

Kentucky Summative Assessments



Grade 10 Reading **Released Items** 2025

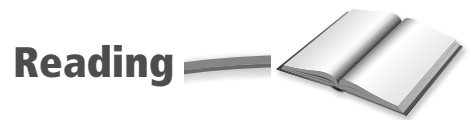


Directions: Read the passage from *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*. Then answer the questions.

from The Beekeeper's Apprentice

by Laurie R. King

- 1 I was fifteen when I first met Sherlock Holmes, fifteen years old with my nose in a book as I walked the Sussex Downs, and nearly stepped on him. In my defence I must say it was an engrossing book, and it was very rare to come across another person in that particular part of the world in that war year of 1915. In my seven weeks of peripatetic reading amongst the sheep (which tended to move out of my way) and the gorse bushes (to which I had painfully developed an instinctive awareness) I had never stepped on a person.
- 2 It was a cool, sunny day in early April, and the book was by Virgil. I had set out at dawn from the silent farmhouse, chosen a different direction from my usual—in this case southeasterly, towards the sea—and had spent the intervening hours wrestling with Latin verbs, climbing unconsciously over stone walls, and unthinkingly circling hedgerows, and would probably not have noticed the sea until I stepped off one of the chalk cliffs into it.
- 3 As it was, my first awareness that there was another soul in the universe was when a male throat cleared itself loudly not four feet from me. The Latin text flew into the air, followed closely by an Anglo-Saxon oath. Heart pounding, I hastily pulled together what dignity I could and glared down through my spectacles at this figure hunched up at my feet: a gaunt, greying man in his fifties wearing a cloth cap, ancient tweed greatcoat, and decent shoes, with a threadbare Army rucksack on the ground beside him. A tramp perhaps, who had left the rest of his possessions stashed beneath a bush. Or an Eccentric. Certainly no shepherd.
- 4 He said nothing. Very sarcastically. I snatched up my book and brushed it off.
- 5 “What on earth are you doing?” I demanded. “Lying in wait for someone?”
- 6 He raised one eyebrow at that, smiled in a singularly condescending and irritating manner, and opened his mouth to speak in that precise drawl which is the trademark of the overly educated upper-class English gentleman. A high voice; a biting one: definitely an Eccentric.
- 7 “I should think that I can hardly be accused of ‘lying’ anywhere,” he said, “as I am seated openly on an uncluttered hillside, minding my own business. When, that is, I am not having to fend off those who propose to crush me underfoot.” He rolled the penultimate *r* to put me in my place.
- 8 Had he said almost anything else, or even said the same words in another manner, I should merely have made a brusque apology and a purposeful exit, and my life would have been a very different thing. . . .



- 9 “You have not answered my question, sir,” I bit off.
- 10 He ignored my fury. Worse than that, he seemed unaware of it. He looked merely bored, as if he wished I might go away.
- 11 “What am I doing here, do you mean?”
- 12 “Exactly.”
- 13 “I am watching bees,” he said flatly, and turned back to his contemplation of the hillside.
- 14 Nothing in the man’s manner showed a madness to correspond with his words. Nonetheless I kept a wary eye on him as I thrust my book into my coat pocket and dropped to the ground—a safe distance away from him—and studied the movement in the flowers before me.
- 15 There were indeed bees, industriously working at stuffing pollen into those leg sacs of theirs, moving from flower to flower. I watched, and was just thinking that there was nothing particularly noteworthy about these bees when my eyes were caught by the arrival of a peculiarly marked specimen. It seemed an ordinary honeybee but had a small red spot on its back. How odd—perhaps what he had been watching? I glanced at the Eccentric, who was now staring intently off into space, and then looked more closely at the bees, interested in spite of myself. I quickly concluded that the spot was no natural phenomenon, but rather paint, for there was another bee, its spot slightly lopsided, and another, and then another odd thing: a bee with a blue spot as well. As I watched, two red spots flew off in a northwesterly direction. I carefully observed the blue-and-red spot as it filled its pouches and saw it take off towards the northeast.
- 16 I thought for a minute, got up, and walked to the top of the hill, scattering ewes and lambs, and when I looked down at a village and river I knew instantly where I was. My house was less than two miles from here. I shook my head ruefully at my inattention, thought for a moment longer about this man and his red- and blue-spotted bees, and walked back down to take my leave of him. He did not look up, so I spoke to the back of his head.
- 17 “I’d say the blue spots are a better bet, if you’re trying for another hive,” I told him. “The ones you’ve only marked with red are probably from Mr. Warner’s orchard. The blue spots are farther away, but they’re almost sure to be wild ones.” I dug the book from my pocket, and when I looked up to wish him a good day he was looking back at me, and the expression on his face took all words from my lips—no mean accomplishment. He was, as the writers say but people seldom actually are, openmouthed. He looked a bit like a fish, in fact, gaping at me as if I were growing another head. He slowly stood up, his mouth shutting as he rose, but still staring.
- 18 “*What* did you say?”



