

GRADE 6
Reading

Administered May 2021

RELEASED

READING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

A Surprise Visit

- 1 "Can you keep a secret?" Elena and her older brother, Marcos, chatted on the phone, and his question left her intrigued.
- 2 Elena inquired, "Of course! What is it?"
- 3 "Before I tell you, you must promise me you won't tell Mom and Dad," insisted Marcos.
- 4 "I promise," Elena said nervously. "Is something wrong?"
- 5 "No, I'm coming to visit for Mom and Dad's 25th-wedding-anniversary party next month," Marcos declared, revealing his enthusiasm as much as the news.
- 6 Elena squealed, "That's awesome, Marcos! We haven't seen you since you moved to California. I can't wait to see you."
- 7 "I'll arrive on the 17th, the day before the party. Now promise me once more: don't tell anyone!"
- 8 After they hung up, Elena flopped onto her bed to return to her homework assignment, but concentrating on her work proved futile; she was bursting with the news that her brother had entrusted to her.
- 9 "You're happy," Mom observed later as Elena bounded down the stairs to dinner.
- 10 Elena tried to tame her enthusiasm, murmuring, "Just had a good day, that's all." She felt so elated that she worried she'd spill the news about Marcos's visit, but she managed to contain her secret throughout the entire meal and went to bed restless with excitement.
- 11 The next day Elena's cousin Gemma came over to watch a movie, and as the girls were trying to decide what to watch, Gemma noticed Elena beaming.
- 12 "Excited to watch a movie, huh?" Gemma asked.
- 13 Elena laughed. "No—well, yes—but that's not it."
- 14 "So what's got you walking on clouds?" Gemma prodded. Elena froze thoughtfully. Why couldn't she tell *just* Gemma the news? She craned her neck into the hallway to confirm they were alone, and then she moved closer to Gemma.
- 15 "Can you keep a secret?" Elena asked quietly. "Marcos is coming for Mom and Dad's anniversary party!" Elena exclaimed, the secret pouring out of her like a waterfall.

- 16 "Awesome!" Gemma shouted.
- 17 "Shhh, keep your voice down!" Elena instructed. "It's a surprise, and I'm the only one who knows." She felt a little guilty telling Gemma, but it was fine for her cousin to know—just not Mom and Dad.
- 18 "Your secret's safe with me," Gemma promised.
- 19 Elena felt secure knowing her cousin promised to keep the secret, so Elena was caught off guard when one evening, about a week later, Elena's mom burst into Elena's room with eyes glistening and asked, "Is Marcos really coming for the party?"
- 20 Elena dropped the novel she was reading onto her lap and stared blankly at her mother. Suddenly, Elena's cheeks felt as if they were on fire.
- 21 "I don't—I mean—why would Marcos be coming?" Elena stammered.
- 22 "It's OK, honey—you don't have to pretend," Mom said. "Aunt Laura already told me the news."
- 23 "Aunt Laura? How did she know?"
- 24 "Gemma told her," Elena's mom answered. "I can't wait to see Marcos!"
- 25 "Mom," Elena said, "you and Dad *have* to act surprised. You are *not* supposed to know about this!"
- 26 Mom promised she wouldn't let Marcos know she was aware of his visit, but when Elena woke up on the morning of the 17th, she could smell Marcos's favorite cookies baking in the oven and could hear Mom running the vacuum in Marcos's room. Elena's stomach churned wildly all day long, although not from hunger, and the feeling only intensified further when Marcos walked through the door, a bouquet of flowers in hand, and Mom called out, "Marcos, I thought you'd never get here!"
- 27 As Marcos hugged Mom, he looked accusingly over her shoulder at Elena—the aroma of fresh cookies in the air whispered to him that his visit was no surprise.
- 28 The family ate dinner together and sat around the kitchen table talking, but Elena tentatively picked at her food. The evening was far from what Elena imagined. She barely participated in the conversation. When her parents headed to bed, Elena moved toward her own room, but Marcos held her back by her shoulder—and Elena knew why.
- 29 "Elena," Marcos began while Elena braced herself, "I'm really happy to see you, but I can't believe you didn't keep our secret—I really wanted to surprise Mom and Dad."
- 30 "If Gemma didn't have such a big mouth," Elena began defensively, tears building in her eyes. "Gemma promised me she wouldn't tell! She must have told Aunt Laura, and Aunt Laura told Mom."

- 31 Marcos embraced Elena to comfort her. "You're probably right, but remember, you were the *first* person who promised not to tell," Marcos mildly scolded.
- 32 Elena frowned and then continued, "I was just so excited, Marcos, but I'm sorry. I really messed up."
- 33 "Well," Marcos chuckled, "at least one good thing came out of all this."
- 34 "What's that?" Elena asked, sniffing.
- 35 Marcos reached for the tin container sitting on the kitchen table. "Well, if Mom hadn't known I was coming," he said, "she wouldn't have made all these cookies!" He offered the container to her. "Want one?"
- 36 Elena cautioned, "Mom said to save the rest for the anniversary party."
- 37 Grabbing another cookie, Marcos replied, "I won't tell anyone — I promise."

