Name _____ Date _____

# Main Idea and Quoting Accurately for Stated Details and Inferences: A Lighthouse Keeper's Day

**Directions:** Read about a keeper's work at a lighthouse. Check each answer against the passage.

## A Lighthouse Keeper's Day

North Carolina's Cape Lookout Lighthouse was finished in 1859. For decades, its beam came from an oil lamp with several wicks. Caring for that lamp went on day and night.

Around sunrise, the keeper put out the flame. The lens around the lamp held more than 1,000 glass prisms, and each one was cleaned every day. The keeper also cleaned the lamp and its brass parts. The windows and stairs were cleaned daily too. The lens gathered the lamp's light into a beam that ships could see far out at sea.

Keepers wrote down how much oil arrived and how much they burned. Every day, at least two cans of oil had to reach the lantern room. Each can weighed about 45 pounds, and carrying one up by hand meant climbing more than 200 steps. A horse pulling a rope may have lifted the cans along the tower's outer wall. At the top, the keeper poured the oil into the lamp.

The lamp usually burned from evening until morning. When storms hid the coast, the lamp burned during the day too. Keepers got the nickname wickies from a job they did at night. At night, the keeper clipped the wicks every four hours. Cutting the charred tips off the wicks kept soot off the lens, so the beam stayed bright.

The station had three keepers, who took turns. Each keeper was on duty for one full day and night and then had two days off. When one turn ended, another keeper took over.

**1.** What is the main idea of "A Lighthouse Keeper's Day"?

A. Writing down the oil that came in and the oil that was burned was part of a keeper's work.
B. Getting oil up to the lantern room was part of a keeper's daily work.
C. Cleaning the lamp and the glass around it was part of a keeper's daily work.
D. Keeping an oil lamp shining every night took a full round of daily work.

**2.** A reader can infer that getting oil to the lamp took strength. Which sentence from the passage best supports that idea?

A. "Each can weighed about 45 pounds, and carrying one up by hand meant climbing more than 200 steps."

B. "Every day, at least two cans of oil had to reach the lantern room."

C. "At the top, the keeper poured the oil into the lamp."

D. "Keepers wrote down how much oil arrived and how much they burned."

**3.** Which sentence from the passage explains why the keeper trimmed the lamp's wicks?

A. "Cutting the charred tips off the wicks kept soot off the lens, so the beam stayed bright."

B. "Keepers got the nickname wickies from a job they did at night."

C. "At night, the keeper clipped the wicks every four hours."

D. "The lens gathered the lamp's light into a beam that ships could see far out at sea."

**4.** The passage never says so outright, but a keeper at Cape Lookout was off duty more often than on. Which sentence from the passage is the best evidence for this?

A. "Around sunrise, the keeper put out the flame."

B. "Caring for that lamp went on day and night."

C. "Each keeper was on duty for one full day and night and then had two days off."

D. "When one turn ended, another keeper took over."

**5.** Caring for the lens was likely slow work. Which sentence from the passage would a reader quote to back up this inference?

A. "The lens around the lamp held more than 1,000 glass prisms, and each one was cleaned every day."

B. "The lens gathered the lamp's light into a beam that ships could see far out at sea."

C. "The keeper also cleaned the lamp and its brass parts."

D. "The windows and stairs were cleaned daily too."

**6.** A ship might see the light outside its usual hours. Which two sentences from the passage show when the lamp usually burned and when it burned at other times? Select two.

☐ A. "The lens gathered the lamp's light into a beam that ships could see far out at sea."

☐ B. "When storms hid the coast, the lamp burned during the day too."

☐ C. "Caring for that lamp went on day and night."

☐ D. "The lamp usually burned from evening until morning."

☐ E. "At night, the keeper clipped the wicks every four hours."

**7.** The keeper might have had a way to get oil to the lamp without carrying it up the stairs. Which sentence from the passage supports this inference?

A. "Every day, at least two cans of oil had to reach the lantern room."

B. "A horse pulling a rope may have lifted the cans along the tower's outer wall."

C. "Keepers wrote down how much oil arrived and how much they burned."

D. "At the top, the keeper poured the oil into the lamp."