

## Reading

► Read the selection and answer each question.

### Heading West

*by Bruce Watson*

<sup>1</sup> The National Road was built between 1811 and 1834 to connect the eastern and western United States. The following story tells what the trip on the National Road might have been like for Abigail Duffy and her family, who traveled the road west.

#### May 10, 1837

<sup>2</sup> Watch carefully, Mother says. Thousands of people are moving west, carrying their lives and belongings. We are all on the same road, part of a line of wagons bound for a new land. Someday we'll tell our grandchildren we were part of this great journey, Mother says. But if we are part of it, I ask, why are we stuck in the mud five miles from Wheeling?

<sup>3</sup> Today it seems we are the only creatures on Earth who aren't moving. One of our axles broke, and Father and Tom have gone back to Wheeling to get a new one. While we wait, we gather in the back of our wagon and watch the others plow up the road. Farther ahead, we hear crashes. One wagon after another stumbles into a pothole and lands with a bang. The people must wonder why they ever left home for this rude road in Ohio.

#### May 12, 1837

<sup>4</sup> Two nights ago, Mother heard a bear rustling around outside the wagon. It poked its nose inside, but Mother banged some pans together. It ran off through the forest undergrowth. Later, a wolf howled. I never heard a colder sound in my life. We were glad when Father and Tom came back with the axle.

<sup>5</sup> Tom leads the oxen, but sometimes they lead him. He bellows and shouts at them, and they holler back. Father sits beside him and watches for potholes. Mother and I walk until it's our turn to ride. Sometimes we talk about where we're going, but more often we talk about where we've been.

<sup>6</sup> I was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, just fifty miles from where the government started its road to the west. Father began to meet strangers passing through on the new road. In Ohio, they said, you could buy a farm for one hundred fifty dollars. Father was tired of woodworking, so we packed up and headed west towards the Allegheny Mountains.

7 On the far side of Will's Creek, the road turns steep and mean. The wagons stuck in mud tell you where not to go. But what do you do farther up when the space is only one wagon wide between the mountain and its edge, dropping a thousand feet like a shot? I'll tell you what you do. You look out to the far slopes rolling into Pennsylvania, and you hold your breath. You don't look down. Ever.

8 For two weeks, we crossed the Alleghenies. The whole line of wagons seemed to let out a cheer as we topped Little Savage Mountain. Below we could see fields, and we knew it was all downhill to Wheeling and beyond.

### May 21, 1837

9 At times, the new axle seems to sing, and we move steadily through the Ohio forest. It gets very warm on some days. Other days, the sky is dotted with cotton, and the forest gives way to sweeping farmland.

10 There are days when the promises seem about to come true. *We will* get a farm in Clark County. *We will* raise wheat and corn and make enough money to buy our own horses. *We will* build a house and even a barn.

### June 27, 1837

11 Today, we gathered around Father. He pointed farther west. The route goes on to Indiana, he said, all the way to Illinois. Then, he pointed north toward our new home—a small town on the Mad River a few miles away.

12 There, Father and Tom will remove the trees. They will build a house and plant the seeds. In a season, the crops will come up, and we'll have our farm. The Duffys are done with the road now.

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1 Read the sentence from paragraph 4.

*It ran off through the forest undergrowth.*

Think about the prefix *under-*. What is the meaning of undergrowth in the sentence?

- Ⓐ plants that grow beneath taller trees
- Ⓑ objects on the ground that block a path
- Ⓒ a coat of short hair beneath longer hair
- Ⓓ the condition of being smaller than others

- 2 What does the reader learn from the setting? Choose **two** answers.
- Ⓐ The setting shows that stores were not common along the National Road.
  - Ⓑ The setting tells the reader that the story takes place this year.
  - Ⓒ The setting proves that the trip to the western United States was difficult in 1837.
  - Ⓓ The setting shows that transportation and moving was easy in the 1800s.
  - Ⓔ The setting does not affect the story.
- 3 Who is the narrator of the diary?
- Ⓐ Tom
  - Ⓑ Mother
  - Ⓒ Abigail
  - Ⓓ Father
- 4 Reread the entry for June 27, 1837. Which statement is true about the family?
- Ⓐ They are worried about the future.
  - Ⓑ They want to go back to Maryland.
  - Ⓒ They do not want to visit Mad River.
  - Ⓓ They are excited about their new home.

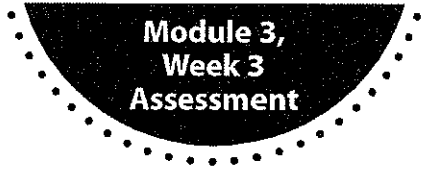
- 5 Read the sentence from paragraph 7.

