3rd Grade Reading Packet

Directions: Complete at least two Close Reading text/prompt sets each day.

- Try to practice one fiction and one nonfiction text.
- Make sure you are choosing at least one text with a short response prompt.
All Saints’ Day at Night
By Linda Rae Apolzon
2010

Linda Rae Apolzon is a children’s author who has written for Highlights. In this short story, a boy celebrates All Saints’ Day in Poland. All Saints’ Day is a Roman Catholic holiday celebrated on November 1st. In Poland, it is traditional for people to leave candles at the graves of family members who have passed away. As you read, take notes on how Tomek feels about All Saints Day.

[1] The last place Tomek wanted to visit was a dark cemetery. Yet here he was, zipping up his coat, getting ready to go.

“But we already went today,” Tomek said. Earlier, Tomek and his family had taken flowers and candles to his grandfather’s grave for All Saints’ Day. The cemetery had been filled with others doing the same thing. A priest had said that all over Poland families were remembering those who had died.

“We go again after dinner,” Mama said now.

“Is there a problem?” Tata asked. How could Tomek tell his father that he was afraid to go into the cemetery at night?


Mama whispered to Tomek, “You know this means a lot to Babcia.”

Babcia entered the room and smiled at Tomek. “I want you to be warm,” she said, wrapping a red scarf around his neck. It smelled like her perfume. Babcia was always nice to him. Mama was right — Babcia would want him to be there.

“How about you walk with me, Tomek,” said Aunt Dorota. She took his hand, and they went outside.

All the way to the cemetery, Tomek kept his eyes down. The light from houses helped them see their way. They’d be at the dark cemetery soon enough.


“No,” said Tomek without looking up. Aunt Dorota sighed. “He was so much fun!”

Tomek wanted to hear more. After all, he was named after his grandfather. “He was fun?”

1. a religious leader who can perform certain rituals
"He did magic tricks," said Aunt Dorota. "He would make a coin disappear and then find it in your pocket."

Tomek smiled. He watched his feet: left, right, left, right. Aunt Dorota chatted on about his grandfather. Then their path turned. They were at the cemetery. He just knew it.

[15] But it did not get dark! In fact, it seemed to be getting lighter.

Slowly, Tomek raised his eyes. Candles flickered everywhere! The gravestones were covered with burning candles — candles in little jars or tall glasses, big pots of candles with several flames.

Together they filled the cemetery with brilliant light.

Tomek blinked. As if in a dream, he followed his parents. Families nodded and greeted one another in hushed voices.

Tomek looked at this grandfather’s grave, where Babcia was bowing her head in prayer. When she opened her eyes and saw Tomek, she smiled and beckoned to him. "He was very proud that you had his name," she said.

[20] Tomek stood next to Babcia, and she hugged him. Then his smaller hand took her larger one, and they left the cemetery together.

When they arrived at the house, Tomek turned to look back at the cemetery. It glowed under the night sky.

"Isn’t it beautiful?" said Babcia.

Tomek nodded. "I like All Saints’ Day. Especially at night."

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2. **Flicker** (verb): to shine unsteadily
3. **Brilliant** (adjective): very bright
4. **Beckon** (verb): to signal for someone to come closer or to follow
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence describes the theme of the short story?
   A. You never truly recover after losing someone you love.
   B. It's a family member's job to comfort you when you're scared.
   C. Sometimes you have to do things you don't like for your family.
   D. It brings families together to remember people they have lost.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. "But we already went today," Tomek said. Earlier, Tomek and his family had taken flowers and candles to his grandfather's grave for All Saints' Day." (Paragraph 2)
   B. "It smelled like her perfume. Babcia was always nice to him. Mama was right — Babcia would want him to be there." (Paragraph 7)
   C. "Aunt Dorota chatted on about his grandfather. Then their path turned. They were at the cemetery. He just knew it." (Paragraph 14)
   D. "Tomek stood next to Babcia, and she hugged him. Then his smaller hand took her larger one, and they left the cemetery together." (Paragraph 20)

3. Why does Tomek go to the cemetery?
   A. He wants to honor his deceased grandfather.
   B. He wants to be there for his grandmother.
   C. He wants to conquer his fear of the cemetery.
   D. He wants to learn more about All Saints' Day.

4. How does talking about his grandfather with his aunt affect Tomek?

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Do What You Can
By Carolyn Sherwin Bailey
1906

Carolyn Sherwin Bailey (1875-1961) was a principal of an elementary school and wrote stories for her
students. In this retelling of an old fable, one raindrop wishes to help a farmer water his crops. As you read,
take notes on what happens after the raindrop decides to help the farmer.

There was once a farmer who had a large field of
corn. He harrowed[1] it and weeded it with the
greatest care, for he wanted to sell the corn and
buy good things for his family with the money.
But after he had worked hard, he saw the corn
wither[2] and droop, for no rain fell, and he
began to fear that he was to have no crop.[3] He
felt very sad, and every morning he went out to
the field and looked at the thirsty stalks and
wished for the rain to fall.

One day, as he stood looking up at the sky, two
little raindrops saw him, and one said to the
other: "Look at that farmer. I feel very sorry for
him. He took such pains[4] with his field of corn, and now it is drying up. I wish I might help him."

"Yes," said the other, "but you are only a little raindrop. What can you do? You can't wet even one hill."

"Well," said the first, "I know, to be sure, I cannot do much; but perhaps I can cheer the farmer a little,
and I am going to do my best. I'll go to the field to show my good will,[5] if I can't do anything more.
Here I go!"

The first raindrop had no sooner started for the field than the second one said:

"Well, if you really insist[6] upon going, I think I will go, too. Here I come!" And down went the
raindrops. One came — pat — on the farmer's nose, and one fell on a thirsty stalk of corn.

"Dear me," said the farmer, "what's that? A raindrop! Where did it come from? I do believe we shall
have a shower."

By this time a great many raindrops had come together to see what all the commotion[7] was about.
When they saw the two kind little drops going down to cheer the farmer, and water his corn, one said:

"If you two are going on such a good errand, I'll go, too!" And down he came. "And I!" said another. "And
I!" And so said they all, until a whole shower came and the corn was watered. Then the corn grew and
ripened[8] — all because one little raindrop tried to do what it could.
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What is the main theme of the story?
   A. One person can make a big difference by inspiring others.
   B. It is better to be a leader than a follower.
   C. Sometimes people just need kind words.
   D. Nature is more connected than we realize.

2. PART B: Which detail from the story best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. "but you are only a little raindrop. What can you do? You can’t wet even one hill.” (Paragraph 3)
   B. "I’ll go to the field to show my good will, if I can’t do anything more.” (Paragraph 4)
   C. "’Dear me,’ said the farmer, ‘what’s that? A raindrop! Where did it come from?’” (Paragraph 7)
   D. "Then the corn grew and ripened—all because one little raindrop tried to do what it could.” (Paragraph 9)

3. Why does the first raindrop decide to drop down to the field?
   A. The raindrop wants to help in any way it can.
   B. The raindrop believes it can water the field by itself.
   C. The raindrop hopes other raindrops will join it.
   D. The raindrop is curious to learn more about the farmer.

4. Why is it important to the story that the first raindrop decides to help the farmer?
Earth Day Birthday
By Jody Jensen Shaffer
2017

Jody Jensen Shaffer is the author of over 27 books of fiction and nonfiction for children. In this short story, a girl celebrates her birthday on Earth Day. As you read, take notes on how April feels about celebrating Earth Day on her birthday.

1. "I just want a normal birthday party," April told Bailey as they walked home from school.

   Bailey knew what April meant. April's parents loved the environment. And because April happened to be born on Earth Day, all her parties had an Earth Day theme. "Remember when you turned seven?" Bailey said.

   "How could I forget the Throw-Out Blowout?" said April.

   "We helped out at your garage sale and donated the money to charity. And when you turned eight — "

5. "It was a Tree Spree," finished April. "We planted maples."

   "Last year, we all collected newspapers to recycle," said Bailey.

   "The Print Sprint." April groaned.

   Bailey giggled. "I thought it was fun."

   Later that night, as April loaded the dishwasher, she said, "I'd like to plan my own party this year."

10. "Sure," said Mom. "We could have a Compost Carnival."

   "Great idea!" said Dad.

   April cleared her throat. "I'd like to go to Maze Craze instead."

   "Really?" said Dad, surprised.

   "I guess we could do that," said Mom.

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1. Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 and is a day to show one's support for the protection of the environment.
2. Decaying plant material (such as leaves, grass, and vegetable peels) used to help live plants grow.
April couldn't wait for her birthday! She and her friends would have so much fun. And they wouldn't have to think one bit about the earth.

At school the next day, April told her friends. "I'm having my birthday party at Maze Craze!"

"You are?" said Josie. "But we always do something earthy on your birthday."

"Remember that salamander we found two years ago?" said Tyler.

"Yeah," said April. "This year, we're not even going outside."

"Oh," Tyler said.

The following weekend, everyone gathered in the parking lot outside of Maze Craze. "Thanks for coming," said April. "I've been so excited about my party. No shovels. No collecting recyclables. Nothing earthy about it." She shifted her feet. "Then I got here this morning and saw this parking lot."


"Even though I wanted a non-Earth Day birthday, I couldn't have fun knowing this mess was out here. Can we pick up the garbage in the parking lot first, then go through the maze?"

"Of course!" said her friends. April's parents grabbed some gloves and trash bags from the trunk of their car.

The kids fanned out across the parking lot while their parents watched for traffic. Before long, they had filled three bags with bottles, cans, and paper to recycle.

April looked at the bags and smiled. It felt good to do something for the earth. And with everyone pitching in, it didn't take long.

"Happy Earth Day, everyone," said April. "Now I'm ready for Maze Craze."

"Happy birthday, April!" shouted her friends.
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence best describes the theme of the short story?
   A. While it's not fun to take care of the Earth, it is necessary.
   B. It feels good to do important things like take care of the earth.
   C. Sharing your birthday with someone else can be difficult.
   D. Earth Day is a holiday that people should celebrate every day.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “April’s parents loved the environment. And because April happened to be born on Earth Day, all her parties had an Earth Day theme.” (Paragraph 2)
   B. “April couldn’t wait for her birthday! She and her friends would have so much fun. And they wouldn’t have to think one bit about the earth.” (Paragraph 15)
   C. “Thanks for coming,” said April. “I’ve been so excited about my party. No shovels. No collecting recyclables. Nothing earthy about it.” (Paragraph 21)
   D. “Even though I wanted a non-Earth Day birthday, I couldn’t have fun knowing this mess was out here.” (Paragraph 23)

3. Which of the following best explains why April's earlier birthdays involved helping the environment?
   A. April wanted her birthday parties to be more exciting than all of her friends' parties.
   B. April’s parents cared more about the environment than April having fun.
   C. April’s parents cared about the earth and wanted April to care about it as well.
   D. April wanted to show her friends that taking care of the earth can be fun.

