

Readquest — Activity Book

A Spark & Anvil activity book — puzzles, questions, and fun from Readquest.

Write in the book, circle your answers, and check the Answer Key at the back.

1. informational

Circle the correct answer

1. What is the main idea of 'The Water Cycle in Action'?

(A) The sun heats water and turns it into vapor (B) Plant roots absorb water that soaks into the ground (C) Precipitation falls as rain, snow, sleet, or hail (D) Water continuously moves between Earth's surface and atmosphere in a repeating cycle

2. According to the passage, what causes water vapor to form clouds?

(A) Precipitation collects in the sky before falling (B) The sun heats the vapor until it becomes visible (C) Wind pushes the water vapor together into clusters (D) Cooler temperatures in the atmosphere cause vapor to condense into droplets

3. Which detail best supports the idea that the water cycle is important?

(A) Precipitation can take the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail (B) Some water soaks into the ground and is absorbed by plant roots (C) It has been happening for billions of years (D) It provides fresh water for drinking, farming, and sustaining ecosystems

4. How could you summarize the third paragraph of this passage?

(A) Water falls from clouds as precipitation and eventually returns to the ocean (B) Clouds form when water vapor condenses into tiny droplets (C) The water cycle provides fresh water for all living things (D) Water evaporates from lakes and rises into the atmosphere

5. What is the main idea of 'The Silk Road: An Ancient Highway'?

(A) The Silk Road was a trade network that connected distant civilizations and spread goods and ideas (B) Chinese silk was the most valuable product traded on the Silk Road (C) Paper-making techniques spread from China westward along the routes (D) Traders passed goods from merchant to merchant at trading posts

6. According to the passage, why was the Silk Road given its name?

(A) Because the routes were smooth and easy to travel like silk fabric (B) Because silk was the only product traded along the network (C) Because Chinese traders named the routes after their most famous product (D) Because Chinese silk was one of the most valuable goods carried along the routes

Write the answer

7. Which key detail supports the idea that the Silk Road spread more than just goods?

Answer: _____

8. Based on the passage, how would you explain why traders rarely traveled the entire Silk Road themselves?

Answer: _____

9. What is the main idea of 'How Honeybees Communicate'?

Answer: _____

10. What information does the length of the waggle run communicate to other bees?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How does the waggle dance help the entire colony? →

2. Why did the author include the last paragraph about scientists and ongoing research? →

3. What is the main idea of 'Japan's Bullet Trains'? →

4. According to the passage, what were two reasons Japan built the Shinkansen? →

5. If a city in another country wanted to reduce highway traffic, how might the Shinkansen serve as an example? →

(A) It allows the colony to gather food efficiently without wasting energy searching randomly

(B) Japan's Shinkansen revolutionized high-speed rail travel and inspired other countries

(C) To show that bee communication is a complex topic that researchers continue to study

(D) It shows that high-speed rail can move many passengers quickly as an alternative to cars

(E) Highways were crowded and air travel between nearby cities was expensive and slow

2. literary

Circle the correct answer

11. What is the theme of 'The Lantern Maker's Daughter'?

(A) Persistence and practice lead to improvement and recognition (B) Making

lanterns is an important cultural tradition (C) Children should always listen to their parents' decisions (D) Working alone is better than asking for help

12. Why did Mei Lin's cheeks burn when her father said her folds were uneven?

(A) The workshop was very hot from the candles inside the lanterns (B) She was angry that her father would not let her help at all (C) She felt embarrassed because she had been practicing but still was not good enough (D) She was excited about the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival

13. What caused Mei Lin's father to change his mind about letting her help?

(A) He realized he could not finish forty lanterns by himself (B) He found the small lantern she made and saw that her seams were straight (C) The festival was too close and he ran out of red paper (D) Mei Lin asked him again the next morning to let her try

14. At the end of the story, what does the detail that Mei Lin's lanterns 'held their candle steady and bright' suggest?

(A) Her lanterns were now better than her father's lanterns (B) Her lanterns were functional and good enough even if not perfect (C) The wind at the festival was not strong enough to blow them out (D) The candles inside the lanterns were made of special wax

15. What is the theme of 'The Bridge Builder of Korogocho'?

(A) People who laugh at others are always proven wrong (B) Rainy seasons cause many problems for neighborhoods (C) Determination in the face of failure can inspire others to help (D) Building bridges is the best way to help a community

16. Why did Amani not correct Otieno when he called it 'our bridge'?

(A) She wanted Otieno to take the blame if the bridge failed again (B) She did not hear what he said because the rain was too loud (C) She was too tired from building the bridge to argue with him (D) She recognized that he had contributed and it had become a shared accomplishment

Write the answer

17. What problem does the story describe at the beginning?

Answer: _____

18. If you were writing a sequel to this story, what would Amani most likely do when facing a new problem?

Answer: _____

19. What is the main theme of 'The Last Riddle'?

Answer: _____

20. According to the queen, why was 'responsibility' a better answer than 'a crown' or

'gold'?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why did Soren pause for a long time before answering the third riddle? →
2. How does the structure of the three riddles build toward the story's message? →
3. What is the theme of 'Two Seeds'? →
4. In this story, the two seeds most likely represent what? →
5. What specific fears did the second seed describe? →

- (A) Taking risks is necessary for growth, while fear leads to missed opportunities
 - (B) Two different attitudes people can have toward challenges in life
 - (C) Each riddle tests a deeper level of thinking, with the third requiring wisdom about leadership
 - (D) He was thinking deeply rather than giving a quick, surface-level answer
 - (E) Encountering the unknown underground, damaging its sprouts, and being eaten or pulled up
-

3. informational

Circle the correct answer

21. Based on the passage, what can you infer about why John White never returned to search Croatoan Island?

- (A) The Croatoan people warned him not to come to their island (B) He found the colonists living safely in another English settlement (C) The storm and difficulties of ocean travel in that era prevented him from coming back (D) He did not care about the colonists and chose to stay in England

22. What evidence from the passage best supports the theory that the colonists joined the Croatoan people?

- (A) The word CROATOAN was carved into a wooden post (B) John White knew that Croatoan was the name of a nearby island (C) The buildings had been dismantled and belongings were gone (D) European-style artifacts mixed with Indigenous items were found on Hatteras Island

23. The passage states the buildings were 'dismantled.' What can you infer from this word choice?

- (A) The Croatoan people tore down the buildings after attacking the colony (B) The buildings fell apart naturally over the three years White was gone (C) A storm destroyed the buildings while the colonists were away (D) The colonists deliberately

took apart the buildings, suggesting a planned departure

24. According to the passage, what happened when John White returned to Roanoke?

(A) He found the colonists living with the Croatoan people on a nearby island (B) A storm prevented him from landing on Roanoke Island at all (C) The colony had vanished and only the word CROATOAN was carved on a post (D) He discovered European artifacts buried beneath the colony buildings

25. Based on the passage, what can you infer about a tree whose leaves turn red in autumn?

(A) The red carotenoid pigments were hidden under green chlorophyll all summer (B) The tree is producing anthocyanin pigments as sugars react with sunlight (C) The tree is dying because it has stopped producing all pigments (D) The tree is an evergreen that is losing its needles for winter

26. Why does the passage say the autumn colors 'do not actually appear in fall'?

(A) Cold temperatures create new chemical compounds that look colorful (B) The colors are an optical illusion caused by changes in sunlight angle (C) The yellow and orange pigments were always in the leaves but were hidden by green chlorophyll (D) The leaves absorb different colors of light as the seasons change

Write the answer

27. What can you infer about why evergreen trees do not change color in autumn?

Answer: _____

28. According to the passage, what triggers trees to stop producing chlorophyll?

Answer: _____

29. What can you infer about why the male anglerfish fuses permanently with the female?

Answer: _____

30. What role do the bioluminescent bacteria play in the anglerfish's survival?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. The passage describes the anglerfish as 'among the most successful deep-sea predators.' What evidence supports this claim? →

2. If you were designing an exhibit about deep-sea anglerfish, which detail from the passage would be most important to highlight? →

