in purple clusters in nearby arbors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Much later I learned that he had made scores of such excursions between the lines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. It was always held on a Saturday somewhat earlier in the month than the County Fair at Janesville to which many of the horses and exhibitors later gravitated.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. We could hear the steam calliope playing: "Come Josephine In My Flying Machine."



**RASCAL**

\_\_\_\_\_24. The autumn litters were becoming plump, vociferous porkers with greedy appetites.

\_\_\_\_\_25. I solicited nearby neighbors and shoveled many walks, earning a top price of fifty cents for moving a couple of tons of snow.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| a. affluent   | k. a whistling musical instrument<br>played like an organ | u. petitioned to earn money                            |
| b. trips  |   | v. part of a steeple or tower                          |
| c. not accustomed to any nourishment but the mother's milk          | l. pungent  | w. committed   |
| d. moved with a rolling motion                                      | m. capable of grasping                                    | x. noisy   |
| e. hoarse, harsh  | n. tree-growing   | y. suddenly changed, hereditary variation of a species |
| f. hastily  | o. nimbleness, skillfull ease                             | z. stratagems  |
| g. appreciated, tasted with relish                                  | p. moved toward as pulled by a strong attraction          | aa. nightly  |
| h. questing   | q. vanquished   | bb. adorned, ornamented                                |
| i. mournful   | r. evilly, malignantly                                    | cc. appeased, calmed                                   |
| j. built up or enlarged one's holdings by using profits to buy more | s. strict disciplinarian                                  | dd. held motionless, impaled                           |
|   | t. indication, hint                                       |  |

## RASCAL

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: True or False (30 points)

In the space provided write **T** if the statement is completely true or write **F** if any part of the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Willard North is a retired newspaper publisher.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Herschel North enjoys France because he is studying in Paris.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Pat Delaney is a saloonkeeper who likes Sterling and his dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Poe-the-Crow's raucous cries disturb church-goers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sterling is building an eighteen-foot canoe in his living room.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Rev. Hooton, whose church borders the Norths' property, is a kind man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Sterling finds Rascal in the town's pet store.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The boy teaches the raccoon to catch minnows.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Wowser trains Rascal to stay within the North's boundary lines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Rascal loves strawberry pop and pecans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Rascal and Poe-the-Crow are great friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Theo, who works in Chicago, returns to keep house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Jessica is doing post-graduate work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Rascal returns Theo's wedding ring.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The raccoon's human friends supply him with sweets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. The area abounds with Indian artifacts and burial mounds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The war seems far away until Oscar's father is killed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Slammy Stillman is one of Sterling's buddies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. The Norths' neighbors complain when Rascal raids their sweet corn patches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Sterling agrees to a leash, collar, and cage for Rascal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Willard North takes Sterling and Rascal on a two-week camping trip.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. One great pleasure for the Norths is sleeping in hammocks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. Sterling and his father spend all day every day fishing and enjoying nature together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Cy Jenkins donates the materials for Rascal's cage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. The Model T outraces Donnybrook at the Irish Picnic and Horse Fair.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Sterling's biology teacher is afraid of Rascal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. A Spanish flu epidemic makes Sterling quite sick.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. Aunt Lillie predicts that Sterling will be a doctor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Jessica's Christmas gift helps Sterling to finish his canoe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. Rascal becomes restless during the mating season.

## RASCAL

### Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Complete each of the following statements with the best response. Indicate your choice by writing the letter of the appropriate response in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The setting of this story is in (a) Chicago (b) Soissons, France (c) Brailsford Junction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sterling worries about his brother because (a) his studies are failing (b) he is fighting in France (c) his girl has left him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Wowser is (a) a German shepherd (b) a St. Bernard (c) a Siberian husky.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Rascal shows his intelligence in the episode involving (a) the sugar cubes (b) the strawberry pop (c) the three pennies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Bumblebee Jim Vandevander is (a) Willard North's right hand man (b) the son of their washerwoman (c) the town bully.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Sterling's father takes him to pioneer naturalist Thure Kumlien's farm (a) to hear a whippoorwill sing (b) to interview the man (c) to make his son feel better.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Sterling's contribution to the war effort is (a) a war garden (b) fur pelts (c) plane spotting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Oscar really wins the pie-eating contest because (a) Slammy Stillman cheats (b) Oscar eats more pies (c) Rascal helps Sterling to finish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Sterling develops polio (a) after Rascal has gone (b) before his mother dies (c) while his father is in Montana.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. On his twelfth birthday Sterling receives from his father (a) a deed to some property (b) his mother's writing desk (c) an heirloom watch.