4. How do April's friends respond when she tells them they won't be doing something “earthy” for her birthday?
   A. They are surprised that April isn't having a party with an Earth Day theme.
   B. They are relieved that they won't have to go outside for April's birthday.
   C. They are excited to go to the Maze Craze, rather than having to help the earth.
   D. They are disappointed in April for not wanting to spend time helping the earth.
5. Why is it important to the story that April decides to clean up the parking lot before going to Maze Craze?
Jasmine Girl
By Jey Manokaran
2017

Jey Manokaran has written for Highlights. In this short story, a girl works hard to make enough money to buy a doll. As you read, take notes on Shanti and Jodi’s friendship.

[1] Shanti wanted the wooden doll in Ramu’s toy shop. “The one with the red dress,” she told her best friend, Jodi.

“How will you afford it?” Jodi asked.

Shanti smiled. “I asked my mom if I could make jasmine garlands and sell them at my aunt’s market stall. Want to do that, too?”

“Good idea!” said Jodi.

[5] Early the next morning, the girls met at the jasmine bushes outside of Shanti’s house. Delicate white flowers surrounded them with fresh scent. They nipped blossoms with their fingers and dropped them into a basket. Then the girls sat under a mango tree and knotted the flowers into garlands. Shanti could already see herself hugging that beautiful doll.

“If we sell enough garlands, we can each get a doll,” said Shanti.

Jodi shook her head. “My family is low on money this week. I’ll use my money to pay for Kiran’s medicine.” Kiran was Jodi’s little brother.

“Is he sick?” Shanti asked.

“He is. But when he gets his medicine, he’ll be fine.” Jodi picked up her garlands. “My mother is expecting me. I’ll meet you at the market.”

[10] Shanti spent the afternoon selling garlands at her aunt’s market stall. But where was Jodi? By early evening, Shanti had sold all her flowers.

Shanti was on her way home when she saw Jodi heading to the market with her garlands. “Why are you so late?” Shanti asked.

“I had to watch Kiran while my mother ran an errand,” said Jodi.

1. an arrangement of flowers and leaves, worn on the head or hung as a decoration
2. to remove something by pinching
3. **Errand** (noun): a short journey to complete a task or chore
"Why didn't you take him with you?" Shanti said.

Jodi shook her head. "He's too sick to go out. He coughs and coughs."

Shanti knew Jodi wouldn't make enough money for the medicine now. The market would be closing soon.

Shanti looked at the money pouch clutched in her hand. It was supposed to be for the beautiful doll she'd been dreaming of for so long. Then she looked at her friend's tired face. "Here. Keep this for the medicine." Shanti put her money into Jodi's hands.

That night, Shanti cried, thinking about the doll. What if someone bought it before she'd saved up enough again?

The next week, while Shanti and Jodi gathered blossoms, Kiran came, too. The medicine had cured his cough, and he ran about laughing and throwing flowers into the air.

Jodi said, "Now you're Kiran's best friend. Your money made him well."

The three of them sold garlands at the market that afternoon. After Shanti helped her aunt pack up the stall, she ran to Ramu's shop. She burst in and spilled her money across the counter. "My doll!" she cried. "The one 'n the red dress!"

Ramu said, "I'm sorry, Shanti. Someone bought it."

Shanti gasped. She gathered up her money and ran out the door before Ramu could see her tears.

"What's wrong, sweetheart?" her mother asked when she ran inside.

"My doll is gone!" Shanti sobbed.

Her mother hugged her, then handed her a bumpy package wrapped in paper. "Jodi dropped this off for you."

On the front of the package was a note: For our best friend, Shanti. From Jodi and Kiran. With shaking hands, Shanti unwrapped it.

Her doll! Jodi had bought the doll for Shanti! The dress glowed a rich red, and the hair was braided with tiny white flowers.

Shanti hugged the doll. "I'll call her Jasmine," she said.
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence describes the theme of the short story?
   A. Toys are never as important as friends and family.
   B. If someone gives you something, you must repay them.
   C. People learn the value of money by earning it themselves.
   D. When you are kind to others, they are often kind to you in return.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “Shanti could already see herself hugging that beautiful doll.” (Paragraph 5)
   B. “I’ll use my money to pay for Kiran’s medicine.’ Kiran was Jodi’s little brother.” (Paragraph 7)
   C. “What if someone bought it before she’d saved up enough again?” (Paragraph 17)
   D. “Her doll! Jodi had bought the doll for Shanti!” (Paragraph 27)

3. How do Jodi and Kiran respond to Shanti giving them her money?
   A. They show how much they appreciate Shanti by buying her the doll.
   B. They reveal how guilty they feel and give Shanti her money back.
   C. They spend more time with Shanti and decide to be better friends to her.
   D. They tell Shanti over and over again how much they value her friendship.

4. How does Shanti feel after she gives Jodi her money? Why? Give evidence from the text to support your response.

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Kissy Face
By Nancy Jean Northcutt
2008

Nancy Jean Northcutt has written for Highlights. In this short story, a boy doesn't want to receive kisses from his grandmas and aunts. As you read, take notes on how James feels about his new sibling.

James did not like to be kissed. But people loved to kiss James!

Both of his grandmothers and all of his aunts would tweak¹ his cheek or forehead and say "You are just the cutest thing." Then they would kiss him on his cheek or forehead. James could not get away fast enough.


James didn't know what to do. He tried hiding when family came to visit. But his father always called him in to say hello.

He tried wearing an old Halloween mask, but his mother made him take it off so his grandmothers and aunts could see his "cute little face."

James even tried eating a peanut butter-and-jelly sandwich when he knew they were coming. He thought that if his face and hands were sticky, no one would want to kiss him.

But the grandmothers and aunts just found napkins and wiped off the stickiness. They kissed his forehead and tweaked his cheek even harder.

One day, James's mother told him she had a wonderful surprise. There was going to be a new baby in the family. James was going to be a big brother. James listened but didn't say anything. He wasn't sure if a baby was a wonderful surprise or not.

James told Ben about the new baby.

"Will it be fun?" asked Ben, who was not a big brother.

"I don't know," said James. He thought he would wait and see the baby before deciding whether it was fun.

1. Tweak (verb): to pinch or pull something
On the day James's parents brought the new baby home, there were balloons and streamers everywhere. But the party wasn't for James. There were lots of wrapped presents. But they were all for the new baby, not for James.

His mother put the baby in a rocking basket. James looked in. The baby was asleep. Its face was red and wrinkly. James thought it smelled funny. So far, the baby did not seem to be a wonderful surprise.

Soon the whole family arrived. James cringed.  

[15] Now, on top of everything else, he was going to get kissed and tweaked.

But the grandmothers and aunts barely looked at James. They all went straight to the new baby and said, “Oh, you are just the cutest thing!” They leaned over the baby's basket and kissed its little face.

Then one of the aunts came over to James. “Looks like you’re a big brother now,” she said. Instead of kissing his cheek, she just patted his shoulder and smiled.

James smiled, too. Maybe his days of being Kissy Face were over. It turned out that having a new baby in the family was a wonderful surprise after all.

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2. **Cringe (verb)**: to shrink or bend in fear
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A. Which sentence describes the theme of the short story?
   A. Having a new baby can make older siblings feel ignored.
   B. It's difficult to allow someone else to be babied by the rest of the family.
   C. Having a younger sibling can help adults realize that you're growing up.
   D. No matter how old you get, your family will always treat you like a baby.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “James's best friend, Ben, lived next door. Ben would always tease James. ‘Kissy Face! Kissy Face!’ he’d say.” (Paragraph 2)
   B. “He tried wearing an old Halloween mask, but his mother made him take it off so his grandmothers and aunts could see his ‘cute little face.’” (Paragraph 5)
   C. “On the day James’s parents brought the new baby home, there were balloons and streamers everywhere. But the party wasn’t for James.” (Paragraph 12)
   D. “Looks like you’re a big brother now,” she said. Instead of kissing his cheek, she just patted his shoulder and smiled.” (Paragraph 17)

3. Which of the following describes why the aunts and grandmas kiss James and tweak his cheeks?
   A. He is a cute kid and the youngest in the family.
   B. He pretends to like being kissed and pinched.
   C. They know it bothers him to be treated like a baby.
   D. They think it is funny to kiss and pinch him.

4. How do paragraphs 4-6 contribute to the story?
   A. James doesn't like his grandmas and aunts very much.
   B. James is good at avoiding kisses and cheek tweaks.
   C. James can't escape kisses and cheek tweaks from his family.
   D. James doesn't mind the kisses and cheek tweaks from his family.

5. Why is it important to the story that James has a new baby sibling?
Learning about the Solar System
By Barbara Radner
2005

Earth is a part of a solar system that includes seven other planets and their moons, all of which orbit around the sun. In this informational text, Barbara Radner provides additional information about what scientists have learned about our solar system. As you read, take notes on the different planets and stars that the author discusses.

[1] When scientists looked at the stars long ago, they saw patterns. They did not understand everything about what they saw. So they kept looking to learn more. That is what scientists do. They ask questions and look for information to answer their questions. They are like explorers. They do not travel far the way explorers do. But they do make a kind of journey. They want to learn more. They go from what they know to what they discover.

Scientists have learned about our planet. It is very big. It is very diverse. There are places that are hot. There are places that are freezing. There are mountains and plains. There are hills and valleys. There are deep oceans. There are great rivers and waterfalls. There are rainforests. There are deserts. Those are all parts of our planet. There is much more to learn about what is here on Earth. A scientist dedicates much time to learning. The scientist works hard. The scientist helps us all find out more about our world.

Our planet is in a galaxy called the Milky Way. The sun is a big star in our part of this giant galaxy. Our galaxy holds millions of other stars. The sun is very important to our planet. The sun gives us light during the day. It gives us heat, too. Two other planets are closer to the sun than Earth: Mercury and Venus.

Scientists figured out how the Earth changes. Earth orbits the sun once each year. It travels around the sun every 365 days. The other seven planets in our solar system also orbit around the sun. All travel in a pattern called an ellipse, which is a kind of oval. So at times Earth is farther from the sun. Scientists figured out that made it cooler on Earth then. But they also figured out that it is the tilt of the Earth's axis, however, that has the greatest effect on temperatures.

1. Diverse (adjective): very different
2. a large area of flat land with few trees
3. Dedicate (verb): to set aside time to do something
4. a system of millions or billions of stars held together by gravity
5. the invisible line that goes through the north and south poles, on which Earth spins
Scientists are still learning about our galaxy. There is much to discover. Today astronauts travel into space. They are explorers. It is dangerous to travel in space, but they are dauntless. They bravely travel thousands of miles to learn.

"Learning about the Solar System" by Barbara Radner. Copyright © 2005 by Barbara Radner. Reprinted with permission, all rights reserved.

6. **Dauntless (adjective):** refusing to give into fear or to give up
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What is the main idea of the text?
   A. Scientists and astronauts have given up on fully understanding our galaxy.
   B. Astronauts provide us with more information about space than scientists.
   C. Scientists spend their time learning about our planet and solar system.
   D. Scientists learn about our planet so we can save it from pollution.

