Comprehension Skills
40 Short Passages for Close Reading

New Rules

NASCAR is the National Association for Stock Car Racing. In recent years, this organization has made some changes in its rules. For example, steel and foam cushioning has been placed around NASCAR tracks to better absorb impact from crashing cars. Race car drivers must now wear special head restraints that limit their neck movement during sudden stops. Air filters have been added to race cars to keep carbon monoxide out of the driver’s cabin. The tires also have straps now to keep the wheels from flying off during crashes.

1. Fill in the correct circle to show whether each statement is a fact or an inference.

   Fact  Inference
   ○  ○  A. NASCAR’s new rules were made to improve safety.
   ○  ○  B. Drivers must wear head restraints.
   ○  ○  C. Race car drivers are sometimes hurt in accidents.
   ○  ○  D. Race cars give off carbon monoxide.

2. In this paragraph, the word absorb must mean
   ○ A. exaggerate.
   ○ B. change.
   ○ C. withstand.
   ○ D. forgive.

3. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   ○ A. race car drivers are unhappy with the changes.
   ○ B. stock car racing is an easy sport.
   ○ C. accidents have occurred in NASCAR races.
   ○ D. NASCAR tracks are perfectly safe.

4. Which word in the passage is a clue to how the writer feels about the rule changes?
   ○ A. sudden
   ○ B. better
   ○ C. hurting

Main Idea & Details
Fact & Opinion
Context Clues
Figurative Language
Point of View
Inference
Summarize
Draw Conclusions

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Rolling Along

A roller brigade glides down a boulevard in Paris. This group of roller skaters is part of the city’s police force. Their job is to keep passers-by or busy streets free of bus lanes. They also pull over drivers who are chatting on mobile phones. The best part of their work is posing for pictures with tourists. The roller brigade is known as the best part of their uniform. Even so, it can be tricky to navigate some streets in Paris, especially when dealing with cyclists.

Several clues in the paragraph (airflow, cut through the air) help a reader determine the meaning of aerodynamic.

Cycling Secrets

When a rider is on a racing bicycle, aerodynamics play an important role. If a rider is to reach top speeds, the rider must pay close attention to aerodynamics. These basic design features help to reduce airflow, allowing the rider to achieve higher speeds.

In this paragraph, students have to read the entire text and ask themselves “What is this paragraph mainly about?” The main idea is supported by different facts (details) about Paris police on skates.

The information that supports the main idea is usually referred to as the details. Details—facts, examples, definitions, etc.—help a reader gain a fuller understanding of a paragraph.

Using context clues means determining an unfamiliar word’s meaning by studying the phrases, sentences, and overall text with which the word appears. Context clues help readers comprehend and enjoy a text and also read more smoothly and efficiently.

Reading comprehension in nonfiction involves numerous thinking skills. Students require these skills to make sense of a text and become successful readers. This book offers practice in key skills needed to meet the Common Core State Standards in Reading/Language Arts for grade five. Each student page includes a short passage focusing on four of these essential comprehension skills.

Comprehension Skills At-a-Glance

Main Idea & Details

Understanding the main or key idea of a paragraph is crucial for a reader. The main idea is what the paragraph is about. The other parts of the paragraph help to explain more about this key idea. The main idea is sometimes in the first or last sentence of a paragraph. Students should be aware that some main ideas are stated explicitly and others are implicit requiring readers to put together details to determine the main idea.

The information that supports the main idea is usually referred to as the details. Details—facts, examples, definitions, etc.—help a reader gain a fuller understanding of a paragraph.

Summarize

Readers should be able to use main ideas to summarize a text. By summarizing, students are better able to recall important points. This is an important skill for taking notes and studying for exams.

Context Clues

Using context clues means determining an unfamiliar word’s meaning by studying the phrases, sentences, and overall text with which the word appears. Context clues help readers comprehend and enjoy a text and also read more smoothly and efficiently.
**Figurative Language**

Beyond using context clues to derive meaning is the ability to differentiate between literal and figurative language. Readers who can recognize figures of speech and determine their meanings are well on their way to fluency.

**Inference**

Although some students don’t know what an inference is, many are most likely making inferences—both in their daily lives and when reading—without being aware of it. Students should understand that writers don’t include every detail in their writing; it is up to readers to supply some information. A reader makes a guess or inference by putting together what is in a text with what he or she already knows. Inferring makes a significant difference in how much a reader gains from a text.

**Draw Conclusions**

After thinking about information in a text, a reader makes a decision or conclusion by examining evidence rooted in the text. Students should know that writers don’t always state all of their ideas, so readers have to look for clues to understand what is meant.

**Fact & Opinion**

Readers who can identify and differentiate between statements of fact and opinion are better able to analyze and assess a text. Students should know that writers don’t always state all of their ideas, so readers have to look for clues to understand what is meant.

**Point of View**

While distinguishing fact from opinion is one step in the reading process, it is important for students to go further. They should be able to sort facts, opinions, and feelings to help determine a writer’s point of view and compare it to what they themselves think. Students should learn that good readers consult several sources on subjects of interest to gain different points of view.

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**Tips**

- **Tell students to first read the passage and then answer the questions.** Show them how to fill in the circles for bubble-test questions.
- **The comprehension skills targeted in the questions accompanying each passage are labeled at the bottom of the page.**
- **Review the completed pages with students on a regular basis.** Encourage them to explain their thinking for each correct answer.
Meeting the Common Core State Standards

The passages and comprehension questions in this book are designed to help you meet both your specific English/Language Arts standards and learning expectations as well as those recommended by the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI). The activities in this book align with the following CCSSI standards for grade five.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details
1. Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
3. Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

Craft and Structure
4. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
8. Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity
10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4–5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Reading Standards: Foundational Skills

Fluency
4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
   a. Read on-level text with purpose and understanding.
   c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

Language Standards

Knowledge of Language
3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
   a. Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
   a. Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context.
   b. Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
   c. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words.
6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical-relationships.
Big on Breakfast

Do you eat breakfast every day? Researchers have found that people who eat a balanced breakfast are likely to be healthier than those who don’t. One reason is that most people eat whole grains at breakfast, and these promote good health. Breakfast eaters also tend to have fewer weight problems than those who skip the meal. People who don’t eat breakfast usually eat too much later in the day. Often, these foods are not healthy and cause weight gain and other problems. So, be sure to eat breakfast. It is definitely the most important meal of the day.

1. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. breakfast is the most important meal.
   - B. breakfast is a delicious meal.
   - C. skipping breakfast makes you hungry.
   - D. breakfast eaters have fewer weight problems.

2. A supporting detail is
   - A. people eat too much at lunch.
   - B. only healthy people eat breakfast.
   - C. no one has time to eat breakfast.
   - D. whole grains at breakfast promote health.