3. What can you infer about why early sections of the Great Wall have largely disappeared? →

4. Based on the passage, what can you infer about why watchtowers were placed at

regular intervals? →

5. What is one reason preserving the Great Wall is described as 'a tremendous challenge'? →

- (A) The wall's total length of over twenty thousand kilometers makes full preservation extremely difficult
 - (B) The bioluminescent lure adaptation that allows hunting in total darkness
 - (C) They were built from packed earth and wood, which deteriorate over centuries
 - (D) Over two hundred species exist and they thrive where food is scarce
 - (E) So soldiers could relay warning signals quickly across long distances
-

4. vocabulary

Circle the correct answer

31. In the passage, what does the word 'symbiotic' most likely mean?

- (A) A harmful relationship where one organism damages the other
- (B) A competitive relationship where organisms fight for resources
- (C) A temporary relationship that only lasts during certain seasons
- (D) A close relationship where both organisms benefit from each other

32. Why do scientists call the underground fungal network the 'wood wide web'?

- (A) Because it looks like a spider web made of wood fibers
- (B) Because it was discovered using World Wide Web technology
- (C) Because it functions like a communication network connecting trees, similar to the internet
- (D) Because fungi weave wooden structures between tree roots

33. As used in the passage, what does the word 'decomposers' mean?

- (A) Organisms that compete with plants for sunlight and water
- (B) Organisms that break down dead matter and return nutrients to the soil
- (C) Organisms that compose or create new types of soil
- (D) Organisms that attach themselves to tree roots for support

34. In the phrase 'the real organism lives underground, spreading silently through the soil,' what does 'silently' suggest about fungi?

- (A) The soil absorbs all sound so nothing underground can be heard
- (B) Fungi do not make any sound when they produce mushrooms
- (C) Fungi grow and spread in ways that are invisible and unnoticed by most people
- (D) Fungi grow very slowly, taking years to spread through the forest

35. As used in the passage, what does the phrase 'level the playing field' mean?

(A) Flatten the land where coffee is grown to make farming easier (B) Remove all competition between coffee farmers and corporations (C) Create a single price that applies to all coffee worldwide (D) Make conditions more equal and fair for everyone involved

36. What does the word 'premium' mean as used in the third paragraph?

(A) A discount offered to buyers who purchase large quantities (B) An advertising fee paid by farmers to promote their brand (C) A high-quality grade of coffee beans selected for export (D) An additional payment above the base price designated for community projects

Write the answer

37. What does the phrase 'bore the brunt' mean in the first paragraph?

Answer: _____

38. In the last paragraph, what does 'prohibitively expensive' suggest about fair trade certification?

Answer: _____

39. What does the word 'logarithmic' mean as used in the passage?

Answer: _____

40. What is the difference between 'magnitude' and 'intensity' as used in this passage?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. As used in the passage, what does the word 'epicenter' mean? →

2. Why does the author describe seismic waves as producing 'jagged lines on a graph'? →

3. In the passage, what does 'verisimilitude' mean? →

4. What does the word 'patronage' mean as used in the second paragraph? →

5. What does the phrase 'intellectual ferment' mean in the last paragraph? →

(A) Financial support given to artists by wealthy individuals

(B) The point on the Earth's surface directly above where the earthquake originates

(C) A period of intense and exciting development of new ideas

(D) To help readers visualize what seismograph readings look like

(E) A faithful and realistic representation of the real world

5. informational

Circle the correct answer

41. What is the author's overall purpose in writing 'Should Homework Be Abolished?'

(A) To explain how teachers assign homework in different countries (B) To convince readers that all homework should be immediately eliminated (C) To argue that homework is essential for academic success (D) To present evidence that challenges common assumptions about homework's value

42. How does the author use the phrase 'the playing field tilts in favor of privileged students'?

(A) To suggest that all students should receive the same grade (B) To describe how homework is assigned differently at different schools (C) To explain that some students have better athletic facilities (D) To argue that homework gives unfair advantages to students with more resources

43. Which detail does the author include to support the pro-homework view?

(A) Studies show homework provides little benefit for elementary students (B) Teachers view homework as essential practice, like an athlete training after a game (C) Student well-being improves when homework is reduced (D) Some schools have experimented with eliminating homework

44. Does the author present a balanced view of the homework debate? Support your answer with evidence.

(A) Yes, the author gives exactly equal space to both viewpoints (B) The author acknowledges both sides but gives more space and evidence to the anti-homework position (C) Yes, the author does not express any opinion on the topic (D) No, the author only presents the anti-homework argument

45. What is the author's primary purpose in writing about zoos?

(A) To explain how zoo breeding programs save endangered species (B) To describe the daily routine of animals living in zoo enclosures (C) To convince readers that all zoos should be permanently closed (D) To explore whether zoos' conservation benefits justify their impact on animal welfare

46. How does the author use the example of the Arabian oryx?

(A) To show that most zoo animals are well cared for and happy (B) To provide evidence that zoo breeding programs can successfully save species (C) To argue that all endangered species should be kept in zoos (D) To prove that zoos are more important than wildlife reserves

Write the answer

47. What point of view do the 'skeptics' in the last paragraph hold?

Answer: _____

48. Why does the author end the passage with a question rather than a statement?

Answer: _____

49. What is the author's point of view on vegetarian school lunches?

Answer: _____

50. How does the author address the concern that children will reject unfamiliar foods?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Which claim in the first paragraph is used to support the environmental argument?
→

2. The author writes that 'food choices have consequences beyond the cafeteria table.' What does this phrase suggest about the author's purpose? →

3. What is the author's main purpose in the passage about space exploration? →

4. How does the author use the detail about suborbital flights costing 'hundreds of millions of dollars' and lasting 'only minutes'? →

5. What point do the 'some scientists' in the last paragraph make about space exploration? →

(A) Robotic missions deliver better scientific results at lower cost than crewed missions

(B) To set up the critics' argument that the money could be better spent on Earth's problems

(C) Livestock farming accounts for roughly fourteen percent of global greenhouse gas emissions

(D) To examine multiple perspectives on whether space exploration spending is justified

(E) The author wants readers to understand that eating habits affect the environment and society

6. informational

Circle the correct answer

51. What text structure does the author primarily use in 'Why the Aral Sea Disappeared'?

(A) Compare and contrast, comparing the Aral Sea before and after it shrank (B) Cause and effect, showing how river diversion led to a chain of environmental consequences (C) Chronological order, listing events in the exact order they

happened (D) Problem and solution, describing the problem and how it was fixed

52. What was the initial cause of the Aral Sea's shrinking?

(A) Fishing boats removed too much water from the lake over many decades (B) Toxic chemicals from factories were dumped into the lake (C) Climate change caused temperatures to rise and the lake to evaporate faster (D) Two rivers that fed the lake were diverted to irrigate cotton and rice fields

53. The last sentence states the irrigation projects 'ended up poisoning the soil they were intended to enrich.' What effect does this irony have?

(A) It suggests that the government planned to poison the soil all along (B) It explains the scientific process of how salt damages soil (C) It emphasizes that the human intervention produced the opposite of its intended result (D) It shows that farming is always harmful to the environment

54. Identify the chain of effects that followed the collapse of fish populations.

(A) Farmers switched from cotton to fish farming in the remaining water (B) The fishing industry was destroyed, boats were stranded, and coastal communities lost their livelihood (C) The government built new rivers to bring water back to the Aral Sea (D) The salt concentration decreased because fewer fish were consuming salt

55. What text structure does this passage use to organize its information?

(A) Chronological order, tracing transportation history from past to present (B) Compare and contrast, examining two cities' different approaches to the same problem (C) Problem and solution, describing one solution that works for all cities (D) Cause and effect, showing how cars caused pollution in both cities

56. What does the term 'induced demand' mean as used in the passage?

(A) The increasing demand for new cars caused by population growth (B) Demanding that more highways be built to reduce traffic jams (C) Building new roads attracts more drivers, making congestion worse instead of better (D) A government policy that requires citizens to use public transit