2. PART B: Which detail from the article best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. "The scientist works hard. The scientist helps us all find out more about our world." (Paragraph 2)
   B. "Our planet is in a galaxy called the Milky Way. The sun is a big star in our part of this giant galaxy." (Paragraph 3)
   C. "Earth orbits the sun once each year. It travels once around the sun every 365 days." (Paragraph 4)
   D. "Today astronauts travel into space. They are explorers. It is dangerous to travel in space, but they are dauntless." (Paragraph 5)

3. Which of the following best describes how the text is organized?
   A. The author describes what scientists do and then what they have learned about our planet and solar system.
   B. The author discusses our solar system and then compares it to other solar systems in our galaxy.
   C. The author describes what scientists know about our solar system today and then what they hope to discover in the future.
   D. The author discusses the jobs of scientists and then advises readers on how they can become a scientist.

4. How does the sun affect the earth and the other planets in our solar system?
Seeking a Hidden Hive
By Jocelyn Rish
2011

Jocelyn Rish is a writer and filmmaker. In this short story, a boy and his grandfather search for a beehive to collect the honey from inside. As you read, take notes on how Guyo feels about his size.

Guyo kicked the ground, stirring up a cloud of red dust.

“What’s wrong, Guyo?”

Guyo looked up to see his grandfather.

“Father won’t let me herd[1] the cattle. He says I’m too little,” said Guyo.

“Your father has a lot on his mind. Times are tough,” said Grandfather.

“That’s why I want to help! But every time I try, people say I’m too small.”

“You can help your mother by getting honey.”

Guyo jangled the few coins in his pocket. “But I don’t have enough money.”

His grandfather smiled. “We’ll gather honey the way Borana tribe[2] has gathered honey for years.” He opened his hand. It held a snail shell with a hole cut in it.

“What’s that, Grandfather?”

“It’s a *fuulido*. When we use it, a honey guide will come and lead us to a hidden beehive.” He handed Guyo the shell. “Call one.”

Guyo blew through the hole, creating a high-pitched whistle. When nothing our happened, he whistled again. Before long, a gray-brown bird fluttered to a nearby branch. She called *tirr tirr* many times, then turned and flashed the white patches on her tail feathers. Once she had the attention of Grandfather and Guyo, she flew off toward the west.

Guyo was eager to follow. His grandfather picked up a tin pail and said, “Let’s go.”

They hurried through the dry brush,[3] always keeping the honey guide in view. But when they came to a high ledge, they paused so Grandfather could help Guyo scramble over it. They lost sight of the bird. “I’m sorry, Grandfather,” Guyo said.
“Don’t worry. She’ll be back.”

Soon Guyo heard the trilling call again. The honey guide landed on a limb, waving her tail feathers.

Grandfather said, “She will make sure we go the right way. This has been the custom between our tribe and the honey guides for hundreds of years.”

The bird flew into the air.

“Why do they help us?” Guyo asked.

“The honey guides are experts at finding hives. But because they’re small, bee stings would kill them. They need our help to get what’s inside the hive.”

Guyo and his grandfather followed the bird for half an hour. Each time the bird returned, she perched closer to the ground. Grandfather said, “That means we’re getting closer.”

Finally the honey guide’s call changed. She swooped toward a crack in a cliff wall. “We’re here,” said Grandfather.

Guyo’s heart beat faster as they approached the crack. An army of angry bees guarded the entrance. The buzzing tickled his ears.

Grandfather gathered small sticks and started rubbing them together. “Help me build a fire in front of the crack. The smoke will calm the bees.”

Guyo was afraid he might get stung. But he had to prove he was big enough to help. He kept an eye on the bees as Grandfather blew on the smoky bundle of sticks. When the smoke drifted over the bees, the buzzing got quiet.

Grandfather tried to push his hand into the crack, but it wouldn’t fit. He said to Guyo, “You should be able to reach the honeycomb.”

Guyo trembled. He couldn’t reach into that dark hole! What if the bees stung him? He looked at his grandfather. He couldn’t disappoint him.

Guyo took a deep breath and stretched out his arm. Then he jerked back in fear. *I can do this, I can do this,* he repeated to himself. He closed his eyes and thrust his fingers into the crack. No stings! The smoke worked.

Reaching as far as he could, he tugged out chunk after chunk of honeycomb dripping with sticky amber honey.

Grandfather said, “That’s plenty. We need to leave enough for the bees.”

They backed away from the hive just as the bees started to buzz again.
Grandfather put most of the honeycomb inside his tin pail. He handed Guyo a piece. "Give this to the honey guide, with the thanks of the Borana tribe."

Guyo placed the honeycomb at the base of the tree where the honey guide perched. "Thank you for sharing this treasure with us."

The honey guide trilled and dropped to the ground to eat her reward. As they started walking home, Grandfather placed a hand on Guyo's shoulder. "You were able to reach so much honey that we'll be able to sell the extra in the village. That will be a big help to our family."

Guyo smiled. "I guess being little is sometimes a good thing."

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Why is it important to the story that Guyo’s father won’t let him herd cattle to help his family?
   A. It explains why collecting the honey at the end of the story made Guyo happy.
   B. It helps the reader understand why Guyo’s family was going through a tough time.
   C. It shows why Guyo is so frustrated and upset with his father.
   D. It tells why Guyo doesn’t want to help his father or the rest of his family.

2. PART A: Which sentence describes the main theme of the short story?
   A. Strength is more important than bravery.
   B. Honey is one of nature’s greatest gifts to mankind.
   C. All animals are naturally helpful to humans.
   D. The things that we think are weaknesses can be strengths.

3. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “She will make sure we go the right way. This has been the custom between our tribe and the honey guides for hundreds of years.” (Paragraph 17)
   B. “Guyo was afraid he might get stung. But he had to prove he was big enough to help. He kept an eye on the bees as Grandfather blew on the smoky bundle of sticks.” (Paragraph 25)
   C. “Grandfather tried to push his hand into the crack, but it wouldn’t fit. He said to Guyo, ‘You should be able to reach the honeycomb.’” (Paragraph 26)
   D. “He handed Guyo a piece. ‘Give this to the honey guide, with the thanks of the Borana tribe.’” (Paragraph 32)

4. What motivates Guyo to stick his hand in the crack for the honeycomb?
   A. Guyo’s grandfather promises that he will not be hurt.
   B. Guyo wants to prove to his grandfather that he is helpful.
   C. Guyo knows that the smoke has frightened the bees buzzing and he won’t be stung.
   D. Guyo fears his grandfather will be upset with him if he doesn’t.
5. What happens to make Guyo change how he feels about his small size?
Space Food
By Barbara Radner
2005

Life in space is very different from life on Earth. When people living in space need to eat, it’s a different experience than when you eat. In this informational text, Barbara Radner describes how astronauts take food into space. As you read, take notes on what kinds of foods astronauts eat in space.

[1] You really know how important a clean kitchen is if you live in the same small place for weeks. Everyone needs to have a clean kitchen so they are healthy. A dirty kitchen can make people sick. Astronauts are people who travel on spaceships. They need to have a very clean home. They travel far from Earth. We need clean kitchens everywhere on earth and in space.

Astronauts have to solve two problems: how to get food and how to keep their spaceship clean. They need to solve them in order to stay alive. They are in a spaceship far from Earth, and they need to take care of everything themselves. They need to be sure they have what they need to live there, because the astronauts may be in space for weeks.

Here is how they solved the food problem. At first, the astronauts took tubes of food with them into space. They would squeeze a tube and eat semi-liquid food. It did not taste great, but since they did not need to take dishes or silverware with them, they had no dishes to wash.

Today’s spaceships have a bigger menu. Astronauts can eat from bowls. In fact, they take cereal and other standard foods with them. The foods are packaged in special containers to keep them fresh. They use knives, forks, and spoons. One unusual item on their table is a pair of scissors. They use the scissors to open the food packages. They can eat right from the package.

[5] They have a kitchen on the spaceship. Its oven can heat food to 170 degrees. The kitchen has water and sets of meals that come on trays. The astronauts choose their menu before they go into space. They take a lot of food with them.

The astronauts keep bread and fresh fruits and vegetables in a special food locker. Most flights take tortillas. They package the tortillas in an oxygen-free wrap so they stay safe.

How do they keep the kitchen clean? They do not have to worry about mice or other rodents. They make sure that there are no rodents before the ship leaves. But sometimes mice travel on the ship. Those mice are part of experiments. They live in cages.

1. Standard (adj): very familiar and widely used
2. Small mammals
How do astronauts keep their trays clean? That is another health problem the astronauts solve. They need to stay healthy in space. To carry a lot of water to wash trays would be a lot of extra weight. They pack wet wipes in plastic bags. They use them to clean trays. So, their kitchen is clean and they stay healthy.

“Space Food” by Barbara Radner. Copyright © 2005 by Barbara Radner. Reprinted with permission, all rights reserved.
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What is the main idea of the article?
   A. Astronauts must take special steps to eat in space and keep their kitchen clean.
   B. When astronauts are in space, they don't worry about eating right or cleaning.
   C. Eating and cleaning the kitchen in space is no different than doing so on Earth.
   D. Astronauts are more active in space and therefore have to eat more food.

2. PART B: Which paragraph from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. Paragraph 1
   B. Paragraph 2
   C. Paragraph 3
   D. Paragraph 5

3. Which of the following describes how the text is organized?
   A. The author discusses how astronauts keep their kitchens clean and then how they get food in space.
   B. The author describes what astronauts do for food today and what they plan to do for food in the future.
   C. The author discusses how astronauts keep their kitchens clean in space and then what happens if they don't.
   D. The author describes two problems that astronauts have in space and then goes into detail about how they solve them.

4. Which of the following must happen before astronauts can eat food in space?
   A. The food must be packed up and brought with them.
   B. The food must be looked over for mold or bugs.
   C. The food must be turned into a semi-liquid form.
   D. The food must be put into small and easy-to-use tubes.

5. How is keeping the kitchen clean related to health in the text?
The Champion of Quiet
By Tracy Stewart
2015

Tracy Stewart has written for Highlights. In this short story, a quiet girl volunteers to be a team captain in gym class. As you read, identify who Maggie chooses as teammates and the different reasons for choosing them.

[1] It was a Tuesday, and Maggie hated Tuesdays.

Tuesdays meant one thing: gym class.

Gym class meant one thing: picking teams.

Picking teams meant one thing: Maggie would be picked last.


Maggie was a new student that year in a class of champions. To help herself remember the other kids, she'd come up with a special title for each one.

There was Kevin, Champion of the Clean Desk; and Lynnie, Champion of Knowing the Answer First; and Caroline, Champion of Tardy.¹ And so on.

She'd had to think long and hard to figure out her own special title. After five whole weeks of school, Maggie had decided.

She was the Champion of Quiet.

[10] The Champion of Quiet sat on the gym floor, sandwiched between the Champion of Daydreaming and the Champion of Goofy Jokes. Maggie felt blue. She knew what was coming. She considered changing her title to Champion of Last Pick.

Mr. Murphy, the gym teacher, asked for volunteers to pick the basketball teams.