3. Write fact or opinion next to each statement.
   - _________ A. People who don’t eat breakfast usually eat too much later in the day.
   - _________ B. Often, these foods are not healthy and cause weight gain and other problems.
   - _________ C. It is definitely the most important meal of the day.

4. Which word reflects the writer’s point of view about the value of breakfast?
   - A. unsure
   - B. entertained
   - C. convinced
Was It a Car?

People take cars and other road vehicles for granted today. However, the idea of such vehicles was unheard of about 500 years ago. Then, in 1478, the artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci designed a self-propelled vehicle. His drawing showed a boxy, open-topped wooden machine with three wheels. Coiled springs would make the vehicle move somewhat like a windup toy. Models of Leonardo’s vehicle have been made in recent years and are on exhibit in museums in Italy.

1. A title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   O A. Models in Museums Today.
   O B. Taking Cars for Granted.
   O C. Da Vinci’s Self-Propelled Vehicle.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?
   O A. People can still use Leonardo’s drawings.
   O B. Leonardo da Vinci is still working.
   O C. Leonardo invented windup toys.
   O D. Leonardo painted his new vehicle.

3. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   O A. Leonardo started a car-making business.
   O B. Leonardo didn’t think his invention would work.
   O C. Leonardo’s vehicle design amazed people.
   O D. Leonardo’s drawings weren’t very good.

4. In this paragraph, the word self-propelled means
   O A. a fuel that makes things go.
   O B. moves by its own power.
   O C. a kind of propeller.
   O D. is powered by an engine.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Violent Storms**

Watch out for cyclones! These violent tropical storms can cause enormous _______. Other names for cyclones are *hurricanes* and *typhoons*. They usually begin in areas of low pressure near the equator where the sea is especially warm. Warm air rushes toward these areas and swirls upward in circles over the sea. Within the center of this spinning mass is the eye of the storm. Around the eye, rage fierce winds and *torrential* rains.

When cyclones hit land, they can flatten buildings, rip off roofs, and wash away roads.

1. The best word for the blank in this paragraph is
   - A. wonder.
   - B. moisture.
   - C. destruction.
   - D. deafening.

2. From this paragraph, you can conclude that people
   - A. like to watch cyclones.
   - B. try to prevent cyclones.
   - C. try to prepare for cyclones.
   - D. can’t wait for cyclones.

3. A title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   - A. Here Come the Hurricanes.
   - B. Learning About Cyclones.
   - C. Watch Out for Damage.
   - D. The Eye of the Storm.

4. In this paragraph, the word *torrential* must mean
   - A. soft and gentle.
   - B. slow and steady.
   - C. very heavy.
   - D. really warm.
Passage 4

Happy, Happy

For many people, August is a day in the sun. It is a time to go to the beach or the mountains or the woods. With its warm, sunny weather, August invites people to play and relax. Some people also think that August is a good time to smile. These folks belong to the Secret Society of Happy People. On this group's calendar, August is called the National Happiness Happens Month. How do you celebrate this month? Some people do funny things while others just smile a lot. This is really an excellent month.

1. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called
   ○ A. metaphor.
   ○ B. personification.
   ○ C. simile.
   ○ D. hyperbole.

2. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   ________ A. Some people do funny things while others just smile a lot.
   ________ B. These folks belong to the Secret Society of Happy People.
   ________ C. This is really an excellent month.

3. Which word reflects the writer’s point of view about National Happiness Happens Month?
   ○ A. confused
   ○ B. pleased
   ○ C. bothered

4. Reread the paragraph. Find and write an example of personification.
Spelling Matters

Poor spellers shouldn’t try to sell things through online ads. Suppose you want to sell a camera on eBay, but your ad says “Camra for Sale.” Buyers looking for cameras aren’t likely to find your ad. However, some clever buyers are on the lookout for misspelled ads written by careless sellers. When they find one, they offer a low bid. Since no one else is bidding for the item, the seller is likely to let the item go for a low price. Often, the smart buyers then turn around and sell the item for more—through an ad that’s spelled correctly!

1. Which word in the passage is a clue to how the writer feels about sellers who misspell?
   - A. clever
   - B. careless
   - C. smart

2. Which sentence is most likely true?
   - A. People misspell words on purpose.
   - B. The writer is a careful speller.
   - C. Spelling isn’t important.
   - D. Poor spellers make money.

3. Write fact or opinion next to each statement.
   - _________ A. Poor spellers shouldn’t try to sell things through ads.
   - _________ B. When they find one, they offer a low bid.
   - _________ C. However, some clever buyers are on the lookout for misspelled ads by careless sellers.

4. Reread the paragraph and write the main idea.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Parrot Passenger**

When they come to a stoplight, drivers sometimes look at the people in other cars. Mr. Beren noticed that a man in the car next to him had a large green parrot on the passenger seat. The parrot seemed to be talking. When the man rolled down his window, Mr. Beren was surprised to hear that the bird wasn't talking but barking. The owner leaned out his window and explained, “He lives with three golden retrievers, and he thinks he’s a dog.” The light changed, and Mr. Beren chuckled all the way home.

1. Fill in the correct circle to show whether each statement is a fact or an inference.

   **Fact**  **Inference**
   ○ ○ A. Mr. Beren noticed a large green parrot in a car.
   ○ ○ B. Mr. Beren was curious.
   ○ ○ C. The parrot learned to bark by listening to the dogs.
   ○ ○ D. The parrot’s behavior amused Mr. Beren.

2. In this paragraph, the word **chuckled** means

   ○ A. vomited.  ○ B. challenged.
   ○ C. laughed.  ○ D. sighed.

3. The main idea of this paragraph is

   ○ A. a surprised passenger.
   ○ B. a bewildered driver.
   ○ C. a barking parrot.
   ○ D. a red light stop.

4. From this paragraph, you can conclude that

   ○ A. the dogs were in the car.
   ○ B. the parrot often surprised people.
   ○ C. the parrot really was a dog.
   ○ D. the dogs disliked the parrot.
Emperor’s Tomb

The first emperor of China must have been strange. He spent much of his life planning for his tomb. It took 700,000 workers 36 years to get it ready. In the tomb were 6,000 life-size soldiers made from terra-cotta, a kind of pottery. Each soldier had an individual face, just like the soldiers in the emperor’s real army. I think this is bizarre. Also in the tomb were carriages and horses made from bronze. The tomb was a big secret for thousands of years. Then, some farmers found it while digging a well in 1974.

1. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   _________ A. The first emperor of China must have been strange.
   _________ B. It took 700,000 workers 36 years to get it ready.
   _________ C. I think this is bizarre.

2. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   ○ A. An Army in a Tomb.
   ○ B. Bronze Carriages and Horses.
   ○ C. A Big Secret.
   ○ D. A Strange Emperor.

