

READING PRE-TEST

Instructions: Read each question carefully and write your answers on a separate sheet of paper. If you cannot answer a question, select Don't Know.

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

I am very interested in the development and use of lasers. I first became interested after I saw the movie Star Wars. Curious if lasers were ever used in the real world, I began studying their origins. I did research at the library and found that a pulse laser is basically a device used for storing energy and then releasing it all at once to give an intense beam of light. Also, the word laser is an acronym for "Light Amplification by means of Stimulated Emission of Radiation." The different types of lasers are: solid state, gas, semiconductors, or liquid.

The first pulse laser was invented in 1960 by Theodore Maiman. It contained a ruby crystal and produced a short flash of light. His pulse laser has been improved and can now produce light 10 million times the intensity of sunlight.

In recent years, the laser has been used for many important tasks. In construction, the laser beam can be used for precise alignment in the building of tunnels and pipelines. Laser beams can also be used to measure distance and speed. For example, the Apollo astronauts used a laser beam and a special mirror to accurately measure the distance from the earth to the moon.

New uses for lasers are currently being developed in the medical world. Eye surgery and skin cancer treatment are performed with lasers. Also, lasers are beginning to replace radio waves in communication. Laser beams can carry many more channels of information than radio waves.

I now understand that laser beams are more than weapons in science fiction movies. Laser beams are instruments of the future. Research should continue to develop new and improved uses for the laser beam.

1. Why did the author write this passage?
- A. to familiarize the reader with the movie Star Wars
 - B. to convince the reader that Star Wars is a realistic movie
 - C. to persuade the reader to use laser beams
 - D. to inform the reader about laser beams
 - E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

On a foggy morning in early February, a female turtle swims toward the sandy shore of a lonely island in the sea. She struggles onto shore using her flippers to walk up the beach. She lumbers to a place in the sand where the water will not disturb her brood of eggs. When she finds a suitable location, she digs a deep hole in the sand. She digs throughout the day, lays her eggs, and finishes the laborious process by covering the hole with sand. As evening falls she finishes her task and walks back toward the sea, leaving the sand to tend to the eggs she will never see again.

The sun shines on the sand the next day; then night falls. The eggs remain undisturbed for at least 45 more days. Birds and animals do not suspect what lies under the sand. As the sun warms the sand, the temperature determines the gender of the turtles in their eggs. Warmer temperatures will produce female hatchlings, while cooler temperatures will result in male turtles. Finally, two feet under the sand something begins to happen. The hatchling turtles break through their tough, leathery shells and begin their arduous

journey to the sea. First the tiny turtles must climb through the sand that covers their nest. Their mother hid them well. They struggle against the sand for nearly a week.

When the young turtles reach the surface the real danger begins: a small turtle is a tasty snack for a bird flying over the beach. Instinctively the turtles move toward the water. They follow their unknown mother's trail to the sea. The baby turtles have been alive for a week and have yet to have a meal or a rest. As they come closer to the water, the sand becomes flatter and they move faster. They move quickly toward the waves that will pick them up and carry them to their new home. As they reach the waves they begin to swim. They will swim and the ocean will carry them for another week to their home in the sea. In three years the process will begin again, when the female turtle will return to the shore to deposit her eggs in the cradle of the deep sand.

2. Why did the author write this passage?

- A. to convince the reader to adopt a sea turtle
- B. to inform the reader about sea turtles
- C. to familiarize the reader with the birth of land turtles
- D. to persuade the reader to research the lives of sea turtles
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Traveling through the countryside was always a dangerous endeavor. Tonight it felt even more ominous because of the attack by a group of rogue colonists against the local Native American tribe. The rest of the colonists living in the town were indifferent to the natives, and the town had generally experienced a peaceful relationship with them. Unfortunately, a few "rebels" had stirred things up when they raided the natives' camp and killed two squaws. John did not relish the journey he was about to embark upon, but he knew that he had little choice. His mother was about to give birth, and he was the only sibling old enough to travel at night alone to fetch the doctor.

John mounted his horse, Lightning Jack, and headed off into the brisk night. As he traveled deeper into the woods, he began thinking about his mother and how much pain she must be in right now. He had experienced the birth of his younger sister, but he was only eight at the time and all he could remember were the chilling screams of his mother and the sight of the blood. Because John was focused on getting to Doctor Smith's cabin, he did not pay as much attention to his surroundings as he should have. Maybe if he hadn't been so distracted, he might have seen the attack coming before it was too late.

A young warrior jumped off the high rock that John was passing and landed right on the back of Lightning Jack with a sudden jolt. The horse was spooked and bucked both John and the warrior off his back. As John struggled with the boy, two other warriors came to help subdue John. They quickly tied him up with a leather strap, and they led him down the path along with Lightning Jack.

John realized he needed to think fast or he might not ever see his family again. He knew that some of the local natives in the tribe spoke a little English, so he hoped that once he got to the village he would be able to locate them in order to plead his case. As soon as the group entered the village, the entire community surrounded John and his horse. He couldn't understand what they were saying, but from what he could tell the elders were not pleased that the young boys had captured this white man.

Finally after what seemed like an eternity to John, an elderly Native American approached him and spoke in broken English. "We sorry you here, but some men hurt our squaws."

"I know. I heard the story and I am so sorry. I didn't have anything to do with the incident and all I want to do is fetch the doctor for my mom. She is about to give birth," stated John in a frantic pace.

"What?" responded the elderly man.

"I will talk slower. I do not want to hurt anyone. Please let me go." As John said this he lifted up his hands showing his desire to be free. The elderly man nodded, understanding what John was asking. However, instead of untying the knot, the man went back to the large gathering that had been watching silently during the entire conversation.

As John patiently awaited their decision, he began to think of his poor mother and his sister back at the cabin. He wished his dad was there, but he had left earlier that week to deliver some supplies to the Governor of the colony. It was quite an honor and his father really didn't have a choice in the matter. In fact, John remembered hearing the fight between his parents the night before his father left. John was left in charge, and now he was helpless to fulfill his commitment to his mother and family. He just wanted to escape so he could help his mom. He was so worried he almost forgot that they were deciding his fate at that moment.

As the elderly man approached John, he was unable to determine whether the outcome would be good or bad. The man seemed somber and John began to worry that this might be his last moment on earth. The elderly man spoke softly and stated, "We have decided to let you go. My people are not bad. We want peace."

While John felt the joy of being saved, the natives surrounded him and began chanting in a positive manner. Not only did John have his freedom, but the elderly man, who was also the medicine man, agreed to travel back to John's cabin to assist in his mother's delivery. They left immediately, but John contemplated whether he should still continue on to Doctor Smith's cabin. He knew his mom would be frightened when he returned with a Native American and not the doctor, but he didn't want to insult the man who saved his life. What to do? At this moral crossroads, John looked deep into his heart, and knew he had only one choice, which was to let the elderly man help his mom. The colonists needed to realize that the Native Americans were not a threat to their existence.

3. What was the name of John's horse?

- A. Lightening Jack
- B. Flash
- C. Midnight
- D. Lightening
- E. Don't Know

4. Is the underlined sentence the cause or the effect?

The couch was chewed to bits. Someone had left the puppy alone in the living room.

- A. cause
- B. effect
- C. Don't Know

5. Decide whether the underlined event is the cause or the effect.

Lillian failed the test; she didn't study.

- A. cause
- B. effect
- C. Don't Know

6. Identify the underlined portion of the sentence as either the cause or the effect.

A raptor uses the most energy during active flight, so the bird often glides between wing strokes in order to regain strength.

- A. cause
- B. effect
- C. Don't Know

7. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

The clock chimed at the midnight hour. Mrs. Warps stared out the window. "Where could they be?" she wondered.

The movie had ended over an hour ago. The theater was less than twenty minutes away. Even if they had been slightly delayed, they should have been home by now. Mrs. Warps paced across the kitchen. She would give them ten more minutes, and then she would go out to look for them.

She wondered why they hadn't called. Margie always remembered to call when she was going to be late. Mrs. Warp checked to see if the phone was working. She heard the dial tone endlessly humming. She replaced it on the cradle and walked back to the window.

Mrs. Warps wondered why they hadn't called because _____.

- A. she was expecting a call after the movie
- B. they were expected home at 11:30
- C. the phone was working
- D. Margie always remembered to call
- E. Don't Know

8. Read the passage and complete Blank 2.

Herb was excited about the contest. He had never heard of a race for food. He knew he could eat more cream pies than anyone else in the whole world. He did not eat breakfast, so he would have more 1 in his stomach. When he arrived at the fair, he saw many other children. He worried that these other children could eat more pie. Seeing the other children made him 2 and his stomach tightened.

- A. hungry
- B. fearless
- C. nervous
- D. Don't Know

9. Read the passage and complete Blank 2.

It has been a tradition that students in the twelfth grade be allowed to leave the school campus during the lunch period. Unfortunately, many students arrived back to campus late and were therefore tardy to class. The principal believed the only way to solve this problem was to eliminate the open-campus lunch policy. He made the announcement at the student assembly. The students expressed so much 1 to the change in policy that the principal decided to leave the existing policy in place. The grateful students promised to 2 their tardiness and return to campus on time after lunch.

- A. continue
- B. depreciate
- C. conceal
- D. amend
- E. Don't Know

10. Read the passage and complete Blank 3.

As the team loaded the bus for the championship game there was 1 in the air. The team had been undefeated this season, and everyone had high hopes that their last game would also end in victory. The coach gathered his players around for one final 2 as the cheerleaders practiced their new routine. There was quite a crowd of students and faculty in the parking lot waiting to join the caravan traveling to the rival high school in a nearby town. Cheers were heard blocks away as the players 3 the bus. The procession out of the high school parking lot resembled a parade as cars honked and passengers waved pennants at passersby.

- A. disembarked
- B. stalled
- C. boarded
- D. recessed
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

"Did you see Marge at the park?" Jim asked.

"No, but I did see Hank. He asked us to meet him for pizza. Do you want to go?" Kim asked.

"I love pizza," said Jim with a smile. "I told my mom I'd be home by seven. What time does Hank want to meet?"

"He said he'd be at the pizza place around five. He's going to play video games until we get there."

"That sounds like fun," Jim said. "Do you think Hank will want to play a video game with me?"

"I think so," said Kim, laughing. "What is your favorite video game?"

"Mouse Maze."

"I like that game, too!" said Kim.

Jim exclaimed, "I almost forgot about pizza! What toppings should we get?"

"How about ham and cheese?"

"I don't like ham," said Jim.

"Then a cheese pizza would be best. It will make us all happy," said Kim.

"Talking about pizza is making me hungry. Let's hurry to meet Hank," said Jim.

11. What video game do both Kim and Jim like?

- A. Treasure Chest
- B. Mouse Maze
- C. Road Racer
- D. Star Gazer
- E. Don't Know

Read the following story and answer the questions that follow.

"Fall is my favorite season of the year," Kelly said with a smile.

"You just like to play in the leaves when we rake them into piles," her brother Jason said.

"No, she likes to get dressed up in her warm clothes," Dad said.

"No, my favorite part of fall is carving pumpkins. It's the only time Mom lets me make a huge mess. I can create either a monster face or a friendly face. I wish I could carve pumpkins all year long."

"I wish we could eat the pumpkin seeds all year long," Jason and Dad said in perfect harmony.

"Well, if you planted some of the pumpkin seeds we could have several pumpkins each October. Then, Kelly could carve several pumpkins, and Jason and Dad could eat pumpkin seeds until they're sick of them!" Mom said.

"Great idea!" said Kelly.

"I think we should try it this year," said Jason.

"Come on!" said Dad. "What are we waiting for? Let's go to the store right now and buy a pumpkin."

12. How did the passage end?

- A. with Kelly's suggestion that they go buy a pumpkin
- B. with Mom's suggestion that they go buy a pumpkin
- C. with Jason's suggestion that they go buy a pumpkin
- D. with Dad's suggestion that they go buy a pumpkin
- E. Don't Know

13. Tell how the speaker probably feels.

"I don't want to clean my room," said John. "I just want to sit on the couch and watch T.V."

- A. silly
- B. happy
- C. lazy
- D. Don't Know

Read the dialogue and answer the questions that follow.

"Joe, I'm not too sure about joining the Pony Express. California seems too far from us here in Missouri."

"Don't be ridiculous," Joe said, "Sacramento, California is only 1,996 miles from St. Joseph, Missouri. We can make the run in eight days."

"Eight days! I can't sit in a saddle for eight days," Jed hollered.

"The Pony Express is a relay system. You ride for about 50 miles, then someone else takes over and so on. Understand?"

"I heard that Buffalo Bill Cody once stayed in his saddle for 320 miles."

"I said about 50 miles. This is going to be a great adventure. We'll be carrying urgent messages to important people. We'll be heroes! Maybe we'll get to meet President Lincoln!"

"If we don't die from a flood, blizzard or the desert heat."

"Only one piece of mail has been lost since the Pony Express started over a year ago," Joe bragged.

"You're kidding!"

"It's true. And the success of the Pony Express helped get California into the Union."

"Let's finish eating."

"You better stop eating that apple pie. A Pony Express rider must weigh less than 135 pounds," Joe warned.

"I'll starve! I don't think it's worth it."

"You'll earn \$50 to \$150 dollars a month!"

Jed threw down the pie and said, "Why didn't you say so? Let's go!"

14. Why did Jed agree to join the Pony Express?

- A. It will be exciting.
- B. He will earn money.
- C. He likes horses.
- D. He wants to visit California.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

"Come on, Tim. We'll be late for the game!" yelled John.

"Hold on. I just want to call Doug."

Tim picked up the phone and dialed. "Hi, Doug? John and I are heading to the game right now. You should have an official baseball by the end of the day! Bye!"

John and Tim grabbed their backpacks, shoved in their gloves and some sandwiches, and headed for the bus stop. This was the first time their mother and father were letting them go to a baseball game on their own.

"John, did you remember the tickets?" asked Tim.

"Of course I did! We want to get into the game, don't we?" replied John.

Once the boys got off the bus at the ballpark, they ran toward the stadium.

"I just know I'm gonna catch a foul ball. We've got the best seats for catching a foul ball. Doug will be so happy when we bring a ball home for him," beamed Tim.

"I've been waiting all season to catch one. Maybe we'll both catch one! Wouldn't that be great?" asked John.

Tim replied, "Yeah, we could give one to Doug and keep one for ourselves!"

Tim and John got to their seats just as the pitcher threw the first pitch. It was a strike. The next two

pitches were strikes. The batter threw down his bat as he trudged back to the dugout, mad that he didn't make a hit.

"Wow! He's the best pitcher they have," said John.

During the seventh inning, Tim and John bought peanuts and lemonade. They unwrapped their packed sandwiches and started eating.

Tim had a worried expression on his face. "It's the seventh inning already, and there hasn't been one foul ball hit near our seats. We can't go home without a ball for Doug!"

John nodded in agreement. "It would really cheer Doug up if we could bring him a ball from the game. He hasn't had much to be happy about lately. I heard he has to go back in the hospital next week."

Tim and John rose to leave at the end of the game empty-handed. They hadn't caught a foul ball. Both boys wore sad, tired expressions on their faces.

"Maybe we could go to the game on Saturday," John suggested.

Tim shook his head. "We're going to Aunt Jane's this weekend. This game was our only chance."

The boys dragged their feet on the way to the bus stop.

"What are you boys so sad about?"

Tim and John wheeled around. In front of them stood the star player of their favorite team.

"I-- we--" stuttered Tim.

John just stared at the ballplayer with his mouth open in amazement.

"Would a couple of autographed game balls cheer you up?" offered the player.

The star player pulled two baseballs out of his bag and reached for a pen.

"Could you sign one for us and one for our friend?" Tim asked timidly.

"I think I can manage that!" The player grinned and signed the baseballs.

When he finished, the player tossed the balls to Tim and John. "Thanks for coming to the game, boys. See you next time!"

Tim and John ran to the bus stop with big grins on their faces and the autographed baseballs held tightly in their fists.

15. This story is told _____.

- A. out of order
- B. in the order that it happened
- C. as a flashback from Tim's memory
- D. in backwards order
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Andrew dashed up the front steps of the little log cabin as the sun was rising. He tried the knob. It turned and the door swung open. "Gil! Let's go! We've got to get on the lake before the ranger does!" As he waited, Andrew wiped off some loose paint flakes coming off the cabin door. Slowly, shuffling like an old man, Andrew's friend Gil headed toward the door.

"I don't think this is such a good idea. If we get caught we'll be in really big trouble," Gil whispered.

"Why are you being such a wimp? We won't get caught. The park ranger won't be up this early," chided Andrew.

"Okay, okay. Let's get the oars and the fishing rods from the shed out back," Gil mumbled as he stifled a yawn.

Once the two boys gathered their fishing equipment in their arms, they made for the rowboat down at the dock in front of their family's cabins.

"Okay, untie us," commanded Andrew as he loaded the last of the fishing equipment into the rowboat. Gil unwound the boat rope and the boys began to drift out to the center of the placid lake. As they drifted away, a man watched them from the shore.

"I hope we have better luck than yesterday. Must have been three hours before--"

"Wzzzzzzzz!" Andrew's fishing line whirred like crazy through his rod. "Wow! I've already got something!" His line continued sailing through the rod. "This fish must be a monster!"

"Well what are you waiting for? Start reeling it in!" Gil exclaimed.

Andrew leaned back, planted his feet firmly, and reeled in his catch. His fishing line danced around as he pulled up a glistening largemouth bass.

"Look at the size of this thing! It's got to be at least 15 pounds!" shouted Andrew.

"Sssshhhh! Do you want the park ranger to hear us? We've got to get this fish back to your cabin before he catches us!" Gil whispered loudly.

"I don't see what the big deal is about fishing when we could fish here last year."

"Not so fast, son."

Andrew and Gil whipped their heads around to the other side of the rowboat. A uniformed park ranger had pulled up alongside their boat, his hand resting on the electric motor of his canoe.

"I already told you why there's no fishing this year; the fish population has been completely depleted from overfishing. Now you boys are going to have to come with me."

The next morning, Andrew and Gil trudged slowly up the steps of the boat rental office. Once inside, they stepped behind the counter and put on vests with "Silver Lake" stitched on the pocket.

"I can't believe the ranger is making us work here without pay, just because we caught a stupid fish," muttered Gil.

"Yeah, there goes summer vacation," sighed Andrew.

16. The resolution of this story occurs when _____.

- A. Andrew dashes up the steps of Gil's cabin
- B. the boys must work in the boat rental office for free as a penalty
- C. Andrew's father tries to get Andrew out of the boat rental job
- D. Andrew catches the fish, and the ranger comes up to their boat
- E. Don't Know

Read the story carefully and answer the questions that follow.

"Did you hear what happened?" exclaimed Leah as she ran toward her friend at the front of the stadium. "Alejandro kicked the winning field goal in the last two seconds of the game, and we won the championships!"

"Wow! They did it! Who would have thought Alejandro could make such a gigantic comeback in such a short time. It was only six months ago that he got out of the hospital," Karina responded.

"I know, and some of the doctors even said that he might not walk again," Leah reminded her.

"I think those doctors should have been here today," Karina stated emphatically. "How did Lucas and Mike play in the game?"

"They played incredibly well, too. Mike made a touchdown and Lucas tackled anyone who came near him," reported Leah. "I'm sorry you didn't get to see it yourself."

"So am I! Ticket-taking and security is a long and boring job, especially," Karina added, "when you miss a good game! Hey, where is the victory celebration going to be? Let's go and congratulate the team. Besides, I'm starving."

"It's going to be at Checkie's Diner. They rented out the whole place for us! Mr. C. is so proud of Alejandro and the others who were in the accident that he wanted to do something special for the whole team and the school," Leah related.

"Great, let's go! Hey, there's Lucas. Lucas! Lucas! Are you going to the party? Do you want to ride with us? . . . Why do you look so down?" Karina inquired, suddenly concerned about her friend's subdued demeanor.

"Oh, I'm all right. It was just an exhausting game. It's been an exhausting year," sighed Lucas. "But I do want to go to the party. I'm thrilled that we won, especially since three of us ended up in the hospital last year."

"This year ended a lot better for the team, with a victory and no bus accident," Karina teased gently, hoping to cheer him up a bit. "A meal and some fun with friends will make you feel better. We are all so proud of the team, especially the three of you who were injured last year. Most people didn't think you would play at all this year. But you did and you won! Hey, how about a game of air hockey while we wait for our food? Winner pays for all!"

"Oh, gee, what a deal! I think I'll let you win," Lucas grinned. "I feel better; actually, I feel hungry!"

"Come on," encouraged Leah, "I'll drive. There are hamburgers, fries, and malts just waiting for us at the diner!"

"Let's go!" shouted Lucas and Karina in unison.

"Race you to the car, Lucas," shouted Karina as she shot past him.

"You'll never beat me," retorted Lucas as he raced to catch her.

"Just remember who has the keys," Leah taunted as she casually walked after the other two.

17. What happened prior to the story?

- A. There was a victory celebration.
- B. There was a party at Checkie's Diner.
- C. The championship game was played.
- D. Leah and Karina ate dinner.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Where had the time gone? Julian couldn't believe that two weeks had passed since Mr. Flores assigned

the project. He had been in denial about the amount of work he had to do, and he had repeatedly succumbed to distractions instead of starting his project.

One afternoon Julian's best friend, Ramon, had asked, "What are you up to tonight after softball practice?" Julian had pondered the question briefly before replying, "Well, I should begin my presentation for Mr. Flores' class, but I think I'll watch television instead."

The following day after school, Ramon had asked Julian, "So are you going to work on your presentation today? I'm going to be hanging out at the library if you want to meet me there." Julian had hastily dismissed Ramon's offer. "Thanks buddy," he had said, "but I'm going to meet Donna and Aaron at the movie theater to grab a bite to eat and catch a flick."

This familiar dialogue had continued for the rest of the week. Every time Ramon had proposed that they work on their projects, Julian had balked at the idea. He had always had something better to do.

But now it was time for Julian to panic. Ramon stood before him saying, "I wish I could be like you, Julian, and not worry about the fact that our projects are due in one week. I'm off to the library again to finish my research and begin organizing my note cards."