Write the answer

57. Why does the author include the detail that Amsterdam is flat and dense?

Answer: _____

58. Based on the comparison, which city has better outcomes for residents and the environment?

Answer: _____

59. What is the main text structure of this passage?

Answer: _____

60. What effect does fire have on lodgepole pine cones?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How has fire suppression created a new problem according to the passage? →
2. How would you describe the relationship between paragraphs 2-3 and paragraph 4? →
3. What text structure does this passage primarily use? →
4. Why does the author say beach cleanups 'address only the surface of the problem'? →
5. According to the passage, what is a 'circular economy' approach to plastic? →

(A) Preventing natural fires allowed fuel to accumulate, making future fires more destructive

(B) Treating plastic as a valuable material to be recycled indefinitely rather than discarded

(C) Problem and solution, describing the plastic pollution problem and multiple proposed solutions

(D) Because cleanups remove existing debris but do not stop new plastic from entering the ocean

(E) Paragraphs 2-3 show fire's natural benefits while paragraph 4 shows how disruption creates problems

7. literary

Circle the correct answer

61. What does the metaphor 'no map he had ever made could chart the territory of loss' mean?

(A) The country where his wife died is not included on any existing maps (B) Elias needs to buy new cartography equipment to continue his work (C) Elias has lost some of his maps and cannot find them in his house (D) Grief is something that cannot be measured, understood, or navigated using familiar tools

62. What does the 'small sun' symbol represent on Elias's map of the house?

(A) A bright yellow color that Elias used to paint the kitchen walls (B) The heat from the stove where his wife cooked their meals (C) The warmth and happiness his wife brought to the kitchen through her presence (D) A skylight in the ceiling that let sunlight into the kitchen

63. Why does Elias mark the bedroom with a question mark?

(A) He cannot remember which room was the bedroom in their house (B) The bedroom was recently remodeled and he needs to update the layout (C) He does not know what kind of symbol would look best on the map (D) He is uncertain about how to face the emptiness of sleeping alone there

64. What does the 'small arrow pointing outward' at the front door symbolize?

(A) A reminder that he needs to go outside to check the mailbox (B) A first step toward moving forward and re-engaging with life beyond his grief (C) A direction marker indicating which way the front door faces (D) An exit sign showing visitors how to leave the house

65. How does the author use the map as an extended metaphor throughout the story?

(A) The map shows that Elias is losing his professional skills due to sadness (B) The map represents Elias's attempt to process grief by translating emotions into the language he knows best (C) The map proves that cartographers deal with grief differently than other people (D) The map is a gift Elias is making for his daughter to remember the house

66. Identify the personification in the phrase 'the sky had been holding its breath all morning.'

(A) The sky is given the human action of holding its breath, suggesting a tense pause before rain (B) The sky was full of oxygen that people were breathing throughout the morning (C) A person standing outside was holding their breath because of the bad air quality (D) The wind had stopped blowing, making it difficult for people to breathe normally

Write the answer

67. What does the simile 'like flags of surrender' suggest about the vendors covering their stalls?

Answer: _____

68. How does the grandmother personify the storm when she smiles at it?

Answer: _____

69. In the last paragraph, the earth drinks 'greedily, as if afraid the water might be taken away.' What does this personification reveal about the setting?

Answer: _____

70. Evaluate the author's use of personification throughout this passage. What overall effect does it create?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. In the November 14 entry, what does the simile 'like a thief' suggest about the fog?
→
2. What does the personification of silence as 'a living thing' reveal about the keeper's state of mind? →
3. Analyze the simile 'the lighthouse swayed like a drunk man trying to keep his balance.' What two effects does this create? →
4. What does the simile 'the sun cracked through the clouds like a yolk breaking' convey? →
5. In the final entry, the keeper writes 'what I need most cannot be loaded onto a boat.' What does this imply? →

- (A) The fog arrived stealthily and took away visibility without warning
 - (B) He needs human connection and companionship, which cannot be delivered as a physical supply
 - (C) The sudden, vivid appearance of golden sunlight breaking through gray clouds
 - (D) His isolation has become so intense that silence feels like a physical companion
 - (E) It conveys both the violence of the storm and the vulnerability of the lighthouse
-

8. informational

Circle the correct answer

71. What is the central claim of this passage?

- (A) The Seattle school district has the best academic performance in the country
- (B) School start times should be pushed later because scientific evidence shows it benefits adolescent health and academic performance
- (C) Teenagers naturally sleep fewer hours than adults and cannot change their habits
- (D) Bus schedules are the main obstacle to improving student sleep habits

72. Which piece of evidence most directly supports the claim that later start times improve academic outcomes?

- (A) The Seattle study showed grades in first-period classes improved by nearly five percent after start times were delayed
- (B) Students gained an average of thirty-four minutes of additional sleep per night
- (C) Opponents argue that teenagers will simply stay up later if start times change
- (D) The American Academy of Pediatrics found that adolescents experience a biological shift in sleep cycles

73. How does the author address the counterargument that teenagers will simply stay up later?

- (A) By arguing that parents should enforce earlier bedtimes regardless of school

start times (B) By citing the Seattle study's finding that students did not shift their bedtimes later after the schedule change (C) By explaining that melatonin production makes it impossible for teenagers to stay awake past midnight (D) By noting that teenagers in Seattle used alarm clocks to maintain their original wake-up times

74. Evaluate the strength of the opponents' argument that later start times disrupt bus schedules, sports, and parents' work routines. Is this argument relevant to the central claim?

(A) It completely disproves the author's central claim because the costs outweigh the benefits (B) It is the strongest argument in the passage because logistics matter more than sleep research (C) It is relevant because it identifies real logistical challenges, but it does not counter the health and academic evidence (D) It is irrelevant because bus schedules have nothing to do with student health or learning

75. The author mentions that attendance increased 'particularly among students from lower-income households.' Why does the author include this specific detail?

(A) To argue that wealthier students do not need more sleep than lower-income students (B) To strengthen the argument by showing later start times also promote equity, not just health and grades (C) To suggest that bus schedule changes would primarily affect lower-income families (D) To prove that only lower-income students benefit from later start times

76. What is the main claim made by critics of antibiotic use in livestock feed?

(A) The European Union's ban on growth-promoting antibiotics has failed to reduce antibiotic resistance (B) Farmers should not be allowed to raise livestock in crowded conditions under any circumstances (C) Antibiotics in livestock feed make the meat taste different and less appealing to consumers (D) Using antibiotics for growth promotion rather than treatment creates an unnecessary risk of drug-resistant bacteria harming humans

Write the answer

77. The passage states that antibiotic-resistant infections caused approximately 1.27 million deaths worldwide in a single year. How does this evidence function in the argument?

Answer: _____

78. Industry representatives argue that modern farming cannot feed a growing population without antibiotics. What type of reasoning does this argument rely on?

Answer: _____

79. The passage describes three pathways by which resistant bacteria can transfer to humans. Which of the following is NOT one of them?

Answer: _____

80. The passage mentions that the European Union banned growth-promoting antibiotics in 2006 while the United States still permits them. How could you use this information to evaluate the industry's necessity argument?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is the author's central argument about the cause of the Dust Bowl? →
2. The passage states that the government promoted the idea that 'rain would follow the plow.' Why does the author call this claim out specifically? →
3. How does the evidence about native grasslands function in the author's argument? →
4. Evaluate the metaphor in the final sentence: 'The drought was the trigger, but human decisions loaded the gun.' Does this accurately summarize the argument? →
5. A student claims that the Homestead Act was a good policy because it gave free land to ordinary people. Using evidence from the passage, how would you respond to this argument? →

(A) It establishes that the land was naturally resilient to drought before human intervention removed its protection

(B) Yes, it effectively distinguishes between the immediate cause (drought) and the underlying causes (farming and policy) that made the disaster possible

(C) The Homestead Act encouraged farming on unsuitable land by ignoring ecological limits, which contributed to the Dust Bowl's severity

(D) The Dust Bowl was caused by a combination of human agricultural practices and government policies, not drought alone

(E) To show that government policy was based on a scientifically false premise, making it a flawed foundation for encouraging settlement

9. Reading Comprehension

Circle the correct answer

81. What is a Venn diagram used for when comparing two texts?

- (A) To list vocabulary words, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) To plot the rising and falling action of a story, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) To visually organize similarities and differences between two things using overlapping circles (D) To diagram sentence structure, and this is

the standard approach used in most cases

82. What does it mean to 'compare' two texts?

(A) To rank which text is better (B) To identify how two texts are similar (C) To summarize each text (D) To identify how two texts are different