3. Reread the paragraph. Which statement would most likely not be true?
   ○ A. The tomb was huge.
   ○ B. The emperor wanted protection in death.
   ○ C. The farmers dug their well someplace else.
   ○ D. It was easy to build the tomb.

4. In this paragraph, the word bizarre means
   ○ A. wonderful.
   ○ B. strange.
   ○ C. normal.
   ○ D. catastrophic.
Cycling Secrets

What's the secret of a winning cyclist? Skill, daring, and good preparation do make a difference, of course, but another answer is technology. Since bicycle races are often very close, riders need every advantage they can get. For instance, a racer might wear a suit designed so that it has no creases or wrinkles to affect the airflow. Special racing shoes are covered with a seamless silver fabric for the same reason. Aerodynamic brakes and a bike frame made to cut through the air effectively are also part of a racer's equipment.

1. From this paragraph you can conclude that
   - A. cyclists like to look good when racing.
   - B. many riders wear the wrong kind of clothing.
   - C. air resistance affects a rider's speed.
   - D. some riders don't spend enough time training.

2. Which phrase best reflects the writer's point of view?
   - A. questioning about cycling technology
   - B. receptive to cycling technology
   - C. argumentative about cycling technology

3. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. special racing shoes for cyclists.
   - B. technological advantages for cyclists.
   - C. bike races are often very close.
   - D. skill and preparation count the most.

4. In this paragraph, the word aerodynamic means
   - A. made by hand.
   - B. study of beauty.
   - C. having to do with air pressure.
   - D. similar to airplanes.
A Look at Lions

Lions live together in social groups called prides. Most of the lions in a pride are females and their cubs. The lionesses share the work of hunting and raising the cubs. By hunting in a pack, lions can take down animals far larger than themselves. Much of the food killed by a pride is taken by the males. In return, they provide protection from other males. A pride has a well-defined territory, which is marked by the males. When lions in a pride meet, they greet one another by head rubbing, licking, and grooming. It’s endearing to watch them.

1. The main idea of this paragraph is
   ○ A. males eat most of a pride’s food.  
   ○ B. lions hunt together in a pack.  
   ○ C. lions live in groups called prides.  
   ○ D. lionesses share the work of a pride.

2. A supporting detail is
   ○ A. the males mark a pride’s territory.  
   ○ B. cubs are helpless when they’re born.  
   ○ C. the pride is a lion’s family group.  
   ○ D. lions are solitary hunters.

3. Which sentence is most likely not true?
   ○ A. Cubs depend on both parents.  
   ○ B. Pride members have strong bonds.  
   ○ C. Lionesses rarely eat.  
   ○ D. Lions from other prides are unwelcome.

4. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   _______ A. Most of the lions in a pride are females and their cubs.
   _______ B. It’s endearing to watch them.
   _______ C. In return, they provide protection from other males.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Vacuum Cleaner History

At one time, people thought that blowing dust was the way to clean. Then in the 1870s Hubert Booth, an engineer, tried placing a handkerchief between his mouth and a couch and sucking in. The film of dirt on the other side of the hanky suggested that suctioning in dirt was the way to clean. Then Booth made an awfully smart move. He designed fans that sucked dust into pillow cases. Booth even sold some to the Queen of England. About 30 years later, the Hoover Company came out with an upright suctioning machine on rollers. The rest is vacuum cleaner history.

1. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   - A. The First Vacuum Cleaners.
   - B. Blowing in the Dust.
   - C. How the Queen Cleaned.
   - D. What Hoover Did.

2. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   - _______ A. The rest is vacuum cleaner history.
   - _______ B. Booth even sold some to the Queen of England.
   - _______ C. Then Booth made an awfully smart move.

3. Which word best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   - A. rejecting
   - B. impatient
   - C. approving

4. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   - A. the Queen of England liked to vacuum.
   - B. Hubert Booth slept with dirty pillow cases.
   - C. the Hoover Company was successful.
   - D. blowing dust was a good way to clean.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

### Plant Thief

At holiday time, many people hang mistletoe. With its dark green leaves and red berries, this plant is very ______. But what many people don’t know is that mistletoe is a parasite. Instead of making its own food, it steals from other plants. The seeds of a mistletoe stick to the branches of trees. In time, they send roots into the tree’s bark. The roots suck up nutrients for a new mistletoe. Often, several mistletoe plants will grow and live off the same tree. Sometimes this results in the death of the tree.

1. The best word for the blank in this paragraph is
   - A. formal.
   - B. imperial.
   - C. affectionate.
   - D. festive.

2. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called
   - A. metaphor.
   - B. personification.
   - C. simile.
   - D. hyperbole.

3. In this paragraph, the word parasite must mean
   - A. an organism that lives off others.
   - B. a plant that supports others.
   - C. a pretty sun umbrella.
   - D. a popular holiday plant.

4. Which of these sentences is most likely not true?
   - A. Mistletoe is a popular plant.
   - B. Mistletoe is bad for trees.
   - C. Most plants make their food.
   - D. Buyers are informed about mistletoe.
Passage 12

New Rules

NASCAR is the National Association for Stock Car Racing. In recent years, this organization has made some changes in its rules. For example, steel and foam cushioning has been placed around NASCAR tracks to better absorb impact from hurtling cars. Race car drivers must now wear special head restraints that limit their neck movement during sudden stops. Air filters have been added to race cars to keep carbon monoxide out of the cockpit. The tires also have straps now to keep the wheels from flying off during crashes.

1. Fill in the correct circle to show whether each statement is a fact or an inference.

   **Fact**  **Inference**
   ○ ○ A. NASCAR’s new rules were made to improve safety.
   ○ ○ B. Drivers now wear head restraints.
   ○ ○ C. Race car drivers are sometimes hurt in accidents.
   ○ ○ D. Race cars give off carbon monoxide.

2. In this paragraph, the word *absorb* must mean
   ○ A. exaggerate.  ○ B. change.
   ○ C. withstand.  ○ D. forgive.

3. From this paragraph you can conclude that
   ○ A. race car drivers are unhappy with the changes.
   ○ B. stock car racing is an easy sport.
   ○ C. accidents have occurred in NASCAR races.
   ○ D. NASCAR tracks are perfectly safe.

4. Which word in the passage is a clue to how the writer feels about the rule changes?
   ○ A. sudden
   ○ B. better
   ○ C. hurtling
Energy Savers

What do you do with your hands on a cool day? You might tuck them in your pockets. In much the same way, a bird puts its head under a wing. It does this to keep warm when sleeping. Birds also are known to stand on one foot while sleeping, which makes them look like incomplete drawings. There are two reasons birds do this. They give one leg a rest, and they keep body heat from escaping through their featherless feet. You might say that birds are excellent energy conservationists.

1. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called
   ○ A. metaphor
   ○ B. personification
   ○ C. simile
   ○ D. hyperbole

2. The main idea of this paragraph is
   ○ A. how birds conserve energy.
   ○ B. how people keep their hands warm.
   ○ C. what birds do with their heads.
   ○ D. how birds are like people.

3. Which word in the passage is a clue to how the writer feels about birds’ behavior?
   ○ A. warm
   ○ B. incomplete
   ○ C. excellent

4. Reread the paragraph. Find and write an example of a metaphor.
   ____________________________________________________________
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Past Pastime**

How did wealthy people spend leisure time in the late 1800s? One fascinating pastime was to exchange afternoon visits. At each house, a visitor would leave a calling card. These printed cards included the person’s name, much like a business card of today. The cards would be placed on a tray and taken by a servant to the lady of the house. The hostess would then decide to accept the visit, decline the visit, or **postpone** the visit. After World War I, telephones and cars led to the end of this quaint social custom.

1. Which phrase best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   - A. shocked by the custom
   - B. distressed by the custom
   - C. intrigued by the custom

2. Write **fact** or **opinion** next to each sentence.
   - ________ A. One fascinating pastime was to exchange afternoon visits.
   - ________ B. At each house, a visitor would leave a calling card.
   - ________ C. The cards would be placed on a tray and taken by a servant to the lady of the house.

3. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   - A. An Afternoon Activity.
   - B. Decisions for a Hostess.
   - C. Calling Card Customs.
   - D. Before Cars and Telephones.

4. In this paragraph, the word **postpone** means
   - A. get ready for.
   - B. make a decision.
   - C. answer.
   - D. put off until later.
Pick and Choose

In Korea, people mark a child’s first birthday with a celebration called *tol*. On this occasion, it is believed that babies pick their future. The child sits at a table covered with different objects. If the child picks a string, it means a long life. Everyone should pick that. If a baby picks money or rice, it indicates a business career. A musical instrument means the child will become an artist. That’s a good choice. A special rice-cake soup is served at *tol* celebrations. I think cake and ice cream are better.

1. Write **fact** or **opinion** next to each sentence.
   - A. The child sits at a table covered with different objects.
   - B. Everyone should pick that.
   - C. A special rice-cake soup is served at *tol* celebrations.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. foretelling a business career.
   - B. a table full of different objects.
   - C. the Korean celebration of *tol*.
   - D. what it means to pick a string.

3. Which phrase best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   - A. really outraged
   - B. very hopeful
   - C. somewhat opinionated

4. Which of these sentences is most likely true?
   - A. The children don’t really understand what they are doing.
   - B. The children always pick the string.
   - C. The children don’t like the soup.
   - D. The children always predict their future correctly.
Up a Tree

Most trees have leaves growing from their branches, but a cottonwood tree along U.S. Highway 50 near Middle Gate, Nevada, has something else. Hanging from the branches of this tree are shoes. High heels, work boots, flip-flops, baby booties, sandals, running shoes, even snorkeling flippers all dangle from this tree. Some people buy shoes just to put in the tree. Others take them as needed. To the people who live in the area, the tree is a symbol of charity and decency. It is a gift to others. Many passersby have benefited from its unusual and useful offerings.

1. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   ○ A. flip-flips are the most popular footwear in the tree.
   ○ B. the shoes fall from the tree when autumn comes.
   ○ C. people living nearby are proud of the tree.
   ○ D. most of the shoes are worn and old and unusable.

2. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   ○ A. Flip-Flops on a Branch.
   ○ B. Tree With Shoes Is Helpful.
   ○ C. Growing Shoes Instead of Leaves.
   ○ D. From Work Boots to Sandals.

3. In this paragraph, the word benefited means
   ○ A. shocked by.
   ○ B. saddened by.
   ○ C. helped by.
   ○ D. hurt by.

4. Reread the paragraph. Find and write a metaphor from the paragraph.

   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
Rolling Along

A roller brigade glides down a boulevard in Paris. This group of inline skaters is part of the city’s police force. Their job is to keep bus lanes free of passenger cars on busy streets. They also pull over drivers who are chatting on mobile phones. The best part of their work is posing for pictures with tourists. The rolleurs wear helmets and knee pads as part of their uniform. Even so, it can be tricky to navigate some streets in Paris, especially those paved with cobblestones.

1. The main idea of this paragraph is
   ○ A. Paris has a lot of automobile traffic.
   ○ B. some police in Paris work on skates.
   ○ C. a rolleur wears a helmet and pads.
   ○ D. inline skates are not just for fun.

2. A supporting detail is
   ○ A. police departments try new things.
   ○ B. inline police keep bus lanes free.
   ○ C. tourists visit Paris to see the police.
   ○ D. cobblestones make driving difficult.

3. Which sentence is most likely true?
   ○ A. The whole police force has skates.
   ○ B. The word rolleurs is French.
   ○ C. Traffic in Paris is usually light.
   ○ D. Buses often run over the skaters.

4. Which word best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   ○ A. displeased
   ○ B. thoughtful
   ○ C. puzzled
Ice Age Animals

During the Ice Age many, many thousands of years ago, people depended on the animals they hunted. Not only did they need these animals for food, but the hunters used them to make clothing, tools, and other necessities. Ancient paintings found in caves show us what these animals were like. These paintings are amazing. They show huge animals, such as the woolly mammoth and the woolly rhinoceros. Other animals that inspired Ice Age artists still exist today. These include bison, horses, musk ox, and deer.

1. Fill in the correct circle to show whether each statement is a fact or an inference.

   Fact  Inference
   ○   ○  A. Some Ice Age animals are now extinct.
   ○   ○  B. Ice Age artists were good observers of animals.
   ○   ○  C. Some Ice Age paintings show bison and horses.
   ○   ○  D. Animals were very important to Ice Age people.

2. Which word best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   ○ A. disdainful
   ○ B. uncaring
   ○ C. impressed

3. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   __________ A. These include bison, horses, musk ox, and deer.
   __________ B. Ancient paintings found in caves show us what these animals were like.
   __________ C. These paintings are amazing.

4. In this paragraph, the word inspired means
   ○ A. frightened.  ○ B. stimulated.
   ○ C. inspected.  ○ D. educated.
A Tale of No Tails

In 1588, the Spanish Armada sailed to fight against England. The armada consisted of a fleet of 130 ships. Aboard one of these ships was a tailless cat. Her job was to catch mice. After a great naval battle that England dominated, the Spanish ships set sail for home. The cat’s ship was wrecked near the Isle of Man. The nimble cat got ashore safely and lived there ever after. Her many descendants became known as Manx cats after the name of their island home. Today, the Manx cat is known for being tailless. It’s a marvelous tale.

1. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   - A. Why Some Cats Are Tailless.
   - B. How the Manx Cat Got Its Name.
   - C. Why the Spanish Lost at Sea.
   - D. Catching Mice Aboard a Ship.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?
   - A. The Spanish sailors wanted a pet.
   - B. The English were hoping to get the cat.
   - C. Mice were a problem on ships.
   - D. The cat lost its tail in the naval battle.

3. In this paragraph, the word dominated means
   - A. dynamited.
   - B. controlled.
   - C. started.
   - D. withstood.

4. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   - ________ A. Her job was to catch mice.
   - ________ B. It’s a marvelous tale.
   - ________ C. The cat’s ship was wrecked near the Isle of Man.
Marble Match

Have you ever played marbles? Some people take the game very seriously. Each year, students in Ohio ______ with one another in the Akron District Marble Tournament. This is the oldest children’s sporting event in the United States. Winners go on to a national event held annually in New Jersey. Today, most players use glass marbles, but in the past other materials were in vogue. Popular materials for early marbles were clay, precious stones, and even a form of china.

1. The best word for the blank in this paragraph is
   ○ A. competition.  ○ B. vie.
   ○ C. celebrate.  ○ D. community.

2. In this paragraph, the words in vogue must mean
   ○ A. a variety of things.
   ○ B. mass-produced.
   ○ C. a kind of tournament.
   ○ D. in style or fashion.

3. The main idea of this paragraph is
   ○ A. materials used in marble matches.
   ○ B. the national tournament in New Jersey.
   ○ C. competing at marbles in Ohio.
   ○ D. marbles as a sporting event.

4. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   ○ A. marbles can be a dangerous game.
   ○ B. marbles have been in use for a long time.
   ○ C. marbles are popular with all children.
   ○ D. glass marbles are better than china ones.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Hard Nuts to Crack**

Have you ever noticed that macadamia nuts are not sold in their shells? If they were, you wouldn’t be able to open them in a million years. Their shells are very stubborn. Growers of these nuts say it takes 300 pounds of pressure per square inch to break a macadamia’s shell. Before that happens, the nut has to be dried. As it dries, the nut separates from the hard shell. Then a special machine with steel rollers breaks open the shell without damaging the nut.

1. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called
   - A. metaphor.
   - B. personification.
   - C. simile.
   - D. hyperbole.

2. Which word best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   - A. perplexed
   - B. intrigued
   - C. dismissive

3. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. a machine for opening macadamia nuts.
   - B. why macadamia nuts are so popular.
   - C. why macadamia nuts are not sold in shells.
   - D. why macadamia nuts are dried.

4. Reread the paragraph. Find and write an example of personification.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Wet Dog Warning

Watch out for wet dogs. They shake water all over and often smell funny. Many people attribute this smell to a dog's fur. However, a strong odor from a wet dog is more likely to be caused by a skin problem, not wet fur. Some dogs such as cocker spaniels and terriers get rashes and skin irritations that result in body odor. Water can make the odor more noticeable. According to dog experts, the best way to prevent smelly dogs is by grooming them regularly.

1. Which phrase best reflects the writer's point of view?
   ○ A. worried about wet dogs
   ○ B. interested in helping dog owners
   ○ C. delighted by dog smells

2. In this paragraph, the word attribute means
   ○ A. credit.
   ○ B. contribute.
   ○ C. recognize.
   ○ D. wonder.

3. Which sentence is most likely true?
   ○ A. All dogs smell funny.
   ○ B. All dogs have skin problems.
   ○ C. Some owners don’t groom their dogs enough.
   ○ D. Water washes away dog rashes.

4. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   __________ A. Water can make the odor more noticeable.
   __________ B. Many people attribute this smell to a dog’s fur.
   __________ C. Watch out for wet dogs.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Code Talkers**

You should thank the Navajos. During World War II, 350 of them worked as code talkers. They sent messages in the Navajo language for the American military. Both sides used codes during the war, but most codes can eventually be broken. You have to be brilliant to break a code. However, little of the Navajo language had ever been written down, it was hard to learn, and it was very different from other languages. So although many radio messages were intercepted, the enemy couldn’t break the Navajo code.

1. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   - ________ A. You should thank the Navajos.
   - ________ B. They sent messages in the Navajo language for the American military.
   - ________ C. Both sides used codes during the war, but most codes can eventually be broken.

2. In this paragraph, the word brilliant means
   - O A. very shiny.
   - O B. really smart.
   - O C. very talkative.
   - O D. rather dull.

3. Which word reflects the writer’s point of view?
   - O A. astonished
   - O B. revolted.
   - O C. grateful

4. From this paragraph, you can conclude that the Navajo code talkers
   - O A. greatly helped the American side.
   - O B. taught their language to the military.
   - O C. were able to read the enemy’s messages.
   - O D. sent many messages to the enemy.
Unnecessary Laws

You may have heard about laws passed long ago that seem silly today. In fact, they were quite outrageous! Some of these laws are related to the roles of women. As women’s roles changed over time, the old laws became out-of-date. Many states are working to take such laws off the books. For example, Florida got rid of a law forbidding unmarried women to go parachuting on Sundays. In Maine, it is now legal for women to tickle a man under the chin with a feather duster. Women in Texas no longer face a year in jail for adjusting their stockings in public.

1. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   - A. laws should be updated from time to time.
   - B. married women are good at parachuting.
   - C. it’s rude to tickle people with a feather duster.
   - D. women in Texas stopped wearing stockings.

2. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   - ________ A. Many states are working to take such laws off the books.
   - ________ B. In fact, they were quite outrageous!
   - ________ C. Some of these laws are related to the roles of women.

3. Which word best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   - A. neutral
   - B. unamused
   - C. patient

4. Reread the paragraph. Write the main idea.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Who was one of the finest architects during Thomas Jefferson’s time? The answer is Thomas Jefferson. He became a skilled draftsman as a boy. One of his first projects was to plan his own home. He started designing in 1767 and began building in 1770. Jefferson called this place Monticello, and he lived there until his death in 1826. Jefferson also helped plan the new U.S. capital, Washington, D.C. He was the first president to be inaugurated in that city. In later years, he helped design the handsome buildings at the University of Virginia.

1. Fill in the correct circle to show whether each statement is a fact or an inference.
   - Fact
   - Inference
   A. Jefferson was a man of many talents.
   B. Monticello was Jefferson’s home.
   C. Jefferson helped plan the University of Virginia.
   D. Jefferson learned his drafting skills while young.

2. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   - A. Jefferson’s Home, Monticello.
   - B. Planner of Washington, D.C.
   - C. Jefferson as an Architect.
   - D. Designing the University of Virginia.