Julian was incredulous. "Did you say one week?" he gasped. "I have a ton of work to do and there's not nearly enough time!" Julian was staggered by the sudden realization of his predicament. He felt as if a bomb had dropped.

Ramon chose this moment to remind Julian of his other obligations. "Don't forget about our softball team dinner tomorrow night," he said. "We also volunteered to work two days this week at the concession stand for the senior play. And then there's that exam in Mr. Peterson's class on Friday -- the same day as our presentations." Julian felt utterly dejected. "When it rains it pours," he said. He had squandered his time, and now the situation was dire. "I can't believe how irresponsible I've been. How am I going to finish everything by Friday? It's not possible!" He moaned lugubriously.

Ramon didn't like hearing his friend sound so defeated. "Come on, Julian," he said. "You can accomplish anything you put your mind to. You'll just have to work around the clock. I'll help out by bringing you massive amounts of coffee and soda."

Feeling slightly encouraged, Julian went straight home and began working. On Wednesday he pulled an all-nighter, and on Thursday night he allowed himself only a two-hour nap. He felt tired and harried, but he vowed to finish.

At school on Friday, Julian could barely stand up straight. "Julian, you look like a walking zombie," chortled Ramon. "I feel like a walking zombie," replied Julian, "but I finished Mr. Flores' project, and I studied for Mr. Peterson's exam." He resolved at that moment to devote more time to his studies and less time to entertaining diversions like movies, dinners, and television. "From now on," Julian announced, "school comes first." Ramon beamed with approval.

18. Julian's friend, Ramon could best be described as_____.

- A. pessimistic
- B. unsupportive
- C. indifferent
- D. conscientious
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

As the alarm clock continued to buzz in my ear like a productive colony of worker bees, I slowly reached out to silence the incessant noise. It was then that I realized that although my dad was nowhere in

sight, I could distinctly hear him reviewing his agenda for the morning. "Drop my suits off at the cleaners, pick up a dozen bagels, and make it to the office for my nine o'clock meeting."

I looked around, puzzled that I could hear my dad so clearly, but he wasn't in the room. "Dad!" I yelled. He came running down the hall. "It's about time you got out of bed," he said when he saw me standing at the foot of my bed still in my pajamas. "Get a move on, Matthew. There's toast on the kitchen table. I've got to run, I have..."

"I know," I interrupted before he could finish, "you have a nine o'clock meeting."

"That's right," he said. "But, how did you know that?" he asked incredulously.

"Dad," I said, "You must have been talking to yourself out loud, because I clearly heard you say that you had to go to the cleaners, pick up bagels, and get to the office for your meeting." He looked at me suspiciously.

"Look, Matthew, maybe I did so without realizing it, but I don't have time to argue right now. I have to run. Have a good day and I'll see you at dinner."

Suddenly, I heard my sister Pam's voice loud and clear. "If I don't pull an A in English this quarter, I can kiss that scholarship goodbye!" I poked my head out into the hall and looked down both ends. Pam wasn't there. I walked down the hallway until I came to her bedroom.

When I knocked she called out impatiently, "What do you want, Matthew, I'm going to be late!"

"Pam," I said as she yanked the door opened, "were you just out in the hall talking about your English grade?" She looked at me almost as peculiarly as my father had earlier.

"What in the world are you talking about, Matthew? I've been in my room this whole time. And for what it's worth I was thinking about my English grade!" she huffed.

I backed out of her bedroom, more confused than ever. This certainly had turned into a very long morning, and I hadn't even gone to school yet! I shrugged the whole thing off and quickly jumped in the shower. Fifteen minutes later, toast in hand, I ran to board the school bus before it pulled away from the curb.

"What do you mean my hair looks goofy?" I said to my best friend, Tony.

He looked startled. "Matthew, I didn't say that, but I have to admit that I was thinking it," he said. "How did you know what I was thinking?"

Suddenly it all fell into place. "Hey, Tony, remember that Chinese restaurant we went to last night?"

"Yeah," he said slowly.

"Well, remember my fortune?" I asked.

"Not exactly," he said looking at me oddly.

"Sure you do," I insisted. "It said that I was going to soon know more than I'd ever dreamed. I thought it meant I was going to get smarter, but what it must have meant was that I was going to know what other people were thinking!" I shouted. "How cool is that?" I asked my friend.

Tony thought about it for a minute before replying. "I don't know if I'd want to know everything that everybody else was thinking."

Just as I was beginning to think that it was sour grapes on his part, I heard the thoughts of Jessica, the girl I'd been trying to get up the nerve to talk to for the first half of the school year. "Matthew really is a weird looking guy," she was thinking. My ego was terminally deflated.

"Maybe I don't want to know everything that everyone else is thinking after all," I thought to myself.

Suddenly I had an idea. "Tony, what are you doing after school today?" I asked.

"Same old thing, play a few video games, watch a little television, homework when my mom insists," he rambled on.

"Tony, would you go with me, back to that Chinese restaurant? I've got to talk to that ancient man who owns it. He must know how I can stop this thing!"

"Alright," Tony agreed hesitantly. "I'll meet you out in front of the school at dismissal. Good luck today," he said as we parted ways when the first bell rang.

When I got to my first period class my teacher greeted me at the door. Even though she smiled and said "good morning", I clearly heard her thoughts. "One more year of these little brats and I can retire somewhere

warm!" I sighed. It was going to be a very long day.

19. What is the theme of this story?

- A. Tony is a good friend to Matthew and should not be jealous of his gift.
- B. Sometimes it can be painful to learn what people are honestly thinking.
- C. Never eat fortune cookies from a Chinese restaurant.
- D. There is no theme.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

How had he gotten himself into this predicament? Sean thought back to when the whole mess had begun. It had started out innocently enough last summer when his father had mentioned that they had better plan a few weekend trips to various colleges around the state. "After all," his dad had said emphatically, "there hasn't been a Griffin that hasn't graduated from college since our family sailed into New York Harbor at the turn of the century!"

Sean groaned; he'd only heard that comment at least a thousand times. "Dad, I know the story," Sean said, hoping to avoid another retelling of how hard his grandfather had worked to save the money to attend New York University. What his dad didn't know was that Sean wasn't even sure if he wanted to attend college.

Looking back on the situation, Sean had to admit that it was his own fault. He should have leveled with his dad back then. Instead, he had endured the weekend trips to the colleges throughout the state. Each one was the same.

"Sean," his dad would begin enthusiastically, "can you believe that next year you'll be attending classes on one of these beautiful campuses?"

"No, Dad, it hardly seems possible." What Sean really meant was that he had no idea what he wanted to do with his life, so how could he decide where he would go to school? That was how the entire summer had gone. He knew that it was cowardly, but he wished that his dad was clairvoyant so that he would know how Sean really felt.

Now that he was beginning his senior year of high school, Sean was expected to begin completing college applications. "Dad," Sean said casually that morning at breakfast, "I'm not so sure about college."

"I know what you mean, Son, there are so many good schools. I envy you getting to enjoy all the things that college life has to offer. Did I ever tell you that those were my happiest years?" his dad asked.

Sean started to think that maybe his dad wanted to live vicariously through him, because he missed his own college days. Sean tried again, "No, Dad, that's not what I mean. It's not that I'm confused about which college to attend, but rather if I want to attend at all!"

Sean's father looked appalled. "I'm not going to let you flush your whole future down the drain because of some whimsical idea that you don't need college!"

"Dad, that's not what I'm saying," Sean tried again.

His father cut him off quickly, "Your great-grandparents set a precedent more than fifty years ago, and you're not going to break it!"

Sean replayed the whole scene from that morning in his head. Dejectedly, he realized that his dad would never understand his feelings. He thought about the decision that he had made. School had never been easy for Sean, but his dad had never wanted to admit that. Sean knew that he didn't want to struggle through another four years of college, especially if he was unsure about what he wanted to do. When the city bus pulled to a stop, Sean sighed. He grabbed his backpack and made his way to the front of the bus. He got off the bus hesitantly. Looking up the street, he saw the Army recruiting office. He walked slowly up the street. When he

got to the door, he pushed it open slowly. A booming voice greeted him, "You're just what the army is looking for, son!"

20. At the end of the story, how do you think Sean is feeling?

- A. confused
- B. relieved
- C. angry
- D. indifferent
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

One day I went for a walk. I found a tiny egg in the grass. The egg had little blue dots on it.

"What could it be?" I wondered. "Is it a bird egg? Is it a snake egg?"

My mother called me in for lunch.

"What do you have in your hand, Tom?" she asked.

"I don't know. But I know a mother is sad somewhere because she lost an egg."

We ate lunch. I held the egg in my lap.

Tap tap tap! The sound came from the egg. A tiny brown beak peeked out from the egg.

"It's a bird!" I yelled.

"I bet it came from that robin's nest in the front yard," my mother said.

We ran to the front yard. The baby bird pecked and pecked. I could see his head!

My mother took the egg from my hand. "If we put it in the nest now, the mother will take care of it when it hatches."

"But I want to keep it as a pet!" I said.

My mother said, "You know the baby bird needs its mother. That's where it belongs!"

I was sad all afternoon. Why couldn't I keep the baby bird?

One morning my mother called me out to the yard.

"Remember your baby bird?" she asked.

"Of course!" I said.

My mother pointed to the bird's nest. "Look!"

I stood on my toes. There was the baby bird. Its mother was feeding it! It looked strong and happy.

"Aren't you glad we found the bird's home?" my mother asked.

"Yes!" I was happy I had given the baby bird back to its mother.

21. Which sentence from the passage makes it end happily?

- A. One morning my mother called me out to the yard.
- B. "Remember your baby bird?" she asked.
- C. There was the baby bird.
- D. It looked strong and happy.
- E. Don't Know

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Bermuda Triangle can be found off the coast of the southeastern United States. It is an area that is

only a couple of miles in diameter. Since the beginning of aviation, there have been numerous reports of missing aircraft in the small area. Hundreds of such accounts have been verified by the Federal Aviation Bureau. What's most puzzling is that the planes, crews, and passengers have disappeared leaving absolutely no trace of wreckage or other physical evidence.

The earliest record of such an incident in the "Point of No Return," or "Sky Trap Zone," as it's also been called, occurred in 1943. A small English plane containing twelve passengers and a crew of three inexplicably disappeared during a flight. In its last radio transmission, the navigator stated that the weather was clear, and they were on course, approximately five hundred miles from Bermuda. Several hours later, there was no further transmission, and the plane could not be located on radar. The most puzzling factor was that there was no evidence of wreckage. A search party that was sent out was baffled by the lack of physical evidence. None of the people aboard the flight were ever found.

Even more unbelievable than the fate of the British flight in 1943 is the mysterious series of events that took place in June of 1958. It began with the take-off of a small military plane out of the Naval Air Station in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Practice operations in which pilots underwent routine flight pattern exercises were common occurrences out of the base. Shortly after the departure of the first plane, two others became airborne. Within twenty minutes, all three pilots reported that they could not see land and were unsure of their positions. The last radio communication was cut off in mid sentence and revealed nothing as to the fate of the three pilots. None of the pilots returned to the base, and once again, no wreckage or remains were ever located.

During the last fifty years, there have been hundreds of such incidents, none of which can be explained. Experts in the aviation field won't even hypothesize as to the cause of such mysterious events.

22. What is the most mysterious unexplained phenomenon about the Bermuda Triangle?

- A.** No debris has ever been discovered from any of the missing aircraft.
- B.** The Bermuda Triangle is very small.
- C.** Only military planes are affected.
- D.** Only English aircraft are affected.
- E.** Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The yearbook committee had only two weeks before its final deadline, and David was starting to worry about the subcommittee's ability to turn in the necessary components on time. He had never been in charge of such a monumental project before. He had handled the task well up until the past few weeks, when he became extremely stressed over his friends' inability to follow through with their responsibilities.

David would never have accepted the job of yearbook editor had he realized what a precarious position it would put him in. He never wanted to be perceived as the "bad guy," and it seemed as though this job required him to criticize his friends more than he liked. He didn't enjoy having to harass his friends to complete their layouts in time for the deadlines. It was as if his friends blamed him for creating arbitrary deadlines, when in reality it was the yearbook company in Texas that set the pace for the yearbook.

As David continued to wrestle with this predicament, he could not believe the audacity of some of his friends. They seemed to think that if they didn't fulfill their commitments and meet their deadlines, it would be okay because their best friend was the yearbook editor. The anger inside of him continued to well up until he thought he was going to explode at the next person who walked into his office and asked for an extension on a deadline.

David's frustrations continued to mount until the yearbook coordinator, Mr. Arhens, called him into his office to give him some support. David finally broke down and vented his frustrations, and he felt relieved at

the end of the meeting. David and Mr. Arhens were able to work out a plan of action for those who were unwilling to complete the required portion of the yearbook. David realized that diplomacy was a trait he greatly needed in order to achieve a quality yearbook for his school.

By the time David returned to his office after meeting with Mr. Arhens, a number of committee members had been looking for him. Now, with a rejuvenated sense of self, David was able to effectively lead his motley crew. His first plan of action was to call a meeting of all the subcommittee chairs. He decided his plan of attack would be to encourage his staff, not to berate them. He realized if he gained the support of key members on his team, the likelihood of the yearbook being completed on time would greatly increase.

David decided to hold the meeting in a neutral location, the Pizza Joint. He thought that if he created a positive incentive such as free pizza, he could motivate his staff and also get a better response from among the ranks. As he started the meeting, he realized that this was going to be an arduous task, attempting to meld together such a diverse group of individuals. Finally, he pleaded with them to work with him for the next two weeks instead of against him. The group agreed to support him and meet their deadlines. As the meeting adjourned, David felt a sense of relief, as if a four-ton weight had been lifted off his back.

The next day at school David floated down the hallways, high from his sense of accomplishment at the meeting the previous night. He felt he had lived up to his leadership responsibilities, and now all he had to do was wait for his crew to fulfill their end of the bargain. Since he felt so elated, he decided to let Mr. Arhens know how successful the meeting had been and what his new plan of attack would be for the upcoming week. Mr. Arhens wasn't in his office when David dropped by. As he continued on down the hall, his photography editor, Eddie, stopped him. Eddie was frantic, and the look of terror on his face sent a chill down David's spine. What terrible news might Eddie have in store for him? David shuddered to think.

Eddie anxiously told David about a photography meltdown that had occurred the previous evening. In the dark room, someone had exposed all of the pictures taken at the Prom. Now there would not be a section in the yearbook commemorating that monumental event. What was David to do? He felt like crying but he knew that would not accomplish much. After wallowing in misery for awhile, he came up with an idea. Why not hold a contest where the students submitted their best prom photos? He would have to scramble in order to get the contest together and obtain the required pictures before the deadline.

The next day at school the word was out. Everyone was discussing the contest and all the camera buffs were vying to have their photos on the cover of the prom section. By the end of the week, David had more prom pictures than he could use. His staff helped him sift through the pile and select the best photographs for the yearbook. Now if David's friends would live up to their end of the agreement and meet their deadlines, David would have a completed yearbook.

23. Who was the photography editor?

- A. David
- B. Mr. Arhens
- C. Eddie
- D. Todd
- E. Don't Know

24. Read the story carefully and then answer the question that follows.

Gene's class was going to the zoo the next day. He wanted to remind his mother about the zoo trip when she came home from work.

"Guess what Mom? Tomorrow's the zoo trip!"

"I know you don't want to miss the zoo, Gene. Make sure you're in bed on time."

Since Gene's mom started a new job, she had been leaving for work before Gene woke up.

Gene had been late for school five times since his mom started this new job.

Gene came in for the night and headed upstairs for a shower. "I know, I know. I'll make sure I'm in bed on time tonight, Mom."

Usually Gene would stay up two hours past his bedtime and play video games. "Tonight is different," Gene said determinedly.

Later that evening, Gene's mom poked her head into his bedroom and couldn't believe what she saw. Gene was tucked under the covers, sound asleep. It was two hours before his bedtime!

Which of the following clues helps in predicting what will happen the next day?

- A. Gene's mom was late for work.
- B. Gene's mom quit her new job.
- C. Gene played video games before going to sleep.
- D. Gene went to bed two hours before his bedtime.
- E. Don't Know

25. Which of the following sentences contains an assumption?

- A. Benny and Larry are brothers.
- B. Today is Saturday so we do not have school.
- C. Perry went to the hamburger stand; he must have been hungry.
- D. Don't Know

26. Read the following passage and answer the question.

As we stepped off of the small plane in Montana, the view took our breath away. The sky was clear blue and the clouds were pure white. We could hear a waterfall flowing nearby. I thought to myself, "Everyone who lives here must just love the outdoors." We walked across the runway to my uncle's waiting truck. We all piled in, excited about the adventure ahead of us.

What assumption is made in this passage?

- A. The author's uncle has a truck.
- B. The sky in Montana is a clear blue.
- C. Planes that land in Montana are small.
- D. Everyone in Montana loves the outdoors.
- E. Don't Know

27. Is the following sentence a fact, an opinion, or both a fact and an opinion?

The sun gives off light, and it's pretty.

- A. fact
- B. opinion
- C. both fact and opinion
- D. Don't Know

28. Read the sentence and decide if it is a fact, an opinion, or both.

The summer break flew by so fast, even though it was two months long.

- A. fact
- B. opinion
- C. both fact and opinion
- D. Don't Know

29. Identify the following as either a fact, an opinion, or both.

Ben is the best brother in the world.

- A. fact
- B. opinion
- C. both fact and opinion
- D. Don't Know

30. Identify the following passage as either a fact, an opinion, or both.

Mr. Wells seems like a competent employee.

- A. fact
- B. opinion
- C. both fact and opinion
- D. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions.

John and Sue went for a hike in Deer Valley. The spring rains had made the valley very green and beautiful. The flowers were blooming and creatures were enjoying the warm weather. John and Sue even spotted a screech owl in a giant oak tree. The two friends felt peaceful and happy while in the valley. While they were walking, John noticed some movement in a large bush. He motioned for Sue to stand very still. The two of them stared at the bush in wonderment. Suddenly, a little skunk waddled out. Sue and John remained motionless, so that the skunk would not spray them. The skunk inspected the two humans for a moment and then waddled away. Sue and John sighed in relief.

31. Why did Sue and John sigh in relief?

- A.** The skunk sprayed them.
- B.** It began to rain.
- C.** The skunk left them alone.
- D.** They were afraid of the skunk.
- E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Stacy had just finished riding bikes with her friend Lisa. She put her long hair in a ponytail to cool off after riding in the hot sun. Stacy walked into the kitchen and opened the refrigerator door. She felt like eating something sweet. Stacy wrinkled her freckled nose when she saw last night's leftovers. "That's the last thing I want." She peered into the freezer, but there was no chocolate ice cream, her favorite food.

Stacy's mother often makes chocolate ice cream sundaes. These sundaes have a chewy chocolate brownie on the bottom. Stacy's mother lets her pile the sundae high with ice cream. She then covers the mountain of ice cream with hot fudge sauce and whipped cream. Everyone in her family adds nuts, but Stacy doesn't like them. Stacy's mouth began to water as she imagined the chocolate delight. Just then, her mother burst through the door with a bag of groceries in each arm. "Hi, Stacy. How about some lunch and a big chocolate sundae?"

32. Why did Stacy look into the freezer?

- A.** She was hot.
- B.** She felt like eating something sweet.
- C.** She wanted to see if the freezer light turned on.
- D.** She was bored.
- E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

There once was a poor girl named Lily. One day Lily went for a walk in her village. Suddenly, a rat stood in front of Lily's path. Lily yelled, because she was afraid of rats. The rat spoke: "Don't be afraid. I won't hurt you!"

Lily's eyes grew wide.

"I'm quite a friendly fellow. Now why do you have such a sad look on your face, child?"

"Oh! I'm sorry sir, but I was just thinking that I wished I had some shoes, and that my little brother had enough to eat, and--"

"My dear, is your family poor?" The rat's eyes softened as he looked up into Lily's face.

Lily hung her head in shame. "I guess you could say that, sir."

The rat tapped his nose while he thought. "Hmm. Tomorrow morning look under your pillow. You'll find something you need." The rat ran away from Lily.

On her way home Lily thought, "How could that little rat help me?"

The next morning Lily yawned and opened her eyes. Her heart thumped as she reached under her pillow. Out came three gold coins in the palm of her hand. "He kept his promise! He knew just what my family needed!"

Lily awoke to the same wonderful surprise under her pillow every morning for the next ten years. Lily's family never worried again about food, and her parents were happy.

Lily walked happily to the schoolhouse. She was now a teacher there. She liked all of the students she taught. All of a sudden a rat jumped in her path. "Miss Lily?"

"Y-y-yes?" she stammered.

"You probably don't remember me. I'm the rat you met years ago. I hope you and your family have been doing well," said the rat in a hopeful voice.

"Why yes! I don't know how I could ever thank you enough!"

"You could thank me by speaking kindly of rats, and treating us fairly whenever you see one of us," said the rat.

"I promise to always be nice to rats in memory of your great kindness, sir." Lily bowed politely to the rat, and they each went on their way.

33. Why do you think the girl agreed to be kind to rats?

- A.** She had always liked rats.
- B.** Her parents said she must be kind to rats.
- C.** Her students at school like rats.
- D.** The talking rat was kind to her.
- E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

One day a handsome white owl landed in a tree. The owl's name was Edmund. He was a very wise owl who watched carefully over the forest and the animals. Having just caught two mice and a mole for his dinner, he needed a rest.

"Hello up there! Who is resting in my beautiful green branches?" asked the tree.

The owl opened his sleepy eyes wide and replied, "I am Edmund, a wise owl. I have come to rest in your branches, sir."

The tree replied, "You should be honored to be resting in my beautiful green branches. My beauty is greater than anything else in nature. Nothing can compare to my lush green leaves and strong straight trunk."

"Be careful, Mr. Tree," warned Edmund. "It is not wise to put yourself above others in nature. Everything in nature is beautiful."

The tree angrily shook its branches. "YOU can't tell me I am not the most beautiful thing in nature. I know that I am greater than those boring bushes and those skinny flowers."

