

GRADE 8

Reading

Modified

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RELEASED

READING

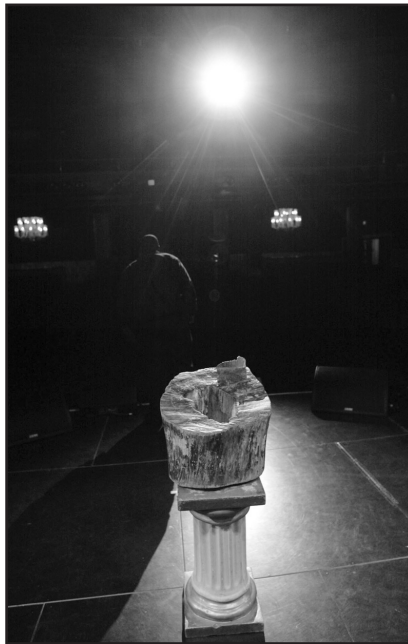


Tree of Hope

This is a story told from a tree's perspective, or point of view. The tree grew in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City in the 1920s and 1930s. During that time Harlem was the center of the African American cultural movement known as the Harlem Renaissance. Many musicians, writers, and actors lived in Harlem during that time and believed that rubbing the bark of the tree would bring them good luck. The tree, which grew across the street from a theater, became known as the Tree of Hope. However, in 1934 the tree had to be cut down. Read this story to find out how the tree feels about Dora, a young woman who is auditioning as a singer.

Tree of Hope

- 1 I can always tell. Before they even touch me, I can tell. I can tell whether they are young and proud, mature and wise, or simply overwhelmed by the moment. I can tell if the last meal they could afford was the breakfast they had that morning. I can tell when the hunger in their stomach matches the hunger in their soul.
- 2 I can tell even more about people by the way they touch me. Some glide their hands over my glossy surface as if wiping crumbs off a table. They are all business. They need a job. Some rub so hard that I know they are trying to erase years of bad luck and missed chances. Some cling to me, just briefly. These people are alone in a strange city. These are the ones who have nothing else to hang their hopes on. They have used up their travel money, their rent money, their meal money, and the well-wishes of family members who sent them off with cheers.



A section of the Tree of Hope sits onstage at the Apollo Theater.

© AP Photo/Beth A. Keiser

- 1** What are paragraphs 1 and 2 mostly about?
- A** The importance of finding a job
 - B** The loneliness of being far from home
 - C** The tree's thoughts about the people who touch it

3 A good example of someone alone in a strange city is the woman who just now stopped for a minute to place her hands on me before her audition. She reminds me of the first young girl who did that nearly 80 years ago. That was when my leaves still shaded the sidewalk. That girl's name was Dora. She reached out to feel strength and luck from my bark. Dora's dreams were so strong that I watched them dance above her head. She had just come into town on an old bus. The corner of her big suitcase hit the sidewalk when she rushed past me, and it fell open right beside me.

4 I could tell she was embarrassed by having the meagerness of her belongings out on the street for everyone to see. She had only one white blouse, a hairbrush, and an old black-and-white photo with curled edges. She quickly pushed everything back into the suitcase and tied it with an old cotton rope to hold it shut.



The Theater Across from the
Tree of Hope Stump, 1935

© Bettmann/CORBIS

personification—when the author gives human qualities to an object, animal, or idea

2 Read this sentence from paragraph 3.

Dora's dreams were so strong that I watched them dance above her head.

The author uses **personification** to show that Dora's dreams —

- F** are not realistic to Dora
- G** move quickly in the air around Dora
- H** are an important part of who Dora is