- 1 How does paragraph 28 contribute to the development of the plot?
- A It shows that Elena feels shy toward Marcos because he has been gone for so long.
 - B It highlights that Elena feels upset about spoiling Marcos’s surprise.
 - C It indicates that Elena’s family enjoys spending time together.
 - D It reveals that Elena is upset with her mother for forgetting to act surprised.
-

- 2 Read this sentence from paragraph 27.

As Marcos hugged Mom, he looked accusingly over her shoulder at Elena—the aroma of fresh cookies in the air whispered to him that his visit was no surprise.

What does the author’s use of personification emphasize?

- F Marcos realizes Mom has prepared in advance for his visit.
 - G Mom understands what Marcos likes to eat.
 - H Elena wishes that Marcos had not noticed the smell of the cookies.
 - J Marcos feels welcomed by the smell of his favorite cookies.
-
- 3 Because the story is told from the third-person limited point of view, the reader knows —
- A why Marcos has not visited sooner
 - B why Aunt Laura revealed the secret to Mom
 - C how Elena feels about her actions
 - D what Mom thinks about the upcoming anniversary party

4 What does the word futile mean in paragraph 8?

- F Useless
 - G Effortless
 - H Boring
 - J Troubling
-

5 Read this sentence from paragraph 20.

Suddenly, Elena's cheeks felt as if they were on fire.

What does the author's use of figurative language in this sentence suggest?

- A Elena is embarrassed because Mom is not supposed to know about Marcos's visit.
 - B Elena begins to feel ill as she rests in her room.
 - C Elena is angry with her aunt for telling Mom that Marcos is coming to visit.
 - D Elena panics because she was caught pretending.
-

6 In what way do Mom's actions in paragraph 26 affect the plot?

- F They cause Marcos to change his plans for visiting the family.
- G They lead the family to arrange a different date for the anniversary party.
- H They cause Aunt Laura to realize that she made a mistake by confiding in Mom.
- J They make it difficult for Elena to enjoy her brother's arrival.

7 What is the best summary of the story?

- A** Elena answers the phone and her brother Marcos tells her he is planning a surprise visit home. He is coming for their parents' anniversary party. Elena tells Gemma who then tells Aunt Laura who then tells Mom. Marcos is upset that Mom knows his surprise.
- B** Marcos plans a surprise visit home and asks his sister Elena to keep his secret. However, Elena tells her cousin, and Mom eventually hears about the plan. Marcos arrives and realizes his visit is not a surprise. Elena feels sorry and apologizes, and she is forgiven.
- C** Elena tries to keep her brother Marcos's surprise visit to herself. When her cousin Gemma visits, Elena tells her the secret. When Mom finds out, she starts to get the house ready for Marcos. She bakes his favorite cookies, and Marcos eats them when he arrives.
- D** Marcos wants to travel home from California and surprise his parents for their anniversary party. He asks Elena to keep his secret, but she tells her cousin Gemma. Marcos is at first upset that Elena told his secret but then shares some cookies with her that Mom baked.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

A Dog's Life

Characters

OWNER: *A sixth-grade boy*

DOG: *Owner's pet*

SCENE 1

- 1 *[In a living room, a lamp and textbooks sit on a table next to a recliner. A dog bed is in the corner. Owner enters with Dog on a leash.]*
- 2 **OWNER:** Sit. *[Dog sits.]* Good boy. *[Removing leash.]* That was a good walk. Short and sweet. Now . . . back to work. *[Dog stares at Owner.]* Fifteen more pages to read in my history book, and I haven't even started my math homework yet.
- 3 *[Owner sits in recliner, reclines, picks up book, and reads. Owner glances over. Dog is still scrutinizing him.]*
- 4 **OWNER:** *[In an exaggerated way.]* What are you looking at? Huh? Want to know what I'm reading? It's history. *[Dog cocks head.]* Oh, what do you care? You have no idea how good you've got it.
- 5 *[Owner tries to read but is distracted by Dog's staring. Owner gets up, whistles, and leads Dog to the dog bed.]*
- 6 **OWNER:** Sit. *[Dog obeys.]* Down. *[Dog lies down.]*
- 7 *[Owner returns to recliner and continues reading. He begins to fall asleep and then jerks up his head. Owner places his hand behind his ear and leans toward Dog's bed. A loud snore is heard.]*
- 8 **OWNER:** That dog has no idea how good he's got it. *[Yawning.]* I'll take a little nap too.
- 9 *[Owner pulls the lamp chain.]*

