

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile Non-Prose

1. B *fireflies*
2. A *stars*
3. A *The fireflies cannot act like they are stars for very long.*
4. D *to show that the poet is not surprised that fireflies cannot sustain the part*
5. C *Fireflies can seem very star-like, but only for a short time.*
6. D *to make it seem like fireflies are trying and succeeding at looking like stars*
7. B *flies*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary slightly but should include two of the following. The poet says that flies and stars are not the same size, that flies were "never really stars at heart," and that flies cannot sustain the part (of a star).*
9. **Suggested answer:** *The poem says that flies can achieve a "very star-like start" at times, referring to the momentary light that a firefly gives off.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Students should recognize that the poet is trying to point out the way that fireflies sometimes look like stars in this poem; by calling fireflies "emulating flies" right after mentioning the "real stars," the poet indicates that fireflies look like stars. Some students may go further, noting that the poet is going beyond the basic comparison and wants to imply that fireflies are actively trying to look like stars. The poet's use of the phrase "emulating flies" instead of the word "fireflies" supports this intention. This intention is also supported with the word "achieve" and the phrase "the part." All of these words ascribe a sense of purpose to fireflies - they are trying to look like (or emulate) stars.*

1. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the largest natural bay in the world. According to the text, what is a bay?

- A. a body of water that is completely surrounded by land
- B. an area of land that is surrounded by water
- C. a body of water that is partly surrounded by land**
- D. an area of land that is partly surrounded by water

2. What does the text describe?

- A. Goncalo Coelho's trip to Brazil
- B. how bays form
- C. the difference between rivers and bays
- D. the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro**

3. Read these sentences from the text.

The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the world's largest natural bay, containing more water than any other bay in the world!

[. . .]

The bay is surrounded by mountains made from granite. The mountains are huge and steep, with odd shapes. . . . Together, the water and mountains create a beautiful harbor.

What conclusion does this information support?

- A. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is a very cold place.
- B. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is a very impressive place.**
- C. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro doesn't have a lot of plant and animal life.
- D. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is a very poor place.

4. Based on the text, what can be concluded about the world's seven natural wonders?

- A. The world's seven natural wonders are natural places that have a lot of rocks.
- B. The world's seven natural wonders are places with a lot of buried treasure.
- C. The world's seven natural wonders are strange places people have built.
- D. The world's seven natural wonders are very impressive natural places.**

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the world's largest bay and a beautiful place with water and mountains.**
- B. Concalo Coelho was a Portuguese explorer who sailed to Brazil in the 1500s.
- C. The mountains of the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro are huge and have odd shapes.
- D. Tourists from all over the world go to see the gorgeous harbor and the city of Rio de Janeiro.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"The bay is surrounded by mountains made from granite. The mountains are huge and steep, with odd shapes. One of these mountains was named after a sugar loaf, because it looks like a type of bread made on an island near Portugal. Another one was named Corcovado, or 'The Hunchback,' because of its mound-like shape. Together, the water and mountains create a beautiful harbor."

Why does the author discuss the mountain named after a sugar loaf and the mountain called "The Hunchback"?

- A. to contrast the way the mountains by the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro were described earlier in the text
- B. to give the reader examples of mountains with odd shapes by the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro**
- C. to give the reader examples of different mountains around the world
- D. to show that people sometimes give funny names to mountains

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is considered one of the world's seven natural wonders _____ it is very large.

- A. however
- B. on the other hand
- C. although
- D. because**

8. Describe the mountains that surround the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

The mountains are huge and steep, with odd shapes. For example, one of these mountains was named after a sugar loaf, because it looks like a type of bread made on an island near Portugal.

9. Why do people from all over the world visit the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

People from all over the world visit the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro to see its great beauty. The Harbor is the world's largest natural bay. It is surrounded by huge and steep mountains with odd shapes. The water and surrounding mountains create a beautiful harbor that people from all over the world come to see.

10. Imagine you wanted to convince a friend to join you on a trip to the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro. Explain the argument you might make to your friend to persuade him or her to join you.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Answers may vary but should be supported by the text. Students may generally indicate that they would explain to their friend that the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the world's largest natural bay, containing more water than any other bay in the world. Because of its size, the harbor is considered one of the world's seven natural wonders. It would be very cool to visit one of just seven of these places in the world. Also, the bay is surrounded by huge and steep granite mountains with odd shapes that they can visit. Together, the water and mountains create a beautiful harbor. Given the opportunity to see the great beauty of the harbor, the trip would be one to remember for a very long time.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 490

1. What keeps falling off Ariel's bicycle?

- A the front wheel
- B the back wheel
- C the reflector**
- D the seat

2. The narrator is the person who is telling the story. In this story, the narrator is Ariel's sibling. How does the narrator finally solve the problem of the reflector falling off Ariel's bike?