### Part III: Matching (20 points)

In the space provided write the letter corresponding to the item below to which the descriptive phrase applies.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. sings "What fun" to the Methodist church-goers
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 2. is the dim-witted janitor at the church
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 3. is one of Rascal's animal friends
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 4. has a terrible temper and threatens to kill Rascal
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 5. owns a cabin in the North Woods near Lake Superior
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 6. bullies Sterling whenever he can
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 7. creates a beautiful collar for Rascal
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 8. is the North's new housekeeper
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 9. helps Sterling to finish making his canoe
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 10. dies at the age of ninety-nine
- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| a. a pet parrot    | i. Royal Ladd     |
| b. Jessica         | j. Bert Bruce     |
| c. Rev. Thurman    | k. Joe Hanks      |
| d. Mrs. Quinn      | l. Theo           |
| e. Donnybrook      | m. Willard North  |
| f. Herschel        | n. Garth Shadwick |
| g. Poe-the-Crow    | o. Rev. Hooton    |
| h. Slammy Stillman |                   |

## RASCAL

### Part IV: Sequence (10 points)

Decide in what chronological order the incidents listed occurred. In the space provided, number these statements from 1 (first in time) to 5 (last event to occur).

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Rascal learns to eat sugar cubes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Theo and Jessica insist that a housekeeper be hired.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Sterling's skunks manage to empty the Methodist Church during services.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Mrs. North dies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. Rascal is returned to the wild.

### Part V: Essay Questions (20 points)

1. Give examples of and comment on the author's use of humor in *Rascal*.

2. Describe the methods that the author uses to personify the raccoon Rascal.

## RASCAL

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: True or False (30 points)

In the space provided write **T** if the statement is completely true or write **F** if any part of the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Sterling North is eleven years old as this story begins.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sterling and a friend are exploring with Wowser when they encounter the raccoon kits in the woods.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Sterling is afraid of Herman Sunderland because he is short-tempered and very strict with Oscar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Rascal is placed in Sterling's canoe as a temporary shelter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sterling's father also enjoys his son's pet raccoon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Willard North worries constantly about his son.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Sterling finds a family of skunks at the same time that he sees Rascal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The Methodist congregation dislikes Poe-the-Crow because his loud racket disturbs their services.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. There is a rumor that the Germans in town will attack the Methodists.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Theo visits with her maid Jennie to try to get the house in order.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Rascal's favorite activity is climbing up on the roof of the North's home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Willard North visits Indian burial mounds because he is researching a book on Indians.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Sterling's father takes him camping even though he is uncomfortable outdoors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. When they are in the woods, Willard insists that his son stay within calling range.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Exploring a strange cave, Sterling falls and sprains his ankle and Rascal rescues him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Sterling admires his brother Herschel who is studying in France.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The town mourns Rollie Adams who is killed during the war.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Slammy Stillman owes Sterling money for shoveling his snow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Sterling's war garden earns him some money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Rascal eventually must be caged to protect people's property.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Rev. Thurman is the pastor of the Norths' church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Mike Conway and the Rev. Thurman are neighbors who compete against each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. Donnybrook is the name of Uncle Fred's farm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Oscar Sunderland wins first prize in the pie-eating contest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Rascal is caged for two weeks as a precaution against the spread of rabies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Measles send Sterling to his uncle and aunt's farm for a two-week recovery period.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. A surprise party is prepared for Sterling's twelfth birthday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. Sterling pledges never to trap birds or other animals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Wowser's increasing hostility to Rascal makes it imperative to return the raccoon to the woods.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. Rascal finds a mate and brings his own kits home to Sterling.

## RASCAL

### Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Complete each of the following statements with the best response. Indicate your choice by writing the letter of the appropriate response in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The setting of the story takes place in (a) 1850 (b) 1918 (c) 1945.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sterling's mother is absent because she (a) travels with her husband (b) is babysitting with Theo's new baby (c) is dead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. One problem Sterling has with Rascal is that he (a) raids the neighbor's gardens (b) eats expensive foods (c) is too big.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Willard North is away a lot because he (a) hates disciplining Sterling (b) needs to get away from civilization (c) has many business concerns.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Rascal's best friend is (a) Frank Ash (b) Poe-the-Crow (c) Sterling North.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. In the north woods near Lake Superior Sterling sees his first (a) lake (b) bear (c) Indian.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Garth Shadwick makes Rascal (a) a leash and collar (b) a cage (c) a shelter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. A horse and a car race is held at the (a) Irish Picnic (b) school carnival (c) town's Homecoming.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Sterling only wears ice skates for three winters because (a) he outgrows them (b) he develops polio (c) the skating rink closes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Sterling is not happy with Mrs. Quinn because she (a) fails him in English class (b) dislikes Rascal (c) yells at Oscar.

