

THE KIM MARSHALL SERIES

READING—BOOK 2

READING

**94 gripping stories
with comprehension questions**

VOCABULARY

Math

ENGLISH

VOCABULARY

MATH

English

MATH

READING

READING

ENGLISH

Reading

Vocabulary

To the Student

Reading is divided into two books, *Book 1* with ninety-two stories and *Book 2* with ninety-four. Each story is one-half page long and has its own questions, which range from recall of simple facts from the story to thought questions that ask you to interpret what you read and to write how you feel about it.

In the top right-hand corner of each page is a two-part box. The number already filled in is the number of questions on the page. When your answers are corrected, you or your teacher can write the number you got correct in the top half; this gives your grade as a fraction.

The stories in these books are adapted from stories in newspapers, magazines, and television, from movies and books, and from my personal experience. The questions opposite each story are to make you read carefully and think about what you have read. The stories and questions will help you become a better reader if you follow these suggestions.

1. Try to read each story all the way through before you begin to answer questions.
2. Try to answer the questions without looking back at the story; test your memory by looking back at the story only after you have finished all the questions.
3. Try to answer the questions in your own words, not in the exact words of the story; be original.
4. Whenever possible, answer the questions with complete sentences. Since many of the lines for answers are short, this won't be easy, but it is good practice to think of a short sentence that contains all the information needed to answer the question.
5. If it is possible in your classroom or at home, read each story out loud with someone, taking turns reading each paragraph. Oral reading is good practice, and you will have fun discussing some of the stories.
6. Remember that many of the questions have more than one right answer. You'll be able to get into some interesting debates with your teacher, your classmates, or your family about which answer is best. Some of the questions are a matter of opinion, and pretty much anything you write will be correct as long as it follows logically and makes sense.

I hope you enjoy the stories; maybe you will be inspired to make up some stories of your own based on newspaper and magazine articles, TV programs, movies, books, or your own experience. Then you can write your own questions and try them out on your classmates. Good luck.

KIM MARSHALL

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A young man named Harold Krantz was going to college at Harvard. He was doing well in his work and had many friends. He also played the guitar very well. There was one thing unusual about Harold—he was blind.

Harold was born blind, and when he was young, he had to learn Braille, the special kind of writing for blind people. In order to read a page of Braille, blind people must run their fingers over the little bumps which represent the letters of the alphabet. Harold was very smart and managed to do well in school and get into Harvard. In college, he got friends to read books to him if he couldn't find them printed in Braille.

While he was at Harvard, Harold had many funny experiences. Sometimes when people were talking to him, they would forget he was blind and say things like, "You should have *seen* this girl!" They were always embarrassed, but Harold was able to laugh at mistakes like this.

One evening in his apartment, Harold was talking to a girl who didn't know that he was blind. He knew his way around his apartment so well that she didn't realize that he couldn't see. Harold was smoking a cigarette and dropping the ashes into an ashtray. Although he couldn't see it, he could hit the ashtray with the ashes because he knew just where it was.

While Harold was talking to her, he didn't realize that the girl reached over and moved the ashtray closer to her, so she could use it too. Harold continued dropping the ashes from the cigarette in the same place. The girl looked at him in amazement as he carefully dropped his ashes onto the table. "What's the matter with you?" she asked. "Are you blind or something?"

"Yes," he replied.

Another funny experience took place one afternoon when Harold was walking through Harvard Yard thinking about something very serious. Suddenly he forgot where he was. He tried to remember, but he knew he was really lost. Just then a man came up to him and asked, "Can I help you find your way home?" Harold thanked him, and realized that the man sounded like Bobby Kennedy, a United States senator from New York and the brother of former President John F. Kennedy. Harold thought it was a friend of his playing a trick on him. He talked to the man for a while, and later found out that it really was Bobby Kennedy who had helped him find his way home.

1. What was different about Harold Krantz?

2. What is Braille? _____

3. How did friends help Harold in college?

4. Why was it embarrassing for people to say things like, "You should have seen this girl"?

5. Why didn't the girl realize that Harold was blind?

6. How was Harold able to hit the ashtray when he dropped the ashes?

7. Why did he start to miss the ashtray?

8. How do you think the girl felt when he answered her question?

9. Why do you think Harold was surprised to learn that the man who helped him was Bobby Kennedy?

10. Describe some of the ways your life would change if you were blind.

When thieves steal, they have to be able to sell the goods illegally to someone to get money. They sell the stolen items like televisions, jewels, radios, to a person called a “fence.” The fence then sells the goods to other people who often don’t know that the items are stolen.

This story tells of one time when the problem of robbery was especially bad in Washington, D.C. People’s houses were being broken into and burgled, and the police didn’t seem to be able to catch the thieves or the fences who were receiving the stolen property.

One fence was particularly successful. It paid cash for thousands of dollars of stolen goods from thieves from all over Washington. This fence had a great reputation among thieves, and they came with all kinds of stolen goods—guns, rugs, silver candlesticks, stereo systems, typewriters, and stoves. One thief stole a very expensive, heart-lung machine from a hospital and brought it to the warehouse where the fence bought it.

The fence, which called itself the PFF Company, got to know thieves from all parts of the city. The thieves liked the people who worked in the company and made friends with them. One day the head of the PFF Company announced that there would be a big party for all the thieves and all the PFF people who had done business together. Invitations were sent out to all the thieves who had brought in stolen goods.

On the night of the party, the PFF people dressed in tuxedos, and the PFF warehouse was beautifully decorated and had long tables of good food and drinks. Over a hundred of the worst thieves in Washington came to the party in their finest clothes. They were all asked to check their guns at the door, and they didn’t object; they didn’t want anyone to start shooting during the party.

One thief turned up at the party with a pair of handcuffs on. He had just escaped from two police officers who had arrested him. He asked the PFF people to cut the handcuffs off, so he could enjoy the party. Then one of the PFF members said, “Here’s another set of handcuffs for you!”

All the PFF people drew guns and lined the thieves up against a wall. The thieves suddenly realized that the PFF people were really police officers, and that the whole company was a trap! Every person who had ever brought stolen goods to the PFF warehouse had been filmed by hidden cameras. The police arrested 133 thieves by using this trick.

1. What is a fence? _____

2. Why is a fence important to thieves?

3. What did the PFF Company do for thieves?

4. What kinds of goods did thieves bring to the PFF warehouse?

5. Who was invited to the big PFF party?

6. What were the guests asked to do before they joined the party?

7. Why was one man in handcuffs?

8. What was the big surprise that all the guests of the party got that night?

9. What evidence do you think the police used to send the thieves to jail?

10. Do you think this trap was fair?

Why? _____

Jane Goodall was born in England in 1935. When she finished school, she went to a secretarial college. She got a series of jobs, not intending to be a career woman. When she had saved some money, she decided to take a trip to Kenya to visit the family of a friend from school. While she was in Africa, Jane met Louis Leakey, a famous anthropologist; he encouraged her to go into the study of chimpanzees. He even helped her get some money to get started.

Jane spent the next eighteen months in the jungle observing chimpanzees in their native habitat. She was fascinated and wrote down pages of notes. She found these animals to be highly intelligent, emotional creatures whose behavior was strikingly similar to that of humans. At first they were shy about this strange human with blond hair and a notebook, but after a while, they got used to her and even let her touch them.

Jane saw a chance to do some really important research, so she returned to England and got a degree in animal behavior at Cambridge University. At the age of twenty-five, she went back to Africa and began her work in earnest. During the next nineteen years, Jane Goodall crawled through the underbrush, climbed up trees, and sat in clearings watching the chimpanzees of the Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania.

Jane developed a great love for the chimpanzees and gave each one in the park its own name. She watched babies being born, growing up, having babies of their own, and dying. In the first few years that Jane watched the chimpanzees, she and her helpers thought they were completely gentle and peaceful animals. Jane wrote articles and research papers about how affectionate mothers were with their babies, and how deep was the love among many of the chimps.

Later Jane and her fellow researchers saw something that they found shocking and deeply disturbing. One group of male chimpanzees slowly and systematically killed all the chimps in another group. One female chimp and her daughter killed ten baby chimps over a period of three years. Reluctantly, Jane had to conclude that these lovable and intelligent creatures had a streak of violence in them that could be triggered by certain conditions.

Further research showed that chimpanzees, like humans, were able to do terrible things to those they viewed as unlike themselves. Even though this was true, Jane found that chimpanzees acted peacefully more often than aggressively.

1. How old is Jane Goodall now?

2. Why did she first go to Africa?

3. What got Jane started with the study of chimpanzees?

4. Why did she continue her study for so long?

5. What evidence is there that chimps are tame?

6. Why do you think she went back to Cambridge for a degree?

7. Describe Jane's feelings toward the chimps she studied.

8. What kind of audience do you think Jane writes for?

9. Why was Jane so shocked by the killing?

10. Would you be afraid to be around chimpanzees? Why or why not?

Most cities have an airport many miles out in the country, away from the city where most of the people live. But Boston's airport is just across the harbor in a part of the city called East Boston. It is convenient for travelers to have the airport so close to the city, but it isn't so nice for the people who live in East Boston.

When planes first started flying from Boston's Logan Airport, things weren't too bad for the people who lived in East Boston. There were small propeller planes that didn't make too much noise and couldn't fly at night.

But as the years passed, planes got bigger and noisier and could fly at night because of the invention of radar. By the 1950s it was almost unbearable in East Boston. Jet planes were flying into Logan Airport, and they were louder than any of the propeller planes. There were so many planes landing and taking off at the airport that air and noise pollution was becoming a terrible problem for East Boston.

The trouble was that many of the people in East Boston were too poor to move to other places where it wasn't so noisy and dirty. Also, many of the people liked that part of the city, had their friends there, and just didn't want to leave. So the people of East Boston decided to organize and fight the airport.

These people held protest marches. When the airport tried to tear down some houses in East Boston to build a new runway, people lay down in the streets and had to be carried away by the police so the bulldozers could come through. The people of East Boston demanded that the planes stop landing and taking off at night, so these people could sleep. They demanded that planes be made quieter and that they give off less air pollution.

The Massachusetts Port Authority, which runs Logan Airport, was annoyed by the protests of these people from East Boston. The Port Authority wanted the airport to be bigger, with more planes. It argued that the more planes used the airport, the more people around Boston would have good jobs. Finally the governor of Massachusetts told the airport that it couldn't get any bigger than it was. The people of East Boston had won a small victory, but the fight between the people of East Boston and the Port Authority has continued over the years.

1. Where is Boston's airport located?

2. Why is this location good for travelers?

3. Why is it bad for people living near the airport?

4. When did the situation become especially bad for the people who lived near the airport?

5. Why did jets make things worse?

6. In what two ways do planes bother people?

(a) _____

(b) _____

7. What did the people of East Boston ask the airport to change?

8. Why did the airport refuse to change?

9. Who told the airport to stop expanding?

10. Can you think of ways to make life easier for the people of East Boston?

When Gerald Ford was president, he made a visit to Hartford, Connecticut. As is usual when the president leaves Washington, the Secret Service went ahead of him to Hartford with his special bulletproof limousine. They worked with the Hartford police to make sure no one would try to harm President Ford.

After giving a number of speeches, the president got into his car, and the Secret Service drove toward the airport. The president's limousine drove with its lights flashing through the streets of Hartford. Several carloads of bodyguards and reporters rode in cars right behind the president.

Suddenly a car came out of a side street toward the president's limousine. The driver swerved, but the car smashed right into the front of Mr. Ford's car, flinging him and the other passenger to the floor on top of one another. The Secret Service, who are trained to react in emergencies like this, leaped out of their cars, drew their guns, and surrounded the car that had just smashed into the limousine. They thought the driver had driven into Ford's car on purpose, as part of an assassination attempt.

What they found in the other car was a bunch of high-school boys who were driving home from a party. The boys were terrified at the sight of all these men pointing guns at them. They had no idea what was going on. The Secret Service got them out of the car and searched them while President Ford's driver roared off toward the airport; he didn't want to take any chances by sticking around. There was very little damage to the limousine because it was so heavily protected by thick metal, but the other car was seriously damaged.

The Secret Service and police found some beer in the boys' car, but the boys weren't drunk. The driver of the other car, a nineteen-year-old boy named James Salamites, claimed that the president's car had gone through a red light. He said he was in the right, that the accident was the fault of the president's driver.

The police investigated and found that the boy was right. When the president's car drives through a city, it doesn't pay attention to red and green lights. Stopping for lights would increase the chance of someone being able to take a shot at the president. But the police are supposed to stop traffic at each intersection. In this case a Hartford police officer had forgotten to stop traffic. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

1. Why does the president take his own car to other cities?

2. Why was the president in Hartford?

3. What happened as the president's limousine went through an intersection?

4. Why did the Secret Service draw their guns and surround the other car?

5. What do you think went through the boys' minds right after the accident?

6. Why didn't the president stick around to see what happened?

7. Why was the other car so much more heavily damaged than the president's car?

8. Whose fault was the accident?

_____ Why? _____

9. Who do you think should pay for the damage to the boy's car?

_____ Why? _____

In the 1950s, the west side of New York City was a tough, poor neighborhood with an increasing number of Puerto Rican people. The Puerto Ricans came to New York from the island of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean Sea. They came because they wanted jobs, and they had been told that they could make lots of money in New York.

But many of the white people on the West Side hated the Puerto Ricans. They were afraid that the Puerto Ricans would take away their jobs. They said the Puerto Ricans were lazy, dirty, and stupid, and that all of them were criminals. Many whites were very prejudiced against the Puerto Ricans.

There was a lot of fighting on the West Side between the whites and Puerto Ricans. The young kids did most of the fighting. They organized gangs and had "rumbles" to protect their "territory" from other gangs. One white gang was called the Jets and one Puerto Rican gang was called the Sharks. They fought constantly over who was boss in their neighborhood.

One night there was a big neighborhood dance at the school gym. A man tried to get the Jets and the Sharks to make friends, but they didn't want to. They did their own dances with their own girlfriends, and the leaders of the two gangs talked about having a really serious "rumble."

In the middle of the dance, Tony, one of the Jets, looked across the gym and saw a beautiful Puerto Rican girl named Maria. She saw him, and they fell in love with each other without having said a word. They didn't care that they were of different cultures—they only wanted to be with each other.

Just as they were about to kiss, Maria's brother, Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks, came up and stopped them. He insulted Tony and told Maria never to see him again. Tony got mad and decided to get involved in the "rumble." He wanted revenge on Bernardo.

Later that night, Tony sneaked up the fire escape outside Maria's house and met her. They were really in love, but both of them were worried about the "rumble"; they didn't want anyone to get hurt. They decided to try to stop the fight.

(continued)

1. In what city was the West Side?

2. Where did the Puerto Ricans come from originally?

3. Why did they come to New York?

4. Why did many poor whites hate the Puerto Ricans?

5. Who were the Jets?

6. Who were the Sharks?

7. What was a "rumble"?

8. What happened to Tony at the dance?

9. What did Maria's brother, Bernardo, say about this?

10. Did Maria obey her brother? _____

11. How did Tony meet her?

12. Why did they want to stop the fight between the Jets and the Sharks?

*Based on the musical by Leonard Bernstein et al.

The Jets and the Sharks met under a highway for the big "rumble." Tony arrived late and tried to stop the fight, but Bernardo (Maria's brother) insulted him. Bernardo hated Tony because he didn't want his sister going around with a white boy. Finally Riff, Tony's best friend on the Jets, started to fight with Bernardo, and Bernardo killed Riff with a knife.

Tony was so angry to see his best friend killed that he killed Bernardo. All the other boys started fighting to kill, but then they heard the sound of a police siren, and they all ran, leaving the two dead bodies on the ground.

Tony went and told Maria that he had killed her brother. She didn't like this news very much, but she was so in love with Tony that she forgave him. They decided to leave New York and start a new life somewhere else. But Tony had to hide for a while because the police were looking for him for murdering Bernardo, and the Sharks were looking for him to get revenge.

Tony hid in the basement of Doc's Store, where he had been working. He and Maria were going to wait a few weeks before leaving the city. Then Maria heard that Chino, one of the Sharks, was looking for Tony with a gun. Maria decided that she and Tony should catch a bus right away. She sent her friend Anita to take a message to Tony asking him to meet her at the bus stop.

Anita arrived at Doc's Store and found that all the Jets were hanging out there. They didn't believe that she really had a message for Tony, and they started making fun of her and saying nasty, prejudiced things about Puerto Ricans. This made Anita so angry that she decided to deliver a false message. She told the Jets to tell Tony that Maria was dead, killed by Chino when he found out that she loved Tony.

When Tony heard this, he ran out into the street shouting, "Chino, come and get me, too!" He didn't want to live any more because he thought Maria was dead. But suddenly he saw Maria waiting for him at the bus stop. As they ran toward each other, Chino stepped out of the shadows and shot Tony in the back. Tony died in Maria's arms.

After Tony's death, the Jets and the Sharks made peace with each other. Too many people had died.

1. Why did Bernardo insult Tony so much?

2. Who killed Riff? _____

3. Who killed Bernardo? _____

4. What broke up the fight?

5. Why was Bernardo's death bad news for Maria?

6. Did she forgive Tony for killing him?

_____ Why? _____

7. Who was looking for Tony? (two groups)

(a) _____

(b) _____

8. Why did Anita tell the Jets that Maria was dead? Why didn't she deliver the real message?

9. Why did Tony run out in the street?

10. Whose fault do you think Tony's death was?

_____ Why? _____

11. What happened between the gangs after this?

In 1978, a teacher named Jaime Escalante began to teach math at Garfield High School in a poor section of Los Angeles, California. The kids in his classes fooled around and didn't take math seriously. Many thought they were dumb.

This bothered Escalante, who believed that all children could learn if they were taught well and worked hard. One day, when he was teaching fractions, he brought in an apple and dramatically chopped it in two with a large meat cleaver. That got students' attention! He pushed students to work hard, and didn't take any excuses. He said that they needed *ganas*, which is a Spanish word for a burning desire to succeed. Many began to get it.

The next year, Escalante began to teach calculus, which is the hardest level of high school math. Very few students at Garfield High had taken calculus before, but Escalante told his students they could pass the hardest test in the country, the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus Test. People laughed. It seemed like an impossible dream.

Week after week, Escalante drove his students through the curriculum. They had extra classes after school and on Saturdays. When one girl talked about dropping out, Escalante spoke to her father and convinced him that his daughter could be more than a waitress in the family restaurant if she learned calculus and went to college.

Finally the day of the big exam came. The students used everything they had learned, and when the results came a few weeks later, all of them had passed with good or excellent grades. They were jubilant; their futures seemed brighter.

But then the school received a shocking phone call. The test company said that the results were suspicious and suggested that the students had cheated to get such good grades. All the students had to take the test again in the middle of the summer. People watched their every move to make sure they were not cheating. Several weeks later the results arrived: all the students passed again, some with higher grades than the first time!

Escalante continued to teach calculus, and each year, more Garfield students passed the AP exam. A movie called *Stand and Deliver* was made about him, and Escalante preached the gospel of *ganas* and good teaching across the land.

1. Why didn't students do well in math before Escalante arrived?

2. What two things did Escalante do to get better results from his students?

3. What is *ganas*?

4. Why did people laugh when Escalante said he could teach students calculus?

5. Why do you think the girl was about to drop out of his calculus class?

6. How did Escalante keep her in the class?

7. How did the students do on the first test?

8. Why did they have to take the test again?

9. What did the results of the second test prove?

10. What was *Stand and Deliver*?

11. What do you think this story proves about teaching and learning?

In a country called South Africa, at the southern tip of Africa, lived a black man named Sizwe Bansi. He was married and had two children, but he hardly made enough money to support his family. So Sizwe decided to move to a big city, Port Elizabeth, to get a better job.

He had a problem, however, because when he moved to Port Elizabeth, he wasn't allowed to live with his wife and children. There was a law that forbade black families from living together in this city. So Sizwe Bansi had to live with a friend in Port Elizabeth, save up money, and look forward to the time when he could live with his wife and children again.

This was common in South Africa. Even though most of the people in the country are black, the government and police were controlled by whites. The government had a policy of keeping black people down, of not letting them make much money or have good jobs. There was also a policy of keeping black and white people separate. Every black person had to carry an identity book; this was a small booklet with the person's picture which he or she had to carry all the time.

One day Sizwe Bansi got in trouble with the police. It was nothing serious—not even bad enough for him to go to court—but the police officer took Sizwe's identity book and stamped it. This meant that whenever he showed his identity book, people would know that he had been in trouble. Sizwe Bansi had to show his book the next morning at the factory where he worked. When they saw the stamp, he was sure they would fire him. He wouldn't be able to support his family any more and would have to leave the city.

That night, Sizwe and his friend went out and talked about how unfair the country was. Why did black people have to carry the identity books? What right did the police officer have to ruin his job by putting in the stamp? Why couldn't his family come live with him? As they were walking along a street, they noticed a dark shape on the ground behind some bushes. They looked more closely and found that it was the dead body of a black man who had just been murdered.

The two men were horrified. They didn't know whether to call the police or run. Then Sizwe's friend had an idea. Why not take the dead man's wallet and steal his identity book, leaving Sizwe's in its place. That way people would think Sizwe Bansi was dead, and he would have an identity book without a stamp in it.

*From the play *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead* by Athol Fugard et al. It is based on a true story.

1. Why did Sizwe Bansi move to Port Elizabeth?

2. What was the disadvantage of living in Port Elizabeth?

3. What do you think about the way the South African government treated black people?

_____ Why? _____

4. How did Sizwe get a stamp in his identity book?

5. What did he know would happen the next day?

6. If a person makes a small mistake as Sizwe did, what do you think the police should do?

7. Why did Sizwe's friend want to switch the identity books?

8. How would this help Sizwe?

9. Do you think he should have done it?

_____ Why? _____

A few years ago, I was sitting in the living room of my mother's house in the country . It was late at night, and I was finishing up a book before going to bed. Suddenly I heard a noise in the chimney and a sound like something falling down into the fireplace. Then something got up from the ashes and flew around the room.

At first I thought it was a bird that had accidentally flown down the chimney. It was flying around so fast that it was hard to see what it was. Then I realized that it was a bat. It must have flown down the chimney, suddenly found itself in a strange place, and couldn't find its way back up the chimney. So it flew around looking for a way out.

The bat continued to circle the room. I noticed that it made no noise as it flew; this is because a bat's wings are covered with soft fur which muffles the noise. Bats fly very quietly so nothing can hear them coming.

Why couldn't the bat just fly back up the chimney? I remembered that bats cannot see well. Bats keep from flying into things by making very high-pitched sound (too high for human ears to hear) and listening for it to bounce off objects in front of them. If the bat hears an echo, it turns away. If there is no echo, it keeps flying straight ahead.

There was one object in the room that was too thin for the bat to be able to "see." It flew straight into the television antenna, was knocked out, and flopped onto the floor. Before I could pick it up and put it outside, it revived and started flying around the room again.

I was standing in the doorway leading out into the hall, and several times the bat flew straight toward the doorway because it "saw" an opening there. But as it came toward me, I raised my book up in front of me, and the bat turned away at the last moment.

It was very spooky watching this thing fly around the room trying to find a way out. I thought of trying to hit the bat with a tennis racket, but then thought of a better idea. I opened all the windows, closed the door, and went to bed. The next morning the bat was gone.

1. What came down the chimney?

2. Why did it keep flying around the room?

3. How can bats fly so quietly?

4. How does this help them survive?

5. Why couldn't the bat find the way out the chimney?

6. How does a bat keep from flying into things?

7. Why did it hit the antenna?

8. Why can't we hear the sounds a bat makes?

9. How did the bat escape from the room?

10. Why do you think people think bats are spooky?

In March of 1973, a cargo ship called the *Norse Variant* left Norfolk, Virginia, and started across the Atlantic Ocean with a cargo of coal. It was a medium-sized ship, about 540 feet long.

Suddenly, a terrific storm hit that part of the Atlantic. Before the men on the ship knew what was happening, the wind was blowing at eighty-five miles an hour, and the waves were forty feet high. The ship was tossed around like a cork, and the twenty-nine men on board began to wonder if they could survive the storm.

Enormous waves crashed against the sides of the boat. Every few minutes a bigger wave swept right over the top of the boat, nearly burying it in water. For a while the ship was able to stay afloat because all the hatches and doors were closed. Then an especially big wave tore away one of the main hatches leading to the inside of the ship. As water poured into the hold, the ship got heavier and lower in the water. With each new wave, more water filled the ship.

The captain sent a radio message for help, an SOS. (Save Our Ship.) A few minutes later, he sent another message saying that he and the crew were going to abandon ship.

The captain and the crew tried to launch a small lifeboat, but it was no use—the waves were much too high, and the winds were much too strong for such a small boat. The men were forced to float around in the water hanging on to pieces of wood, life jackets, and anything else that would keep them from sinking. They were tossed up and down on the waves as if they were on a roller coaster, but there was nothing fun about the kind of ride they were having.

One by one, the men became exhausted and let go of whatever they were holding onto and drowned, joining their ship on the quiet, dark bottom of the ocean. The toughest and strongest members of the crew held on longest, but soon they also lost their strength and let go.

But one man managed to hang on. For three days the storm blew, and the waves crashed around him, but he hung on. He had nothing to eat or drink, and his friends were all dead, but he hung on. The nearest land was 300 miles away, and there were no ships in sight, but he hung on.

Finally the pilot of a Coast Guard plane that was sent to the area after the SOS spotted the sailor floating alone in the vast Atlantic. The man was saved. He was the only survivor from the *Norse Variant*.

1. How long ago did this story take place?

2. What was the ship carrying?

3. Which country had the ship just left?

4. What problem did the ship encounter?

5. How much taller than you were the waves?

6. Why did the ship sink?

7. What does SOS stand for?

8. Why couldn't the captain and the crew use the lifeboat?

9. Why did the men drown?

10. How many survivors were there?

11. How was the sailor rescued? _____

12. Why do you think he hung on when he thought there was no hope?

When Diana Nyad was in the seventh grade in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, her geography teacher promised an A to anyone in the class who would try out for the swimming team. Diana not only got her A and made the team, but she went on to be a champion swimmer in races against other schools.

After she graduated from high school, Diana took up long-distance swimming and became the first woman to attempt many long and dangerous swims in various parts of the world. For example, she swam around Manhattan Island in New York (a distance of twenty-eight miles) in a little less than eight hours. She swam twenty-five miles in the Suez Canal in Egypt, and sixty-seven miles in the chilly North Sea. She set records in several marathon swims.

Diana was determined to swim the 103 miles from Cuba to Key West, Florida. She set off swimming inside a special metal cage to protect her from sharks. After swimming seventy miles in forty-one hours, her friends pulled her out of the water. Her mouth was blistered and swollen; she was covered with stings from jellyfish; she was seasick from the high waves, and she was completely exhausted.