- A by taking Ariel's bike to a repair shop
- B by tying the reflector on with some rope from a closet
- C by asking their dad to fix the reflector by himself
- D by gluing the reflector on with help from their dad**

3. Rope does not keep the reflector on the bike as well as glue does.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A Ariel's father helps to glue the reflector onto the bike after the reflector falls off a second time.
- B After the reflector is tied onto the bike with rope, it stays on when Ariel rides down the sidewalk.
- C After the reflector is tied onto the bike with rope, it stays on when Ariel rides over a bump.
- D The reflector falls off after being tied onto the bike, but it does not fall off after being glued on.**

4. Why does Ariel give the narrator a hug at the end of the story?

- A Ariel is upset about how long it has taken to fix the bike.
- B Ariel is happy that the narrator has fixed the bike.**
- C Ariel is excited to take her bike to a repair shop.
- D Ariel is confused because she does not understand how the narrator fixed the bike.

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A two siblings who do not get along until their dad makes them be nice to each other
- B a bike that is unsafe to ride because it is falling apart
- C a problem with a bike and what the narrator does to solve it**
- D a girl whose bike breaks and what happens when she takes it to a repair shop

6. Read the following sentence: "Last week, the red, shiny **reflector** came off my sister's bicycle seat."

What does the word "**reflector**" mean?

- A a wheel that turns very slowly
- B something that shines when light hits it**
- C a type of metal that is worth a lot of money
- D a safety pad that someone riding a bicycle wears

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

The narrator tries fixing the reflector with glue _____ rope does not work.

- A after**
- B although
- C before
- D so

8. What causes the reflector to fall off Ariel's bike after it has been tied on with rope?

Suggested answer: A tree branch causes the reflector to fall off Ariel's bike after it has been tied on with rope.

9. What are the three bike riding conditions that the narrator has Ariel recreate after gluing the reflector on Ariel's bike?

Suggested answer: The three conditions are (1) riding her bike down the sidewalk, (2) riding over a bump, and (3) riding under a tree.

10. Why is recreating these conditions important to the narrator's experiment?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary in phrasing, but students should recognize that recreating the conditions enables the narrator to compare how effective the rope is at keeping the reflector on with how effective the glue is.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 780

1. Where do Kurt and Roscoe go on their adventure?

- A inside a movie theater
- B a planet in outer space
- C the emergency room of a hospital
- D **a hill with lots of bees**

2. What is the plot of this story?

- A An alien comes to earth, hides on the top of a hill, and kidnaps a boy.
- B **A boy goes on an adventure to Hilltop Hives and meets the bees there.**
- C A dog gets lost, a boy goes looking for it, and he finds it in a Mexican restaurant.
- D A woman puts on a bee-suit, decides to take off the helmet, and gets stung.

3. Read this sentence from the story: "For bees, every day is an adventure."

What evidence from the story supports this statement?

- A The hives that Kurt sees are taller than he is.
- B The honey that Kurt's family eats comes from Hilltop Hives.
- C Kurt sees a creature with a wheezing brown weapon that sprays smoke.
- D **Bees fly up to five miles every day to find new flowers.**

4. Why does Kurt think Brenda is an alien when he first sees her?

- A Brenda has short brown hair and crinkles around her smile.
- B As Kurt is about to turn around and run away after climbing the hill, Roscoe barks.
- C **Brenda is wearing something that looks like a white space suit with a helmet hiding her face.**
- D Brenda explains to Kurt how bees work, how they live and die, and how they spend their lives making honey.

5. What is a theme of this story?

- A the dangers of talking to people you do not know
- B the harmful effects that pollution has on animals
- C **the excitement of having an adventure**
- D the fun of growing up and becoming an adult

6. Read the following sentence: "Kurt **swallowed his fear**, and a little more juice, as he approached the creature."

What does it mean that Kurt **swallowed his fear**?

- A **Kurt kept his fear under control**
- B Kurt touched his throat with one hand
- C Kurt was too afraid to keep going
- D Kurt screamed for help

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

Kurt wants to find the bees; _____, he does.

- A however
- B particularly
- C initially
- D **ultimately**

8. According to the story, what do you need to have an adventure?

Suggested answer: According to the story, you need a dog, a small backpack, some juice, and a sandwich to have an adventure. A goal is optional.

9. What is an example of an adventure that Kurt went on before his adventure at Hilltop Hives?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary but should come from the story. Students may cite such examples as playing on an empty playground and finding out which Mexican restaurant sells the best taco in town.