Edmund the owl had heard enough of the tree's vain attitude. He needed to teach the tree a lesson. Edmund spread his wings wide and fluttered them quickly. Suddenly the tree's leaves turned brown and fell off its branches. The tree was left bare.

"What have you done? My leaves! They are gone!" the tree cried out.

"Mr. Tree, you are too proud of your beauty. Every winter you will lose your leaves, but they will grow back in the spring. This is to remind you there are other beautiful things in nature beside yourself. While you are bare and skinny in the winter, look around you and notice the beautiful bushes, birds, and badgers. If you do, I promise that your leaves will grow back again." With that, Edmund flew out of the tree.

This is how the tree came to lose its leaves every year.

34. What does the tree need to do in order to grow leaves again?

- A.** stop envying other animals
- B.** feel sorry for himself
- C.** appreciate the beauty in nature
- D.** learn to get along with other creatures
- E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

"I remember it like it was yesterday, Rachel." My grandfather leaned back in his chair with his eyes closed. He smoothed back the last of his gray hairs from his forehead and began to describe that historic day...

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," astronaut Neil Armstrong proclaimed as he stepped from the lunar landing vehicle "Eagle" onto the surface of the moon. Astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. joined him on the moon a few minutes later. Michael Collins, a third astronaut, remained in the small command ship "Columbia" to monitor Armstrong and Aldrin. As Armstrong and Aldrin glided along the moon's surface, they took pictures and collected samples of moon rocks and soil. After almost 22 hours of exploring the moon's surface, the astronauts returned to the Apollo 11 spacecraft.

Grandfather opened his eyes and sat up. "Did you know some people didn't get to watch the first moon landing because they didn't have a television yet?"

"Didn't everyone have televisions in 1969?" I asked in disbelief.

Grandfather laughed. "It wasn't like today, with some families having two or three televisions. Can you understand now why I'm proud that you want to be an astronaut when you grow up? Space exploration will be more and more important to humankind as the years go by. I hope to see you in space someday, next to astronauts from all over the world. I believe space exploration in the future will bring countries together. It will be a great opportunity for you. I'm sure you'll be an astronaut we're all proud of!"

For once I agreed with my grandfather. I also believe space exploration should be a way for all countries to work together. With technology from all over the world, who knows how far we can go in space!

35. How is this passage organized?

- A.** First, the grandfather scolds his grandchild. Second, he tells her she should be an astronaut.
- B.** First is a flashback about how television was invented. Second, the grandfather talks to his grandchild.
- C.** First is a flashback about the first moon landing. Second, the granddaughter says she is bored.
- D.** First is a flashback about the first moon landing. Second, the grandfather speaks to his granddaughter.
- E.** Don't Know

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

My grandfather told me a story that his grandfather once told him. Many years ago, before my grandfather was even born, there was a village. This village was isolated from other villages because an immense forest surrounded it. Although the villagers lived in harmony with each other, they sometimes fell on hard times when food and supplies ran short. One winter, when food and supplies were almost all gone, a young boy wandered out of the village and into the snow-covered forest. The villagers searched night and day for the young boy, but no one found him.

Strange things began happening after the boy disappeared. One morning the villagers woke up to find a cow wandering around in the village square. Although they were puzzled by the cow's sudden appearance, they were thankful, for now they would have milk. The next morning several chickens were discovered. Now the villagers would have eggs. The following morning the villagers awoke to find bags of grain piled high in the baker's shop. Now the villagers would have bread.

Two weeks after the young boy had disappeared, a group of men from the village spotted a child playing in the woods. They tried to follow the child, but he mysteriously disappeared. Once again, the villagers searched the dense forest for the lost boy, but the boy could not be found.

As the next winter set in, the villagers once again found themselves running out of food and supplies. Exactly one year after the boy had disappeared, he walked into the village. He had not changed from the day he originally disappeared. He wore the same clothes and the same cheerful grin. His mother cried for joy and hurried toward her son. Just as she reached out to touch him, he disappeared. Although the mother cried with disappointment, she understood why he appeared in the village. He wanted her to know that he was fine. For the first time in a year, his mother smiled. For the next three days after the boy's disappearance, there appeared in the village another cow, more chickens, and more grain. Once again the villagers were saved from the harsh winter.

My grandfather says that the boy appears in the same village each winter to let his mother know that he is all right, and to check on the village's food and supplies.

36. Describe the mother's feelings at the end of the story.

- A. She felt angry.
- B. She felt relieved.
- C. She felt frustrated.
- D. She felt worried.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

"I'm tired," Denise said with a sigh. "This has been a very hectic day. First, my alarm didn't go off, so I overslept for class. Then I tried to make a quick breakfast and burned my toast. As I left the apartment, I stepped in mud and had to change my shoes. When I finally made it to class I was faced with a surprise quiz. After school, Linda and I went to find a birthday present for Mom. We looked everywhere and finally found a beautiful blouse at the Fashion Mall. I took it up to the counter to pay for it. I reached into my pocket. I didn't have any money! We had to drive all the way back home. I went into the apartment and ran up to my room to get my wallet. I couldn't find it anywhere. Suddenly, I remembered that I had left it in my friend Angeline's car when we went to see a movie the night before. We quickly drove over to Angeline's house where I found my wallet. Now, I have to drive back to the mall. The way my luck is going, we'll probably get a flat tire on the way!"

37. What might be a good title for this story?

- A. My Sister Denise
- B. Linda's Friend Denise
- C. Denise's Hectic Day
- D. Denise Buys a Blouse
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

My name is Chelsea and I am ten years old. I have black hair and dark brown eyes. My older brother's name is Bob. I also have a younger brother named Damien. My favorite hobby is playing the flute. I really like music. I would like to learn how to play the drums, but my father won't let me. He says they are too loud.

My favorite subject in school is math. I like addition the best. My brother Bob or my father helps me with my homework when I have questions. At recess I play games with my friends, or I help take care of the class guinea pig.

My favorite animal is a fish. I have a pet goldfish named Marv. I feed him every day before school. It is fun to watch Marv swim near the top of his tank and eat his food. If I put my hand in the water, he will even nibble on my finger.

38. What do Chelsea's brothers look like?

- A. They have black hair and brown eyes.
- B. They are ten years old.
- C. They like to listen to music.
- D. Chelsea doesn't tell us what they look like.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

I dove into the ditch just as my Minipod disintegrated. I breathed a sigh of despair and began my long walk home. It felt strange to be walking. In the year 2072, no one walks. We always ride something to wherever we need to go. For instance, if I want to go from my house to my neighbor's house, I hop on the Sideride.

If I need to go slightly farther, I drive my Minipod. Of course, now that it has blown up, I'm without transportation. My parents drive a Macropod. Macropods are the best transport model because they drive themselves. Once you program in your destination, it's smooth sailing the rest of the ride. You are free to sleep, eat, or watch the videotron. My parents never let me borrow the Macropod. My dad says that light speed is too fast for a boy my age. I disagree with his reasoning. I am almost 16, after all.

After walking about 100 yards, I sat down to rest. My feet were aching. Out of nowhere, my younger sister arrived on her Micropod. A Micropod is like a Minipod with training wheels. I was slightly embarrassed to get on, but it was my only alternative to walking.

When we arrived at our home unit, I explained everything to my parents. They looked at each other questioningly for a minute, and then sent me to my sleep unit for the evening so they could talk. What could they be talking about? The next morning I shuffled in for morning nutrition. I spied a form of some kind on the nutrition table. Putting on my sight clarification lenses, I read the paper. It was an application for a Macropod license, with my name on it!

39. How do you know that the story takes place in the future?

- A. the year the story takes place
- B. the mode of transportation
- C. travel at light speed
- D. all of the above
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Once there was a little pig who lived on a farm. He loved the farm because all of his friends lived there too. Every morning he would wake up in his sty and march out to the field. He liked to say hi to all the animals each morning.

One morning he was making his daily rounds when he saw a duck. The duck was a new member of the farm. The little pig walked up to the duck and said, "Hi, my name is Pat the Pig. What's your name?"

The duck answered, "My name is Allison. I am new here. Do you want to be my friend?"

"Sure, that would be great. Why don't you come over to my sty and play this afternoon?" asked Pat.

"Okay. That sounds like fun!" answered Allison.

Later that afternoon Pat cleaned his sty. He wanted it to look nice for his new friend. His mom helped him clean. When Allison finally arrived, Pat was very excited. He loved making new friends. He was sure they would become close buddies. Allison and Pat played all afternoon. They rolled around in the straw, had mud fights, and ate some slop the farmer had left for them.

Pat and Allison decided to go to the far end of the barnyard. There they found an empty log which they decided to make a special fort. They called the fort Camp P&A after themselves. Pat and Allison made a secret agreement not to tell anyone about their special fort. Then they returned back to the main area of the barnyard.

At the end of the day, Allison needed to return home to her mother and the rest of her duck family. She thanked Pat and his mom for the wonderful time and waddled home. From that day on, Pat and Allison played

together. They became close friends.

- 40.** Where did Pat and Allison make their secret fort?
- A.** in the barn
 - B.** in an empty log
 - C.** in a tree
 - D.** Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The two boys screamed when they saw the big monster on TV. It was gray with brown spots on its face. Its eyes were covered with fur. Huge fangs stuck out of its mouth. It was carrying a doll in its mouth. It growled as it walked closer to the house where the little girl was hiding.

The monster broke down the front door. It threw the doll on the floor and looked around. It was dark in the house, but the monster kept going. It walked past the kitchen and into the bedroom where the little girl was hiding behind a bookcase.

Then it got dark! The lights went out and the TV went off. The two boys screamed again and ran to the kitchen. They could not see where they were going. They ran into the stove. Then they bumped into each other. They heard the kitchen door open, and they saw a small light moving toward them. They slowly backed away from the light. Then they heard a voice that said, "Are you two all right?" It was their mom carrying a flashlight. "The power went out. I brought you flashlights so you can see on your way to the bedroom."

"Thanks, mom," the boys said, and they took the flashlights. They walked slowly to their bedroom, trying not to look at the creepy shadows on the wall. Every shadow looked like a huge furry monster or a little girl hiding behind a bookcase. How were they ever going to sleep tonight?

- 41.** Which happened first in the story?
- A.** The boys' mother brought them flashlights.
 - B.** The lights went out.
 - C.** The two boys ran to the kitchen.
 - D.** The two boys walked to their bedroom.
 - E.** Don't Know

Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

Shari was excited about today's game. It was her first game since she hurt her ankle last summer. Her teammates were excited about her return, too.

However, when the referee blew his silver whistle something inside of Shari changed. She froze on the field. All she could think of was the pain of her broken ankle. The ball raced by her, but she didn't follow. Someone on the other team got to the ball and headed for the goal. Without Shari's help, the goalie was alone. The other team scored the goal.

Shari sulked back to the bench. She was angry with herself for being afraid. She decided to quit and go home. Just then, her coach called her name. He wanted her back in the game. She was sure that he had made a mistake. Then he called her name again.

As she slowly walked back on the field, the coach called her once more. He told her to remember how much she loves soccer. Shari smiled at the memories she had of other games. This time when the whistle blew, Shari wasn't afraid.

42. In the beginning of the story, how did Shari's teammates feel about her return?

- A. scared
- B. angry
- C. excited
- D. tired
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

Every day as she walked home after school Rosa would see the same little black dog. This dog had a stubby tail and big floppy ears. Every time she saw the dog it was sitting on the same corner. As soon as it saw Rosa it would wag its tail and bark a few times. Then it would run over to Rosa. On hot days the dog's big wet tongue would be hanging out of its mouth. It always tried to lick Rosa's feet and knees.

When Rosa saw the dog she would yell at it to go home, but the dog would just sit and stare at her. When she would go on her way, the dog would happily follow her with its tail wagging. It always stayed right at her side as if they were best friends. As soon as Rosa reached her house and began to walk up the driveway, the little dog would bark a few times, wag its tail, and return in the direction it came from. Within minutes the dog would be a black speck in the distance.

In the beginning it bothered Rosa that the dog tagged along. But after awhile she got used to it. She even began to look forward to their walks.

One day Rosa was on her way home like any other day. When she got to the corner there was no little black dog. The next day the dog wasn't there again. This went on for the rest of the week. Rosa began to miss the black dog's silly bark. She wanted to see its cute stubby tail and floppy ears. Suddenly she heard a bark. Surprised, she looked up. But it was only her neighbor walking his poodle. She looked down sadly. Rosa wondered what had happened to the little dog. She was worried that something bad had happened.

That night at dinner, Rosa told her mother about the disappearance of her walking friend. Her mother smiled and said, "Rosa, I think I know what happened to your friend. I was at the grocery store last week and I ran into Mrs. Pacheco. She told me that they are moving to another house where there is a big backyard for their dog. As I was leaving the store, I saw Mrs. Pacheco get into her car. Her dog was in the car. It had a stubby tail and big floppy ears. It must be your walking friend."

It suddenly made sense to Rosa. The little dog must belong to the Pachecos. She was sad and happy at the same time. Although she would no longer get to walk home with her little friend, it made her happy to think

of the dog in a big yard with a loving family and children to play with. Rosa could almost hear the dog's silly bark. She would never forget her little furry friend.

- 43.** When the dog first saw Rosa, what did it do before it barked?
- A.** It licked her feet.
 - B.** It jumped around.
 - C.** It wagged its tail.
 - D.** It sat quietly.
 - E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

The hot sun beamed down on the enthusiastic crowd. The state championship softball game was in the seventh inning. The Titans and the Red Hots were the two competing teams; both teams were undefeated for the season. The Titans were ahead by one run, but the Red Hots were up at bat.

The Titan pitcher had played an incredible game, but was weak from throwing the ball. The Titans could not afford to let the Red Hots score any runs, so they were forced to pull their weary pitcher out of the game and put in the second string pitcher. Dana was the second string pitcher, and she had been warming up in the bullpen since the fourth inning. She had been anxiously awaiting an opportunity to pitch.

Dana's first pitch went wild and missed the plate completely. The Titan fans were extremely nervous. Dana took a deep breath and threw her next pitch. The umpire yelled, "Strike One!" The crowd screamed with delight. Dana smiled to herself as she continued to send strikes across the plate.

The Red Hots had two outs and the player at bat had two strikes. Dana wound up and threw her best curve ball of the game. The player swung, but missed the ball. The game was over. The Titans had won the state championship. The team raced to the pitcher's mound to congratulate Dana.

- 44.** What happened after the Titans won the game?
- A.** The national anthem was played.
 - B.** It was time for the seventh inning stretch.
 - C.** The Titans congratulated Dana on the pitcher's mound.
 - D.** Dana threw her best curve ball.
 - E.** Don't Know

Read the story carefully and answer the questions.

Kristin has a tiny dog named Daisy. For years, Kristin would play with Daisy every day after school. They would play together for hours. After dinner, Daisy would watch Kristin do her homework. When Kristin finished her homework, she would take Daisy outside for a long walk before bed. They would then drift off to sleep, with Daisy always at the foot of the bed.

One day this routine suddenly changed. Kristin got her first job so she could buy a new bike. She would be baby-sitting a two year old boy named Ben. Daisy would still anxiously wait for Kristin by the door each day, but Kristin would not get home until very late. By that time, she was much too tired to play with Daisy. Daisy, on the other hand, was full of energy and confused by Kristin's attitude.

One night, as Kristin said, "Good night, Daisy," the dog reacted with a wild fit of barking. Kristin laughed and said, "Oh, I guess you're not tired. I'm sorry I have been neglecting you. I promise to make it up to you. From now on I'll play with you before school."

Unfortunately, in the morning, Kristin forgot all about her promise to Daisy. When Kristin returned home from baby-sitting, again, late in the evening, Daisy felt even sadder than before. The next day while Kristin was away, Daisy was so bored that she dug a hole in the backyard. She discovered that she could fit under the fence, and that's just what she did. As Daisy ran down the street, out of her yard for the first time, she enjoyed the freedom! She chased a cat, followed a little boy, and dug a hole in a lady's flower bed.

When Kristin came home that evening, she was surprised that Daisy was not there to greet her. When she went into the backyard to call Daisy, she discovered the hole and realized what must have happened. She quickly got a flashlight, and began looking around the neighborhood, loudly calling Daisy's name. She was very relieved when she saw her neighbor heading toward her with Daisy, asleep in his arms! Kristin knew right then that she had learned a valuable lesson.

45. Why didn't Kristin play with Daisy anymore?

- A.** Kristin was too tired because of her job.
- B.** Kristin didn't like Daisy anymore.
- C.** Daisy didn't want to play with Kristin.
- D.** Kristin had too much homework.
- E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

It was lunch time at Forever Green Valley Elementary School and the cafeteria was full of students and teachers. Most of the students brought their lunches from home, while many of the teachers bought the cafeteria meals. All of the teachers sat together at the long table by the door. The students, on the other hand, were scattered throughout the remaining tables.

The table by the back window was packed with children. Michelle had forgotten to bring her lunch, so she had to buy a cafeteria meal. By the time she got to the table, there was no room. Michelle had looked forward to lunch all day. She loved to get together with her friends and talk. Michelle's friend, Cindy, volunteered to give her seat to Michelle. Michelle sat down in Cindy's seat and started talking. Cindy moved to the next table. Michelle looked over at Cindy and smiled. Michelle then stood up and picked up her tray.

46. Based on the story you just read, what do you think will happen next?

- A. Cindy will run out of the cafeteria.
- B. Michelle will move over to Cindy's table.
- C. Michelle will leave the cafeteria.
- D. Cindy will push someone out of the way.
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Jason tossed his book about raising puppies on the seat behind him and headed to the pet store, where he bought a food dish and a water bowl. Then, after a quick lunch, he drove to Andrea's house. Andrea's dog Polar had given birth to seven tiny puppies that morning. Jason couldn't wait to see them.

Jason parked the car and ran to the house. He opened the front door without even knocking. He knew the puppies were in the basement. He hurried through the house and down the basement stairs.

At the bottom of the stairs he found a basket full of white fur. Andrea and Polar were sitting next to the basket admiring its contents. Jason almost tripped over Fluffy, the cat, who was busy hissing at the puppies. As soon as Andrea saw Jason, she picked up one of the puppies and handed it to him, with a smile beaming from her face.

47. Why did Jason go to Andrea's house?

- A. to have lunch
- B. to do homework
- C. to see the puppies
- D. because he was bored
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Alex was a curious child. He was always getting into mischief. His antics drove his mother crazy. She always worried that one day Alex would poke his nose somewhere that it wasn't wanted. It was not as if Alex was a troublemaker, he just wanted to know what was going on around him.

One day his mother's worst fears were realized. Alex was coming home from school when he decided to stop at the corner market. There he ran into the neighborhood bully, Thomas, and his partners in crime, Peter and Tyler. Alex knew he should just keep walking and pretend not to notice them, but it was too late.

Peter motioned Alex to come over to them. Alex approached the group nervously. He was worried about what they would do to him. The group was known to terrorize other students just for fun. Alex never quite understood how their actions could be considered amusing, but he didn't have time to ponder that thought for long because at that moment, Tyler boasted, "Hey Alex, I bet you're too scared to join us!"

"What do you mean scared?" responded Alex.

"Well, you know today is April Fool's Day, and that it is the only day when pranks are allowed. We are going to play some pranks and I bet you won't join us. What do you think, guys?" Tyler taunted. "Don't you think Alex is chicken?"

The group responded with an exuberant "Yes!" and that was the last straw. Alex was determined not to let these bullies get the best of him. Instead of listening to his inner voice warning him of the dangers of proceeding with their plan, he ignored any sense of reason and decided to join the boys in their devilish scheme.

"Count me in boys," Alex answered wearily.

The boys let Alex in on their plan to egg the neighborhood, especially Mrs. Manley's house. Mrs. Manley lived all by herself atop the hill in a dilapidated house. Many of the children believed she was a witch, but Alex's mom was a friend of hers, and he knew she was just a lonely old woman. The boys agreed to meet at sundown on the corner with the supplies.

Alex was nervous for the rest of the afternoon. He didn't want to go home for fear his mother wouldn't let him back out later that evening. He didn't want those stupid boys to make fun of him for chickening out. Finally the sun began to set and he started to walk to the designated meeting spot.

The rest of the crew had already assembled by the time Alex arrived. Peter greeted Alex with a smile and said, "Guess what, tonight is your lucky night! You get to personally egg Mrs. Manley's house." Alex's heart sank. He knew that if he did it he would hear about it later from his mother, yet if he backed out now, he would never be able to show his face again at school. Alex turned to Peter and said, "All right, but I want you to come with me to hold the flashlight."

The group proceeded up the hill. As they slowly approached their target, Alex got a lump in his throat. He began to feel hot and sweaty all over and he felt like he was going to get sick. Peter turned to him and asked, "Hey, are you all right?"

"I'll be okay. I just need to rest for a minute," Alex answered. He sat on the curb and thought about his options. He knew he had to think fast in order to get out of this predicament. Just when he thought his time had run out, Mrs. Manley came out onto her porch and called out into the night, "Alex, is that you?"

Now the group of boys all turned to Alex and asked, "You know Mrs. Manley?!"

Mrs. Manley called out again and this time she invited the boys inside for cookies and soda. Something magical happened at that moment because Peter and the crew seemed to soften at her offer, and the boys proceeded into her yard.

The boys sat and laughed for a while eating the homemade cookies Mrs. Manley set out for them. Alex felt relieved that he didn't have to go through with the egging of the house, and now, with the help of Mrs. Manley, he had gained new friends.

48. What does Alex ask Peter to do for him?

- A.** throw the eggs
- B.** hold the eggs
- C.** hold the flashlight
- D.** provide moral support
- E.** Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The train station was strangely quiet. The sun shining through the windows cast long beams of light on the floor. The station attendant slowly swept the platform. Hannah sighed and looked at the clock. It would be another hour before her train arrived. Then she would be carried back to the world of papers and exams with only winter break to look forward to.

Hannah's thoughts returned to her summer. It had been wonderful. Her aunt and uncle had taught her all about their farm. She was responsible for the orphaned lambs that her uncle had taken in during the spring storms. They were such adorable creatures. It was difficult to leave them behind. She began to remember some of her favorite moments on the farm...

"Hannah! Hannah! Wake up child - it's nearly six o'clock!" Hannah heard her aunt calling from the foot of the stairs.