3. Write yes or no under each heading on the chart to show if the word describes Thomas Jefferson as an architect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industrious</th>
<th>Committed</th>
<th>Talented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. In this paragraph, the word inaugurated means
   - A. dismissed.
   - B. elected.
   - C. worshipped.
   - D. installed.
Early Eyeglasses

Eyeglasses have an interesting history. Early Greek scientists observed that when filled with water, a glass ball magnified objects held beneath it. The Romans used certain rocks to magnify things and aid their vision. The emperor Nero wore an emerald ring for this purpose. By the twelfth century, the Chinese had invented eyeglasses made with rock crystal lenses. Later, in Europe, eyeglasses became the biggest thing ever in fashion. If a king wore them, so did everyone else.

1. The main idea of this paragraph is
   ○ A. the early history of eyeglasses.
   ○ B. wearing eyeglasses as fashion.
   ○ C. the secret of Nero’s emerald ring.
   ○ D. vision aids have a rocky start.

2. A supporting detail is
   ○ A. the story of magnification.
   ○ B. an interesting study of rocks.
   ○ C. from rocks to fashion statements.
   ○ D. the Chinese invented eyeglasses.

3. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   ○ A. most people had great vision long ago.
   ○ B. few people noticed what kings wore.
   ○ C. Nero liked to see things in green.
   ○ D. early vision aids were only slightly helpful.

4. Reread the paragraph. Find and write an example of hyperbole.
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

The Laws of Fences

Most communities have laws about how high fences can be in residential neighborhoods. Why? One reason is safety. Fences that are too high can block the view of motorists in driveways or near intersections. Another reason is that fences are battlegrounds. People tend to argue about fences that neighbors put up, saying they are unattractive or made of ugly materials. Fences can also restrict the rights of others by blocking views, light, or airflow. Good laws help settle such disputes.

1. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   - A. Blocking Motorists’ Views.
   - B. Building Fences in Neighborhoods.
   - C. Eliminating Ugly Fences.
   - D. Why Communities Have Fence Laws.

2. A phrase that best reflects the writer’s point of view is
   - A. disagreeing about fence laws.
   - B. suspicious of fence laws.
   - C. confirming of fence laws.

3. The underlined words in this paragraph are examples of figurative language called
   - A. metaphor.
   - B. personification.
   - C. simile.
   - D. hyperbole.

4. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   - A. people are free to have any kind of fence they want.
   - B. neighbors always agree on the fences they have.
   - C. motorists are in favor of high fences.
   - D. people need to learn the laws before they put up fences.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Wild Music**

Want to hear some wild music? Listen to the CD of the Thai Elephant Orchestra. Elephants are known for their keen hearing and ability to make a wide range of sounds. The six animals in this group play sturdy versions of Thai instruments. For their CD, they had five practice __________ and then began recording. The conductor told the elephants when to stop and start but let them play as they wished. The “musicians” **improvised** as they played. Proceeds from the sale of the CD go into a bank for orphan elephants.

1. The best word for the blank in this paragraph is
   - A. instruments.
   - B. composers.
   - C. sessions.
   - D. schedules.

2. The word that best reflects the writer’s point of view is
   - A. concerned.
   - B. fascinated.
   - C. belligerent.

3. In this paragraph, the word **improvised** must mean
   - A. improved steadily.
   - B. followed a musical score.
   - C. invented without preparation.
   - D. apologized for mistakes.

4. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. elephants have keen hearing.
   - B. elephants practice before recording.
   - C. an elephant orchestra makes a CD.
   - D. elephants obey the conductor.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Campaign Words**

Do words buy votes? Many candidates for public office think so. Certain words are used over and over again in their speeches. For example, the word *hope* in a candidate’s speech is as predictable as the sunrise. Another likely word is *jobs*. Most candidates also throw in words such as *values* and *strength*. When candidates are running for national office, they almost always bring up the words *health care* and *economy*. Candidates use these words to tap into the concerns of voters.

1. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called
   - A. metaphor.
   - B. personification.
   - C. simile.
   - D. hyperbole.

2. The word that best reflects the writer’s point of view is
   - A. incredulous.
   - B. casual.
   - C. scornful.

3. Which sentence is most likely not true?
   - A. Voters respond well to certain words.
   - B. Candidates want to win elections.
   - C. Voters never get bored by candidates.
   - D. Candidates make promises to voters.

4. Reread the paragraph. Find and write an example of a simile.

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________
Telling About Tigers

Tigers are the biggest members of the cat family. These magnificent cats are solitary animals and need a large territory in which to hunt. They mark their territory with urine so that other tigers are warned away. Tigers track their prey in silence and then pounce for the kill. A tiger can eat 40 pounds of meat in one meal. Unfortunately, tiger habitats have been destroyed in many parts of Asia, their homeland. Scientists think there may be only 3,000 to 6,000 tigers left in the wild. These mighty animals are close to extinction. It is such a shame.

1. Which phrase best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   - A. regretful about the loss of tigers
   - B. joyful about the habitat of tigers
   - C. curious about the fate of tigers

2. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   - A. tigers need to change their habits to save themselves.
   - B. tiger habitats need to be preserved to save tigers.
   - C. tigers should start hunting in groups.
   - D. tigers should learn to eat less food.

3. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   - ________ A. These mighty animals are close to extinction.
   - ________ B. Tigers are the biggest members of the cat family.
   - ________ C. It is such a shame.

4. In this paragraph, the word extinction means
   - A. dying out.
   - B. extending.
   - C. exercising.
   - D. overeating.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Mud Messes

Kids who like to get muddy should visit Westland, Michigan. This city hosts an annual celebration called Mud Day in Hines Park. It must be a sloppy mess. The parks department mixes more than 200 tons of soil and 20,000 gallons of water to make mud. That's a lot of mud! There are events such as a Mud Limbo contest, wheelbarrow races, and just plain splashing around. Two participants are crowned Mr. and Miss Mud. When the fun is over, firefighters hose down the dirty kids.

1. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   ________ A. Kids who like to get muddy should visit Westland, Michigan.
   ________ B. It must be a sloppy mess.
   ________ C. That's a lot of mud!

2. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   ○ A. everyone enters the wheelbarrow races.
   ○ B. most contestants don’t get muddy.
   ○ C. kids enjoy this annual celebration.
   ○ D. Mr. and Miss Mud try to stay clean.

3. A title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   ○ A. What to Do in Westland, Michigan.
   ○ B. Muddy Day in Michigan.
   ○ C. Enter the Mud Limbo Contest.
   ○ D. Crowning Muddy Kids

4. In this paragraph, the word participants means
   ○ A. parks department workers.
   ○ B. people taking part.
   ○ C. partners.
   ○ D. bystanders.
Burning Up Time

Long ago, there were no clocks or watches. People had to figure out ways to mark the passing of time. In about 870 A.D., King Alfred of England invented a candle clock. It was an ingenious device. He used candles that were 12 inches long and marked them off in equal sections. To keep air drafts from affecting how the candle burned, he created a lantern to fit over the candle. People could then measure time by noting how long a section of the candle took to burn. The problem with candle clocks? They kept burning up!