- 19 “I beg your pardon, are you hard of hearing?” I raised my voice somewhat and spoke slowly. “I said, if you want a new hive you’ll have to follow the blue spots, because the reds are sure to be Tom Warner’s.”
- 20 “I am not hard of hearing, although I am short of credulity. How do you come to know of my interests?”
- 21 “I should have thought it obvious,” I said impatiently, though even at that age I was aware that such things were not obvious to the majority of people. “I see paint on your pocket-handkerchief, and traces on your fingers where you wiped it away. The only reason to mark bees that I can think of is to enable one to follow them to their hive. You are either interested in gathering honey or in the bees themselves, and it is not the time of year to harvest honey. Three months ago we had an unusual cold spell that killed many hives. Therefore I assume that you are tracking these in order to replenish your own stock.”
- 22 The face that looked down on me was no longer fishlike.

From *THE BEEKEEPER’S APPRENTICE* by Laurie R. King, HarperCollins Publishers. © 1994 Laurie R. King.

1

RE926036906_1

Which word can replace “engrossing” in paragraph 1 without changing the tone or meaning of the sentence?

- A** absorbing
- B** inspiring
- C** overpowering
- D** upsetting



Released Item Performance

Kentucky Summative Assessments

Spring 2025

Grade 10

Reading

Item: RE926036906

Book Question Number: 1

Standard: RL.9-10, RL.9-10.4

Item Type: MC

Key: A

Student Group	Number of Students	Percent Correct	Average Item Score	Item Breakout Statistics - Answer Choice Options			
				A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)
All Students	48,633	48%	0.48	48%	31%	13%	7%
Gender							
Female	23,749	49%	0.49	49%	30%	14%	6%
Male	24,883	47%	0.47	47%	32%	12%	8%
Ethnicity							
African American	5,427	35%	0.35	35%	40%	16%	9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	72	53%	0.53	53%	32%	7%	8%
Asian	940	54%	0.54	54%	30%	9%	7%
Hispanic or Latino	4,907	40%	0.40	40%	34%	15%	11%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	82	44%	0.44	44%	35%	15%	6%
White (non-Hispanic)	34,827	51%	0.51	51%	29%	13%	7%
Two or more races	2,377	46%	0.46	46%	32%	14%	8%
Migrant							
Migrant	247	30%	0.30	30%	40%	18%	13%
English Learner							
English Learner	2,736	27%	0.27	27%	42%	17%	13%
Economically Disadvantaged							
Economically Disadvantaged	27,651	43%	0.43	43%	34%	14%	9%
Students with Disabilities							
Students with Disabilities	5,232	30%	0.30	30%	41%	16%	13%



2

RE926036597_3

What does the narrator's use of the word 'Eccentric' in paragraph 6 suggest about her opinion of Sherlock Holmes?