"I'm awake! I'll be down in two minutes!" With that, Hannah was out of bed and into her overalls. She splashed some cold water on her face and raced down the stairs, out the back door, and into the barn. She was late to feed her lambs and help milk the cows.

Her uncle smiled when he saw her running up to the barn. "Good morning, sleepy girl. The cows are finished, but your little lambs are still hungry." He handed her a bucket of food for the lambs and gave her shoulder a pat. "Don't be too long. You don't want to miss your aunt's homemade sausage and waffles."

Hannah walked toward the lambs. They bleated happily when they saw her. They nuzzled up to her legs and tried to stick their faces into her bucket. "Good morning. Settle down now. Everyone will get some food." Hannah spoke calmly to the lambs as she sat down on her little stool and began to feed the lambs from her hands. When the lambs had eaten they began to nudge Hannah, and she stroked the soft curly fleece on their heads. As she sat and stroked the lambs she thought about how much she enjoyed living on the farm with her aunt and uncle.

Suddenly, the sharp sound of a train whistle brought her back to reality. She looked up and realized that her train had arrived. She quickly picked up her luggage and headed to the platform. Her summer was truly over. "Maybe next year . . .," she thought as she walked up the steps to the train.

49. Choose the answer that best describes the train station.

- A. dusty and quiet
- B. sunny and crowded
- C. sunny and quiet
- D. gloomy and dark
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

Juan sat in his desk thinking about the predicament he was in today. Since the beginning of the year, he had struggled with challenging classes. The seventh grade had been tough; the tests seemed harder, the reading assignments longer, and the homework next to impossible. Today, Mr. Mac, who was known for giving the most difficult exams in the seventh grade, had a three-page anatomy test for his science class, and Juan had not studied. He was thankful that Carlos, his best friend, had the same academic classes: math, reading, social studies, and science. The boys usually studied together and helped one another with homework assignments. That is why he could not understand Carlos' behavior earlier that day when Juan had asked him for a simple favor.

Juan replayed the scene in his head, trying to figure out why Carlos had been so mad. Earlier that morning, before the bell rang signaling the beginning of social studies, Juan had approached his friend. Carlos

had been standing at his locker leafing through his science book, and he seemed to be studying. Peeking over his friend's shoulder, he asked Carlos if he had studied for the big science test.

"Of course," Carlos replied. "We have to know the entire anatomy of the frog, and we have to pass if we want to participate in the dissection next week."

"That's why I wanted to talk to you," Juan said as he put his arm around his friend's shoulder and gave him the biggest smile he could. "Since you're such a good buddy, I know you wouldn't mind if I copied off of you during the test." Juan continued smiling up at Carlos, but he noticed that Carlos looked a little irritated. Despite his friend's cold reaction, Juan went on with his plea. "Since I won't be able to dissect next week if I fail the test, I really need you to give me a helping hand." After waiting a moment, but not receiving any reply, Juan added a long, drawn out, "Please."

Carlos pushed Juan's arm off of his shoulder saying angrily, "You know I'm already in trouble with Mr. Mac, and he'll fail me if he catches us." He reminded Juan how much he enjoyed science class, but he had been in hot water for letting the mice out of their cage last semester. "I don't know if Mr. Mac will ever forgive me for that-I lost his trust, and now you want me to cheat on one of his exams." With that, Carlos stormed off, not even giving Juan a clear answer.

Now Juan sat in Mr. Mac's classroom waiting for Carlos to arrive. Just as the bell rang, Carlos came and took his seat in front of Juan, but he did not even glance backward at his best friend. Growing impatient, Juan desperately repeated his plea in a hoarse whisper. Carlos turned around and glared at his friend. He opened his mouth to say something, but Mr. Mac entered the room, leaving Carlos' response hanging silently in the air.

Mr. Mac waved a stack of tests through the air. "Ladies and gentleman," he began, "this test should prove to be the most difficult of the year." Juan sighed as Mr. Mac continued, "As you all know, if you do not get a grade of C or higher, you may not participate in next week's lab: dissecting a frog." Mr. Mac smiled mischievously as he continued his lecture, "I am proud of the class's work up to this point. Since everyone has put in a tremendous amount of effort over the last few weeks, I've decided to allow you to work with a partner on the exam."

Juan couldn't believe his luck; he wouldn't have to cheat after all! He excitedly tapped his friend on the shoulder, but was surprised at Carlos' expression when he turned abruptly to face Juan. "Don't even think about asking me," Carlos said coolly. "You got a lucky break on this test, but you should never have asked me to cheat." Carlos looked furious as he continued, "Friends aren't supposed get each other into trouble, especially when it comes to failing a test. Find somebody else to be your partner today, because I don't want to earn a good grade for both of us." Juan's jaw dropped as he watched Carlos walk across the room and work with another friend, Jake. Although he knew he could now pass the test, he did not feel quite so lucky anymore.

50. According to the passage, what classes do Juan and Carlos have together?

- A. all of their classes
- B. science only
- C. gym, science, reading, and art
- D. math, reading, social studies, and science
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Long ago there lived a young girl named Sophia. Sophia grew up with six brothers who constantly wrestled, played, and fought with her. For as long as she could remember she wanted to become a gallant knight like her eldest brother Charles Peter. He left home when she was very little, but she remembered all of his visits, cherishing each moment she had spent with her idol.

Sophia's parents scoffed at her idea of becoming a knight, telling her it was only a foolish dream.

Sophia didn't understand why a girl couldn't become at least a page like her youngest brother Simon. Even though she knew it was wrong to disobey her parents, she began plotting a way to realize her dream.

Very late one night Sophia was awakened from a deep sleep. The first thought that came to her mind was a sure-fire way to achieve the freedom to become a knight. She began packing right away. Within an hour she had all the supplies she needed for her journey. The next step would be the most difficult. She needed to cut her beautiful long hair and write her family a good-bye letter. She took a sharp knife and cut her hair incredibly short. As she watched the hair fall to the ground she began to cry softly. Now the moment of truth had arrived. Would she really have the courage to write her family a letter and leave into the night?

After an emotional hour of letter writing and re-writing, (she wanted to make it perfect), she was finally able to mount the family's trusty horse, Malcolm, and ride off into the moonlit night. By morning she had gotten almost as far as the town of Mulberry. She knew she would not be able to show her face there because she had too many close family members living near the area. She decided to bypass the community altogether, which meant traveling through the forest.

As Malcolm galloped through the forest, Sophia began to miss her family. Just then she came upon a young knight and his beautiful white horse. She slowly approached the stranger. He asked, "Who are you and who is your master?"

Sophia didn't know how to respond. She hadn't planned on running into anyone yet and she hadn't made up a story about who she was or where she was going. Knowing that she had to think fast on her feet, she quickly said she was a page to the gallant knight Charles Peter of Greenway. "Really? I'm from Greenway. Why have I never heard of him?" asked the young knight.

"Well, he just became a full knight and he usually keeps to himself. I need to be heading home now so please excuse me," responded Sophia.

"Wait! Don't leave yet. I'm also on my way to Greenway and I will escort you. It will be much safer traveling in the woods together," stated Paul.

"No that's okay. I really need to be leaving. I don't even know your name and I'm afraid my master might be mad if I don't return on time," answered Sophia and she galloped away.

Paul hopped on his horse and followed after her. He reached her rather quickly and told her that she needed to be careful because the woods were a dangerous place. Sophia agreed to travel with him to the outskirts of the town. During their journey they began talking about why they decided to become knights. Sophia found Paul to be quite amusing, and he had many reasons for pursuing this avenue of work that were similar to hers. She wanted to tell him her secret but she knew it would be too dangerous.

Finally they reached the edge of the forest, and the town of Greenway came into view. Sophia left Paul, hoping to one day meet him in battle (on his side of course), and she sauntered into the town on her horse. She didn't know what her next move was going to be, but she did know that she would be able to handle just about any situation presented to her. She went into town feeling confident and happy, with only the distant thought of her family lingering in her mind.

Just then she ran into her brother, Charles Peter. He almost didn't recognize his sister, but Malcolm gave her away when he whinnied at his former master. The gallant knight approached and embraced his sister asking, "What are you doing here? Do Mom and Dad know where you are?"

"Please don't be mad, Charles. I just wanted to become a knight like you. Please don't make me go home yet. I have traveled so far and all I want is a chance to be your page for a few weeks. If I am unable to fulfill my duties to you, then you can send me home."

"All right sis, but you only have until I return home for Christmas. You will need to write Mom and Dad and let them know that you are okay."

Sophia showed her brother that she was quite a capable page, and when they returned home for Christmas the family was amazed at her transformation. Everyone was so proud of her. Sophia went on to become a full knight, one of the first female knights ever. Most only knew her as "S," giving her a sense of added mystery. Stories were told of her throughout the land, and she inspired young girls to dream of achieving goals far beyond what had previously been their normal reach.

51. How would her family have felt when they awoke the next morning and found Sophia missing?
- A. relieved she finally realized her dream
 - B. worried about her safety
 - C. wondering who would do her chores
 - D. excited that she was so brave
 - E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

This was going to end up being the adventure of a lifetime! Although Gabe and Dylan were somewhat skeptical, they still held out hope that the whole thing was real. The boys were breathless with anticipation as they waited in front of the historic theater building on the very edge of town. After about twenty minutes of silent waiting, both were beginning feel a little bit absurd, but the promise of intergalactic adventure had a strong hold on both of them.

The whole situation had begun late the previous night as the two friends stayed up watching old science fiction movies at Gabe's house, discussing the need for some type of adventure in their own lives. They had been bemoaning the dull lifestyle in their serene little town; both were longing for anything to happen that was out of the ordinary, when suddenly the unbelievable began to unfold before their eyes.

The movie had just ended; Gabe had nodded off, and Dylan was reaching to rewind the video when a face emerged on the screen. Dylan nudged Gabe to wake him and gestured frantically toward the TV. They both stared intently at the figure as it materialized. It was unlike anyone or anything they had ever laid eyes on. The figure wore a crimson robe with an ornate medallion. The hood of his robe shadowed his face. As the static dissipated, the figure began to speak in a low and commanding voice. And what he said was even more improbable than his appearance. A planet in another galaxy was in a dire situation and needed to add to their reserve force to defend themselves. The general was searching planets from neighboring galaxies to locate individuals willing to leave their home and join the defense force. The boys were invited to an informational meeting aboard the general's vessel the next day and were instructed to meet the ship outside the old theater near Ninth Street. Then the screen went black.

As Gabe and Dylan continued to wait their courage began to wane. They began to question their own intelligence; it was pretty silly, waiting for a spaceship outside of an abandoned building in the dark. They were ready to leave in disappointment when they saw a flash of silver down the street. The shape came closer, obscured by huge clouds of smoke, which caused the two boys to cough uncontrollably, staring wide-eyed at one another. Gradually, the smoke cleared and the boys peered into the fog, straining their eyes for a glimpse of the general. Instead, they saw only Gabe's older brother, Bryan, collapsed in a fit of hysterical laughter. The fog machine spewed the last of the dry ice out of the side of the silver mini-van as Bryan gasped, "April Fool's!"

52. Why were Gabe and Dylan waiting outside the old theater?
- A. They were waiting for the galactic defense force.
 - B. They were waiting for the general's ship.
 - C. They were waiting to see a movie.
 - D. They were waiting for their friends.
 - E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Vincent's entire life has centered on being a dogsled racer. He has never known anything else. Both his father and grandfather were dogsled racers (or "mushers"). Since the day he was born, racing has been the focus of his life. To Vincent, it is the only way of life: dogs, a sled, and hundreds of miles of snowy wilderness.

As Vincent prepares for today's dogsled race, he reflects on the past. For his grandparents and great grandparents the dogsled was the only reliable way to travel over Alaska's snow-covered land, and there are still places that can be reached only by dogsled or by plane. Before planes, dogsleds were vital -- especially during emergencies when medicine was needed. Today Vincent will participate in the exciting tradition of dogsledding.

The dogsled race begins in Anchorage, the capitol of Alaska. Here, Vincent harnesses his twenty best sled dogs and packs his sled with food and supplies. While he will have absolutely no communication with the outside world until he reaches the finish line in Nome, he will stop at eighteen checkpoints along the racecourse.

It does not matter that Vincent is on the short side. He could be tall or short, young or old, male or female - the only essential trait for a dogsled racer is bravery. Vincent will not have time for cowardice when he is navigating his team of dogs over the difficult 1,160 mile course; rather, he will need to concentrate on getting from one side of Alaska to the other as fast as possible. He and the other mushers will have to push both themselves and their dogs to the absolute limit. Vincent is aware that he or one of his twenty dogs may die, but he returns each year to face the challenges that are to be found along the cold and dangerous, yet peaceful snow-covered cross-country racecourse.

Fortunately Vincent's first hour goes well. His dogs run smoothly and pick up a great rhythm. Vincent is even able to settle back and enjoy the serenity of his surroundings. He knows, however, that it will only be a matter of time before he and his team run into trouble. During his last race he encountered rough terrain that left cuts in the dogs' paws. While the dedicated dogs would have continued racing, Vincent took time out of the race to clean and bandage the cuts. For Vincent, the dogs are like family. He cares for them as he would his son or daughter.

Vincent is a very cautious racer. He knows that great peril lurks beneath the frozen lakes and rivers alongside the course. If the ice is not thick enough, an entire sled team can fall through the arctic ice! He can still remember the time he heard the ice crack behind him just moments after he and the dogs reached the end of a frozen lake. If they had fallen through the ice, it is not likely that any of them would have survived. Thoughts of such a potential tragedy keep Vincent alert and aware of his surroundings during the race. He is not deceived by the smooth and glossy appearance of the frozen lakes. Nor does he take the weather for granted. During his last race he encountered a blizzard that immobilized his team for 10 hours. When the winds reached eighty miles per hour, all Vincent could do was stop his sled, climb into his sleeping bag, and wait for the storm to pass. In the meantime, the dogs curled up into tight little balls in the snow. Only after several hours had passed were Vincent and the dogs able to dig themselves out of the snow and continue on their way.

Even in the absence of blizzards, however, Vincent must contend with many difficulties. For example, temperatures on the course can drop to fifty or sixty degrees below zero. If Vincent is not careful his cheeks, fingers, and toes may become frostbitten before the race is over. Also, the severe cold can prevent wooden matches and flashlight batteries from working. Another danger Vincent faces is sleep-deprivation. At the checkpoints, the last thing Vincent has on his mind is sleeping. He needs to tend to his dogs - feeding them, checking their paws for cuts, and rubbing their sore muscles. He may also need to repair his sled or a harness. Sometimes he will sleep for a few hours; however, it is more likely that Vincent will stop only for a few minutes. Due to lack of sleep, Vincent may doze on the sled. One time, Vincent dozed for nearly an hour, but to his amazement his dogs were still on course when he awoke.

With all of these hazards, even the best of racers are sometimes forced to quit before crossing the finish line. Fortunately, luck and skill are on Vincent's side. While he does not come in first (or even second or third) in this particular race, he finishes victoriously, having traveled over a hundred miles a day for twelve days. Some mushers take twice as long! But regardless of speed, Vincent knows he could not have finished the race

without courage, strength, determination, and - of course - his faithful pack of dogs.

53. How long can it take the slowest mushers to finish this race?

- A. 10 days
- B. 12 days
- C. 15 days
- D. 24 days
- E. Don't Know

Read the story carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Centerville was known around the region for having the best football team in the state. Every year they made it to the state finals and, more often than not, they won the championship title. The town was very proud of their hard-working athletes.

The coach of the football team was Mr. Rogers. He had played football in college and went on to play one season in the pros; he knew what it took to make a winning team. He instilled a strong work ethic in his boys, and he always built team spirit at the beginning of the season. He believed that in order for a team to be successful, everyone needed to feel supported and trust one another. His philosophy had managed to make seven championship titles possible. Mr. Rogers knew that this year's championship game would be more difficult than any other year. Not only was the opposing team their archrival, the Park City Panthers, but Sean, their quarterback and team leader, could not play due to an injured ankle. Sean continued to come to practice to show his moral support, but there was little he could do when it came down to game day.

The week before the championship game, the coach was frantically trying to decide who could replace Sean in the game. He knew Michael would have the potential to do well, but Mr. Rogers wasn't sure if he had the leadership skills needed for a victory. As Mr. Rogers contemplated his plight, Michael came to talk to him. Michael pleaded with the coach to give him a chance at the game. He knew he had what it takes to win, and he wanted the opportunity to show the school what he could do. The coach reluctantly agreed, knowing that if Michael was not able to succeed, he would have serious consequences to pay, emotionally and socially. The townspeople and student body were extremely loyal, but they could be ruthless when athletes failed to perform at the highest levels.

The night before the championship game Michael decided to take some quiet time away from his friends and family. He knew he needed to clear his head in order to stay focused at tomorrow's game. His biggest obstacle would be convincing himself that he could make the winning passes necessary to beat the Panthers. As he sat alone on the roof of his apartment building staring at the stars, he hoped that he would have the confidence during tomorrow's game. He knew how much the team was counting on him; he was the only player trained to play quarterback since Sean's injury.

The day of the game arrived and everyone in the town gathered early in the parking lot to have their picnics before the big event. In the locker room Coach Rogers was pacing back and forth anxiously awaiting the arrival of his only hope, Michael. Michael was running late because he had slept through his alarm. He knew that if he didn't make it to the field soon that coach might not let him play. He was racing to the field in his dad's car and as he flew around a corner, he lost control of the car and hit a tree. Luckily he was not severely injured, but he knew he would not be able to play in the game.

Back at the school, Coach Rogers was getting really worried; he knew something must be wrong. It was not like Michael to skip an important pregame meeting. He made a few phone calls, but when the highway patrol showed up, his heart sank. After the police informed him of the situation, he realized he would have to forfeit the game since he lost his one and only quarterback. He went to the coach of the opposing team and

forfeited the game. The town and the students were crushed to learn their team would not even play for the title.

While Centerville never fully recovered from losing the game by default, many people learned a tremendous amount about themselves from this event. Michael learned that rushing is not always the smartest thing to do, especially when you are driving a car. Coach Rogers realized that putting all of his eggs in one basket is not wise. Next time he would train more players to fill the role of quarterback. The people of Centerville, students and adults alike, learned that although winning would have been nice, they could still feel proud without a first place trophy.

54. How did Coach Rogers hear about Michael's accident?

- A.** Michael came in injured.
- B.** The principal told him.
- C.** The highway patrol told him.
- D.** Michael's mom told him.
- E.** Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

"Have you seen Alexis?" queried Ashley as she rushed toward William, who was waiting in line to buy tickets.

"Not for a few minutes. Wasn't she with you?" responded William, his face showing concern.

"Well, yes, but I can't locate her. She was walking beside me, eating her cotton candy, and then the next time I looked she was gone."

"She can't have gone far. She's too young to walk a great distance on her own. I'm sure she is nearby. Why don't you go the left and look and I'll go to the right, and we'll meet back in front of the ticket booth in ten minutes."

"All right, that sounds reasonable. I hope she is okay. I'm, well . . . I won't worry yet."

"Don't be anxious. I'm sure she is simply sitting somewhere enjoying her cotton candy and watching the rides. She probably hasn't even noticed that we aren't with her yet."

"Let's start looking!"

"Wait--what time will we meet back? How about 12:15 in front of this ticket booth? No matter what happens neither one of us should leave until the other comes back, all right?"

"Okay, let's get going. I'll see you at 12:15."

"I'll see you at 12:15 with Alexis!"

"I certainly hope so," thought Ashley as she attempted to move through the crowd to search for Alexis. The crowd seemed to be moving against every step that Ashley made. She could not see more than a few feet in front of her. Her heart began to race, and a feeling of panic crept over her as the crowd pushed her along. She glanced at her watch. Not only was she never going to find Alexis in this crowd, she would never make it back to the ticket booth in time to meet William. Ashley contemplated her options. The desire to locate her youngest sister won out. William could just wait at the ticket booth. Ashley needed to find her sister!

As William watched Ashley move away from him through the crowd, he paused to think through the events leading up to their current situation. "We'll need more than two pairs of eyes looking for a four-year-old child in this crowd," he thought. He began to weave as quickly as he could toward the entrance, looking for the security guards he had seen as they entered the park. As he arrived at the security office he checked the time. It was 12:14. "I hope Ashley will not be concerned when I'm late returning."

As he entered the doorway he heard a young girl's voice call out, "Willy! Willy!" He turned and saw Alexis seated on the shoulders of a man in a blue uniform. As the two men drew closer Alexis lunged off of the

man's shoulders and into William's arms. Alexis looked up at William and asked, "Where did you go? Where did Ashley go? I finished my cotton candy. See?" She held up her candy-covered hands.

William smiled at the child. "Let's go find your sister, and then we'll get you cleaned up."

William thanked the security guard for his help. He started off through the crowd with Alexis securely in his arms, calling out "Ashley! Ashley! Where are you?"

55. What did Alexis do while William and Ashley searched for her?

- A. She ate cotton candy and watched the animals.
- B. She bought ice cream and watched the rides.
- C. She ate cotton candy and walked to the security station.
- D. The information is not given in the story.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Lillian decided to spend her spring vacation under water. She was embarking on an underwater adventure, the goal of which was to get certified to scuba dive. For one week she would set aside school-related burdens and anxieties and devote herself entirely to this fascinating pursuit. Instead of long nights of reading and writing, there would be days of cool water and new experiences. Algebra equations and research projects would be pushed aside, replaced by the mysteries of sea-life. The irony was that, strictly speaking, Lillian would be spending her spring vacation in school; but scuba lessons would be a novel and exciting kind of educational experience.

On her first day of vacation, Lillian slept in until eight o'clock (a luxury unavailable to her when school was in session, since classes began at seven o'clock). Next she enjoyed a leisurely breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and her favorite kind of cinnamon roll. If she was not on vacation, breakfast would have been a bowl of soggy cereal and a glass of orange juice. She arrived at her first scuba class feeling happy and invigorated.