1. Fill in the correct circle to show whether each statement is a fact or an inference.

   Fact  Inference
   ○   ○  A. King Alfred of England invented the candle clock.
   ○   ○  B. People had to keep replacing the candles.
   ○   ○  C. The candle clock had a lantern over it.
   ○   ○  D. Rooms in 870 A.D. were probably drafty.

2. A title that best summarizes this paragraph is

   ○ A. A Time Without Clocks.
   ○ B. Keep the Candles Burning.
   ○ C. The Invention of the Candle Clock.
   ○ D. King Alfred of England.

3. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.

   ________ A. Long ago, there were no clocks or watches.
   ________ B. They kept burning up!
   ________ C. It was an ingenious device.

4. From this paragraph, you can conclude that

   ○ A. King Alfred began to make candles.
   ○ B. King Alfred made a lot of money.
   ○ C. candle clocks always burned evenly.
   ○ D. the candle clock needed improvement.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

What’s in a Name?

The Romans had a name for it. They called it “nomen et omen,” meaning that names are a person’s destiny. In other words, someone’s name can determine what that person does. Researchers who study this have come up with some convincing examples. For example, Cecil Fielder was a baseball player for Detroit. William Wordsworth was a famous poet. A well-liked weather reporter on television was Storm Field, and a popular entertainer is Tommy Tune. Larry Speakes was a presidential press secretary. Guess what David J. Lawyer does!

1. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   - A. everyone named Fish works in oceanography.
   - B. all names relate to people’s professions.
   - C. someone named Rose might become a florist.
   - D. a doctor named Kwak is not trustworthy.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?
   - A. Wordsworth’s parents knew he’d be a poet.
   - B. Larry Speakes had no choice in careers.
   - C. Tommy Tune does not like to sing.
   - D. People commented on Storm Field’s name.

3. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. how Cecil Fielder got his name.
   - B. relationships between names and careers.
   - C. how the Romans named children.
   - D. why some people have certain names.

4. In this paragraph, the word convincing means
   - A. interesting.
   - B. persuasive.
   - C. expected.
   - D. humorous.
Roman Baths

In the days of ancient Rome, taking a bath was a social event. Romans of all classes bathed in large public bathhouses. These buildings were spectacular. They were decorated with mosaic floors, marble walls, and painted walls. There were hot baths, warm baths, cold baths, and hot-dry baths for sweating. People met their friends, heard the news, and got clean all at the same time. Sometimes bathers even held business meetings!

1. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. business meetings in ancient Rome.
   - B. decorations in Roman bathhouses.
   - C. public bathhouses in ancient Rome.
   - D. how Romans got clean long ago.

2. A supporting detail is
   - A. bathers used sponges and oils.
   - B. bathhouses had mosaic floors.
   - C. roman plumbing was efficient.
   - D. roman baths were only for the rich.

3. You can conclude from this paragraph that
   - A. Romans rarely took a bath.
   - B. Romans had bathhouses at home.
   - C. Romans went often to the public baths.
   - D. Romans were not very social.

4. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   - ________ A. Romans of all classes bathed in large public bathhouses.
   - ________ B. Sometimes bathers even held business meetings.
   - ________ C. These buildings were spectacular.
Sing Along

Music was very popular with the armies during the Civil War. These were lovely songs. Soldiers on both sides liked to gather around campfires and sing familiar songs such as “Home, Sweet Home” and “‘Tis the Last Rose of Summer.” Confederate soldiers often sang “Dixie,” while Northerners favored “Yankee Doodle.” A song written especially for the war was “Battle Hymn of the Republic” by Julia Ward Howe. The bugle melody, “Taps,” was also first played as a sign-off to a soldier’s day during the Civil War.

1. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   - A. Singing “Home, Sweet Home.”
   - B. Music of the Civil War.
   - C. The First Use of “Taps.”
   - D. Why Soldiers Like to Sing.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?
   - A. Confederate soldiers sang to Northerners.
   - B. “Taps” was a form of communication to soldiers.
   - C. Julia Ward Howe was a soldier’s wife.
   - D. Civil War soldiers played music on radios.

3. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   - ________ A. These were lovely songs.
   - ________ B. Music was very popular with the armies during the Civil War.
   - ________ C. Confederate soldiers often sang “Dixie,” while Northerners favored “Yankee Doodle.”

4. In this paragraph, the word familiar means
   - A. family.
   - B. popular.
   - C. military.
   - D. well-known.
Colorful Cornucopia

A colorful Thanksgiving symbol is the cornucopia. The word *cornucopia* comes from a Latin word that means “horn of plenty.” In ancient Rome, a goat’s horn was filled with fruit and other foods to ______ Flora, the goddess of flowers, and Fortune, the goddess of fortune or fate. Both in the past and the present, a cornucopia has stood for *abundance*. Thanksgiving is a time when people show their appreciation for a plentiful harvest and other good things in their lives.

1. The best word for the blank in this paragraph is
   - A. pester.
   - B. punish.
   - C. overflow.
   - D. represent.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. who the goddess of fortune was.
   - B. Flora, the goddess of flowers.
   - C. what the cornucopia symbolizes.
   - D. customs of ancient Rome.

3. In this paragraph, the word *abundance* must mean
   - A. abandonment.
   - B. scholarship.
   - C. great quantity.
   - D. flower gardens.

4. Which of these sentences is most likely *not* true?
   - A. The Romans celebrated Thanksgiving.
   - B. The Romans spoke Latin.
   - C. The Romans worshipped goddesses.
   - D. The Romans gave thanks for abundance.
Loving the Luge

The luge is the most thrilling sport in the universe. This high-speed event has been part of the Winter Olympics since 1964. Athletes compete on small sleds usually made of fiberglass. They lie on their backs with their feet stretched out over the front of the sled and race down a curved, ice-covered course. To steer, the rider must use leg and foot pressure on the sled’s runners and downward pressure with his or her shoulders. A rider’s moves must be as exacting as a surgeon’s knife.

1. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called
   - A. metaphor.
   - B. personification.
   - C. simile.
   - D. hyperbole.

2. Which sentence is most likely not true?
   - A. The luge is a highly-skilled sport.
   - B. The luge is a dangerous sport.
   - C. The luge is a relaxed sport.
   - D. The luge is a competitive sport.

3. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   - A. Athletes compete on small sleds usually made of fiberglass.
   - B. The luge is the most thrilling sport in the universe.
   - C. This high-speed event has been part of the Winter Olympics since 1964.

