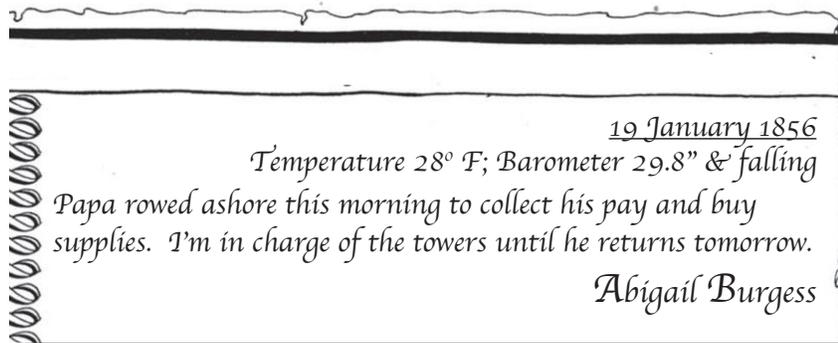


The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter



Abbie was 14 years old at the time.

“Abbie, play with me!” Jane called. “I’m bored!”

Abbie laid her pen down and closed the thick logbook. Trouble followed her sister everywhere, and if Abbie didn’t entertain her soon, she’d be wailing.

“Catch!” Jane shouted from across the yard and flung a red ball high into the air. When it disappeared over the eaves and didn’t come back, she began to whimper.

Abbie sighed and squinted into the sky. “It must be stuck on the roof again,” she said and stalked off to find the ladder. When she was alone on the roof, she gazed out across Matinicus Rock. “The Rock” as she and Jane called it, was thirty-four acres of bleak, wave-swept granite, twenty-two miles off the coast of Maine. Huge boulders, tossed carelessly by the sea during storms, provided the only landscape. Between the twin granite light towers nestled the small dwelling the Burgess family called home.

“When’s breakfast?” Jane called from below. “My stomach is starving.”

“When you fetch it,” Abbie called back. Couldn’t that girl do anything for herself?

The wind whipped Abbie’s long skirts as she climbed down the ladder with the ball and headed back to the kitchen. After fixing breakfast, she’d have to attend to the lamps in both towers: clean their glass, trim their wicks, fill them with oil. They had to be ready for the evening lighting.

Once inside, Abbie shut out the winter cold and kissed her mother lightly on the cheek, “How are you feeling, Mama?”

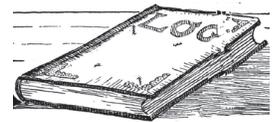
The tiny smile on Mama’s thin lips disappeared. “The pain’s moved into my wrist and fingers.”

“I’ll get you a warm cloth,” Abbie said. She lifted the heavy iron kettle off the stove and poured hot water into a bowl. Then she dipped a clean cloth in it, wrung out the steaming water, and placed the cloth over Mama’s hands. “This will ease your pain.”

Mama had developed arthritis after Jane was born. Most days she couldn’t get out of bed, so Abbie had to take care of the household chores—and of Jane.

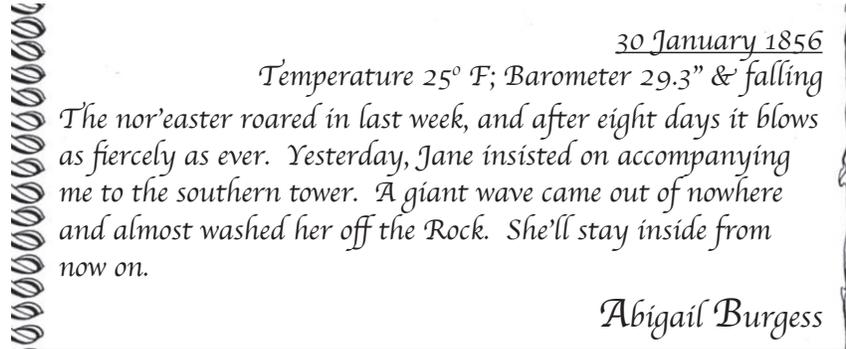
The kitchen door flung open. “A storm’s coming,” Jane said breathlessly.