3 What does the word meagerness mean in paragraph 4?

- A** A shocking sight
- B** A small amount
- C** A careless organization

- 5 The things from Dora’s suitcase were clues about what her life was like. I filled in the details on my own. I was sure that the photograph was of her mother. They had the same wide eyes and high cheekbones. Dora’s face was alive with excitement, but the mother’s face was lined with disappointments and worry. I could imagine the words they said to each other when the young girl left home to audition.
- 6 “Please, Mama. I just have to try, Mama. I have to see if I really have talent, or if I’m just the best of the people who have no talent here in our little town.” Dora would have said these things to her mother with heartbreaking sincerity. Her mother would not want to encourage or discourage her. She would have stayed silent.
- 7 Dora’s mother would have been silent because she was afraid that she might say the wrong words. She did not want to say words that would crush her daughter’s dream. Crushing someone’s dream is not to be done thoughtlessly. Crushing someone’s dream can lead to a lifetime of resentment and lost confidence. It can lead to the kind of relationship the girl’s mother had with her own father. Dora’s mother had been a girl once, too. Her dream had not been to become a singer. Her dream had been to become a doctor. Her father, who was a doctor, told her he would be ashamed if his daughter tried to step into a man’s profession.
- 8 Remembering those painful words from her own father, Dora’s mother would have said, “You try it, baby girl. We will figure something out. You go sing for people. Sing like your very breathing depends on it.”

4 In paragraph 6, the author uses the word heartbreaking to show that Dora spoke in a way that was —

- F overly demanding
- G deeply emotional
- H extremely polite

- 5 Why does the tree believe that the woman in the photo is Dora's mother?
- A The woman looks like Dora.
 - B The woman looks tired and hopeless.
 - C The photo is the only one Dora has.

internal conflict—a struggle that takes place inside a character

- 6 What is the mother's **internal conflict**?
- F She wants to protect Dora, but Dora wants to travel on her own.
 - G She is worried about Dora but knows how it feels to have a dream taken away.
 - H She supports Dora's plans but is jealous because her own plans were crushed.

9 I am pretty sure that's how Dora ended up standing beside me. Her worn-out suitcase was too big for her belongings and too small for her hopes. She was the first one to reach out and rub my bark, back when my branches still reached into the sky. The legend says it was for luck. But I think Dora reached out to touch my bark because I reminded her of home. She was in a big, strange city staring at the theater in front of her. I think she reached out to the only thing that was familiar. I think she reached out to a tree, solid and firm and sheltering, just like her mama.

7 Read these sentences from paragraph 9.

I am pretty sure that's how Dora ended up standing beside me. Her worn-out suitcase was too big for her belongings and too small for her hopes.

The author uses these sentences to show —

- A** the difference between Dora's things and her goals
- B** what Dora looked like as a young girl
- C** how Dora will succeed in the theater

8 What is the purpose of paragraph 9?

- F** To suggest the main reason that Dora touches the tree
- G** To show that Dora eventually enjoys success
- H** To describe how difficult it is to live in a big city

**Use the whole story “Tree of Hope”
on pages 6–12 to answer questions 9–11.**

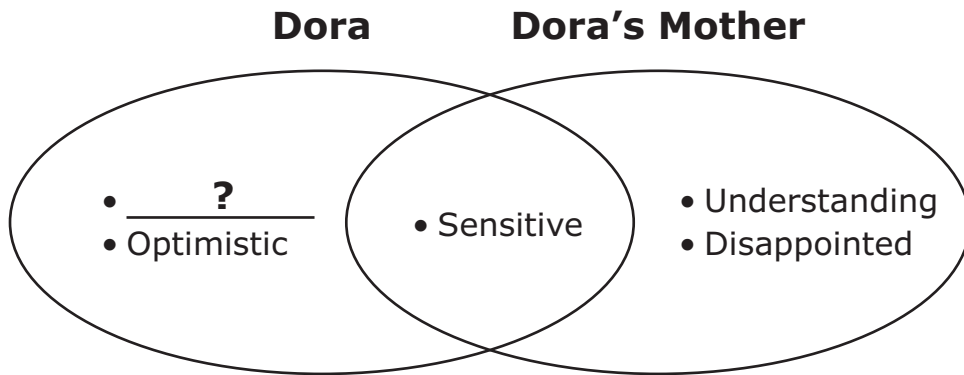
theme—the central idea, message, or moral
of a story, poem, or play

- 9** What is the primary **theme** in this story?
- A** It is important to appreciate the talents of others.
 - B** It takes great courage to follow one’s dreams.
 - C** People should not judge others too quickly.

tone—when the author uses words or phrases to show
the way he or she feels about the subject

- 10** The overall **tone** of the story is —
- F** compassionate
 - G** regretful
 - H** enthusiastic

11 Use the diagram below to answer the following question.



Which of these belongs on the blank line?