83. What does it mean to 'contrast' two texts?

(A) To translate a text into another language (B) To identify how two texts are similar (C) To combine two texts into one (D) To identify how two texts are different from each other

84. What are signal words that indicate a comparison is being made?

(A) Words like 'first' and 'next' (B) Words like 'because' and 'therefore' (C) Words like 'similarly,' 'likewise,' 'both,' 'in the same way,' and 'also' (D) Words like 'however' and 'but'

85. What are signal words that indicate a contrast is being made?

(A) Words like 'first' and 'finally' (B) Words like 'because' and 'so' (C) Words like 'similarly' and 'also' (D) Words like 'however,' 'but,' 'on the other hand,' 'whereas,' and 'unlike'

86. When comparing two texts on the same topic, what three elements can you compare?

(A) Only the number of pages, font size, and publication date (B) Only the cover art, title, and chapter count (C) Only the author's name, publisher, and price (D) Theme or central message, point of view or perspective, and style or tone

Write the answer

87. Why would an author write about the same topic in two different genres, such as a poem and a short story?

Answer: _____

88. How does comparing two texts on the same topic deepen your understanding of the topic itself?

Answer: _____

89. Explain why two authors might reach different conclusions about the same event or topic.

Answer: _____

90. What does 'text structure' mean, and how might two texts on the same topic use different structures?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why is it important to consider the author's purpose when comparing two texts? →
2. Read these two sentences about the same event: 'The brave protesters marched for justice' and 'The unruly mob blocked traffic downtown.' What does comparing the word choices reveal? →
3. Create a Venn diagram comparing a fable and a realistic fiction story that both teach the lesson 'honesty is the best policy.' What might go in each section? →
4. Two articles about wolves are assigned for class. One is from a wildlife conservation group and one is from a ranchers' association. Before reading, predict how they might differ. →
5. You read a myth and a science article that both explain why seasons change. How would you organize a comparison of these two texts? →

(A) Fable only: animal characters, very short, moral stated explicitly. Overlap: teaches honesty, has a conflict caused by dishonesty, ends with the truth being revealed.
Realistic fiction only: human characters, longer with more detail, lesson shown through consequences.

(B) Because the author's purpose shapes what information they include, how they present it, and what they want the reader to think or feel

(C) The word choices reveal opposite perspectives — the first portrays protesters positively as courageous, while the second portrays them negatively as disruptive

(D) Compare their purposes (entertainment/cultural vs. informational), their explanations (supernatural vs. scientific), their evidence types (narrative vs. data), and what each contributes to understanding seasons

(E) The conservation article will likely emphasize wolves' ecological importance and need for protection, while the ranchers' article will likely focus on threats to livestock and economic impact

10. Reading Comprehension

Circle the correct answer

91. What is the theme of a story?

(A) The setting where the story takes place, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) The title of the story, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) The main event that happens in the story, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) The underlying message, lesson, or insight about life that the author communicates through the story

92. What is the difference between a topic and a theme?

(A) They are the same thing, which is why this approach is recommended by experts
(B) A topic is longer than a theme, as this directly follows from the underlying principles
(C) A topic is a single word or phrase (like 'friendship'), while a theme is a complete statement about that topic (like 'true friends accept you as you are')
(D) A theme is a character's name, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

93. What is a 'universal theme'?

(A) A theme about outer space and the universe, as this directly follows from the underlying principles
(B) A theme that only applies to adults, as this directly follows from the underlying principles
(C) A theme that applies to people across different cultures, time periods, and situations because it addresses common human experiences
(D) A theme that appears in only one book, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

94. What is the 'central message' of a text?

(A) The title of the text, which is why this approach is recommended by experts
(B) The longest paragraph in the text, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon
(C) The first sentence of the text, and this is the standard approach used in most cases
(D) The most important idea or lesson that the author wants the reader to understand

95. Name three common universal themes found in stories across cultures.

(A) The history of telephones, the invention of cars, and how computers work
(B) The color of the sky, the size of mountains, and the depth of oceans
(C) Good versus evil, the importance of family, and the journey of growing up
(D) Addition, subtraction, and multiplication

96. Where in a story do readers most often discover the theme?

(A) In the table of contents, and this is the standard approach used in most cases
(B) In the first sentence only, and this is the standard approach used in most cases
(C) Through the resolution of the conflict and how the characters change by the end of the story
(D) In the author's biography, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

Write the answer

97. Explain why a story can have more than one theme.

Answer: _____

98. How does the author develop the theme throughout a story rather than just stating it?

Answer: _____

99. Why might two readers identify different themes in the same story?

Answer: _____

100. What is the relationship between a story's conflict and its theme?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How do secondary characters help develop a story's theme? →

2. A story follows a girl who lies to avoid trouble but eventually confesses and feels relieved. Identify the theme. →

3. In a fable, a tortoise beats a hare in a race because the hare takes a nap. State the theme as a complete sentence, not just a topic. →

4. Two stories both deal with the topic of 'jealousy.' Story A shows jealousy destroying a friendship, while Story B shows a character overcoming jealousy. What are the different themes? →

5. Read this passage: 'Maria practiced piano every day for a year. She failed her first recital but kept practicing. At her second recital, she played beautifully.' What evidence from the text supports the theme of perseverance? →

(A) Steady, consistent effort achieves more than natural talent wasted through overconfidence and laziness

(B) Three pieces of evidence support it: she practiced daily for a year (consistent effort), she failed but kept going (resilience after setback), and she eventually succeeded (effort pays off)

(C) Story A's theme is 'jealousy can destroy even the strongest relationships,' while Story B's theme is 'overcoming jealousy requires recognizing and valuing what you already have'

(D) Secondary characters can embody alternative perspectives on the theme, serve as contrasts to the protagonist, or demonstrate the consequences of different choices related to the theme

(E) Honesty may be difficult, but the burden of dishonesty is ultimately heavier than the consequences of telling the truth

11. Reading Comprehension

Circle the correct answer

101. What pronouns indicate a story is told in first person point of view?

(A) It, its (B) He, she, they (C) I, me, my, we, and our (D) You, your

102. What pronouns indicate a story is told in third person point of view?

(A) I, me, my, following the standard grammatical conventions of modern English
(B) You, your, based on the established rules of syntax and sentence structure
(C) He, she, they, him, her, and them
(D) We, our, since this follows the standard patterns of the English language

103. What is second person point of view?

(A) When the narrator addresses the reader directly as 'you,' placing the reader in the role of a character
(B) When two people tell the story together
(C) When the story is told from the perspective of the second character introduced
(D) When the narrator speaks in past tense

104. What is an omniscient narrator?

(A) A narrator who is a character in the story
(B) A narrator who cannot see into any character's mind
(C) A narrator who only knows one character's thoughts
(D) A third-person narrator who knows the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of all characters in the story

105. What is a limited narrator?

(A) A third-person narrator who only knows the thoughts and feelings of one character, experiencing the story through that character's perspective
(B) A narrator who only appears in short stories, and this is the standard approach used in most cases
(C) A narrator who tells the story in present tense, as this is what research and standard practice suggests
(D) A narrator with a limited vocabulary, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

106. What is an unreliable narrator?

(A) A narrator who makes grammatical errors, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice
(B) A narrator whose account of events cannot be fully trusted because they are biased, confused, dishonest, or have incomplete information
(C) A narrator who uses too many words, making this the most widely accepted explanation
(D) A narrator who tells a boring story, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

Write the answer

107. Why might an author choose first person point of view for a story about a personal struggle?

Answer: _____

108. How does an omniscient narrator create dramatic irony in a story?

Answer: _____

109. Explain why a reader should pay attention to what a first-person narrator does NOT tell us.

Answer: _____

110. How does switching between multiple narrators in a novel affect the reader's understanding of events?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why is second person point of view rarely used in fiction? →

2. Rewrite this sentence from first person to third person limited: 'I felt my heart race as I opened the mysterious door.' →

3. A story has a child narrator describing adult conversations. How might the narrator's age make them unreliable? →

4. You are writing a mystery story. Would you choose first person or omniscient point of view? Explain your choice. →

5. Read this passage: 'Everyone at the party thought Marcus was having a great time. He smiled and laughed at every joke. But inside, Marcus felt completely alone.' What type of narrator is this? →

(A) Because telling readers 'you do this, you feel that' can feel presumptuous or awkward, making it harder for diverse readers to identify with the prescribed experience

(B) She felt her heart race as she opened the mysterious door.