- A** She thinks he is hostile to her presence.
- B** She believes he is a member of the local nobility.
- C** She believes he thinks himself better than others.
- D** She thinks his fame has made him a powerful force.



Released Item Performance

Kentucky Summative Assessments

Spring 2025

Grade 10

Reading

Item: RE926036597

Book Question Number: 2

Standard: RL.9-10, RL.9-10.4

Item Type: MC

Key: C

Student Group	Number of Students	Percent Correct	Average Item Score	Item Breakout Statistics - Answer Choice Options			
				A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)
All Students	48,621	62%	0.62	11%	15%	62%	13%
Gender							
Female	23,743	64%	0.64	11%	13%	64%	12%
Male	24,877	59%	0.59	10%	17%	59%	13%
Ethnicity							
African American	5,418	54%	0.54	15%	17%	54%	15%
American Indian or Alaska Native	72	65%	0.65	11%	14%	65%	10%
Asian	940	62%	0.62	9%	20%	62%	10%
Hispanic or Latino	4,906	56%	0.56	14%	17%	56%	13%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	82	66%	0.66	15%	7%	66%	12%
White (non-Hispanic)	34,824	64%	0.64	9%	14%	64%	12%
Two or more races	2,378	62%	0.62	11%	14%	62%	13%
Migrant							
Migrant	247	47%	0.47	17%	19%	47%	17%
English Learner							
English Learner	2,731	44%	0.44	18%	21%	44%	17%
Economically Disadvantaged							
Economically Disadvantaged	27,643	58%	0.58	12%	16%	58%	14%
Students with Disabilities							
Students with Disabilities	5,227	48%	0.48	15%	20%	48%	17%



3

RE926038271_1

How does the narrator's analysis in paragraph 21 of Holmes's bee watching **most** impact the passage?

- A** It causes Holmes to be surprised by the narrator's knowledge and insight.
- B** It builds a sense of tension concerning the relationship of the narrator and Holmes.
- C** It develops a mysterious plot similar to one that may typically interest the narrator.
- D** It creates a feeling of confusion regarding Holmes's purpose for being on the hillside.



Released Item Performance

Kentucky Summative Assessments

Spring 2025

Grade 10

Reading

Item: RE926038271

Book Question Number: 3

Standard: RL.9-10, RL.9-10.5

Item Type: MC

Key: A

Student Group	Number of Students	Percent Correct	Average Item Score	Item Breakout Statistics - Answer Choice Options			
				A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)
All Students	48,617	42%	0.42	42%	25%	20%	12%
Gender							
Female	23,742	45%	0.45	45%	24%	19%	13%
Male	24,874	40%	0.40	40%	26%	22%	12%
Ethnicity							
African American	5,420	32%	0.32	32%	29%	25%	15%
American Indian or Alaska Native	72	38%	0.38	38%	18%	31%	14%
Asian	940	52%	0.52	52%	24%	16%	8%
Hispanic or Latino	4,904	37%	0.37	37%	27%	22%	14%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	82	34%	0.34	34%	28%	24%	13%
White (non-Hispanic)	34,821	44%	0.44	44%	25%	19%	12%
Two or more races	2,377	43%	0.43	43%	25%	20%	12%
Migrant							
Migrant	247	23%	0.23	23%	32%	28%	17%
English Learner							
English Learner	2,734	22%	0.22	22%	31%	29%	18%
Economically Disadvantaged							
Economically Disadvantaged	27,638	38%	0.38	38%	27%	22%	13%
Students with Disabilities							
Students with Disabilities	5,226	30%	0.30	30%	29%	25%	16%



4

RE926038506_4

Which detail from the passage illustrates the narrator's powers of deduction?