- A** Cautious
- B** Carefree
- C** Determined





Google This

This is an informational article about Google, a company started by Larry Page and Sergey Brin when they were college students. They shared an interest in mathematics and technology. Page and Brin worked together to create a company that helps people who are searching for information on the Internet. Read the article to find out how this successful company started with only a few computers in Page's dorm room.

Google This

by Randall Martínez

- 1 Millions of people around the world use Google every day to help them sort through the large amount of information available on the Internet. Google is a website named after the number googol. This enormous number is written as a 1 followed by one hundred zeros. Just as a googol is too big for one person to count to in a lifetime, all the information on the Internet is too much for a person to read in a lifetime. Larry Page and Sergey Brin found a way to sort through all that information and find instant answers. They created a new search software, started a new website, and built a company that has become one of the most important technology companies in the world—Google.
- 2 Page and Brin started Google while still in college. They met in 1995 when Brin was assigned to show Page around the college campus. Both Brin and Page were very interested in technology and were very skilled in math. Their shared interests led to their research on managing large amounts of information.
- 3 Brin and Page realized that the world needed a bigger and better way to search for information on the Internet. When the Internet was in its infancy, people had to sort through hundreds of different websites to find the ones with the information they needed. Brin and Page wanted to give users results that were connected to the keywords they typed, ranked in order of importance and quality. Brin and Page based their ideas on the success of other websites and on the work of brilliant mathematicians who had figured out how to sequence information. Brin and Page's ingenious use of these ideas led to a search engine that was unique.

12 What does the word infancy mean in paragraph 3?

- F** Beginning stage
- G** Helpful approach
- H** Useful for children

13 Why did Brin and Page select the name Google for their company?

- A** They wanted a name that people could remember easily.
- B** They wanted the name to be unique.
- C** They wanted a name that signified endless amounts of information.

- 4 Brin and Page were in their mid-twenties when they decided to start their own search website. They began their business in Page's dorm room and filled the room with computers. In just one year, their search website was functioning.
- 5 Soon Brin and Page's equipment ran out of memory. It seemed that the kind of Google website they dreamed of might take a googol of computers to operate. They didn't have the money for more equipment, but they had a plan. Instead of buying more computers, they bought computer parts and made their own. This worked well for them at first, but then user demand increased. The Internet continued to grow. Day by day, minute by minute, more information was added to the Internet. More people wanted to use Google for searches. A pile of used computers and cheap parts stuffed inside a dorm room could only do so much. Brin and Page needed money to start their own company. They found people willing to invest money, hired a staff, and rented work space at a friend's house.

- 14** Brin and Page realized their dorm-room operation could no longer meet users' demand. What did Brin and Page do to solve this problem?
- F** They invested in employees, space, and equipment.
 - G** They rebuilt the computers they already had.
 - H** They studied how other search sites worked.

- 6 As the company grew, Brin and Page moved Google headquarters to a larger space and tried to make it a place where people would want to work. “Googlers” are people who work at Google. They are served food made by world-class chefs. The company also provides car washes and oil changes, a dry cleaner, a gym, and a variety of other perks to make Googlers’ lives as easy as possible.
- 7 Google also provides the employees with a relaxed and creative atmosphere. Brin and Page wanted a workplace filled with people who are curious and inspired. It would not be unusual to see an engineer playing with Legos. Pets may be seen sleeping next to their owners. And the employees look very comfortable as they work, sitting on beanbag chairs. There are even Pajama Days, when Googlers all look like they have just gotten out of bed. Creating an environment where people want to work is part of what has made Google successful.



When no chairs or beanbags are available, employees may choose to sit on large rubber balls.