*On the far side of Will's Creek, the road turns steep and mean.*

What does the word *mean* tell the reader about the journey west?

- Ⓐ The travelers are unprepared for the trip.
- Ⓑ The road is difficult for people to travel on.
- Ⓒ The people near Will's Creek are unfriendly.
- Ⓓ The roads in Maryland are better for wagons.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



6 How do the narrator’s feelings about the journey change throughout the story? What events cause her feelings to change? Use details from the story to support your answer.

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## Writing

► Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

*Devin wrote a paper about her favorite animal. Read Devin's paper and look for any changes she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

### Slippery Salamanders

(1) Every year when the weather warms up, my brother and I go looking for our favorite animal. (2) We search the woods behind our house because that is where spotted salamanders live.

(3) Spotted salamanders are dark gray or brown. (4) They have two rows of yellow spots on their backs. (5) The young ones are tiny, but the older ones can be eight or nine inches long.

(6) Salamanders look like lizards, but they are actually amphibians, like frogs and toads. (7) Amphibians such as salamanders live in water when they are babies and on land when they are older. (8) They need to keep their skin damp, so, they almost always stay close to water. (9) Spotted salamanders can be hard to find because they like to hide under rocks and logs. (10) When my brother and I "spot" one, we take a picture of it and write about it in our notebook. (11) Then we leave the striking little animal right where it was.

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1 What change should be made in sentence 2?

- Ⓐ Change *because* to *if*.
- Ⓑ Change *because* to *until*.
- Ⓒ Change *because* to *although*.
- Ⓓ No change is needed.

- 2 What is the best way to write sentences 3 and 4 as one sentence?
- Ⓐ Spotted salamanders are dark gray or brown, if they have two rows of yellow spots on their backs.
  - Ⓑ Spotted salamanders are dark gray or brown, so they have two rows of yellow spots on their backs.
  - Ⓒ Spotted salamanders are dark gray or brown, and they have two rows of yellow spots on their backs.
  - Ⓓ Spotted salamanders are dark gray or brown, when they have two rows of yellow spots on their backs.
- 3 What is the correct way to write sentence 8?
- Ⓐ They need to keep their skin damp, so they almost always stay close to water.
  - Ⓑ They need to keep their skin damp so, they almost always stay close to water.
  - Ⓒ They need to keep their skin damp so they, almost always stay close to water.
  - Ⓓ No change is needed.

# Answer Key: Module 3, Week 3 Assessment

Item Number	Correct Answer	Module, Week, Program Skill	Depth of Knowledge
<b>READING</b>			
1	A	M3W3: Generative Vocabulary: Prefixes <i>over-</i> , <i>under-</i>	2
2	A, C	M3W3: Comprehension: Literary Elements	1
3	C	M3W3: Comprehension: Point of View	2
4	D	M3W3: Comprehension: Literary Elements	2
5	B	M3W3: Comprehension: Author's Craft	2
6	See rubric on p. R1.	M3W3: Comprehension: Literary Elements	3
	Sample two-point response: The narrator is worried about taking the journey at first, but as she and her family get closer to their new home, she becomes hopeful. Early in the story, the narrator worries about the journey. She is concerned about her family's slow progress, the bumpy and dangerous road, and the animals in the woods. Later, once they've topped Little Savage Mountain and completed the hardest part of the trip, the narrator becomes more hopeful. For example, in paragraph 10, she sounds confident about the future: "We <i>will</i> get a farm in Clark County. We <i>will</i> raise wheat and corn and make enough money to buy our own horses. We <i>will</i> build a house and even a barn."		
<b>WRITING</b>			
1	D	M3W3: Grammar: Compound and Complex Sentences	1
2	C	M3W3: Grammar: Compound and Complex Sentences	1
3	A	M3W3: Grammar: Compound and Complex Sentences	1

# Constructed-Response Rubric

Points	Description
2	<b>2 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response provides a <b>complete and correct</b> explanation of, or answer to, the question.</li><li>• Response includes clear and specific explanations, interpretations, and opinions of the text based on effective comprehension, inference, analysis, evaluation, and/or comparison.</li><li>• Response is supported with details from the text.</li></ul>
1	<b>1 point</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response provides a <b>partially complete and correct</b> explanation of, or answer to, the question.</li><li>• Response attempts to include explanations, interpretations, and opinions of the text, but they may be unclear or unsubstantiated, and they show limitation in comprehension, inference, analysis, evaluation, and/or comparison.</li><li>• Response is supported with limited details (in quantity or quality) from the text.</li></ul>
0	<b>0 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response is incorrect, irrelevant, or not provided.</li></ul>