

Word Choice 1

Run, Carl, Run!

1 The sound of my high-pitched shriek rang out through the neighborhood like a siren screaming a warning alarm. Through the twilight, I ran hard. I moved my feet faster than I ever had in my life. I could hear the panting of *something behind me*.

2 The creature—whatever it was—was huge. As big as an elephant. Maybe bigger. It was brown and had the longest red tongue in the animal kingdom. Its teeth were like a

through the open door. Falling on the floor inside, I kicked the door shut behind me.

5 Outside on the porch, I heard the sound of claws skidding up to the door. A few moments passed, and the creature heaved itself against the door and whined. It must really be hungry.

6 Then, and I say this with true terror, I heard a sound scarier than that panting and those claws and that whine. I heard a key in the lock! The creature knew how to come in my house and get me!

7 With a click, the door swung open. "Hey, Carl!"

crocodile's pointy chompers. Panting, I felt a stitch in my side. It hurt, causing me to slow down. Would the creature catch me? Would it eat me?

3 Finally, my house loomed before me. With sweat running into my eyes, I could barely see my own front door. I fumbled with the key. I dropped the key. The creature was turning down my front walk!

4 With a superhuman effort, I grabbed the key off the doormat, stuck it in the lock, and threw myself

8 *What?* I thought. *It knows my name?*

9 Then my dad popped through the open door. He turned to pull something big and heavy in after him.

10 "Look, Carl," Dad said. "I adopted this dog at the pound today. He's huge, but he's really just a big teddy bear. Oh, don't worry his bark is much worse than his bite. I was taking him for a walk. We were going to meet you at school and walk you home. But he got loose, and he ran ahead of me. Guess what? He already knows his way home, because he was on the front porch when I caught up to him just now. He's great, isn't he?"

1 When Carl says "I felt a stitch in my side," he means that—

- A a pin has gotten stuck in his clothing.
- B he is sewing his side with a needle and thread.
- C something is tickling him.
- D he feels a pain in his side.

- 2 Which sentence from the passage contains figurative language?
- A *Its teeth were like a crocodile's pointy chompers.*
 - B *With a click, the door swung open.*
 - C *He turned to pull something big and heavy in after him.*
 - D *He's great, isn't he?*

- 3 Which of the following words has nearly the same meaning as the word kicked used in paragraph 4?
- A closed
 - B shut
 - C slammed
 - D tapped

- 4 Reread these sentences from the passage.

The sound of my high-pitched shriek rang out through the neighborhood like a siren screaming a warning alarm.

The underlined phrase is an example of—

- A a simile.
 - B a metaphor.
 - C personification.
 - D an idiom.
- 5 When Carl's dad says the dog is really just a big teddy bear, he means that the dog is—
- A a toy.
 - B harmless.
 - C actually a bear.
 - D dangerous.
- 6 Which of the following words has nearly the same meaning as the word heaved in paragraph 5?
- A propped
 - B threw
 - C moved
 - D set

- 7 Explain the idiom his bark is much worse than his bite. Support your answer with evidence from the text.