But Diana did not give up. A year later she set out from the Bahamas on a sixty-mile swim to West Palm Beach, Florida. Things were going well until the middle of the night when she swam into a poisonous Portuguese man-of-war. The sting from the jellyfish was so painful that she had to give up the swim.

Two weeks later Diana was back in the water doing the same sixty-mile swim again, this time coated with a layer of latex to protect her from jellyfish. Divers swam ahead and cleared jellyfish out of her way, and her friends cruised nearby watching for sharks. One jellyfish slipped by the divers and stung her, and she shouted angrily, "Why, why, why?"

But this time nothing was going to stop her. She was swimming across the powerful Gulf Stream, which made the distance longer and the swimming more difficult. Even so she kept going right through the night. After twenty-seven hours of swimming, she could see the beach ahead, and half an hour later, she was wading onto the shore to the cheers of hundreds of people. "Everybody said it couldn't be done," she said to the reporters who crowded around her. She had lost about twelve pounds and felt as though she had been run over by a train, but she immediately began planning another try at the Cuba-Florida swim.

After successfully completing an eighty-nine-mile swim between Cuba and Miami, Florida, Diana retired from competition. For the last ten years she has worked as a sports commentator and anchor on television.

1. What first got Diana Nyad into swimming?

2. How did she become famous around the world?

3. Where was her longest successful swim?

4. What made her Cuba-to-Florida swim dangerous?

5. Why did she give up the Cuba-Florida swim?

6. Why didn't Diana see the jellyfish during her Bahamas-Florida swim?

7. On her second attempt, what two steps did she take to protect herself from jellyfish?

8. What do you think Diana's feelings were as she waded up onto the Florida beach?

9. Why did she lose so much weight?

10. What qualities would you say are necessary for being a marathon swimmer?

A few years ago, a businessman was at an airport in New York seeing off a friend. While he was there, he heard that a plane at the airport was being hijacked. The man waited around and watched out the window to see what would happen.

The hijacker was threatening to blow up the plane unless the airline gave him \$100,000 and let him escape. The pilot of the plane talked to the people in the control tower while the plane was still on the ground. They tried to decide whether the man was serious or not.

After a while the hijacker got nervous. He thought that the FBI and the police might be sneaking up on the plane. So he ordered the pilot to take off and circle the airport. The hijacker thought he would be safer in the air.

The businessman looking out the window inside the airport saw the plane start to taxi toward the runway and realized that the hijacker was going to get away. Suddenly the businessman decided he would try to stop the hijacker himself.

He ran into the parking lot and started up his new Cadillac. There was no road leading out onto the runway, so the man drove his car right through a fence. Then he roared across the runway toward the plane, which was about to take off. The man steered the car right for the front wheels of the plane. He thought if he hit the front wheels, the plane probably wouldn't be able to take off.

The man crashed his Cadillac into the plane. He was going over sixty miles an hour. His car was completely destroyed, and he was seriously injured and rushed to the hospital. Later he said that he hadn't meant to be going so fast when he hit the plane, but his brakes had been damaged when he smashed through the fence.

The front wheels of the plane were damaged too, and the pilot radioed to the control tower that he could not take off. The hijacker almost shot the pilot right then because he thought it was all a trick. But the pilot stayed cool and persuaded the hijacker that it was just a crazy man trying to be a hero. The airport got another plane, pulled it up beside the damaged plane, and everyone moved onto it. Then it took off.

The hijacker was eventually caught. The businessman turned out to be a fool instead of a hero. He didn't stop the hijacking, ruined his car, injured himself, almost got the pilot killed, and was sued for damaging the fence.

1. What did the hijacker say he would do if the airline didn't pay him?

2. Why did the businessman want to stop the plane?

3. How did the businessman get onto the runway?

4. Why was he going so fast when he hit the plane?

5. Why couldn't the plane take off?

6. Why did the hijacker almost kill the pilot?

7. What three things do you think the businessman had to pay for after this?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

8. Did the hijacker get the money in this story?

9. Do you think the businessman acted wisely?

_____ Why? _____

Herbert Wirth was a peddler in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana. He made just enough money to stay alive by selling shoelaces and dishrags to people on the streets. He lived in a small apartment and was very poor.

A lot of people knew Herbert Wirth because they saw him on the street almost every day with his shopping bags full of shoelaces and dishrags. Some people stopped and talked to him, but he always seemed sad. He never had any close friends. He was a lonely man struggling to stay alive in a big city.

One day a newspaper reporter decided to write a story about Herbert Wirth. He interviewed him for more than an hour. The peddler told the reporter that he was afraid of dying because he thought no one would remember him after he was gone. He told the reporter that he thought he had been a failure. He had wanted to be rich and famous, but he was just a poor old peddler. He said that when he died, no one in the whole world would notice. He felt that his life was a waste.

Herbert Wirth also told the reporter that he had been a good man. He said that he had always been kind to other people and never hurt anyone. He said to the reporter, "At least I can say I made an honest-to-God try to do what I did as a nice man."

The reporter wrote up the story, and his newspaper printed it. Thousands of people read it and felt sorry for the old peddler. But there didn't seem to be anything that people could do for him. He was too proud to accept charity, and it would be phony for people suddenly to start paying attention to him after the newspaper story.

One day Herbert Wirth was in the supermarket buying food for himself when he had a heart attack. People rushed to help him, but it was too late—he was dead. He had no relatives to bury him or to go to his funeral. It looked as if what he feared would happen, would happen—nobody would notice his death.

But the reporter who had written the story about him heard about his death and wrote another story in the newspaper. When his funeral was held, more than a thousand people came. They wrote their names in a book, and it was buried with the body of Herbert Wirth. It was one of the biggest funerals in the history of the city. But all this attention came too late to change the unhappiness in Herbert Wirth's life.

1. How did Herbert Wirth make a living?

2. Why did a lot of people know him?

3. What did he tell the reporter he was afraid of?

Why? _____

4. What did he say he was proud of doing?

5. What was people's reaction to the newspaper story about Herbert Wirth?

6. Did people send him money then?

_____ Why? _____

7. How did Herbert Wirth die?

8. How did people hear about his death?

9. Why do you think so many people came to his funeral?

10. What do you think people might have done when they first read Herbert's story?

Why? _____

11. What did they bury with him?

For hundreds of years, students in college have thought of silly things to do for fun. At one time there was a craze of seeing how many people could stuff themselves into a telephone booth, and college kids all over America were doing it. At another time the fad was swallowing goldfish—alive!

During the 1960s, college students were more serious because of the war in Vietnam. There were no silly fads—instead there were big demonstrations and protests. There wasn't as much laughter at colleges. Early in 1974, with the Vietnam War over at least for the United States, there was a new craze at colleges—streaking.

Streaking is running naked, usually with masks, through public places, just for the fun of it. Once streaking got started, it spread like wildfire to almost every college in the country. In the middle of a basketball game, someone might suddenly run naked across the court and out another door. Streakers might run through classes, run through assemblies, run across football fields—anywhere where there were people to watch them. Everyone loved it.

Soon streaking spread off the college campuses into American cities. A man streaked down Wall Street in downtown New York City. Thirteen men streaked under the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. During the Nixon administration, when the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate was broken into, a group of people said they were going to streak in front of the White House in Washington, D.C., and ask President Nixon to "lay bare the facts about Watergate and give us the naked truth."

Of course it is against the law to go naked in public—it's called "indecent exposure." But hardly anyone has been arrested for streaking. One reason is that streakers move too fast to let themselves be arrested. Streakers almost always have an escape route planned. Another reason is that people think it is fun and don't want to get serious about it.

All over America, people were setting records. In the middle of March, 1974, the world record for the most streakers at one time was 1,200 at the University of Colorado. Some students at Purdue streaked in temperatures of 20° below zero, setting the record for the coldest streak. At the University of Georgia, five students parachuted out of a small plane wearing only parachutes. A bus driver was asked if the streakers who ran through his bus were men or women. "I don't know," he said. "They were wearing masks."

1. Why did students at college swallow goldfish?

2. Why did the silly crazes stop during the 1960s?

3. What is streaking?

4. Why do you think streakers wear masks over their faces?

5. What are two reasons the police haven't arrested more people for streaking?

(a) _____

(b) _____

6. What would an arrested streaker be charged with?

7. What is the record for the most streakers?

8. How did the highest streak happen? Where?

9. What do you think about streaking?

Why? _____

In the early 1950s, when Dwight Eisenhower was president of the United States, people in Washington were worried about what would happen to the important government leaders if the Soviets attacked us with missiles and nuclear bombs. It was decided that the Army would build a huge bomb shelter under a mountain. The important people in government could go to this place if a nuclear war started.

The site chosen for the shelter was about fifty miles northwest of Washington, D.C. It was Mount Weather, an 1,800-foot mountain, deep in the Appalachian Mountains in Virginia. The Army spent years and millions of dollars digging out the inside of the mountain and building a small city inside. The shelter has room for about 3000 important people in government. It is complete with beds, cafeterias, assembly halls, movie theaters, and a separate water and air supply, so the people inside the mountain can breathe even if the air outside is contaminated with fallout. This giant shelter costs \$43,000,000 a year to run.

If Washington were attacked, all the government officials on the Mount Weather list would run to helicopters which would fly to the mountain. The helicopters would pass over the traffic jams that undoubtedly would clog all the roads leading out of the city. When the helicopters arrived at the mountain, enormous steel doors would open and the aircraft would disappear into the mountain. Then the officials would get onto an open subway train, which would take them deeper into the mountain to their quarters.

Who would go to Mount Weather? —the Supreme Court justices, all 535 members of Congress, cabinet officials, CIA officials, and the most important people in other federal agencies. All the people on the list know who they are and are prepared to run for helicopters in an emergency. Every once in a while there is a practice drill to make sure everything is working well.

Did you notice someone important who is not on the list? Why wouldn't the president of the United States go to Mount Weather? A few years ago, planners realized that it would be easy to aim a missile at the mountain and reduce it to a pile of gravel. So it isn't a safe place for the president to be. If our country were attacked, the current plan is for the president and a small group of advisors to take off in a special jumbo jet and give orders to the armed forces from the air. The problem is that the president's plane can only stay aloft for seventy-two hours. After that, it would have to land somewhere. This landing site is a closely guarded secret.

1. What is the purpose of the Mount Weather facility?

2. How would the chosen, important officials get to Mount Weather? Why?

3. Why would it be important to have a separate supply of water, air, and electricity there?

4. Where would the president of the United States go in an attack?

5. Why do you think the landing site for the president's plane is a secret?

6. Can you think of a problem with the president's escape route?

7. Do you think we should keep spending \$43,000,000 a year on the Mt. Weather facility?

_____ Why? _____

Joanna was a young woman from a wealthy white family in San Francisco. After she finished college, she took a vacation in Hawaii. There she met and fell in love with a man named John Prentiss.

John was a doctor and a professor at a college in Hawaii. He had written a number of articles for medical magazines all over the world. John also happened to be black.

Joanna and John cared deeply about each other and decided to get married, after knowing each other for only ten days. They flew back to San Francisco to talk to Joanna's parents. She was sure that her parents weren't prejudiced and would be happy about their plans.

But Joanna's parents were shocked that she wanted to marry a black man. It turned out that deep down inside they were prejudiced and didn't want their daughter to marry a black man. They liked John; they admired him. They respected John as a doctor and a professor. But they just didn't want their daughter to marry him.

Joanna was surprised that her parents thought this way, but she wasn't going to let it stop the marriage. However, John knew that this would be a terrible way to start their marriage, and he said he wanted the blessing of Joanna's parents before they married.

Joanna's mother had the idea of inviting John's parents over for dinner. John's father was a retired mailman who lived in Los Angeles, and he and his wife flew up to San Francisco for dinner. This was the first they had heard about John's plans to marry a white woman, and they didn't like the idea too much either.

They all spent the early evening talking about the marriage and the problems involved in being an interracial couple in America. Finally the parents realized that they were being silly. Why try to stop the marriage of two people who were so much in love? They knew that John and Joanna would have some problems with prejudiced people, but their love would carry them through.

So they all sat down for a happy dinner together. And John and Joanna were married soon afterward.

1. Why was Joanna in Hawaii?

2. Why was John in Hawaii?

3. What did Joanna's parents say about John and Joanna's plan to marry?

4. Why?

5. Why was Joanna surprised?

6. How was John an impressive man to her parents?

7. Why did John insist on getting her parents' blessing on the marriage?

8. Who else did they invite for dinner?

9. Why do you think John's parents were against the marriage?

10. Why did all the parents decide to stop fussing?

*Based on the movie by William Rose.

Human beings are by far the smartest living creatures in the world. One of the most important ways humans are smarter than animals is that humans can talk to each other. We are the only creature with language— words and sentences.

A few years ago a scientist tried an experiment. He and his wife took a baby chimpanzee into their home and raised it as if it were their own child. They played with the chimp, fed it, cuddled it, and put it to bed at night. The one thing they did differently from raising a real child was not to talk to the chimp.

Instead of talking to the chimp, they used sign language with it. From the beginning they made signs with their hands and tried to teach the chimp to use signs too. The sign for a drink of water was made by putting a fist up to the mouth. There was another sign for food, another one for sleep, another one for dog, and so on.

After using these signs for a year with the chimpanzee and not talking to it, the chimp began to catch on and started using the signs itself. It would make a fist and put it up to its mouth when it wanted a drink of water. When it saw a dog, it would make the sign for dog. Sometimes the chimp would put several signs together into a “sentence.”

The scientist and his wife were very pleased, and the story of what they had done was written up in newspapers and magazines all over the world. It was the first time that humans had really “talked” to an animal and had the animal “talk” back. Scientists said it proved that the chimpanzee was a very smart animal.

The scientist and his wife are still working with the chimp, teaching it new words and “talking” to it every day. When it has baby chimps, they are going to watch very closely to see if the chimp teaches them the signs it knows. If it does, a whole family of chimps might be “talking” by using sign language.

It might be the way the first human beings started talking— slowly learning a few words and signs, passing them down to their children, who then made up words and passed them down. Over thousands of years, this might have been how our language came into being. Even though chimpanzees are able to learn signs and to put them together into meaningful sentences, they do not seem to have the ability to speak. Whatever factors made it possible long ago for humans to speak do not seem to be present in chimpanzees.

1. What are the most intelligent creatures on earth?

2. What do we use that no animals use?

3. What did they try to teach the chimp?

4. What did a fist raised to the mouth mean?

5. How long did it take the chimp to catch on to sign language?

6. Why did newspapers and magazines report this story?

7. Why does the word *talk* have quotes around it?

8. When the chimp has babies, what will the scientist and his wife watch for?

9. Will the chimps ever talk like humans?

_____ Why? _____

10. Do you think humans learned how to talk all at once or gradually over thousands of years?

This is a true story. In 1831 an English sailing ship called the *Bounty* was sailing across the Pacific Ocean. The captain of the ship was called Bligh, and he was very strict with the sailors. He had men whipped for breaking the smallest rule. The whip which was used in those days was called the cat-o'-nine-tails; it had nine ropes with knots on the ends, and it tore a man's back apart. Captain Bligh used it frequently.

Finally the sailors couldn't stand it any longer, and there was a mutiny. The sailors, led by the first mate, Fletcher Christian, took over the ship and tied up the captain. Most of the sailors wanted to kill the captain right then and there, but Fletcher Christian thought that would be cruel. So they put Bligh and those sailors who were loyal to the captain into a small boat and left them in the middle of the ocean. No one really thought they would survive.

Then Fletcher Christian and the sailors who had taken over the *Bounty* looked for a small island where they could hide. They knew that when the news of the mutiny on the *Bounty* got back to England, more ships would come looking for them. The penalty for mutiny was death.

They finally found a small island called Pitcairn Island. They took everything off the *Bounty* and then burned the ship, so there would be no trace that they were on the island. Fletcher Christian and the English sailors thought they would live happily ever after on the island.

Meanwhile Captain Bligh and the sailors in the rowboat spent weeks out in the sun, wind, and rain. They almost died from hunger and thirst, but they managed to make it to land, and they immediately sent word to England that sailors had taken over the *Bounty*. English ships started looking everywhere for Fletcher Christian and his men.

The English ships never found Pitcairn Island and never caught the mutineers. However, these men on the island died for other reasons. Fletcher Christian and the sailors got into arguments and fights with the natives who lived on the island. In the end, all but one of the Englishmen were killed. Some of them had children by native women, and descendants of these children still live on Pitcairn Island today.

Some people said Fletcher Christian killed himself on the island. Other people think he left and lived secretly in England, while English sailors searched for him halfway around the world.

1. Where was the *Bounty* sailing?

2. What was the cat-o'-nine-tails?

3. Why did the sailors mutiny?

4. What is a mutiny?

5. Why didn't the sailors kill Captain Bligh?

6. Why did they want to hide on an island?

7. What happened to Captain Bligh and the men in the rowboat?

8. How did some of the mutineers on Pitcairn Island die?

9. Why do you think Fletcher Christian might have come back to England?

10. What might one find on the bottom of the harbor off Pitcairn Island? (Think hard.)

*This story was the basis for the novel *Mutiny on the Bounty* by Nordhoff and Hall.

In the southern part of Texas, near the border with Mexico, there is a small town called Smelertown. Almost all the 120 or so people who live in this town work in a big smelting factory, where tons of rock are heated up to get the metals out. The people in the town are mostly Mexican-Americans who speak Spanish. They are quite poor.

The smelting factory has a smokestack 828 feet high which towers over the little town. The smoke from the stack is full of pollution from the factory, and most of the pollution comes down and settles on the town of Smelertown.

The people of Smelertown hadn't thought the pollution from the factory was that bad. For years the smoke had made their laundry dirty when they hung it outside, and the air in the town hadn't smelled good. But the people had jobs in the factory and liked living in the town with their friends. They didn't want to move just to get away from the pollution.

Then in 1971 some people from the government in Washington, D.C., came to the town and looked very carefully at the pollution that was coming out of the smokestack of the factory. They found that the smoke had a lot of lead in it, and they knew that lead could poison people. The people from Washington tested the dirt on the ground around the town and found that it had a lot of lead in it from the years of factory pollution.

These people also did tests on the children who had been out playing in the dirt around town. As they feared, the children had a dangerous amount of lead in their bodies from playing in the dirt and breathing the polluted air.

The people from Washington said that these children might grow up to be mentally retarded unless they moved away from Smelertown. They told the people in the town to move somewhere else until the pollution was stopped.

But the people didn't want to move. They liked the town and didn't want to lose their jobs. They also claimed that their children were perfectly healthy. The people of Smelertown were angry that these outsiders were telling them what to do. Of course the people from Washington couldn't force anyone to leave the town, so they went to the factory owners and told them to stop polluting immediately. The factory was forced to clean up its act.

1. Where do you think Smelertown got its name?

2. Where do most of the people in the town work?

3. What two things about the pollution from the factory annoyed people in the town?

(a) _____

(b) _____

4. Why didn't people leave the town when the pollution first began?

5. What was the poison that was found in the town's children?

6. Why were the children more likely to be poisoned than the grown-ups?

7. What might the poison do to the children?

8. What did the people from Washington suggest?

9. What was done to solve the problem?

One day a man named Sam was out looking for a job; he badly needed money to pay his bills. Sam looked all over and couldn't find anything. Then one day he was walking by a television store and had an idea.

The front of the store was full of new color TVs with prices written on the screens. Most of the prices were very high, around \$450. Sam walked into the store and found out from the salesperson that business was really bad. Nobody seemed to want to pay so much money for a new television.

Sam asked to speak to the boss and asked him why he thought business was so bad. The boss didn't know and said he would like to find some way to get the TVs selling. Otherwise he might have to go out of business. He said that there was no way he could make the prices any lower because he wouldn't make enough money.

Sam asked the manager of the store what he would give him if he thought of a way to sell all the TVs he had. The boss didn't think it was possible, so he offered Sam a thousand dollars if he could sell them all. Sam went to work.

First he rubbed the prices off all the TVs in the store, so customers wouldn't know how much they cost. Then he bought a hearing aid for the salesman, and told the salesman to wear it and pretend that he was hard of hearing. Then Sam and the boss went and stood at the back of the store and waited.

Pretty soon a woman walked in and looked at the televisions. She liked one that normally cost \$450 and asked the salesman how much it was. The salesman pretended not to know the price and shouted to the back of the store, "Hey, Boss, how much is this one?" The boss called back, "That one is \$650."

The salesman turned back to the woman and said, "The price is \$450." The woman had heard the boss and thought the salesman had made a mistake because he was deaf. She quickly bought the TV for \$450, thinking she had saved \$200.

The word spread around and lots of people came into the store. Every time a new customer came in, the salesman would call back to the boss, and the boss would shout a price that was much higher than the real price, and people would buy. Pretty soon Sam had his thousand dollars.

1. Why weren't people buying the televisions?

2. What was the manager of the store afraid would happen if he didn't sell more TVs?

3. Why didn't he just lower the prices?

4. What did the manager say he would give Sam if he could sell all the TVs in the store?

5. Why did Sam erase the prices on the screens?

6. Why did he get the salesman to wear a hearing aid?

7. What did the salesman do when a customer asked the price of a television?

8. Was the price that the boss shouted back the real price?

9. Why did people buy the televisions?

10. Were they really saving money? _____

11. Do you think Sam's trick was honest? _____ Why? _____

12. Look at the title of the story. Did the customers get a real deal?

Angela Yvonne Davis was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Her father was a teacher at one time but quit his job and opened up a gas station when Angela was a young girl. The family was not poor, but not rich either. Angela's parents thought her education was very important, and they made her work hard in school.

Things were not always calm or pleasant where Angela was growing up in Birmingham. Her family kept guns in the house because there was the danger that the Ku Klux Klan or other people who hated blacks would cause trouble. While Angela was growing up, she heard stories about black people who were beaten up or killed for speaking up for their rights.

Angela did very well in school and always wanted to go to college. After high school, she got into a good college called Brandeis, outside Boston. While she was at Brandeis, she was taught by a famous philosophy professor named Herbert Marcuse. He said later that in his thirty years of teaching college students, he had never seen a student as smart as Angela Davis. She graduated from Brandeis with high honors.

After Brandeis, Angela Davis went to graduate school for several years and traveled and studied in France and Germany. During this time, she became a communist; she came to believe that the American kind of government was unfair to poor people, and she spoke out for a different system that she believed would spread the wealth more evenly among all the people.

When she came back from Europe, Angela got a job teaching and studying at the University of California. When people found out that she was a communist, a movement was formed to have her fired. There are many people in the United States who believe that communism is an evil system, and they don't want anyone who is a communist to teach at the university. After a bitter controversy, Angela was fired.

She continued to speak out for equal rights and for more jobs for black people. She has become a well-known, controversial person; loved by some people, hated by others. At one point she was accused of giving guns to some men who later killed several people, and she was put in jail. After a long trial, Angela was found innocent and released. Since then, Angela has continued to write, teach, and speak her mind.

1. What did Angela's father do while she was growing up?

2. What did Angela's parents think was most important for their daughter?

3. How did being black affect Angela's childhood?

4. Where did Angela go to college?

5. What did Angela do after college?

6. What did she come to believe about the American system of government?

7. Where did Angela get a teaching job?

8. Why was she fired?

9. Why was Angela arrested and jailed?

10. What was the verdict at the trial?

11. What is Angela doing now?

A few years ago, a TWA jet was making a night flight from New York to Geneva, Switzerland. The plane was high over the Atlantic Ocean when a man with long hair and a beard approached one of the stewardesses and handed her a letter. After looking at it, she immediately went to the cockpit and showed it to the captain.

The message was nineteen pages long. It claimed to be from an organization called the United Revolutionary Soldiers of the Reciprocal Relief Alliance for Peace, Justice and Freedom Everywhere. It said that the plane would be blown up unless a former Nazi leader named Rudolph Hess was let out of jail, the assassin of Robert Kennedy was released, and five other hijackers were freed from their prison cells.

The demands sounded ridiculous, but the pilot could not ignore a threat to blow up the plane when it was seven miles up in the air.

He got on the radio and talked to the ground controllers, and they told him to do exactly what the hijacker's letter told him to do — keep flying toward Geneva.

Back in the cabin, the flight attendants tried to keep things going as they would on a normal flight. They served dinner and then turned down the lights and showed a movie. They tried not to show how nervous they were.

When the plane landed in Switzerland, the pilot parked on the runway and waited for word from the hijacker. Nothing happened. The minutes went by, and no one in the passenger compartment came forward to press the list of demands, and no one threatened to blow up the plane. The pilot didn't know what to do, and neither did the police outside who had been notified to meet the plane.

The passengers sat tensely in their seats, some of them angry because they were missing their connections; some worried about what the people meeting them were thinking; all were wondering what the bearded hijacker would do to them if his demands were not met. The plane sat on the runway like this for seven hours.

Finally a Swiss negotiator and a TWA official came aboard and found that there was no man with a beard and long hair on board! They found a beard, wig, and glasses in one of the toilets. Although the police questioned all the passengers at length, they were unable to find out which one had pulled the hoax.

1. Although the letter seemed ridiculous, what made the pilot nervous?

2. Where did the letter tell the pilot he should fly the plane?

3. Why did the cabin attendants go ahead and show a movie?

4. Why did the pilot and the police wait for many hours after the plane landed?

5. Why were some passengers angry?

6. When did the police know for sure that the passengers were safe?

7. When do you think the hijacker doffed the disguise?

_____ Why? _____

8. Could the hijacker have been a woman?

_____ Why? _____

9. If you were the secret hijacker, what would you have felt like after this?

The town of Graceham, Maryland, is a stopping place for birds as they fly south for the winter and back north for the summer. Just outside the small town there are some nice trees where birds like to rest for the night. Several years ago, the people in the town were amazed by the number of birds that settled in the trees. Every day more blackbirds and starlings and other small birds moved into the trees outside the town. By March there were more than 10,000,000 birds!

During the day, the birds flew around the area trying to find things to eat. When they flew by, people could hardly see the sky there were so many of them. Farmers complained that the birds were picking all the seeds and plants out of their fields and ruining their crops.

Every evening, the birds would fly back to the trees outside the town and spend the night. There were so many birds that their droppings built up a three-inch carpet on the ground under the trees. Doctors in the town were worried that all these droppings might spread diseases in the town if they weren't cleaned up.

Seeing so many birds flying around scared a lot of people. It reminded everyone of a movie that Alfred Hitchcock had made called *The Birds*. In this movie, a town was mysteriously invaded by birds which began to attack people. The birds in Graceham didn't attack people, but they were scary all the same. Everyone wondered why they had come to the town—and when they would leave.

Reporters and TV camera crews came from all over America to take pictures of the birds. People were especially interested in the birds because Graceham is just a few miles from a place in the mountains called Camp David, where the president goes on weekends. Some people thought it might be dangerous for the president to fly in the area in a helicopter.