The usual hands shot into the air.

Maggie sighed and glanced to her right. She caught the eye of Jasmine, Champion of Cursive J's. Maggie thought she might like to be Jasmine's friend but never felt brave enough to talk to her.

¹ Tardy (adjective): being late
Looking at Jasmine, Maggie realized that Jasmine seemed a little blue, too. Maggie thought, I'm not the only one picked last. Sometimes Jasmine is picked last, too.

[15] With that, the Champion of Quiet had an idea.

Mr. Murphy asked, "Anyone else want to volunteer today?"

Maggie felt her hand slowly rise. She looked again at Jasmine and took a big breath.

Maybe it was time for the Champion of Quiet to use her voice.

"Maggie?" Mr. Murphy smiled. "You want a turn?"


The class murmured. Maggie leading a team?

"Yes," she answered again, louder this time. Her voice shook just a little.

"What's stopping you, then?" Mr. Murphy waved Maggie to the front of the gym, where the other three captains — Champion of Jumping Rope on One Foot, Champion of Never Misses a Shot, and Champion of Doesn't Know How to Lose — stood, ready to choose their teams.

"Maggie, you get first pick," said Mr. Murphy.


The class snickered. Was this a joke? More than once, Jasmine had tried to score on the wrong basket.

Maggie smiled and repeated, "Jasmine."

Eyes wide, Jasmine took her place beside Maggie.

The other three captains called out familiar names — the best players on the basketball court.

[30] It was Maggie's turn again. "I choose Jamie."

Jamie, Champion of the Untied Shoelace. Jamie could not dribble, throw, or catch. He knew what it felt like to be the last pick.

But not today.

Jamie jogged to stand next to Jasmine. He tripped only once. The class sat in shock.

So it went. The names flowed from Maggie's mouth, sounding sure and strong. The stronger she sounded, the stronger she felt.

2. Snicker (verb): to give a half-hidden laugh
Three very talented teams took shape.

And then there was Maggie's team.

Maggie looked at her teammates. There stood Jasmine and Jamie, plus Gillian (Champion of Hugs) and George (Champion of Very Big Musical Instrument). They were grinning at Maggie.

Maggie grinned back. I have chosen the worst team in the history of the world, she thought.

The Champion of Quiet walked onto the court with her team close behind, ready to face players who were bigger and better.

Game on!

The basketball slipped through Jamie's fingers, skated around Jasmine, dribbled itself away from George and Gillian, and bounced off Maggie's head — twice. Their laughter echoed throughout the gym.

Clutching the ball and out of breath from running and giggling, Maggie heard Jasmine call out, "Mags! Pass the ball to me!"

I have a nickname, Maggie thought happily. She threw the ball to Jasmine.

Of course, Jasmine missed. They were indeed the Worst Team in the History of the World.

And they did what any Worst Team would do. They lost. They lost big.

But losing a basketball game doesn't make you a loser; Maggie knew that much. Maggie grinned at her team. We are, officially, the Champions of No Score, she thought. Awesome.

The Champion of Quiet walked off the court with her new friends. And as the group made plans to sit together at lunch, Maggie was no longer surprised to hear her own voice joining the noisy chorus.  

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3. something spoken by many people at the same time
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence describes the main theme of the short story?
   A. It can be frightening to be the new kid at school.
   B. Taking a chance and being brave can lead to making new friends.
   C. People who have things in common make good friends.
   D. If you want to stop something that is unfair, it's important to speak up.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “Maggie was a new student that year in a class of champions. To help herself remember the other kids, she'd come up with a special title for each one.” (Paragraph 6)
   B. “She caught the eye of Jasmine, Champion of Cursive J's. Maggie thought she might like to be Jasmine's friend but never felt brave enough to talk to her.” (Paragraph 13)
   C. “Jamie, Champion of the Untied Shoelace. Jamie could not dribble, throw, or catch. He knew what it felt like to be the last pick.” (Paragraph 31)
   D. “Maggie grinned at her team. We are, officially, the Champions of No Score, she thought. Awesome.” (Paragraph 46)

3. PART A: What does it mean that Maggie feels “blue” in paragraph 10?
   A. She is sad about the idea of being picked last.
   B. She is embarrassed that she is going to be picked last.
   C. She is out of breath from participating in gym class.
   D. She is afraid to speak up and talk to others.

4. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “Picking teams meant one thing: Maggie would be picked last.” (Paragraph 4)
   B. “Maggie was a new student that year in a class of champions.” (Paragraph 6)
   C. “She'd had to think long and hard to figure out her own special title. After five whole weeks of school, Maggie had decided.” (Paragraph 8)
   D. “The Champion of Quiet sat on the gym floor, sandwiched between the Champion of Daydreaming and the Champion of Goofy Jokes.” (Paragraph 10)

5. Which of the following best describes what motivated Maggie to choose her teammates?
   A. She thinks they will be good friends and wants to get to know them.
   B. She believes that they are better at sports than her classmates realize.
   C. She wants her classmates to know that she is a good person.
   D. She understands how they feel always being picked last for teams.
6. Why is it important to the story that Maggie decides to speak up and volunteer to be a team captain?
The wave travels silently, without companions,\(^1\)
gathering them into itself.

Passing through
everything
like a ghost,

it rushes with something
to tell the shore.
But by the time it arrives

it can only roar.

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1. **Companion (noun):** one who keeps company with another
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence best describes the theme of the poem?
   A. Tsunamis are powerful and sometimes quiet.
   B. Tsunamis are strong and happen again and again.
   C. Tsunamis are an example of the beauty of nature.
   D. Tsunamis are the single most powerful force of nature.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. "without companions/ gathering them into itself" (Lines 2-3)
   B. "Passing through / everything" (Lines 4-5)
   C. "It rushes with something / to tell the shore." (Lines 7-8)
   D. "But by the time it arrives" (Line 9)

3. How is the tsunami described in Lines 1-3 of the poem?
   A. It shows that tsunamis are dangerous because they are quiet.
   B. It describes the wave of a tsunami as alone on the water.
   C. It describes a tsunami as larger than other waves.
   D. It shows that tsunami takes a long time to gather strength.

4. What does it mean when the speaker compares the wave's movement to a ghost (Lines 4-6)?

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2
Working at the Hospital
By Barbara Radner
2008

Have you ever visited the hospital? If you have, you've likely met doctors and nurses; but did you know there are other jobs that need to be completed at the hospital? In this informational text, Barbara Radner discusses who works at the hospital. As you read, take notes on what jobs are important at the hospital.

[1] There are many jobs at the hospital. Some people work as nurses. Some people work as doctors. You probably know about those jobs. There are many other jobs at the hospital. If you are a patient in a hospital, you will meet different workers. It might start with the ambulance driver. That worker helps people get to the hospital quickly.

Some workers take care of visitors to the hospital. The visitors have to sign in. The receptionist signs them in. The receptionist makes sure they can find the right places in the building. They are the first workers you will see when you come into a hospital.

Some workers make food at the hospital. They have a big kitchen. They cook food for the patients. Some patients need a special diet. The cooks need to plan their meals carefully. They need to make sure they get good food.

Some workers help keep the hospital clean. It is very important that the building is clean. They clean all the rooms every day. People who are sick need to have really clean rooms. That helps them get better.

[5] Some workers run a cafeteria. That is a place where people can get food. Patients get their food delivered to their rooms. The people who work at the hospital need to eat. They go to the cafeteria to get their food. There workers cook and serve food.

Some workers help with computers. Doctors need to use computers. So do most of the other workers. The people who help with computers show them how to use them. They fix the computers, too.

Each of these workers needs to learn skills. They keep learning even after they get their job. Doctors have the most to learn. They need to keep learning because medicine keeps changing.

"Working at the Hospital" from Center for Urban Education at DePaul University by Barbara Radner © 2008 Used with permission. All rights reserved.

1. Diet (noun): the kinds of food that a person eats regularly
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What is the main idea of the article?
   A. The most important workers at the hospital are nurses and doctors.
   B. Working at a hospital is a difficult job that few people can do.
   C. Some of the jobs at the hospital are more necessary than others.
   D. A hospital needs people to do many different types of jobs to run successfully.

2. PART B: Which quote from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “There are many other jobs at the hospital. If you are a patient in a hospital, you will meet different workers.” (Paragraph 1)
   B. “They have a big kitchen. They cook food for the patients. Some patients need a special diet.” (Paragraph 3)
   C. “Patients get their food delivered to their rooms. The people who work at the hospital need to eat.” (Paragraph 5)
   D. “Doctors have the most to learn. They need to keep learning because medicine keeps changing.” (Paragraph 7)

3. Which of the following happens between arriving at the hospital and seeing a doctor?
   A. The patient talks with a receptionist.
   B. The patient goes to the cafeteria.
   C. The patient rides in an ambulance.
   D. The patient recovers in a hospital room.

4. How is a clean hospital related to healthy patients?
THE REAL COST OF CHEAP FASHION

by Laura Anastasia
You might think cheap clothes are a good thing, but they have a dark side.

As you read, take notes on how making cheap clothes can hurt workers and the environment.

Imagine this. In a hot, windowless room, young women are working side by side. They are workers in a factory in Bangladesh. Today they are making jackets. Together, they must sew hundreds of jackets every hour. That's more than 1,000 a day. Each of these women will take home less than $3 for a whole day of work.

One week later, these same jackets will arrive in the United States. They will show up in stores, where you can buy one for $14.99.

These jackets are one example of fast fashion.
WHAT IS FAST FASHION?

When we say “fast fashion,” we are talking about clothes that are made quickly and then sold at very cheap prices.

These clothes cost so little that many people can buy new outfits whenever they want — and then throw them away when they go out of style.

More than 150 billion new pieces of clothing are made every year!

WHO MAKES YOUR CLOTHES?

Fast fashion may be cheap, but it has a dark side.

Today, millions of people work in clothing factories called sweatshops. Many of these people live in China, Bangladesh, and other developing countries. These garment workers earn just a few dollars a day. And many of them are children or teenagers!

In these factories, it is easy to get sick and to get hurt. Garment workers use dangerous chemicals to create and dye clothes. If they dare miss a day because they are sick, they might lose their job.
A DEADLY ACCIDENT

Many people did not think about how their clothing was made until April 24, 2013. That is the day the Rana Plaza factory building in Bangladesh collapsed. The factory had too many floors, too many workers, and too many machines.

This accident killed and injured thousands of workers. After the accident, many big clothing companies promised to do things differently.

They trained two million workers on how to work safely. They brought in engineers to check their factories.
FAST FASHION ALSO HARMS THE ENVIRONMENT

The fashion industry is the world's second-largest polluter! Here are a few reasons why:

1. Clothes are made using toxic chemicals. Dangerous gases are released into the air when certain materials (such as polyester) are created.

2. In the United States, 25% of all pesticides are used on cotton farms. Some of these pesticides can cause asthma and other health problems. Chemicals from these farms pollute fresh water!

3. The average American throws away more than 70 pounds of clothes every year. Most of this clothing is burned or left in a landfill, where it can take hundreds of years to break down.

