

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.****The First Lady of Song**

Ella Fitzgerald was “the best there ever was. Amongst all of us who sing, she was the best.” The great singer Johnny Mathis said those words, and most people would agree with him. Ella Fitzgerald was an amazing performer of jazz and popular song. She has inspired many other singers.

Fitzgerald was born in Virginia but later moved to New York. At first, Fitzgerald’s dream was to dance. At sixteen, she entered a contest at the Apollo Theater. But when she walked onto the stage, she froze. Instead of dancing, she sang a song. The crowd loved it. Fitzgerald took first prize in the contest.

After she finished school, Fitzgerald joined the Chick Webb Band. She became a star with a lot of hit songs.

From the 1950s through the 1970s, Fitzgerald continued to impress audiences with her singing. She performed with all the best jazz musicians of her time. She was a true genius at performing. She was the best performer at “scat” singing. This is when a singer uses nonsense syllables to make the sounds of musical instruments.

Fitzgerald performed for fifty-eight years. In that time, she won thirteen Grammy awards and sold more than forty million records. She has surely been the First Lady of Song.

**Turn the page.**

Answer the questions below.

**1 Which of these is a statement of fact?**

- Fitzgerald was the best singer ever.
- Fitzgerald was born in Virginia.
- She was the best at “scat” singing.
- She must be the First Lady of Song.

**2 Which of these is a statement of opinion?**

- She later moved to New York.
- She sold more than forty million records.
- She was an amazing jazz performer.
- She performed for fifty-eight years.

**3 What happened that caused Ella Fitzgerald to sing a song at the Apollo Theater?**

- She joined the Chick Webb Band.
- She became too afraid to dance.
- She became a famous performer.
- She moved from Virginia to New York.

**4 Write a statement of fact about Ella Fitzgerald. Explain why it is a fact.**

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**5 Read the following sentence from the selection: She was a true genius at performing. Explain how you can tell that the sentence is a statement of opinion.**

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**Common Core State Standards**

**Questions 1–5: Informational Text 1.** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.