Finally the people in the town decided to try to get rid of the birds. They didn't want to kill them, so they went out to the trees in the early evening and set up loudspeakers. When the birds came flying in for the night, the people turned on the loudspeakers and played recordings of bird distress calls. The people also fired shotguns, lighted firecrackers, shot flares, shouted, and generally made noise. Most of the birds decided to leave town. But maybe they will be back in the future.

1. Why do birds usually stop in Graceham?

2. Where did the birds stay at night?

3. Why did the birds make the farmers angry?

4. What problem did the birds create in the forest where they spent the night?

5. What was the difference between the birds in Graceham and those in the Alfred Hitchcock movie?

6. Why did so many birds come to the town?

7. What famous place is this town near?

8. How did some people think the birds might endanger the president?

9. Why do you think people played bird distress calls over the loudspeakers?

10. What else did people use to make noise?

11. What happened to the birds?

Monmouth College is a small college in New Jersey. Many of its students live in small clubhouses called fraternities. Every year the new students at the college try to get into these fraternities, but before they can join they have to go through a hazing or initiation. This involves having the young men do something painful, embarrassing, or difficult before they can become members.

Each fraternity has its own initiation. Some fraternities drive new students out into the middle of the countryside, take away all their clothes, and let them find their way home. Other fraternities chain students to trees and let them figure out how to get free. Everyone thinks these initiations are silly, but people keep doing them because they are a tradition.

In November of 1974, five new students were trying to get into the ZBT fraternity at Monmouth College. As an initiation, the members decided that the new students should dig graves and spend the night lying in them. They thought this was very original and quite funny. The new students were very anxious to become members and live in the ZBT house, so they were willing to go along with this idea.

The members took the five new students to a beach by the Atlantic Ocean. They made the new students dig graves for themselves and then lie in the graves looking up at the clouds. One of these new students, nineteen-year-old William Flowers, was the first black to be initiated by the fraternity; it looked as if he would be the first black member.

It rained that night, and the sand was quite wet. While the young men were still lying in their six-foot deep graves, some of the sides started to cave in. William Flowers suddenly found himself buried by heavy, wet sand. He struggled to get free, but the sand was too heavy.

The other students rushed over and tried to dig him out. They got hold of one of his feet and pulled, but the sand was very heavy and wet. They dug frantically with their hands, but they couldn't dig fast enough. Finally they called the police. The police dug the young man out with shovels and rushed him to the nearest hospital, but it was too late. He was dead on arrival.

The students at the fraternity who thought up this idea were taken to court and charged with manslaughter.

1. What is a fraternity?

2. Explain the meaning of hazing or initiation for new members.

3. Give an example of an initiation.

4. What were the five prospective members of ZBT fraternity asked to do?

5. Why did they go along with a ridiculous scheme like this?

6. What was special about one of the five?

7. Why did one of the graves cave in?

8. Why couldn't the students save Flowers?

9. What do you think should happen to the students who thought up this initiation?

10. What do you think of initiations? If you were in charge of a college, what policy would you set?

About 1918 a stunt pilot was putting on a show for an audience in Toronto, Canada. People had been flying planes for only a short time, and everyone was fascinated by this flying machine. After the pilot had done a number of loops, rolls, and other tricks for the crowd, he dove right at the crowd. Everyone screamed, but he pulled the plane up at the last moment. It was all part of the show.

Then the pilot noticed two nurses standing in a field away from the crowd. He aimed his plane at them. One of the women ran for cover, but the other one stood her ground and looked right at the onrushing plane. She didn't move a muscle as it swooped by her. She smiled at the thrill the experience had given her. The woman's name was Amelia Earhart, and she had decided that she would learn to fly.

From the beginning her family tried to talk her out of the idea. They said that flying was for men, that it was too dangerous for women. They convinced her to enroll in medical school in 1920. But being a doctor just didn't appeal to Amelia the way flying did. She dropped out of medical school and started raising the five hundred dollars she needed to take flying lessons. Watching some more stunt fliers and taking one ride in a plane had convinced her to make a living in the air.

Amelia didn't try to get the money from her father; she got several jobs to earn it herself. She also found a woman who could give her lessons—one of the few women pilots in the world at that time. Finally she made a solo flight and got her pilot's license. But she found that there were no jobs for women in the growing world of flying. Male pilots back from World War I had grabbed all the jobs, and most people thought women were too weak and silly to handle the job of being a pilot.

This discrimination bothered Amelia, and she set out to prove that a woman could handle a plane as well as a man could. In 1922 she flew up to 14,000 feet in an open plane (That's almost three miles high!) and set a world record. Soon after that, she tried to break her own record and fly even higher, but her plane flew into snow and ice, and she nearly crashed. When a man back at the airport shouted at her for taking such chances, she was calm and matter of fact. Death didn't seem to scare her.

(continued)

1. Why were people so interested in planes in 1918?

2. What two things can you learn about Amelia Earhart from the incident with the stunt pilot?

3. What was her job at this time?

4. Why was her family against her dream?

5. True or false: There were no women pilots in the world before Amelia Earhart.

6. Why couldn't Amelia get a job as a pilot after she got her pilot's license?

7. What kind of record did she set?

8. What evidence is there in this story that she was a brave person?

9. What evidence is there that she was an independent person?

10. If she had been your sister, what would you have thought about her flying?

Why?

Amelia continued to argue with her family about whether or not she should fly. At one point they convinced her to sell her plane and to get a job as a social worker. Then one day a man asked Amelia if she would like to be the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Charles Lindbergh had flown the Atlantic alone a short time before, but no woman had made the trip. The flight was still very dangerous; it meant flying thousands of miles over open, icy water, with poor radios and unreliable engines. Amelia said yes.

The flight turned out to be a bit of a disappointment for Amelia. Two men did the flying and navigation, and she was just a passenger. Even so when the plane landed in Wales after more than twenty hours of flying, she became a famous person. Her picture was in newspapers all over the world, and she got a tumultuous ticker-tape parade when she returned to New York City. Amelia wrote a book about the flight, made a lot of money, bought her own plane, and flew around the United States making speeches.

However, it bothered her that the flight had made her famous. Someone said that the two men could just as well have taken along a sheep, and she agreed. So Amelia got a plane and set off across the Atlantic alone. A series of things went wrong. A fire started in one engine, and it took her several hours to put it out. The altimeter broke, so she didn't know how high above the water she was. The wings iced up, and the plane went into a spin. Amelia managed to pull out of the spin just before the plane hit the water. Finally, she crossed the coast of Ireland and landed in a pasture. In spite of all the problems, she made the flight in a little less than fifteen hours.

This flight made Amelia more famous than ever. She spent her next years flying, setting records, writing, and getting somewhat involved in politics. She married but maintained her independence. She believed very strongly that women should be able to have careers if they want to.

In 1937 Amelia set off on her most ambitious flight — a 27,000-mile trip around the world in a plane packed with scientific instruments. On the last part of her trip, flying over the Pacific Ocean, her plane disappeared. Despite a massive search, no trace of the plane or of her was ever found. All over the world people mourned her death.

1. Why was flying across the Atlantic such a big deal?

2. How did the flight change Amelia's life?

3. What bothered her about the flight?

4. What did she do to prove herself?

5. What do you think an altimeter does in a plane?

6. What was the scariest thing that happened on her flight?

7. What were Amelia's ideas about marriage?

8. What was Amelia Earhart doing when she disappeared?

9. How do you think her disappearance affected the chances of women getting jobs as pilots?

Why? _____

Living in the mountains of northern Uganda in Africa is a tribe of people called the Ik (pronounced "eek"). Many years ago a man named Colin Turnbull went to live with these people. He became so interested in them that he stayed two years and wrote a book about them called *The Mountain People*.

The thing that amazed Turnbull about the Ik was that they were so mean to him and to each other. They lied to him; they stole from him; they played mean tricks on him and laughed when he got angry. If he had become seriously ill, they would have done everything possible to make him die. If he had died they would have robbed his dead body and left it to rot.

Turnbull watched the Ik as they sat around a fire one night. When a little baby crawled toward the fire, everyone stopped talking and watched the baby, hoping that it would put its hand into the flames. When the baby reached out, got burned, and started crying, the adults laughed and cheered. Only then did the mother pick up her baby; she was smiling too. She was pleased that her baby had gotten so much attention.

Turnbull saw how the Ik treated their old people. When old people got in the way or were eating too much food, they were just pushed over a cliff and left to die. The only time in their lives when the Ik seemed to be healthy was between age fifteen and nineteen. By age twenty-five they looked old, and most of them died well before they reached the age of fifty.

Turnbull saw one boy return home after two years at a Catholic mission school. The first thing that the boy said to his mother was, "Give me food!"

His mother's reply was, "There is no food." Turnbull learned that this was the way the Ik always greeted each other. It was just like our saying, "How are you?" and "Fine!"

Why are the Ik so nasty to each other and to visitors? Is there something different about their brains that makes them this way? After Turnbull had studied these people, he concluded that any human being might act this way if living in the kind of situation that the Ik were in. They once had been hunters, but the government of Uganda had made them settle and be farmers in an area where farming is impossible. Although they have now given this up and have returned to gathering food and to some illegal hunting, there is never enough to eat. The Ik have been cut off from their past customs, and yet they cannot bring themselves to move to other lands where they might be able to survive. They are a dying people, and the strains show in all their human relationships.

1. Think of a word that rhymes with *Ik*.

2. Why did Turnbull stay so long with the Ik?

3. Give some examples of how the Ik treat other people.

4. What did the Ik do when someone got hurt?

5. What happened to old people?

6. How did a twenty-five-year-old Ik look compared to an American the same age?

7. What was the Ik equivalent of "How are you"?

8. What was the usual response to this greeting?

9. Why is food on the Ik's mind so much?

10. How do you think you and the people in your neighborhood would act if there was never enough food?

11. What should be done about the Ik?

When people first began digging for coal and copper underground, they dug long tunnels or mines. The trouble with this method of mining is that it's dangerous for the miners—tunnels may collapse, and explosions may kill people. It also is very expensive. When big bulldozers were invented, someone had a different idea for mining and that was to dig away the dirt which is on top of the coal or copper.

This method of mining is called open pit or strip mining. It is much cheaper and much less dangerous since no one has to go down into a tunnel. But there is a problem; this method of mining completely destroys the countryside. There are only a few strip mining companies which are nice enough to plant new trees and grass and straighten things up after they are finished.

Butte, Montana, used to be one of the biggest and most beautiful cities in that state. When copper was discovered underground near the city, a copper company started mining the copper by digging tunnels. In 1955 the company decided it would be cheaper just to dig a big hole to get the copper out.

The company began its digging outside the city of Butte. The hole got bigger every year. The company kept finding more copper and kept digging, until the hole was a thousand feet deep, a mile long, and more than a mile wide.

Then the copper company realized that there was a lot of copper right under the main part of the city of Butte. In 1961 the company went to the state capital of Montana and got a law passed which gave it the right to put people out of their houses and take over their land, so they could dig for copper.

There was nothing the people of Butte could do. The copper pit had slowly eaten away their city. When the company used dynamite to blast, rocks rained down on people's houses. The company paid a fair price for the houses and land, but the people didn't want to move out. They liked their city.

After a while, people gave up. They decided they would have to sell out to the copper company and move out of Butte and let the city be swallowed up by the copper pit. The people knew that copper was important to the United States, but they had to ask themselves, "Is it *that* important?"

1. What was the earliest method used for getting coal and metals out of the ground?

2. Why was this method dangerous?

3. What is open pit or strip mining?

4. What is the problem with this method?

5. Why did the company dig a hole near Butte?

6. What gave the company the right to take over the city?

7. Why did rocks sometimes come down on houses?

8. Why didn't people want to sell their houses to the company?

9. What is going to happen to Butte?

10. What do you think could have been done to save Butte?

In 1972 Richard Nixon was president. It was an election year, and several Democrats were running against Nixon. It didn't look as if any of the Democrats would be able to beat Nixon.

Even so, Nixon's men didn't want to take any chances on losing. They hired five spies to break into the Democratic Party headquarters in Washington, in a fancy office building called the Watergate. The spies' job was to put hidden microphones called "bugs" in the telephones of a few important people in the Democratic headquarters, so that Nixon's men could listen to their conversations from across the street. All of this is illegal, but the men thought this would help Nixon win the election.

On the night of June 17, 1972, the five men sneaked into the Watergate office building. One of them was a locksmith, and he picked the locks on the doors and put heavy tape over the bolts to keep the doors from locking again, so he wouldn't have to pick them again. The five men were in contact with their lookout who was watching for the police from the Howard Johnson Motel across the street.

After the five spies had taped one of the locks, a young security guard named Frank Wills noticed the tape. He took the tape off and relocked the door. After he left, the spies came back, picked the lock again, and put the tape back on. A few minutes later the security guard checked the door again. When he saw that the tape had been put back again, he got suspicious and called the police.

The police could have roared up to the front door of the Watergate with their sirens and lights going, but they knew that this might give the burglars a chance to escape. Instead the police sent two detectives in an unmarked car. The two cops parked their car normally and walked casually into the Watergate. They were dressed like workmen. The lookout across the street saw them go in, but he didn't guess they were cops.

The two detectives started to search the building, turning on all the lights. When the lookout saw them, he frantically tried to radio his friends. But he couldn't reach them because they had turned off their radios to save the batteries! A few minutes later the police burst into the Democratic headquarters with their guns drawn and arrested the five spies. In the spies' pockets were enough names, addresses, and hundred-dollar bills to allow the authorities to trace the break-in straight to Nixon's men in the White House. In the end, Nixon had to resign from the presidency because of the way he handled this affair.

1. Why was 1972 an important year for President Nixon?

2. If Nixon was ahead, why did his men want to spy illegally on the Democrats?

3. What does it mean to "bug" a telephone?

4. Why did the five men tape the locks?

5. How were the spies supposed to have been warned if the police came?

6. What made the security guard call the police?

7. Why didn't the lookout know that the police had arrived?

8. Why couldn't the lookout warn the spies after he spotted the police?

9. What happened to the five men?

10. How did the police discover that the men were working for Nixon?

Some areas in the southern part of California have very little water. The city of Los Angeles brings most of its water through pipes from a long distance away. In the future, it may be difficult for some cities in California to get enough water to supply the people who live in them.

A while ago some people had a new idea for getting water to these cities. Near the South Pole is the continent of Antarctica, which is the coldest part of our planet. The ocean around Antarctica is filled with huge floating icebergs. Along the coast of Antarctica there are millions of tons of ice. This ice would make fresh water if it were melted.

These icebergs are thousands of miles from California, but some people think there is a way to move them north. Here is their plan.

First, boats would go down to Antarctica and choose some icebergs. They might have to use dynamite to break off pieces small enough because some of the icebergs are bigger than the state of Connecticut! Then people would put huge plastic covers over the icebergs to keep the sun from melting them.

Long ropes would be tied around the icebergs, and very powerful boats would then pull them north. The icebergs would be so heavy that the boats would not be able to move them much faster than one mile an hour. So it would take a long time to get to California. By moving slowly and by using plastic covers over the top, most of the iceberg wouldn't melt. The tow boats would have to be nuclear-powered, otherwise they would use too much oil, and the operation would be too expensive.

When the icebergs arrive in California, they would be anchored off the coast and big machines would break off chunks of ice and put them onto a conveyor belt. This would carry them to a place where they would be melted into water. Another area would be used to make sure the water didn't have any germs in it. Finally the water that started as ice frozen millions of years ago in Antarctica would come out of the faucets of houses all over California.

This is all a dream now, but some day it may actually happen. The main problem is building boats powerful enough to do the towing.

1. Why are people trying to think up new ways of getting fresh water to California?

2. Where do people think they can get the water?

3. If you melt an iceberg, do you get salty water or fresh water?

4. What would dynamite be used for?

5. Why would the icebergs be covered with plastic?

6. Why couldn't the boats move faster than one mile an hour?

7. Why wouldn't oil-powered boats be used?

8. What would happen to the icebergs in California?

9. Right now what is the problem with moving icebergs?

10. Can you think of other problems?

Anne Reeves is a young woman who graduated from Cornell University a few years ago. She got a good job with a company in New Canaan, Connecticut. It was a time when there was a good deal of unemployment, so Anne was delighted to get the job. She and her husband, Don, got ready to move to New Canaan with their belongings.

When Anne called the landlady of the apartment she and Don planned to rent, she sensed that something was wrong. The woman asked Anne whether she was from out of town, and then said, "You have a slight accent. Is your skin. . .?" Anne told the landlady that she was white, but it wasn't until she went to meet the landlady and her husband in person that they allowed her to rent the apartment.

A few days later, Don rented a van and drove their belongings from Cornell to New Canaan. As he was waiting for his wife outside her office, seven police cars surrounded him. The police officers got out and asked him all kinds of questions, such as what was his name, his wife's name, the address of their apartment. The only reason Don could think of to explain this sudden attention from the police was that he was black. Apparently the people of New Canaan, Connecticut, a wealthy community with very few black residents, were very uptight about black people moving in.

When Anne got out of work, she and Don drove to their new apartment, and all the way they were watched by the police. As they were unloading the van, their landlady and her husband arrived. They offered to pay the Reeves back their down payment on the apartment and also to pay for the rental of their van if they would leave immediately. The landlady said she didn't want to "further disturb the neighbors."

Anne and Don were stunned. As an interracial couple, they had confronted prejudice before, but never anything like this. Once they had been told by the police not to kiss in a public park. Another time eight police cars had surrounded them as they sat in their car in front of Anne's mother's house in another Connecticut town. But in this case, the landlady was clearly breaking the laws against racial discrimination by trying to get them to give up the apartment because Don was a black man.

Anne and Don Reeves wanted the apartment because it was close to her job. They were not trying to make a political statement, or to integrate the community of New Canaan. They only wanted to live in peace and be left alone.

1. Why did Anne and Don Reeves want to move to New Canaan?

2. Why was Anne especially happy to get the job?

3. Why was the landlady hesitant at first to rent her the apartment?

4. What convinced the landlady to rent the apartment?

5. Why do you think Don was surrounded by police officers?

6. Do you think the police had the right to ask Don questions?
_____ Why? _____

7. Why was the landlady willing to pay back the rent deposit and pay the van rental?

8. What law was the landlady breaking?

9. Why do you think the people of New Canaan were uptight about a black man moving in?

10. What do you think the Reeves should have done?

Early in 1977 a group of ten women who had done a lot of mountain climbing decided to try to climb Annapurna I, the tenth highest mountain in the world. All the women had jobs (artist, biochemist, computer scientist, doctor, professor) but were willing to take time off. They wanted to be the first women and the first Americans to conquer the 26,504-foot mountain in the Himalayas.

The first problem was getting the eighty thousand dollars needed to finance the expedition. The women put their heads together and decided to sell tee-shirts with a funny slogan on the front. They very quickly sold 10,000 of them. They got the rest of the money from the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. By August of 1977 they had flown themselves and six tons of food, climbing equipment, cameras, tents, sleeping bags, and other supplies halfway around the world to Nepal.

The next problem was getting the food and equipment to the base of the mountain. There were no roads, so the women hired 250 men to help them carry their provisions across eighty miles of rocky, icy terrain until they were in the shadow of the gigantic peak. Having paid their porters, they got ready for fifty more days of climbing. The base camp was already 14,000 feet above sea level, but they still had two miles to go—straight up!

Arlene Blum, the leader of the ten women, had studied maps and photographs of Annapurna and had figured out where their route would take them. She knew that they would have to set up five more camps as they inched up the mountain, slowly carrying all the food and equipment from one camp to the next. She knew that they would do the equivalent of climbing the mountain three times with all the back-and-forth climbing and carrying of supplies. In the end, she knew that only four or five of the ten women would be able to reach the summit. The rest of them were there to put those four or five women up to the fifth camp, so they could make the final assault on the summit.

From the beginning, the climb was much scarier and more dangerous than they had expected. The reason was that there were frequent avalanches. The only warning of an avalanche was a distant rumbling before tons of snow and ice would roar down the side of the mountain. Several times, it was only by running fast to one side that members of the expedition escaped being buried alive.

(continued)

1. Why do you think they chose Annapurna I?

2. What was special about the group climbing this mountain?

3. Why was the climb so expensive? List some of the things the group had to pay for.

4. Why did they need the help of 250 men?

5. Why did they have to climb the mountain in stages?

6. Explain what made the climb especially dangerous.

7. Do you think one person could make this climb alone?

_____ Why? _____

8. Do you think the women are going to make it to the top?

_____ Why? _____

Every time an avalanche roared down the mountain, the climbers felt like tiny flies on a gigantic white wall. They could hear the dull, distant roar and see the clouds of snow rising above them. Once an avalanche stopped just short of a group of climbers, but the wind, pushed in front of the tons of snow, knocked one woman twenty feet through the air.

Whenever Arlene Blum climbed across a part of the mountain where she knew an avalanche might sweep by, she paused to ask herself a disturbing question: If I wait for half an hour, will that save my life—or get me killed? In the end she told herself, “If I die, I die!” and pushed on. Miraculously, none of the climbers was buried under an avalanche.

They climbed in teams of four, two women and two Sherpa guides who knew the mountain well. They kept in touch by radio and also were watched through binoculars by people at the base camp. Slowly, over a period of weeks, the climbers set up one camp after another and hiked back and forth carrying forty-five-pound packs of equipment and food. Some parts of the climb involved walking along a four-inch-wide crest with a drop of hundreds of feet on both sides. They tried not to look down. They were afraid, but they pushed on.

At one point, the Sherpa guides announced that they were quitting. They said they didn’t like the avalanches or the equipment, and they stomped off down the mountain. Arlene Blum had to climb down to the base camp and offer them more money to continue the climb.

Finally, two women and two Sherpas reached the fifth camp and began the final assault on the summit. A third woman who was going to try for the top had a frostbitten finger and had to turn back, or she would have lost her finger. The four who were going to the top put on oxygen masks to help them breathe in the extremely thin air. They struggled foot by foot up the final slope. At last they were there, 26,504 feet above sea level, on top of Annapurna I. They pitched three flags. When the women below saw the flags, they cried with joy.

Several days later, two other women in the group tried for the summit and fell to their deaths. The eight remaining women were stunned; all the excitement from the victory was drained out of them. At the bottom of the mountain, they carved the names of their friends in a rock with the names of seven men who had been killed on the mountain in previous years.

1. How did the avalanche knock a woman down without the snow and ice touching her?

2. Explain how waiting a few minutes could have gotten Arlene killed.

3. What two methods did the climbers use to keep in touch with each other?

4. Why did the Sherpa guides quit? Give two possible reasons.

(a) _____

(b) _____

5. What convinced the guides to rejoin the climb?

6. Why did the climbers need oxygen masks?

7. How many climbers reached the summit?

8. What tragedy marred the expedition?

9. How many people have died on Annapurna I?

10. Do you think the expedition was worth the cost and the two deaths?

_____ Why? _____

In early September of 1975, President Ford visited California. He had several speeches to give and meetings to go to. He wanted to see the people of California to convince them to vote for him in the 1976 elections.

He got up one sunny morning in the state capital of Sacramento, had breakfast, and walked out of his hotel. He was on his way to the capitol building for a meeting with Governor Jerry Brown. As President Ford came outside, a large crowd applauded him. The people seemed friendly and glad to see him, and Ford shook some hands and walked on through the streets.

As he walked, Secret Service agents walked on all sides of him, watching the crowd and the buildings around for possible assassins. The Secret Service have been very nervous about guarding presidents since John Kennedy was killed in 1963.

The Secret Service are especially nervous when a president goes out in crowds of people. They never know who might be lurking in a crowd with a gun. The guards had always tried to keep the president away from the crowds. But President Ford wouldn't listen to them. As a politician he wanted people to see and touch him and wanted them to think he was a regular guy.

On this day as President Ford walked past the crowd shaking hands, a woman in a red dress reached into her purse and pulled out a .45 pistol and pointed it at President Ford from two feet away and pulled the trigger. The president saw the gun and then heard a loud click. His face turned completely white, and he dodged away.

At the same instant, the Secret Service saw the woman and jumped her. More Secret Service people surrounded the president, pushed him down low, and rushed him out of the area. The guards who jumped the woman wrestled the gun out of her hand, handcuffed her, and arrested her on the spot for attempted murder.

When she was brought to trial, she claimed that she knew that the gun wasn't loaded when she pulled the trigger. She said that she only wanted to scare President Ford and get publicity for some of her ideas. (She was a member of the Manson family.) But the jury didn't believe her story. There *were* bullets in the gun, but she hadn't cocked the gun properly, so no bullets had fired. The jury decided that she had intended to kill President Ford, but had failed to do so because she did not know how to work the gun. They gave her life in prison.

1. There are two words in the second paragraph that sound the same but are spelled two different ways. What are these two words?

2. Why doesn't the Secret Service like crowd situations?

3. Do you think the president is smart to keep going into crowds?

Why?

4. What was President Ford's reaction when he saw the gun?

5. Why weren't the Secret Service people able to prevent this occurrence?

6. Why would you say that Ford was lucky?

7. How did the women try to get out of the charge?

8. Why didn't the jury believe her story?

9. Think of some ways that important people might be protected from assassination attempts.

In December of 1975 in New York City, a sad event was about to take place. A home for handicapped old people was going to close down because it had run out of money. This home helped about fifty old people who were in wheelchairs. It dealt with their medical problems, and it also helped them with the most difficult problem old people have to face—loneliness. The home gave the old people the chance to get together and talk to each other.

Everyone in the home was very sad. For the past year the people who ran the home had been trying to get the government in Washington to give them money to stay open, but they had failed. Plans were made to close down, and the old people were faced with the prospect of living alone—without the help and friendships they had found in the home.

A reporter from the *New York Times* came to interview the people in charge of the home, and the next day the story came out in the newspaper. One of the New York television stations picked it up and put it on the evening news program. Although many people heard the broadcast, most figured they couldn't do anything to stop the home from closing down.

However, Muhammad Ali, then the heavyweight boxing champion of the world, heard the TV news in New York and decided to do something about the home. He called the TV station and asked for the address of the home for handicapped old people. The next day he and some of his friends drove up and knocked on the door.

"I understand you need a lot of money to stay open," said Ali. "Why don't you stay open? I'll give it to you." With that, he made arrangements for \$150,000 to be taken out of one of his bank accounts and given to the home. Some of the people in the home were so happy they started to cry. Many of the old people crowded around Ali and hugged and kissed him. There were tears in the champion's eyes.

A few days later, the old people at the home had a party to celebrate. There was an enormous cake with candy boxing gloves and Muhammad Ali's name written on it. The old people had invited Ali, but he didn't come. He said he didn't want it to seem as if he had given the money just to get publicity. When he heard that there would be reporters and photographers at the party, he stayed away. The old people in that home will never forget what Ali did for them.