4. Reread the paragraph. Find and write another example of figurative language.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Passage 38

Earthah Exhibit

Eartha is the world’s largest moving globe. If you see it, you’ll feel a sense of wonder. Eartha is more than 41 feet in diameter and weighs about 5,600 pounds. It rotates just like planet Earth. It was developed from computer technology and is made from one of the largest mapping databases in the world. To visit Eartha, you have to go to Yarmouth, Maine. The globe is housed in a three-story glass building there. It’s very impressive.

1. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   __________ A. If you see it, you’ll feel a sense of wonder.
   __________ B. It rotates just like planet Earth.
   __________ C. It’s very impressive.

2. Which word best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   ○ A. resigned
   ○ B. hostile
   ○ C. excited

3. From this paragraph, you can conclude that Eartha
   ○ A. has streets and towns on it.
   ○ B. has your house on it.
   ○ C. is a good replica of Earth.
   ○ D. rotates on its own power.

4. In this paragraph, the word rotates means
   ○ A. spins on an axis.
   ○ B. revolves around the sun.
   ○ C. turns upside down.
   ○ D. speeds through space.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Penguin Parents**

Emperor penguin parents are truly remarkable! They share the responsibilities of caring for their offspring. The female lays one egg, which she places on the male’s feet. He keeps the egg between the top of his feet and a special fold of skin on his tummy. He is careful not to drop the egg. While the female goes back to the sea, the father **huddles** on the ice with other dads for two months. The males do not eat during this time. The female returns when the egg is ready to hatch. She feeds the chick a meal of fish. The male goes to find food in the sea for himself and the chick. Both parents then share the work of feeding the chick.

1. Fill in the correct circle to show whether each statement is a fact or an inference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Inference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
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   A. A female emperor penguin lays one egg at a time.
   B. The male keeps the egg until it is ready to hatch.
   C. The male keeps the egg safe and warm.
   D. The male is hungry by the time the chick hatches.

2. In this paragraph, the word **huddles** means

   | A. hugs. | B. relaxes. |
   | C. nestles. | D. sits. |

3. From this paragraph, you can conclude that Emperor penguin parents are

   | A. lazy. | B. indifferent. |
   | C. reluctant. | D. unique. |

4. Write **fact** or **opinion** next to each sentence.

   ________ A. Emperor penguin parents are truly remarkable!
   ________ B. The males do not eat during this time.
   ________ C. Both parents then share the work of feeding the chick.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**A Washing Story**

Many families wash their clothes at public laundromats. Often, parents must take their children along with the dirty clothes and pockets of coins when they do the laundry. To give the children something worthwhile to do while their parents fold clean clothes, one laundry chain started a Wash and Learn program. The program operates during after-school hours and in the evenings. At special tables set up in the laundry, students can listen to stories, read books by themselves, and get help with their homework. Several teachers are on hand to help.

1. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   - A. some students do their homework at school.
   - B. students get grades at the Wash and Learn program.
   - C. the program is helpful to both parents and children.
   - D. the program shows children how to wash clothes.

2. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
   - A. Children at the Laundromat.
   - B. Learning at the Laundromat.
   - C. Evenings at the Laundromat.
   - D. Special Tables at the Laundromat.

3. Which sentence is most likely not true?
   - A. Children benefit from the Wash and Learn program.
   - B. Some people don’t have washing machines at home.
   - C. Parents are grateful for the Wash and Learn program.
   - D. The Wash and Learn program teaches how to do laundry.

4. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. getting people to do their laundry.
   - B. teaching children how to fold clothes.
   - C. a program to help children at laundromats.
   - D. taking children to the laundromat.
Answers

page 7:
1. A
2. D
3. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
4. C

page 8:
1. C
2. A
3. C
4. B

page 9:
1. C
2. C
3. B
4. C

page 10:
1. A
2. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
3. B
4. August invites people to play and relax.

page 11:
1. B
2. B
3. A. Opinion
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
4. Answers will vary but should reflect the text.

page 12:
1. A. Fact
   B. Inference
   C. Inference
   D. Inference
2. C
3. C
4. B

page 13:
1. A. Opinion
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
2. A
3. D
4. B

page 14:
1. C
2. B
3. B
4. C

page 15:
1. C
2. A
3. C
4. A. Fact
   B. Opinion
   C. Fact

page 16:
1. A
2. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
3. C
4. C

page 17:
1. D
2. B
3. A
4. D

page 18:
1. A. Inference
   B. Fact
   C. Inference
   D. Inference
2. C
3. C
4. B

page 19:
1. C
2. A
3. C
4. B

page 20:
1. C
2. A. Opinion
   B. Fact
   C. Fact
3. C
4. D

page 21:
1. A. Fact
   B. Opinion
   C. Fact
2. C
3. C
4. A

page 22:
1. C
2. B
3. C
4. It is a gift to others.

page 23:
1. B
2. B
3. B
4. C

page 24:
1. A. Inference
   B. Inference
   C. Fact
   D. Inference
2. C
3. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
4. B

page 25:
1. B
2. C
3. B
4. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion

page 26:
1. B
2. D
3. D
4. A. Fact
   B. Opinion
   C. Fact

page 27:
1. D
2. B
3. C
4. Their shells are very stubborn.

page 28:
1. A
2. A
3. C
4. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion

page 29:
1. A. Opinion
   B. Fact
   C. Fact
2. B
3. C
4. A

page 30:
1. A
2. A. Fact
   B. Opinion
   C. Fact
3. B
4. Answers will vary but should reflect the text.

page 31:
1. A. Inference
   B. Fact
   C. Fact
   D. Fact
2. C
3. Yes; Yes; Yes
4. D

page 32:
1. A
2. D
3. D
4. Later in Europe, eyeglasses became the biggest thing ever in fashion.

page 33:
1. D
2. C
3. A
4. D

page 34:
1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
Answers

page 35:
1. B
2. C
3. C
4. The word hope in a candidate's speech is as predictable as the sunrise

page 36:
1. A
2. B
3. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
4. A

page 37:
1. A. Opinion
   B. Opinion
   C. Opinion
2. C
3. B
4. B

page 38:
1. A. Fact
   B. Inference
   C. Fact
   D. Inference
2. C
3. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
4. D

page 39:
1. C
2. D
3. B
4. B

page 40:
1. C
2. B
3. C
4. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion

page 41:
1. B
2. B
3. A. Opinion
   B. Fact
   C. Fact
4. D

page 42:
1. D
2. C
3. C
4. A

page 43:
1. D
2. C
3. A. Fact
   B. Opinion
   C. Fact
4. A

page 44:
1. A. Opinion
   B. Fact
   C. Opinion
2. C
3. C
4. A

page 45:
1. A. Fact
   B. Fact
   C. Inference
   D. Inference
2. C
3. D
4. A. Opinion
   B. Fact
   C. Fact

page 46:
1. C
2. B
3. D
4. C