(C) A child narrator may misunderstand adult contexts, miss subtext and sarcasm, interpret events through an innocent lens, and lack the vocabulary or experience to accurately report what they witness

(D) Third person limited, focused on Marcus — the narrator knows Marcus's true feelings while revealing that others perceive him differently

(E) First person works well because limiting information to what the detective-narrator knows keeps readers guessing alongside the character, building suspense

12. Reading Comprehension

Circle the correct answer

111. What does it mean to 'synthesize' information from multiple sources?

(A) To combine information from several sources into a new, unified understanding that is more than just a summary of each source (B) To list sources alphabetically, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) To copy information word for word from one source, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

(D) To pick the best source and ignore the others, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

112. What is a primary source?

(A) An original, firsthand document or artifact created during the time period being studied, such as a diary, letter, photograph, or interview (B) A textbook about history, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) An encyclopedia entry, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) A magazine article reviewing a book, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

113. What is a secondary source?

(A) An original speech by a historical figure, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) A photograph taken at the scene, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) A diary written during an event, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) A source that analyzes, interprets, or discusses information from primary sources, such as a textbook, biography, or review article

114. What is paraphrasing?

(A) Making up information, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) Restating someone else's ideas in your own words while maintaining the original meaning (C) Translating text into another language, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Copying text word for word, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

115. What is plagiarism?

(A) Quoting with quotation marks and a citation (B) Using information from a source with a citation (C) Presenting someone else's words, ideas, or work as your own without giving proper credit (D) Paraphrasing with attribution

116. What information is typically included in a citation for a book source?

(A) Only the page numbers, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Only the title of the book, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Only the website address, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Author's name, title of the book, publisher, and year of publication

Write the answer

117. Why is it important to use multiple sources when researching a topic?

Answer: _____

118. Explain the difference between quoting and paraphrasing, and when you would use each.

Answer: _____

119. How can you tell if a website is a credible source for a research project?

Answer: _____

120. Why is paraphrasing a more valuable skill than just quoting for demonstrating understanding?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What does it mean to evaluate a source's credibility, and why is this step essential in research? →

2. You find a blog post and a university research article about the same health topic. They disagree. How do you decide which to trust more? →

3. Paraphrase the following sentence: 'According to NASA, Mars has a thin atmosphere composed mostly of carbon dioxide, with very little oxygen.' →

4. You are writing a research report about ocean pollution. You have five sources. How would you organize them to synthesize their information? →

5. You found a great statistic in a source, but the source does not say where the statistic originally came from. Should you use it in your research? Why or why not? →

(A) Group information by subtopic rather than by source — one section on causes, one on effects, one on solutions — drawing from multiple sources in each section

(B) NASA reports that the Martian atmosphere is primarily made up of carbon dioxide and contains minimal oxygen, making it much thinner than Earth's atmosphere

(C) Evaluating credibility means assessing whether a source is trustworthy, accurate, and authoritative — it is essential because using unreliable sources weakens your research and can lead to false conclusions

(D) Be cautious — an unsourced statistic cannot be verified. Try to find the original source of the statistic; if you cannot, either note the limitation or find a different, verifiable statistic

(E) The university research article is likely more credible because it has undergone peer review, is written by qualified researchers, cites its sources, and follows scientific methodology

13. informational

Circle the correct answer

121. According to the passage, what causes water vapor to form clouds?

- (A) Cooler temperatures in the atmosphere cause vapor to condense into droplets
(B) Precipitation collects in the sky before falling (C) Wind pushes the water vapor

together into clusters (D) The sun heats the vapor until it becomes visible

122. What specific fears did the second seed describe?

(A) Being too small to grow and not having enough water (B) Being stepped on by animals and covered by fallen leaves (C) Encountering the unknown underground, damaging its sprouts, and being eaten or pulled up (D) Being planted in the wrong season and freezing in winter

123. In the sentence 'The politician's inflammatory speech ignited protests across the city,' what does 'inflammatory' most likely mean?

(A) Very long and boring, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) Related to fire or burning, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Provoking strong emotional reactions, especially anger (D) Quiet and calming, and this principle applies across similar situations

124. What text structure does this passage use to organize its information?

(A) Problem and solution, describing one solution that works for all cities (B) Chronological order, tracing transportation history from past to present (C) Compare and contrast, examining two cities' different approaches to the same problem (D) Cause and effect, showing how cars caused pollution in both cities

125. Read the following sentence: 'The news hit her like a ton of bricks.' Why does the author use this simile instead of simply saying 'The news shocked her'?

(A) The simile creates a physical sensation of impact, helping readers feel the overwhelming force of the news (B) The author was confused about what really happened (C) The news literally felt heavy like bricks (D) The author wanted to write a longer sentence

126. In the last paragraph, what does 'prohibitively expensive' suggest about fair trade certification?

(A) The certification fee increases every year without limit (B) The certification process is illegal in some countries (C) The cost is so high that it prevents some small farms from being able to participate (D) The expense is reasonable but farmers choose not to pay it

Write the answer

127. What was the initial cause of the Aral Sea's shrinking?

Answer: _____

128. What is a central theme of 'Storm Watch'?

Answer: _____

129. In the phrase 'the real organism lives underground, spreading silently through the soil,' what does 'silently' suggest about fungi?

Answer: _____

130. The last sentence states the irrigation projects 'ended up poisoning the soil they were intended to enrich.' What effect does this irony have?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Analyze the simile 'the lighthouse swayed like a drunk man trying to keep his balance.' What two effects does this create? →
2. As used in the passage, what does the phrase 'level the playing field' mean? →
3. Which detail from the passage explains how coral reefs help protect people? →
4. According to the queen, why was 'responsibility' a better answer than 'a crown' or 'gold'? →
5. Which of the following context clue strategies is LEAST reliable for determining a word's meaning? →

(A) Assuming a word means the same thing it meant in a completely different text you read before

(B) Make conditions more equal and fair for everyone involved

(C) Because responsibility cannot be set down once accepted, unlike physical objects

(D) They absorb wave energy before it reaches the shore, protecting coastlines

(E) It conveys both the violence of the storm and the vulnerability of the lighthouse

14. informational

Circle the correct answer

131. How do coral polyps build a reef over time?

(A) They attach to fish and turtles that carry them to new locations (B) They absorb wave energy and harden into solid rock formations (C) They produce limestone skeletons that build up in layers over hundreds of years (D) They gather sand and rocks from the ocean floor to form structures

132. How does the structure of the three riddles build toward the story's message?

(A) Each riddle gets easier so that Soren can answer them all (B) The riddles are arranged from shortest to longest in the passage (C) The first two riddles are about nature while the third is about people (D) Each riddle tests a deeper level of thinking, with the third requiring wisdom about leadership

133. What does the word 'premium' mean as used in the third paragraph?

(A) A high-quality grade of coffee beans selected for export (B) An additional payment above the base price designated for community projects (C) A discount offered to buyers who purchase large quantities (D) An advertising fee paid by farmers to promote their brand

134. Why does the author include the statement 'correlation does not equal causation'?

(A) To explain a scientific term that most readers would not understand (B) To prove that social media definitely does not cause mental health problems (C) To dismiss the studies showing negative effects as unreliable (D) To caution readers that the connection between social media and mental health may not be direct

135. What problem does the story describe at the beginning?

(A) The school was closed every rainy season because of flooding (B) Children had to walk an extra kilometer or stay home when the stream flooded (C) Amani did not have enough wooden planks to build a bridge (D) Otieno was making fun of the other children in the neighborhood

136. Write a sentence where the word 'bright' is used to describe intelligence rather than light. Which sentence best achieves this?

(A) She wore a bright yellow raincoat on the stormy day. (B) The bright sun made everyone squint at the beach. (C) The bright student solved the math puzzle before anyone else in class. (D) The bright fireworks lit up the entire night sky.