1. Why were people in the home so sad?

2. Where had they tried to get more money?

3. What would the old people miss most when the home shut down?

4. How did Ali hear about the home's problem?

5. What did the champion do?

6. Where do you think Ali's money was earned?

7. Why did people in the home cry?

8. Think of a few words to describe the way Ali acted in giving this money.

9. Why didn't Ali go to the party?

10. If you had millions of dollars like Muhammad Ali, would you give money away like this?

Why? _____

For more than fifteen years, George Keverian of Everett, Massachusetts, had lived with embarrassment and shame. He weighed 419 pounds, and everywhere he went he was reminded of his obesity. When he was thirty-four years old he took a plane trip and was unable to buckle the seat belt around his waist. The flight attendant had to get an extension for the belt; George was so embarrassed that he vowed never to fly on a plane again.

There were many other things George was unable to do because of his weight problem. He couldn't go to baseball, basketball, or hockey games because he couldn't fit into the narrow seats at the stadiums where the games were played. Everywhere he went, he felt the stares and snickers of passers-by. George knew that he needed to go on a diet, but he just couldn't seem to stop eating huge meals of steak, potatoes, pizza, and fattening foods. He continued to stuff himself with cans of cashew nuts and packages of cookies between meals.

Despite his weight problem, George Keverian was a successful man. He was elected to the Massachusetts Legislature by the people of Everett, a city near Boston, and he rose to be the House majority leader, an important and powerful position. But as he became better known and began to get his picture in the newspapers, George's embarrassment over his obesity increased.

Finally he decided that enough was enough. He said, "You reach a point where you go one way or the other. You either lose it [control] completely, or you get ahold of yourself." He had heard about a new kind of medically-supervised diet, and he went to the clinic determined to succeed.

Beginning in February of 1980, George ate no food at all. He drank a mixture of water and amino acid (a chemical that supplies most of the body's needs), and occasionally he drank black coffee or diet tonic. Like the other patrons of the diet clinic, his fast was supervised by doctors to make sure that it was not endangering his health.

Giving up eating was extremely difficult. It was like giving up a drug which one has been addicted to for years. But George gritted his teeth and stuck with the diet. Within a week he had lost nineteen pounds. A few weeks later he had lost sixty pounds. He was very excited by his progress, but he had another frustration: he had been so obese that no one noticed the change.

1. What made George Keverian embarrassed to go out in public?

2. Why did he vow never to fly on a plane again?

3. Why couldn't he go to a baseball game at the stadium?

4. What kinds of food increased his weight?

5. What evidence is there that George's obesity didn't stop him from being successful?

6. What three things was he allowed to ingest on his diet?

7. Why was it important that doctors supervise the diet?

8. In the last paragraph, giving up eating for George is compared to giving up what for others?

9. Do you think George will succeed in his diet?

Why? _____

(continued)

Even after he had lost sixty pounds, friends couldn't see any real difference in his size. They would ask him whether he'd had a haircut or gotten a new suit, saying that he looked a bit different. But they didn't notice the weight he was shedding. This was the most difficult part of the diet for George, but he didn't give up. He got lots of support from his friends and the people who worked with him in the legislature. They told him that he could do it, that he could reach his goal of weighing what he had weighed in high school.

Late in 1980, there was a long debate in the Massachusetts Legislature. Because the Speaker of the House was out of town, George Keeverian was in charge. He insisted that the members of the house work until they had solved the problem of where to find more money for the public transportation system. He wouldn't let them go out for lunch or dinner and kept them debating for hours.

Finally the representative from the town of Wellesley couldn't stand it any more. He shouted angrily about how cruel Keeverian was, how the members of the House hadn't eaten for hours, and how desperately hungry they all were. Keeverian looked coldly down from the dais and said, "The chairman has not eaten since February. The chairman does not plan on eating until next January. When the chairman does eat, the first thing I am going to eat is the town of Wellesley." Everyone laughed, the debate continued, and the issue was resolved.

George lost pound after pound, and finally in February of 1981, a full year after he had begun the diet, he broke his fast. He had a meal of broiled fish and salad, and continued to eat a carefully controlled diet with no fattening foods and lots of celery and radishes.

George had surpassed his goal. He weighed 178 pounds — two pounds less than he had weighed in high school. His suit size had gone from a 64 to a 44. His belt size had gone from 60 inches to 38 inches. His shirt size had gone from 22 to 16 1/2. He felt like a new man; he was healthier, happier, and very proud of himself. He was no longer embarrassed to walk around in public. He got compliments from everyone on how handsome he looked. When he was invited to a dinner at the White House in Washington, he was able to accept because he knew he could fly there on the plane. For the first time in fifteen years, he boarded a plane, and as he buckled the seat belt around his slim waist, he knew just how far he had come.

Unfortunately, George Keeverian was not able to keep his weight down. During the next ten years, he re-gained much of what he had struggled so hard to lose.

1. Why did some people ask George whether he'd had a haircut?

2. Why were comments like this frustrating to George?

3. Why didn't George let the other legislators out for a meal?

4. Why was the representative from Wellesley so upset?

5. Why did George say he was going to eat the town of Wellesley?

6. What does *broke his fast* mean?

7. How much weight had George lost? _____

8. Did he reach his goal? _____

9. Name two ways his life changed after the diet.

(a) _____

(b) _____

10. Why was flying to Washington such a big deal for George?

11. What do you think will happen to George in the future?

There are millions of people in the area around New York City. Those people make a lot of sewage (from their toilets, sinks, washing machines), and that sewage has to go somewhere. Years ago the government thought it would be all right to load the stuff onto barges and dump it a few miles out in the ocean. For many years this is where most of the sewage from New York City went.

However at the end of 1973, some scientists went out in a boat to the place where the sewage had been dumped. They found that the ocean in that area was a dead sea with almost no fish in the water and no plants on the bottom. The sea water itself was disgusting; it was sometimes blue, sometimes brown, and sometimes almost black. There was junk floating all around on the surface.

The scientists lowered special containers into the water and scooped up samples of what was on the bottom of the ocean. They found that it was covered with a horrible black stuff like grease. When they took this stuff back and looked at it carefully (holding their noses as they did so), they found that the black stuff contained many disease-producing bacteria.

The scientists continued scooping up samples from the bottom of the ocean. They found that the black muck on the bottom had spread very close to the beaches of Long Island, where thousands of people swim every summer. The scientists warned the government that if it didn't stop dumping sewage in the area, the dangerous black goo would come into the beaches and spread horrible diseases among the swimmers.

While this great, people-made sea monster was creeping toward the beaches, the government did some fast thinking about what to do. Where else could they get rid of so much sewage? They decided that the thing to do was to take the sewage even further out into the ocean and dump it.

The trouble was that the old barges that carried the sewage couldn't go out very far into the ocean — they might sink in the big waves. So New York City had to think of another way of getting rid of the sewage — or else they needed to build a whole new fleet of boats to dump the waste out in the ocean. Finally, the government came up with another idea. They decided that by the end of 1991 all the sludge would have to be incinerated or used in landfill.

1. Where does the sewage come from?

2. Where has New York City dumped its sewage for years?

3. How did it get out there?

4. Why is that area a "dead sea"?

5. What colors does the water turn there?

6. How did the scientists find out what was on the bottom in the dumping area?

7. What did they find on the bottom?

8. Why was this stuff dangerous?

9. What was the "monster" getting close to?

10. Why would this be dangerous?

11. Why couldn't the city take the sewage farther out to sea as soon as they got the idea?

12. What is the latest plan for getting rid of the sludge?

Rosa McCauley was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1913, and she moved to the capital city of Montgomery when she was still young. At that time there were many laws in the southern part of the United States which said that black people had to be treated differently from white people. These laws made Rosa angry. For instance black people were not allowed to eat at the lunch counters in the stores in Montgomery, and black children had to go to different schools from white children. There were separate elevators and drinking fountains with signs that said, "Whites Only" and "Colored Only."

What made Rosa maddest were the buses that she rode every day. The seats at the front were reserved for white people. When black people rode on a city bus, they had to get on to pay the fare, get off, walk back to the middle door, get back on, and then they could take their seats in the "Colored Only" section. If all the front seats were taken when a white person got on, the bus driver would walk back and tell a black person to give up a seat, so the white person could sit down.

Rosa and other black people in Montgomery hated these laws, but they were afraid to do anything about them. Some white men who belonged to a secret organization called the Ku Klux Klan were ready to bully and even to kill any black people who showed any sign of "causing trouble." There didn't seem to be any way to change the laws which treated black and white people differently.

Rosa married a barber named Raymond Parks and got a job in a department store downtown. She joined the NAACP, an organization which tried to advance the cause of black people, but she didn't see much progress. She became so annoyed with the laws in her city that she stopped using elevators, drinking fountains, and buses, so she wouldn't feel like a second-class citizen all the time. Even though it meant walking more and being thirsty on hot days, Rosa Parks felt a little better.

Then one day in December of 1955, Rosa decided she was too tired to walk and would ride the bus home. She got on, paid her fare, got off, walked to the middle door, got on, and sat in the "Colored Only" section. A few blocks later, all the seats were taken up front when a white man got on. The bus driver came back and told Rosa to give the man her seat. She looked up and quietly refused to get up. The driver warned her that she would be arrested if she didn't give up her seat. She continued to sit.

(continued)

1. What made Rosa angry about the laws in her city?

2. In what places were the laws for black people different?

3. Why couldn't black people sit in the front part of city buses?

4. Why were black people afraid to challenge the laws they thought were unfair?

5. Why did Rosa climb more stairs, drink less water, and walk more miles?

6. Why did she decide to ride the bus one day?

7. Why did the driver threaten to have her arrested?

8. What would you have done at this point?
_____ Why? _____

Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in the bus to the white man, and she was arrested by two police officers. She was taken to the station house, photographed, fingerprinted, and put in a jail cell. Several hours later, the head of the NAACP came and bailed her out. They both went to meet with leading black people in the city to decide what to do. Everyone at the meeting agreed that the bus situation was outrageous, and that on top of the unfair system, bus drivers were often rude to black passengers. One black man had even been beaten by a driver. But what could be done?

Someone suggested a boycott; why not refuse to ride the buses until the company changed its system and treated black people with respect? Everyone agreed to give it a try, and they spread the word around the city that people should not ride the buses. On the Monday of Rosa Parks's trial, the boycott was a complete success; no black people rode the buses, and the company lost hundreds of dollars.

But in court things didn't go so well. Rosa was found guilty. Her lawyer said he would appeal to a higher court and would take the case all the way to the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., if necessary because the United States Constitution says that all Americans should be treated equally.

In the months that followed, the lawyers battled in court, and the boycott continued. Martin Luther King, Jr., emerged as a leader and helped keep people together. Rosa Parks, who had been fired from her job, worked answering telephones, making speeches, raising money, and helping people get to work in car pools, in horse-drawn carts, even on mules! The Ku Klux Klan tried to intimidate the boycotters, throwing things at the people as they walked to work and fire-bombing the house of some of the leaders. But the boycott continued through the winter, spring, summer, and fall.

Finally the case reached the Supreme Court. The lawyers on both sides argued their cases, and in November of 1956, the justices handed down their decision. It said that laws which treated some Americans differently from others because of color were illegal. The bus company had to change its rules.

The black people of Montgomery were jubilant, and Rosa Parks took a triumphant ride on a bus in which she paid her fare, walked straight back, and sat where she pleased. No one would ever again tell her to give up her seat.

1. Why was Rosa Parks arrested?

2. What besides the unfair system angered black people about the buses?

3. What is a boycott?

4. Why was this boycott hard on the bus company?

5. Why did Rosa's lawyer appeal the decision?

6. Why was boycotting dangerous in Montgomery?

7. What forced the bus company to change its rules?

8. Why was Rosa Parks's action so important?

9. If people think a law is unfair, what do you think they should do?

In August of 1991, a Greek cruise ship named the *Oceanos* sailed from England to Durban, South Africa, with 571 passengers and crew members. When the ship was off the Wild Coast of South Africa, about 200 miles from its destination, the engine suddenly stopped. The *Oceanos* tossed about in thirty-foot waves and began to sink. Everyone was terrified. The ship was several miles from the coast, and it was the middle of the night.

The man in charge of the ship, Captain Avranas, radioed an SOS and gave the order to abandon ship. People began to get into the lifeboats and liferafts, struggling to get off before the ship sank. When the evacuation of the ship was about half finished, with 225 people still on board, Captain Avranas and his officers got into a lifeboat and left. When people saw this, they were furious. There is a long-standing tradition at sea that when a boat is sinking, the captain goes down with the ship, or at least waits until everyone has been saved before he gets off himself. People thought the captain was acting like a coward.

The *Oceanos* tossed in the wild waves, and people huddled on the sloping deck hoping and praying for rescue. A magician named Robin Bolton and some other performers who were on the ship to entertain the passengers tried to cheer people up by having them sing songs. When helicopters appeared overhead, Robin saw that a string of lights in the ship's rigging was keeping the helicopters from lowering ropes down to the passengers. He shimmied up the mast and cut the lights down. Then the helicopters began to lift passengers one by one to safety. But would all the passengers get off before the ship sank?

Tim and Jenny Rooney, who had been married for more than thirty years, insisted that their two sons go before them. They watched a helicopter leave with their sons as the ship settled lower and lower in the water. Soon another helicopter arrived, and they were saved too.

After hours of hard, dangerous work, all the passengers and crew members were off the ship. Robin Bolton was the last to leave, but not before he freed canaries from a cage and put the ship's dog, Cooper, into a lifeboat. A short time later, the *Oceanos* plunged to the ocean bottom.

1. Where was the *Oceanos* when its engine stopped?

2. Why were people terrified?

3. How did the first passengers get off the ship?

4. Why were people so angry at the captain?

5. Who tried to cheer up the passengers as they waited for rescue?

6. What prevented the helicopters from rescuing the passengers at first?

7. Describe how the helicopters rescued people from the heaving deck?

8. How would you describe the Rooneys?

9. How many people died in the sinking?

10. How would you describe Robin Bolton's actions?

Professor Higgins, a rich Englishman, was a bachelor and lived with a lot of servants in a big house in London. He liked to study the way people talk. He was such an expert on accents that he could tell exactly where someone came from after hearing that person speak only a few words.

One evening when he was waiting for a taxi outside a theater, he ran into an old friend, Colonel Pickering. Both of them stood listening to a young woman who was trying to sell flowers. The woman was very poor, and Higgins remarked that her English was dreadful. "Why can't the English teach their children how to speak?" he asked.

Then he and Pickering made a bet. Higgins bet that he could take this young woman (named Eliza) and teach her how to speak proper English, and then that he could fool a lot of wealthy, upper-class people into thinking Eliza was from the upper class too. Professor Higgins thought that the English judged people by how they talked, and he wanted to prove that he could fool people into thinking that a flower girl was a lady.

The two men took Eliza to Higgins's house, the servants gave her a bath (the first one she had ever had), and then Higgins began to teach her how to speak proper English. It turned out to be a lot harder than Higgins thought it would be. When he asked her to say, "The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain," she said, "The rine in Spine stys minely in the pline."

They worked with her for weeks and weeks, and Higgins was about to give up. But then late one night, Eliza suddenly made a breakthrough. After that she learned very quickly because she was a very smart woman. She even began to like the two men.

To test her out, Higgins took her to Ascot, a horse race where all the upper-class people in London went. Eliza was fine until she got excited about her horse's losing and shouted at the top of her voice, "Move your bloody _____!" Everyone was shocked.

She had more lessons, and when the men took her to the Embassy Ball (a dance for all the society people), everyone thought that Eliza was a princess.

Right after her great success, Eliza ran away because Higgins had been treating her so poorly. This made him realize that he loved her. She came back, and they were married.

1. How could Higgins tell where a person came from?

2. Was Higgins married? _____

3. What did Higgins think was wrong with the woman selling flowers?

4. How did Higgins want to change Eliza?

5. Who did he want to trick into thinking she was born rich?

6. How did Eliza say her long-*a* sounds?

7. What did it mean that Eliza made a "breakthrough" on her lessons?

8. What did she do wrong at Ascot?

9. What happened at the Embassy Ball?

10. What kind of people were at Ascot and the Embassy Ball?

11. Who won the bet? _____

12. Why did Eliza run away?

13. What had happened between Eliza and Higgins over the months when he was teaching her?

*Musical adaptation by Alan J. Lerner (words) and Frederick Loewe (music), based on the play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw.

The story opened on the streets of New York City, where there was very little heroin available for sale. The word had gone around that a new shipment was about to come in. A wealthy Frenchman had just received the raw material from the poppy fields of Turkey. His men were making it into heroin in their secret factory there.

They made about forty pounds of heroin, which would be worth twenty-five million dollars on the streets of New York. They put the white powder into small plastic bags, and then hid the bags inside a brand-new Lincoln Continental. Then they put the car onto an ocean liner to make the trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

The police in New York knew that a shipment of heroin was supposed to come in, and they were suspicious of the new Lincoln Continental when it was taken off the boat. But when they searched it, they couldn't find the heroin—the smugglers had done a very good job of hiding it. The police had to let the car go.

One New York police officer decided to follow the car. He was sure that there was heroin inside it somewhere. He followed the car, hoping to catch the smugglers when they took the heroin out of the car and sold it to the pushers. This police officer was called Popeye by his friends because he was so big and strong.

The heroin smugglers noticed that Popeye was following them and decided to get rid of him. One day when Popeye was walking to his house, a rifle bullet just missed him, but it killed the lady beside him. Popeye saw the man who fired at him and chased him all over New York City. The man got on a subway train, and Popeye followed the train in a car. When the train reached the end of the line, Popeye shot and killed the man who tried to kill him.

The police were now sure there must be heroin inside the Lincoln Continental somewhere, so they took it into the police garage and took the car completely apart. At first they couldn't find anything, but finally they found where the heroin was hidden. They put the heroin back, put the car back together, and gave it back to the smugglers pretending they didn't find anything.

Then they set a trap to catch the smugglers as they were selling the heroin to the pushers. There was a gun battle, and most of the smugglers were killed or caught. But the rich Frenchman managed to escape.

1. Where did the raw materials for the heroin come from?

2. Where was the secret factory to make heroin located?

3. How did the smugglers get the forty pounds of heroin into the United States?

4. Why were the New York police suspicious of the Lincoln Continental?

5. Why did they let the car go?

6. Why did Popeye follow the car?

7. Why did the smugglers try to kill Popeye?

8. How did an innocent person get killed?

9. What happened to the man who shot at Popeye?

10. What did the police find inside the Lincoln?

11. What happened to the smugglers?

*From the book *French Connection: The World's Most Crucial Narcotics Investigation* by Robin Moore.

The coast of Norway, a country in northern Europe, is made up of fjords, which are deep inlets from the ocean. Some of the fjords are more than six hundred feet deep and extend inland for miles, with steep mountains rising up on either side.

One night in November several years ago, a fisherman was out in his boat collecting his fishing nets from the waters of a fjord when suddenly he saw something moving under the water. He looked more closely and saw that it wasn't a fish but something made out of metal and glass. Deeper in the water he saw a large, dark object moving by.

Then the fisherman realized what it was—the glass and metal part was a periscope, and under it was a submarine. He rowed his boat to the shore of the fjord as quickly as he could and told the police. He knew something must be wrong.

The navy of Norway sent out boats to investigate, and they found the submarine by using a kind of underwater radar called sonar. They were able to tell from the sonar that it was a Soviet submarine.

The submarine had no business being there. It was more than a hundred miles inside Norway and was obviously trying to spy on Norway by putting up an antenna and listening to the radio signals. The submarine was probably trying to collect information that would be useful if there were ever a war between Norway and the Soviet Union.

The Norwegian navy ships decided to try to force the Soviet submarine to come up to the surface. First they dropped hand grenades (small bombs) into the water near the sub. But it didn't come up. Instead the submarine went deeper and tried to escape to the ocean.

So the Norwegian ships followed the sub and dropped a larger underwater bomb called a depth charge, which is specially designed to blow up a submarine. They didn't drop it too close because they didn't want to destroy the sub, only scare the captain into coming up.

But the Soviets in the sub didn't want to come up. It would be very embarrassing for them to be caught a hundred miles inside another country. Even though the sub was running out of air and food, it stayed on the bottom. Finally the Norwegians decided to let it escape to the ocean. And that's what it did. The Norwegian government sent a letter of protest to the Soviets, but they never got an apology.

1. What is a fjord? _____

2. What was the man doing out in a boat at night?

3. What was moving under the fisherman's boat?

4. How could the navy find a sub under water at night?

5. Why did the Soviet submarine sneak a hundred miles into Norway?

6. Why did the Norwegians drop hand grenades near the submarine?

7. What is a depth charge?

8. Why didn't the Soviet sub come up to the surface?

9. Why do you think the Norwegians didn't want to blow up the submarine?

10. What happened to the submarine?

11. How do you think the Soviet sailors felt while this was going on?

On August 1, 1963, two young black men, Freddie Pitts and Willie Lee, were driving along a country road in Florida with some friends. They stopped at a gas station in a small town, and while the car was being filled up, Pitts and Lee got into an argument with the two white men who ran the station. The argument was over a "Whites Only" sign on the bathroom door. The black men didn't think it was fair. After the car had been filled up, they drove away.

Three days later, the bodies of the two men who ran the gas station were found. Both had been shot to death. People remembered the argument and figured that Pitts and Lee had had a reason to kill the two men, so the black men were arrested. A woman who claimed to have seen the murder identified Pitts and another man as the killers. When the other man came up with an alibi, she changed her story and said it was Pitts and Lee.

The two men were charged with first degree murder. Between the time of their arrest and their trial, both men confessed that they had murdered the two filling-station attendants. When their trial began, they admitted their guilt, and they were both sentenced to death.

The next twelve years Freddie Pitts and Willie Lee spent in a Florida jail on death row. They were not executed immediately because the Supreme Court in Washington was in the process of deciding whether executing people for murder was fair and legal. The two men never knew when they might die.

While they were in jail, a reporter named Miller became interested in their case and began to investigate. He found out that the woman who claimed to have seen the murder had changed her story again. Now she said that the police had forced her to name Pitts and Lee as the killers when in fact it was not they. She said the police were prejudiced against black people and were anxious to get the case out of the way quickly.

The reporter also found out that another man had confessed to the killings. When the reporter asked Pitts and Lee why *they* had confessed to the murders if they hadn't committed them, they told him that the police had beaten them and forced them to confess.

The reporter wrote a book on the Pitts and Lee case. When the governor of Florida heard about it, he investigated and in September of 1975 released both men from jail. Pitts and Lee were happy to be free again but bitter at what had happened to them. They had lost twelve years of their lives.

1. What was the argument about?

2. How did the argument get Pitts and Lee in trouble?

3. What does it mean that the other man had an *alibi*?

4. What happened at the trial of Pitts and Lee?

5. What did the reporter find out about the woman's story?

6. Why had the police made her tell the story?

7. Why had Pitts and Lee confessed to the killings?

8. What convinced the governor to free the men?

9. Do you think the two men are innocent?

_____ Why? _____

Philip Weld lived near Boston with his family. One of his favorite hobbies was sailing, and so he bought an expensive sixty-foot sailboat called a trimaran. This is a boat with three hulls, held together by a deck on top of them. He planned to sail the boat alone in a race across the Atlantic Ocean. But first he had to sail the boat to Europe where the race was to begin.

He hired a young man named Bill Stevens to sail with him on the boat across the three-thousand-mile ocean. They sailed from the island of Bermuda one April. They ran into some stormy weather, but the sailboat was large enough for them not to be too worried. On the night of Tuesday, April 27, Philip Weld took one more look around at the ocean and decided to go to bed. He left Bill to steer the ship through the night, went to his cabin, and opened a book.

Suddenly he heard Bill shout, "Look out, here it comes!" Weld felt the whole boat being picked up, twisted around, and dumped upside down. His head banged against the wall, and when he came to, he was standing on the ceiling of his cabin in two feet of water. Bill poked his head through the door and told him what had happened. A forty-foot rogue wave had suddenly appeared out of the night and capsized them.

Rogue waves are very rare, but every once in a while certain conditions will sweep up tons of water into a column as high as a four-story building. All sailors, especially people in small boats, fear these freak waves, but there is very little they can do about them.

Weld and Stevens crawled up onto the bottom of the boat and tried to figure out what to do. After talking for a while, they decided to get a hacksaw and cut a hole through the main hull. This way they could get at some of the supplies in the bottom (now the top) part of the boat. They saved enough food to last them three weeks and tried to make themselves comfortable. They took turns watching for ships.

One freighter passed nearby, but when they shouted and waved, it didn't see them and passed on. After this they got out lights, mirrors, and flares, and when another ship passed by, four and a half days after the capsizing, it did see them and picked them up. They were glad to be saved, but Philip Weld was heartbroken to have to leave his expensive boat floating upside down in the ocean. When he got home, he joked to his wife that his new hobby was going to be horses.

1. Why was Weld sailing to Europe?

2. What is a trimaran?

3. What happened to Weld's boat?

4. Why are sailors afraid of rogue waves?

5. Why did they cut a hole in Weld's boat?

6. How would you have felt if you were Philip Weld right after the accident?

Why?

7. Why do you think the men on the freighter didn't see them?

8. Why did the next ship see them?

9. After this experience, how do you think Weld felt about sailing by himself across the Atlantic?

_____ Why? _____

Luke was a hero during World War II and won medals for bravery and wounds. But when he got back to the United States, he couldn't find a good job and couldn't find a woman he wanted to marry and settle down with. Luke went from one job to another and became bored with life.

One night he got drunk and started cutting the tops off parking meters. He wasn't trying to steal the money; he was doing it just for the heck of it, to see what would happen. What happened was that a police officer came along and arrested Luke for being drunk and for maliciously destroying city property. Luke was sentenced to two years in the state work prison.

At the work prison Luke found a bunch of tough men who had gotten into trouble for a variety of things. The guards were mean and made the prisoners work long hours on paving hot roads. If one of the men stopped working, the guards kicked him or beat him up. If someone complained, the guards locked him up in "the box," a small hut without enough room to sit down.

It wasn't long before Luke got into a fight with the toughest prisoner in the place. The man kept knocking Luke down, but Luke refused to give up and kept getting back up. Finally the man walked away; he was ashamed to hit Luke any more. Luke was too tough for him. After that the two men became good friends.

One day some of the men were working on the road, shoveling sand on top of hot tar. Suddenly Luke started shoveling as fast as he could, and he got all the other men working fast too. They finished two hours early and took it easy. The guards began to hate Luke.

Another time Luke made a bet that he could eat fifty eggs in an hour. Every man in the prison bet on it, and when the day came, Luke ate fifty hard-boiled eggs and won hundreds of dollars.

Then Luke's mother died, and he tried to escape. The first two times he escaped, he was caught and locked up in "the box." The third time he escaped, the guards shot him in the neck. They took their time getting him to the hospital, and Luke died. For years after that, Luke was a hero to the other prisoners, and they never stopped telling stories about him.