The instructor began the class by introducing himself and establishing his credentials. His name was Andre, and he had been scuba diving for 12 years. He had dived in California, Hawaii, Australia, the Bahamas, Ecuador, and a great many other parts of the world. Lillian was captivated by his vibrant stories of snorkeling voyages. He shared his photograph collection with the class, dazzling them with colorful underwater images and glimpses of exotic faraway places. Lillian's yellowed and tattered history book was quickly fading from her memory; she was completely captivated by Andre's stories of present-day adventures.

Andre had a lot to say to the class before they even got near the water. He began with a geography lesson, informing the class that the earth's surface is composed of more than 70 percent water. It is no wonder, he pointed out, that Plato and Aristotle began speculating about the undersea world thousands of years ago; however, the turning point for sea exploration occurred in the 1940's when Jacques Cousteau devised his first breathing device.

Andre then moved on to more practical matters. He assured the class that it is not difficult to learn how to dive, and that by the end of the first day they would be snorkeling; however, he warned them that they would spend a lot of time in the water, and that the class would be physically demanding. Then he showed them a facemask and a snorkel -- the only equipment a snorkeler needs. Lillian smiled to herself. Piece of cake, she thought to herself. She had spent many summer afternoons in her neighborhood pool wearing a facemask and diving for pennies that her father had thrown in for her to retrieve. After listening to a few more tips from Andre, Lillian was in the water! Her facemask allowed her to view the underwater scenery, and her snorkel allowed her to breathe while her face was submerged. When Andre gave her a pair of fins, she was able to move with greater ease across the surface of the water.

The next day in class Andre introduced deep-sea diving, emphasizing that a diver needs to learn how to use highly technical equipment, and must scrupulously observe several safety precautions. Lillian spent the next two days absorbed in thoughts of air pressure regulators, weight belts, and a variety of other contraptions she had never even heard of before. At night when she was at home watching the latest videos, she would stare at the television screen and daydream about all of the marvelous places she would visit once she was certified in scuba diving.

Lillian was starting to feel like a fish! She spent the majority of her time in the water, and her diving equipment began to feel like an extension of her own body. The tank, regulator, weight belt, and pressure and depth gauges were no longer mysterious and intimidating contraptions, but familiar items that she operated with ease. When she discussed her scuba gear with her school friends, she felt tremendously sophisticated and knowledgeable; however, they were often baffled by her descriptions. She seemed to be speaking in a foreign language. Her siblings were even more confused by Lillian's new obsession. They were beginning to think she was from another planet!

Next, Lillian studied two of the major health risks associated with scuba diving: air embolism and the bends, problems caused by the increase in atmospheric pressure as the diver goes deeper in the water. (Lillian thought to herself that learning about these things felt a bit like science class, but she was actually enjoying it for once!) Lillian learned that by clearing her ears on the way down she could equalize the pressure changes, and by breathing normally on the way up she could equalize the pressure changes again. She learned to never hold her breath, because air in her lungs would expand and she could suffer from air embolism. When the air in the lungs expands, air bubbles go into the circulatory system and, in extreme situations, can then be lodged in the heart, arteries, or brain. Symptoms include dizziness, confusion, weakness, blurred vision, and even death.

Lillian had become a skilled and educated diver, and she was close to becoming certified. The night before her final class she thought about how hard she had worked, and how quickly the week had passed. The last day of class was also the last day of her vacation. She wished she could spend the next month exploring undersea mysteries. On the last day of class when Andre gave the diving certificate to her, he told her that it had been a pleasure to have such an enthusiastic and eager student in the class. She told him it was the best spring vacation she had ever had.

The first day back at school, Lillian felt happy and relaxed. She knew that she was now an official diver who could explore reefs in every ocean of the world. Someday she hoped to study marine biology. Until then, she would spend every minute she could among dolphins, octopuses, and all the other fascinating inhabitants of the sea.

56. From its context in the story, what do you think the word "invigorated" means?

- A. full of energy
- B. scared
- C. apprehensive
- D. apathetic
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

My first memories of my mother were in the kitchen. I can recall the smells of fresh garlic and rosemary filling the air of our tiny flat. While my mom may not have been noted for her stellar cleaning abilities, she was known around the block for being the best cook. All I wanted to do when I grew up was follow in my mother's footsteps. I wanted to become a cook for those families who lived on the hill in the grand mansions. I always dreamed that one day I would be able to cook whatever I wanted without having to skimp

As time went on I had the opportunity to work for one of the most prestigious families in the city. My mother had arranged the interview through one of her contacts. I felt so lucky when I approached the massive house and was greeted by a butler dressed in a black tuxedo. I was led to the kitchen where I was introduced to Helga, the current cook. I was going to study under her for the next few months before she left for her sister's in Michigan.

I quickly settled into my life in the Smith family household. My routine was slightly mundane, but they compensated me nicely, and I had the freedom to create whatever dishes my heart desired. The family was willing to try the new dishes and creations I concocted. Life seemed perfect, and every night when I went home to my tiny apartment in the run down section of town, I dreamed that one day I might be able to live in a house as beautiful as the Smiths'.

I knew life was going too smoothly, and had I reflected upon it sooner, I might have seen the warning signs. The youngest Smith, Sally, fell ill one evening after dinner. At first it was just a slight fever and touch of the stomach flu, but when the illness persisted a week later, the family became quite worried about their baby. As fate would have it, Sally passed away one evening after suffering terribly. After that incident the family never fully recovered, and sometime later when another member of the family fell ill one night after dinner, I feared that they would blame my cooking for the sickness.

I quickly packed up the belongings in my apartment and fled to another section of the city. That was what I loved about the city; you could always find a hiding place among the thousands of people. The next day I interviewed for another cook's position with a slightly less prestigious family, and got the job. I quickly settled into my new life.

Everything seemed to be going extremely smoothly and I really became close to the Pattons. I knew that they cared deeply for my cooking and me. I always prided myself on satisfying my employers' bellies with my scrumptious food. Sadly though, my time with this family was brief. When I cooked my infamous dinner of stuffed pig roast and two family members became deathly ill after the meal, I high-tailed it out of there! I wasn't sure why people sometimes became ill from my cooking. Normally everyone complimented me on how wonderfully it tasted.

I fled to another section of the city. This time I found a middle class family to cook for. They had five children, and someone always seemed to need some type of sustenance. But alas! My time with this family was brief. Within only a few weeks of feeding them my delicious cooking, they all fell ill with the dreaded typhoid. I quickly fled, knowing full well that someone might try to blame my cooking for the onset of the illness.

Establishing myself with a new family became increasingly difficult as the word spread among the wealthier families in the city that a young woman was making everyone ill. An older man who wanted to interview me on my cooking practices approached me. I was suspicious, but I thought I might as well try to answer these questions and maybe I might be able to vindicate myself. The man was not satisfied with my answers and he followed me home one evening. When he tried to enter my apartment I threatened to call the police. He informed me that I was living in squalor and that I was the cause of so many innocent people dying. I slammed the door in his face and I went about my business.

The next day I heard a knock on my door, and a doctor who worked for the city greeted me. She tried to discuss health issues with me, but I wasn't going to listen to any of her doctor mumbo jumbo. What did she mean that I carried germs in my body? That's ridiculous! I would have been sick if that were the case, and I hadn't been ill a day in my life! I realized I needed to find a household where I could hide until the situation calmed down.

I went to a friend's house on the far edge of the city, hoping that no one would find me. I feared the worst. If only I hadn't applied for that job in the diner, I might have enjoyed the sweet taste of freedom a bit longer. After only two weeks at the diner, a huge typhoid epidemic broke out and all fingers pointed in my direction. The same doctor who visited my apartment a few months past tracked me down again, only this time with the police. They took me to a detention center, stating that I was a threat to the public health of the city.

Who were they kidding? They refused to let me out of the detention center, and if it hadn't been for my attorney, I might have rotted away in the cell. When I finally agreed not to work as a cook and practice better hygiene habits, the doctors agreed to let me go.

While I didn't enjoy making people sick, I never truly believed that all this illness was attributable to germs located in my body. I resorted to the only line of work I knew and once again I spread that dreaded disease. I had to flee from the authorities because I didn't think I would be able to endure the pressures of remaining detained. However, all my attempts to disguise myself failed and the police found me working in a small restaurant on the edge of the city. They placed me in their custody and I remained in the hospital under lock and key for the rest of my life. I never fully comprehended the impact I made, but when I looked back upon my life, I knew that everyone would remember my name.

57. Why was the city conducive to promoting the main character's secrecy?

- A. There were numerous job opportunities.
- B. She enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the city.
- C. You could blend in with the crowd.
- D. The sky was the limit.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Looking back on the whole disaster, before we ever planned the first part of the journey, I should have been wise enough to know that among the three of us, there wasn't enough nautical knowledge to float a boat! I guess the best thing to do now is chalk the whole thing up to life experience. But I can tell you this: It will be a long time before I ever set foot on any kind of boat again!

It all began innocently enough when my roommates and I were sitting around our dorm room, brainstorming possible summer vacation destinations. Within the week we would all complete our junior years. We could hardly believe that a year from now we would be college graduates! Vanessa suggested that we take a backpacking tour of Europe. I quickly nixed that idea, never having been a fan of camping. Monique brought up the idea of taking a cruise in the eastern Caribbean. While both Vanessa and I were intrigued by the idea, Vanessa had to admit that having to get dressed up for dinner each night wasn't particularly appealing to her. Both Monique and I agreed. "Hey, I know," I said. "What about one of those windjammer cruises?"

By the looks on their faces I could tell that neither of my roommates had ever heard of my suggestion. "It's a vacation on a huge sailboat about 80 feet long. You get a small crew to help you man the boat, and you sail leisurely from island to island in the Caribbean. The best thing about it is that you don't have to keep a particular schedule, and you can dress casually the whole week.

After unanimous agreement I called a travel agent and booked the trip. We left on July 1st with the intent of returning in a week. When we boarded the sailboat, we were all amazed at its size. The mast seemed to go on forever, and down below, the cabins were fully equipped. Looking at each other with mischievous grins, we knew that we were going to have the time of our lives.

The first day at sea, the crew of four acquainted us with the boat and most of the equipment. We each took turns shadowing crewmembers learning the different tasks involved in sailing such a huge boat. Little did we know that within twenty-four hours we'd be wondering if we'd survive.

That evening, we had a fabulous dinner consisting of fresh fish and lobster. We were smug in congratulating ourselves on our vacation choice. After dinner, as we enjoyed looking at the constellations from our deck chairs, Monique remarked that the wind had really picked up. We had to agree that the sapphire blue waters of the Caribbean no longer looked quite so placid. As we were discussing which island we'd like to

journey to on the following day, the captain of the crew approached. Hesitantly, he explained that he and his crew were from the island of St. John and would like to take the dinghy ashore to visit family before we set sail the following day. Looking at each other, we all nodded our approval. After all, we were only anchored 5 miles off shore. The captain seemed appreciative and assured us that they would return in the morning ready to begin our island tour.

For the next couple of hours, we relaxed out on deck, savoring the crisp, salty ocean air. Close to midnight we regretfully agreed that we should turn in so that we'd be fresh in the morning. We retired to our respective cabins, tired but excited about the week ahead.

The next thing I remember is waking up as I hit the floor of the cabin. Confused, I sat up, disoriented. Everything that I had placed on the dresser the previous night was sent crashing against the wall with the next violent pitch of the boat. It took me a minute to realize that it was the same movement that had thrown me from my bunk. At that moment I heard Monique screaming from outside my door. I managed to pull myself to my feet and open the cabin door. As long as I live, I'll never forget Monique and Vanessa's faces. They were as white as sheets.

Vanessa stammered, "We have to get up on deck and see what's going on!"

We struggled up the ladder, relying on each other's strength to climb up onto deck. What we saw there looked like something from a disaster movie. The deck was covered with water, and the boat was pitching helplessly from side to side. I was sure that at any moment it would turn over. Vanessa was the one to think of the life preservers down below. If she hadn't, I am sure that I wouldn't be telling this story. Monique made her way below deck to retrieve the life preservers while Vanessa and I clung to the railing of the boat. The wind sent buckets of saltwater over the side of the boat, making it almost impossible to see. After what seemed an eternity, Monique returned with the preservers. We quickly put them on. Before there was any more time to think about our options, the boat began taking on water. We saw an ocean disaster movie that showed it's best to jump away from a sinking ship. We held hands and jumped from the front of the boat. Thankfully, we were in the temperate waters of the Caribbean; otherwise, we might have frozen to death.

I'll never forget the rest of that night that stretched into early morning. The three of us were clutching hands, floating on our backs, talking about what we hoped for in our futures. The waters churned, and the wind blew, making it difficult to take a breath free of saltwater.

I knew that they must have been considering our fate as I was, but none of us dared to mention it. As we could see the sun peak over the horizon, we began to hope for rescue. We were finally able to get a look at our surroundings. Dejectedly we realized that we had drifted away from shore. Land was barely visible from where we floated. Just as I began to give up hope, I heard the roar of an engine. We must have all heard it at the same time, because we all started yelling and frantically gesticulating with our arms. The happiest sight I've ever seen was that of the dive boat that headed our way. So goes my first and last ocean adventure.

58. From its context in the story, what do you think the word "placid" means?

- A. blue
- B. calm
- C. rough
- D. warm
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Ramon and his little brother couldn't believe their ears when their mother came home with the good news. She had won a sales contest within her company and the prize was a week's stay at one of those fancy ski

resorts in Colorado. When their father arrived home from work later that evening, he was flabbergasted that the prize allowed her to take the entire family.

The only negative about the whole thing was that none of them had ever seen snow, let alone been skiing. Living in Southern California their whole lives, they had no experience with winter-related sports. Ben hesitated before bringing up this less than trivial detail, for fear of putting a damper on the exciting news. His mom looked at him as the thought was running through his mind.

She smiled. "I know that none of us know how to ski, but my friend at work who's been to this lodge assured me that you can take lessons. She said that her whole family was skiing before the end of their first day!" Ramon and Ben looked at each other, skeptical.

Their father quickly reminded them that there were many things to do at a ski resort besides skiing. "We can go sledding, ride snowmobiles, and go ice skating," he said excitedly.

Ramon felt pretty confident that he would be able to learn to ski quickly; after all, he was an expert water skier. His little brother, Ben, wasn't as confident. He remembered that his success with water skiing had been like a fish mastering a bicycle. Then he remembered what his dad had said about all of the other things they could do there.

A week later they boarded the plane ready to embark on their vacation. During the flight, Ramon avidly read the new skiing magazine that he had purchased at the airport newsstand.

Excitedly, he kept elbowing his brother. "Look at some of these cool stunts you can do on skis, Ben!"

His younger brother looked apprehensively at the picture of the skier completing a front flip. "I don't know, Ramon," he said slowly. "I think I'd rather rent snow mobiles."

His brother was shocked. "Look, you little coward," he said unsympathetically, "you aren't going to ruin this trip for all of us. If you don't ski, then someone will have to stay back with you!" Ben looked up at his brother dejectedly but said nothing.

When they arrived at the lodge, they were all in awe of the view from the top of the mountain. Before they had even checked into their rooms, Ramon was bugging his parents about taking their first ski lesson. Within an hour, the family had donned ski suits, boots, caps, and gloves. Ramon was obviously excited as he raced ahead of the family to the lesson area. While Ben was less than confident about skiing, he didn't want to disappoint his parents. He strapped on his skis along with the rest of his family. The instructor went through the basics including how to use the poles and how to come to a stop. At the end of the lesson, Ramon dragged Ben along with him to get in line for the ski lift that would take them to the top of the mountain. While they hadn't had experience skiing downhill during the lesson, Ramon still felt confident that it wouldn't be that difficult. After all, he knew how to turn, stop, and it wasn't very difficult to walk with the skis on.

Ben whispered to his brother as they boarded the lift, "Ramon, let's go on the bunny hill first."

His older brother looked at him with disgust. "What, are you kidding? That hill's for wimps! I want to try that blue slope."

Ben gulped. He knew that the blue slope was for more experienced skiers. Not wanting his sibling to further insult him, Ben sat back quietly. When they got to the top they both slid off the chair lift onto the snow-covered ground.

Ramon dragged his brother over to the beginning of the ski run. Ben peered anxiously down the alpine mountain. It was a rat's maze! People darted in and out, around trees and other skiers.

Before he realized it, Ramon had yanked him up to the edge. "We're next," his brother exclaimed excitedly.

At that moment, Ramon gave Ben a gentle push to start him down the mountain. Ben looked around and realized that he was actually skiing. It reminded him of the first time he rode a bike, when he turned around and realized that his mother was no longer holding on to the back of the seat!

"Hey! Ramon," Ben screamed excitedly, "look at me, I'm doing it!"

Ben looked back over his shoulder when he realized that Ramon wasn't next to him. Out of the corner of his eye he saw Ramon wobbling on his skis, grabbing tree branches for balance. Needing to concentrate on his own progress, he quickly turned back to the trail ahead of him. By the time he made it to the bottom, he had

decided that skiing was his new favorite sport. He smiled to himself as he scanned the mountainside looking for Ramon. After a minute, he spotted him. Ramon looked like he was doing cartwheels down the mountain! By the time he got to the bottom, he had lost his hat, one ski, a boot, and his goggles. While Ben found great humor in the situation, he was wise enough to avoid commenting.

"Okay, okay," Ramon said when he had regained his composure, "next time we go down the bunny hill!"

"No way!" Ben exclaimed excitedly. "I'm going down the black diamond next! This skiing stuff's a breeze!" Ramon groaned as he began searching for his missing boot.

59. Prior to the trip, how did Ramon feel about skiing?
- A. He was over confident.
 - B. He lacked confidence.
 - C. He was apathetic.
 - D. He possessed just the right amount of confidence.
 - E. Don't Know

60. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

How to Complete a Job Application

When you apply for a job, you will be required to complete a job application. Often, this will be an employer's first impression of you, even before meeting you. By following the suggestions below, you will increase your chances of getting hired.

1. Read all of the instructions carefully before you fill out the form. Make sure you have the correct spelling for names and addresses before you begin. If you are not sure of addresses or phone numbers, it is better to ask if you can take the application with you and return it with the proper information. If the employer will not allow you to take the application with you, ask if you may return with the correct information. Obviously, it is best if you have all of the information with you from the beginning.
2. Print the information requested, making sure to use a blue or black ink pen if pen is required. Print carefully so that your letters are clear and legible.
3. Employers will often ask for references. When you provide a reference, use someone who is not related, but has known you for an adequate length of time. Teachers, ministers, past employers, and family friends are all possibilities.
4. Be sure to include any past employment history that might make you a successful candidate for the job. Explain how your past experience makes you qualified for the position for which you are applying.
5. Prospective employers often look at extra-curricular activities that you are involved in as well. Be sure to include anything that might set you apart from other applicants. For example, if you play a team sport, a employer might think that you are disciplined and responsible because of the time commitment necessary to participate.
6. If the application requires you to list the salary or hourly wage that you desire, come prepared. Before applying for a job, talk to people that have similar jobs to find out what their starting salary was. You can even call businesses and inquire. Often, when people ask for wages that are unreasonable, they don't even get interviewed.
7. Proofread the form to make sure you have filled everything out correctly. Make sure you have provided all the requested information.

What is the importance of requesting a reasonable salary or hourly wage?

- A. The employer will know that you can't be pushed around.
- B. You let the employer know that you are willing to work for an amount that is reasonable to both of you.
- C. You are required by law to request a specific salary.
- D. It lets your employer know how much money you need to make each month.
- E. Don't Know

61. Use the recipe to answer the question.

Better Than Your Average Oatmeal

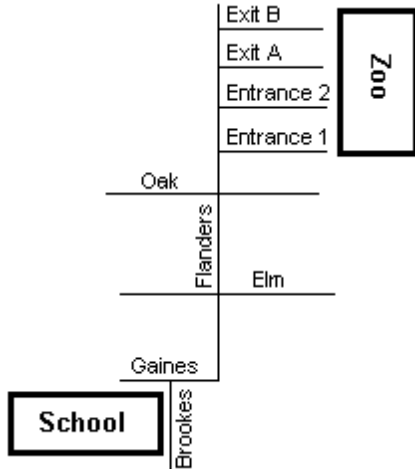
1 cup oatmeal	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
2/3 cup cold water	1/4 cup raisins
1 teaspoon brown sugar	1 cup milk
1 tablespoon sugar	

In medium saucepan, bring water to a boil. Add oatmeal and stir. Reduce heat to medium and cook for 2 minutes. After the 2 minutes, add raisins and stir. Cook for 2 more minutes. Then add sugar, brown sugar, and cinnamon. Cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat, cover and let stand for 2-3 minutes. Serve with milk.

How much brown sugar does the recipe call for?

- A. 1 teaspoon
- B. 1 tablespoon
- C. 1 cup
- D. 2/3 cup
- E. Don't Know

62. Use the map and directions to answer the question.



Leave the school from Brookes, and turn right onto Gaines. Turn left onto Flanders and cross over Elm. You will be on Flanders for one mile. After Flanders crosses over Oak, start looking for the zoo entrances. Go past zoo Entrance 1 and turn right into zoo Entrance 2.

To get back to school from the zoo, leave the zoo from Exit B and turn left onto Flanders. Cross over Oak and Elm. Turn right onto Gaines and enter the school through the Gaines parking lot.

When returning to school _____.

- A. turn left onto Flanders from the zoo exit
- B. turn right onto Flanders from the zoo exit
- C. go straight onto Flanders from the zoo exit
- D. Don't Know

63. Read the passage carefully and answer the question that follows.

Carving pumpkins is an opportunity to create either a monster or a friend. I usually make two different jack-o-lanterns. One is a happy face, and the other is a mean and scary face. No matter which type of jack-o-lantern you wish to create, the process is the same.

First, find a big, healthy pumpkin. Wash off any excess dirt and dry the pumpkin thoroughly. Use a big marker to draw the face of the pumpkin exactly how you want it to be carved. Remember, it's your creation, so be imaginative. After you have drawn the face, it's time to start carving.

Carving a pumpkin is messy work, so prepare to get dirty. Newspaper can be laid out as a catch cloth. The pumpkin rind is very hard, so you'll need a sharp knife. Working with knives is very dangerous, so be sure to have an adult help you. Cut a hole around the top of the pumpkin, about two inches away from the pumpkin stem. Pull this top piece off and place off to the side.