Write the answer

137. How does the waggle dance help the entire colony?

Answer: _____

138. What does the detail about the 'trash can lid sailing like a frisbee' help the reader understand?

Answer: _____

139. What is the difference between 'magnitude' and 'intensity' as used in this passage?

Answer: _____

140. Industry representatives argue that modern farming cannot feed a growing population without antibiotics. What type of reasoning does this argument rely on?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What does the word 'inhospitable' mean as used in the first paragraph? →
2. After reading an article about endangered animals, a student writes this summary: 'Many animals are endangered because of habitat loss and pollution.' How could this summary be improved? →
3. What does the simile 'like flags of surrender' suggest about the vendors covering their stalls? →
4. What are the three main components of a well-constructed argument? →
5. What is the main theme of 'The Last Riddle'? →

- (A) True leadership requires understanding responsibility, not just cleverness
 - (B) The vendors are giving up their fight against the storm and accepting they cannot keep selling
 - (C) A claim, supporting evidence, and reasoning that connects the evidence to the claim
 - (D) Harsh and difficult for living things to survive in
 - (E) Add specific examples from the article to support the general statement
-

15. informational

Circle the correct answer

141. In a story, the narrator describes a character's room as 'spotless, with books arranged by color and pencils lined up by size.' What can you infer about this character?

- (A) The character is very organized and detail-oriented
- (B) The character just moved into a new room
- (C) The character doesn't spend much time in their room
- (D) The character is preparing for a room inspection

142. As used in the passage, what does 'dissipate' mean in the context of the fennec fox's ears?

- (A) Flatten against the head to reduce wind resistance
- (B) Absorb heat from the desert sand to stay warm at night
- (C) Block sound waves from reaching the inner ear
- (D) Release or spread out body heat into the surrounding air

143. According to the passage, why was the Silk Road given its name?

- (A) Because silk was the only product traded along the network
- (B) Because Chinese silk was one of the most valuable goods carried along the routes
- (C) Because the routes were smooth and easy to travel like silk fabric
- (D) Because Chinese traders named the routes after their most famous product

144. Evaluate the author's use of personification throughout this passage. What overall effect does it create?

(A) It is used only for decoration and does not add meaning to the story (B) It proves that the author believes nature has human-like intelligence (C) It makes the monsoon feel like a character in the story, creating a relationship between the city and the storm (D) It makes the passage more confusing because non-living things cannot really act

145. A student uses context clues to guess that 'benevolent' means 'kind' in the sentence: 'The benevolent king shared his wealth with the poorest families.' How confident should the student be in this definition?

(A) Only confident if they already knew the word before reading (B) Not confident at all because context clues are never reliable (C) Very confident, because multiple context clues (sharing wealth, helping the poor) strongly support this meaning (D) Somewhat confident but should assume the opposite meaning to be safe

146. Create a new title for this passage that reflects its main idea.

(A) Why Scientists Study the Ocean Floor (B) The Ocean's Tiniest Animals (C) How Coral Polyps Build Their Homes (D) Coral Reefs: Vital Ecosystems Under Threat

Write the answer

147. In a story, a character who was afraid of the dark volunteers to lead a nighttime search for a lost pet. What does this action reveal about the story's theme?

Answer: _____

148. Which claim in the first paragraph is used to support the environmental argument?

Answer: _____

149. Which term describes giving human qualities to non-human things, such as 'The wind whispered through the trees'?

Answer: _____

150. In the passage, what does the word 'symbiotic' most likely mean?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why is it important for an author to address counterclaims in an argument? →
2. Why does the author describe seismic waves as producing 'jagged lines on a graph'? →
3. What is the main idea of 'The Silk Road: An Ancient Highway'? →
4. What is the author's point of view on social media's effect on teen mental health?

→

5. An author writes a detailed article about the dangers of plastic pollution in oceans, ending with 'We must act now before it's too late.' What is the primary purpose of this text? →

- (A) To help readers visualize what seismograph readings look like
 - (B) The Silk Road was a trade network that connected distant civilizations and spread goods and ideas
 - (C) To persuade readers to take action against plastic pollution
 - (D) The effects depend on how social media is used, and digital literacy is more helpful than restriction
 - (E) It strengthens the argument by showing the author has considered other perspectives and can refute them
-

16. informational

Circle the correct answer

151. Based on the comparison, which city has better outcomes for residents and the environment?

- (A) Los Angeles, because its highways can handle more total vehicles (B) Neither city has solved its transportation problems effectively (C) Amsterdam, with lower pollution, fewer traffic deaths, and higher resident satisfaction (D) Both cities have identical outcomes despite different approaches

152. A book review says: 'This is the best adventure story ever written because it has a brave hero and exciting battles.' Is this a well-supported evaluation?

- (A) Yes, because having a brave hero and battles makes any book the best (B) No, because book reviews should never express opinions (C) Yes, because the reviewer clearly read the book carefully (D) No, because it makes an extreme claim ('best ever') supported only by common story features that many books share

153. What does the word 'inhibit' mean in the phrase 'inhibit the growth of competing plants'?

- (A) Prevent or slow down (B) Study or observe closely (C) Speed up or encourage (D) Copy or imitate exactly

154. A student's argument includes this evidence: 'My mom says junk food is bad for you.' How could this evidence be strengthened?

- (A) Replace the anecdotal evidence with data from medical studies linking junk food to health problems (B) Add more family members' opinions to make it more convincing (C) Put the quote in bold text to make it stand out more (D) Remove all

evidence since the claim is obvious enough without it

155. In the passage, what does 'verisimilitude' mean?

(A) A faithful and realistic representation of the real world (B) A mathematical formula for calculating perspective in drawings (C) A type of paint used by Renaissance artists for murals (D) A style of architecture popular during the medieval era

156. How would you describe the relationship between paragraphs 2-3 and paragraph 4?

(A) Paragraphs 2-3 show fire's natural benefits while paragraph 4 shows how disruption creates problems (B) Paragraphs 2-3 describe the problem and paragraph 4 provides the solution (C) All four paragraphs present the same argument about fire being beneficial (D) Paragraphs 2-3 are about one forest and paragraph 4 is about a different forest

Write the answer

157. What is the theme of 'Two Seeds'?

Answer: _____

158. The passage describes the anglerfish as 'among the most successful deep-sea predators.' What evidence supports this claim?

Answer: _____

159. What is the purpose of figurative language in writing?

Answer: _____

160. If a city in another country wanted to reduce highway traffic, how might the Shinkansen serve as an example?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Based on the passage, how would you explain why traders rarely traveled the entire Silk Road themselves? →

2. Do you think the passage presents the brain-cooling theory as proven fact? Explain using evidence. →

3. Why does the passage say the autumn colors 'do not actually appear in fall'? →

4. How does the author address the concern that children will reject unfamiliar foods? →

5. Read this passage: 'Marcus checked his watch for the third time, tapped his foot rapidly, and kept glancing at the door.' Using inference skills, what is Marcus most likely doing? →

- (A) No, it presents it as a supported theory with evidence but not as proven fact
 - (B) The yellow and orange pigments were always in the leaves but were hidden by green chlorophyll
 - (C) Goods were passed from merchant to merchant at trading posts along the way
 - (D) Waiting impatiently for someone to arrive
 - (E) By suggesting gradual introduction and culturally responsive menu planning
-

Riddle & Joke Break

Guess the answer, then check the key!

161. I tell you when and where a story takes place. I can be a haunted castle, a busy city, or a faraway planet. What am I?

162. I'm the struggle between two forces in a story -- maybe a hero versus a villain, or a character versus nature. Without me, stories would be boring. What am I?

163. I'm the lesson or message that an author wants you to take away from a story. I'm never stated directly -- you have to figure me out from the events and characters. What am I?

164. I compare two unlike things using "like" or "as." For example, "Her smile was bright as the sun." What am I?

165. I'm the turning point of a story -- the most exciting or intense moment. Everything before me builds up, and everything after me winds down. What am I?

166. An author puts a clue in chapter 1 that doesn't seem important until chapter 20 when everything makes sense. What literary device is this?