The industry uses up a lot of natural resources. For example, it takes 1,800 gallons of water to make enough cotton for one pair of jeans. That is the same as 105 showers!

Harm (verb): hurt
something that makes the world less clean and less safe
Toxic (adjective): poisonous
chemicals used to keep bugs away
WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

People are starting to see the ugly side of fast fashion. They are learning more about how their clothes are made.

And the clothing industry is starting to respond. In the United States, many small companies are creating clothes out of recycled or organic fabrics. Other larger companies are encouraging customers to recycle unwanted clothing.

Everyone must play a role.

Learn more about how your clothes are made and think carefully about what you buy. It can make a real difference.
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence describes the main idea of the text?
   A. Cheap clothes are made in sweatshops.
   B. Cheap clothes allow people to be stylish all the time.
   C. Making cheap clothes is bad for workers and the environment.
   D. Making cheap clothes is a job that many people around the world want to do.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “One week later, these same jackets will arrive in the United States.” (Paragraph 2)
   B. “Many people can buy new outfits whenever they want” (Paragraph 5)
   C. “More than 150 billion new pieces of clothing are made every year!” (Paragraph b)
   D. “Garment workers use dangerous chemicals to create and dye clothes.” (Paragraph 9)

3. What is the purpose of the section, “A deadly accident”?
   A. It tells readers where to shop for clothes.
   B. It gives an example of a factory that was dangerous for workers.
   C. It describes three ways that making clothes hurts the environment.
   D. It helps readers understand why some people become garment workers.

4. What is the meaning of the word “sweatshop” as it is used in paragraph 8?
   A. clothing factories that are also shops
   B. clothing factories that are crowded and dangerous
   C. clothing factories where people make clothes for sports
   D. clothing factories where people make clothes from recycled fabrics
Heungbu and Nolbu: a Korean story

By Angela McAllister, The Quarto Group on 10.01.19
Word Count 608
Level MAX

Once there were two brothers, Nolbu and Heungbu, who lived together with their families in their father's house. Nolbu, the eldest, was selfish and cruel, but his brother, Heungbu, was always kind.

When their father died, Nolbu threw Heungbu out of the house and kept all of their father's fortune for himself. Heungbu had to live in a tumbledown hovel and work hard to feed his family, but he never complained.

One autumn, the harvest was bad and Heungbu's family had nothing to eat, so he went to his brother's house to beg for some food for his children. Nolbu's wife, who was just as cruel as her husband, was cooking in the kitchen.

When she saw Heungbu, she refused to give him anything and struck him on the face with her rice ladle. But Heungbu did not complain. Carefully, he scraped the sticky rice from his cheek and asked her to strike him again. Thinking him stupid, she did as he asked. Then Heungbu gathered the rice from the other cheek and took it home to feed his children.
The next day, Heungbu found a young swallow that had fallen from its nest. Gently, he bandaged its broken leg, then he cared for it until it was strong enough to return to the nest.

That winter, the swallow flew away, but it did not forget Heungbu's kindness. When it returned in the spring, the swallow dropped some seeds into his hand. Heungbu had no garden, so he planted them on his thatched roof.

Before long, vines began to grow on the roof. They produced bright flowers and then three plump gourds.

When the gourds were ripe, Heungbu borrowed a ladder and picked them.

"These will feed us all for weeks," he said and he cut one open. To the family's amazement, the gourd was full of rice, which flowed and flowed until it had filled a dozen sacks.

"Open another!" his wife said. Out of the second gourd tumbled enough gold coins to fill a cart. "Open another!" cried the children. Out of the third gourd, Heungbu pulled enough timber and nails to build a fine house.

Laughing with happiness, Heungbu and his family set to work to build themselves a house, and when it was built they shared their good fortune with their neighbors.

The story of Heungbu's good luck soon reached his brother's ears. Nolbu went at once to see how such a thing could have happened. He listened in amazement, as Heungbu told him about the swallow and the gourd seeds.

Immediately, Nolbu was jealous of his brother's good fortune. He returned home and searched for a swallow's nest. When he found one, he snatched up a young bird and broke its leg. Then he bandaged it roughly and flung it back in the nest.

As before, the swallow flew south for the winter. When it returned in the spring, the swallow dropped some seeds into Nolbu's hand and he planted them in his garden.

Nolbu and his wife waited impatiently for their gourds to grow. As soon as they were ripe, Nolbu fetched his saw to cut them open.

"Now we'll be even richer!" they cried greedily. But to their horror, out of the gourds leaped a dozen wicked goblins, shrieking wildly. The goblins stole Nolbu's money and tore down his house.

Nolbu and his wife were left with nothing. In tears, they went to Heungbu and humbly asked for help. Heungbu welcomed them. "My house is your house, brother," he said. And so Nolbu and his wife learned kindness, and they all lived happily ever after.
Quiz

1. What does the story title tell the reader?
   (A) what happens in the story
   (B) when the story takes place
   (C) where the story comes from
   (D) who the narrator in the story is

2. Is the story written in first person or third person? How do you know?
   (A) The story is written in first person because it shows how Nolbu feels.
   (B) The story is written in first person because it shows how Heungbu feels.
   (C) The story is written in third person because it shows how the narrator feels.
   (D) The story is written in third person because it shows how both main characters feel.

3. Which sentence from the story shows Heungbu’s point of view about sharing?
   (A) Heungbu had to live in a tumble-down hovel and work hard to feed his family, but he never complained.
   (B) Gently, he bandaged its broken leg, then he cared for it until it was strong enough to return to the nest.
   (C) "Now we’ll be even richer!" they cried greedily.
   (D) "My house is your house, brother," he said.

4. The story is an example of a...
   (A) play
   (B) poem
   (C) folktale
   (D) mystery
3 WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT CONSUMER POWER

by Amanda Oliver

Text adapted from "4 Impactful Ways to Teach Kids About Consumer Power" by Amanda Oliver, 2014. Used with permission.
This text explains how to make better choices the next time you buy something.

As you read, highlight ways to make a positive difference when choosing what to buy.

What is consumer power? Think about your favorite store, toy, or food. The ability to decide what you and your family buy is called consumer power. By buying certain products instead of others, you can help make a positive difference in the world.

How can you become a more conscious consumer?

1. At the Shop

Every time you have a say in which products you buy, you are exercising your buying power.

CHOOSE PRODUCTS WITH LESS PACKAGING

Once upon a time, the world believed that extra packaging was a sign of quality and importance.

We now know that packaging is mostly waste. Next time you look at a product, look at the package it comes in.
Does a single pen really need all of that packaging? Does your new toy really need that huge box?

Thinking about these questions can help us cut down on waste.

BUY FSC PAPER PRODUCTS

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an organization that makes sure wood and paper products come from forests that are responsibly managed. It is easy to check for the FSC label on pencils and paper. By looking for this label, you are exercising your buying power. You have a choice in what you buy and where the products come from.
2. The Source

Do you know where your food comes from? How about your favorite toys?

Your favorite snacks don’t come from the aisles of the grocery store. Your favorite toys don’t come from Target or Toys R Us. Learning about where our products really come from can help us make decisions.

VISIT A LOCAL FARM

You can visit a local farm to learn more about where our food comes from and what is healthy to eat.

SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS

A lot of trucks are needed every day to move vegetables and fruits from farms to grocery stores. This is a big problem! These trucks release carbon dioxide and other harmful gases into the air.

That is why you should purchase food items from local producers. Look for farmer’s markets or grocery stores that carry local products.

8 person or company that makes or grows
8 Local (adjective): from a certain area or neighborhood, usually one that is close by
3. Believe in your Power

You have the power to change the neighborhood and world you live in. The choices you make as a consumer can make a difference. They can change the future of our planet for the better.

A GOLDEN RULE

Whether it's choosing eco-friendly products at the store or writing letters to local politicians about topics that matter to you, your voice makes a difference.

.products that are better for the environment
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What is the main idea of the text?
   A. You and your family can start a garden to make the world better.
   B. You and your family cannot make a big difference in the world by yourselves.
   C. You and your family can get sick if you don’t know where your food comes from.
   D. You and your family can make a positive difference by carefully choosing what you buy.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
   A. “Once upon a time, the world believed that extra packaging was a sign of quality and importance.” (Paragraph 3)
   B. “Does a single pen really need all of that packaging? Does your new toy really need that huge box?” (Paragraph 5)
   C. “Your favorite snacks don’t come from the aisles of the grocery store. Your favorite toys don’t come from Target or Toys R Us.” (Paragraph 9)
   D. “The choices you make as a consumer can make a difference. They can change the future of our planet for the better.” (Paragraph 13)

3. How do subheadings, like “CHOOSE PRODUCTS WITH LESS PACKAGING” and “SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS”, help readers better understand the information in the article?
   A. They give readers advice for how to make a positive difference with their buying choices.
   B. They give readers information about what to include in a letter to politicians.
   C. They give readers definitions of important words in the text.
   D. They give readers examples of harmful actions.

4. What does an FSC label do?
   A. An FSC label warns buyers to stay away.
   B. An FSC label tells buyers what types of trees were cut down for the product.
   C. An FSC label shows buyers that paper and wood were made in a responsible way.
   D. An FSC label helps buyers pay for the trees that got cut down for what they’re buying.
WNBA's 8-year labor deal to hike average salary to $130,000

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.28.20
Word Count 407
Level 610L

Nneka Ogwumike (right) of the Los Angeles Sparks celebrates after a win over the Connecticut Sun in a WNBA basketball game in Los Angeles in May 2019. The WNBA and its union announced a tentative eight-year labor deal January 14, 2020, that will allow top players to earn more than $500,000 while the average annual compensation for players will surpass six figures for the first time. Photo: Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP Photo

The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) is the women's basketball league in the United States. On January 14, 2020, the WNBA said it made a new deal. The best players will be able to make over $500,000 a year. Other players will make an average of $130,000. It is the first time WNBA players will make more than $100,000.

The deal begins in the 2019-2020 season. It will end in 2027. The deal means players can make more money. It will help them in other ways, too. For example, players who have a child can take time off. They will continue to be paid while they do this. They will get nicer flights when they travel. Other programs will help players take care of their health.

Helping Players Make More Money
Cathy Engelbert is in charge of the WNBA. She says the agreement will help all players make more money.

The WNBA has already approved the deal. The deal demands equal revenue sharing. Revenue is how much money the league makes. With equal revenue sharing, the players get half of the money that the WNBA makes.

Engelbert wanted equal revenue sharing for the players. The players help make money for the WNBA. Engelbert believes they should get more of this money.

Before the deal, WBNA teams could not spend more than $996,000 a year on players' salaries. Now, teams can spend $1,300,000 a year on players' salaries.

Nneka Ogwumike works with WNBA players. She helped the players make the deal. Ogwumike says the deal will encourage players to stay in the country after the U.S. basketball season is over. Many players play in other countries during this time. They do this to make more money. If the WNBA pays them more, they will not have to leave.

**Lifting All Women**

The new deal is helping WNBA players. However, Engelbert says the WNBA wants to lift all women.