- A** “I was fifteen when I first met Sherlock Holmes, fifteen years old with my nose in a book as I walked the Sussex Downs, and nearly stepped on him.” (paragraph 1)
- B** “I had set out at dawn from the silent farmhouse, chosen a different direction from my usual—in this case southeasterly, towards the sea. . . .” (paragraph 2)
- C** “I dug the book from my pocket, and when I looked up to wish him a good day he was looking back at me. . . .” (paragraph 17)
- D** ““You are either interested in gathering honey or in the bees themselves, and it is not the time of year to harvest honey.”” (paragraph 21)



Released Item Performance

Kentucky Summative Assessments

Spring 2025

Grade 10

Reading

Item: RE926038506

Book Question Number: 4

Standard: RL.9-10, RL.9-10.3

Item Type: MC

Key: D

Student Group	Number of Students	Percent Correct	Average Item Score	Item Breakout Statistics - Answer Choice Options			
				A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)
All Students	48,613	58%	0.58	14%	18%	10%	58%
Gender							
Female	23,740	60%	0.60	13%	18%	9%	60%
Male	24,872	56%	0.56	15%	18%	10%	56%
Ethnicity							
African American	5,416	45%	0.45	20%	23%	12%	45%
American Indian or Alaska Native	72	61%	0.61	21%	11%	7%	61%
Asian	940	69%	0.69	11%	15%	6%	69%
Hispanic or Latino	4,907	51%	0.51	17%	21%	12%	51%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	82	51%	0.51	21%	12%	16%	51%
White (non-Hispanic)	34,819	61%	0.61	13%	17%	9%	61%
Two or more races	2,376	56%	0.56	14%	20%	10%	56%
Migrant							
Migrant	247	40%	0.40	25%	20%	15%	40%
English Learner							
English Learner	2,734	33%	0.33	25%	25%	17%	33%
Economically Disadvantaged							
Economically Disadvantaged	27,636	53%	0.53	16%	20%	11%	53%
Students with Disabilities							
Students with Disabilities	5,227	41%	0.41	22%	23%	14%	41%



5

RE926034894_3,4

Which details from the passage **best** imply that Sherlock Holmes is aggravated by the narrator's presence? Select **two** correct answers.

- A** "... a gaunt, greying man in his fifties wearing a cloth cap, ancient tweed greatcoat, and decent shoes . . ." (paragraph 3)
- B** "A tramp perhaps, who had left the rest of his possessions stashed beneath a bush." (paragraph 3)
- C** "He said nothing. Very sarcastically." (paragraph 4)
- D** "He rolled the penultimate *r* . . ." (paragraph 7)
- E** "Nothing in the man's manner showed a madness to correspond with his words." (paragraph 14)



Released Item Performance

Kentucky Summative Assessments

Spring 2025

Grade 10

Reading

Item: RE926034894

Book Question Number: 5

Standard: RL.9-10, RL.9-10.1

Item Type: MS

Key: C,D

Student Group	Number of Students	Percent Correct	Average Item Score	Item Breakout Statistics - Score Percentages		
				Score 0 (%)	Score 1 (%)	Score 2 (%)
All Students	48,210	56.7%	1.13	19%	49%	32%
Gender						
Female	23,560	58.2%	1.16	18%	47%	35%
Male	24,650	55.3%	1.11	19%	51%	30%
Ethnicity						
African American	5,304	49.4%	0.99	24%	54%	23%
American Indian or Alaska Native	71	59.9%	1.20	11%	58%	31%
Asian	936	62.6%	1.25	17%	41%	42%
Hispanic or Latino	4,768	48.6%	0.97	26%	50%	24%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	81	50.6%	1.01	23%	52%	25%
White (non-Hispanic)	34,685	58.8%	1.18	17%	48%	35%
Two or more races	2,365	57.5%	1.15	17%	51%	32%
Migrant						
Migrant	239	36.2%	0.72	38%	51%	11%
English Learner						
English Learner	2,538	34.1%	0.68	40%	51%	8%
Economically Disadvantaged						
Economically Disadvantaged	27,337	52.8%	1.06	22%	51%	27%
Students with Disabilities						
Students with Disabilities	5,142	42.6%	0.85	31%	52%	17%



6

RE926035281_3

Which sentence from the passage **best** implies that the narrator has the knowledge to be a “Beekeeper’s Apprentice”?