The inside of the pumpkin will be filled with pulp and seeds. This is when it gets messy. Roll up your sleeves and dig in. Pull out all the pulp and seeds. Don't throw the seeds away, because you can cook them for snacks. Clean the inside of the pumpkin as best you can.

Once the inside has been emptied, start to cut out the face you drew earlier. This is very precise work, so be patient. Don't be discouraged if you make a mistake; carving a pumpkin is difficult work.

After you have completed the jack-o-lantern, admire it. Place a candle inside and turn out the lights. Let the personality of the jack-o-lantern shine.

What is the marker used for?

- A. The marker is for drawing a sign for your pumpkin.
- B. The marker is used to draw a big circle around the top of the pumpkin.
- C. The marker is for drawing the face of the pumpkin.
- D. Don't Know

Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

There are strict procedures for flying the American flag and folding the American flag when it's not being flown. The flag should be flown from sunrise to sunset. There are a few exceptions in which the flag can be flown at night. One is at the Marine Corps Monument in Arlington, Virginia. Until 1968 the United States Flag flew continuously over Mount Surbachi on Iwo Jima, an island off of Japan, where it had been raised by Marines during World War II. It should be raised briskly in the morning, and in the evening it should be lowered in a slow and respectful manner. The flag should be flown every day in good weather, and especially on national holidays.

Flying the flag at half-staff honors the heroic dead; full-staff shows that the nation lives. When flown at half-staff, the flag is raised to the peak for an instant, then lowered to the half-staff position. Before it is lowered for the day, it is raised again to the top. The death of an American president calls for the flag to be flown at half-staff. Another circumstance in which the flag is flown at half-staff is on Memorial Day. On this holiday, the flag is flown at half-staff until noon and at full-staff from noon until sunset.

When folding the American flag, you must first fold the flag in half lengthwise. Repeat this step one more time. The canton, the part with the stars, must be on the outside. Then start at the fly end, opposite the stars, and fold the corner over to the opposite edge. This will form a triangle. Repeat this step until the entire flag forms a neat triangle.

64. When should the American flag be flown?

- A. at any time
- B. from midnight to sunset
- C. 24 hours a day
- D. from sunrise to sunset
- E. Don't Know

65. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

How to Make a Gummy Aquarium

You will need:

- Blue gelatin
- Gummy fish
- Clear plastic cups

Follow the instructions on the package to make the gelatin. Pour into plastic cups and place in the refrigerator. After about an hour, the gelatin should be almost set. Place a few gummy fish in each cup. Put the cups back in the refrigerator until the gelatin has set. Eat and enjoy!

What do you think happens after the jello has firmly set?

- A. The gummy fish will appear to be floating in the gelatin.
- B. The gelatin will still be liquid.
- C. The gummy fish will have fallen to the bottom.
- D. The gelatin will turn orange.
- E. Don't Know

66. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

BASKETBALL! VOLLEYBALL! SOCCER!

WHAT: After school sports

WHERE: Little House Elementary

WHEN: February 20 - March 31

TIME: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:15p.m.

WHO: All fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students

After school sports are a great time to start getting ready for the summer. Basketball, volleyball, and soccer are the sports that will be included this year. Anyone interested needs to pick up a permission slip from Mrs. Klohe. There will be no activity bus. All students will need to have their own ride home.

Who can participate in the after school sports?

- A. fourth, fifth, and sixth graders
- B. everyone
- C. first, second, and third graders
- D. fifth and sixth graders
- E. Don't Know

67. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

Almost everyone has had hiccups at one time or another, but getting rid of them can sometimes be a challenge. Hiccups occur when the muscles in your upper abdomen spasm. This spasm can be caused by an imbalance in the amount of carbon dioxide in the bloodstream. Here are a few techniques to try the next time you get hiccups and can't seem to get rid of them:

1. While the most common technique is to hold your breath, this does not always work. A different breathing technique is to lie down on your back on a bed and hang your head over the edge. Open your mouth widely and breathe deeply and slowly.
2. Drink water upside down. Bend over and put your lips on the far side of the glass, tip the glass towards your chest, and drink while upside down. Another method is plugging your nose with one hand and drinking water with the other.
3. Take a spoonful of sugar or suck on a lemon. These contain a high amount of carbon and should stop the spasm.
4. Find the uvula, the tear-shaped flap hanging from the back of your throat. Gently touch it with a spoon handle and breathe carefully to prevent gagging.

Most of these methods force the body to focus on something besides hiccuping. The body will react to something different and the spasm should stop. If the hiccups continue for longer than one day you should consult a physician.

What is a hiccup?

- A.** a muscle spasm in the throat
- B.** the tear-shaped flap hanging from the back of the throat
- C.** a large cup used for infants
- D.** a muscle spasm in the upper abdomen
- E.** Don't Know

68. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

Butterfly Feet

Here's a fun way to create beautiful butterflies. First, paint the bottom of your right foot with orange paint. Carefully step on a sheet of paper, putting your big toe against the left edge of the paper. It will create a stamp of your right foot. Use soap and water to clean off your right foot. Next, paint the bottom of your left foot with orange paint. Carefully step onto the paper so that the little toe of your left foot is next to the stamp of the little toe of your right foot. When you lift your left foot off the paper, you'll see a butterfly! Clean your left foot. You can paint a face or spots on the butterfly using a different color of paint.

What should you do after stepping onto the left edge of the paper with your right foot?

- A. Clean off your right foot with soap and water.
- B. Paint your left foot with orange paint.
- C. Clean off your left foot with soap.
- D. Paint your right foot with orange paint.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story carefully and answer the questions.

There are many ways to help the planet. One way that is easy and profitable is recycling. First, you must get a few containers, one for each type of recyclable item. A container is not necessary for paper, because paper can be tied into bundles with twine. I have found that trash cans are good containers. Using containers with lids will help avoid smell and mess. After you have found containers, you must label each one. Write directly on the container with a water-resistant pen.

After the containers have been created, begin to collect the recyclable items. You'll be amazed at the number of soda cans and juice bottles that will accumulate. Be sure to rinse all items before putting them into the container. This will prevent odors and bugs.

Before you know it, the containers will be full. Take the containers to your local recycling center. Most recycling centers will pay money for the recyclable items. Many recycling centers base the amount of money issued on the weight of the items.

Teach your friends and family about the importance of recycling. It saves natural resources, land fill space, and energy. It's also a fun way to make some extra money.

69. According to the story, how do many recycling centers determine how much they pay for items?

- A. They count the number of items.
- B. They weigh the items.
- C. They pay money only for certain items, such as soda cans.
- D. They pay only if the items are in good condition.
- E. Don't Know

70. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

Introducing people is a friendly gesture. Knowing how to introduce someone properly will make it simple. The following steps will help to create polite and respectful introductions:

Step 1: Be gracious

Being gracious means introducing people with the correct titles if it is a formal event. It also can mean making sure no one feels left out. If there is someone new in a group, that person should be introduced to everyone else. Introducing yourself first to someone you don't know is also a very kind gesture.

Step 2: Make the introductions

When you introduce someone you should address each person individually and tell him or her the other person's name. For example, "Jamie, this is Mark. Mark, Jamie." Using eye contact when speaking to someone will show respect. Adding a little extra information about a person in the introduction can help lead to conversation after the introductions are over.

Step 3: Remember the person's name

Forgetting a person's name can be embarrassing. Rather than saying their name wrong, ask them to repeat their name to make sure it is correct. Or, introduce the person whose name you do know and the other person will say their name when they introduce themselves.

Step 4: Respond respectfully

If you are being introduced, respond with a handshake and a "Hello", or "It's nice to meet you." If you are sitting down at the time, stand up for the introduction.

Which of the following was NOT a direction for introducing people?

- A. be gracious
- B. leave the people alone to talk
- C. make the introductions
- D. respond respectfully
- E. Don't Know

71. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

How to Improve Your Memorization Skills

Memorization is a skill you will need for the rest of your life, as well as in school. You will be called on to remember phone numbers, names, and other information every day. That's why it is important to develop strong memorization skills.

Here are a few memorization techniques. Try them and discover which techniques work best for you.

1. Repeat out loud. If you must memorize a list, repeating the list out loud will help you remember better than just saying the list silently to yourself.
2. Write it down. The action of writing something down boosts your memory.
3. Associate ideas. It is easier to remember things if you connect them to something meaningful. You might remember a list of words by making up a story and including the words in the story.
4. Use games. Visualize silly pictures involving the material you need to memorize. You could also think of a phrase using the key words you must memorize.

What is suggested in the second memorization technique?

- A. Repeat the material out loud.
- B. Use games and riddles.
- C. Write down the material you are memorizing.
- D. Associate ideas and pictures.
- E. Don't Know

72. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

Make Your Own Paper

When paper is made at a mill, wood pulp and water are put into a large machine with a long moving screen. The water seeps through the screen while catching the pulp and then the screen moves through another machine, which presses the pulp and dries it. Next, it goes through several more machines to make the paper smooth and flat.

You can create your own paper very easily with recycled old newspaper, office paper, or wrapping paper. However, the paper you create at home will end up being thicker and rougher than the paper made at a mill, because you don't have access to the machines, which flatten and smooth the paper.

What You Need:

- Mixing bowl
- Flat pan or dish (9" x 13" or larger than your screen)
- Blender
- Rolling pin
- Newspaper, office paper, or wrapping paper
- Non-rusting screen (8" x 12" or the size of paper you want to make)
- 4 pieces of cloth to use as blotting paper
- 10 pieces of newspaper to use for blotting
- 2 teaspoons instant starch
- 2 cups hot water

Directions:

1. Tear paper into tiny bits until you have ½ cup. Add 2 cups hot water, and put in blender. If you wish, you could also add your own decorations, such as flowers, glitter, or string, to the mixture in the blender.
2. Blend the shredded paper and water to make pulp. Add the instant starch and blend again until the pulp is the consistency of split pea soup.
3. Place the screen in the bottom of the flat pan, and pour the pulp over the top.
4. Spread out some newspaper and place a piece of cloth on top to use as a blotter.
5. Gently lift the screen out of the pan, and let the water drain out. Place the screen, pulp-side up, on top of the piece of cloth, and gently put another piece of cloth over the pulp. Then layer another piece of newspaper over the top of the cloth.
6. Take the rolling pin and roll over the top of the newspaper and the cloth blotter to squeeze the remainder of the water from the pulp.
7. Carefully remove the screen with the pulp from the newspaper and blotter, and let the paper dry for 12 to 24 hours, depending on the thickness and dampness of the paper.
8. Enjoy your new creation to use for stationery, cards, or just plain paper, and see how creative you can become!

The rolling pin, screen, and newspaper are all used to _____.

- A. make the paper flat and smooth
- B. make paper at a mill
- C. remove water from the pulp
- D. prevent the paper from tearing
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

In a surprise decision on Monday, Genco Manufacturing disclosed that it will discontinue the use of highly toxic substances in the manufacturing of its products.

Genco, an industry leader in the manufacturing of machine products for industrial applications, has for years been attacked by environmental groups for its use of toxic substances in its Houston and Seattle manufacturing plants. Ronald Natron, leader of Environment Now, stated that he is pleased but apprehensive about the Genco announcement. "It is really too soon to tell," said Natron. "I am pleased that all our picketing and lobbying is paying off, but I will believe it when I see it."

Genco's competitor questioned the move. "It's motivated purely by profit," stated Mr. Banks of Hall Corporation. "They cannot manufacture their product profitably without the use of these substances. There is no other way. It's a gimmick to draw on public sympathy to gain customer support. The truth will come out soon enough," he predicted.

According to an unnamed Genco official the company has spent three years and 30 million dollars in company-funded research to produce environmentally friendly alternatives to its current manufacturing practices.

The research and subsequent decision to replace the substances currently in use was spurred on by the recent congressional mandate that Genco Manufacturing, Hall Corporation, and Waylite Tool Incorporated replace the use of three highly toxic substances in the manufacturing of their products or face billion dollar fines each year they refuse to comply.

Congressman Dean Tanner, who headed the Environmental Challenge Committee, commented that he is, "...thrilled with Genco's decision. They are once again showing themselves to be a leader in business and in the community." Congresswomen Valerie Whitt added, "Genco was very supportive of the work done by the Environmental Challenge Committee and has always been a leader in environmental issues."

Genco will cease all manufacturing next week and spend one month retooling and retrofitting its equipment for the new process. When asked how the downtime will affect their sales and customer base, Genco President Gene General remarked, "We have been preparing for this event for a year now. We stepped up manufacturing six months ago to create a one-month surplus. Our customers should notice no difference in the delivery of their products." Mr. General added, "Genco is confident that our new approach to manufacturing will be very attractive to environmentally conscious consumers, and we will welcome any new customers who would choose Genco for its commitment to the environment."

73. According to the article, what does Hall Corporation produce?

- A.** electronic products
- B.** mechanical products
- C.** household products
- D.** information not provided
- E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

The oxygen-mask clad inspectors seen in local schools this week were not on a routine safety check as they first indicated. This special unit of hazardous substance investigators had a mission of the utmost importance in the lives of our students.

A routine repair by the Crescent Leaf School District's Mobile Repair Unit at Ash Street High School turned into a near disaster last month as workers pulled out old ceiling tiles only to discover that the sprayed on insulation in the ceiling contained asbestos. People in the affected classrooms were immediately relocated. Nearly 100 students, teachers, and staff were exposed to the asbestos before it was discovered.

The day following the asbestos exposure incident, a district spokesperson announced that a special team of investigators would be dispatched to all schools in the district to investigate the asbestos problem.

Asbestos is the common name for a group of naturally occurring minerals. These minerals have properties that make them excellent for insulation. Unfortunately, some of these same properties make them potentially harmful to people. The individual fibers are smaller than a human hair and will remain suspended in the air for hours. The fibers are easily inhaled but are nearly indestructible once inside the body. With enough exposure these tiny fibers can cause cancerous and noncancerous respiratory diseases. Children are the most susceptible to these diseases, and each exposure increases the risk of health problems.

State Health Department official Mr. Art Beltway commented that the real danger was only in the buildings where the ceiling tiles had been disturbed. "The asbestos in the ceiling that has not been disturbed does not pose a threat. Only fibers that have been released into the air are potentially harmful." When questioned about what Crescent Leaf Schools should do regarding the asbestos discovered in their schools, Mr. Beltway suggested, "Eliminating the asbestos in the classrooms where the ceiling has been disturbed should be all that is done during the school year. If the district decides to undertake the costly task of eliminating asbestos, the schools should be closed until the work is complete."

Students at Ash Street High School have been relocated to other area schools until the asbestos is sufficiently cleaned up in their school.

District officials are still undecided about what course of long-term action they will take. The results of their investigation will be finalized next week, and the school board plans to discuss the issue at its January meeting.

74. How many schools in the Crescent Leaf School District have asbestos insulation?
- A. just Ash Street High School
 - B. every school in the district
 - C. just a few schools in the district
 - D. information not provided
 - E. Don't Know

Here is a recipe for cookies called "Double Treats." Read the recipe, and then answer the questions that follow.

First, you will need an 18.5-ounce box of fudge-marble cake mix and 1 cup of chocolate chips. The cake mix box will contain two different packs. One pack is vanilla and the other is chocolate.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the vanilla cake pack with $\frac{1}{3}$ cup vegetable oil and 3 tablespoons of water. Beat with an electric mixer until smooth. Stir in 1 cup of chocolate chips.

In a second mixing bowl, combine $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of the vanilla mixture, the chocolate pack, and 1 tablespoon of water. Beat on low until smooth.

Drop the vanilla mixture onto sheets using a teaspoon. On top of the vanilla mixture, place a bit of the chocolate mixture.

Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes.

75. What do you use to drop the vanilla mixture onto the cookie sheet?
- A. a wooden spoon
 - B. a tablespoon
 - C. a teaspoon
 - D. Don't Know

76. Read the passage and answer the following question.

Coffee Can Chocolate Ice Cream

Materials:

1 empty and clean three-pound coffee can
1 empty and clean one pound coffee can
Crushed ice
Rock Salt
Duct Tape

Ingredients:

1 egg
½ cup water
2 cups chocolate milk
1 lid full of vanilla

Directions:

Mix all the ingredients together and pour into the smaller coffee can. Put the lid on the coffee can and close with the duct tape. Make sure to tape tightly so nothing can leak out. Then put some crushed ice in the bottom of the larger coffee can. Sprinkle some rock salt over the top of the ice. Next, put the smaller coffee can inside the larger coffee can. Pack ice and rock salt all around the smaller coffee can. Put the lid on the larger coffee can and close with the duct tape. Roll the can around for about fifteen minutes.

Open the larger can and pull out the smaller can. Carefully open the smaller can so no salt gets inside. Stir the ingredients until they become smooth. Then put the lid back on and tape tightly again. Place the smaller can back into the larger can. Tape the larger can shut with the duct tape. This time roll the can for twenty minutes. Open up the larger can and take out the smaller can. Check to make sure the ice cream is ready. Stir until it is smooth and serve!

How is ice cream made in this recipe?

- A. with an electric mixer
- B. with frozen milk
- C. with a wooden spoon
- D. with coffee cans
- E. Don't Know

Read the recipe for Senate Bean Soup and answer the questions that follow.

Ingredients: a large cooked smoked ham bone, 1 pound dry white beans, 2 onions, 5 celery stalks, 1 teaspoon of garlic powder, salt, and pepper

First, place the ham bone in a large pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil, lower the heat, cover, and simmer for one hour.

You'll need a separate pot for the beans. Use a colander to thoroughly wash the beans. Put the beans in the pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Once the water is boiling, remove the pot from the heat and let stand while the ham bone is simmering.

Peel onions and chop. Wash celery and chop. Set aside.

Remove ham bone pot from heat. Drain beans and add to ham bone pot. Add onions, celery, and garlic powder. Bring pot to a boil, lower heat, cover, and simmer for at least 2 hours.

Remove ham bone. Cut off excess meat and return meat to the soup. Add salt and pepper to taste. For thicker soup, mash some of the beans. Makes about four quarts; approximately eight servings.

77. When do you put the ham bone back in the pot after removing the excess meat?

- A. The recipe does not instruct you to put the bone back in the pot.
- B. immediately
- C. after it has simmered for at least 2 hours
- D. when the soup is thicker
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Liquid crystal is a state of matter between the liquid state and the solid state. In a liquid, molecules are free to move and rotate. The molecules in a solid are in a fixed pattern. In a liquid crystal, the molecules are partly aligned to a pattern and are partly free to move and rotate.

Friedrich Reinitzer discovered liquid crystals in 1888. He noticed that when heating certain solid substances, they first became a cloudy liquid and then turned into a clear liquid. On cooling, the substance went from a clear liquid to a cloudy liquid to a solid. The cloudy liquid is now known as liquid crystal.

Liquid crystals keep their part liquid, part solid nature only within a specific range of temperatures. When liquid crystal is heated to a high temperature, it turns into a liquid. When subjected to very low temperatures, it turns into a solid. Classes of liquid crystal include: nematic, cholesteric, and smectic. Each class is characterized by different arrangements of molecules.

Liquid crystals can be made from about 50 percent of all organic compounds. Liquid crystals can also be made by mixing soaps, detergents, and some acids with water. Liquid crystals are often used in computer screens, digital watch faces, and calculators. Liquid crystal displays are sharper and use less power than conventional displays.

78. How did Friedrich Reinitzer discover liquid crystals?

- A.** mixing solid and liquid substances
- B.** cooling solid substances
- C.** heating liquid substances
- D.** heating and cooling certain substances
- E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Jefferson Davis was the tenth child of Samuel Davis, a planter in Kentucky. Jefferson's oldest brother, Joseph, supported him by sending him to academies in Kentucky and Mississippi.

In 1821, Davis entered Transylvania University in Kentucky. He was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point three years later. From there, he began his career as an officer in the U.S. Army.

Jefferson Davis's life was filled with highs and lows. In 1835, Davis married his first wife, Sarah Taylor, who was the daughter of his commander. Within three months, Sarah contracted malaria and died. Heartbroken over her death, Davis moved to an isolated plantation in Mississippi. There he spent the next ten years farming and studying.

In 1845, Davis remarried and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a democrat. He left that position in 1846 to command troops in the Mexican War. Following the war, Davis became a senator for Mississippi. Davis resigned from the senate to pursue the position of governor of Mississippi, but he lost the election. He was later appointed Secretary of War and soon after returned to the senate.

In 1861, much to his surprise, Davis was elected president of the Confederate States of America. For the next four years, he served with complete devotion. Unfortunately, Davis was in poor health. He also had difficulty dealing with people and criticism. Eventually, the Confederate Army collapsed.

On May 10, 1865, Davis was captured by Federal troops and imprisoned for two years. Davis was released on bond, but never pardoned for crimes of treason. He was now ineligible for public office. He retired to Mississippi and died in 1889.

79. What did Davis do immediately after the Mexican War?

- A.** He retired from the presidency and moved to Mississippi.
- B.** He became a senator in Mississippi.
- C.** His wife died and he moved to a plantation in Mississippi.
- D.** After he was released from prison, Davis moved to Mississippi.
- E.** Don't Know

80. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows.

This past weekend I turned, twisted, jumped, and sped all over the ski slopes. Usually I consider myself lucky to earn C's in school, but on my last report card I received an A in math and a B in science. My parents were so proud of me that they gave me the best gift: a weekend snowboarding trip!

We left Friday immediately after school, and my best friend Alison came with us. We arrived at the ski lodge and rented our gear that night. The excitement overcame us, and we stayed awake half the night talking about the next day's adventure. Both Alison and I had been snowboarding before, and we knew this was one of the nicest resorts around. We woke up to find six inches of fresh powder on the ground, and hurriedly ate our breakfast so we could get onto the slopes. We strapped on our boards and boots, hopped on the lift, and spent the rest of the weekend traveling up and down the mountainside.

Why are Alison and the author awake for half of the night?

- A. They are riding in the car on the way to the resort.
- B. They are anxious to go snowboarding the next day.
- C. They have to wait in line to get their snowboards.
- D. They are excited to receive their report cards.
- E. Don't Know

Read the letter carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Dear Jackie,

How are you doing? It just isn't the same without you here. I wish you didn't have to move so far away. However, I have managed to keep myself so busy this past month I haven't had any time to think about how lonely it is in town without you. I know summer just started but I have had a million things to accomplish. I just finished my third draft of my resume. John is helping me edit it so I can find the best summer job.