10. Based on the story, what does it mean to have an adventure? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the story. Students may define having an adventure as undergoing a new experience. Most, if not all, of Kurt's adventures involve having a new experience or learning something new. Every day is an "adventure" for bees because they fly up to five miles to find new flowers.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 780

1. **B** before he could walk
2. **A** a fishing trip when Morgan caught a fish AND a fishing trip when he caught a fish and then lost it
3. **B** Being good at fishing takes a lot of practice.
4. **A** determined
5. **D** Fishing is like life, with some days that are a success and other days that are not.
6. **B** to swim faster than
7. **D** even though
8. **Suggested answer:** Students may note any of the following details to communicate that Morgan struggled to catch the fish before he finally caught it: Morgan felt his fishing pole bend forward all of a sudden and the reel started spinning, Morgan held on tight to the fish as it kept trying to get away, and he struggled with the fish for 45 minutes before he finally caught it.
9. **Suggested answer:** Answers will vary as long as they are supported by the text: Students can explain that Morgan enjoys the activity of fishing as he has been fishing his entire life, including at 4:45 am or in very cold temperatures with great pleasure. Students may also reason that it is an activity that he enjoys with his entire family. Students may also point out that being a fisherman has taught Morgan important lessons about life, created the person he is today, and brings out the better in him.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers will vary but should be supported by the text. Students may explain that Morgan may have learned to be determined and patient, no matter how difficult a situation may be, in order to achieve a certain goal. For example, he struggled with a fish for 45 minutes before he finally caught it when he was ten years old. Students may also reason that Morgan may have learned that no matter how much effort you put into something, things don't always go as planned. They may cite the example of Morgan jumping into the cold water to catch the fish, which finally escaped.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 850

1. **C** *a fruit-and-vegetable farmer*
2. **B** *Luke helps his father grow tomatoes.*
3. **D** *Luke's father listens to his son's questions and answers them.*
4. **A** *Luke thinks his father's work is special and interesting.*
5. **C** *giving care and attention to worthwhile things*
6. **D** *to let readers know that more detail is coming*
7. **B** *then*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Luke would describe a fruit-and-vegetable farm as magical.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Luke is certain that "a little bit of family magic and a lot of attention" will result in the most beautiful tomatoes he has ever seen once August arrives.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. Students may respond that farming is not really magical. Farmers do not cast spells to make their plants grow; they plant seeds and care for them. On the other hand, students may respond that farming does require a certain kind of magic. This magic is the "family magic" Luke refers to, a special kind of attention given to what a person cares a lot about.*

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 760

1. **C** a pig and a dog
2. **A** friendly, cheerful, and excited
3. **C** because Pug and Dot were not the same kind of animal, but they still played with each other
4. **A** "Pug would snort in delight when Dot wagged her big, fluffy tail. Dot would jump up and down when Pug wiggled his curly tail."
5. **B** You don't need to be very alike to be great friends.
6. **D** to show that Pug and Dot thought differently about friendship than the other animals
7. **C** Even though Pug talked in oinks and Dot talked in barks, they could understand each other just fine.
8. **Suggested answer:** Dot makes sure to stay near the mud so that she and Pug can talk as they bathe.
9. **Suggested answer:** Pug is a pig who talks in oinks, has a curly tail, and cools down by taking mud baths. Dot, on the other hand, is a dog; unlike Pug, she talks in barks, has a big fluffy tail, and cools down by sweating.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary, but should be supported by the text. Students may note that communication is important in a friendship, as indicated by Pug and Dot's understanding each other and talking every day. Looking out for each other and being considerate is also important, as demonstrated by Dot's helping to think of a way to keep Pug cool and then making sure she stayed near Pug as they bathed. Pug and Dot also show that it is important to have fun together in a friendship, regardless of any differences.

1. Where did the first Greenmarket open?

- A. Chicago
- B. Boston
- C. New York City**
- D. San Francisco

2. The passage describes the sequence of events which led to the first Greenmarket in New York City. Which of the following is one of those events?

- A. Farmers' markets in New York City began selling other foods besides fruits and vegetables.
- B. Barry Benepe convinced New York City government to help establish a farmers' market.**
- C. Farmers' markets were opened across the country after other states saw how popular the farmers' markets in New York were.
- D. New Yorkers demanded more farmers' markets.

3. The New York City government was not eager to start a farmers' market. What detail from the text supports this conclusion?