167. I'm a type of text that is made up from the author's imagination. My characters, events, and settings might be inspired by real life, but they aren't real. What am I?

168. I'm the perspective from which a story is told. If the narrator uses "I" and "me," I'm first person. If the narrator uses "he," "she," or "they," I'm third person. What am I?

169. Why did the book go to the hospital?

170. Why are books the best friends?

171. Why did the reader get lost in the novel?

172. What did the thesaurus eat for breakfast?

173. Why was the dictionary feeling down?

174. Why did the metaphor refuse to explain itself?

Fun Facts

- Did you know? The longest novel ever written is "In Search of Lost Time" by Marcel Proust, with about 1.2 million words. Reading it at an average speed would take over 200 hours -- that's more than eight straight days of nonstop reading!
 - Did you know? The most translated book in the world (besides religious texts) is "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. It has been translated into over 500 languages and dialects!
 - Did you know? The word "novel" comes from the Italian word "novella," meaning "new." When novels first appeared in the 1700s, they were considered a new and revolutionary form of storytelling!
 - Did you know? Your brain processes figurative language differently than literal language. When you read "she had a heart of gold," your brain briefly considers the literal meaning (a gold heart?!) before understanding the metaphor. It takes a few extra milliseconds!
 - Did you know? Dr. Seuss wrote "Green Eggs and Ham" using only 50 different words -- on a bet! His publisher challenged him to write a book with 50 words or fewer, and the result became one of the best-selling children's books of all time.
 - Did you know? Reading fiction can actually increase your empathy. Studies show that people who read literary fiction score higher on tests measuring the ability to understand other people's emotions and perspectives!
 - Did you know? The ancient Library of Alexandria in Egypt may have held up to 400,000 scrolls -- the largest collection of knowledge in the ancient world. Scholars traveled from across the Mediterranean to study there!
 - Did you know? The average person reads about 200-250 words per minute. But speed readers can hit 700+ words per minute! The world record for speed reading with comprehension is over 4,700 words per minute.
-

Answer Key

1. D — Water continuously moves between Earth's surface and atmosphere in a repeating cycle
2. D — Cooler temperatures in the atmosphere cause vapor to condense into droplets
3. D — It provides fresh water for drinking, farming, and sustaining ecosystems
4. A — Water falls from clouds as precipitation and eventually returns to the ocean

5. A — The Silk Road was a trade network that connected distant civilizations and spread goods and ideas
6. D — Because Chinese silk was one of the most valuable goods carried along the routes
7. Paper-making techniques and Buddhism traveled along the routes
8. Goods were passed from merchant to merchant at trading posts along the way
9. Honeybees use a waggle dance and other signals to communicate and cooperate efficiently
10. How far away the food source is
Matching (informational): 1→A, 2→C, 3→B, 4→E, 5→D
11. A — Persistence and practice lead to improvement and recognition
12. C — She felt embarrassed because she had been practicing but still was not good enough
13. B — He found the small lantern she made and saw that her seams were straight
14. B — Her lanterns were functional and good enough even if not perfect
15. C — Determination in the face of failure can inspire others to help
16. D — She recognized that he had contributed and it had become a shared accomplishment
17. Children had to walk an extra kilometer or stay home when the stream flooded
18. Try to solve it herself first, then accept help from others
19. True leadership requires understanding responsibility, not just cleverness
20. Because responsibility cannot be set down once accepted, unlike physical objects
Matching (literary): 1→D, 2→C, 3→A, 4→B, 5→E
21. C — The storm and difficulties of ocean travel in that era prevented him from coming back
22. D — European-style artifacts mixed with Indigenous items were found on Hatteras Island
23. D — The colonists deliberately took apart the buildings, suggesting a planned departure
24. C — The colony had vanished and only the word CROATOAN was carved on a post

25. B — The tree is producing anthocyanin pigments as sugars react with sunlight
26. C — The yellow and orange pigments were always in the leaves but were hidden by green chlorophyll
27. Their waxy-coated needles retain chlorophyll through winter, keeping them green
28. Days growing shorter in autumn
29. In the vast, dark deep sea, finding a mate is so rare that permanent attachment ensures reproduction
30. They create a glowing lure that attracts prey in the darkness
Matching (informational): 1→D, 2→B, 3→C, 4→E, 5→A
31. D — A close relationship where both organisms benefit from each other
32. C — Because it functions like a communication network connecting trees, similar to the internet
33. B — Organisms that break down dead matter and return nutrients to the soil
34. C — Fungi grow and spread in ways that are invisible and unnoticed by most people
35. D — Make conditions more equal and fair for everyone involved
36. D — An additional payment above the base price designated for community projects
37. Suffered the worst effects of the situation
38. The cost is so high that it prevents some small farms from being able to participate
39. Each step up on the scale represents a multiplication of energy rather than a simple addition
40. Magnitude measures total energy released; intensity measures effects at a specific location
Matching (vocabulary): 1→B, 2→D, 3→E, 4→A, 5→C
41. D — To present evidence that challenges common assumptions about homework's value
42. D — To argue that homework gives unfair advantages to students with more resources
43. B — Teachers view homework as essential practice, like an athlete training after a game

44. B — The author acknowledges both sides but gives more space and evidence to the anti-homework position
45. D — To explore whether zoos' conservation benefits justify their impact on animal welfare
46. B — To provide evidence that zoo breeding programs can successfully save species
47. That zoos' educational value is exaggerated because visitors rarely change their behavior
48. To show the issue is unresolved and encourage readers to form their own opinion
49. Schools should offer more plant-based options but not eliminate meat entirely
50. By suggesting gradual introduction and culturally responsive menu planning
Matching (informational): 1→C, 2→E, 3→D, 4→B, 5→A
51. B — Cause and effect, showing how river diversion led to a chain of environmental consequences
52. D — Two rivers that fed the lake were diverted to irrigate cotton and rice fields
53. C — It emphasizes that the human intervention produced the opposite of its intended result
54. B — The fishing industry was destroyed, boats were stranded, and coastal communities lost their livelihood
55. B — Compare and contrast, examining two cities' different approaches to the same problem
56. C — Building new roads attracts more drivers, making congestion worse instead of better
57. To explain that Amsterdam's success with cycling may not be easily replicated in all cities
58. Amsterdam, with lower pollution, fewer traffic deaths, and higher resident satisfaction
59. Cause and effect, showing how fire causes both destruction and renewal in forests
60. Extreme heat melts the resin seal, releasing the seeds inside onto cleared soil
Matching (informational): 1→A, 2→E, 3→C, 4→D, 5→B

61. D — Grief is something that cannot be measured, understood, or navigated using familiar tools
 62. C — The warmth and happiness his wife brought to the kitchen through her presence
 63. D — He is uncertain about how to face the emptiness of sleeping alone there
 64. B — A first step toward moving forward and re-engaging with life beyond his grief
 65. B — The map represents Elias's attempt to process grief by translating emotions into the language he knows best
 66. A — The sky is given the human action of holding its breath, suggesting a tense pause before rain
 67. The vendors are giving up their fight against the storm and accepting they cannot keep selling
 68. She treats it like an old friend who always arrives unexpectedly and overstays
 69. The land has been severely dry for weeks and desperately needs the rain
 70. It makes the monsoon feel like a character in the story, creating a relationship between the city and the storm
- Matching (literary): 1→A, 2→D, 3→E, 4→C, 5→B
71. B — School start times should be pushed later because scientific evidence shows it benefits adolescent health and academic performance
 72. A — The Seattle study showed grades in first-period classes improved by nearly five percent after start times were delayed
 73. B — By citing the Seattle study's finding that students did not shift their bedtimes later after the schedule change
 74. C — It is relevant because it identifies real logistical challenges, but it does not counter the health and academic evidence
 75. B — To strengthen the argument by showing later start times also promote equity, not just health and grades
 76. D — Using antibiotics for growth promotion rather than treatment creates an unnecessary risk of drug-resistant bacteria harming humans
 77. It provides a concrete statistic to show the real-world severity of antibiotic resistance as a public health threat
 78. An appeal to necessity, claiming the practice is required regardless of its risks

