

Icahn Charter School 5

5th Grade December

Vacation Packet



Due: January 2, 2019

Name: _____

Directions

Read this passage. Then answer questions 20 through 23.

Seen and Heard

by Alejandra Ospina, Age 17

I don't know when I realized my own condition. As a young child, I think I just accepted myself as the girl who had to stay in the chair all day because I couldn't get up. When I was twelve, I started going to a summer camp for kids with disabilities. The kids found out that I could sing and encouraged me to sign up for drama. My debut¹ on stage was a solo of "Memory," from the musical *Cats*. I had always been pretty shy, and oddly enough, performing on stage was the most fun I'd ever had. Maybe that's what it took to overcome my extreme shyness. Realizing that I could do something that not everybody could do was really good for my confidence. I started thinking of myself as a singer instead of a girl who sits in a chair.

While I was at the Louis Armstrong Middle School in Queens, there was a support group for kids with disabilities, a place where we could discuss our frustrations. It's no fun to just sit around and complain all the time, so we decided to write a play about the issues we deal with everyday. A director from Lincoln Center helped us construct *Scenes From Our Lives*. After we performed at the school, we put on the play at other places and decided to form a theater group and create new work.

Soon afterwards I auditioned for a placement in the School for Performing Arts. I sang "Climb Every Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*. I still find it unbelievable that I'm now a student there, even though I'm starting my fourth year. It's funny, but a lot of people assume I'm an art major at school, because they can't imagine a person in a wheelchair actually performing. Assumptions are on both sides of the fence. Some disabled people absolutely resent people giving them extra help, while others feel entitled, so it makes those around them uneasy because they're not sure how much assistance, if any, to offer. My wheelchair is set up without back handlebars, so it's difficult for anyone to push me, but on some inclines I could use the extra help, so people both in and out of the chair have to keep a flexible attitude. One of the issues our theater group, The Fearless

¹debut: first appearance

22 According to the passage, why do some people guess that Alejandra is an art major rather than a drama major at school?

- A** They think that she is too shy to perform in public.
- B** They think she has worked behind the scenes on plays.
- C** They assume that someone in a wheelchair cannot be a performer.
- D** They assume that someone her age would not be interested in acting.

23 Alejandra's main advice to others would probably be to

- A** ask others for help if you need it
- B** make light of a difficult situation
- C** find your own talents and use them
- D** accept that you might have limitations

to be exactly the right color: metallic silver, for example, for the organ's pipes.

On October 24, 2003, Canstruction crews from Lanier and three other Tampa Bay schools gathered at the local mall to build and display their structures. The students put on their hardhats and got to work stacking cans. Lanier students had nine hours to get the Wurlitzer ready for the judges. "The tallest pipe on the organ was ten cans high," said Ashley Carpenter. "The shortest was four cans high."

"The cans had to be in a perfect stack," Courtney recalled, "or *BOOSH*, everything could fall." Even with hidden tape holding the cans together, it was hard to keep them from falling on top of people.

After four hours, the students were feeling pretty good. The organ was taking shape, and

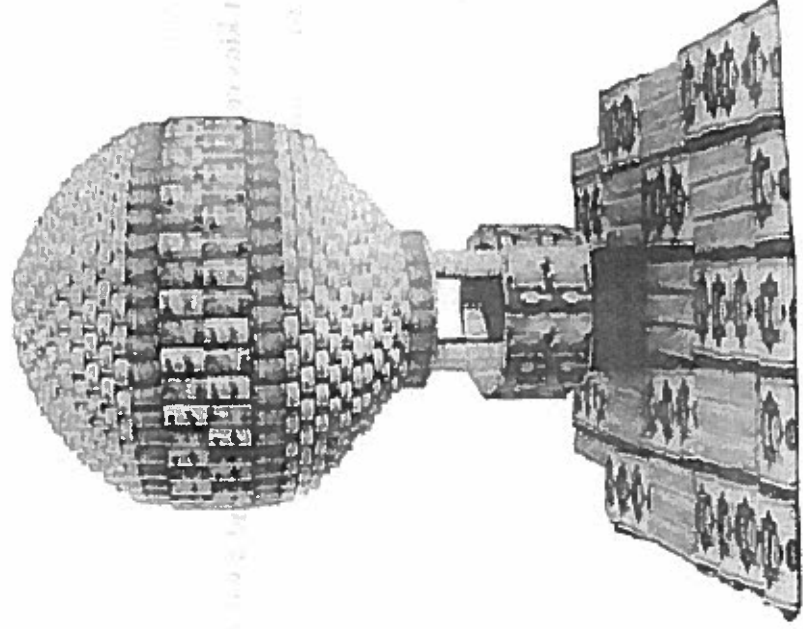
the project was right on time. Then the kids had an "uh-oh" moment. The cans were facing the wrong way. They had to be turned around so the fronts of the labels showed.