Abbie peered out at the eastern sky, now flat and leaden. The sea had turned into a gray mass of waves. “A nor’easter,” she said calmly, but Papa wouldn’t be able to return until it was over. “I’d better get to the lamps. We could be in for a long haul.”



Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 7

LA.7.1.7.2 Form A



"Abbie!" Jane cried. "The floor is leaking!"

Abbie dropped her pen and dashed to the kitchen. Saltwater seeped under the door, spreading rapidly across the stone floor

"Jane, help me get the rest of the food," Abbie said. "Then I'll need your help with Mama. We ought to stay in the northern tower tonight."

"What about my hens?" Jane cried. "They'll drown if we don't bring them in!"

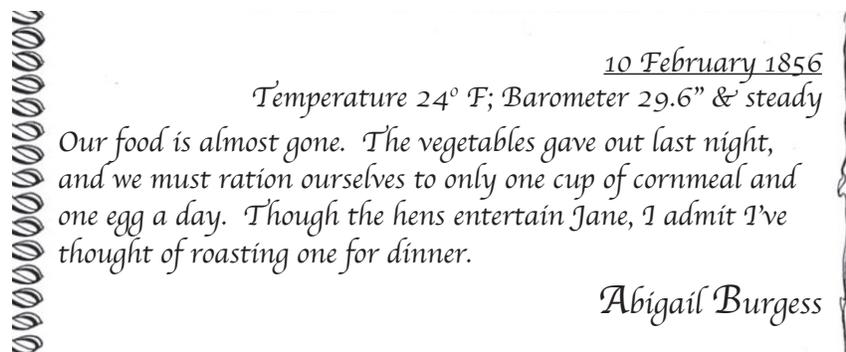
Abbie glanced out the window. The full fury of the storm was upon them, and massive black waves pounded the Rock. To go out now would be unwise and dangerous. She looked at Jane. The girl's small face was tight with fear for her beloved hens.

"Fetch me the basket," Abbie said. "I'll save your friends." She waited for a break in the rollers, then shoved the kitchen door open against the wicked fury of the wind. Her woolen skirt hung heavy as the icy water swirled around her knees. She waded the few yards to the chicken coop and snatched the frightened creatures, who squawked in protest. With her heart pounding wildly, Abbie clutched the basket to her chest and struggled back to the house. Once inside, she bolted the door, leaning against it and gasping for breath.

"Look! Look!" cried Jane from the window. "The sea is coming!"

Abbie dragged herself to Jane and looked out. An enormous wave swept the Rock, splintering the coop and washing away its remains.

"Come, Jane," Abbie said. "We must get Mama and hurry to the tower."

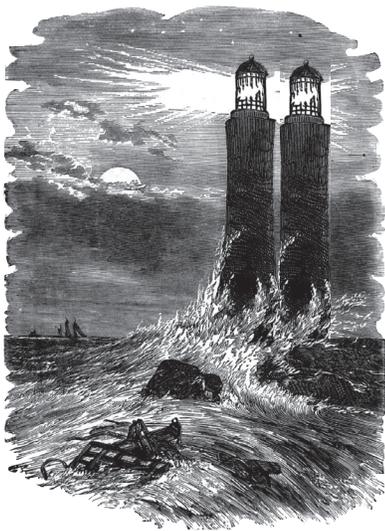


The yellow light from the lantern flickered across the pages of the logbook. Abbie rubbed her eyes. She'd have to check the tower lights shortly.

"Let's play catch," Jane said, bounding up into the lantern's light.

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 7

LA.7.1.7.2 Form A



“We can roll the ball across the floor,” Abbie said. “But we can’t throw it. If it mistakenly bounced into the lantern room, it would be disastrous.”

Jane stomped her foot loudly on the wooden floor. “I want to play catch!”

