Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 870

1. C a ballpark
2. B This passage describes a strange old ballpark and some of the things that happened there.
3. A "In most ballparks, the right field fence is about 330 feet from home plate. In Sulphur Dell, it was only 262 feet—which made it very easy to hit home runs, if you hit the ball to just the right spot."
4. B Baseball fans loved Sulphur Dell and were excited about going to games there.
5. C what made Sulphur Dell a strange and special ballpark
6. D a place where baseball is played
7. A although
8. Suggested answer: There was a hill in the outfield.
9. Suggested answer: Students may respond that the outfield hill caused Weintraub to make three errors on one play. They may also get more specific, describing the three errors Weintraub made--missing the ball on its way down, letting it roll down the hill between his legs, and throwing it over the third baseman's head.
10. Suggested answer: Answers may vary, provided that they are supported by the passage. Students may argue that Sulphur Dell was a good place for a baseball game, citing such reasons as the ease of hitting home runs and the multitude of baseball greats who played there. Those arguing that Sulphur Dell was a bad place for a baseball game might cite such reasons as the difficulties the outfield caused players like Phil Weintraub and Babe Ruth.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 970

1. Corinne is hoping the Cougars will win this game.

2. The story takes place at a baseball stadium.

3. "She cheered at the top of her lungs for every strike and booed when anyone on the other team, the Cyclones, got a hit."

4. Corinne loves baseball, and this is her first time at a baseball game.

5. Corinne greatly enjoys her first time at a baseball game.

6. The phrase means to be very calm.

7. because (Please note that there may be more than one acceptable response.)

8. Answers may vary.

9. Answers may vary.

10. Answers may vary.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 770

1. He dreams of swimming the length of the Cayuga Lake.

2. The story takes place on the rocky shore of the Cayuga Lake.


4. He wants to frighten Kevin and Kali by dramatically telling them the log moved.

5. Kevin's grandpa tells Kevin and his sister the story of a monster sighted in Cayuga Lake.

6. unlikely

7. but (Please note that there may be more than one acceptable response.)

8. Answers may vary.

9. Answers may vary.

10. Answers may vary.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 610

1. The catacombs are a series of tunnels below Rome where ancient Romans buried people.

2. Carlo is the main character in the story.

3. Carlo and Daria prevent the robbers from robbing the tomb by attacking them.

4. The tour guide leaves two pieces of cheese for Carlo and Daria.

5. Carlo and Daria change a tour guide's mind about cats by preventing two men from robbing a tomb in the catacombs.

6. fully aware

7. but (Please note that there may be more than one acceptable response.)

8. Answers may vary.

9. Answers may vary.

10. Answers may vary.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 940

1. B  a toy boat

2. B  a toy boat

3. B  Molly did a lot to help make the boat.

4. D  She feels anxious about what will happen to the boat.

5. C  Molly builds a toy boat to see where it will go on the river.

6. C  to make the reader wonder whether someone found Molly's boat

7. C  Before

8. Suggested answer: She wants to track the boat to see where it will go.

9. Suggested answer: She paints her phone number on the boat so that if someone finds it they can call her.

10. Suggested answer: (Answers may vary as long as they are supported by the text.) The boat is important to Molly because it is her way of exploring the river. She is not old enough to swim and ride inflatable tubes to the first river bend like her cousins. Instead, she makes a small boat to see where it will go on the river. And since she can't track it, she writes her phone number on it in hopes that someone will find it and tell her where her boat ended up. This is her way of exploring the river.
1. What is the town in the passage famous for?
   A tightrope walkers
   B jugglers
   C bowling pins
   D circus elephants

2. What main problem does Mayor Arnold face?
   A People are complaining about the jugglers, and she doesn’t know what to do.
   B Donald Seastrunk is hit in the head by a juggler’s stray bowling pin.
   C She holds imaginary conversations with the golden cat statue in her office.
   D The jugglers might sue the city if they were fined for disturbing the peace.

3. While many people are happy to live in a famous town, not everyone is happy about the jugglers. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?
   A The biggest newspaper in the state capital writes an article about the jugglers.
   B Excited crowds gather around the skilled jugglers outside the movie theater.
   C Donald Seastrunk leads a crowd in an anti-juggler protest.
   D Donald Seastrunk is hit in the head by a bowling pin.

4. Read the following sentences: “The mayor chewed her pen. She tapped her foot furiously. She sighed so strongly that important documents blew off her desk, and this made her sigh again.”
   Based on this description, how is Mayor Arnold most likely feeling?
   A inspired
   B upbeat
   C lonely
   D frustrated

5. What is this story mostly about?
   A how Mayor Arnold makes decisions
   B problems caused by jugglers in a town
   C the dangers of increased numbers of copycat jugglers
   D the routines performed by skilled jugglers
6. Read the following sentence: “Winking and smiling, the jugglers performed astonishing feats: dozens of balls in the air at once; nifty, behind-the-back and through-the-legs tricks; even juggling blindfolded.”

What does the word “astonishing” mean as used in this sentence?

A unsurprising  
B realistic  
C colorful  
D amazing

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The jugglers bring tourists and money to the town; __________, the jugglers disturb the peace and annoy some citizens.