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- 8 Google will face new challenges as the Internet and users’ needs change and grow. But with determination and creative thinking, it is likely to meet these challenges. It is probably safe to say that people will be “googling” for many years to come.

15 In paragraph 6, the word “Googlers” refers to people who —

- A** have invested in Google
- B** are the founders of Google
- C** are employees at Google

16 The author includes the photograph to support the idea that employees at Google —

- F** do not take their work seriously
- G** work in a relaxed environment
- H** have creative ideas

How to Use Google

1. **Open** your Web browser by double-clicking on the icon.
2. **Type** *www.google.com* into the address bar at the top of the page.
3. **Press** Enter on your keyboard. A page with “Google” in big, colorful letters should come up on the screen.
4. **Type** what you want to search for in the box that appears right below the word “Google.”
5. **Click** “Search” or **press** Enter on your keyboard.
6. **Locate** the pages you are looking for or **modify** your search.

Note: Clicking “I’m Feeling Lucky” instead of pressing Enter in step 5 will take you directly to the page most useful to your search.

Sometimes you may need more than just information. To search for photographs or cartoons, select “Images” at the top of the Google page. Then follow steps 4 through 6 to find the images you need.

Another interesting feature Google provides is a book search. To use this feature, click on “more” at the top of the Google page and then select “Books.” From this page you can search for books or magazines, many of which can be viewed in their entirety.

- 17** What is the most likely reason the author includes the last two paragraphs in the section titled “How to Use Google”?
- A** To explain additional features that Google offers
 - B** To identify Google’s most popular searches
 - C** To summarize how to complete a successful Google search

18 What should a user looking for general information do right after typing a keyword?

- F** Go to the top of the screen
- G** Hit the Enter key
- H** Go to www.google.com

19 What should a user do to go directly to the website that is most useful to his or her search?

- A** Double-click on the Web-browser icon
- B** Modify the initial search
- C** Click "I'm Feeling Lucky"

**Use the whole article “Google This”
on pages 18–24 to answer questions 20 and 21.**

20 What is the best summary of the article?

- F** While in their twenties, Sergey Brin and Larry Page had an idea for a company that would help people search the Internet. They bought a large number of computers for Page’s dorm room and had a successful search website working in only a year’s time.
- G** Sergey Brin and Larry Page decided to create their own search website called Google. Their company began as a few computers in Page’s dorm room. It has grown into one of the largest and most successful technology companies in the world.
- H** Sergey Brin and Larry Page met at college in 1995, and they have been friends and business partners ever since. Their shared interests made it possible for them to work together to create Google, a large company with a great work atmosphere.

21 Which of these most contributed to Brin and Page’s ability to create a search engine better than those already on the Internet?

- A** Knowledge of technology and math
- B** The support of investors
- C** Studying at a university





A Trade for Bailey

This is a play set in a rural community near Macon, Georgia, in the early 1900s. Bailey is a young boy who lives on his family's farm and works at the cotton mill. He is good at repairing machines and wants to attend a trade school to learn how to design them. Read the play to find out what happens after Bailey repairs a wagon for his neighbor Mr. McKibben.

Characters:

BAILEY: A young boy who works in a cotton mill

FATHER: Bailey's father

MR. McKIBBEN: A neighbor

MR. CALLAGHAN: The manager of the cotton mill

A Trade for Bailey

Act 1 Scene 1

- 1 *[The scene opens in front of the barn near Bailey's house. Stage lights come up. Bailey is finishing the repairs on a wheel from Mr. McKibben's wagon.]*
- 2 **BAILEY:** Here you go, Mr. McKibben. She's all done, sir.
- 3 **MR. McKIBBEN:** Thanks, lad. You did that in half the time it would have taken me. And you did a better job, too! I'm much obliged. *[Mr. McKibben exits the stage with the wagon.]*
- 4 *[Bailey hurries to the woodpile to finish stacking the cut wood before his father comes home. Several pieces of wood are scattered on the ground. Father enters the stage.]*
- 5 **FATHER:** How's the work coming? *[Father picks up a piece of wood to add to the stack.]*
- 6 **BAILEY:** O.K., Pa. But . . . I've been meaning to talk to you.
- 7 **FATHER:** What's on your mind, son?
- 8 **BAILEY:** Um . . . *[Pauses; speaks more quietly.]* I want to go to school.
- 9 **FATHER:** What do you mean? You read and write very well. You have gone to school for nearly three years. How much learning does a boy need?
- 10 **BAILEY:** Not that kind of schooling, Pa. I want to go away and learn a trade.
- 11 **FATHER:** You already know a trade. You've been over at the mill for going on . . . *[Pauses to count.]* seven years now. You worked your way up to carding. That's a difficult job. It's not easy cleaning those cotton fibers with those wire brushes, but you're darn good at it. I know you are!
- 12 **BAILEY:** But I don't want to work in a cotton mill forever. I want to be good at other things too. There's a school up north where I can learn to design machines. That's where I want to go.

- 13 **FATHER:** Up north? You plan to leave your sisters and your ma? You want to leave me with all the work on the farm? What about your earnings? Who's going to help me support our family while you're off learning about machines?
- 14 **BAILEY:** But, Pa, if I do this, I'll be able to make more money. I'll be the one designing those machines instead of working on them. I wish you could see that.
- 15 **FATHER:** What I see is that my son likes to dream! We're just simple people who work hard, Bailey. We may have a difficult life, but our people have been working this land and earning our living at that mill since my great-granddaddy's time.
- 16 **BAILEY:** But, Pa, that life just isn't for me.
- 17 **FATHER:** Yes, son, it is. Now put those harebrained ideas of yours to rest and off to work with you.

22 What does obliged mean in paragraph 3?

- F** Confused
- G** Grateful
- H** Embarrassed

23 Which of Father's lines best reflects a common attitude toward tradition in the early 1900s?

- A** You've been over at the mill for going on . . . seven years now.
- B** It's not easy cleaning those cotton fibers with those wire brushes, but you're darn good at it.
- C** We may have a difficult life, but our people have been working this land and earning our living at that mill since my great-granddaddy's time.

24 What does the word harebrained mean in paragraph 17?

- F** Obvious
- G** Worrisome
- H** Foolish

Scene 2

- 18 *[The scene opens in the small carding room of the mill. The room appears dark, dingy, and steamy. Bailey stands hunched over a table, sweaty from hours of hard labor. The banging and roaring of machines can be heard in the background.]*
- 19 **MR. CALLAGHAN:** *[Entering from stage right.]* Bailey, what's taking so long? I need that machine running at its peak. It's causing a major delay in my production.
- 20 **BAILEY:** Yes, sir, Mr. Callaghan. One of the gears was jamming. So I had to stop and take a look at it. I think I have it running better now.
- 21 **MR. CALLAGHAN:** So it's working now?
- 22 **BAILEY:** Yes, sir.
- 23 **MR. CALLAGHAN:** Good! Now we can get back to work. We'll be working extra hours to make up for that lost time. *[Exits stage right while saying last line.]*
- 24 **BAILEY:** *[Still standing at the table, slouches because he is tired.]* Someday I'm going to design a machine that runs smoothly and cuts the work time in half. *[Curtain closes.]*

25 In Scene 2, the playwright is trying to show that —

- A** Bailey has a gift for working with machines
- B** Bailey has an idea for a new machine
- C** Bailey works at the mill to earn his wages

26 Read this dictionary entry for the word peak.

peak \ˈpēk\ *noun*

- 1.** the pointed top of a hill or mountain
- 2.** the highest point on a graph
- 3.** the maximum point of something

Which definition matches how the word peak is used in paragraph 19?

- F** Definition 1
- G** Definition 2
- H** Definition 3

27 Read the stage directions in paragraph 18. The descriptive language helps the reader understand the —

- A** reasons Bailey wants to go to school
- B** conditions under which Bailey works
- C** feelings Bailey has about working at the mill

Scene 3

25 *[The scene opens in front of the barn near Bailey's house. Stage lights come up. Bailey and Father are washing their hands and face at the pump at the end of the day. Mr. McKibben gets down from his wagon and walks over to Bailey and Father.]*

26 **FATHER:** Hi there, Mr. McKibben. What brings you by?