SCENE 2

- 10 *[The sound of Dog's collar jingling and nails clicking across the floor is heard. Dog barks.]*
- 11 **OWNER:** Huh? *[Another bark. Owner turns on light. Dog is beside the recliner, nudging Owner's arm.]* What? What do you want?
- 12 **DOG:** I want to know what you mean.
- 13 **OWNER:** *[Rubbing his eyes.]* What in the world—

- 14 **DOG:** What do you mean, I don't know how good I've got it?
- 15 **OWNER:** [*Bolts to his feet.*] You're . . . you're . . . talking!
- 16 **DOG:** Yes, and I asked you a question.
- 17 **OWNER:** [*Pacing back and forth.*] This has got to be a dream. Am I dreaming?
- 18 **DOG:** You're talking to your dog, and he's answering you. You'd better be dreaming.
- 19 **OWNER:** [*Sitting back down.*] Then I'll just go back to sleep. I'll wake back up, and everything will be normal.
- 20 **DOG:** Be my guest.
- 21 [*Owner goes back to sleep. Dog wags his tail. Owner snores, twitches, and then jerks awake. He looks down at Dog. Owner eyes Dog from different angles and then reaches out cautiously to pat Dog's head. Dog licks Owner's hand.*]
- 22 **OWNER:** [*Wiping imaginary sweat from his brow.*] That's my good boy.
- 23 **DOG:** Why, thank you.
- 24 [*Owner screams and leaps from the recliner.*]
- 25 **DOG:** Relax. You talk all the time. Now I want a chance to talk. What's the big deal?
- 26 **OWNER:** Big deal? You said it yourself. You're a dog.
- 27 **DOG:** Please, just hear me out.
- 28 **OWNER:** No. I'm going back to sleep and forgetting that this dream ever happened.
- 29 [*Owner tries to sleep. Dog growls, paws Owner's legs, and nudges Owner's arm.*]
- 30 **DOG:** I know you're still awake. Stop being such a human.
- 31 **OWNER:** I am a human. And you're a dog, so start acting like one.
- 32 **DOG:** Just perfect. Now you're telling me how to be a dog.
- 33 **OWNER:** This conversation's over.
- 34 **DOG:** So you admit we're having a conversation. I just want to know why you think I've got it so good.
- 35 **OWNER:** You lie around all day with no worries—no cares.
- 36 **DOG:** Really? You think I have a carefree life? I've got to protect this house. Did you know a strange man wearing blue tries to break in every day?

- 37 **OWNER:** He's delivering the mail.
- 38 **DOG:** Yeah, well, you're lucky I chase him away. After that what else do I have to look forward to? Nothing. When you finally come home, you just stare at those things.
- 39 **OWNER:** They're my books. I'm reading them.
- 40 **DOG:** Ooh! You just stare at them. Now, if you were sniffing them or chewing them, that would be different.
- 41 **OWNER:** Like you chewed up my copy of *A Wrinkle in Time*?
- 42 **DOG:** Well, you left it out for me. What did you expect me to do with it?
- 43 **OWNER:** Why are you complaining? I'm a good owner.
- 44 **DOG:** [*Tilts his head.*] Hmf.
- 45 **OWNER:** I feed you. I walk you.
- 46 **DOG:** Once a week, if I'm lucky.
- 47 **OWNER:** I just took you for a walk.
- 48 **DOG:** But only around the block.
- 49 **OWNER:** I needed a quick study break.
- 50 **DOG:** What about what *I* need? There's a whole world out there to sniff. It's so frustrating. You used to take me to the park and throw the ball to me. We'd play that game where you'd call my name, and I'd make you catch me. That was awesome.
- 51 **OWNER:** [*Smiling.*] Yeah, those were good times. [*Pauses. Smile disappears.*] But I'm in middle school now. I'm on the basketball team. I'm the editor of the school newspaper. I'm too busy to frolic around in the grass like we used to do.
- 52 **DOG:** I thought I was your best friend.
- 53 **OWNER:** You are my best friend.
- 54 **DOG:** So you're too busy to play with your best friend? Your best friend who met you at the bus stop every day of elementary school? Your best friend who stayed right by your side when you had the chicken pox?
- 55 **OWNER:** [*Pauses. Eyes begin to water.*] Aw, here, boy! [*Dog puts his head on Owner's lap. Owner pets him and scratches behind his ears.*] I'm sorry. You'll always be my best friend. I'll make time to play with you. I promise.
- 56 [*Dog curls up at Owner's feet. Owner sleeps.*]

8 Read the dictionary entry for the word bolt.

bolt \ˈbōlt\ v
1. to break away from control 2. to stop participating in an activity
3. to run off 4. to move suddenly or rapidly

Which definition best matches the way the word bolts is used in line 15?