- A** “As I watched, two red spots flew off in a northwesterly direction.” (paragraph 15)
- B** “I shook my head ruefully at my inattention, thought for a moment longer about this man and his red- and blue-spotted bees, and walked back down to take my leave of him.” (paragraph 16)
- C** “‘I’d say the blue spots are a better bet, if you’re trying for another hive,’ I told him.” (paragraph 17)
- D** “‘I see paint on your pocket-handkerchief, and traces on your fingers where you wiped it away.’” (paragraph 21)



Released Item Performance

Kentucky Summative Assessments

Spring 2025

Grade 10

Reading

Item: RE926035281

Book Question Number: 6

Standard: RL.9-10, RL.9-10.1

Item Type: MC

Key: C

Student Group	Number of Students	Percent Correct	Average Item Score	Item Breakout Statistics - Answer Choice Options			
				A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)
All Students	48,615	63%	0.63	5%	22%	63%	10%
Gender							
Female	23,743	66%	0.66	4%	20%	66%	9%
Male	24,871	59%	0.59	6%	24%	59%	11%
Ethnicity							
African American	5,420	52%	0.52	8%	29%	52%	11%
American Indian or Alaska Native	72	64%	0.64	14%	19%	64%	3%
Asian	940	69%	0.69	4%	16%	69%	10%
Hispanic or Latino	4,904	52%	0.52	7%	28%	52%	13%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	82	63%	0.63	5%	18%	63%	13%
White (non-Hispanic)	34,820	65%	0.65	4%	21%	65%	10%
Two or more races	2,376	64%	0.64	6%	21%	64%	9%
Migrant							
Migrant	247	36%	0.36	11%	38%	36%	15%
English Learner							
English Learner	2,734	31%	0.31	12%	41%	31%	17%
Economically Disadvantaged							
Economically Disadvantaged	27,638	57%	0.57	6%	26%	57%	11%
Students with Disabilities							
Students with Disabilities	5,225	41%	0.41	9%	37%	41%	13%



7

RE926035569_2

Which statement **best** expresses a central theme of the story?

- A** People live in constant competition with one another.
- B** People often possess abilities that exceed initial expectations.
- C** People are naturally drawn to one another out of a need for survival.
- D** People try to maintain a state of balance between privacy and self-disclosure.



Released Item Performance

Kentucky Summative Assessments

Spring 2025

Grade 10

Reading

Item: RE926035569

Book Question Number: 7

Standard: RL.9-10, RL.9-10.2

Item Type: MC

Key: B

Student Group	Number of Students	Percent Correct	Average Item Score	Item Breakout Statistics - Answer Choice Options			
				A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)
All Students	48,614	53%	0.53	16%	53%	10%	20%
Gender							
Female	23,739	56%	0.56	17%	56%	9%	18%
Male	24,874	51%	0.51	16%	51%	11%	22%
Ethnicity							
African American	5,418	44%	0.44	17%	44%	15%	25%
American Indian or Alaska Native	72	57%	0.57	17%	57%	10%	17%
Asian	940	63%	0.63	11%	63%	8%	17%
Hispanic or Latino	4,905	48%	0.48	16%	48%	13%	22%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	82	54%	0.54	21%	54%	12%	13%
White (non-Hispanic)	34,820	56%	0.56	16%	56%	9%	19%
Two or more races	2,376	53%	0.53	17%	53%	10%	21%
Migrant							
Migrant	247	39%	0.39	16%	39%	20%	25%
English Learner							
English Learner	2,733	32%	0.32	19%	32%	21%	27%
Economically Disadvantaged							
Economically Disadvantaged	27,639	48%	0.48	17%	48%	12%	23%
Students with Disabilities							
Students with Disabilities	5,227	35%	0.35	17%	35%	17%	32%



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