"We fixed one side, then realized that the other side was wrong, too," said Qiana Francis. "It turned into a long day."

At last, the Wurlitzer stood shiny and tall, just in time for the judges to name it "most creative."

"People admired our work," Mike Whisenant said. "It felt good knowing we built it."

The next day, the organ was taken apart, along with the other schools' can-structures. "Every can went to shelters and food banks," Courtney said. "Canstruction was a good experience."



Canstruction hot-air balloon

What was Deborah Ashcraft's motivation for organizing the Construction project in 1992?
Use details from the article to support your answer.

Directions: Read the following two passages. Then answer the questions that follow.

How to Eat Scorpions

By Ana Maria Rodriguez, Ph.D.

- 1 It's not easy being a meerkat pup. Meerkats live in the Kalahari Desert in Africa. The days are hot, and eating can be a real challenge.
- 2 It was the first day that four-week-old meerkat pups had left their burrow and gone foraging with their group of older meerkats. The hungry pups did not know how to find their own food, so they made begging calls. In response to the calls, an adult brought a huge dead scorpion to one of the pups.



Not Giving Up

- 3 The scorpion was bigger than the pup's head, but the pup did not hesitate. It took the scorpion in its mouth and began slowly munching.
- 4 A large bird called a yellow-billed hornbill noticed what the pup was doing and tried to steal the scorpion. The bird yanked the scorpion, but the pup held on. The hornbill took flight, lifting the scorpion and meerkat pup into the air. Even when the bird lunged and plunged, the pup did not give up.
- 5 Finally, when the pup was about five feet above the ground, it let go and fell unhurt to the desert floor. Now, how would the pup get another scorpion to eat?

Meerkat Menu

Insects
Scorpions
Spiders
Lizards
Mice

How Do They Learn?

- 9 How can a pup learn to catch its prey without being stung?
- 10 Alex Thornton and Katherine McAuliffe from Cambridge University in England have shown that older meerkats teach pups survival skills.
- 11 That was news. Scientists know that some kinds of young animals learn from older animals. But it's hard to tell if the older animal is teaching the young one or if the young animal learns by copying older ones.
- 12 Meerkats are social animals. They live in groups of up to 40 individuals. Those that are older than 90 days, called helpers, share the job of rearing the young ones.
- 13 "Pups are initially incapable of finding their own prey," said Thornton.
- 14 So the pups raise a racket of begging calls. The helpers respond by teaching the pups to catch and eat their own food.

Three Easy Lessons

- 15 Lesson One could be called "How to Eat a Dead Scorpion." A helper kills a scorpion and brings it to the pup. The helper nudges the meal toward the pup to encourage the pup to eat it.
- 16 As the pups grow, they learn to handle the food better. They change their call, and the helpers move on to Lesson Two: "How to Eat a Live Scorpion, with No Stinger."



Quick-Thinking Meerkats

By Cheryl M. Reifsnnyder, Ph.D.

- 1 Dr. Marta Manser crouches in the dry grass, watching a cat-sized meerkat sniff for its breakfast. Suddenly, a high-pitched alarm call breaks the morning quiet: *Hawk!* The meerkat bounds toward a hiding hole, reaching it in seconds.
- 2 Dr. Manser traveled from the University of Zurich in Switzerland to South Africa's Kalahari Desert to study how meerkats find their hiding places—and to learn about how animals think. Many animals show intelligence, from toolmaking to navigating long distances. Scientists want to understand how these animals solve tricky problems.
- 3 “Meerkats are a great subject to study,” Dr. Manser says. “The size of the meerkats and their small home range allow us to follow them easily on foot over the whole day.”
- 4 The researchers couldn't always observe meerkats so closely. But over time, the animals got used to having people nearby. “It took a year,” Dr. Manser says. “Wild meerkats typically run away when they see a person at a distance of a few hundred meters.”