1. Why didn't Luke settle down?

2. Why did he cut the tops off parking meters?

3. What was Luke's punishment?

4. What was the worst punishment in the prison?

5. How did Luke "win" the fight with the toughest man in the prison?

6. How did Luke get the men two hours of free time one day?

7. How many eggs did he eat in an hour?

8. Why did Luke try to escape?

9. How many times did he try to escape?

10. Why do you think the guards shot him in the neck and then took their time getting him to the hospital?

*Based on a novel by Donn Pearce.

Judy Foreman, a reporter for a Boston newspaper, decided she wanted to try to experience what it was like to be trapped in a wheelchair the way paralyzed and handicapped people are. She made a deal with a man named Marc Fiedler, who had been paralyzed in a car accident four years earlier. She would spend a whole day in a wheelchair following him around on his job in an office building downtown. Judy promised that she wouldn't get up all day and wouldn't tell anyone that she wasn't really handicapped.

From the moment she sat down in the wheelchair in Marc's apartment in the morning, Judy got a feeling of the shame and sadness handicapped people experience every day. She was sure that people would stare at her for being in a wheelchair. She immediately found things she couldn't do: there was a book on Marc's bookshelf that she wanted to look at, but she couldn't reach it. As they wheeled out to the elevator, Judy's wheelchair banged into doorways, and she couldn't reach the call button. She felt frustrated and angry to be confined to this ridiculous, ugly machine. Just getting in and out of the elevator was a major operation!

A special van with a hydraulic lift picked them up. As the lift hoisted Judy's wheelchair inside, she started to roll backward and nearly fell off. She had forgotten to lock her wheels. As the van drove through the streets of Boston, she saw people jogging and walking, and she wished she was doing those things. She knew that Marc must long to do them.

When they reached Marc's office building, Judy confronted a revolving door and realized that there was no way she could get through it. She had to struggle with a side door with a knob that was hard to reach. She had so much trouble maneuvering her wheelchair through that someone finally had to stop and help her. As they rode up an elevator in the building, Judy spotted a handsome young man in a suit. Normally he might have caught her eye and smiled, but now he looked straight ahead. Judy knew he was avoiding her eyes because he thought she was handicapped. As people got off the elevator, someone tripped over her wheelchair, and Judy felt clumsy and embarrassed and in the way.

Later in the day, Judy met some students in wheelchairs who were on their way to a tour of the State House. They accepted her as one of them and cheered her on as she struggled to get up a ramp on her own—without being pushed. Judy began to feel that although being in a wheelchair was hard, it could be managed.

(continued)

1. What made Judy Foreman spend a day in a wheelchair?

2. Why do you think Marc made her promise not to tell anyone she wasn't really paralyzed?

3. Why did the wheelchair keep Judy from looking at a book and calling an elevator?

4. How did Judy feel about the wheelchair as she went to work with Marc?

5. Why did the revolving door cause a problem?

6. How did the handsome man in the elevator behave toward Judy?

Why? _____

7. Why do you think Judy struggled to wheel herself up the ramp without having anyone push her?

8. How was Judy's experience in the wheelchair different from that of Marc and the students?

Judy, Marc, and the group of students rolled a few blocks to the State House for a tour. As they were about to go down a wheelchair ramp into the street, Judy noticed that a car was parked at the bottom of the ramp, blocking their way. The curb was too high for a wheelchair, so they had to go a block farther to find an unblocked ramp. Marc called the police to have the car towed away.

In the street the cars seemed bigger and more frightening to Judy, and she watched carefully to avoid getting a wheel caught in a pothole. Going up the steep ramp into the State House was so difficult that she accepted a push. She was embarrassed. At the end of the tour, the guide mentioned that there was one part of the State House that they hadn't been shown because it didn't have ramps. Judy felt discriminated against.

Back on the street, the reporter noticed that most people walking by her avoided looking at her, except for some women who nodded or smiled. Only one person spoke to her — an old janitor who said warmly, "It's amazing how you people get around." Judy found that she was greatly touched by his kindness. Marc mentioned how unfair the world was to handicapped people — revolving doors, flights of stairs, high curbs, but more important were people's attitudes. He said most people were very uncomfortable around handicapped people and didn't want to have anything to do with them.

In the afternoon Judy used the bathroom and found that it wasn't designed for handicapped people. With great difficulty she got in the door, out of her wheelchair, and onto the toilet. When she washed her hands at the sink, the mirror was too high for her to be able to see her face and comb her hair.

At the end of the day, Judy was talking with Marc, some of his friends, and a secretary who didn't know that she was a reporter sitting in a wheelchair for just a day. After a while, Judy decided that she'd had enough. She stretched her legs, got up, and walked across the room. The secretary's eyes almost popped out. Marc turned to one of his friends in a wheelchair and said, "Hey, not bad! I guess our miracle cure is really coming along. Maybe you're next." They all laughed, but Judy knew that they could never get up the way she just had.

In July 1990 Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act, which would become effective in several steps through the next two to three years. The act requires that all public places be accessible to the disabled. This means that restrooms, pay phones, bank machines, and seats in restaurants and theaters need to be built so that disabled people can use them easily.

1. Why is it difficult for a person in a wheelchair to get from the sidewalk into the street?

2. Why do you think she was embarrassed to be pushed up the ramp?

3. What angered Judy at the State House?

4. Why did Marc say people avoided looking at her?

5. What people did acknowledge her presence?

6. What two things did Judy wish had been different in the bathroom she used?
(a) _____
(b) _____
7. Make a list of some of the things around a city that would make a handicapped person want to stay at home.

8. Remember Judy's job, and write what you think she did after this experience.

In November of 1988, a man named Merhan Nasserli flew into De Gaulle Airport in France from his native Iran. He had a few clothes in a bag, about \$500 in his wallet, and no passport. Without a passport, Mr. Nasserli was not allowed to enter France or travel to any other country in Europe. He did not want to go back to Iran, where he was in trouble with the government, so he was stuck at De Gaulle Airport. And that is where Mr. Nasserli spent the next eleven years of his life.

During the day, Mr. Nasserli, a thin, bent-over man with sad eyes, sat on a red plastic bench between the pizzeria and an electronics store in the passenger area of Terminal 1, smoking his pipe or listening to a radio. His belongings were neatly stacked on a baggage cart beside the bench, along with cardboard boxes containing the diary he kept and books he had read.

Every morning, Mr. Nasserli shaved with an electric razor and washed up in a passenger bathroom. When his clothes were dirty, he took them to the airport cleaner. He did not beg, but people gave him food or meal vouchers that allowed him to eat in the airport's restaurants. Flight attendants give him toiletries left behind by passengers on their planes. At night, Mr. Nasserli slept on the red plastic bench.

Over the years, several stories were done on Mr. Nasserli in newspapers and on television. He became a minor celebrity and somehow got the name Alfred. People passing through the airport would seek him out, and some people sent money, addressing their envelopes to "Sir Alfred, De Gaulle Airport." The airport post office knew just where to take them.

Over the years, Mr. Nasserli began to love the airport. It was not a prison. It was his home. In this clean, well-policed place, he was protected from all the things he feared in the outside world. He was not unhappy with his life.

Then one day in 1999, Mr. Nasserli got word that the French government had finally given him permission to travel wherever he wished. He would have to leave the airport. But where would he go? He was sad to leave and afraid to venture into the unknown world outside.

1. What were two reasons that Mr. Nasserli was stuck at De Gaulle Airport?

2. How was Mr. Nasserli able to eat?

3. About how many days did Mr. Nasserli spend at De Gaulle Airport?

4. What does the word celebrity mean?

5. How did Mr. Nasserli become famous?

6. How was Mr. Nasserli the same and how was he different from other homeless people?

7. Why was Mr. Nasserli not entirely happy to leave the airport?

8. Why was the world outside "unknown"?

Frank Serpico grew up in New York City and was the son of an Italian shoemaker. His family never had much money, but Frank dreamed that when he grew up he would be a police officer. He enjoyed the idea of catching crooks and helping people who were in pain or in trouble. He wanted people to look up to him the way he had looked up to the police in his neighborhood.

When he finished school, Frank Serpico went to the police academy and trained to become a police officer. When he graduated, he proudly put on his new uniform and went out onto the streets of New York. He loved being a cop and worked harder than many other cops in his district. He had a good record for catching crooks.

But the more Serpico got to know the other police officers around the city, the more disgusted he became. Again and again he saw other New York City police sleeping on the job, beating people up, and taking bribes from drug pushers and gamblers. Serpico learned that there were many criminals that he wasn't supposed to arrest, even if he had evidence against them. This was because these people had paid off someone in the police department.

Finding this out upset Serpico. When he had looked up to the police as a boy, he had never suspected that many of them were dishonest. Now that he was one of them, he saw how bad things were. From the day he became a cop, he was under pressure to take money himself. But he never took any bribes. He refused to be part of this system of corruption.

Because he refused to take money, Serpico made other police officers in his district nervous. They were afraid that he might report the corruption that was going on and get them in trouble. They were right to be worried. Serpico went to his commanding officers in the police department and told them about the bribes that he knew were being accepted.

To his amazement his superiors in the department didn't do anything about it. Serpico didn't know whether they were scared, or whether they were taking bribes too. So he went to the office of the mayor of New York and told one of his assistants about the corruption in the police department. Still nothing was done. Finally Serpico went to *The New York Times*, the city's main newspaper, and told them everything he had seen. A few weeks later, a series of stories on police corruption appeared on the front page of the newspaper.

(continued)

*A book by Peter Maas.

1. What was Serpico's boyhood dream?

Why? _____

2. How was Serpico different from other police officers?

3. What three things revolted Serpico about some of his fellow cops?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

4. Why wasn't Serpico supposed to arrest certain criminals?

5. Have you ever suspected a police officer of being dishonest?

_____ Why? _____

6. Why do you think Serpico didn't take bribes himself?

7. Why do you think his police commanders didn't do anything when Serpico told them of the corruption?

8. What do you think will happen in part 2 as a result of the newspaper story?

For some time, other police officers around the city had been suspicious that Serpico might be giving out information on how cops were taking bribes. When the story came out in *The New York Times*, many cops knew Serpico was behind it. He was threatened by some of his fellow officers and was forced to carry a gun with him day and night for his own protection.

The articles in the newspaper pushed the mayor of New York into doing something. He set up a special committee to investigate corruption in the police department, and Serpico told this committee everything he knew. The corrupt police officers around the city were now very angry at Serpico. They thought he was a traitor, and they called him every name in the book.

One day Serpico and three other plainclothes police officers were told to investigate an apartment where drugs were being sold. Serpico climbed onto the roof of the apartment building and crept down the stairway to the floor above the place. Peering over the banister, he saw a man knock on the door and buy drugs from a man inside. He gave the signal to his partners, and they sneaked up the stairs while Serpico knocked.

The drug dealer opened the door, thinking it was someone wanting to buy more dope. Serpico struck his gun through the opening and shouted that he was a police officer. The drug dealer slammed the door on Serpico's arm, pulled a gun, and pointed it at Serpico's head.

Serpico looked around desperately for his partners. They could easily have saved him by taking two steps forward and pulling him out of the door. But they just stood there. The drug pusher shot Serpico right in the face, and he collapsed onto the floor, bleeding heavily. Only then did his partners call for an ambulance. It seems that they had purposely set him up and let him get shot. It was their revenge for Serpico's telling about police corruption in New York.

Serpico did not die. After several weeks he left the hospital, hobbling on a cane and deaf in one ear. He decided that he would have to leave New York for good, and he went to live in Switzerland. What Serpico had done had results. The commission appointed by the mayor made its report, and many police officers were fired and moved around. After a few years, there was much less corruption among the police force in New York City, and young cops were quick to turn in other cops who took bribes. There were still crooks on the force, but not nearly as many. Unfortunately it still wasn't safe for Serpico to return.

1. What made Serpico carry a gun everywhere?

2. Why did the mayor decide to look into police corruption when he hadn't done anything about it before?

3. What did Serpico tell the mayor's committee?

4. What does it mean that other cops called Serpico "every name in the book"?

5. Do you think Serpico did the right thing in telling on his fellow officers?

_____ Why? _____

6. Why did Serpico signal to his partners?

7. What is "dope"? _____

8. Whose fault was it that Serpico got shot?

Why? _____

9. Where is Switzerland? _____

10. How do you think Serpico felt about leaving New York?

Why? _____

11. Was what Serpico did worth it? _____

Why? _____

For years hunting whales has been big business all over the world. The fat, called blubber, covering a whale's body can be melted into oil which has many uses. Years ago most lamps burned whale oil. Now there are many other uses for whale blubber.

In the days of wooden sailing ships, hundreds of men made a living by sailing the oceans of the world looking for whales. Each whaling ship had a man sitting at the top of the tallest mast in a special place called the crow's nest. When this man saw a whale come up to the surface and blow out air, he would shout, "There she blows!" Then the crew would steer in the direction of the whale.

When they got fairly close to the whale, the ship would lower rowboats into the water, and about twenty men would row the boat as close to the whale as they dared. Then a man standing in the front of the rowboat would throw a harpoon as hard as he could into the whale. The harpoon had a sharp barb on the front, so it wouldn't come out of the whale. There was a long rope tied to the other end.

The whale usually felt the harpoon stick in and would swim away fast. The men in the rowboat would hold onto the rope and be pulled along in their boat by the whale. If the whale was strong, these rowboats would sometimes go twenty or thirty miles an hour, like a speedboat! This ride behind the whale was called the "Nantucket sleighride." It was fun but also very dangerous. Sometimes whales turned on the rowboats and smashed them into pieces with their powerful tails. Many men were killed this way. There is a famous book called *Moby Dick* about this kind of battle between men and a whale.

When the whale got tired of dragging the heavy rowboat, the men would pull in on the rope and close in on the whale. They finished it off with other harpoons. Then the whale would be hoisted on board the big sailing ship, and the meat and blubber stored in the ship's bottom for the trip home. Whaling ships were sometimes out at sea for many months before they had killed enough whales and collected enough blubber to go home and sell it.

In the twentieth century things have been different. Whales were shot with harpoons having explosive tips which blew up inside the whale and killed it right away. Modern whaling ships were able to kill whales so quickly that many people became alarmed that whales would be wiped out completely. Since 1986, the International Whaling Commission has prohibited almost all whaling. The United States lists at least eight species of whales as endangered. The list includes the blue whale, the largest animal of any kind that has ever lived.

1. What is blubber?

2. What was whale oil used for years ago?

3. Why do you think it isn't used for this now?

4. What was the crow's nest for?

5. Why did the man shout, "There she blows"?

6. Why didn't the harpoon come out of the whale?

7. What was the "Nantucket sleighride"?

8. Why was it dangerous?

9. When did the men close in and kill the whale?

10. Why did the whaling ships have to stay out for many months?

11. What are the modern harpoons like?

12. Why has almost all whale hunting been stopped?

Early in 1975 a group of Coca-Cola salespeople and their spouses decided to take a vacation. They lived in Japan, and they wanted to visit several cities in Europe. The first part of their trip took them across the Pacific Ocean to Alaska.

The jumbo jet carrying the 344 salespeople and their spouses stopped in Alaska to refuel, pick up food, and change pilots. The food which was loaded on board was ham omelettes for the passengers' breakfast the next morning.

Then the jet took off and flew through the night across the Arctic Ocean toward Europe. The next morning the flight attendants took the ham omelettes out of the refrigerators and put them in special ovens to heat them up. When the passengers woke up, the flight attendants served the omelettes to them at their seats. The pilots got a different meal.

Two hours later the plane began its descent into Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark. As often happens when a plane comes down to lower altitudes, the air got a little bumpy, and some of the passengers got airsick. Then more and more people became sick. Everyone was running to the bathrooms. Some people were in terrible pain and were doubled up on the floor of the plane.

After the plane touched down, more people got sick as they walked off the plane. Airline officials realized that something was seriously wrong and rushed the 144 passengers who were sick to a hospital. These Japanese couples were sick for several days. No one died, but the incident spoiled everyone's vacation.

Meanwhile people tried to track down the cause of the sudden problem in all those stomachs. They noticed that the pilots and stewardesses hadn't gotten sick, and when they found out that none of them had eaten the ham omelettes, they knew where to look for the source of the food poisoning.

A team of doctors and health officials flew to Alaska and inspected the kitchen of the company that had prepared the ham omelettes for the plane. They found that the cooks weren't keeping their food cold enough, and as a result, germs were able to grow in certain foods, especially on the ham. So it was the ham omelettes which had made all these people get sick. In order to stay in business, the company had to improve its refrigerators and to be more careful of the food it prepared.

1. What was the purpose of the trip the 344 people were taking?

2. Give three reasons why the plane had to stop in Alaska?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

3. What do you think most of the passengers were doing as the plane crossed the Arctic Ocean?

4. What did the flight attendants serve for breakfast?

5. Why was no one alarmed when the first people got sick?

6. When did people realize that something was seriously wrong?

7. What could have happened if the pilots had eaten the meal?

8. In what city were the sick passengers hospitalized?

9. How many passengers died?

10. Why did the passengers get sick?

In the early 1970s, a Russian submarine sank in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, not far from the island of Hawaii. The Russians didn't tell anyone why the submarine had sunk, but people assumed that it was an accident. Submarines sometimes spring leaks and are crushed by the pressure of the water before they can surface.

The Soviets decided to leave the submarine because it was deep under water. But the American spy organization, the CIA, decided to try to pull up the submarine. The CIA wanted to learn how the Soviets built their submarines. They also wanted to learn the codes that the Soviets use to send radio messages to their navy.

The CIA built a special ship called the *Glomar Explorer*. The ship cost millions of dollars, and it was built for one purpose — to salvage the Soviet submarine in the Pacific. From the beginning the CIA kept the whole project a secret. The CIA pretended that it was building the ship to explore for minerals on the bottom of the ocean. That was its cover story, and everyone believed it.

When it was finished, the *Glomar Explorer* sailed to that part of the Pacific where the Soviet submarine had sunk. It stopped above the submarine and used cameras and underwater radar called sonar to locate the wreck of the submarine. The sub was 17,000 feet below the surface; that is more than three miles down.

The CIA's idea was to lower a barge to the ocean floor right next to the submarine, push the sub into the barge, and then float the barge back up to the surface. The barge had a covered top, so that when the sub came up to the surface, no one could see what was inside it. This cover was a protection in case a Soviet plane flew over and saw what was going on.

At first everything worked fine. They lowered the barge and pushed the submarine into it. This was done by remote control since the water was too deep for divers. They filled the barge with air, and it started to float up to the surface. But part of the submarine was hanging over the edge of the barge, and as the barge rose, the section broke off and fell back down to the bottom.

When the barge reached the surface, the CIA found that they had the wrong part of the sub. Inside were the bodies of seventy Soviet sailors who had gone down with the ship. There was no information on codes or other secret information. They never got the other half of the sub up. The whole operation cost \$250,000,000.

1. Why did people think the submarine sank?

2. Why didn't the Soviets salvage their own ship?

3. Why did the CIA want to look at the sub?

4. How did the CIA fool people about the salvage operation?

5. Was it all right for the CIA to lie about it?

_____ Why? _____

6. How did the CIA propose to get the sub up?

7. Why couldn't divers help out?

8. What went wrong?

9. Was this project worth the money?

_____ Why? _____

10. The next time a Russian warship sinks, what do you think the United States will do?

Three young people came to New York City on a plane from Mexico. They had saved up their money to take a vacation in the United States. Their plane brought them to Kennedy Airport.

After they had gone through customs, the three Mexicans walked into the lobby of the airport and looked for a way to get into the city. They were approached by a man who asked them in Spanish if they wanted a taxi into New York City. They were glad to find someone who spoke Spanish, and they climbed into the man's new Dodge taxi.

The taxi driver drove off the main road and out into the country. The Mexicans didn't know it, but he was driving away from the city. After a while the driver stopped on a road with no houses or cars. He turned around and told his passengers that the ride into New York City was very expensive and asked them if they had enough money. The Mexicans asked how much the trip would cost; the man said \$150.

That sounded like a lot of money to them, but they were strangers in America, and they had been told that prices were going up, so they agreed to pay \$150 for the ride. They gave the money to the driver, even though it didn't leave them much for the rest of their vacation.

What the Mexicans didn't know until later was that they had been cheated. The real price for a taxi ride from Kennedy Airport into New York City was about twenty dollars, and there were buses that would take people for under two dollars. They were paying seventy times more than the cheapest way to travel! When they arrived at their friends' house in New York City, the driver charged them another seventeen dollars.

When the Mexicans told their friends what had happened, the friends knew that the driver had swindled them, and they called the police. Unfortunately the Mexicans didn't remember the cab's number; all they could do was describe the driver, and there are hundreds and hundreds of cab drivers in the city. Besides, the guilty driver would probably lie low for a few days.

The Mexicans called *The New York Times*, and the next day the newspaper printed a long story about what happened. Some people who read the story looked for the swindler, but no one had any luck. Some people who read the story sent money to the three Mexicans and offered them free meals and free hotel rooms. These people wanted the visitors to know that not everyone in New York City is a crook.

1. Why were the three Mexicans in New York?

2. What language did they speak?

3. What did the stranger offer to do?

4. Why do you think the taxi driver walked up to these three people?

5. How much was the total charge for the taxi trip?

6. Why do you think he took the Mexicans to a deserted road in the country?

7. What was the cheapest ride into the city that the Mexicans could have bought?

8. Why couldn't the police catch the driver?

9. What do you think the word *swindle* means?

10. How did the newspaper story help the three visitors?

11. What should visitors to a foreign country know before they arrive?

Have you ever seen a picture taken in a hospital room just after a baby has been born? If you have, you may have noticed something rather odd. The mother is smiling; the father is smiling; the doctor holding the baby upside down by its feet is smiling; but the baby is screaming. In fact most babies look and act very unhappy for many hours after they are born, and it's usually a few days before they look calm and contented.

For years people have taken it for granted that all babies cry when they are born, so no one worried about it. But recently a French doctor, Frederick Leboyer, looked at the experience of being born from the baby's point of view. From his research he developed a new way of delivering babies. The method has become very popular with many women in France and the United States.

In a book that he wrote in 1975, Doctor Leboyer described what it must be like for a baby growing inside its mother and being born the way babies usually are in hospitals. When the baby first starts growing, there is plenty of room, and it is weightless, floating around in warm fluids with the comforting sound of the mother's steady heart beat. As the time to be born gets closer, the baby grows bigger, and the uterus gets very crowded. Leboyer thinks that if babies could talk at this time, they would cry to get out.

So being born should be a new freedom for the baby. But what happens at birth? After passing through the birth canal, which is an uncomfortably tight squeeze, the baby comes out into a cold, noisy, brightly-lighted hospital room with people talking loudly all around, oohing, and aahing. Then the umbilical cord, the baby's source of food and air, is cut off; the baby is held upside down by its feet, slapped on the back, and is forced to take its first breath of cold air. It hurts, and so the baby screams.

With all the noise and bright lights, the cutting of the cord, and the procedure of being held upside down and slapped, it's no wonder that most babies cry for a while and seem unhappy for days after being born. Doctor Leboyer thinks that the way people are born may make them unhappy later in their lives too. He thinks that this is the worst possible way for a baby to come into the world after experiencing the warmth of its mother. From watching the way babies are delivered in India, Leboyer developed a new method.

(continued)

1. In pictures taken in delivery rooms, who is not smiling?

2. Why aren't people concerned about crying babies?

3. What is it like for a baby inside its mother for the first few months?

4. Why does Leboyer think babies want to be born after nine months?

5. Why is being born so unpleasant for babies?

6. Why is the cutting of the umbilical cord such a shock for the baby?

7. Does Leboyer's description of being born seem like it might be true?

Why?

8. How long is it before most babies look calm and contented?

9. What do you think could be done to make being born a more pleasant experience?

Doctor Leboyer thinks that being born does not have to be an unpleasant experience for babies. He has developed a new method of bringing babies into the world and has delivered thousands of babies this way himself. After reading his book which describes the procedure, many other doctors have tried his method. This is the way it works.

Just before the baby is born, the lights in the delivery room are turned way down, and everyone in the room stops talking and stays very quiet. When the baby is born, the doctor does not cut the umbilical cord right away or hold the baby upside down. Instead, the baby is laid on its mother's stomach, and the mother strokes the baby softly with her hands.

At this point the baby is still getting its oxygen through the umbilical cord attached to its mother. Slowly the cord stops pumping oxygen through the baby, and the baby is forced to take its first breath of air through its mouth. This hurts a little, and the baby lets out a little yelp. But there is none of the screaming of regular childbirth. The baby's face is calm and peaceful and is not all scrunched up with pain and unhappiness. It breathes normally.

After the baby has rested on its mother's belly for a while, the doctor cuts the cord and gently puts the baby into a warm bath with its head above the water. The baby is weightless again, the way it was inside its mother, and it loves the feeling. After a while in the bath, the baby is taken out, dried off, and wrapped up in warm towels. Only then do the nurses weigh it and put drops in its eyes.

Babies that are delivered this way are calm and peaceful instead of screaming and unhappy. Many of them seem to smile within an hour of being born. Leboyer's book has some lovely pictures of babies with blissful expressions on their faces.

Some doctors have criticized Leboyer's method. They say that if the delivery room is too dark, they won't be able to see if anything goes wrong. Besides, they don't think that the delivery procedure makes that much difference since they don't believe a baby this young can think and remember its experiences.

But Leboyer is sure that the delivery setting makes a big difference. He insists that the low lighting in the delivery room is safe and says that children he has delivered this way have turned out to be calmer, happier children and grown-ups than babies delivered the old way. He believes that the way you are born is something you remember subconsciously for your whole life.

1. In what ways does the delivery room look different during a Leboyer childbirth?

2. Why are people in the delivery room very quiet, do you think?

3. Why doesn't the doctor cut the umbilical cord right away?

4. Why does the baby make a noise?

5. Where does the baby rest for a while right after birth?

6. Why do you think the baby likes the bath?

7. Why do you think the doctors delay the weighing and the eye drops?

8. How are Leboyer babies different in the first few days of life?

9. How are they different later on?

10. Would you want your children to be born this way?

Why? _____

One night in the small town of Sparta, Mississippi, a rich, white man was murdered and nine hundred dollars was stolen from his pocket. The police looked around the town and arrested a young black man who was waiting at the train station. They thought he was the killer because he had several hundred dollars in his wallet.

When they took this young black man, whose name was Virgil, down to the police station, they found that he was a police officer too. He worked for the Philadelphia Police Department, and his job was investigating murders just like the one they had accused him of.

The sheriff of the town realized that Virgil was not the killer, and he asked Virgil to help him solve the murder. At first Virgil didn't want to help; then he changed his mind. He wanted to prove to the prejudiced people in the town that a black man could be just as smart as a white man.

The first thing Virgil did was to look very carefully at the body of the murdered white man. Using chemicals and other tricks he had learned over the years, Virgil was able to get a lot of clues about the way the man had been killed. He figured out that the man had been killed by being hit over the head with a piece of pine wood. He also knew that the killer was right handed.