- F Definition 1
 - G Definition 2
 - H Definition 3
 - J Definition 4
-

9 What is the underlying cause of Owner and Dog's disagreement?

- A Owner wishes Dog would stop interrupting his naps.
 - B Owner is angry about Dog destroying his books.
 - C Dog feels that Owner has stopped meeting his needs.
 - D Dog wants praise for being loyal to Owner.
-

10 How does the playwright indicate that Owner is surprised by Dog's ability to speak?

- F By describing the noises Dog makes in the stage directions in line 10
- G By having Owner ask questions in line 11
- H By including Dog's and Owner's actions in the stage directions in line 11
- J By indicating pauses in Owner's dialogue in line 15

11 Read these sentences from line 4 and line 8.

OWNER: You have no idea how good you've got it. (line 4)

OWNER: That dog has no idea how good he's got it. (line 8)

Which idea in the play does this dialogue help develop?

- A Owner does not realize that he has neglected Dog.
 - B Dog is able to speak to Owner.
 - C Owner does not want Dog to act like a human.
 - D Dog believes that the mail carrier is a danger to the house.
-

12 How does the conversation between Owner and Dog lead to the play's resolution?

- F It shows Owner how protective Dog has been in the past.
 - G It allows Dog to be honest with Owner.
 - H It lets Owner explain to Dog how busy he is.
 - J It shows that Dog does not understand how to treat books.
-

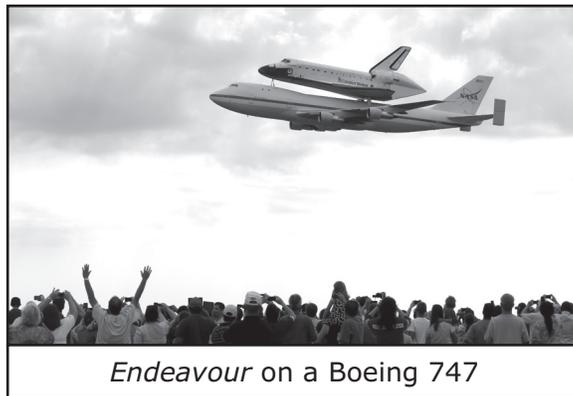
13 What can the reader conclude about Owner in scene 1?

- A He is disapproving of Dog's laziness.
- B He is frustrated that he is too tired to finish reading his book.
- C He is unaware of the way Dog feels about their relationship.
- D He is annoyed that he has to walk Dog instead of studying.

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.

A Massive Mission

- 1 On October 13, 2012, the space shuttle *Endeavour*, one of four retired NASA shuttles, began its last mission. This was not a trip into space, however. The shuttle began a two-day, twelve-mile crawl through the streets of Los Angeles, California, where it was put on display at the California Science Center. Needless to say, moving the shuttle through a major city proved daunting. After all, *Endeavour* measures 122 feet long, 78 feet wide, and 57 feet tall. As one observer said, the move was a “once-in-forever moment in history.”

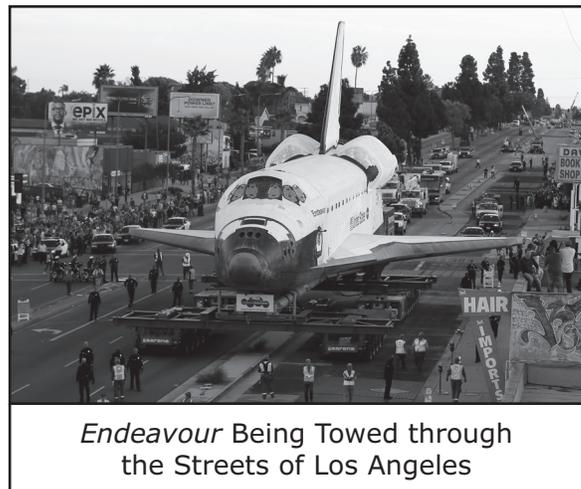


Endeavour on a Boeing 747

Associated Press

- 2 *Endeavour* began this final voyage in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Strapped to the back of a specially adapted Boeing 747 airplane, it was flown across the country to Edwards Air Force Base in California. On a celebratory flight around its new home state, *Endeavour* circled over the Capitol in Sacramento. It then flew over NASA’s research center in San Jose and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. After soaring past the famous Hollywood sign, *Endeavour* landed at the Los Angeles International Airport. But that was the easy part of the mission. The real challenge had only just begun.

- 3 In all it took over 100 people to usher the shuttle through the streets of Los Angeles. Many engineers and technicians worked around the clock. Street signs and power lines were taken down to create a path. Huge steel plates were placed atop streets along the route. This was to protect water and sewer pipes below the asphalt from being broken under *Endeavour*’s weight. A custom-made, 80-wheel vehicle towed *Endeavour* across freeways and paraded the shuttle through neighborhoods. Several police officers were needed to redirect traffic as the shuttle passed. Dozens of photographers and filmmakers were on hand to capture every minute.