### Part III: Matching (20 points)

In the space provided write the letter corresponding to the item below to which the descriptive phrase applies.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. cheats Sterling when he sells him lumber and chicken wire
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. predicts that Sterling will become a writer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. is Sterling's companion who captures Rascal
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. is the horse who is Rascal's friend
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. jumps on the kitchen table to get sugar cubes
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. is a naturalist who has owned a farm which the Norths enjoy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. steals Theo's wedding ring and hides it in the church belfry
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. is the washerwoman's son, Rascal's friend
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. sends Sterling ten dollars to help him buy Christmas presents
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. finishes making the canoe with Sterling

- a. Rascal
- b. Pat Delaney
- c. Fred North
- d. Jessica
- e. Bumblebee Jim Vandevander
- f. Oscar Sunderland
- g. Willard North
- h. Poe-the-Crow

- i. Cy Jenkins
- j. Art Cunningham
- k. Donnybrook
- l. Herschel
- m. Thure Kumlien
- n. Lillie
- o. Theo

## RASCAL

### Part IV: Sequence (10 points)

Decide in what chronological order the incidents listed occurred. In the space provided, number these statements from 1 (first in time) to 5 (last event to occur).

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Mr. North takes Sterling on a trip to the north woods near Lake Superior.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Rascal bites Slammy Stillman.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Herschel North goes to France.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. A horse outraces a Model T Ford.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. Sterling finishes his canoe.

### Part V: Essay Questions (20 points)

1. Define and evaluate the character of Sterling North.

2. Discuss the themes which are found in this story.

**RASCAL**

**VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY**

- |       |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. c  | 10. s  | 18. dd |
| 2. i  | 11. e  | 19. o  |
| 3. v  | 12. j  | 20. aa |
| 4. r  | 13. n  | 21. b  |
| 5. d  | 14. w  | 22. p  |
| 6. m  | 15. g  | 23. k  |
| 7. y  | 16. bb | 24. x  |
| 8. f  | 17. t  | 25. u  |
| 9. cc |        |        |

**COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY**

Part I: True or False (30 points)

- |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F  | 11. F | 21. T |
| 2. F  | 12. F | 22. F |
| 3. T  | 13. T | 23. F |
| 4. T  | 14. F | 24. F |
| 5. T  | 15. T | 25. F |
| 6. T  | 16. T | 26. F |
| 7. F  | 17. F | 27. T |
| 8. F  | 18. F | 28. F |
| 9. T  | 19. T | 29. T |
| 10. T | 20. T | 30. T |

Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. a  |
| 2. b | 7. a  |
| 3. b | 8. c  |
| 4. a | 9. a  |
| 5. b | 10. c |

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. g | 6. h  |
| 2. k | 7. n  |
| 3. e | 8. d  |
| 4. c | 9. i  |
| 5. j | 10. m |

Part IV: Sequence (10 points)

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| a. 3 | d. 1 |
| b. 4 | e. 5 |
| c. 2 |      |

Part V: Essay Questions (20 points)

Answers will vary.

**COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY**

Part I: True or False (30 points)

- |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. T  | 11. F | 21. F |
| 2. T  | 12. T | 22. T |
| 3. T  | 13. F | 23. F |
| 4. F  | 14. F | 24. T |
| 5. T  | 15. F | 25. T |
| 6. F  | 16. F | 26. F |
| 7. F  | 17. T | 27. F |
| 8. T  | 18. F | 28. T |
| 9. F  | 19. T | 29. F |
| 10. T | 20. T | 30. F |

Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. b  |
| 2. c | 7. a  |
| 3. a | 8. a  |
| 4. c | 9. b  |
| 5. c | 10. b |

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. i | 6. m  |
| 2. n | 7. h  |
| 3. f | 8. e  |
| 4. k | 9. d  |
| 5. a | 10. j |

Part IV: Sequence (10 points)

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| a. 2 | d. 3 |
| b. 4 | e. 5 |
| c. 1 |      |

Part V: Essay Questions (20 points)

Answers will vary.



**PERMA-BOUND • VANDALIA ROAD • JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS 62650**

**Call toll free 1-800-637-6581**