Some people in the town didn't like the way Virgil was snooping around, and they asked the sheriff to kick him out. But the sheriff and Virgil had become friends, and the sheriff wanted to keep Virgil on the case. When some white punks in the town chased Virgil and tried to kill him, the sheriff arrived and saved Virgil's life. The men called the sheriff a "nigger-lover," but he didn't care.

Finally, Virgil put together all his clues and figured out who the killer was. Virgil cornered the killer at night, and the killer drew a gun and was about to kill Virgil. Then the punks who had attacked Virgil earlier arrived, and it looked as though Virgil would be killed.

But he was too smart for them. He told them to look in the killer's girlfriend's purse, and there they found the stolen money. There was a fight, and the killer was shot dead. Virgil had solved the case.

1. What did they find in Virgil's wallet that made them think he was the killer?

2. Can you think of another reason the police would arrest him?

3. What and where was Virgil's job?

4. What did the sheriff ask Virgil to do?

5. Why did Virgil agree to help?

6. How did Virgil find out that the killer was right-handed?

7. How had the victim been killed?

8. Why did the punks call the sheriff a "nigger-lover"?

9. How did Virgil save his own life at the end?

10. How do you think Virgil may have changed the attitudes of white people in the town about black people?

*A novel by John Ball.

Mary Shelley, the woman who wrote one of the famous books in the English language, was born in England in August of 1797. Her mother died a few days after giving birth, and her father never quite got over his wife's death.

It was obvious, even when Mary was very young, that she was very intelligent. Her father gave her lessons in literature and philosophy. He remarried, but Mary hated his second wife and spent as much time as she could away from the house. Her favorite spot was the nearby cemetery where she spent hours sitting by her mother's grave—reading books, writing stories and poems, and dreaming about the future.

When Mary was nineteen, she went to Switzerland with a group of friends and stayed in a house on a beautiful lake. She and her friends liked to stay up late at night talking about magic and ghosts and telling stories of the supernatural. One night a young man in the group became so frightened by the conversation that he ran screaming through the house; it took hours for him to calm down.

A few days later, someone had an idea: why not have a contest to see who could write the scariest, weirdest, spookiest story. Most of the group gave up after a few days, but Mary had an idea and started to write it down. It was the story of a mad scientist named Frankenstein who wanted to create a living creature. He took parts of dead bodies, stitched them together, and then made the body come alive. He realized too late that he had created a monster and could not control it.

Mary's friends liked the story. She returned to England and had it published in 1818. The book, called *Frankenstein*, was an instant success, and the first printing was sold out almost immediately. It was reprinted again and again, and for a number of years, it was one of the most popular and talked-about books in England.

In the years since then, *Frankenstein* has been translated into thirty languages and has sold millions of copies. It has also been made into several movies, and the story has become part of our culture.

It was hard for some people to believe that such a gripping book had been written by a nineteen-year-old woman, but in the years that followed, Mary Shelley was accepted as one of the great writers of her time. She went on to write many more stories, poems, and books, although none of them was as famous or as successful as her first work.

1. Why do you think Mary became interested in books and ideas?

2. What made her want to get out of her house?

3. Why do you think she spent so much time at her mother's grave?

4. Why did she write *Frankenstein*?

5. How old was Mary when she wrote the book?

6. In the story, who was Frankenstein?

7. What problem did the scientist have when the body came alive?

8. How did the story change Mary's life?

9. What two qualities about the author of *Frankenstein* might have surprised people?

One day a few years ago, a black man named Delano Meriwether was watching television. The man was a doctor, but he had always liked to watch track races—and that was what he was watching. Suddenly he turned to his wife and said, “I can run faster than those guys!”

His wife laughed. The runners he was watching on television were world champions who had been training and practicing for years. She knew that Meriwether had never run track in his life. How could he expect to beat the best in the world?

In fact Meriwether hadn't played any sports in high school or college. He had been too busy studying and working. When he left college, he went on to medical school and became a doctor, specializing in the study of blood. He was a hematologist and was especially interested in discovering a cure for sickle cell anemia.

But Doctor Meriwether meant what he said. He entered a few small races in the city where he lived, and he won. Everyone who watched him was amazed. Meriwether had no style as a runner. His arms and legs flew all over the place. He got off to a very slow start because he hadn't had practice starting. But once he got going, he flew!

When he first began racing, Meriwether didn't have regular track shorts and shirts; he wore an old gold-colored bathing suit, held up by red suspenders, and a white shirt he borrowed from the hospital. At first people laughed at this goofy outfit, but when he started winning all the races, they didn't laugh any more. The crazy clothes became his trademark on the track—everyone knew it was he when they saw him coming.

After a while Meriwether entered a big race in College Park, Maryland. He ran against some of the fastest men in the world, and he came in second. He said that the only reason he hadn't come in first was that he had had to stay up most of the previous night studying some blood under a microscope, and the lack of sleep had made him weak.

After this, Meriwether was recognized as one of the fastest men in the world. He traveled all over, running in races and doing very well. But he also continued his work as a doctor because his profession was still the most important part of his life.

1. Where did Meriwether get the idea of running in track races?

2. What was his wife's reaction to the idea?

3. Why hadn't Meriwether played sports in school?

4. What is a hematologist?

5. Why were people surprised when he won races?

6. What does it mean that he had no style?

7. Why did he get off to such a slow start?

8. What clothes did he wear to race in?

9. Why did he continue wearing these clothes?

10. How did he do in the race in Maryland?

11. What was his excuse for not winning?

12. Which is more important to Meriwether— running or hematology?

It was summer in the Mediterranean. The sea sparkled in the beautiful, sunny weather. Some wealthy people had hired a large sailboat to cruise the sea for a month while they relaxed on board. Four sailors did all the work on the boat; they cooked the meals, cleaned up, and took care of sailing the boat. It was a lovely vacation for these wealthy people, and a good job for the sailors.

But one of the sailors wasn't happy. Even though he was being paid well, he was angry that these rich people had so much more money than he and his people. It didn't seem fair that they were so wealthy and he was not. The sailor especially disliked one of the ladies. She looked down her nose at the sailors. She constantly complained about the food and the wine. One day she told the sailors that they smelled, and she made them change their shirts.

The unhappy sailor tried to keep his temper, but it was hard. Once when the lady complained that the coffee was not fresh, he nearly threw it in her face. But he knew that he would lose his job if he lost his temper this way. There was nothing he could do about the way she treated him. He felt like a slave.

Then one day the sailboat anchored off the coast, and almost everyone went to a beach to swim. The lady woke up late and wanted to join her friends, so she ordered the sailor to take her ashore in a small rubber boat with a motor. The sailor warned her that it was getting late and that the current was against them, but she insisted on going.

About half way to land, the motor conked out. As the sailor struggled to fix it, the lady cursed him and blamed the whole situation on him. He was furious at her, but he also was worried. The current was sweeping the boat farther and farther away from land. They hadn't brought a compass, and they had no food or blankets.

Before long it was dark, and they couldn't see land in any direction. The sailor gave the lady his jacket, but they both were very cold. The next day, getting more and more worried and hungry, they continued to drift across the shimmering sea. The sailor caught a fish with his bare hands, but the lady wouldn't eat it raw.

Finally they were washed up on a small, uninhabited island. They could stay alive only by catching fish and wild animals. There were no ships in sight. They were all alone.

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*From the screenplay by Lena Wertmuller.

1. Why was the sailor resentful of the people who hired him?

2. What does it mean that the lady "looked down her nose" at the sailors?

3. What were three reasons the sailor had for disliking her?

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

4. Do you think the sailor should have said something to the lady?

_____ Why? _____

5. How did the lady end up in the small boat with the sailor?

6. How did she act when they were in danger?

7. Whose fault was it that they were swept away?

_____ Why? _____

8. What do you think is going to happen on the island?

When the sailor realized that he really was all alone on an island with the rich lady, he decided to teach her a lesson. He beat her up and forced her to work for him. He made her kiss his feet. He refused to give her any food unless she served him as a slave. She had no choice but to obey. All her money and power meant nothing on this island; here he was stronger and smarter than she.

The sailor told the lady that this was just how she and her people treated him back in the real world. Now the tables had turned, and she was the downtrodden and exploited one. As the weeks passed, the lady slowly changed. At first she did what he asked with bitterness and hatred; then she began to fall in love with the sailor. Gradually he fell in love with her, and they lived in blissful happiness on the island.

For months they lived this way, catching rabbits and fish to stay alive. It seemed that their previous lives had been dull and unhappy compared to their lives now. They didn't miss television or telephones or cars or cities. They were part of nature.

One day the lady saw a boat coming close to the island. She was about to wave to the people on the boat to come and rescue them, but she stopped herself. She didn't want her happy life on the island to end.

A few weeks later they saw another boat. This time the sailor signaled the boat, and it turned toward the island. The sailor told the lady that he wanted to find out how much she really loved him. He wanted to know whether their love would last in the real world. The lady cried bitterly. She didn't want to leave.

When they got back to land, things were very complicated. Both the sailor and the lady were married, and their spouses, who had given them up for dead, came to meet them. The sailor and the lady did not dare to tell their spouses what had happened between them on the island.

Even if the lady and the sailor were to get divorced and marry each other, there would be problems. She was rich and moved in different circles from the sailor. Lots of her friends would laugh at her for marrying a poor sailor. His friends would make fun of him for falling for a rich lady.

The sailor decided they should go back to the island. He rented a boat, called the lady, and waited for her on the deck. Suddenly he heard a helicopter taking off. It was the lady and her husband. She was leaving him, forever.

1. How did the sailor treat the lady at first?

2. Why do you think he did this?

3. What is meant by the statement "the tables had turned"?

4. What happened to their relationship after a few weeks on the island?

5. How were their lives different from the way they'd been before they were swept away?

6. Do you think you could be happy living on a deserted island like this?

_____ Why? _____

7. Why do you think the lady cried when they left the island?

8. Why didn't they get married?

9. What did the sailor decide to do?

10. What did the lady do and why?

Several years ago a large jet took off from New York and flew south to Florida. Most of the people on the plane were going on vacation. They had saved for the plane ride in order to be in the warm sun of Florida in the winter.

As the plane came in for a landing in Miami, Florida, the pilots checked to see that everything was all right. When they put down the wheels, a light on the control panel told them that the front wheels were not locked into position. The pilots knew that if they tried to land, the wheels might buckle, and the plane might crash.

So the pilots turned away from the runway and climbed back up to two thousand feet to fix the problem. While they were pushing buttons and checking lights and dials, they put the plane on automatic pilot and began a slow circle out over the Everglades. It was night, and below them were the vast swamps of southern Florida. These swamps have two or three feet of water, thick plants, and many crocodiles.

Automatic pilot is a device for holding a plane on a steady course, so the pilots can relax or look at a problem without having to worry about flying the plane. The pilots trusted their automatic pilot to keep them two thousand feet above the ground, and they didn't even look around them because they were working to fix the problem with the wheels.

But it was a new plane, and something was wrong with the automatic pilot. While the pilots worked, the plane was getting lower and lower, closer and closer to the black swamp below. The pilots didn't notice because there are no lights in the Everglades, and it was a dark night.

Finally the pilots fixed the problem and got set to turn the plane back to land at Miami airport. The men in the control tower at the airport heard the pilot say over the radio, "We're still at two thousand feet, aren't we?" Then there was a terrible crash and silence. The plane had flown right into the swamp.

The huge jet broke up into thousands of pieces, and the people inside were thrown in all directions. But because it landed in shallow water, the impact wasn't as great, and many people survived the crash. These people huddled together in the swamp and sang songs to keep their courage up until helicopters came to rescue them. The pilot and co-pilot were among the dead.

1. Why didn't the pilot land the plane at Miami?

2. Why did the pilot put the plane on automatic pilot?

3. What kind of terrain were they flying over?

4. What time of day was it?

5. What was happening to the plane as the men in the cockpit were working on the wheel problem?

6. Why did this happen?

7. Why didn't the pilots notice?

8. What happened to the plane right after the pilots fixed the problem?

9. If the pilots were killed, how do you think people figured out that the automatic pilot was the cause of the crash?

10. Why weren't more people killed?

Just after dark on the evening of November 9, 1965, a boy was walking toward his home in northern New York. He was angry about something, so he picked up a stick and whacked the bottom of a light pole by the side of the street. To his astonishment, the light at the top of the pole went out, and so did the other street-lights on the street, and so did the lights in the houses on the street. The boy thought he had done something terrible, and he ran home feeling scared and guilty.

Actually it was just a coincidence. At the moment that the boy's stick hit the pole, there was a blackout of electricity in the town, the state, and the whole northeastern part of the country. About thirty-five million people in that part of the United States suddenly didn't have any electricity. It was a scary, exciting few hours that most people will never forget.

At first most people thought the blackout was only in their building or only on their street; but soon they found out by listening to portable radios how widespread the power failure was. When the news spread that the entire northeastern part of the country was without power, some people panicked. They were afraid some enemy country had attacked us, or perhaps people from another planet had invaded.

Soon afterward the news came over the radio that President Johnson had checked with his generals and found that the country was not being attacked. He told people not to worry, that the electricity would be fixed and on before long.

There were many people who had a lot to worry about. In New York City thousands of office workers were on their way down skyscrapers in elevators. When the power went out, the elevators stopped between floors, and they were trapped. They had to stay there for hours. Under the streets of New York, a million people were on subway trains going home from work when the trains suddenly stopped in the middle of pitch-black tunnels.

On the streets of every large northeastern city, traffic lights stopped working, and huge traffic jams developed. In stores, cash registers stopped working, and in restaurants the owners had to stop serving meals because the dishwashers wouldn't work, and there were no more clean dishes. All this was caused by one faulty switch in a power plant in Canada. The result was a chain reaction from one power plant to another down the eastern coast.

(continued)

1. Why did the boy hit the light pole?

2. Why did he think he had caused the blackout?

3. What really caused it?

4. What's the word here that describes two unrelated things happening by accident at the same time?

5. How much of the country was blacked out?

6. How did people learn how widespread the blackout was?

7. Why did the president feel it was necessary to calm people down?

8. How do you think the people trapped in elevators got out?

9. Why were there traffic jams?

10. Do you think there was more crime during the blackout?

_____ Why? _____

11. What would you do in a blackout?

In millions of homes, the lights went out, and people had to grope around for candles. People cooking meals suddenly couldn't cook any more. Gasoline stations couldn't sell gas because their pumps run on electricity.

One of the most dangerous situations occurred at airports in the Northeast where planes were about to land. One pilot coming in for a landing at Boston's Logan Airport suddenly saw all the runway lights go out and lost radio contact with the control tower. He had to regain altitude and circle the airport. He and other pilots could hardly believe the sight of an entire city with no lights.

Many planes that were coming in for a landing in Boston, New York, and other big airports in the Northeast had to fly hundreds of miles away to places that had electricity. Luckily it was a clear night with a bright full moon. If it had been foggy or stormy, some of these planes could easily have collided in midair, resulting in hundreds of deaths. As it was, the pilots were able to see other planes by their flashing lights, and there were no accidents.

Police who were off duty were called back in case people took advantage of the blackout to rob stores or homes. But amazingly enough there was less crime during the power failure than on normal evenings. One police officer said it was probably because thieves didn't know when the lights would go back on again. Since it could happen at any moment, the thieves didn't want to risk getting caught in the act.

In New York City the fire alarms didn't work, so fire trucks cruised through the streets looking for fires. But again there were fewer fires than on normal nights. Even though millions of people were walking around in the dark with candles, they were more careful than usual, so very few fires were started.

Some businesses lost a lot of money. The Schrafft's ice cream company had \$200,000 worth of ice cream which melted, and a pie company had thousands of pies that were spoiled because they were half-cooked.

As often happens in emergencies, many people who would normally not have talked to other people found themselves talking and joking with total strangers. There are many stories of people helping each other during the blackout. Emergencies seem to bring out the best in people.

1. Why couldn't planes land?

2. Where did these planes finally land?

3. How would the situation have been different for the planes if the weather had been bad?

4. Why were off-duty police called up?

5. Was this necessary? _____

Why? _____

6. How might things have been different if someone had announced on the radio that the electricity wouldn't be turned on for another six hours?

7. Why did Schrafft's lose so much money?

8. Can you think of other people who might have lost business?

9. How did people act differently during the blackout? Why, do you think?

In the summer of 1906, a company of black army soldiers was moved to the town of Brownsville in Texas. At that time, and up until the Korean War, black and white soldiers were placed in separate companies in the United States Army. The people of Brownsville were quite nervous about having all those black soldiers around. Before the soldiers arrived, the people complained, but the soldiers were sent to the town anyway.

The day after the soldiers arrived, a one-legged woman in the town claimed that one of the black soldiers had attacked her. After hearing this, people in the town were even more nervous about having the black soldiers there, even though there was no evidence that any of them had attacked the woman.

The next night about twenty men rode through the town on horses and shot their guns in all directions. One man in the town was killed, and a police officer was wounded. The next morning people found a neat pile of rifle shells in the area where the shooting had occurred. The shells were the same kind that were used in the new rifles that the black soldiers carried.

People in the town said that finding these shells proved that the black soldiers had done the shooting. But the soldiers said that it was a lie. First of all, they had all been in their barracks when the shooting happened; their commander had checked to see that everyone was there when he heard the shooting.

Second, these men were foot soldiers and didn't have any horses to ride. Third, when the police checked their rifles the next morning, they found that they had not been fired for several days. And fourth, if the men had been riding around shooting in all directions, why would the shells have fallen into a neat little pile? The soldiers said it was a frame-up.

The townspeople still thought the black soldiers were guilty, and President Theodore Roosevelt put all 167 of them out of the Army without even giving them a trial.

It was sixty-six years later that the United States government admitted that it had been wrong. A man wrote a book showing clearly that the black soldiers were innocent, and the Army finally apologized for discharging the soldiers. But it was a little late. Only one of the 167 soldiers, a man named Dorsie Willis, was still alive. He had worked as a shoeshine man all his life because the dishonorable discharge from the Army had kept him from getting a better job.

1. Why weren't there any white soldiers in the company in Brownsville?

2. What made the white people in the town especially uptight the day after the soldiers came?

3. What happened during the Brownsville Raid?

4. What made people think it was the black soldiers who did it?

5. What do you think is the best piece of evidence showing that the soldiers didn't do it?

6. What was suspicious about the way the shells were found on the ground?

7. What happened to the black soldiers?

8. Why do you think this happened?

9. What made the Army finally apologize?

10. How did being kicked out of the Army hurt those men?

An English boy named Colin was sixteen years old when he first got into trouble with the police. He had been caught stealing money from a store and as a result was sent away to a tough reform school. At this school he had to work hard all day, and he had no fun at all.

One day during a gym class, he and the other boys had a race and Colin won. Afterward the principal of the reform school heard that Colin was a fast runner and decided to talk to him. He told Colin that he should start training for the long-distance race held against boys from another school. The principal wanted very much to win this race.

So Colin started getting up before dawn and running ten miles every morning. The rest of the day, Colin got special treatment from the teachers. They gave him better food and were nicer to him than they were to the other boys. Consequently, Colin lost a lot of friends, and some of the boys teased him about the special attention he was getting.

While he was out running every morning, Colin had a chance to think about his life. He thought about his father, who had recently died of cancer. In the days before he died, his father had refused to take any medicines or to go to the hospital. Colin hadn't liked his father very much, but he felt sorry for him in those last days.

Colin remembered that after his father died, his mother received life insurance money and immediately spent it on new clothes for herself and on a new television. Not long after that, she started going out with another man. Colin was shocked that his mother would see another man so soon after his father's death. He hated his mother's new boyfriend and nearly had a fight with him one evening.

Because things were so unhappy at home, Colin started spending time with another boy in the neighborhood. It was this boy's idea to steal money from the store. Colin thought about all this as he trained for the big, long-distance race.

Finally the day came, and Colin pulled into the lead in the middle of the race and got farther and farther ahead. Then when he was only ten yards from the finish line, Colin stopped and let the other boys win. He stood there and smiled at the principal.

*A novel by Alan Sillitoe.

1. Why was Colin sent to reform school?

2. How did the school find out he was a fast runner?

3. Why was the principal interested in Colin?

4. How did Colin train for the race?

5. Did he have many friends? _____

Why? _____

6. Why did Colin feel sorry for his father?

7. Where did Colin's mother get money to buy new clothes and a television?

8. Why was Colin angry with his mother?

9. Why did Colin get in trouble?

10. What happened at the end of the big race?

11. Could Colin have won the race?

12. Why do you think Colin stopped?

In 1853 thousands of people in England read the following story: A ten-year-old boy drowned, and the people who pulled him out of the water pronounced him dead. He wasn't breathing, and his skin was cold and grey. So a few hours later, he was put in a coffin and taken to a cemetery. In the middle of the funeral ceremony, just as they were about to bury the coffin underground, there was a terrific banging on the inside of the coffin. The sextons opened the coffin, and the boy got out and asked where his parents were.

This story fascinated many English people in the middle of the nineteenth century. We don't know whether or not it is a true story, but we do know that most people in England who heard it believed it. This story, and others like it in the Victorian period* in England, made people afraid of being buried alive. This fear made them go to ridiculous extremes to make sure that someone who seemed to be dead, but really wasn't, wouldn't be buried and trapped underground. One way to be sure the body was dead was to wait several days before burying it.

But for some people even this wasn't enough. Rich people bought special coffins that were designed to fly open if the dead person made the slightest move. The body's arms and legs were wired up to a special spring-loaded lid, so that if the body moved, the lid would fly open. Sometimes these lids did open years after the coffins were buried in crypts. This probably happened because the spring mechanism rusted or something outside shook the coffin. But people took the opening coffins as evidence that bodies might come back to life after any amount of time.

Poorer people who could not afford these expensive, spring-loaded coffins did something else. When they buried their friends or relatives, they put a crowbar or a shovel in the coffin with the body. They thought this would help people dig their way out if they came back to life after they were buried.

In 1852 a clever man named George Bateson invented a new gadget; he mounted a small bell on top of his coffins and hooked the bell up to the dead person's hands by a string. This way if the person moved, the bell would ring. Bateson sold thousands of these devices and became a very rich and famous man.

Gradually people began to realize that these devices were not necessary. They realized that when doctors pronounced a person dead, there was nothing to do but bury the person, mourn the loss, and continue with their own lives.

1. What happened to the "dead" boy in the story?

2. Why did this story scare people so much?

3. Why did people sometimes wait several days to bury their dead?

4. What were the spring-loaded coffins meant to do?

5. Why did these special coffins sometimes open years later?

6. How did people explain their opening?

7. How did poor people protect their relatives when they buried them?

8. How did George Bateson get so rich?

9. What do you think of the Victorians' fear of being buried alive?

Why? _____

*This refers to the time from 1837-1901 when Queen Victoria ruled.

Harriet was born into slavery on a plantation in Maryland in about 1821. As a young child, she was stubborn and rebellious. The plantation overseers finally got so tired of beating her that they made her work in the fields instead of in the slaveowner's house. She was a short woman, but amazed people with her strength—splitting rails, plowing fields, and carrying loads better than most men.

As the years passed, Harriet became increasingly angry about being a slave. When her sister was sold to another plantation farther south, Harriet was close to the boiling point. Soon afterward one of the overseers was chasing a slave who was trying to escape, and Harriet stood in his way. The overseer was so furious with her that he threw a heavy piece of metal and hit her on the forehead. It was months before Harriet recovered, and for the rest of her life, she was plagued by attacks of narcolepsy in which, without warning, she would fall into a deep sleep for short periods of time.

Harriet married another slave named John Tubman, but her married life didn't last long. She heard that she was going to be sold to another plantation and decided that the time had come to escape. She was dismayed to learn that her husband didn't want to leave the plantation. She was faced with a choice between her husband and freedom. She chose freedom and slipped away from the plantation alone.

In a nearby town, she got in touch with the Underground Railroad, which was a chain of people who helped runaway slaves escape to the free states to the north. She crept from house to house, putting herself in the hands of white Quakers, freed slaves, and others. All of these people believed slavery was wrong and wanted to help people escape its evils. Finally in 1849 she crossed the border into Pennsylvania, a free state. She was no longer a slave.

Harriet Tubman was not the kind of woman who could sit still very long. She felt terrible that her family was back on the plantation in Maryland. So she got a job as a cook in a hotel, saved some money, and sneaked back into Maryland to try to rescue them. That was the first of nineteen trips Harriet made to the South over the next ten years. She knew that if she were caught, she would be killed, so she disguised herself as an old woman and was very careful to spy out the lay of the land before she moved in. Her husband, John, had married another woman and didn't wish to leave, but she convinced other members of her family to come with her. She guided them north to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

(continued)

1. In what three ways was Harriet different from other people when she was young?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

2. What does "close to the boiling point" mean?

3. What is narcolepsy?

4. Why was this condition especially dangerous for her?

5. Do you think she was right to leave her husband?

_____ Why? _____

6. Who were the people who helped her get north?

7. Why wasn't she satisfied with her own freedom?

8. What were the consequences for runaway slaves if they were caught in a southern state?

9. Who were the first people she rescued from slavery?

After Harriet Tubman had rescued most of her family from slavery in the South, she felt she had only begun. She believed that she had been called by God to bring her people to freedom, and she spent the next ten years making one highly dangerous trip after another into the southern states. After a while word of her success spread, and slave owners offered large rewards for her capture. Every time they lost a slave, they were losing hundreds of dollars, and they were furious at this shadowy woman who was spiriting their “property” to the free states.

Harriet was always one step ahead of those who were trying to catch her. She usually took slaves from a plantation on Saturday night, knowing that no one would start chasing them until Monday morning. Sometimes she would head south and fool her pursuers, who assumed she would head north.

Often Harriet and her “passengers” on the Underground Railroad hid for days in snake-infested swamps until things quieted down. If babies cried, Harriet would drug them to keep them quiet. Those in the group who showed signs of wanting to give up found themselves looking down the barrel of Harriet’s pistol. She let these people know that she was perfectly willing to kill them on the spot if they didn’t keep going. She knew that if they were caught, these fainthearted people would be tortured and might give away the secrets of the Underground Railroad. “Dead men tell no tales,” she would say. She never had to shoot anyone.

Harriet Tubman became known by slaves and slave owners all over the South as Moses. This was the name of the man in the Bible who led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. One of the signals Harriet used was to have the slaves who were waiting to escape sing parts of the old hymn: “Go down Moses, way down in Egypt land, Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.” In ten years of constant danger, Harriet was never caught, nor were any of the more than three hundred people she rescued from slavery. As she later said, “I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger.”

Harriet was part of the movement against slavery called abolitionism. She gave many speeches. During the Civil War, she led an expedition into the South and freed eight hundred slaves without any of her people being killed. At the end of the Civil War, Harriet’s dream was fulfilled—all the slaves were freed. She settled in a small town in New York and sold homemade root beer and pies to raise money for schools in the South. She died in 1913, poor but surrounded by friends.