Endeavour Being Towed through the Streets of Los Angeles

Associated Press

- 4 This historic move, which cost approximately 10 million dollars to complete, also became a huge social event. Over one and a half million people lined the streets as *Endeavour* inched along. People set up tents and sold hot dogs, baked goods, and *Endeavour* T-shirts. The crowds clapped and cheered as the shuttle moved into view. The shuttle's top speed along the trip was just two miles per hour, giving crowds ample time to watch. It also made frequent stops along the way. Finally it reached the California Science Center.
- 5 *Endeavour* is now part of a permanent exhibit. Every day people come to see the shuttle that flew so many daring missions into space. A special part of that exhibit is also dedicated to the amazing journey the retired shuttle made across the country and through Los Angeles to its new home.



Endeavour on Display at the California Science Center

Associated Press

DO Look Down!

- 1 Nature lovers from around the world come to see the Grand Canyon. They marvel at the giant walls of rock bordering a great chasm.¹ In 2007 the world got a new way to experience this attraction—the Grand Canyon Skywalk. It is a horseshoe-shaped glass walkway that protrudes 70 feet beyond the canyon wall. People can look through the floor, straight into the canyon below.
- 2 But this skywalk not only creates a unique attraction for tourists, it also solves a problem faced by its builders, members of the American Indian tribe called the Hualapai. Traditionally the South Rim of the Grand Canyon is the busiest part, attracting visitors and revenue to the area. However, about 2,000 tribe members of the Hualapai live in a rugged area known as Grand Canyon West, five hours away from the South Rim. Before building the Grand Canyon Skywalk, the Hualapai tried to encourage tourists to visit their part of the Grand Canyon, yet few people made the long journey. They needed an extreme attraction to bring new economic life to their home.
- 3 Then one day David Jin, a businessman from Las Vegas, suggested this unique project to the Hualapai tribe members. However, it was not going to be simple. There were many factors to consider when designing the skywalk. How could glass hold the weight of many visitors? Would wind be a problem? What should the walkway look like?
- 4 Though it would take a great amount of work, many tribe members liked this idea; they felt the skywalk would provide job opportunities. After much discussion tribal elders supported the idea to build the skywalk. A team of architects and engineers helped the tribe decide on the proper way to build the bridge, addressing various concerns. They settled on a horseshoe shape and took steps to maximize safety and performance.



Tourists stand on the skywalk to view the Grand Canyon.

Associated Press



Tourists can see through the floor of the skywalk.

Associated Press

- 5 Building the Grand Canyon Skywalk took several years. Eight giant metal posts were embedded deep in the rocky ground, and an entrance building was constructed on top of the posts at the very edge of the canyon. The skywalk

¹A chasm is a deep split in the earth.

itself is attached to this building. The walkway's walls and floor are made of a special thick glass, and its foundation is made of many tons of steel. It is strong enough to hold the weight of 71 airplanes.

- 6 On March 28, 2007, the Grand Canyon Skywalk opened to the public. Since then the \$30 million attraction has welcomed millions of visitors. Its success has encouraged similar projects in places such as Canada and Malaysia. The Hualapai have future plans to add businesses and a museum. They hope many more people will discover the skywalk and its unique view of the Grand Canyon.

Use "A Massive Mission" (pp. 15–16) to answer questions 14–18. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

14 How does the author organize paragraphs 2 through 5 of the selection "A Massive Mission"?

- F** By detailing the order of events that brought *Endeavour* to its final destination
- G** By listing the steps that had to be taken before *Endeavour* could fly to California
- H** By describing the features of *Endeavour* that made it useful for NASA missions
- J** By comparing the differences between *Endeavour* and a Boeing 747 airplane

15 Based on paragraph 2 of the selection "A Massive Mission," what is the most likely reason *Endeavour* flew to different places in California before landing at the Los Angeles International Airport?

- A** To allow planners time to prepare the streets for the shuttle
- B** To test whether the shuttle was still working well
- C** To give more people the opportunity to view the shuttle
- D** To remind people how the shuttle was previously used

16 Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the selection "A Massive Mission."

As one observer said, the move was a "once-in-a-lifetime moment in history."

Which statement from the selection best supports the idea in this sentence?