This past week I went around to a number of local businesses to pick up applications. I was just going to turn in the applications, but John told me that I'd have a better chance of getting the job of my choice if I submitted resumes with the completed applications. You know what? He was right! After handing in my resumes with the applications, I already have three interviews lined up for next week. I can't believe my luck! Now I don't know where I want to work. Monday I am going to Tom's Records and Tuesday I have an interview with McGregory's Restaurant.

What about you? Are you working this summer? Have you applied anywhere? I wish we could work in the same place. Wouldn't that be fun? We probably wouldn't get much work done though.

So what else have you been up to this summer? I am taking tennis lessons on Mondays and Wednesdays. My mom signed me up at Stone Ridge Country Club. I guess she thinks it will make me a refined young lady if I know how to properly hold a tennis racket. I'd rather be surfing with my friends. Speaking of surfing, have you had a chance to paddle out lately? How are the waves on the East Coast? At least the water should be warmer there than here!

Well I wish you were here so we could apply for jobs together. Good luck in meeting new friends this summer. I'm sure you'll do great because you are so sweet! Maybe I'll be able to save up enough money from my summer job to come visit you over winter break. Wouldn't that be great?! I need to get back to the application process. Wish me luck at my interviews and I hope I get to talk to you soon.

Take care,
Cindy

81. When does Cindy want to come visit Jackie?

- A. right away
- B. over the summer
- C. spring break
- D. winter break
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The biggest fish in the sea is a shark. It is called the whale shark. They are longer than two classrooms! Whale sharks have many rows of small teeth. They eat only small fish. As whale sharks swim, they open their mouths and swallow fish. They swallow enough water to fill a swimming pool when they eat. Whale sharks lay big eggs. Whale shark eggs are as big as a soccer ball. Whale shark eggs do not look like regular eggs. They are shaped like a rectangle. You can see the baby whale shark through the shell of the egg.

Even though they are large, whale sharks do not hurt people. People can get very close to whale sharks. A person can walk on a whale shark because their skin is very thick and hard. Whale sharks are interesting fish.

82. Whale sharks have _____ of small teeth.

- A. many rows
- B. one row
- C. five rows
- D. two rows
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

Have you ever seen a flying fish? They soar several feet above the water. Some fish can go as high as 36 feet above the water. An interesting thing about these fish is that they don't really fly. Instead, they use the wind to glide through the air. The fish swim as fast as they can to the surface of the water. When they break the surface they spread their fins like wings. The wind can carry these fish several yards. The fish "fly" above the water to get away from an enemy.

There are 50 different kinds of flying fish. The biggest kind is the California flying fish, which is 18 inches long. The Atlantic flying fish is a kind that lives in the Atlantic Ocean.

83. How do you think the flying fish got its name?

- A. Because the fish look like they're flying in the air.
- B. Because the fish looks so much like a bird.
- C. Because the fish can soar like an airplane.
- D. Because the fish can dive very deep.
- E. Don't Know

Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

It grows over eight feet tall and weighs over 1,500 pounds! What is it? It is a grizzly bear. Grizzly bears are also called Alaskan brown bears. Grizzlies are huge creatures! In fact, they are the largest meat-eating animals that live on land. Grizzly bears maintain their terrifying size by eating eighty to ninety pounds of food each day. They like to dine on fish, berries, leaves, and small animals.

Grizzlies are flat-footed, just like humans. Their heels rest on the ground. On the end of a bear's toes are large claws. These claws are used to dig out small animals.

Fortunately, humans do not walk like bears. Bears have a clumsy looking walk because they move both legs on one side of the body forward at the same time. But bears are not clumsy. They can even stand on their hind legs.

Bears should wear glasses, because they do not have good eyesight. They cannot hear well either. They do, however, have a sharp sense of smell. They use those long noses of theirs to sniff out danger and food.

Hikers in western states, like Alaska, need to beware that they just may run into one of these furry creatures in some dark, shady corner of the woods. Grizzlies usually run away when they see a human being, but sometimes they attack. It is helpful to know that grizzlies do not climb trees. So the next time you run into an unfriendly grizzly, head for the nearest tree!

- 84.** What do grizzly bears use their noses for?
- A.** smelling to find out if humans are close by
 - B.** smelling to find out if other bears are near
 - C.** smelling to look for food
 - D.** smelling for danger and food
 - E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Although most animals eat plants, how many plants eat animals? Throughout the world, there are about four hundred and fifty meat-eating plants. These plants are often found in marshy areas where nourishment is scarce. The plants need to trap insects and small animals for food.

Most meat-eating plants give off a sweet smell that attracts animals. The plants use different methods for trapping food. Some plants, like the Venus flytrap, have leaves that snap shut. At the end of each leaf it has a pair of hinged lobes, or jaws, edged with spines. The Venus flytrap is found in the wild only in North and South Carolina. It attracts its victims with its crimson glands that give it a red, flowerlike appearance. It takes about ten days for it to digest its victim before the leaf reopens. Other plants, like the sundew plant, trap animals in a glue-like liquid. Still other plants drown animals in poisonous liquids or water. The pitcher plant is an example of a meat-eating plant that drowns its victims.

Meat-eating plants are harmless to humans. Most animals are also safe. Insects, however, are the most common feast among meat-eating plants.

- 85.** Where are meat-eating plants most often found?
- A.** in mountainous areas
 - B.** in marshy areas
 - C.** growing in valleys
 - D.** in Africa
 - E.** Don't Know

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

The terms "rabbit" and "hare" have often been thought to be interchangeable. However, there are several differences between a rabbit and a hare.

To begin with, a hare is generally larger than a rabbit. Hares also have much longer ears. Perhaps the most apparent difference between the two species is what occurs right after birth. Rabbits are born blind, without fur, and completely helpless. A newborn hare, on the other hand, is wide-eyed and covered with fur. The newborn hare can also hop around on the day of birth.

Hares and rabbits also live in different styles of homes. Hares usually make their nests in ground hollows. Rabbits generally dig deep burrows and bear their young in an underground nest.

Although rabbits and hares look very similar, there are several differences that make the two species unique.

- 86.** Based on the story you just read, where do rabbits bear their young?
- A.** in an underground nest
 - B.** near a river
 - C.** in a ground hollow
 - D.** beneath thick bushes
 - E.** Don't Know

Read the story carefully and answer the questions that follow.

A dam is a barricade built across a stream of water, such as a river, to hold back or control the water flow. The first known dam was built around 4000 BC along the Nile River in Egypt.

Dams are classified by their functions. There are generally three types of dams: storage, diversion, and detention. Storage dams are built to reserve water for later use. For example, a storage dam may be built to store excess water runoff, which can be used in times of drought. A storage dam can provide water to farms in times of drought. A diversion dam is created to provide water pressure. The water pressure moves the water through ditches and canals. This pressure creates a huge amount of energy that is used to generate power. Detention dams are built to reduce the effect of sudden floods. Detention dams must be very strong in order to hold massive amounts of floodwater.

There are over 50,000 dams in the United States. All three types of dams are equally important in helping to capture water and turn it into a natural resource we can use. Although it is impossible to completely control the forces of nature, dams are able to provide the water control necessary for many communities.

- 87.** Storage dams are built _____.
- A.** for water skiers
 - B.** to reserve water for later use
 - C.** to reduce the effects of floods
 - D.** to provide water pressure
 - E.** Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

For Charles Csuri, the computer is a canvas. Csuri, a teacher at Ohio State University for more than 40 years, uses a network of computers to create computer-generated art. Csuri's brother encouraged him to pursue

his childhood interest in art by taking an art class. At Ohio State University, he was both an art student and a football player.

As a young artist Csuri used traditional forms of painting. Then he discovered the potential of the computer as a tool for creating art. He began to experiment with computer techniques that would imitate a paintbrush. With time he was able to create art on the computer that looked as if it were glass, charcoal, wood and metal. Using the computer allowed him to produce three-dimensional effects. His experimental approach to computer-generated art did not always produce good results. Over time, however, it has been successful. The greatest challenge in his work has been creating the effect of realistic motion for images of people.

The art images that Csuri has created are colorful, abstract, and realistic images of figures and places. Csuri works alone and with computer experts and his students at Ohio State University to create his art. He feels that the atmosphere created by people working together improves the artistic process. The artwork that results from this creative atmosphere has made Charles Csuri one of the most well known computer artists.

88. Choose the best title for the passage.

- A. Computers at Ohio State University
- B. The Artist Charles Csuri
- C. Painting on Canvas
- D. Experimental Computers
- E. Don't Know

Read the story carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The Great Barrier Reef is located in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland in northeastern Australia. It is considered to be one of the great natural wonders of the world. It is the largest barrier reef in the world, approximately 1,250 miles from north to south. It has an area of 80,000 square miles.

The skeletal remains of millions of tiny coral created the reef. On the Great Barrier Reef, coral flourishes because of the warm water temperatures and lack of pollution. Coral cannot survive in water temperatures that are not mild. Over millions of years, mounds of remains became covered with plankton, which is a microscopic combination of a plant and animal. Plants, algae and debris from the ocean added to the mounds.

The Great Barrier Reef was discovered by Captain James Cook in 1770 when his ship ran aground on a reef near the coast. Exploration began at that time, and over the years, extensive studies covering numerous topics, from coral physiology to fish behavior, have been performed. The first lab to study the plants and animals on the reef was established in 1951 on Heron Island.

The underwater environment of the Great Barrier Reef continues to support many forms of marine life, from lower forms such as plankton, to more complex animals such as sharks. It houses a true food chain in which plants, plankton, shellfish, fish, clams, jellyfish, and many more species of marine animals exist. There are more than 1,500 species of saltwater fish alone! One reason that the Great Barrier Reef plays host to so many varieties of fish is that the floor of the Coral Sea makes it nearly impossible for commercial netting by fishermen.

While sea turtles that were once captured for food are now protected by law on the Great Barrier Reef, scallop collecting and the pearl industry are still businesses owned and operated by islanders. Big game fishing, for fish such as marlin and sailfish, is still very popular. But the industry that is best supported by the reef is still tourism. The Great Barrier Reef continues to be a popular tourist destination, especially for scuba divers.

89. How did Captain James Cook discover the Great Barrier Reef?

- A. The story did not say.
- B. He followed a map.
- C. He was looking for treasure on a sunken ship off the coast.
- D. He accidentally ran aground on part of the reef.
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Many high school students dream of the day when they will be able to leave home and attend college, experiencing complete independence for the first time in their lives. Many students do not realize how difficult it is to obtain an acceptance letter from colleges or universities across country. While the college application process can seem overwhelming, and at times unbearable, those who are diligent and follow a few simple steps can increase their chances of gaining entrance to the college of their choice.

One of the most important factors to consider is your overall Grade Point Average, or GPA. Certain colleges have a minimum GPA standard that all incoming students must meet. By taking Advanced Placement (AP) or honors courses you can raise your GPA, since these courses are based on a five-point scale. Also, don't forget that college admissions officers take into account overall improvement in GPA, and consider junior year the most important year in high school.

While you are working your hardest to ensure success in your scholastic endeavors, do not neglect to create a well-rounded persona. Colleges desire individuals who possess additional positive attributes and interests. Broaden your horizons by joining different school clubs and organizations. All types of volunteer experience will improve the quality of your application. Moreover, if you play on a high school team, you are increasing your chances of gaining entrance into a college. Most colleges desire well-rounded individuals, not just bookworms!

Furthermore, many students neglect to put effort into the personal essay. This is an important part of the application process, since this is where the admissions counselors can determine who you are and what you have to offer the campus. In order to write a successful essay, you need to do a little research and always write from the heart. If you are interested in a college because of a particular program or professor, mention that in the essay. The counselors will be impressed that you have spent time researching their college and that you are focused enough to know what you want to study.

In addition to the personal essay, some colleges and universities require an interview. If the program you select requires this as part of the application process, do not fret. All you need to do is prepare for the interview. Most interviewers have a set of questions they ask every applicant. These questions can range from describing a defining moment in your life, to explaining your greatest strength or biggest challenge. Remember, the interviewers will be judging you not just on your responses, but also on how you carry yourself during the interview.

Finally, one way to ensure acceptance into college is to apply to a number of schools. Always aim high, but have a back-up plan in case your first and second choice schools place you on the deferred or denied list. If you follow the steps delineated in the above essay, your chances of acceptance will greatly improve.

90. According to the passage, what do you need to do to write a successful personal essay?

- A. edit it thoroughly
- B. write about your emotions
- C. write from the heart and do a little research
- D. include humorous personal information
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

On September 27, 1994, more than 800 passengers boarded a ferryboat called the Estonia, anticipating a pleasurable cruise. Instead they would face a dreadful night of frigid waters and dangerous waves. The Estonia was a popular ship, well known for its fine dining and shops. Among its other attractions were an indoor swimming pool, a children's playroom, and live entertainment. The passengers never expected to become victims of a shipwreck.

There was little warning before disaster struck. That night the ship was experiencing typical weather for that time of the year. There were high winds and rough seas. Around half past eight, the band quit early because the winds were higher and the water a bit rougher than usual. The passengers were not concerned; they simply retired to their cabins for the night. But just before midnight, conditions became treacherous. Almost all of the passengers were asleep and unaware that the storm had grown violent and that thirty-foot waves had begun swelling over the boat. A front cargo door was ripped off, and water poured onto the deck and sloshed from side to side. The crew quickly realized the severity of the situation. At 12:24 a.m. they sent out the message: "Mayday. Estonia. We are sinking."

Soon the ship was leaning sharply to one side. Passengers awoke to thunderous noises. Fear and confusion reigned as hysterical people ran screaming for help. Soon it became difficult even to remain standing, and many people fell and slid into walls. Some of the elderly passengers gave up hope and merely sat down and cried. While the ship was well equipped with life rafts and life jackets, the equipment did little good because the ship sank so quickly --- in under thirty-five minutes. Many passengers woke up too late and were trapped inside the ship. When the stairs turned upside down, it became impossible for all but the strongest passengers to reach the upper deck. Other passengers escaped the boat only to die in the freezing waters when large waves engulfed the life rafts.

At 3:35 the first rescue ship arrived to find hundreds of bodies bobbing up and down in the water. Due to the extremely rough waters, sea helicopters were used during the seven-hour rescue effort. In the end, only 137 people survived this terrible tragedy.

91. Why did the children who awoke after the ship had begun sinking most likely perish?

- A. They were not strong enough to reach the upper deck when the stairs turned upside down.
- B. There weren't enough life jackets for everyone.
- C. They died of exposure to the frigid water.
- D. They were trampled over by men and those stronger than they were.
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Hummingbirds are fascinating, unique creatures. To begin with, hummingbirds have the distinction of being the world's smallest birds. The smallest is the bee hummingbird of Cuba. It measures about two inches in length; half of that is just its tail and beak. These birds weigh less than one-fifteenth of an ounce, or two grams. The largest hummingbird, the giant hummingbird of South America, can exceed eight inches in length. Many people are surprised to learn that there are over 300 species of these small birds, making up one of the largest families of birds. The first hummingbirds lived in South America. Their territory has expanded to all parts of North America, Central America, and South America. These diverse creatures can adapt to a variety of environments including plains, deserts, mountains, and tropical rain forests. In the United States, hummingbirds can be found wherever flowers grow.

The hummingbird's tiny body is full of surprises. More than a third of its weight is in its chest muscles, the largest muscles in a hummingbird's body. Thanks to these muscles and an unusual wing design, the hummingbird is the best flier, and can perform tricks in the air that can be accomplished by no other species of bird. While most birds have small muscles that enable them to raise, not lower their wings, a hummingbird can raise and lower its wings, allowing it to get flying power from both wing beats. Also, the hummingbird can turn its wings in any direction. This enables it to fly forward, backward, sideways, and even upside down.

Another interesting feature of the hummingbird is its colorful feathers. As a hummingbird speeds through the air, the feathers on its head and throat change color. What appears gray one minute might look bright green the next. If you closely examined a hummingbird's feather, you would observe that parts of it are covered by thousands of minute "bubbles" of differing shape and thickness. When light bounces off the feathers at different angles, they appear as different colors. In a similar way, if you blow soap bubbles into the air and watch as they float, you will notice that their colors seem to change.

Despite its size, the hummingbird is a voracious eater. It must constantly eat to energize and heat its fast-moving body. Because its food must be digested quickly, it eats great quantities of sugar. Sugar can be digested and quickly turned into fuel. A hummingbird obtains most of its sugar from the nectar contained in flowers, but it is not uncommon for it to supplement its diet with fruit as well. Because it requires protein to build muscles, it also feasts on insects.

After examining many of the hummingbird's features, it is easy to see why people find these birds fascinating. Some find these birds interesting simply because of their intriguing flight patterns, while others are amazed by their petite size and boundless energy. It cannot be denied that the hummingbird is one of the most unique species of birds.

92. Why do the hummingbird's feathers appear to change color?

- A.** The "bubbles" have different shapes and thickness.
- B.** The "bubbles" have different colors.
- C.** The "bubbles" have different shapes and sizes.
- D.** The "bubbles" hide the feathers.
- E.** Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Penguins have long fascinated people, although many people are unaware of some of their more unique characteristics. While some of these attributes are also common to other members of the bird family, many belong solely to the penguin species. One reason that people seem to know so little about penguins is that many penguins live in remote areas.

Unlike the majority of birds, penguins cannot fly. In fact, with at least eighteen species, penguins are the largest family of flightless birds in the world. Because it can't fly, a penguin's most common mode of transportation is swimming. Penguins also rely on their strong swimming skills to catch their food. There is a correlation between the penguin's strong swimming abilities and the fact that it can't fly. Bodies that are too heavy for flight and wings that are too small for flying are two of the features that make the penguin an excellent swimmer. Most species of penguins can swim faster and dive deeper than any other family of birds. The submarine-like shape of the penguin's body enables it to cut easily through the water, while its wings work like two strong paddles. Unlike those of most land birds, a penguin's feathers are very condensed, with more than seventy feathers per square inch. These feathers are waterproof because they are coated with oil and overlap each other. It's not surprising that the average penguin swims 15 miles per hour, the same speed as the fastest human runner. Penguins can swim four times the speed of humans, as quickly as bottlenose dolphins.

Penguins often look funny to people because they stand erect. They stand and walk in a similar fashion as humans because their legs are attached to their bodies at one end. Penguins would fall over on their faces if they leaned over like other birds. Most people assume that all breeds of penguins walk in the same manner. However, some species, such as Rockhoppers, hop from rock to rock, sometimes as much as six feet at a time. Others, such as the Emperor penguins, sway from side to side.

While many people associate penguins with cold weather, some species actually live along the coast of South America, while others inhabit southern Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. It is common for penguins to migrate from the Antarctic Circle to warmer climates at summer's end. Only two breeds (Emperors and Adelies) actually remain in cold areas year round. Like humans, penguins are warm-blooded. The penguin's numerous layers of insulation and blubber help to keep the heat from leaving its body when the temperature outside drops. When the weather turns mild, penguins fluff up their feathers, allowing the heat to escape, similar to opening a door.

The penguin's future seems promising because there are millions of penguins alive today, the majority of which live in remote areas where people don't bother them. Also, laws protect all species of penguins. However, the possibility of less food (fish) due to the increasing human population is one threat to penguins. A second threat is water pollution. To ensure that these unusual animals do not become endangered, it's important that people remember to respect the environment.

93. According to the passage, what is one false assumption that people make regarding penguins?

- A. Penguins often migrate to warmer climates during the winter.
- B. Penguins often live in remote locations.
- C. All penguins inhabit cold climates.
- D. Penguins cannot fly.
- E. Don't Know

Read this excerpt from a letter and answer the questions that follow.

For the past ten years my husband and I have enjoyed stopping at your chain of restaurants throughout the country. We recently drove from Colorado to Montana on a two-week vacation. Unfortunately, we had a rather unpleasant experience at your restaurant in Middleston, Wyoming.

Last Saturday night, April 23, we arrived at your restaurant at 5:45 p.m. We were not seated at a table until almost 6:15 p.m. The food server had long, unkempt hair that fell into our water glasses as she put the water on our table. Her attitude was careless and unfriendly. She took our order and then disappeared for one hour. When the food finally arrived, it was cold and thoroughly unappealing.

I asked to speak with a manager, but was rudely informed that she was too busy. We paid the \$18.63 bill and walked out. I look forward to your comments concerning this atrocious evening.

94. The writer of the letter will most likely _____.

- A. stay away from the restaurant unless she receives an apology
- B. encourage her friends to try the restaurant
- C. throw out the letter before sending it
- D. change her mind and eat at the restaurant next week
- E. Don't Know

95. Read the letter and answer the question that follows.

Dear Principal Rodriguez,

I believe students should be allowed to ride their skateboards to school. I think it is unfair that this is not allowed. We are allowed to ride bikes to school. Why not skateboards? It would get students to school faster, and we wouldn't have to worry about the bus or getting rides from parents. What if we agreed to wear helmets while skateboarding to school? This would reduce the risk of injuries. Many students have skateboards, and it just makes sense that we should be allowed to ride them, as we are allowed to ride our bikes. All I am asking is that skateboarders be allowed the same rights as students who ride bikes. You will soon see the flyers I will be passing around the school. These flyers will inform students of the points I have brought up to you in this letter.

Respectfully yours,
James Teller
Sixth grade

What is the purpose of passing out flyers?

- A. James is trying to gather support for changing the rule.
- B. James is trying to get bikes banned from the school campus.
- C. James is trying to get parents to call the school.
- D. James is trying to get a good grade in his history class.
- E. Don't Know

Steve received the following letter in the mail. Read the letter and answer the questions that follow.

Dear Friend:

For a limited time, we are offering the battery-operated "Technobot" robot at the low price of \$199.32. The incredible "Technobot" normally costs \$250.00.