1. What inspired Harriet to go back to the South after she had freed her own family?

2. Why were slave owners upset at losing a few slaves?

3. How did Harriet get a day-and-a-half head start on pursuers?

4. Why did she sometimes go south first?

5. Under what circumstances was she willing to shoot some of her “passengers”?

6. How did she get the name Moses?

7. What two things were unusual about the expedition that freed eight hundred slaves during the Civil War?

(a) _____

(b) _____

8. Why was Harriet poor when she died?

9. Think of four words to describe Harriet.

Here are two mysteries for you to figure out.

In the mid-eighteen hundreds, two young girls in New York attracted the attention of people all over the country. Margaret and Kate Fox said they were able to communicate with the spirits of the dead. When someone asked them a question they stood still and concentrated for a few seconds, and then the questioner would hear the answer in strange rapping noises. One rap meant the answer to the question was “no”; three raps meant the answer was “yes.”

People came from miles around to ask the Fox sisters questions, and almost everyone who saw them was convinced that they had special powers that enabled them to get in touch with the dead. Margaret and Kate’s older sister organized several tours around the United States, and the girls became famous nationwide. People from Europe heard about them and traveled across the Atlantic to ask them questions. Some people said that the rapping noises were evidence that the dead were still alive in another world.

In Germany fifty years later, Clever Hans, a horse, was the object of an equal amount of attention. The owner of this brilliant horse claimed that Hans could answer any question correctly. If it was a math question, Clever Hans would tap out the answer with his hoof. If the question called for a yes or no answer, the horse would nod or shake his head “yes” or “no.”

Word about Hans spread, and scientists traveled for miles to ask him questions and to try to find out how he had managed to become so well educated. They asked him difficult math questions, and he almost always got the right number of taps with his hoof. They asked him tough questions on geography and politics, and he almost always shook his head correctly. The scientists tried it with the horse’s master out of the room, even out of the city, and Hans still got answers right. They couldn’t figure it out. The only clue they had was that Hans could not get the answer right when he was blindfolded.

Answer questions 1-8; then read the paragraph below, and answer the remaining questions.

Margaret confessed forty years later that the Fox sisters had been cracking their toes and ankle joints. They first did it to frighten their mother. Then their sister roped them into money-making tours, and they were too scared to back out of it. Clever Hans was clever—he knew he would get a sugar cube if he did the right thing, and he watched the humans very carefully. In small ways that none of them noticed, they gave the answers away to him by relaxing.

1. What did people think the rapping noises proved?

2. Why did people travel for miles to ask the Fox sisters questions?

3. Why do you think no one suspected a hoax?

4. What do you think was really going on?

5. In what way did Clever Hans answer number questions?

6. Who came to test the horse’s accuracy?

7. When did he make the most mistakes?

8. How do you think Hans did it?

9. When did Margaret Fox confess the hoax?

10. Why not before then, do you think?

11. What motivated Hans to get right answers?

12. How did he know what to answer?

On July 5, 1884, there was a terrible storm in the ocean off the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. A small sailing ship was battered to pieces by the wind and waves, and four people from the ship had to get into a small rowboat to save themselves.

There were three men—Dudley, Stephens, and Brooks—and a seventeen-year-old boy named Parker. There was hardly enough room for all of them in the rowboat. They had no oars, so the boat drifted aimlessly in the ocean. They were more than a thousand miles from the nearest land, and all they had to eat was a two-pound can of turnips. There was no fresh water.

For three days they drifted in the ocean and slowly ate the turnips. They knew that their only hope of being saved was for a passing ship to see them. When it rained, they caught some of the rainwater in their coats and drank it. They knew that drinking sea water would make them sick.

On the fourth day after the storm, the men caught a small turtle. They ate it slowly, making the turtle last for eight days. Then seven more days passed without food and five days without water.

By this time, all of them were nearly dead with hunger and thirst, and they had almost given up hope of a ship coming in time. Then Dudley and Stephens suggested to the other man that they kill the boy and eat his flesh to keep themselves alive. Brooks refused to have any part in it. Dudley and Stephens said they would wait one more day.

By the next day, July 25, no ship had come over the horizon. Dudley and Stephens told Brooks to take a nap or look the other way. Then they went over to the boy. Parker was lying on the bottom of the boat. He was very weak from hunger and thirst and from having drunk sea water. If they had waited the boy probably would have died. The two men killed him with a knife.

For the next four days, all three men ate the flesh of the boy, and it probably saved their lives. On the fourth day, a ship passed by and picked them up. But when they got back to England, Dudley and Stephens were put on trial for the murder of the boy. The case was called Regina (the queen) versus Dudley and Stephens. It is one of the most famous trials in history.

1. Why were these four people in the rowboat?

2. What did they eat for the first eleven days?

3. What did they hope would save them?

4. What did the three men eat after July 25?

5. Did Brooks help in the killing? _____

6. How did they get back to England?

7. What were Dudley and Stephens charged with?

8. If you were the lawyer defending Dudley and Stephens, what arguments would you use to try to get them off?

9. If you were the lawyer against the two men, what arguments would you use to have them found guilty?

10. If you were on the jury, what would you decide?

In the late fifties, a secret organization in France tried several times to kill President Charles de Gaulle. The secret group was called the OAS, and the members wanted President de Gaulle dead because they thought he had betrayed his country by allowing the colony of Algeria to become independent.

The OAS made several attempts to kill the president, but something always went wrong. In one attempt three men waited by the side of a country road for de Gaulle's car to pass by. When it came, they opened fire with submachine guns, but somehow they missed the president. De Gaulle looked out the shattered back window of his car and said, "They can't even shoot straight!" All three men were caught, and their leader was shot by a firing squad.

After missing de Gaulle so many times, the OAS decided they would have to hire an outsider, a professional killer, to do the job. There weren't many men like this around, but finally they were able to find someone. He was so secretive that he wouldn't even tell them his name. He told them to call him the Jackal.

The OAS made a deal with the Jackal. They agreed to give him \$250,000 right away, and another \$250,000 later if he succeeded in killing de Gaulle. The Jackal accepted and immediately began preparations for the assassination.

First, the Jackal went to the library and read all the books about de Gaulle. He was looking for a habit or weakness in de Gaulle's way of life that would give the Jackal a chance to kill him. After many hours of reading, the Jackal found what he was looking for. It seemed that every year on Bastille Day, a French holiday, de Gaulle went to a parade of old soldiers in an open courtyard in Paris. He had not missed one of these parades.

The Jackal made plans to get into one of the buildings overlooking the courtyard and shoot de Gaulle with a special rifle that wouldn't make any noise when it was fired. In the confusion, he planned to escape, collect the second half of his money, and live like a king for the rest of his life.

The Jackal spent several months collecting false papers and disguises that would enable him to get into the part of Paris near the parade. He also had a special rifle made for him. It could be taken apart and hidden in a metal crutch. From the same rifle-maker, he bought several explosive bullets, to make absolutely sure of killing de Gaulle.

(continued)

*A novel by Frederick Forsyth.

1. What was the OAS? _____

2. Why did this organization want to kill the president of France?

3. Describe the way de Gaulle felt about the men trying to kill him.

4. Why do you think the OAS wanted to hire a professional killer?

5. Why did the killer want to be called the Jackal?

6. What was to be his total pay if he succeeded in killing de Gaulle?

7. Why did the professional killer go to a library?

8. Why did he plan to shoot de Gaulle on Bastille Day?

9. How did he plan to hide his gun?

10. What do you think might go wrong in the Jackal's plans?

As the Jackal was finishing his preparations for killing de Gaulle, the French police began to get suspicious. The OAS had robbed several banks, and then their leaders had gone into hiding in a hotel in Rome. The French police figured out that the OAS had robbed the banks to raise money. The police caught one of the OAS members, tortured him, and found out that the money had been raised to pay a professional killer, the Jackal, to shoot President de Gaulle.

The police immediately began looking for the Jackal. They put their best detective onto the job. But it wasn't easy since they didn't know the Jackal's real name, when he planned to shoot de Gaulle, or what disguise he might wear on the day of the assassination.

The French detective in charge of the case read many of the same books that the Jackal had read. He came to the same conclusion—that the best time to shoot de Gaulle would be on Bastille Day in the open courtyard in Paris. The detective tried to persuade the president not to go to the parade that day, but de Gaulle would hear nothing of it. He insisted on going.

This meant the French police had to track down the Jackal before Bastille Day. By a stroke of luck, they discovered that a tall, blond Englishman had taken out a passport under a false name. They had a pretty good idea that this was the Jackal, so they began a hunt for the man carrying this passport. When the Jackal crossed the border into France, a police officer called in the number of his passport; the police were closing in on the Jackal.

But the OAS had a spy. She was the girlfriend of a very important man in the French government. Every night, after attending meetings concerning the Jackal, this man would come to her and tell her everything. Then she would sneak off and call the OAS and give them the information. The Jackal called a number in Paris every few days to learn just what the French police were doing. Knowing the information from the spy, he was able to escape and reach Paris a few days before Bastille Day. There he made his final preparations.

The French police were desperate. They could not understand how the Jackal had escaped them. The detective in charge of the case began to suspect that there was a spy, so he bugged the telephones of all the people who attended his meetings. On these recordings, he heard the voice of the minister's girlfriend calling the OAS; soon after this the minister was fired, and the spy arrested.

(continued)

1. How did the OAS get the money to pay the Jackal?

2. How did the French police find out about the Jackal?

3. What else did the police need to know before they could catch the Jackal?

4. What did the chief detective do which the Jackal had also done?

5. How did the French police locate the Jackal?

6. Was this the result of skill or luck?

7. How did the Jackal find out that the French police were about to close in on him?

8. What does *bugged* mean?

9. How do you think the minister felt when he was fired?

_____ Why? _____

10. What do you think will happen now?

At this point the French police still didn't know where the Jackal was or what kind of disguise he would wear to get near de Gaulle. They tried again to persuade de Gaulle to stay home on Bastille Day, but the president refused. He said that people would think he was a coward if he hid from danger.

Bastille Day came, and the French police filled the streets of the city with their best people. They stopped and searched every suspicious-looking person. They surrounded the president with tall men, so that the Jackal couldn't get a good shot at him.

Meanwhile, the Jackal was getting into his final disguise. He dressed as an old soldier and strapped up one leg so that it looked as if he had only one leg. He put on a long overcoat and hobbled toward the site of the parade on his crutch. He had grown a beard and had taken chemicals that made his face look old.

The Jackal had false papers that showed that he lived in one of the apartments above the square where the parade was being held. He showed the papers to a police officer, and he was allowed to enter the apartment building. Once inside, the Jackal killed the landlady and got the key to one of the fifth-floor apartments.

There were police all over the roofs of the buildings around the square, so the Jackal opened the window just a little. He set up his special rifle in the middle of the room, so he couldn't be seen from outside. He loaded one of his explosive bullets and waited for de Gaulle to arrive.

When de Gaulle came, the chief detective was with him. The detective knew that the Jackal was somewhere around, but he didn't know where. He asked a police officer whether or not he had seen anyone suspicious, and the officer said no. Then he told the detective about the pathetic, old, one-legged soldier who had hobbled in. The detective knew that that was the Jackal, and he looked up and saw the slightly-opened window on the fifth floor. He and the police officer raced into the building and charged up the stairs.

At that moment, de Gaulle stepped out into the sunlight and began presenting medals to a row of old soldiers. There was no one around him. The Jackal had a perfect shot, and he took careful aim through his telescopic sight.

(continued)

1. Why did de Gaulle refuse to stay home even though he knew there was a killer on the loose?

2. What three steps did the police take to protect de Gaulle?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

3. What were two reasons that the Jackal wanted to look like a one-legged man?

(a) _____

(b) _____

4. How did he manage to get into the apartment building on the square?

5. Why did he kill the landlady?

6. Why didn't he leave the window closed and shoot through the glass?

7. How did the detective know that the one-legged soldier was the Jackal?

8. What do you think is going to happen?

Inside the room, the Jackal was squinting through the telescope sight of his specially made rifle. He sighted on de Gaulle's head as the president made his way down a line of old soldiers, to whom he was giving medals. The Jackal took a deep breath and squeezed the trigger.

At that instant de Gaulle impulsively leaned forward and kissed an old soldier on both cheeks. The bullet from the Jackal's rifle just missed the president's head and shattered harmlessly on the pavement. Because a band was playing, and because the Jackal's gun had a silencer on it, no one heard the shot.

The Jackal cursed his luck and loaded another explosive bullet into the rifle. Again he took careful aim at de Gaulle's head. He swore that this time he would not miss. He thought of the \$250,000 he was about to make and the nice life he would have from then on.

At that moment there was a crash at the door. The chief detective and the police officer were breaking down the door. Then there was a shot; the officer had shot the lock with his submachine gun, and the two men burst into the room.

The Jackal swung around and shot the police officer in the stomach. The explosive bullet killed him, and he collapsed on the floor. The detective now was standing face to face with the man he had been hunting for months. The detective didn't have a gun, and the Jackal's gun was empty. For an instant they stared at each other.

Then the Jackal reached for another one of his explosive bullets and quickly loaded it into the rifle. At the same time, the detective, realizing that he was next to be shot, quickly bent down, picked up the dead police officer's submachine gun, and shot the Jackal dead.

People on the street below heard a bang but were assured that it was only a car backfiring. The French people were never told about this mysterious man who nearly had killed their president. The Jackal was buried in a secret grave. No one knew who he really was or where he had come from.

One final note. This book was listed as fiction, but it very well may be a true story. We probably will never know.

1. Why did the Jackal's bullet miss de Gaulle's head?

2. Why didn't people hear the shot?

(a) _____

(b) _____

3. How do you think the Jackal felt when he saw the detective and the police officer?

4. Think back. What mistake did the police officer make that he later paid for with his life?

5. Why did the detective and the Jackal stare at each other for a second?

6. What happened to the Jackal?

7. How did the police explain the shots?

8. Do you think they were right not to tell the French people about the Jackal?

_____ Why? _____

9. Who was the hero of this story?

_____ Why? _____

Several years ago, deep in the forests of the northwestern part of the United States, a crew of men was cutting down trees. One of the team, Jack Cochran, took a break from working a crane which lifted logs onto heavy trucks. As he was sitting in the shade of a tree, he looked up and saw a large, hairy, ape-like creature standing about fifty feet away.

Jack Cochran was familiar with that part of the country; this creature was different from anything he'd ever seen before. It was about six and a half feet tall, had huge shoulders, and was covered with black hair. Cochran quickly made a sketch of the creature. The next day he went back to the same place and watched, but it didn't return. Then, a few hours later, some other men in the lumber crew were walking into the woods and saw a strange creature run off into the forest.

These men are among the hundreds of people who, over the last few centuries, have reported seeing an ape-like creature. The animal has been named Bigfoot because of the huge footprints it leaves—fourteen inches long and eight inches wide. The first people to tell stories about Bigfoot were the Native Americans, who called it Sasquatch. Since white people have moved into this wild and mountainous part of the country, there have been more than 350 sightings of the beast, and they continue to be made.

Some people think that all these stories have been made up as jokes or hoaxes. They don't believe it is possible for the Bigfoot to have hidden all these years in a crowded country like the United States. But what these people don't realize is that in the northwestern part of our country, there are about 125,000 square miles of mountains and forests where people almost never go. Many scientists think it is possible that there are as many as a thousand Bigfeet roaming this area.

One man took a moving picture of a Bigfoot. When he saw the creature, the horse he was riding went wild, but the man managed to control the horse and take eighteen seconds of moving pictures. Some scientists think this movie is a fake, but others think it shows a species of ape-man called *Gigantopithecus*. Fossils of the bones of these creatures have been found in Asia, but scientists have thought the animal was extinct.

So far no one has been able to catch or kill one of the Bigfeet, so doubts remain about whether or not it really exists. The person who finds and captures one of these creatures will make an important contribution to modern science.

1. What did Jack Cochran see?

2. Why do you think he sketched it?

3. Why is it called Bigfoot?

4. How could it hide from people and keep from being caught for so long?

5. How is the creature different from people?

6. Why was it difficult for the man to take a movie of Bigfoot?

7. How could he have faked the movie?

8. Where have fossils of similar ape-men been found?

9. What does it mean that scientists thought the creature was extinct?

10. If you saw a Bigfoot and you had a camera and a gun with you, what would you do? Why?

One December several years ago, a twenty-year-old woman named Barbara Mackle was kidnapped from a hotel in Georgia and held for \$500,000 in ransom. Her millionaire father was told that she was buried alive in a coffin with air hoses leading up to the surface, battery-operated fans, a light, and some food.

For eighty-three hours, the police and FBI tried to find the kidnapers and figure out whether or not the coffin story was true. Finally Mr. Mackle paid the ransom and immediately got a phone call telling him where his daughter was buried. Two FBI agents raced to the scene and dug into the ground with their hands. They found the coffin and opened it. The light was out, but Barbara was still alive. She said the two agents were the most beautiful people she had ever seen.

Within five days Gary Krist, the mastermind of the kidnapping, was captured in a Florida swamp with a suitcase full of twenty-dollar bills. His accomplice, a woman, was arrested later. Krist was put on trial in Georgia, and the prosecutor demanded the death penalty.

When the jurors reached their verdict on the case, eight agreed with the prosecutor that Krist should die. But four jurors held out, saying that death was too harsh a punishment. In the end Gary Krist was sentenced to life in prison and was sent to the Georgia State Prison at Reidsville. This is a very tough prison where assaults and murders are common among the prisoners.

After ten years in prison, Krist's parole board had the chance to let him out on parole. Some members of the board argued that he was a new man after his years in jail, that he was no longer the tough con man who had buried a woman alive. They said that since the victim had not been harmed physically and had recovered completely from the kidnapping, Gary Krist had paid his debt to society. After long debate, the board voted to set him free on the condition that he leave Georgia within seventy-two hours, go to his home in Alaska, and never come back.

When word of Krist's parole reached the newspapers, there was a storm of protest. The judge and prosecutor in the case said Krist was still an evil man and should remain in jail. But Barbara Mackle did not oppose his release, and Gary Krist flew back to his family in Alaska. When reporters asked him what he would say to his former victim, he said, "Thank you for not opposing my parole and for having the Christian charity to forgive me for something I did that was unforgivable."

1. How did the kidnapers hide their victim while they were waiting for the ransom to be paid?

2. What steps did they take to keep her alive?

3. Why do you think Mr. Mackle wanted to pay the money quickly?

4. What do you think the FBI agents were thinking as they dug?

5. Why was Gary Krist not executed for the kidnapping?

6. How long did he spend in jail?

7. What were some reasons for letting him go?

8. What were some reasons for keeping him in jail?

9. Do you think the parole board made the right decision?

Why? _____

10. What evidence is there that the parole board didn't completely trust Krist?

Once there was a farm which was owned by a mean old man named Jones. He treated his animals badly. He beat them, hardly gave them enough food to stay alive, and sold the eggs, milk, and meat to buy whiskey for himself.

The animals hated Jones and did as little work for him as they could. One night an old pig named Major called a meeting of all the animals. He told them that they should rise up, throw out Jones, and run the farm themselves. He made all the animals, even the dim-witted sheep, see that they were being treated like slaves and should do something about it.

Major died that night, and all the animals were sad. They knew that what Major had said was right. The next morning Farmer Jones was so drunk that he didn't give them any food. So the animals broke down the door to the barn and started eating the food. Jones woke up and tried to drive the animals away with a whip, but the animals suddenly turned on Jones and chased him right off the farm.

They had won! The farm belonged to them! Right away the animals renamed the farm Animal Farm. They decided that from then on every animal would have enough to eat and wouldn't have to work too hard. They wrote four laws on the wall of the barn.

- Four legs good, two legs bad.
- No animal shall sleep in a bed.
- No animal shall kill another animal.
- All animals are equal.

The pigs were the smartest of the animals and helped get everyone organized. But one pig named Napoleon was greedy for power. Napoleon secretly raised some puppies to become fierce dogs who would obey him completely. Then one day Napoleon made his move. He took over the farm and had the dogs kill everyone who disagreed with him.

Pretty soon things were as bad as they had been with Farmer Jones. Napoleon forced the animals to work long hours, and he didn't give them enough to eat. Napoleon and some other pigs started walking around on two legs like human beings and sleeping in Farmer Jones's beds. They acted as if they were better than their fellow animals.

Finally the other animals decided that they had had enough. They got together one night and killed all the pigs, and once again they set the farm up to run as it had when Farmer Jones was first driven out.

*From a novel by George Orwell.

1. Why did the animals hate Farmer Jones?

2. What did Major want the animals to do?

3. Why did the animals break down the barn door?

4. What did the animals do to Farmer Jones?

5. Who were the smartest animals who got the others organized?

6. What was it like for the animals when they first started Animal Farm?

7. Why did Napoleon want to take over the farm?

8. Why didn't the other animals stop him?

9. What was life on the farm like under Napoleon's rule?

10. What did the animals finally do?

11. George Orwell wrote *Animal Farm* to make fun of a certain kind of government. Write which one it is.

TWA flight 841 was cruising at an altitude of about 40,000 feet on its nighttime trip from New York to Minneapolis. The pilot, Harvey Gibson, had the three-engine jet on automatic pilot, which kept it on course without his having to keep his hands on the controls. It was a cloudy, foggy night, but with radar and the radio at his disposal, Gibson felt safe. He had been a pilot for thirty-one years.

Suddenly a flap on the right wing popped out of place below the wing. The plane started to vibrate and bank to the right. The pilot and copilot grabbed the controls, turned off the automatic pilot, and tried to use the rudder and ailerons on the wings to level the plane off. But it was as if a supernatural force was pulling the plane to the right. As the pilot wrestled with the controls, the huge jet rolled over onto its back and began a steep dive toward the earth. The eighty passengers in the cabin were petrified with fear.

The plane kept rolling—over on its back, then upright, and then over onto its back again. It was diving toward the ground with increasing speed. Everything in the plane began to shake and rattle. In the cockpit Harvey Gibson brought the plane back right side up again, but nothing he did would bring the plane out of its accelerating dive. Its speed increased from 525 miles an hour to about 650 miles an hour. They were approaching the speed of sound.

The plane was accelerating so fast that the passengers found it hard to breathe. One woman who was in the bathroom was pinned to the floor. A stewardess sat weeping silently in her seat. Everyone prayed, but they all felt that death was near. One man turned to his pregnant wife and said, "I love you, Louise," because he was certain he would never have another chance to tell her. Magazines were scattered around the cabin, and some of the overhead racks buckled, dropping out oxygen masks.

In the cockpit the pilot continued to struggle with the controls, but he was aware of another danger. If he pulled back too hard on the flaps, the wings might be torn off by the extraordinary force of the wind. The plane was not built to fly as fast as it was going. It was possible that at any moment the vibrations might loosen some bolts or tear apart the welded joints. The life of every person on the plane depended on the men and women who had built the plane in the Boeing factory in Seattle. Would the plane hold together?

1. What were three things that made the pilot feel safe at the beginning of the story?
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____

2. What made the pilot and copilot grab the controls?

3. As it dived, how much did the plane's speed increase?

4. What made it hard for the passengers to breathe?

5. Why did a man tell his wife he loved her?

6. If you had been a passenger on the plane, what would you have thought and done?

7. What part did people in Seattle play in this story?

8. So far has the story said what caused the plane's dive?

9. What evidence is there in part 1 of this story that the plane will *not* crash? (Watch out, this is a very tricky question.)

In only ten or twenty seconds, all this had happened: The plane rolled over twice and made a steep dive toward earth; the pilot struggled with the controls; the passengers prayed and prepared to die; the cabin became littered with magazines and debris. Flight 841 had been cruising at almost 40,000 feet; just a few seconds later, as long as it takes to eat three French fries, it had plunged 30,000 feet toward the earth at an angle of seventy-five degrees. All this was caused by a faulty wing flap.

Harvey Gibson had been trained to keep cool in any kind of situation and had years of experience behind him, but he'd never been in a spot like this. He had tried everything to bring the plane out of its dive, and nothing had worked. The altimeter, an instrument that tells how high off the ground a plane is, was unwinding so fast he couldn't read it, so Gibson had no idea how much farther down the ground was. He also didn't know if there were other planes in the area.

Gibson decided to try one last thing. He ordered the copilot to lower the wheels. This was very unusual, because a plane only lowers its wheels when it is going slowly and is preparing to land. The copilot, who was also trying to stay cool, followed orders, and as the three sets of wheels, two under the body and one under the nose, moved into the rushing airstream, there was an incredible sound. The vibration in the plane increased.

Slowly the wheels' drag began to reduce the speed of the plane. Gibson pulled gently back on the control stick, still wary of putting too much strain on the wings. Slowly the nose of the plane began to rise. Gibson had seen the lights of towns and cities through the clouds as the plane dived. He now could see the moon through the clouds, and he steered the plane straight toward it. The plane was only 5,000 feet above the ground.

Only then did Gibson get out his microphone and speak to the passengers. "There has been a little trouble," he said, "and we are going to make a precautionary landing at Detroit." They flew over the control tower once so the people there could check to see that the wheels were in place. Then Gibson executed a fast, bumpy landing; the flaps had been torn off the wings, so he couldn't slow the plane to its normal landing speed. When it was all over, Gibson said, "I feel like I'm 400 years old."

1. Why couldn't Gibson tell how high off the ground he was?

2. Why did the copilot lower the wheels?

3. Why do you think Gibson ordered the copilot to do it; why didn't he do it himself?

4. Why did the wheels increase the vibration?

5. Why was Gibson afraid to pull back too hard on the control stick?

6. How close to crashing did the plane come?

7. When the pilot said the plane had had a "little trouble," how do you think the passengers felt?

8. Why was the landing bumpier than usual?

9. What was the reason for the plane's dive and rolls? (Check one.)
 - engine problems
 - lack of fuel
 - right wing-flap problems
 - another plane hitting the right wing
 - pilot carelessness

Many states in this country have lotteries. To play the game, people buy tickets for fifty cents or more and have a chance of winning a great deal of money. Each time people buy lottery tickets, they hope that they will be lucky and will win a pot of money. The fact is that very, very, few people win money compared to the millions of people who buy tickets. It takes a lot of quarters and fifty-cent pieces to get together enough money to pay those prizes.

When people do win the lottery, does all that money make them happy? Jerry and Rena LeBlanc spent a lot of time interviewing people who had won huge amounts of money, and then they wrote a book called *Suddenly Rich*, published in 1978. The LeBlancs found that many people weren't that happy with all the money that they had won.

Some people found that when they suddenly became rich, the people they worked with started to treat them differently. Some fellow workers played practical jokes on them. Some people wouldn't talk to them any more because they thought these lottery winners probably had changed into rich snobs.

When a winner is first announced in the newspaper and on television, the person is often bombarded with phone calls and visits from all kinds of people. A winner may end up taking the phone off the hook, so it won't ring day and night. Many of the calls are from "friends" and relatives who want some of the money. One man in Connecticut said, "We got to know who our real friends are. They are the ones who didn't have their hands out."