- F** *Strapped to the back of a specially adapted Boeing 747 airplane, it was flown across the country to Edwards Air Force Base in California. (paragraph 2)*
 - G** *After soaring past the famous Hollywood sign, Endeavour landed at the Los Angeles International Airport. (paragraph 2)*
 - H** *Huge steel plates were placed atop streets along the route. (paragraph 3)*
 - J** *Dozens of photographers and filmmakers were on hand to capture every minute. (paragraph 3)*
-

17 What is the most likely reason the author wrote the selection "A Massive Mission"?

- A** To emphasize the importance of *Endeavour's* space-travel missions
 - B** To highlight the efforts taken to transport *Endeavour* to a museum
 - C** To explain the economic effect of *Endeavour's* tour through Los Angeles
 - D** To argue that *Endeavour* is the most important space shuttle used to this day
-

18 Which sentence from the selection "A Massive Mission" best shows that people were enthusiastic about *Endeavour's* journey?

- F** *On October 13, 2012, the space shuttle Endeavour, one of four retired NASA shuttles, began its last mission. (paragraph 1)*
- G** *On a celebratory flight around its new home state, Endeavour circled over the Capitol in Sacramento. (paragraph 2)*
- H** *Several police officers were needed to redirect traffic as the shuttle passed. (paragraph 3)*
- J** *This historic move, which cost approximately 10 million dollars to complete, also became a huge social event. (paragraph 4)*

Use “DO Look Down!” (pp. 17–18) to answer questions 19–23. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

- 19** In the selection “DO Look Down!,” the author includes the photographs and their captions most likely to highlight which idea?
- A** It took several years to construct the Grand Canyon Skywalk.
 - B** The Grand Canyon Skywalk is attached to the entrance building.
 - C** The Grand Canyon Skywalk brings visitors to Grand Canyon West.
 - D** Building the Grand Canyon Skywalk required the agreement of tribal elders.
-
- 20** Why does the author use questions in paragraph 3 of the selection “DO Look Down!”?
- F** To suggest that Hualapai tribe members lacked engineering experience
 - G** To highlight that the skywalk would allow people to see a more rugged area of the canyon
 - H** To emphasize that creating the skywalk was complicated because nothing like it had ever been built
 - J** To show that Hualapai tribe members hoped the project would bring many tourists
-
- 21** The word protrudes has a Latin root, *trudere*, meaning “to thrust.” What does protrudes mean in paragraph 1 of the selection “DO Look Down!”?
- A** Works differently than intended
 - B** Appears separate from a main part
 - C** Has a variety of uses
 - D** Sticks out from an area

- 22** What can the reader conclude about the tribal elders based on paragraph 4 of the selection "DO Look Down!"?
- F** They carefully considered how the skywalk would impact their community.
 - G** They requested that the skywalk be built at a slow pace.
 - H** They wanted the skywalk to include several interesting features.
 - J** They wondered how the number of visitors on the skywalk would be managed.
-

- 23** Which sentence from the selection "DO Look Down!" best explains why the Hualapai wanted to create the Grand Canyon Skywalk?
- A** *Nature lovers from around the world come to see the Grand Canyon.* (paragraph 1)
 - B** *They needed an extreme attraction to bring new economic life to their home.* (paragraph 2)
 - C** *Then one day David Jin, a businessman from Las Vegas, suggested this unique project to the Hualapai tribe members.* (paragraph 3)
 - D** *After much discussion tribal elders supported the idea to build the skywalk.* (paragraph 4)

**Use “A Massive Mission” and “DO Look Down!” to answer questions 24–27.
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 24** How is paragraph 3 of the selection “A Massive Mission” **similar** to paragraph 4 of the selection “DO Look Down!”?
- F** Both paragraphs emphasize that planning ahead was an essential part of the projects.
 - G** Both paragraphs present information about how the projects were approved.
 - H** Both paragraphs explain the hopes and expectations that people had for the projects.
 - J** Both paragraphs reveal the overall costs associated with the projects.
-
- 25** How is the Grand Canyon Skywalk in the selection “DO Look Down!” **unlike** the space shuttle *Endeavour* in the selection “A Massive Mission”?
- A** The Grand Canyon Skywalk is now an attraction for the public to enjoy.
 - B** The Grand Canyon Skywalk has served as a model for other projects that followed.
 - C** The Grand Canyon Skywalk has been built to withstand extreme conditions.
 - D** The Grand Canyon Skywalk is constructed with heavy materials.
-
- 26** What is a **difference** between the people who organized *Endeavour’s* move in the selection “A Massive Mission” and the builders of the Grand Canyon Skywalk in the selection “DO Look Down!”?
- F** Only the organizers of *Endeavour’s* move were satisfied with the results of their efforts.
 - G** Only the organizers of *Endeavour’s* move required help from engineers.
 - H** Only the builders of the skywalk made decisions based on concerns about public safety.
 - J** Only the builders of the skywalk were hoping their project would create jobs.

27 Read this sentence from paragraph 5 of the selection "A Massive Mission."

Every day people come to see the shuttle that flew so many daring missions into space.

Which sentence from the selection "DO Look Down!" includes a **similar** idea?