We are offering you a unique opportunity to own and operate a state-of-the-art robot. "Technobot" is designed to make your life easier. You can program "Technobot" to help with chores, such as homework! No longer will you have to do the dishes, take out the trash, or clean the house. "Technobot" will save your parents hours by driving you wherever you need to go. Act now and for a low annual fee we'll send you an upgraded "Technobot" model at the end of each year.

Don't wait, because this offer won't last long! Be a trendsetter. Learn the joys of modern technology, and join others who aren't wasting time still doing chores. This offer is not available in stores. "Technobot" batteries are not available in stores. Send check or money order NOW!

Sincerely,

Wacky Robot, Inc.

96. Fill in the blank.

The purpose of this letter is to _____.

- A. persuade the reader to buy a robot
- B. make the reader's life easier
- C. convince the reader to do his homework
- D. prevent the reader from wasting money
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Every Classroom Should Have a Pet

I think every classroom should have a pet. Pets are good for everyone. Of course cats and dogs would not be good choices for classroom pets. Pets in a cage or aquarium would work better in the classroom. There are many pets that would be good for a classroom. Hamsters, fish, and guinea pigs are all good choices. A pet would have many good effects on students and teachers. Students would look forward to seeing the pet when they came to school each day. School lessons could involve the class pet, especially science lessons. There are many things to learn by observing an animal in its environment. A class pet would also teach students to share and to take on responsibility. What could be better than learning about animals and having fun at the same time?

97. What is the main idea of this story?

- A. Cats and dogs would be good classroom pets.
- B. The writer thinks every classroom should have a pet.
- C. Students should be allowed to bring all of their pets to school.
- D. Science is the most important subject in school.
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Do We Really Need Schools?

All learning could be done at home. Since it's the computer age, why not apply computer technology to make school less of a hassle for everyone? Here is my proposal. Build fewer schools and hire fewer teachers. Instead, use that money to buy a computer for every student. Students could learn through satellite teaching. One teacher could teach thousands of students at once. Just turn on the computer and there is your lesson for the day! Students could do their homework and turn it in through electronic mail on their computers. Students could also use e-mail to ask questions about lessons and schoolwork. The Internet could take the place of the school media center. Finding research material for a paper would be as easy as pressing a few computer keys!

Parents and teachers would love electronic schooling. Teachers would have less work and parents could actually watch their children learn. Talk to your parents and teachers about this exciting possibility today!

98. According to the author of this passage, _____.

- A. more schools must be built for electronic schooling
- B. we need more teachers in schools
- C. parents and teachers will love electronic schooling
- D. computers are difficult to learn
- E. Don't Know

Read the letter and answer the questions that follow.

September 30, 2001

Dr. Richard Brant
Principal
Kalmia High School
3456 Kalmia Court
Denbrook, OR 97889

Dear Dr. Brant:

I am writing to request that you reconsider your recent decision to eliminate off-campus lunch for 11th and 12th grade students at Kalmia High School. You stated in your address to the students last Friday, September 24, 2001, that off campus lunch privileges would be discontinued beginning October 1, 2001, due to excessive tardiness to classes following the lunch period.

The Associated Student Body met Friday afternoon and again yesterday afternoon to discuss the issue of tardiness to sixth-period classes. After interviewing several students and teachers, we have determined the

following facts: Tardiness to sixth-period classes has increased since last year by approximately 5 percent. Of those students who are tardy to sixth-period classes, only 10 percent have been off campus for lunch. The remaining 90 percent have chosen to remain on campus for lunch. When asked why they are tardy to their sixth-period classes, the response has repeatedly been that they have not been able to finish their lunch due to the long wait in the school cafeteria.

A subcommittee of the Associated Student Body observed the situation in the cafeteria and discovered that, when the lunch period ended, there were still 15 students in line who had not been served. These students had been in line since the beginning of the lunch period. In the final five minutes of the lunch period, 25 students were served. All together, there were 40 students who did not have time to finish their lunches before the lunch period ended.

A second subcommittee of the ASB approached two local businesses frequented by students from Kalmia High School to discuss the possibility of a quick lunch special for high-school students to ensure their prompt arrival back on campus for their afternoon classes. Both Taco Mart and Zippy Burger were responsive to the suggestion and will implement a "five minutes or less" lunch special as well as a prepaid punch card for the special for any Kalmia students or staff members who would like to participate. The managers of Taco Mart and Zippy Burger are willing to discuss further concerns in light of the fact that the majority of the lunchtime sales at these restaurants are from Kalmia students.

In conclusion, we have discovered that the primary reason for tardiness to sixth-period classes is the long wait for cafeteria service. Canceling off-campus lunch privileges will only serve to increase the wait in the school cafeteria as the students who would go off campus for lunch begin to purchase their lunches on campus. This will lead to more tardiness to sixth-period classes. The small number of students who are late returning from an off-campus lunch should be aided by the new lunch specials at our local fast-food establishments. The cancellation of off-campus lunches will also be financially detrimental to local businesses that have supported Kalmia High School for years by providing funding for extra-curricular activities. We respectfully request, in light of the information presented, that you reverse your decision regarding off-campus lunch privileges.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Schroeder
President, Associated Student Body

99. Why did the author write the letter?

- A.** to share interesting facts with the principal
- B.** to illustrate the efficiency of the school cafeteria
- C.** to persuade the principal to change his decision
- D.** to commend Taco Mart and Zippy Burger for their support
- E.** Don't Know

Read the letter below and answer the questions that follow.

July 1, 1999

Dr. Angela Lopez
School Board Superintendent
Decatur School District

TTHS, ENGLISH DEPT., J. WOODS
1234 El Camino Real
Decatur, GA 30305

Dear Dr. Lopez:

I am writing to request that the school board reconsider its recent decision to require all students in our district to wear school-approved uniforms during the upcoming school year. I am a junior at Casita High School and I find it very disturbing that the committee that was originally formed to discuss the issue of school uniforms was composed entirely of adults. Many adults are out of touch with adolescents and their needs. After all, things have changed a lot since you were a teenager! As both a student and a teenager, I feel that I can provide insight regarding school uniforms and the detrimental effect that they could have in our schools. If you do not decide to reconsider this decision, you will appear as autocratic a leader as you accused your predecessor of being. I implore you to consider the valid points that I bring to light in this letter.

To begin with, if students are required to wear school uniforms, we will lose one of our most prized values, individuality. Many studies have shown that from an early age, it is important that children have the opportunity to express themselves, thus developing their own unique personalities. Where would America be today without such diversity? Are we not known as the "melting pot" of the world? Beginning in kindergarten, teachers and guidance counselors have repeatedly told students to "be unique." "Don't worry about what other kids are doing," they lectured. What kind of message will this send to students? Behave like everyone else? Don't dare to be different? We run the risk of becoming a school district of clones!

Another issue that many adults on your committee probably never thought to consider involves sports teams and band members. Band members at my high school take pride in the fact that they were recognized as the state's outstanding marching band last year. They can often be seen proudly wearing their band shirts. Such pride spills over into other areas of the school. On game days our basketball team members and cheerleaders proudly wear their uniforms. Not only does this promote unity, but it also reminds the student body to come out and support their teams. If the policy of school uniforms is instituted, gone will be the days when athletic team members and band participants will proudly displayed their colors at school. Studies have shown that students who take pride in their school's athletics, music programs, and other extracurricular activities consistently perform better on standardized tests than those students who attend schools that have little school pride.

Finally, I beseech you to reconsider this potentially harmful decision because of the cost factor. Many high school students work hard at part-time jobs to buy their own clothes. It is doubtful that these same students will be motivated to buy their own school uniforms. This will put the burden on parents to purchase the uniforms. Also, what about the family that has six kids and relies on hand-me-downs from older siblings to clothe the younger children? With the school uniform requirement, such a family would have to go out and purchase uniforms for each child. Unless parents plan on washing clothes every other day, they will be forced to purchase several uniforms for each school-aged child in the family. I researched this and after looking through a school uniform catalog, I found that \$32 was the average price for a pair of uniform slacks and shirt. This may not sound like much, but think about a family that has three school-aged children. To buy a week's worth of uniforms for each child, you will be looking at a total of \$480. That's not including shoes! If families can't afford such an amount, are you going to refuse their children entrance into the school? Or worse, will more money be needed in the school budget to subsidize those families whose income levels won't allow them to purchase uniforms? Either way, it seems like a "no win" situation.

In conclusion, studies have shown that it is vital that children learn to express themselves at an early age. Test results continue to show that students in schools where there is little school pride consistently perform more

poorly than their counterparts who respect their schools. People in our district already complain about the high school taxes. The implementation of the school uniform policy could potentially escalate the taxes if low-income families require financial aid to purchase these uniforms. Finally, our forefathers gave us many rights and freedoms when they penned the Constitution back in the 1770's. The freedom to dress as individuals should remain one of those rights. I respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to require students to wear school uniforms.

Sincerely,

Anthony Santos

- 100.** What does the writer say happens to children who aren't allowed to express themselves, according to the studies?
- A.** The writer explains that children can end up without personalities.
 - B.** The writer explains that children can grow up to be insecure adults.
 - C.** The writer explains that our country would no longer be known as the "melting pot" of the world.
 - D.** The writer does not explain what harm it could cause.
 - E.** Don't Know

Read the letter below and answer the questions that follow.

January 1, 2000

Senator Linda Cantalupo
2000 Main Street
Providence, RI 43872

Dear Senator Smith:

I am writing to urge you to vote against Proposition 204, the bill that would make the driving age eighteen in our state. Although I'm sure that you've received thousands of letters from teenagers who are urging you to vote against the bill, I hope that you are also hearing from concerned parents, such as myself.

I am a forty-two year old single parent of four children, the oldest of whom received his driver's license six months ago. While I am sure that many teenagers are writing to you, contending that they can't live without the convenience that driving offers them, I have a different reason. As a working mother yourself, you must realize how difficult it is to work full time and raise a family. When my son received his driver's license this past July, I thought that things were going to get easier. You see, my son was finally able to get a job when his grandparents bought him a used car. Living in a rural area, my son didn't have the option of securing a job that he could walk to. He was so proud when he came home with his first paycheck. While he wanted to give me part of it to help with the household expenses, I insisted that he open a savings account with the hope that he could save enough money to enroll at the junior college when he finishes high school next year. It gives me peace of mind to think that he might be able to go to college.

Imagine my disappointment when I read the article in the paper outlining the proposed bill. I started thinking about our situation and realized that many other families must be in the same predicament. While I understand

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that teenagers cause the majority of accidents, I also know that not all sixteen year olds are at the same maturity level. My son, for instance, has been a great help to me since his father left five years ago. He is a very responsible boy and has not had a single accident or ticket since acquiring his license.

If it appears that this bill will receive a majority vote, then I beseech you to please attach a clause to this referendum. Couldn't the bill allow teenagers between the ages of sixteen and eighteen to receive their license if they secure a job within three months of getting the license?

I think this could be beneficial in two ways. First, it would encourage students to look for part-time jobs. Second, it would weed out those teenage drivers who were only acquiring their licenses for social purposes.

Attached to this letter you will find a petition, signed by 500 local voters who feel as strongly as I do about this issue. You have been a very good senator during your freshman term, and I look forward to voting for you again when you run for re-election next fall. All I am asking is that you remember the concerns of local voters, like myself, when you speak about this proposition in congress.

Without my son's part-time job, there is no hope that he will be able to attend college. Please remember that when you vote on Proposition 204.

Sincerely,

Margaret Timmons

Concerned citizen

- 101.** Why doesn't the writer think her son will be able to attend college if he can't keep his part-time job?
- A.** He will secure a full time job.
 - B.** He won't have enough experience.
 - C.** The family won't be able to afford it.
 - D.** The letter does not say.
 - E.** Don't Know

102. Read the poem and answer the question that follows.

"My Heart Leaps Up When I Behold"

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began,
So is it now I am a man,
So be it when I shall grow old
William Wordsworth

What sight causes the speaker's heart to leap up?

- A. a new life
- B. nature
- C. the sky
- D. a rainbow
- E. Don't Know

Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

The waves crash on the shore,
With a thunderous roar;

A child creates a dream,
Sees it wash down a stream;

Rolling water reflects the skies,
Its rhythm soothes my eyes;

A sideways creature hides,
Soon exposed by the tides;

The light mist in the air,
Makes rays easy to bear;

Blessed be those that live here,
Live in peace without fear.

103. What does the poet mean by the line:

Its rhythm soothes my eyes

- A. The poet is blind.
- B. The poet wears glasses.
- C. The poet likes looking at the ocean.
- D. The waves disturb the poet.
- E. Don't Know

Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

We sit in the moist sand
Feeling the cool ocean breeze
Gently tickling the senses,
Awakening passion for nature.

Looking around the horizon,
Seeing, marveling, experiencing
The magnificent color changes,
Bright hues transform blue skies.

Blue turns to pink, blending itself;
Orangey-reds burst out from
Beyond the edge of the world
As soft purple walks across the sky.

Watching, waiting and hoping,
Longing for a wave to catch;
Is the rush real or have we created
The feeling in our hearts and minds?

Setting sun slowly sinking into the abyss,
Surfers sit, awaiting the set;
The horizon disappears and scrambling boards
Travel to "the spot" and wait.

Paddling down the purplish water
Catching the speed, force, and thrill
Of the wave as the warm glow
Fills the sky with colors.

Not able to contain myself,
Running to the ocean's edge,
The cool water awakens
Senses and feelings deep inside.

Desiring to catch the perfect wave,

I long to be in "the spot,"
Hoping to feel that sense,
That rush, that feeling of peace.

104. Why does the horizon disappear in stanza five?

- A. The sun has not set.
- B. The wave is coming.
- C. A storm is coming.
- D. The poem doesn't say.
- E. Don't Know

Read the following story and answer the questions that follow.

"Ugh," thought Sylvia, "I can't do it! The work is just too hard!"

"Sylvia, time for dinner," her mother called.

Sylvia slowly got up from her desk and carefully turned to pick up her crutches. As she hobbled tentatively across the room she watched for her cat, Rumpus, who was always running between her feet. "If he runs under my feet now we'll both end up in a heap on the floor," she thought. As she continued slowly down the stairs, she thought about the last few weeks. It had been really tough for her to go back to school today, having spent three weeks in the hospital after the accident, and six more weeks recovering at home. And there were still tons of medical appointments to keep, physical therapy exercises to do, and occupational therapy classes to take. How was she ever supposed to get caught up on all her schoolwork? She ate dinner, did her exercises and decided the algebra would have to wait as she slipped into bed and fell asleep.

"Hi, Sylvia!" exclaimed Jackie the next day as she slid into the desk beside Sylvia. "How are you feeling today?"

"A little better, thanks Jackie," Sylvia replied, surprised at Jackie's sudden interest in her. But then she had never really paid much attention to Jackie. She was new and Sylvia and her friends hadn't really been interested in getting to know her. Though Sylvia's friends hadn't been too interested in Sylvia, either, these past few weeks.

Jackie interrupted Sylvia's thoughts. "Were you able to get the homework done last night? It was a really long assignment, wasn't it?"

"It was long," Sylvia replied, "and I have missed so much. I really don't know how I will be able to catch up." Sylvia was surprised at herself. She wasn't usually so open with people.

"It must be so hard," Jackie said. "I had knee surgery two years ago and I could hardly keep up with all the physical therapy and the doctor's visits. Keeping up with school was impossible. I ended up going to summer school so I could stay with my class. If you would like I can come over a couple of nights a week, and we can work on our homework together. I can even help you with your exercises. I bet I had to do some of the same ones you do!"

"Jackie, that would be great." It sounded too good to be true, that someone might actually understand what she was feeling and want to help. "Did you really have to go to a lot of physical therapy and do all those awful exercises?" asked Sylvia.

"Oh yes, for months," nodded Jackie solemnly, "but they get much easier as you heal. Hey, we can show each other our scars, too!"

"Ewww." Sylvia pretended to grimace and then smiled playfully. She didn't even realize that it was the first time she had really smiled in weeks.

Jackie noticed and returned the smile. "Will you draw me a map to your house? I know we live close to each other, but I still haven't figured out the neighborhood. What time can I come over?"

"Oh, it's really easy. Let me show you." Sylvia pulled out a piece of paper and began to draw. Jackie leaned over to watch. And both girls were thinking how great it would be to have a friend like the other.

105. Why did Jackie want a map to Sylvia's house?

- A. She was new to the neighborhood and was unfamiliar with the streets.
- B. She wanted a map to show her mother how to get to Sylvia's house.
- C. Sylvia lived far away, and she did not want to get lost.
- D. She enjoyed reading maps for leisure.
- E. Don't Know

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Happy Tots Day Care and Preschool

After-School Helper Responsibilities:

The goal of the Happy Tots program is to provide excellent childcare for children ages two to four years old in a friendly, caring, and clean environment.

The position of After-School Helper is important to the work of the Happy Tots program. After-School Helpers are students in sixth to twelfth grade who work from 6 to 15 hours a week after school hours. The After-School Helpers assist the regular Happy Tots staff in the following areas: Supervision, Play, Rest, Snack, Cleanup, and Music. Because of insurance regulations, After-School Helpers do not help with Checkout.

Your assistance to the program is important; therefore, being on time is expected. If you are not able to be on time, please call the program director so arrangements can be made to cover your responsibilities.

Illness is always a concern in a day care environment. If you are sick, please do not come to work. Call the program director and a substitute will be called to cover your responsibilities.

Supervision: The playground supervisor will direct you to an activity on the playground. You will usually be asked to supervise a small group of children at a specific activity to ensure their safety and enjoyment. There will be one staff member for every four children on the playground.

Play: The playroom supervisor will direct you to an activity. You will usually be asked to oversee a small group of children at a specific indoor activity such as art, food exploration, block play, books, or puzzles. This is an opportunity for you to develop a relationship with the children at Happy Tots. Attempt to engage the children and encourage them to enjoy the activity. If you need help with any of the children, the playroom supervisor is there to assist you.

Rest, Snack, and Music: The instructors will give you specific responsibilities for rest time, snack time, and music time. During rest time you will usually be asked to help prepare the afternoon snack. During snack time, you will assist the children at the snack table. During music time, you will sit with the children and participate in the music activities.

Cleanup: Cleanliness is important in a day care setting. Your regular cleanup duties will include wiping the snack tables, sweeping and mopping the hard floors, vacuuming the carpeted floors, and washing the toys.

We are glad to have you as a part of the Happy Tots team. If you have any questions, please ask any of the Happy Tots staff members.

106. As an After-School Helper, what will you most likely be asked to do during rest time?

- A. take a nap
- B. watch the children
- C. prepare the snack
- D. clean up the snack
- E. Don't Know

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Ms. Adams's math class and Mrs. Boyd's life skills class worked together on a holiday project for a local children's home. The assignment was as follows:

You will be making a gingerbread structure or structures to display in the Oakmont Children's Home for the holidays. The final display will be a gingerbread town. All the ingredients must be edible materials. Please follow the instructions carefully to create an excellent final product for the children at Oakmont to enjoy.

- A. Sketch a rough design of the structure or structures you would like to create for the gingerbread town. Some ideas include: houses, stores, farms, sleighs, animals, people, parks with play equipment.
- B. Have your design reviewed by Mrs. Boyd by November 3rd. Duplicate designs will need to be modified.
- C. Simplify your design to its two-dimensional components. For example: rectangles are used for walls; triangles are used in roofs; a sleigh will require two identical sides.
- D. Calculate how many pieces of each shape will be necessary to create your design.
- E. Create pattern pieces out of cooking parchment (available from Mrs. Boyd) for each unique piece of your design. (For example: if you need 4 six-inch by eight-inch walls, you only need to make one pattern piece and use it four times)
- F. Calculate the amount of gingerbread dough you will need to mix to create your design. The rule is that 100 square inches of gingerbread is equal to one batch of dough.
- G. Recalculate the amount of ingredients you will need to make the correct amount of dough for your design.
- H. Using the following formulas, determine the amount of frosting and decorations you will need for your design. Frosting = $\frac{1}{2}$ x batches of dough; Decorations = 2 x batches of dough.
- I. Using the price list available in Ms. Adams's classroom, determine how many units of each ingredient you will need and how much they will cost. Turn in your price list to Ms. Adams.
- J. The next day pick up your money for ingredients from Ms. Adams.
- K. Shop for your ingredients at ValueMart Groceries. Remember to show them your school identification to ensure the correct price for your ingredients.
- L. Follow the recipe to make your gingerbread.

Gingerbread - 1 batch

Ingredients:

6 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups molasses
2 tablespoons powdered ginger
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup butter or margarine
2 eggs, lightly beaten
Frosting for mortar
Frosting for decoration
Decorations

Method:

1. In a large bowl, mix flour, ginger, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside.

2. In a medium size saucepan, heat the molasses over medium heat until it boils slightly. Add the butter and stir until it is melted.
3. Add the molasses and butter mixture to the flour mixture and stir until well blended.
4. Stir eggs into mixture, and mix until smooth and no lumps remain.
5. Refrigerate overnight.
6. On a lightly floured board, roll gingerbread dough into a 12 by 15 inch rectangle.
7. Using your patterns, cut out pieces for your design. Do not re-roll scrap pieces of dough.
8. Carefully transfer pieces to baking sheet.
9. Bake at 300 degrees for 90 minutes.
10. Cool pieces on baking sheet for 10 minutes and then on wire rack until completely cool.
11. Prepare frosting for mortar by mixing 1 cup powdered sugar with a quarter of the prepared frosting.
Allow to set for 30 minutes at room temperature.
12. Using frosting for mortar, attach gingerbread pieces according to your design.
Allow to dry overnight before decorating.
13. Use remaining frosting to frost and decorate the exterior of your gingerbread pieces.
Allow to dry overnight.
14. Transfer pieces to the transporting tray provided to you by Mrs. Boyd.

- M. Bring your completed gingerbread pieces to Mrs. Boyd's room by the end of homeroom on December 2nd.
N. Join Oakmont Children's Home for their holiday party on December 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

107. Choose the answer that best describes the purpose of this passage.

- A. to explain a new recipe for making holiday gingerbread houses
- B. to tell a story about a class that made gingerbread houses for the holidays
- C. to teach students how to calculate the total area of all the pieces needed to make gingerbread houses
- D. to detail the method for creating gingerbread houses for a children's center
- E. Don't Know