27 **MR. McKIBBEN:** I came to thank that lad of yours! You trained him right.

28 **FATHER:** Thank you, sir. But what did my Bailey do for you?

29 **MR. McKIBBEN:** Why, he worked wonders on my wagon. Smoothest ride to town my wares have ever had. Without his help I would've been sitting here waiting while everything spoiled and went to waste. *[To Bailey.]* You sure have a talent for working on machines. I just wanted to thank you, Bailey. *[Mr. McKibben puts a coin in Bailey's palm and exits.]*

30 **FATHER:** Well done, son. *[Father looks at Bailey, nods, and pats Bailey on the back.]*

31 **BAILEY:** *[After a pause.]* Pa, I sure wish you would think again about me going to that school I told you about.

32 **FATHER:** *[Looks at Bailey with a slight smile.]* Well, son, Mr. Callaghan has told me more than once how you saved him time and money at the mill by repairing machines. He says you make them purr like kittens. It does seem that you have a talent for fixing things. Let's talk more about this at supper. *[Father and Bailey exit together as curtain closes.]*

simile—a comparison of two things that are not alike using the words *like* or *as*

28 In paragraph 32, the playwright uses the **simile** “purr like kittens” to mean that the machines —

- F** squeak loudly
- G** save money
- H** operate well

29 At the end of Scene 3, Father’s words suggest that he will —

- A** consider allowing Bailey to go away to school
- B** insist that Bailey stay on the farm and forget about school
- C** promise to talk with Mr. McKibben about a job for Bailey

**Use the whole play "A Trade for Bailey"
on pages 30–36 to answer questions 30–33.**

30 What is the main reason Bailey wants to learn to design machines?

- F** He wants to move to a different town.
- G** He wants to support his family.
- H** He wants to do work that interests him.

31 Why does the playwright divide the play into three scenes?

- A** To show situations where others recognize Bailey's talents
- B** To show how different settings affect Bailey's actions
- C** To show how Bailey's opinion changes over time

theme—the central idea, message, or moral of a story, poem, or play

32 What is the main **theme** of this play?

- F** Young people desire higher-paying jobs than their parents have.
- G** Younger generations are more willing to break from old family traditions.
- H** Parents want their children to find employment close to home.

conflict—the main problem in a story, poem, or play

33 Which of these best describes the main **conflict**?

- A** Bailey likes repairing machines, but he must spend his days working at the mill.
- B** Bailey wants to learn to design machines, but his father says he is needed at home.
- C** Bailey performs his job well, but the mill manager shows little appreciation of his work.





Alice Ramsey's Cross-Country Adventure

This selection is about Alice Huyler Ramsey. In 1909 the Maxwell-Briscoe Company offered her a new car if she would be the first woman to drive across the United States. On the trip, Ramsey and her three companions used maps and guidebooks for directions when they could. Read the selection to find out more about what happened when Ramsey accepted the challenge to drive across the country.

Alice Ramsey's Cross-Country Adventure

- 1 There was a time when the idea of a woman driving a car was newsworthy. In 1907 Alice Huyler Ramsey was president of the Women's Motoring Club of New Jersey. She had become well known for racing cars. Ramsey was big news. In 1909 the Maxwell-Briscoe Company offered to let her drive one of their brand-new cars if she would take on the challenge of becoming the first woman to drive across the United States. Of course, she said yes.
- 2 On June 9, 1909, the 22-year-old wife and mother was ready to go, along with her two sisters-in-law and a friend. They stood in the pouring rain surrounded by reporters and photographers who wanted to take more photos. "If we are going to go, let's go!" she called to the others. Together the four women crowded into the dark-green car and into the pages of history with a flurry of photographers' flashbulbs.