- A *Though it would take a great amount of work, many tribe members liked this idea; they felt the skywalk would provide job opportunities.* (paragraph 4)
- B *It is strong enough to hold the weight of 71 airplanes.* (paragraph 5)
- C *Since then the \$30 million attraction has welcomed millions of visitors.* (paragraph 6)
- D *The Hualapai have future plans to add businesses and a museum.* (paragraph 6)

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.



Copyright ©2017 Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

Ancient Egypt is considered an important historical civilization that played a large part in the advancement of humankind. Its customs and technological contributions have fascinated and inspired many societies that have followed.

2,000-Year-Old Homework!

by Joli Allen

- 1 Dr. Todd Hickey opens a rusted tin box filled to the brim with tattered pieces of 2,000-year-old paper from Egypt. Dr. Hickey, a papyrologist (pap-eh-ROL-ah-jist), is excited about this rare treasure. It isn't covered in gold, but it is priceless. That's because those tattered pieces of paper are papyrus. Papyrus tells us much about the secrets of life in ancient Egypt.
- 2 The Egyptians made this paper from papyrus plants that grew near the Nile River. Before papyrus, Egyptians mostly used copper chisels to carve words called hieroglyphs into stone. Papyrus made writing easier.

Writing to Go

- 3 With papyrus, Egyptians could write signs and symbols using brushes, reed pens, and ink made from soot scraped out of cooking vessels and oil lamps. And they could take their writing wherever they went.
- 4 Dr. Hickey has already studied hundreds of the papyri. Some contain spells that the Egyptians wrote down and carried with them. They believed spells gave them magical protection or power. Other papyri give directions for making powerful medicine. Archaeologists even found 2,000-year-old homework. A schoolboy had copied his lesson over and over with a reed quill.¹

¹A reed quill is a pen made from the hollow stem of the reed plant.

From Trash to Treasure

5 When papyri weren't needed anymore for writing, they were tossed in the trash. The Egyptians reused these unwanted papyri to make *papier-mâché*. They shaped masks for human mummies or used the papyri to wrap animal mummies.

6 "Think of it as the ancient Egyptians' form of recycling," says Dr. Hickey.

7 Dr. Hickey works to uncover valuable writings in the waste paper. And that is no easy task. It can take days to unroll just one wad of paper. First it is dampened to help it soften and relax. Then the paper is unrolled a bit. Dirt and gunk are carefully scraped off. The papyrologists must be careful not to scrape away the ink or paint underneath the dirt. The paper is unrolled a bit more. When the papyrus is completely unrolled, papyrologists look for torn pieces that fit together.

8 After the pieces are joined, is the job finished? No. The secrets from the past are still hidden, because words are missing from the worn bits of papyrus. The handwriting is faded and in ancient languages.

It's All Greek to Me

9 To decode papyri, Dr. Hickey needs to know other languages besides Egyptian. Ancient Egypt was ruled by the Greeks and Romans at different times, so he has to read and think in Greek and Latin.

10 Once he figures out what a sentence means, he tries to guess what the missing words or letters are in the holes of the papyrus.

11 "It's a challenge, but it is not impossible for papyrologists," Dr. Hickey says. "H---e" would lead me to think 'horse' in some contexts, 'house' in others."

12 History leaps to life from each repaired papyrus. Dr. Hickey and other papyrologists found a police report to a royal scribe about a missing person. It reads: "On the 5th of the present month when patrolling the fields near the village . . . I learn from the villagers that Theodotos son of Dositheos, having set out in that direction, has not yet returned. I make this report."

13 The reporter also says that he found clues, but not the missing person.

14 Some papyri give archaeologists a good idea of what Egyptians read for fun. They enjoyed adventure stories, poetry, plays, and myths.

15 It will take years for Dr. Hickey to study all the papyri in the tin box. He picks up a completed papyrus covered in protective glass. The writing on the papyrus forms a triangle, and the words can be read in several directions. It says the Greek nonsense phrase for a magical spell—similar to *abracadabra*.

16 Too bad it can't be used to make all the papyrus bits in the tin box fall together instantly. But we can look forward to learning more about Egyptian life as each piece is connected.

Copyright ©2017 Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

- 28** Which statement best expresses the main idea of the entire selection?
- F** Studying ancient pages of papyrus is a challenging task that can help scientists learn about how people lived in ancient Egypt.
 - G** A box of papyrus scraps from ancient Egypt may have valuable writings mixed in with writings that are considered trash.
 - H** Scientists must understand both Greek and Latin to read the writings on papyrus that come from ancient Egypt.
 - J** People in ancient Egypt often wrote signs and symbols on a type of paper called papyrus using brushes or reed pens.
-

- 29** The word scribe comes from the Latin word *scribere*, which means “to write.” What does scribe mean in paragraph 12?
- A** A person who records messages
 - B** A book of laws to be followed
 - C** A person who lives in a palace
 - D** A book of unsolved mysteries
-