- A. People chatted and laughed at the first Greenmarket.
- B. The city government finally agreed to help Barry Benepe open the first Greenmarket.
- C. The new farmers' market was called a Greenmarket.
- D. The city government wasn't sure New Yorkers would care enough to buy the vegetables from the local farmers instead of the grocery store.**

4. What does the passage suggest about Benepe's role in the spread of farmers' markets across the country?

- A. Benepe's role was important because he helped other states open farmers' markets.
- B. Benepe's role was important because he started the trend of farmers' markets.**
- C. Benepe's role was not important because he only helped open Greenmarkets in one state.
- D. Benepe's role was not important because he was unable to influence the New York City government to open a farmers' market.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A. why people like fresh vegetables
- B. how farmers' markets got established in New York City**
- C. how to have a farm near New York City
- D. what Barry Benepe did for a living

6. Read the following sentences from the passage: "It took a lot of time for tomatoes to come to New York from Mexico-they had to cross an entire continent. But tomatoes from near the city didn't have to travel as far. The farmer could pick them on the same day. These **local** tomatoes were delicious."

As used in the passage, what does the word "**local**" mean?

- A. nearby**
- B. country
- C. unripe
- D. far away

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

All the food, _____ vegetables, fruit, eggs, meat, and milk, sold at farmers' markets in New York City comes from a local farm.

- A. consequently
- B. except
- C. such as**
- D. however

8. Barry Benepe was passionate about his idea of starting a farmers' market in New York City. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

Students should indicate that Barry cared enough about his idea that he brought it to the city government. Students may also note that Barry worked with the city, and they made markets in other neighborhoods so that by 2013, NYC had 54 farmers' markets.

9. Explain at least two differences between the fruits and vegetables sold in a grocery store and the fruits and vegetables sold at the Greenmarket.

Answers may vary and should include that fruits and vegetables at the Greenmarket were much fresher than ones at the grocery store and more delicious. Students may also note that the fruits and vegetables at the Greenmarket were not brought to New York from a far location like the fruits and vegetables at grocery stores.

10. Explain whether one should support the spread of farmers' markets. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers may vary as long as they are supported by the text. Students may reason that one should support the spread of farmers' markets as they provide fresher and more delicious produce than grocery stores. Farmers' markets also help to reduce pollution since the produce is being transported over a shorter distance and they help farmers. Students may also note the beneficial impact on the sense of community farmers' markets have as they give people a chance to meet and talk with one another in a setting that feels like a party as was the case at the first Greenmarket opening.

Conversely, students may also argue that one need not support the spread of farmers' markets since they ultimately provide the same products as grocery stores.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 760

1. **A** a big, circular, yellow flower
2. **B** different ways people use sunflowers
3. **D** "People, birds, and animals, including squirrels and chipmunks, love to eat sunflower seeds."
4. **D** because sunflowers are bright and pretty
5. **C** Sunflowers are pretty flowers that give people and animals food.
6. **B** to call attention to the amount of flowers that make up sunflowers
7. **D** sunflower seeds
8. **Suggested answer:** Sunflower seeds have oil inside them.
9. **Suggested answer:** People use sunflower oil for cooking.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary. However, most of the evidence in the text points to the seeds. Sunflower seeds are a source of protein and food for people. The seeds also have a lot of oil in them. People use that oil for cooking.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 810

1. At the beginning of the story, where is Maria about to go?

- A a sleepover
- B Camp Kanawa**
- C Aunt Jolie and Uncle Ed's
- D school

2. How do Maria's feelings about camp change in the story?

- A At first Maria is nervous, but then she is excited.**
- B At first Maria is excited, but then she is nervous.
- C At first Maria is excited, but then she is bored.
- D At first Maria is nervous, but then she is sad.

3. Maria is anxious and nervous about going to camp. What evidence from the story best supports this statement?

- A Maria decides to eat French toast for breakfast before going to camp.
- B Maria's parents give her advice about making friends at camp.
- C Maria and her mom joke with her dad about being hip and cool.
- D The morning she leaves for camp, Maria wakes up with a stomach ache.**

4. Read the following sentences: "*Just be yourself. Just be yourself.* Maria repeated the words like a mantra as she sat with her new cabin mates in a circle on the grass."

Based on this information, what conclusion can you make?

- A Maria is confident that she will make friends.
- B Maria is not sure if she will like her cabin mates.
- C Maria is nervous about making friends.**
- D Maria has already made some new friends.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A Maria goes to camp for the first time.**
- B Maria really loves to eat French toast.
- C Maria discovers her love for dragonflies.
- D Maria jokes with her parents over breakfast.

6. Read the following sentences:

She walked briskly to the stove, placed two pieces of French toast on a plate and tapped a canister above them, powdered sugar **snowing down**.

"Just like you like it: super fluffy, slightly crispy..."