The WNBA will also work with the National Basketball Association (NBA). The NBA is a men's basketball league. The WNBA wants to help WNBA players become coaches. Sometimes, WNBA assistant coaches do not get paid much money. WNBA rules can cause this to happen.

Kristi Toliver is a WNBA player. In 2019, Toliver was an assistant coach in the NBA. NBA assistant coaches make between $100,000 and $1 million a year. However, Toliver had to follow the WNBA rules. This meant she could only make $10,000 a year.
Quiz

1. Read the paragraph below from the introduction [paragraphs 1-2].

The deal begins in the 2019-2020 season. The deal will end in 2027. The deal will help players make more money. The deal will help them in other ways, too. For example, players who have a child can take time off and still get paid. They will get nicer flights when they travel. Other programs will help players take care of their health.

Which question is answered by this paragraph?

(A) Who helped to create the new deal with the WNBA?
(B) What are the ways the new deal will help the players?
(C) Where do players live because of the new deal?
(D) Why does the new deal for the players end in 2027?

2. Read the section "Helping Players Make More Money."

Which sentence from the section explains HOW the new deal helps WNBA players make more money?

(A) She says the agreement will help all players make more money.
(B) The WNBA has already approved the deal.
(C) With equal revenue sharing, the players get half of the money that the WNBA makes.
(D) Before the deal, WNBA teams could not spend more than $996,000 a year on players' salaries.

3. WHY does Nneka Ogwumike like the WNBA deal?

(A) because it will let her start playing basketball in other countries
(B) because it will work with the men's National Basketball Association
(C) because it will help players to stay in the United States after basketball season
(D) because it will let more women become assistant coaches

4. How did the old WNBA rules affect Kristi Toliver?

(A) The rules said she could make $100,000 to $1 million a year.
(B) The rules said she will make an average of 130,000 a year.
(C) The rules said she could never be an NBA assistant coach.
(D) The rules said she could make much less than other NBA coaches.
"Still a long way to go," but women are gaining ground with new roles in the NHL

By USA Today, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.07.20
Word Count 738
Level 600L

Image 1. Kim Davis comes out for the puck drop before the game between the San Jose Sharks and the Edmonton Oilers at SAP Center on November 19, 2019, in San Jose, California. Davis is one of the handful of women who have senior management positions for the National Hockey League. Photo: Brandon Magnus/NHL via Getty Images

Not many women work in hockey. More women are starting to, though. Caley Chelios is one of them.

She is a radio announcer for a National Hockey League team. The team is in Tampa, Florida. The National Hockey League is called NHL for short. Chelios is 26 years old. She is very successful.

Jon Cooper is the coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team. He said she is just as knowledgeable as anyone else in the game.

Her voice smoothly weaves through the radio show. She works with Dave Mishkin. He said Chelios always says clearly "who is carrying the play and why."

Learned From Her Father
Chelios went to graduate school for journalism. She also knows a lot about hockey because of her father. Her father is Chris Chelios. He was a very good hockey player. He made it into the NHL Hall of Fame.

More women are making their mark in the NHL. Emilie Castonguay is a female agent. She represents players. There are only a few women who do this. She works with a very talented hockey player.

Cammi Granato is a Hall of Fame player. She was the NHL's first female pro scout. Scouts look for new players for a team. She scouted for a team in Seattle, Washington.

Sherry Ross made history in the 1990s. The New Jersey Devils hockey team made her a full-time NHL radio broadcaster. She was the first woman to do this.

"It's progress, but there is still a long way to go," Ross said.

**NHL More Welcoming To Women**

Women have faced challenges in the workplace for a long time. Recently women have said the NHL has been welcoming.

Kim Davis and Heidi Browning both have top jobs in the NHL. Buffalo Sabres owner Kim Pegula also is president of the Sabres. Hayley Wickenheiser has an important position with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

In the NHL, 24 times more men than women have jobs.

Susie Mathieu became a leader for the St. Louis Blues. "It is exciting now, but this did take a long time," she said.

Mathieu said when she was hired, one news reporter did not want to work with a woman.

Emile Francis was in charge of the team. Francis told the reporter, "If you can't work with her, you can't work with the St. Louis Blues."

Mathieu became a team vice president. Players and leaders liked her. After she left the Blues, she was hired by the NHL. The NHL Players' Association hired her to run the World Cup of Hockey.

Mathieu said she felt a lot of pressure. She felt like she could not fail. She thought if she did, she would let down all women. She put this pressure on herself.

Ross started in hockey as a writer in the 1970s. She worked for a newspaper in New Jersey.

"I was tested at first," she said. "It was like other reporters wanted to test my knowledge. It was like I had to become a trivia expert."

Lou Lamoriello was in charge of the Devils at the time. He appreciated Ross. He hired her as a radio broadcaster. She did it for 13 seasons.
She said it was an accidental career. It ended up being her dream job, though.

NBC broadcaster Kathryn Tappen said women are more accepted now.

**Girls' And Women's Hockey Growing**

Hiring women makes sense for business. About two-fifths of NHL fans are women. Girl's and women's hockey is growing three times faster than men's hockey.

Chelios is thankful for the women broadcasters who worked before her. They crossed barriers that she didn't have to. "They have opened up a path for me," Chelios said.

She said it has not been hard to work among men.

The only thing is that people pay attention to mistakes, she said. She said if one woman makes a mistake, it affects other women. At the same time, "if a woman is really good at her job, she seems to be recognized," Chelios said.

Ross thinks that more women will be hired by the NHL soon. She thinks this is because so many more girls are playing hockey.

"Girls 8, 9 and 10 will see them in those jobs and say, 'I love hockey, and I'm going to do that someday,'" Ross said.
Quiz

1. If readers are looking for information on what working in the NHL has been like for women, which section should they read?
   (A) Introduction [paragraphs 1-4]
   (B) "Learned From Her Father"
   (C) "NHL More Welcoming To Women"
   (D) "Girls' And Women's Hockey Growing"

2. What information will the reader find in the section "Girls' And Women's Hockey Growing"?
   (A) why there might be more women in the NHL in the future
   (B) how Caley Chelios ended up working in for the NHL
   (C) what jobs women are hired for in the NHL
   (D) when the NHL first began hiring women

3. Read the following sentences from the section "Learned From Her Father."

   More women are making their mark in the NHL.
   Sherry Ross made history in the 1990s.

   How are the sentences connected?
   (A) The first is a solution and the second is a problem.
   (B) The first is a supporting detail and the second is a claim.
   (C) The first is a problem and the second is a solution.
   (D) The first is a claim and the second is a supporting detail.

4. Read the two paragraphs below from the section "Girls' And Women's Hockey Growing."

   Chelios is thankful for the women broadcasters who worked before her. They crossed barriers that she didn't have to. "They have opened up a path for me," Chelios said.
   "Girls 8, 9 and 10 will see them in those jobs and say, 'I love hockey, and I'm going to do that someday,'" Ross said.

   How are the paragraphs connected?
   (A) The paragraphs compare female NHL workers.
   (B) The first shows a cause and the second shows an effect.
   (C) The paragraphs are listed in time order.
   (D) The first shows a problem and the second shows a solution.
Museums are making changes to include more kinds of people

By Christian Science Monitor, adapted by Newsela staff on 10.21.19

Word Count 420

Level 610L

The Museum of Modern Art is in New York City. It is called MoMA for short. The museum was closed during construction to make it bigger. It has just reopened. The new art space will focus on female artists. It will also focus on artists of color.

Museums across the country are making similar changes. They are doing this because art history is changing.

Art used to focus mainly on white male artists. It mostly showed their point of view and told their stories. The new MoMA will be different. It will tell the stories of people from different backgrounds.

Museums Are Going To Look Different

Ann Temkin is in charge of MoMA’s paintings and sculptures. She said the museum is part of a larger shift. Museums are welcoming people from all different races, cultures and backgrounds.
Gregory Stevens is a museum director in New Jersey. "Museums will never be the same," he said. Stevens said it is like a sleeping giant woke up.

The role of museums has also changed. Before, museums worked to save cultural art for the future. Stevens thinks that now, museums need to share important ideas and information about the world.

There Is More Art History To Learn

Monique Davis is a director at a museum in Mississippi. She said museums need to connect people and art. Museums should show what the community cares about. It should also teach people empathy. Empathy is being understanding of the thoughts and feelings of others.

Lowery Stokes Sims is an independent curator. A curator is a museum collector. She said art museums today can be racist in how they pick the art.

Columbia University is a school in New York. It is also changing how it teaches art history. The lessons will be more diverse. This will be the first change to the lesson plans in 70 years.

Museums Still Have A Long Way To Go

The Baltimore Museum of Art is in Maryland. It has a new program called 2020 Vision. It will feature women artists for one year. One wing now has works by artists of color.

Darren Walker is the president of a charity. He said being accepting of everyone is a smart move. There is still a long way to go, though. Many important museums still do not include women and artists of color.

Stokes Sims is happy to see more people being included. She said she knows that the art world could still change back to leaving many people out.
Quiz

1. Read the paragraph below from the introduction of the article.

   *Art used to focus mainly on white male artists. It mostly showed their point of view and told their stories. The new MoMA will be different. It will tell the stories of people from different backgrounds.*

Which question is answered in this paragraph?

(A) How many paintings by white male artists did MoMa used to show?
(B) Why did the focus of art used to be on white male artists?
(C) What were some of the stories told by white male artists?
(D) How will the new MoMa be different from what it used to be?

2. Read the section "Museums Are Going To Look Different."

Which sentence from the section explains what the new role of museums will be?

(A) She said the museum is part of a larger change.
(B) Museums are welcoming people from all different races, cultures and backgrounds.
(C) Before, museums worked to save cultural art for the future.
(D) Stevens thinks that now, museums need to share important ideas and information about the world.

3. Finish the sentence below.

   One main idea of the article is that _____.

(A) museums need to include more art by women and people of color
(B) the Museum of Modern Art includes paintings and sculptures
(C) curators are people who help museums collect art
(D) the Baltimore Museum of Art has a new program called 2020 Vision

4. Read the paragraph below from the section "There is More Art History To Learn."

   *Columbia University is a school in New York. It is also changing how it teaches art history. The lessons will be more diverse. This will be the first change to the lesson plans in 70 years.*

What is the MAIN idea of this paragraph?

(A) Columbia University has taught art history the same way for 70 years.
(B) Columbia University is a school in New York that teaches art history.
(C) Art history at Columbia University will have more diverse lessons.
(D) Art history at Columbia University will soon have its first change.
South Carolina teen raises $70,000 for community by organizing basketball games

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 12.16.19
Word Count 584
Level 600L

Adom Appiah is just 15 years old. Yet, he is already making a big difference in his community.

Adom learned about volunteering from his parents. When he was young, they organized book drives for kids and served food to the hungry. They also delivered Christmas presents to children with parents in jail. Adom would join his parents while they volunteered.

Adom lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Now, Adom chooses how to spend his time. He still continues to volunteer.