Do They Backtrack?

- 8 Once the researchers could follow within a few feet of the meerkats, they began to watch what meerkats did when they heard an alarm call. The research team's first question was, Do meerkats backtrack to the last hole they passed?
- 9 The team found that the meerkats almost always ran to the *nearest* bolthole, just as you might run to the closest bathroom in your school instead of going back to the last one you passed.
- 10 The scientists had discovered that meerkats go to the best hiding spot, even if they haven't passed it recently. But how do they find it?

Sight or Memory?

- 11 Dr. Manser's next question was, Do meerkats find the closest hole by *looking* for it?
- 12 The research team dug new boltholes. When a meerkat came near, the researchers played a recording of an alarm bark to make the meerkat run for shelter. If meerkats find boltholes by looking for them, they should have run to the new, easy-to-see holes.
- 13 But the meerkats ignored the new holes.
- 14 The research team had answered another question. Meerkats don't find boltholes by looking for them. In fact, they run to other boltholes, even if a new hole is closer.

Mere Facts on Meerkats

Newborn Meerkats

- are born in litters of 2 to 5
- weigh about an ounce
- open their eyes when they are 10 to 14 days old

Adult Meerkats

- weigh 1 1/2 to 2 pounds
- are 10 to 14 inches long (plus a 7- to 10-inch tail)

Directions: Use "How to Eat Scorpions" to answer the following questions. If you need more space to write an answer, write your answer on your own paper.

231 Read this sentence from the second paragraph.

"It was the first day that four-week-old meerkat pups had left their burrow and gone foraging with their group of older meerkats."

What does the word *foraging* mean?

- A seeking food
- B getting exercise
- C exploring a new area
- D collecting water

232 The main idea of the article is about how young meerkats

- A learn to catch their food
- B avoid dangers in their environments
- C change as they grow older
- D are looked after by the adults

233 The section titled "Not Giving Up" is mainly included to show that the meerkat pup is

- A foolish
- B brave
- C determined
- D helpless



Icahn Charter Assessment
CCSS Math
5th Grade
ID: 200308

5th Grade Winter Packet 17-18

Directions: Read the question. Fill in the bubble next to the corresponding question number on your answer sheet.

3 Emily is reading a book for a book report. On Friday, she still had $\frac{2}{3}$ of her book to read. She wants to finish reading her book by the end of the weekend. On Saturday, Emily read $\frac{2}{5}$ of the book.

Does Emily have less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of her book left to read on Sunday? Use words or numbers to explain how you found the answer.

4 Lian has $6\frac{4}{5}$ yards of cloth. She uses $4\frac{2}{5}$ yards to make a dress and $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards to make a skirt. How many yards of cloth does Lian have left over after making the dress and skirt? Show how you found the answer.

7

Mrs. Searl is sewing a pair of pants and a shirt. The pants require $1\frac{3}{8}$ yards of fabric. The shirt requires $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards of fabric.

A. What is the total amount of fabric needed to sew both the pants and the shirt? Show your work and explain your answer.

Three of Mrs. Searl's friends loved her new pants and shirt. They asked her to sew the same pants and shirt for them.

B. How much fabric does Mrs. Searl need to make the additional pants and shirts for her friends? Show your work.

C. Mrs. Searl has $2\frac{7}{8}$ yards of fabric left over. Does she have enough to make one more pair of pants and one more shirt? Explain why or why not, using words or a diagram.

9

Sun Ye uses acorns to make decorative wreaths. She used 3,904 acorns to make 32 wreaths. Each wreath has an equal number of acorns.

Part A. Write one division equation and one multiplication equation that can be used to find how many acorns Sun Ye used to make each wreath.

Part B. Solve each equation and explain why each is correct.

10

The Sports Cards Only store received its order of 4,576 sports cards. There are an equal number of cards in each of 26 boxes.

. Write one division equation and one multiplication equation. Then solve each and