"...and lightly dusted," said Maria, already in position, armed with knife, fork, napkin and full glass of milk.

What does the author mean when she describes the powdered sugar as "**snowing down**"?

- A The powdered sugar was cold like falling snow.
- B The powdered sugar was wet like falling snow.
- C The powdered sugar smelled like falling snow.
- D **The powdered sugar looked like snow as it fell.**

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

_____, Maria is nervous about camp, but soon after she arrives, she becomes excited instead.

- A Finally
- B **Initially**
- C Especially
- D Although

8. What advice does Maria's mom give her before going to camp?

Suggested answer: Maria's mom tells her that popularity is not important, but that finding people who like her for who she is is important.

9. Maria is nervous about going to camp, but after she arrives at camp she becomes more excited than nervous. What causes Maria's feelings to change?

Suggested answer: After arriving at camp, Maria talks with one of her cabin mates and meets her counselors. Her cabin mate is friendly, and the counselors sound ready to have a good time. Meeting these people causes Maria's feelings to change; while she was initially nervous about meeting new people, she now looks forward to spending time with them.

10. Based on the information in the story, will Maria likely have a good time at camp? Support your answer using details from the story.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the story. Students should indicate that Maria will likely have a good time at camp, because she has already started to make friends with one of her cabin mates, the redheaded girl. At the end of the story, Maria is excited and no longer nervous ("The ache in Maria's stomach had officially turned into butterflies—the excited kind"), which indicates that she will likely have a good time.

1. What does Elizabeth decide to make for Nicole?

- A. beeswax
- B. avocado soup
- C. chicken soup**
- D. chicken drumsticks

2. Who is the main character of this story?

- A. David
- B. Elizabeth**
- C. Elizabeth's mom
- D. the young man at the butcher counter

3. Elizabeth is upset at Nicole.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. "In the poultry aisle, there were all sorts of pale bits of chicken, sealed tightly under plastic, shimmering in the harsh white light."
- B. "Elizabeth filled the pot with water, but it was too heavy to pick up and out of the sink."
- C. "Along with the chicken, Elizabeth added all the soup stuff she could think of: carrots, onion, celery, potatoes, radishes, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and a banana."
- D. "'Think of Nicole,' Elizabeth said. 'Just think of poor, sick, sniffly, selfish, beach day-ruining Nicole!'"**

4. What might be a reason that Elizabeth does not bring Nicole the chicken soup she makes herself?

- A. The chicken soup Elizabeth makes herself tastes terrible.**
- B. Elizabeth likes the chicken soup she made too much to share it.
- C. Elizabeth wants to save the chicken soup she made for her mother.
- D. The chicken soup Elizabeth makes will taste better in a couple days.

5. What is a theme of this story?

- A. Going to the beach is never a good idea.
- B. Making chicken soup is so easy that anyone can do it.
- C. Things in life do not always work out as planned.**
- D. Brothers and sisters should always be nice to each other.

6. Read the following sentence: "He drove away, and Elizabeth wondered if there was anywhere on the Internet that explained how to melt older brothers with your mind."

Why does the author describe Elizabeth wondering if there was anywhere on the Internet that explained how to melt older brothers with your mind?

- A. to make the reader wonder why Elizabeth spends so much time on the Internet
- B. to make the reader afraid of young people who like to use the Internet
- C. to make the reader laugh and understand how Elizabeth feels**
- D. to make the reader cry and feel sorry for Elizabeth's brother

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

At first the weather seems great for a trip to the beach; _____, it starts to rain.

- A. later on**
- B. for example
- C. in particular
- D. previously

8. Where were Elizabeth and Nicole planning to go together?

Elizabeth and Nicole were planning to go to the beach together.

9. Why do Elizabeth and Nicole not go to the beach?

Students may respond that Nicole's fever is the reason she and Elizabeth do not go to the beach. They may also give a more nuanced response, explaining that the fever is what keeps Nicole from going, while Elizabeth refuses to go because she doesn't want to be stuck with her brother and his friends. Students may also infer that Elizabeth prefers spending time with her friend to spending time with her brother and his friends.

10. In "Chicken Soup for Nicole," many things do not work out as planned. Give one example of something not working out as planned. Then explain whether what actually happened turned out to be better or worse than what was planned.

Answers may vary, provided that they are supported by the passage. Questions 8 and 9 have prepared to students to use the example of Nicole and Elizabeth's plan to go to the beach as something that does not work out. If using this example, students may argue that what actually happened worked out better than what was planned because the thunderstorm would have made the beach unpleasant. Alternatively, students may choose another example of something not working out as planned, such as the chicken soup that Elizabeth tries to make.