Raising Money Through Basketball Games

Over the past three years, he has raised over $70,000 for charity. Charity is freely giving time or money to help those in need. Adom raises money through basketball games.

"It’s always been instilled in me to volunteer," Adom said. He named his charity project Ball4Good. He donates the money he raises to various causes, including autism, the homeless and...
abused children.

Adom was awarded a 2019 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes. He received $10,000. He is giving half of the money to his charity. The other half will help pay for his college.

Every year, the Ball4Good games sell out of tickets. This year, the men's and women's Ball4Good games raised more than $30,000. The money will go to community groups that help students and others.

The first Ball4Good game in 2017 went really well. It led to the start of Adom's nonprofit.

"He represents hope for the future," Mary Thomas said. She advises Adom.

Adom uses his connections to get people to play in his games. He also calls people and uses social media. He used Twitter to connect with one Ball4Good player. His name is Anthony Ianni. Adom admired Ianni. Ianni has autism. He is the first player known to have autism and play college basketball. Adom admired Ianni for how Ianni speaks out about his autism.

"I tweeted him and somehow he responded," Adom said.

Hands-On Way Of Helping

Ianni said he liked Adom's hands-on way of helping others. He wanted to be a part of it. It was a great chance for Ianni to spread his message of hope.

"I couldn't say no," Ianni said. "I wanted to help be a part of his mission."

Ianni was honored to speak at Ball4Good's event.

Ball4Good started as Adom's community service project in seventh grade.

Ball4Good connects two things Adom is passionate about: Sports and community.

"He found that sweet spot that drove him to work so hard at it," Kelsea Turner said. She was Adom's seventh-grade history teacher. "He's a deeply purposeful guy."

Adom is involved in many activities. He is also in student government, band and a video game club. He participated in the nationwide spelling bee twice. He speaks at schools and events to encourage people to volunteer. He has even written a children's book.

Supported 18 Charity Groups

Since 2017, Adom and Ball4Good have given money to 18 charity groups. They range from helping the homeless to supporting families of young people fighting cancer.

Adom does more than just deliver the money to these groups. He still volunteers.

"Adom is a doer," Greg Tolbert said. Tolbert works with Adom at the Boys & Girls Club.

Adom says he wants Ball4Good to go beyond his community. By getting others to join, his work can reach more people.

"Adom sets out to make a difference in the world and help kids who are not as fortunate as he is," Adom's 16-year-old friend, Maxwell Booker said. "He aims high and dreams big."
Quiz

1. How did Adom Appiah’s parents have an impact on him?
   (A) They taught him how to be a good basketball player.
   (B) They taught him the importance of volunteering.
   (C) They showed him how to connect with people on Twitter.
   (D) They showed him how to win a spelling bee.

2. WHY did Adom start his Ball4Good charity project?
   (A) to get a spot in student government
   (B) to teach people how to play basketball
   (C) to raise money for various causes
   (D) to win the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

3. Read the selection below from the section “Raising Money Through Basketball Games.”

   His name is Anthony Ianni. Adom admired Ianni. Ianni has autism. He is the first player known to
   have autism and play college basketball. Adom admired Ianni for how Ianni speaks out about his
   autism.

   What does the word “admired” mean?
   (A) is scared of
   (B) has respect for
   (C) is friends with
   (D) has controlled

4. Read the selection below from the section “Hands-On Way Of Helping.”

   He participated in the nationwide spelling bee twice. He speaks at schools and events to
   encourage people to volunteer. He has even written a children’s book.

   Which word could replace “encourage” WITHOUT changing the meaning of the selection?
   (A) inspire
   (B) prevent
   (C) ignore
   (D) copy
Surprise: Elephants comfort upset friends

By National Geographic, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.25.19
Word Count 471
Level 510L

Everybody feels stressed out now and then. Imagine one of your friends is stressing out. You would try to make them feel better, right? As it turns out, elephants do the same thing!

A team of scientists studied Asian elephants in 2014. They found that elephants can tell when their friends are upset. They even try to cheer their buddies up! That's something only a few animals were thought to be capable of.

The study was led by two scientists. Their names were Joshua Plotnik and Frans de Waal. They are experts on animal behavior.

**Rumbling And Roaring**

The study was done using 26 elephants in Thailand. To do the study, the scientists had to watch them while they were sad or scared. It would be mean to make the elephants freak out. So the scientists had to be patient. They waited for stressful situations to happen naturally.

Elephants can be spooked by all kinds of things. How do you know when an elephant is upset? It is easy to tell! They stick their tails out. They fan out their ears. They trumpet, rumble and roar. They
even poop.

**A Friendly Touch**

The study took a whole year. The scientists watched the elephants carefully. Over time, they noticed a pattern. When an elephant was stressed, the others reacted. They gave their upset buddy a friendly touch.

Nearby elephants also made noises. They rumbled and chirped. Those are the sorts of sounds elephants make to calm each other down. Sometimes the animals formed a circle around their stressed-out friend.

A bad mood can spread, too. Sometimes the stressed-out elephants would make their buddies upset. Other members of the herd would start to copy the freaked-out elephants. Then they would all comfort one another.

**Similar To Humans**

This ability to feel as others do is called empathy. Most animals do not have it, but apes and humans do. Now it seems like elephants have empathy, too. It’s possible they really understand each others’ emotions. That would make them more similar to humans than we think.

Plotnik was surprised by the study. The elephants cared for each other so much! Scared elephants were almost never left alone. There was always a friend there for them.

There are not many studies like de Waal and Plotnik's. There is plenty of research to do. Still, Plotnik is excited. His study could mean that "the buck does NOT stop with us humans when it comes to smarts!"

The same seems to be true for kindness.
Quiz

1. The main idea of the article is that elephants comfort each other.
   Which key detail from the article BEST supports this idea?
   (A) The study took a whole year. The scientists watched the elephants carefully. Over time, they noticed a pattern.
   (B) When an elephant was stressed, the others reacted. They gave their upset buddy a friendly touch.
   (C) A bad mood can spread, too. Sometimes the stressed-out elephants would make their buddies upset.
   (D) Other members of the herd would start to copy the freaked-out elephants.

2. Read the paragraph from the section “Similar To Humans.”

   This ability to feel as others do is called empathy. Most animals do not have it, but apes and humans do. Now it seems like elephants have empathy, too. It’s possible they really understand each others’ emotions. That would make them more similar to humans than we think.

   What is the MAIN idea of the paragraph?
   (A) Humans, apes and elephants are animals that have empathy.
   (B) Humans have more empathy than apes and elephants do.
   (C) Empathy is something most animals have but cannot show.
   (D) Empathy allows humans to feel what elephants and apes feel.

3. Which section from the article gives information about what elephants do when they are upset?
   (A) Introduction [paragraphs 1-3]
   (B) “Rumbling And Roaring”
   (C) “A Friendly Touch”
   (D) “Similar To Humans”

4. What information will the reader find in the introduction [paragraphs 1-3]?
   (A) a description of the ways different animals comfort each other
   (B) an explanation of what noises stressed-out elephants make
   (C) a description of the ways that elephants cheer each other up
   (D) an explanation of what two scientists learned about elephants
Do we have different laughs for different people?

By Atlas Obscura, adapted by Newsela staff on 10.20.19

Word Count 471
Level 560L

Imagine being at a stuffy office job. Your coworker sends you something funny. You might laugh quietly to yourself. You wouldn't burst out laughing, though. Now imagine you are out with friends at a restaurant. That's when you laugh loudest, right?

That's something language experts have wondered about for a while. Do we have "proper" laughs and "rude" laughs? How many laughs can one person have?

It is Normal To Code-Switch

This idea is called code-switching. It's how we change our language to match each situation. When you talk with family or friends, do you sound different? You might roll your R's or speak English mixed with another language. In school, you might use "standard" or "proper" English instead. Not everybody code-switches the same amount. It depends on what kind of background you come from and who you are talking to. But everyone code-switches from time to time. It's totally normal.

Race, Gender And Country Play A Role
Phillip Glenn is a professor at Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. He says that our laughter follows certain patterns. Imagine you get tickled at a funeral. You would probably cover your mouth and try not to laugh. That's because you know you shouldn't be laughing, Glenn said. It's all about the situation.

"Identity categories" also play a role. Those are things you cannot change, like your race, gender or country. They are always connected to the way you behave.

Speak "Properly"? You Laugh "Properly," Too

Betsy Rymes teaches at the University of Pennsylvania. She studies how we learn what it means to speak "properly." What groups you belong to may affect how "proper" you sound. The most "proper" speakers wind up at the top of the language ladder. Over time, these "proper" speakers decide what else is "proper." That includes how to laugh "properly."

Here's an example. If you speak "proper" English, like a teacher, that might put you in a high place on the ladder. You might not need to have a whole range of laughs. Why? Since you speak "properly," your normal laugh is also "proper." But what if you use a lot of slang? You probably have to switch between "proper" English and the way you usually talk. You might have to laugh differently, too.

No one can say for sure yet if we code-switch our laughter or not. What is clear is that nobody has just one laugh. We all have a handful of laughs to pick from.
Quiz

1
Read the section "It Is Normal To Code-Switch."
Select the sentence from the section that explains what code-switching is.
(A) It's how we change our language to match each situation.
(B) When you talk with family or friends, do you sound different?
(C) In school, you might use “standard” or “proper” English instead.
(D) Not everybody code-switches the same amount.

2
Read the following paragraph from the section "Speak 'Properly'? You Laugh 'Properly,' Too."

_Betsy Rymes teaches at the University of Pennsylvania. She studies how we learn what it means to speak “properly.” What groups you belong to may affect how “proper” you sound. The most “proper” speakers wind up at the top of the language ladder. Over time, these “proper” speakers decide what else is “proper.” That includes how to laugh “properly.”_

Which sentence from this paragraph explains what makes people speak differently?
(A) She studies how we learn what it means to speak “properly.”
(B) What groups you belong to might affect how “proper” you sound.
(C) The most “proper” speakers wind up at the top of the language ladder.
(D) Over time, these “proper” speakers decide what else is “proper.”

3
Read the following paragraph from the introduction [paragraphs 1-2.]

_Imagine being at a stuffy office job. Your coworker sends you something funny. You might laugh quietly to yourself. You wouldn’t burst out laughing, though. Now imagine you are out with friends at a restaurant. That’s when you laugh loudest, right?_

Which word could replace "stuffy" WITHOUT changing the meaning of the sentence?
(A) modern
(B) warm
(C) strict
(D) quiet

4
Read the following selection from the section "Race, Gender And Country Play A Role."

_Imagine you get tickled at a funeral. You would probably cover your mouth and try not to laugh._

What is the BEST definition of "tickled" based on the context clues?
(A) you feel a light touch on your skin
(B) you feel upset about something
(C) you think something is creepy
(D) you think something is funny
Astronauts on the way to Mars will have to know a few good jokes

By Ian Sample, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.15.19
Word Count 453
Level 580L

Going to space can be scary. Having someone around who makes other people laugh can help. The first trip to Mars might need someone funny.