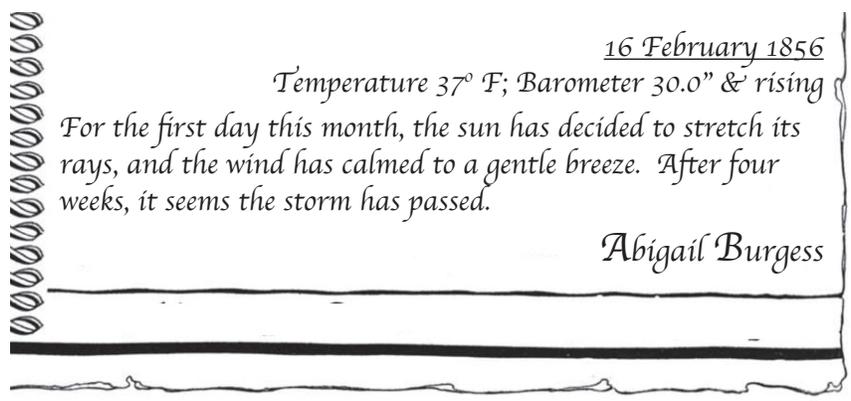
“No!” Abbie yelled back.

“Abbie!” Mama shouted. “Please keep it down.”

Abbie swung around, marched into the lantern room, and stared out the window. Angry black clouds rolled across the sky. That’s how I feel, she thought. She was tired of everyone depending on her. She leaned her forehead against the cold glass, fixing her eyes on the storm. A tiny light flickered among the fierce waves.

“A ship,” Abbie whispered. Captains relied on the towers to warn them of danger and guide them to safety. They needed her, just like Mama and Jane did. “I’d better get to work,” she sighed.

Abbie readied the lamp for another long night, then peeked into the room. Jane was sitting quietly, listening to Mama sing her a lullaby. Abbie tiptoed into the room and knelt beside her family. It felt warm and safe here while the storm raged on outside.



Abbie laid her pen down and opened the kitchen door. She leaned against the frame and breathed in the fresh salty air. The warmth of the sun felt good. The logbook could wait.

“Abbie!” a deep voice shouted. “Thank God you’re safe!”

The girl’s eyes flew open. “Papa!” She ran and flung herself into his strong arms.

“How are your mother and Jane?” Papa asked

“They’re fine,” Abbie said, snuggling deeper into his warm arms.

Papa tightened his hold on his daughter. “I looked every evening for the beams from our lighthouses. They were always there.”

“I was scared,” Abbie said. “I thought the storm would never end.”

Papa tilted Abbie’s face up and looked into her eyes. “I was scared, too. But you’re a strong girl. And I’m proud of you.”

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 7
LA.7.1.7.2 Form A

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage and choose the correct answer.

1. With which statement would the author of this passage most likely agree?

- A. The lighthouse keeper and his family did not have an easy life.
- B. The lighthouse keeper had no reason to be concerned about his family.
- C. The lighthouse keeper should have taken his family with him when he left.
- D. The lighthouse keeper could have tried to return to his family before the storm hit.

2. Read this excerpt from the passage.

After fixing breakfast, she'd have to attend to the lamps in both towers: clean their glass, trim their wicks, fill them with oil. They had to be ready for the evening lighting.

In the excerpt above, the author list specific chores related to the lamps in order to

- A. make the job seem difficult.
- B. prove that it was important to clean the lamps.
- C. suggest that Abbie had too many responsibilities.
- D. show the amount of work required to keep the lamps lit.

3. Read this excerpt from the passage.

She waited for a break in the rollers, then shoved the kitchen door open against the wicked fury of the wind. Her woolen skirt hung heavy as the icy water swirled around her knees. She waded the few yards to the chicken coop and snatched the frightened creatures, who squawked in protest. With her heart pounding wildly, Abbie clutched the basket to her chest and struggled back to the house.

What is the most likely reason the author describes the effects of the weather in this way?

- A. to demonstrate how the storm affected the hens
- B. to prove that Abbie should have left the hens alone
- C. to show the dangerous conditions as Abbie saved the hens
- D. to suggest that Jane should not have worried about the hens

4. The author most likely included Abbie's logbook entries to

- A. show how Abbie spent her days.
- B. share information in Abbie's own words.
- C. hint at Abbie's frustration during the storm.
- D. suggest that Abbie was not making good use of her time.

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 7
LA.7.1.7.2 Form A

ANSWER KEY

1. With which statement would the author of this passage most likely agree?
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Item #	Answer
1.	A
2.	D
3.	C
4.	B