Alice Ramsey, Four Years After First Driving
Across the United States

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

- 34** In paragraph 2, the words “into the pages of history” suggest that the author believes that Ramsey’s adventure —
- F** depended on old technology
 - G** had been researched carefully
 - H** was a remarkable accomplishment

- 3 In the early days of the automobile, a cross-country road trip was not considered a sensible idea for anyone, especially for four women. There were no interstate highways. The roads were mostly unpaved, unmapped, and unmarked. Ramsey didn't mind when she had to move a herd of pigs off the road or even cross a river without a bridge. But she loved everything about cars. She loved driving them and fixing them. The automobile company wanted to show that cars were a "safe, reliable form of transportation." Ramsey was happy to make a cross-country trip to help prove that point. And she wanted to prove that cars were for women as well as men.
- 4 At first the trip was easy, even though Ramsey was the only one of the four women that knew anything about cars or driving. The women used the American Automobile Association Blue Books to find their way. Today drivers have accurate maps or even electronic devices to tell them when and where to turn. The Blue Books that Ramsey used were very different than maps today. They gave detailed directions like a local resident might say to a lost driver: "Turn left at the big oak tree," or "Look for the yellow barn and turn right." The problem was that oak trees could be cut down and yellow barns could be painted a different color.
- 5 Even though they had inaccurate maps and directions, it was better than having no information at all. The women followed the Blue Books as far west as the Mississippi River. Beyond the river they were on their own. They drove over old wagon trails, or they had no trails to follow at all. Cars today have rubber tires with treads. But the women were driving a car that had canvas tires with no treads. So when it rained, the canvas tires provided very little traction through the slippery mud.

35 What does the word traction mean in paragraph 5?

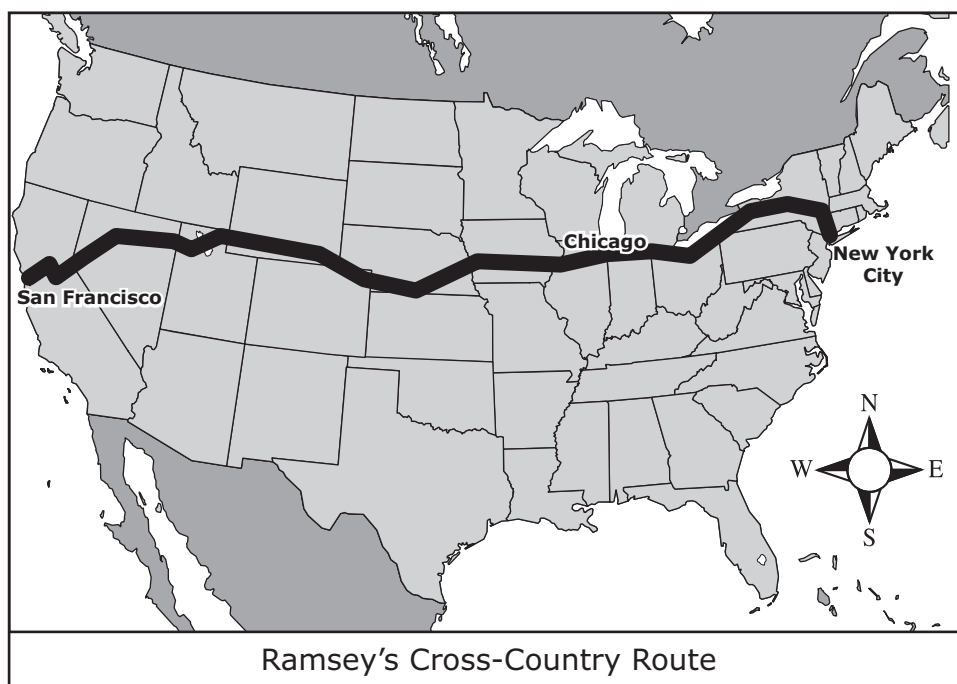
- A** A breakdown of parts
- B** A gripping force
- C** A long process