A on the other hand  
B initially  
C above all  
D as a result

8. Why does Donald Seastrunk send an email to the mayor’s office?

Suggested answer: Donald Seastrunk sends an email to the mayor’s office to complain about the jugglers.

9. Why can’t the mayor order the police to fine the jugglers for disturbing the peace?

Suggested answer: The mayor can’t order the police to fine the jugglers, because the jugglers might sue the city. If they did, the case would go to court and the city could lose a lot of money.

10. Explain why the issue of the jugglers is so difficult for Mayor Arnold. Support your answer using information from the passage.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. For example: The issue of the jugglers is difficult for Mayor Arnold because there is no clear solution. She cannot pass a law banning juggling, and fining the jugglers is too financially risky. It is a difficult issue because there are two conflicting viewpoints among the citizens: some people like the jugglers and enjoy living in a famous town, while others, like Donald Seastrunk, find the jugglers a nuisance. Additionally, the jugglers attract tourists, who spend money at local stores and increase the wealth of the town. So, the jugglers’ presence is both good and bad for the town.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1030

1. C  an organization formed by ethnic groups where people could gather

2. A  past and present Italian social clubs in New York City

3. B  Membership at the social clubs was mostly for men.

4. D  "Local politicians would often drop by the clubs at election time, to try and get votes."

5. A  the role of social clubs in New York City

6. C  grown

7. B  consequently

8. Suggested answer: Immigrants initially formed social clubs because they did not have the space for social gatherings in their cramped tenements. Social clubs were also a way to preserve the culture and traditions from the country they had emigrated from.

9. Suggested answer: Today there are fewer social clubs, and membership has declined. This is because Italian neighborhoods have diversified and many Italians have moved away. Italian social clubs are no longer only dedicated to maintaining Italian culture; they now also serve to unite neighbors from many different backgrounds.

10. Suggested answer: Answers will vary. Students may argue that yes, social clubs are still relevant, because they help maintain cultural identities and traditions, as well as unite people from various cultures during neighborhood social events. Students may argue that social clubs are no longer relevant, because many of them have closed as neighborhoods have diversified and fewer young members are joining.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1030

1. What is the sun?
   A a planet that can only be seen from northern Alaska
   B an asteroid that shines light onto the earth
   C a star that can only be seen from northern Alaska
   D a star that shines light onto the earth

2. The midnight sun in northern Alaska is an effect described in the passage. What is its cause?
   A animals moving south in the winter
   B getting a sunburn in the winter
   C the Northern Hemisphere tilting away from the sun
   D the Northern Hemisphere tilting toward the sun

3. Read the following sentences: "During part of the spring and summer in Earth’s Northern Hemisphere, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun so much that the sun in northern Alaska, which is located in the Arctic Circle, never goes below the horizon. . . . During parts of the fall and winter in Earth’s Northern Hemisphere, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted in such a way that the sun doesn’t come over the horizon in northern Alaska for a little over two months."

   What conclusion about the impact of the tilt of the earth does this information support?
   A The tilt of the earth has no impact on the amount of sunlight different parts of the earth receive.
   B The tilt of the earth has an impact on how fast the earth moves around the sun.
   C The tilt of the earth has an impact on the amount of sunlight different parts of the earth receive.
   D The tilt of the earth has an impact on how fast the Earth rotates on its axis.

4. Based on the text, how does the Northern Hemisphere tilt during the Northern Hemisphere’s winter months?
   A away from the sun
   B towards the sun
   C away from the moon
   D towards the moon

5. What is this passage mostly about?
   A the town of Barrow, Alaska, and what people there do in the arctic summer
   B sunrise, sunset, midnight sun, and polar night
   C mosquitos, caribou, and adult birds
   D how living things have adapted to survive the arctic summer and winter
6. Read the following sentences: “During some of the spring and summer in Earth’s Northern Hemisphere, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun so much that the sun in northern Alaska, which is located in the Arctic Circle, never goes below the horizon. In Barrow, Alaska, the sun doesn’t set for almost three months! This **phenomenon** is called the midnight sun, when the sun has not set at midnight.”

What does the word “**phenomenon**” mean above?

A large body of water  
B event or occurrence  
C big problem or disaster  
D the study of stars, planets, and space

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The midnight sun is when the sun never sets; ________, the polar night is when the sun never rises.

A for instance  
B most importantly  
C **in contrast**  
D in the end

8. How does the Northern Hemisphere of the earth tilt when northern Alaska is experiencing the midnight sun?

**Suggested answer:** The Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun.

9. How does the Northern Hemisphere of the earth tilt when northern Alaska is experiencing the polar night? Use information from the text to support your answer.

**Suggested answer:** The Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun. The text states "the Northern Hemisphere is tilted in such a way that the sun doesn’t come over the horizon in northern Alaska for a little over two months." Furthermore, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted **towards** the sun when northern Alaska is experiencing the midnight sun, so the opposite is most likely the case when northern Alaska is experiencing the polar night. Based on these two pieces of information, students can conclude that the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun when Northern Alaska is experiencing the polar night.

10. How does the earth’s tilt affect the earth? Use information from the text to support your answer.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary and should be supported by the text. Students should generally explain that the earth’s tilt affects how much sunlight a hemisphere receives, impacting its people and wildlife.