Some winners chose to move out of their old neighborhoods because of their new-found money. But when they moved into rich neighborhoods, they often felt uncomfortable. Some winners were afraid of being robbed and went out and bought guns to protect themselves. One person moved to another city, got an unlisted phone, and could be reached only by sending a telegram to a friend, who would then contact the winner.

People who had worked hard at jobs all their lives suddenly were able to stop working. They began to wonder about themselves—whether or not they deserved the money. They felt guilty for having money that they hadn't earned. In some cases families broke up. According to this book, winning a million dollars might not be the greatest luck in the world!

1. When you buy a lottery ticket, what chance do you have of winning a big prize? (Check one.)
one in ten
one in a hundred
one in a thousand
one in a million
one in a trillion

2. Why do so many people buy lottery tickets?

3. Why do you think fellow workers played practical jokes on lottery winners?

4. Why do winners suddenly become popular?

5. Why does the word *friends* in the paragraph have quotation marks around it?

6. Why do some lottery winners buy guns?

7. Why would a person who had worked hard all his or her life feel bad with a million dollars?

8. Most lottery companies insist on publicizing the names and pictures of winners. Why do you think?

9. Would you want to win the lottery?

_____ Why? _____

American presidents often travel around the United States to visit different cities. When people see television or newspaper reports of these visits, everything seems very simple. What most people don't realize is that even the shortest visit by a president involves an incredible amount of planning.

One such visit was a four-and-one-half-hour stop by Jimmy Carter in Des Moines, Iowa, when he was president. The reasons for his visit to Des Moines were to talk to reporters from that area and to give two speeches.

Two weeks before the Des Moines visit, a team of thirty men and women from the White House in Washington arrived in Des Moines to prepare for the visit. Some of the advance team were Secret Service agents, who combed every inch of the president's route for possible danger to his life. They talked to the local police about people in the area who might try to harm the president, and they checked those people out.

The Secret Service agents had not made reservations in a hotel, so when they arrived and there weren't enough rooms for them, the agents just bumped some of the other hotel guests and took their rooms. The hotel manager apologized to the other guests, but he was excited to have these important people from Washington in his hotel.

Other members of the advance team supervised the arrival of one of the president's black, bulletproof limousines. It was flown in by cargo plane and prepared for the short drives Carter would make. There are six such limousines stationed around the country, ready to be flown to the city the president is visiting.

Another part of the advance team made preparations at the airport for a special telephone which would improve communications to Washington, D.C., in case of an emergency. Other advance team members talked to the local reporters to make sure they would be there to take the president's picture and report what he said; they lined up the local politicians to be there too.

In the week before Carter arrived, the advance team spent many hours going over every minute of the visit. Had they thought of everything that might happen? Did every room that the president would be in have two exits? Would the president's personal doctor always be nearby? Would his military aide, carrying a black briefcase containing the codes needed to launch American nuclear missiles if we were attacked, always be a few feet away? Would there always be a telephone nearby? Finally everything was ready, and President Carter arrived, gave his speeches, and then left.

1. What was the job of the Secret Service agents?

2. Why did the Secret Service agents have the right to bump other guests out of the hotel?

3. What is special about the president's car?

4. How did the agents plan to improve communications at the airport?

5. Why do you think the advance team wanted reporters to be there when Carter arrived?

6. Why do you think it's important that there are two exits from every room Carter enters?

7. Why must his doctor always be with him?

8. If Carter had heard in Des Moines that a surprise nuclear attack had been launched on our country, what two steps do you think he would have taken?

In 1940 the situation looked really bad for the island country of Great Britain. It was during World War II, and Hitler's German army and air force had taken over most of Europe and were preparing to invade Great Britain. Sir Winston Churchill, the cigar-smoking English leader, rallied his people with brave speeches. In one of them, he said, "We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be; we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."*

But Churchill was smart enough to know that the German army and air force were stronger than England's, that there was a good chance that Hitler's soldiers would cross the English Channel, defeat the British army, and march into London in triumph. So Churchill made a secret plan to keep Hitler from getting his hands on the gold and other valuable assets in England's banks.

One Sunday morning in 1940, a heavily guarded train, loaded with 2,229 boxes of gold and 500 boxes of valuable securities, pulled out of a London train station. Under a cloak of great secrecy, the train traveled north to Glasgow in Scotland. There its contents were loaded onto a warship called the *Emerald*. As one of the boxes was being lowered into the hold, a rope broke, the box fell, and gold ingots spilled out on the deck. Word quickly spread among the crew about the importance of their cargo. They knew that if the ship sank, England would never be the same again.

The *Emerald* set out with an escort of four destroyers, and everyone kept a sharp lookout for the German submarine "wolf-packs" which prowled the North Atlantic Ocean. All ships zigzagged to make it more difficult for them to be hit with torpedoes. At all times crew members monitored the underwater radar for signs of submarines.

As the convoy began its crossing, a tremendous storm blew up; the smaller destroyers were almost swamped by huge waves. The *Emerald* was forced to slow down and at this reduced speed became much more vulnerable to German torpedoes. The storm became so bad that the destroyers had to turn back; the *Emerald* was left to cross the Atlantic on its own.

Six days later, without having sighted a single other ship, the *Emerald* arrived in Canada. The English treasure, valued at more than two billion dollars, was transferred to a heavily guarded vault deep under a Montreal office building. As it turned out, Germany never invaded Great Britain and ultimately lost the war; the money was brought back to Great Britain.

*From the "Speech of Dunkirk," House of Commons, June 4, 1940.

1. What threat was Great Britain facing in 1940?

2. What didn't Churchill want the Germans to get if they took over his country?

3. What was the first stage of the treasure's journey?

4. Why do you think they took the money to a northern port? (You may need to look at a map.)

5. How did the men on the ship find out what cargo they were carrying?

6. How do you think this made them feel?

7. What two dangers faced them on the journey?
(a) _____
(b) _____
8. Where was the treasure kept until the end of the war?

9. Why do you think Churchill didn't tell his people that he was moving out the treasure?

10. Do you think Churchill did the right thing in sending the treasure to Canada by boat?
_____ Why? _____

Lyudmila Vlasova, a beautiful and talented Soviet ballet dancer, was in New York City in 1979, dancing with the Bolshoi Ballet. As usual the Soviet dancers thrilled their American audiences and were a great success. But behind the scenes, a personal drama was unfolding which would force Vlasova to make the most difficult decision of her life. Vlasova's husband, another dancer in the Bolshoi Ballet, decided to defect to the United States, giving up his Soviet citizenship. Vlasova had to decide whether she would join her husband or return to her homeland and her family.

Vlasova and her husband, Aleksandr Godunov had talked about defecting together. They both were unhappy in the Soviet Union. They thought that it was too strict, and that it didn't give them enough money or freedom. They had heard about several other famous Soviet ballet dancers who had defected to the United States. They had heard that they were happy and rich and loved the freedom of the United States.

Soviet security agents had been afraid that Godunov and Vlasova might try to defect while they were in New York, so they had thought of a clever way to keep them from trying anything. Vlasova was forced to sleep in a separate hotel room from her husband, and had to eat her meals at a different time, and was kept away from him and under guard at all times. Soviet agents knew that they loved each other, and they thought that it was very unlikely that either one would defect alone. By keeping them separated, they thought they could control them.

But Godunov decided he was going to defect anyway. He left the ballet company, turned himself over to American officials, and asked for political asylum. The next day, after it was granted, Godunov began to worry about his wife. Did she want to join him? Was she being forced to stay with the ballet? He begged American officials to talk to her and find out if she wanted to stay in the United States and make a new life with him.

Before the United States government in Washington could decide what to do, eight Soviet security men took Vlasova out of the ballet, packed her bags, drove her to Kennedy Airport outside New York City, and put her on a Soviet airliner headed for Moscow. American officials heard what was going on at the last moment and ordered that the plane be stopped. As it reached the end of the runway and was given clearance by the control tower to take off, a police car sped across the runway to stop it.

(continued)

1. What does *defect* mean in this story?

2. What choice did Vlasova's husband force her to make?

3. How did they think life in the United States would be better for them?

4. Why did Soviet security agents keep Vlasova and her husband separated in New York?

5. What evidence is there in the story that Godunov is a selfish man and a clever man?

6. What did he want United States officials to do?

7. Do you think Vlasova wants to defect with her husband?

_____ Why? _____

8. Why did United States officials want to stop the plane?

9. What do you think is going to happen now?

As the jet carrying Vlasova was about to take off, the police car screeched to a halt against its front wheels. By radio, the pilot was ordered to return to the terminal. When the plane reached the terminal, other police cars parked around its wheels to keep it from moving. An American official got on the plane and talked to Vlasova to see if she was leaving of her own free will. She said, "I love my husband, but he made his decision to stay here, and I have made mine to leave."

This sounded pretty final, but the American officials didn't believe it. They were convinced that Vlasova had been forced onto the plane by the eight Soviet security agents, and that she was afraid to say what she really wanted to with these men standing around her on the plane. So the Americans refused to let the plane leave and insisted on talking to Vlasova in a place where they could be sure she wasn't being intimidated.

The Soviets were furious. They said she wouldn't get off the plane because she was afraid of being kidnapped by the Americans. They refused to let any more American officials onto the plane, and their government in Moscow sent a strongly worded letter of protest to President Carter. It demanded that the plane be allowed to leave immediately.

The Americans wouldn't budge. They said it was against their policy to allow anyone to be taken out of the country against his or her will. They insisted on talking to Vlasova. The Americans knew they had the right to send police officers onto the plane to take her off, but they were afraid that the Soviet security agents might shoot.

So Soviet and American diplomats began to negotiate. The Soviets wanted American newspaper reporters to board the plane to interview Vlasova, but the Americans refused to allow it. The Americans wanted her to stand in the doorway of the plane while they talked to her, but the Soviets refused to allow it. The Soviets suggested that she write a letter to her husband explaining her reasons for leaving, but the Americans rejected the idea.

Finally, after three days of round-the-clock talking (during which time none of the Soviet passengers was allowed to leave the plane), they reached a compromise. A mobile lounge was backed up against the side of the plane, and Vlasova walked in and talked with the Americans. After twenty minutes, they were convinced she really wanted to leave. When they asked if she wanted to talk to anyone, she said, "Nyet." So the plane took off, and Vlasova returned to the Soviet Union.

1. How did one police car stop a huge jet?

2. Why didn't American officials believe Vlasova when she said she wanted to leave?

3. What do you think was the real reason the Soviets didn't want to let her off the plane?

4. How do you think the Soviet government felt about Godunov's defection to the United States?
_____ Why? _____
5. Why do you think the American negotiators refused the Soviet proposal for a newspaper interview with her or for a letter from her to her husband?

6. How would you describe the Soviet and American negotiators?

Why? _____
7. What convinced the Americans to let Vlasova leave?

8. Do you think she really wanted to leave?
_____ Why? _____

Bill Powell had had a serious motorcycle accident which paralyzed one arm and both of his legs. He had almost no movement in the other arm and none in his fingers. When Bill got out of the hospital, he was determined that he would lead a normal life. But he found that there were many things he couldn't do any more, and many ways his life would have to change.

Bill bought a wheelchair with a battery-run motor and moved into a hotel with elevators in downtown Boston. Then he hired an attendant who came early in the morning to help Bill get out of bed, get washed, and put on his clothes. The attendant returned in the evening to get Bill ready for bed. When he felt settled, Bill went back to college and got a masters degree, and then he got a job in a computer company. His job was to read and analyze reports and then to dictate letters and other communications for his secretary to type up.

Bill was getting used to his new way of life, when a hospital psychologist, Dr. Mary Willard, had a new idea. She suggested that a monkey be trained to help Bill with all the little jobs around his room that he couldn't do without the use of his hands. Dr. Willard bought two female capuchin monkeys (the kind organ grinders use), and in a little over a year, trained one of them as a special helper for Bill.

Crystal, as the monkey was named, was an enormous help to Bill Powell. She opened the door for him when he came home at night, turned the lights off and on, and turned the pages of a book or magazine for him as he read. She could take a record out of its cover and put it onto the record player, and she fetched anything Bill wanted. His only regret was that Crystal couldn't cook for him. The little monkey made his life much easier than it had been, and she was certainly cheaper than having a human attendant all the time.

Doctors and scientists are looking at other ways of using animals to help handicapped people. One new idea is to train "hearing-ear dogs" to help deaf people. The American Humane Association in Denver is working with dogs to get them to respond to noises such as a whistling kettle, a doorbell, a smoke alarm, a crying baby, or an oven timer. The dogs get their message across by running back and forth between the thing making the sound and their deaf master. In the case of an alarm clock going off in the morning, the dogs are trained to get up onto the deaf person's bed and keep nudging and licking them until they get up! Like Crystal, these special helpers will make handicapped people more independent and allow them to lead happier, more productive lives.

1. What parts of his body could Bill move?

2. Can you think of two reasons he moved into a downtown hotel?

(a) _____

(b) _____

3. Does Bill need an attendant during the day?

_____ Why? _____

4. What do you think paralyzed people did before electric wheelchairs were invented?

5. Why did Mary train the monkey?

6. Why is Crystal a money-saver for Bill Powell?

7. What is one thing Crystal can't do?

8. Can you think of an animal that is often used to help blind people?

9. How can this same animal be used to help a deaf person?

10. Can you think of other ways animals could be used to help handicapped people?

In Portland, Oregon, twenty-eight-year-old John Vihtelic was driving back from a trip in the mountains. He was alone in the car and was tired from a day of mountain-climbing at high altitude. He fell asleep at the wheel and woke up just as his car careened off the road and plunged down a one-hundred-thirty-foot gorge.

John was not wearing a seat belt, and as the car tumbled down the steep bank and smashed into trees and rocks, he was tossed around inside the car. Finally the car came to rest upside down at the bottom of the gorge. John checked himself out and thought he had escaped serious injury, but when he tried to crawl out of the car, he found that his foot was trapped in the crushed dashboard of the car. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't get it loose.

John called out, "Hey, is anybody there? I need some help. Where is everybody?" But there was no answer; he heard only the noise of a mountain stream running along the bottom of the gorge about fifteen feet from his head. The road was far above, and people going by in trucks and cars couldn't see his car as they drove by, nor could they hear his voice over the noise of the water. Then John smelled gasoline dripping from the car's tank, and he began to panic. If the gas somehow ignited, he would not be able to escape the fire.

That night he got as warm as he could with his sleeping bag but slept very little. His foot wasn't getting any blood, and John knew that in a few days it would begin to rot from the lack of circulation. Gangrene would eventually set in and kill him. He decided that if he hadn't been rescued in two weeks, he would amputate his own foot. He set about doing everything he could think of to avoid having to do that.

He put the car's mirror onto his tennis racquet and tried to flash the sun at passing cars and trucks, but it didn't work. He shouted until his lungs ached. He tried again and again to get his foot free from the dashboard—but to no avail. He was also worried about food and water. He had an apple and a piece of cheese but no water. John knew from his army experience that he could live for four to six weeks without food, but only for a few days without water. Somehow he had to get some water out of the stream which ran fifteen feet from the car. He knew there was no way that he could reach the stream with his hands. He thought hard about what to do next.

(continued)

1. Why did John's car crash?

2. Why was his foot caught in the dashboard?

3. Why didn't anyone respond to his calls for help?

4. Why did the smell of gasoline terrify him?

5. What was the most immediate threat to his life?

_____ Why? _____

6. How could his crushed foot kill him?

7. Where had John learned about how long the human body can survive?

8. How did he try to signal cars and trucks on the road?

9. What did he decide he would do after fourteen days?

10. If you were John at this point, what would you do?

When John didn't show up at his job the next morning, his boss was worried. He knew that John had been in the mountains, and he thought that he might have had a climbing accident. He called John's mother, and the family organized a search party. The trouble was that they were looking ninety miles from the spot where John was trapped in his car.

As the days passed, John kept a diary on a piece of cardboard. He became more and more worried. He felt a lot of pain because one of his lungs had been punctured in the crash. Gasoline continued to drip from the car's tank.

John knew that he would die without water, but the stream was out of reach. Then he had an idea. He got some string and a tin can and threw the can into the stream. After a few tries, John was able to pull the can back with some water. But when he tried this again later, the string got tangled in some bushes, and he lost the can. He tried a bottle but lost that too. Finally he had another idea: he ripped the material from the ceiling of the car, threw it into the stream, pulled it back, and squeezed the water out. This gave him all the water he needed.

As the days passed, John tried to keep his spirits up by combing his hair and whistling to the birds around him in the woods. But when he slept, he had nightmares. Once he dreamed that he had been rescued and was lying in a hospital bed. When he woke up and realized that he was still trapped in the car, he wept bitterly.

Slowly his deadline for cutting off his foot drew closer, and John made one final attempt to free his foot. He pulled a large rock into the car and used the tire iron as a lever and the rock as a fulcrum. All day he struggled to pry the dashboard off his foot. Finally, sixteen days after the accident, his foot slid out of the dashboard. It was as flat as a pancake.

Crying with relief, John crawled up the gorge to the highway, and after a short time flagged down a passing truck. The driver gave him a lift to the nearest hospital, where he called his girlfriend and his mother. John spent three weeks in the hospital, and the doctors had to amputate the injured foot. But John was so happy to be alive that he wasn't too upset about the amputation. Soon afterward he moved to Philadelphia and made plans to get married. He said that he felt that he'd been given a second chance in life; nothing seemed to bother him as much as it had before. "Somehow, I think there was a purpose in my getting out of the car," he said. "I'm just looking around now to see what that might be."

1. Why didn't the search party find him?

2. What was the most serious injury John got in the crash?

3. Why was the can-and-string method a poor way of getting water?

4. How did he finally get a steady supply of water from the stream?

5. Why did his dream make him cry?

6. Why did he comb his hair if no one was around to see him?

7. How did pulling a rock into the car help John free himself?

8. How did he get to the hospital?

9. Why did the doctors have to amputate his foot?

10. Why wasn't John more upset about the amputation?

11. Write a few words to describe this man.

Birds have an amazing ability to find their way around. Homing pigeons can be taken in a closed truck hundreds of miles away from their home nests, and when they are released, they know just which way to fly to get home. Pigeons are so good at this that they have been used to carry messages in wartime.

Many birds fly south in the winter. They cover thousands of miles and nearly always return to the exact same places. Some flocks of birds fly far out over the open water of the Atlantic, and just when they become exhausted, they catch a wind that blows them to land. How do these birds know that the wind will be there? If it weren't, they would all die. How do they know which direction to fly?

In the last fifteen years, many scientists have been studying birds and have tried to figure out how they navigate. Scientists think that birds use the sun to tell direction. But since the sun moves across the sky during the day, birds must be able to tell what time of day it is. After all, the sun is in one place in the morning and in another place in the afternoon. Here is an experiment which some scientists worked out to determine whether or not birds can really tell what time of day it is from the sun's position in the sky.

First the scientists put some pigeons in a room with no windows. By turning electric lights off and on, they tricked the birds into thinking that night was day and that day was really night. After giving the pigeons a few days to get used to their phony schedule, the scientists took them out in a truck and drove them many miles away from their nests and let them go. The pigeons were confused and thought it was morning when it was really afternoon, and they all flew off in exactly the wrong direction!

But the sun is not the only object that birds use to navigate by. We know that they can find their way around when it is dark. Some scientists think that birds can tell direction from the stars at night. To test this theory, scientists put some birds into a cage which had sloping sides and a puddle of ink in the middle. Then they put a picture of the stars above the cage so that the birds could see it. The birds looked at the phony stars, figured out which way was south, and jumped in that direction, leaving ink-marks where their feet carried the ink. When the scientists turned the picture of the stars around, the birds jumped in the opposite direction.

(continued)

1. How far do some birds migrate in the winter?

2. Why don't the birds that fly far out over the Atlantic Ocean die?

3. What do you think happens to birds that make mistakes in their navigation?

4. What is the most important object that birds use to navigate by?

5. How did the scientists trick the pigeons into thinking it was morning when it was really afternoon?

6. Why did the pigeons fly off in exactly the wrong direction?

7. Would the time-tricked pigeons have been able to find their way home on a cloudy day?

Why?

8. How do birds navigate at night?

9. How would you describe the scientists who did these experiments?

How do birds tell direction when clouds cover the sun and the stars? We know they can navigate under cloudy skies. Could it be that birds have maps in their brains and can remember everything on the ground below them? Some scientists devised an experiment to see whether or not this was true.

They fitted some homing pigeons' eyes with little, frosted contact lenses. When they wore the lenses, the pigeons couldn't see anything clearly; they could see only light and dark. The scientists took the partially blinded birds far from their home lofts and let them go, and guess what happened? The pigeons flew straight home! When they got there, they had a little trouble finding the door of the loft, but all of them knew where to fly even though they couldn't see the terrain below them.

This told scientists that there was something else besides the sun, the stars, and the landscape below that helped birds navigate. Could it be that birds had built-in compasses and could sense the earth's magnetic field? To find out, scientists taped little magnets onto the heads of some pigeons, drove them out into the country, and let them go under cloudy skies. The birds were completely confused. They didn't know which way to go and flew off in all different directions. None of them got home.

This proves that birds have something in their brains or their bodies which can pick up the earth's magnetic field. They can tell which way is north and perhaps even tell their latitude by the angle of the magnetic field.

Scientists know that birds very seldom fly in stormy weather. Birds seem to be able to predict bad weather, and they stay on the ground when it threatens. Migrating birds will wait for days until they sense that good weather is coming; only then will they begin their long journey. Scientists suspect that birds may be able to hear sounds hundreds of miles away—sounds like waves pounding into the coast, wind whistling through trees, or a hurricane or thunderstorm. These sounds help them navigate as well as help them to avoid storms.

There are some places in the world from which birds just can't find their way home. One such place is the Jersey Hill fire tower in northern New York state. When experienced homing pigeons are released from this place, they don't know where to go. Scientists still don't understand why they are confused. It is a reminder to us that we have a lot to learn about bird navigation.

1. Why were the pigeons fitted with contact lenses?

2. What happened to the partially blinded birds?

3. What did this experiment prove about how birds navigate under cloudy skies?

4. Why were the birds with the magnets on their heads so confused?

5. What do you think would happen to a pigeon with a magnet on its head on a sunny day?

Why? _____

6. How does a bird which is far out to sea know which way land is?

7. Why do birds seldom get caught in bad weather?

8. Why do you think the birds can't find their way home from the fire tower?

9. Who do you think can navigate better, birds or humans?

_____ Why? _____

Eddie Lovett grew up during the Depression in a family of poor, black sharecroppers in Arkansas. Most of the year he had to work in the fields, but he managed to get in a few months of school between harvest and planting time.

Even when Eddie was very young, he loved to read. While he was working in the fields, he would read books whenever he got the chance. Finally Eddie bought his first book, and he carried it around with him for years afterward. Every time he saved up some money, he bought another book.

By the time he went off to fight in World War II, he had a bag of fifty books. When he came home from the war, he bought a small farm with one acre of land, and he continued to read and add books to the library in his tiny, tin-roofed house. By 1970 he had 2,800 books, and there was hardly enough room in the house for anything else.

Eddie usually read in the evening until midnight, got three hours of sleep, and then got up and read until dawn. Then he went out to take care of the animals and fields. He read all kinds of books—from those written in ancient Greece to those written in modern times. He wanted to know everything, and he passed on the important knowledge to his children. "My paramount concern is to see my kids get an education," he said. From the beginning, the children did very well in school because they had learned so much at home. They continued to do well even after their mother died of cancer.

In the Arkansas countryside around his little farm, Eddie Lovett became very well known. With his extensive reading and his enormous library, he was looked on as an interesting character. When a traveling CBS television reporter named Charles Kuralt drove through the area, he heard about Eddie and made a TV report about him. People all over the country heard about the farmer professor and his library.

Then one morning sparks from the wood-burning stove in Eddie's house started a fire which burned the house to the ground. His entire library was destroyed. The ashes of the books smoldered for five days. Another CBS television reporter heard about the tragedy and made a second television report about Eddie Lovett. Within days, Eddie began to receive packages of books, mailed from people all over the United States. In the next few months, he received 40,000 books, and his library was larger than ever. Eddie is still reading and still learning whenever he has the chance.

1. Why hadn't Eddie spent more time in school?

2. Does the fact that he had to work in the fields mean he was an ignorant man?

_____ Why? _____

3. What did Eddie spend his money on?

4. When did Eddie find the time to read?

5. What did he do with all the knowledge he got from reading?

6. Why did his children do well in school?

7. How did Charles Kuralt hear about Eddie?

8. What happened to Eddie's original library?

9. How did he get an even larger library?

10. Which library do you think he liked better?

_____ Why? _____

In May 1995, a 39-year-old woman named Paula Dixon was racing through the streets of Hong Kong on a motorbike, trying to get to the airport to catch a plane to England. Suddenly she skidded and crashed. She dusted herself off, got back on, and managed to make it to the airport in time to board her flight.

Once the plane was in the air, Paula realized that her arm had been injured in the accident. She called the flight attendants, and they put a makeshift splint on her arm.

But two hours into the flight, when the plane was 33,000 feet above the Bay of Bengal, Paula began to have a much more serious problem: she was finding it very difficult to breathe. The flight attendants realized that this was more than just a broken arm, and they asked if there was a doctor on board who might be able to help out.

By pure luck, Dr. Angus Wallace, a surgeon from a hospital in London, was on the plane. He came back to Paula's seat, and as soon as he examined her, he knew that she had a collapsed lung. The accident had broken one of her ribs, and the jagged bone had poked a hole in the pleura, the membrane around her lungs. Air was leaking through the hole and keeping Paula's lungs from sucking in air. Dr. Wallace knew that she would be dead in a few minutes.

There wasn't time to land the plane and rush Paula to a hospital. Dr. Wallace had to operate immediately. He barked orders to the flight attendants: move passengers out of a row of seats at the back of the plane. Rig some blankets for privacy. Scavenge operating tools from the plane's first aid kit and galley.

While the other passengers nervously finished their breakfasts, Dr. Wallace, helped by Dr. Tom Wong, another doctor on the plane, cut into Paula's chest just under the collarbone. Dr. Wong held the incision open with a fork and knife while Dr. Wallace pushed a tube (sterilized with brandy) into Paula's chest cavity.

It worked! The trapped air began to seep out, and Paula could breathe normally again. She was out of danger.

1. Why did Paula have a motorbike accident?

2. Why didn't she go right to a hospital?

3. When did she first realize she was injured?

4. About how many miles up was the plane when Paula developed a more serious problem (5,280 feet = 1 mile)?

5. Why was Paula having difficulty breathing?

6. Why didn't the pilot land the plane at the nearest airport and rush Paula to a hospital?

7. Why were the other passengers nervous?

8. What do you think the word *incision* means?

9. In what two ways was brandy used?

10. What would have happened to Paula if a surgeon had not been on the plane? Why?