Scientists studied this. They found that a trip to Mars might go better if it has a clown onboard. It will not be a real clown, just a funny person.

Funny people can join others together, studies show. They can unite teams in hard times.

**Space Ships Can Get Crowded**

Jeffrey Johnson is a scientist at the University of Florida. He said funny people can "pull everyone together."

Astronauts live in small spaces with other people. They would have to do that for a long time to go to Mars. That can make people feel nervous, Johnson said.
It is important to have someone who helps everyone get along, he said. That can help them to get back to Earth safely, Johnson said.

Johnson studied groups in Antarctica. There were groups of people who worked together. He saw that clowns, leaders and others were important for teams.

If you have the right mix, the group does very well, he said. If you do not, the group does badly, he said.

**Mars Trips Are Already Being Planned**

NASA is the U.S. space group. It wants to send people to Mars in 2033. Space agencies in Russia and China might take trips in 2040. Companies like SpaceX also want to take people to Mars.

A trip to Mars is not easy, though. It is so far away that it takes eight months to get there. The distance is expected to be hard on people.

It also will be difficult for astronauts to talk to people back on Earth. They will have to wait to get instructions from NASA. If they need help, it will not happen quickly.

**Jokes Are OK in Space**

Johnson is working with NASA. They want to see if funny people are important for space trips. He has watched astronauts who stayed in a place that is set up to be like space. They stayed for up to 60 days. It is in Houston, Texas.

Johnson found that clowns were willing to be part of jokes. In Antarctica, a clown joined scientists and others together.

Roald Amundsen was an explorer. In 1910, he was planning a trip to the South Pole. He picked a jolly cook, Adolf Lindstrøm, to go with him. He knew that Lindstrøm’s funny ways would help people. Amundsen wrote later that Lindstrøm had been more helpful to the trip than anyone else.
Quiz

1. Finish the sentence below.
   One MAIN idea of the article is that _____.
   (A) Roald Amundsen was an explorer who went to the South Pole
   (B) groups in China and Russia also want to take trips to Mars
   (C) bringing someone funny can help the team going to Mars
   (D) the trip to Mars may take astronauts about eight months

2. Read the section "Mars Trips Are Already Being Planned."
   Which sentence from the section states the MAIN idea about the trip to Mars?
   (A) It wants to send people to Mars in 2033.
   (B) Companies like SpaceX also want to take people to Mars.
   (C) The distance is expected to be hard on people.
   (D) They will have to wait to get instructions from NASA.

3. What does the section "Jokes Are OK In Space" show the reader?
   (A) ways clowns affected past astronauts and explorers
   (B) problems that explorers had at the South Pole
   (C) events in order that happen on the way to Mars
   (D) ideas astronauts want to learn from going to Mars

4. Select the paragraph in the section "Space Ships Can Get Crowded" that explains how the wrong team members can negatively affect a group.
   (A) Jeffrey Johnson is a scientist at the University of Florida. He said funny people can "pull everyone together."
   (B) It is important to have someone who helps everyone get along, he said. That can help them to get back to Earth safely, Johnson said.
   (C) Johnson studied groups in Antarctica. There were groups of people who worked together. He saw that clowns, leaders and others were important for teams.
   (D) If you have the right mix, the group does very well, he said. If you do not, the group does badly, he said.
In America, we have access to fresh water every day. All we have to do is turn on the tap. Fresh water is rare, though. Only a small part of all the water on Earth is fresh water. Most of it is salt water, such as what is found in the ocean.

Most of the world's fresh water is hard to access. Much of it is locked away in the form of ice. It is found in glaciers and polar ice caps. Still more is found underground in the soil. Only a small part of Earth's fresh water is easy for humans to use.

This fresh water is not equally spread around the world. A small group of countries has most of it. Some people live in areas with little fresh water. This lack of water creates many problems.

Drinking Water
Many people do not have safe drinking water. Instead, their water is dirty. Drinking dirty water often makes people sick. More than 3 million people die every year because they lack clean water.

Charity groups want this to change. They have helped countries that are poor gain access to clean water. Some groups still need help, though. About 1 billion people are still without clean water.

**Fishing And Farming**

Fresh water is also important for business. For example, freshwater sources allow people to develop fisheries. People harvest fish from these habitats. They provide food for many people. Fisheries are both a source of food and a source of income.

Fresh water is also important for farming. Much of the world’s fresh water is used for farming. In the future, populations will continue to grow. That will create more demand for fresh water.

**Fighting Over Water**

The fight over fresh water can be seen in politics. For example, Ethiopia and Egypt share the Nile River. They have fought over its water for a long time. Ethiopia is planning to dam part of the river. It wants to use the water to create electricity. Egypt is worried about this. The country fears it might lose access to the Nile’s waters.

Fights over water are common. They even happen in the United States. One major debate concerns the Colorado River system. It supplies water to seven states. A recent drought has reduced water flow. The states now have less water to share. Population growth will create additional challenges. Fights over water will become even more common in the future.
Quiz

1. Read the introduction [paragraphs 1-3].
Which sentence from the section states the MAIN idea about fresh water?
(A) In America, we have access to fresh water every day.
(B) Only a small part of all the water on Earth is fresh water.
(C) Most of it is salt water, such as what is found in the ocean.
(D) Still more is found underground in the soil.

2. What is the MAIN idea of the section "Fighting Over Water"?
(A) Ethiopia and Egypt are fighting over the fresh water from the Nile River.
(B) The Colorado River system gives fresh water to seven states.
(C) People around the world are having fights about sharing fresh water.
(D) A recent drought is leading to less water for people to use.

3. According to the section "Fishing And Farming," WHY do people think there will be a bigger demand for fresh water?
(A) because clean water is hard to find
(B) because farms are disappearing
(C) because many fish live in salt water
(D) because populations are growing

4. How does a lack of clean water affect people around the world?
(A) Millions of people are dying every year.
(B) People are starting to use salt water more.
(C) Farms and fisheries have closed.
(D) Countries are learning to share water better.
No side-stepping: Black ballerina urges kids to chase their dreams

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.27.19
Word Count 424
Level 550L

Growing up, Aesha Ash did not feel like she fit in. Now she is a famous African-American ballet dancer. Ballet is a classical kind of dance. Ash went to suburban schools, but she was from the city of Rochester, New York. Sometimes, the suburban kids could be mean to her. Ash learned how to be strong. She became proud of who she was.

As a child, Ash loved all kinds of dances. She did ballet. She also did jazz and tap dancing. When she was 10, her ballet school told her she had to choose. She could only do one kind of dance.

Ash talked to her mom. Her mother warned her that there were only a few black ballet dancers. Ash decided to prove that she could become a ballerina.

**Hard Work, Determination Pays Off**

Ash entered a new school. It was the School of American Ballet. It is a famous ballet school in New York City. She worked hard toward her dream. Any time she felt bullied, she tried to stand up for herself. She never stopped working.
At 18 years old, her dream came true. She joined the New York City Ballet. It is a famous dance company. Ash did well. She danced many solos and had lead roles. Only some of the best dancers get lead roles and solos. Then she moved to Europe to dance with a company in Switzerland. Later, she returned to work in the United States.

**Swan Dreams Project Helps Kids**

In 2011, Ash started the Swan Dreams Project. The program teaches dance and other arts to kids. It shows them how to dream big no matter who they are or where they come from.

She said that in life, people will tell you no. Still, you need to be firm and love what you are doing. "Know that nothing will take your dreams from you," she said. "Give it your all, and you will reach your goal."

**"Believe It With All Of Your Heart"**

The National Women's History Museum is a website honoring great women. In 2016, they featured Ash. They praised her for being one of the first African-American ballet dancers. They also honored her for the Swan Dreams Project. The program runs a summer camp in Rochester. It also teaches classes after school in San Jose, California.

Ash most treasures the honor of making her family proud.

"All of the hard work and sacrifice paid off," she said. "When you have a dream, believe it with all of your heart."
Quiz

1. Finish the sentence below.
   One main idea of the article is that _____.
   (A) only Rochester and San Jose have Swan Dreams
   (B) only some ballet dancers get lead roles and solos
   (C) Aesha Ash worked hard to be a professional ballerina
   (D) Aesah Ash danced with a company in Switzerland

2. What is the main idea of the section "Swan Dreams Project Helps Kids"?
   (A) Ash started the Swan Dreams Project in 2011 to show kids what a good dancer she is.
   (B) Ash started the Swan Dreams Project because she had to work hard to be a ballet dancer.
   (C) Ash started the Swan Dreams Project because she loves doing many kinds of dance and art.
   (D) Ash started the Swan Dreams Project to teach dance and show kids to go for their dreams.

3. What did Aesha Ash do FIRST in the article?
   (A) Ash tried learning tap and jazz.
   (B) Ash decided to prove she could be a ballet dancer.
   (C) Ash moved to Europe to dance.
   (D) Ash went to the School of American Ballet.

4. Why did the National Women's History Museum praise Ash?
   (A) because she honored her family by making them proud of her
   (B) because she became one of the first African-American ballet dancers
   (C) because she stood up for herself whenever she felt bullied in school.
   (D) because she learned how to also dance tap and jazz later in life
Essay Writing Prompt: <All Saints’ Day at Night >

Prompt: In the story, Tomek’s family wants him to go to the cemetery with them. Why do you think it’s important to them to celebrate All Saints’ Day together? What holidays are important to your family to celebrate together
Essay Writing Prompt: <Do What You Can>

Prompt: In the story, what would have happened to the farmer and his crops if the raindrop chose not to help him? How important is rain to the farmer's success? How does this prove the power of nature? Describe a time when you found nature powerful.
Essay Writing Prompt: <Earth Day Birthday>

Prompt: How have you celebrated Earth Day in the past? What will you do for the environment next Earth Day?
Essay Writing Prompt: <Jasmine Girl>

Prompt: In the story, Jodi and Shanti are described as best friends. How do they show each other that they care about one another? Describe a time that you did something nice for your best friend.
Prompt: In the context of the text, how does James’ family show their love for him? Why doesn’t he like it? Does this mean that he doesn’t love his family?

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Essay Writing Prompt: <Learning about the Solar System>

Prompt: In the text, the author states that there’s still a lot that scientists don’t know about our galaxy. Do you think scientists will ever know everything about our galaxy? Why or why not? What is one thing you want to know about our galaxy?

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Essay Writing Prompt: <Seeking a Hidden Hive>

Prompt: Guyo and his grandfather need the honey guide to find honey. How do they show their respect and appreciation for the honey guide? What are other examples of ways in which humans rely on animals? Do you think that humans thank animals enough for what they do for humans?
Essay Writing Prompt: <Space Food>

Prompt: In the text, the author describes how astronauts eat in space. If you had to eat in space, what do you think would be challenging about it?
Essay Writing Prompt: <The Champion of Quiet>

Prompt: In the short story, Maggie and her teammates have fun playing basketball, even though they lose. Why does this make them happy? Give an example of a time when you had fun just by being yourself.
Essay Writing Prompt: <Tsunami>

Prompt: Write a poem that describes something in nature.