79. Breathing airborne bacteria released from antibiotic manufacturing plants
80. The EU ban suggests that large-scale farming can function without growth-promoting antibiotics, weakening the necessity claim
Matching (informational): 1→D, 2→E, 3→A, 4→B, 5→C
81. C — To visually organize similarities and differences between two things using overlapping circles
82. B — To identify how two texts are similar
83. D — To identify how two texts are different from each other
84. C — Words like 'similarly,' 'likewise,' 'both,' 'in the same way,' and 'also'
85. D — Words like 'however,' 'but,' 'on the other hand,' 'whereas,' and 'unlike'
86. D — Theme or central message, point of view or perspective, and style or tone
87. Different genres allow the author to explore the same topic in different ways — a poem might capture emotion through imagery while a story develops the idea through character and plot
88. Seeing multiple perspectives reveals aspects that a single text might miss, challenges assumptions, and creates a more complete picture of the topic
89. Authors have different backgrounds, values, purposes, and access to information, all of which influence their interpretation and conclusions
90. Text structure is how information is organized within a text — one author might use chronological order while another uses cause and effect to discuss the same topic
Matching (Reading Comprehension): 1→B, 2→C, 3→A, 4→E, 5→D
91. D — The underlying message, lesson, or insight about life that the author communicates through the story
92. C — A topic is a single word or phrase (like 'friendship'), while a theme is a complete statement about that topic (like 'true friends accept you as you are')
93. C — A theme that applies to people across different cultures, time periods, and situations because it addresses common human experiences
94. D — The most important idea or lesson that the author wants the reader to understand
95. C — Good versus evil, the importance of family, and the journey of growing up
96. C — Through the resolution of the conflict and how the characters change by the

end of the story

97. Because complex stories explore multiple aspects of human experience through different characters, subplots, and conflicts, each of which can convey its own message
98. Through characters' actions, dialogue, and growth; through the consequences of decisions; through recurring symbols and motifs; and through the resolution of conflicts
99. Because readers bring their own experiences, perspectives, and values to a text, which influences which elements they notice and what meaning they construct
100. The conflict creates the situation that tests characters and reveals the theme — how the conflict is resolved shows what the story is ultimately saying about its theme

Matching (Reading Comprehension): 1→D, 2→E, 3→A, 4→C, 5→B

101. C — I, me, my, we, and our
102. C — He, she, they, him, her, and them
103. A — When the narrator addresses the reader directly as 'you,' placing the reader in the role of a character
104. D — A third-person narrator who knows the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of all characters in the story
105. A — A third-person narrator who only knows the thoughts and feelings of one character, experiencing the story through that character's perspective
106. B — A narrator whose account of events cannot be fully trusted because they are biased, confused, dishonest, or have incomplete information
107. First person creates intimacy and immediacy, letting the reader directly experience the character's emotions, thoughts, and internal conflict
108. By revealing information to the reader that some characters do not know, creating tension as the reader watches characters make decisions based on incomplete knowledge
109. First-person narrators have limited perspectives and may omit information intentionally or unintentionally, and these gaps can reveal biases, blind spots, or hidden motives
110. Multiple narrators provide different perspectives on the same events, revealing how characters perceive situations differently and creating a more complete picture than any single narrator could provide

Matching (Reading Comprehension): 1→A, 2→B, 3→C, 4→E, 5→D

- 111. A — To combine information from several sources into a new, unified understanding that is more than just a summary of each source
 - 112. A — An original, firsthand document or artifact created during the time period being studied, such as a diary, letter, photograph, or interview
 - 113. D — A source that analyzes, interprets, or discusses information from primary sources, such as a textbook, biography, or review article
 - 114. B — Restating someone else's ideas in your own words while maintaining the original meaning
 - 115. C — Presenting someone else's words, ideas, or work as your own without giving proper credit
 - 116. D — Author's name, title of the book, publisher, and year of publication
 - 117. Multiple sources provide different perspectives, reduce the risk of bias or error, and give a more complete understanding of the topic than any single source
 - 118. Quoting uses the exact original words in quotation marks, while paraphrasing restates ideas in your own words — use quotes when the exact wording matters, and paraphrase when only the idea is needed
 - 119. Check the author's credentials, the organization behind the site, whether sources are cited, when it was last updated, and whether the information is consistent with other reliable sources
 - 120. Paraphrasing requires you to fully understand the original idea in order to restate it in your own words, while quoting only requires copying
- Matching (Reading Comprehension): 1→C, 2→E, 3→B, 4→A, 5→D

- 121. A — Cooler temperatures in the atmosphere cause vapor to condense into droplets
- 122. C — Encountering the unknown underground, damaging its sprouts, and being eaten or pulled up
- 123. C — Provoking strong emotional reactions, especially anger
- 124. C — Compare and contrast, examining two cities' different approaches to the same problem
- 125. A — The simile creates a physical sensation of impact, helping readers feel the overwhelming force of the news
- 126. C — The cost is so high that it prevents some small farms from being able to

participate

127. Two rivers that fed the lake were diverted to irrigate cotton and rice fields

128. Courage means being honest about fear while still taking care of others

129. Fungi grow and spread in ways that are invisible and unnoticed by most people

130. It emphasizes that the human intervention produced the opposite of its intended result

Matching (informational): 1→E, 2→B, 3→D, 4→C, 5→A

131. C — They produce limestone skeletons that build up in layers over hundreds of years

132. D — Each riddle tests a deeper level of thinking, with the third requiring wisdom about leadership

133. B — An additional payment above the base price designated for community projects

134. D — To caution readers that the connection between social media and mental health may not be direct

135. B — Children had to walk an extra kilometer or stay home when the stream flooded

136. C — The bright student solved the math puzzle before anyone else in class.

137. It allows the colony to gather food efficiently without wasting energy searching randomly

138. How powerful and dangerous the hurricane winds are

139. Magnitude measures total energy released; intensity measures effects at a specific location

140. An appeal to necessity, claiming the practice is required regardless of its risks

Matching (informational): 1→D, 2→E, 3→B, 4→C, 5→A

141. A — The character is very organized and detail-oriented

142. D — Release or spread out body heat into the surrounding air

143. B — Because Chinese silk was one of the most valuable goods carried along the routes

144. C — It makes the monsoon feel like a character in the story, creating a relationship between the city and the storm

145. C — Very confident, because multiple context clues (sharing wealth, helping the poor) strongly support this meaning
146. D — Coral Reefs: Vital Ecosystems Under Threat
147. The theme involves overcoming personal fears to help others
148. Livestock farming accounts for roughly fourteen percent of global greenhouse gas emissions
149. Personification
150. A close relationship where both organisms benefit from each other
Matching (informational): 1→E, 2→A, 3→B, 4→D, 5→C
151. C — Amsterdam, with lower pollution, fewer traffic deaths, and higher resident satisfaction
152. D — No, because it makes an extreme claim ('best ever') supported only by common story features that many books share
153. A — Prevent or slow down
154. A — Replace the anecdotal evidence with data from medical studies linking junk food to health problems
155. A — A faithful and realistic representation of the real world
156. A — Paragraphs 2-3 show fire's natural benefits while paragraph 4 shows how disruption creates problems
157. Taking risks is necessary for growth, while fear leads to missed opportunities
158. Over two hundred species exist and they thrive where food is scarce
159. To create vivid imagery, convey complex emotions, and make writing more engaging
160. It shows that high-speed rail can move many passengers quickly as an alternative to cars
Matching (informational): 1→C, 2→A, 3→B, 4→E, 5→D
161. The setting! Every story needs a time and place.
162. Conflict! It drives every plot forward.
163. The theme! Examples include friendship, courage, and perseverance.
164. A simile! My cousin the metaphor makes the same comparison but without "like" or "as."

- 165. The climax! The peak of the plot's rising action.
- 166. Foreshadowing! Authors plant hints about future events early in the story.
- 167. Fiction! The opposite of nonfiction.
- 168. Point of view!
- 169. Because it had a broken spine!
- 170. Because you can always count on them to have great character!
- 171. Because the plot kept twisting!
- 172. A synonym roll!
- 173. Because it knew all the definitions of "sad"!
- 174. Because it said, "I'm not literal -- you have to figure me out!"

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