- 6 Muddy roads made the driving slow and difficult. The car did not have power steering like cars today. Ramsey struggled with the steering wheel. Sometimes the car plunged into a roadside ditch. At the time, some people called cars horseless carriages. More than once Ramsey's car had to be pulled by horses from a ditch. This might have been funny the first time it happened. But it didn't seem very funny for long, especially when the women had to face farmers who had an "I told you so" attitude about the strange new horseless carriage.
- 7 Crowds gathered in many of the small towns along the route to see the women and wish them well. This was partly because of a reporter from a large newspaper who was hired as an advance man. His job was to ride ahead of the women, which he did in a comfortable and reliable train. He would travel to the next city on the route to let the public know that Ramsey and her companions were coming. Most people greeted the women with amazement and admiration.
- 8 The people were often more encouraging than the weather. Rain and floodwaters washed out many roads and bridges. A person less determined than Ramsey might have put the car on a boat or a train to avoid these challenges. But that would have been cheating. Ramsey found ways to drive through or around muddy waters. Once, when the floodwaters were over a bridge, Ramsey pulled her long dress up to her knees and measured how deep the river was with an umbrella. The river was so deep that the women had to camp in the car until the floodwaters went down the next day.

- 36** Why were some of the people Ramsey met on the trip not impressed with the new “horseless carriages”?
- F** They did not think there would ever be proper roads to drive on.
 - G** They thought cars were unattractive.
 - H** They believed cars were not dependable.

37 How did the public keep track of Ramsey’s journey?

- A** A reporter traveled ahead and told people Ramsey was coming.
- B** A newspaper published the route Ramsey planned to follow.
- C** Ramsey talked to farmers along her route.



- 9 Bad roads challenged Ramsey's abilities as a driver, and car problems challenged her skills as a mechanic. There were very few auto-repair shops along the route. Ramsey had to fix her car as well as drive it. About halfway across the country, the car began to run badly. Ramsey removed the spark plugs, cleaned them out, and put them back in the engine. Once, the brake pedal fell off after hitting a bump. Ramsey climbed under the car in her long skirt and wired the pedal back together. During the trip Ramsey also changed 11 flat tires.
- 10 When Ramsey and her three companions finally pushed the car onto a ferryboat to cross the San Francisco Bay, crowds gathered to cheer. Ramsey had succeeded in driving from one coast to the other. Many people celebrated the accomplishment of a great adventurer—Alice Huyler Ramsey.

38 One reason Ramsey was able to reach the San Francisco Bay was that she could —

- F** repair her own car
- G** inspire other people
- H** learn from her mistakes

Use the whole selection “Alice Ramsey’s Cross-Country Adventure” on pages 42–48 to answer questions 39–42.

39 Which of these is an important idea found in the selection?

- A** The American wilderness is beautiful but harsh.
- B** Everyone should learn how to make basic car repairs.
- C** Refusing to quit allows people to achieve their goals.

40 Which of these is the best summary of the selection?

- F** In 1909 Alice Ramsey set out to become the first woman to drive across the United States. She and her companions faced many challenges along the way, including poor roads, car trouble, and flooded rivers. But Ramsey continued until she completed her mission.
- G** An automobile company offered Alice Ramsey a chance to drive across the United States. She accepted the challenge. Her friend and two sisters-in-law went with her. On the trip they encountered flooded rivers and washed-out bridges.
- H** Alice Ramsey and three other women began a cross-country trip in 1909. At first the trip was easy. But it soon became difficult when they faced muddy roads and a herd of pigs. Ramsey had to change several flat tires along the way.

41 Which sentences best illustrate that Ramsey was knowledgeable about cars?

- A** *In 1907 Alice Huyler Ramsey was president of the Women's Motoring Club of New Jersey. She had become well known for racing cars. Ramsey was big news.*
- B** *Ramsey was happy to make a cross-country trip to help prove that point. And she wanted to prove that cars were for women as well as men.*
- C** *About halfway across the country, the car began to run badly. Ramsey removed the spark plugs, cleaned them out, and put them back in the engine.*

42 The author wrote this selection most likely to —

- F** describe one woman's achievement in early car travel
- G** honor an early car company for its contributions to the auto industry
- H** inspire readers to follow their dreams



STAAR MODIFIED
GRADE 8
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