- 30** What is the most likely reason the author wrote this selection?
- F** To tell the reader about the way ancient Egyptians communicated using a variety of signs and symbols
 - G** To inform the reader about how the work of papyrologists provides knowledge about an ancient culture
 - H** To explain the mystery surrounding ancient Egyptian papyri found in a tin box
 - J** To highlight the ways civilization has changed throughout history

31 Which idea about the ancient Egyptians is supported by information in paragraphs 4 and 14?

- A** They studied a variety of writings while in school.
 - B** They were primarily concerned with maintaining their health and safety.
 - C** They used writing for many different purposes.
 - D** They enjoyed writing for entertainment more than practical reasons.
-

32 In paragraph 1, why does the author call the papyri in the box a “rare treasure”?

- F** To show that they are worth a lot of money to Dr. Hickey
 - G** To suggest that they can provide information about a past time that has many mysteries
 - H** To demonstrate that they contain messages that are hard to decode
 - J** To explain that they are delicate and need to be handled with extreme care
-

33 How does the organizational pattern of paragraphs 7 through 10 help convey information?

- A** It reveals that some papyri scraps are more valuable than others by way of comparison.
- B** It shows that experts must follow steps in a certain order to read papyri from ancient Egypt.
- C** It lists the various materials needed to unroll and preserve pieces of papyri from ancient Egypt.
- D** It indicates that unrolling papyri is the most difficult task a papyrologist does.

34 What is the best summary of the selection?

- F** Dr. Todd Hickey is a scientist who studies the writings of the ancient Egyptians. He has studied hundreds of papyri from a tin box. It will take years for him to study them all.
- G** Scientists must be careful when they try to read a wad of papyrus from ancient Egypt. First the papyrus must be unrolled. Then it can be read, but there may be missing words.
- H** The ancient Egyptians wrote on papyrus. Many torn bits of papyrus survive today. Scientists like Dr. Todd Hickey try to put the pieces back together and read them to understand ancient Egyptian society.
- J** Pieces of papyrus contain the writing of people from ancient Egypt. Many papyri contain spells, directions, or stories. One example of papyrus described a police report about a missing person.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Persistent

by Nikki Grimes

Teacher keeps an eye on me
all week.
I give him no reason
to call me aside,
5 but he does.
"Talk to me, Gabby," he says.
"Tell me what's wrong.
I can see you're not happy."
I'd argue but my sigh
10 gives me away.
"I miss daydreaming."
"Then daydream!" says Mr. Spicer,
confusing me.
"But you're always telling me
15 to *stop* daydreaming!
You and my mom."
Teacher taps his top lip
like a door the right words
are hiding behind.
20 "Dreams are great things, Gabby,"
he finally says.
"The best thinkers,
writers, inventors in the world
allow their thoughts
25 to carry them away,
now and then.
Take the Wright brothers.
We wouldn't have airplanes
if they hadn't dreamed of them, first.
30 Still, sometimes you have to
slide your daydreams
in a drawer
and let them wait until later,
like after I'm done
35 teaching a lesson
you need to learn.
Got it?"
I nod, wondering if
the Wright brothers
40 knew anything about
bringing daydreams in
for a landing.

Used with permission.

- 35** What is the main message of the poem?
- A** It is good to be honest when sharing your feelings.
 - B** Events from history can be relevant today.
 - C** Wise people listen more than they speak.
 - D** There is a right time and place for imagination.
-

- 36** What do lines 9 and 10 suggest about Gabby?
- F** She cannot hide her frustration from her teacher.
 - G** She is calm while listening to her teacher.
 - H** She has difficulty expressing herself to her teacher.
 - J** She is confident that her teacher will understand her situation.
-

- 37** At the end of the poem, the description “bringing daydreams in for a landing” most likely refers to —
- A** ending daydreaming completely
 - B** making daydreams relate to what is important
 - C** being able to stop daydreaming for a while
 - D** keeping daydreams from being unreachable
-

- 38** In lines 24 and 25, the poet uses personification most likely to emphasize that successful people often —
- F** travel
 - G** imagine
 - H** create
 - J** communicate

39 Read lines 17 through 19.

Teacher taps his top lip
like a door the right words
are hiding behind.

What does the simile in these lines suggest about the teacher?

- A** He feels saddened by Gabby’s response.
 - B** He thinks that he might offend Gabby.
 - C** He wants to be sure to communicate his thoughts well.
 - D** He has begun to change his opinion about the subject.
-

40 The teacher “keeps an eye on” Gabby because he —

- F** suspects that Gabby is daydreaming again
- G** realizes that Gabby should be allowed to daydream
- H** believes that Gabby has an important idea she wants to share
- J** notices that Gabby has been acting differently



**STAAR
GRADE 6
Reading
May 2021**

