

Level M - Form 1 - Reading: Evaluating / Extending Meaning

Sample Question

Read the paragraph. Then choose the best answer to the question.

Linda is very tired. She could barely hold her eyes open during dinner. Now she has curled up in bed with a book.

What will most likely happen next?

- A Linda will fall asleep.
- B Linda will put on some music.
- C Linda will read the entire book.
- D Linda will get up and make a sandwich.

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Read this article about sea horses. Then do Numbers 1 through 6.

The Remarkable Sea Horse

The sea horse is an unusual sea creature. Looking more like the object of someone's imagination than a real animal, the sea horse can range in length from 1½ inches to 12 inches long. There are about 24 different species of sea horses.

Sea horses swim slowly, almost regally, in the upright position. They curl their tails around plant life when they want to hold themselves still. Sea horses aren't good swimmers, which makes their tails even more useful. Sea horses can usually be found in shallow water.

More unique than their appearance is how sea horses breed. The female lays the eggs in the male's brood pouch, and when the eggs have hatched, the male gives birth to tiny, fully formed sea horses.

In some cultures the sea horses are used to help cure different types of illnesses.

- Which of these is an **opinion** about sea horses?
 - Sea horses are unusual.
 - There are about 24 different species of sea horses.
 - The female sea horse lays eggs.
 - Sea horses swim slowly.
- Which of these sentences contains a **fact** from the passage?
 - The sea horse usually lives in shallow water.
 - The sea horse is a freak of nature.
 - The sea horse is a regal animal.
 - The sea horse has a short life span.
- Which of the following is not a typical size for a sea horse?
 - 1 inch
 - 4½ inches
 - 8 inches
 - 12 inches
- Which of these sentences offers an **opinion**?
 - Sea horses use their tails to hold themselves still.
 - The sea horse looks more like something out of the imagination.
 - The sea horse swims upright.
 - The sea horse is a sea creature.

5. A sea horse wants to stop moving. What will it probably do next?

- A grasp a plant with its tail and stay still
- B float for a while and then start swimming again
- C eat tiny fish and then sleep
- D find a shadowy place to rest

6. According to the passage, which of these statements is **true**?

- F The way a sea horse reproduces is unlike most other animals.
- G Sea horses are the most unusual sea creatures.
- H Sea horses are an endangered species.
- J The sea horse lays its eggs in a small hollow in the floor of the ocean.

Read this letter about helping pandas. Then do Numbers 7 through 11.

PandaLove • 451 Lakewood Avenue • Portland, OR 97220 • 800-555-4660

May 14, 2003

Dear Animal Lover,

Every hour, three species of plants and animals disappear forever from the Earth. Their beauty and uniqueness are never to return. In the time it has taken to send this letter, dozens upon dozens of plant and animal life have been destroyed. So who is exterminating this precious resource? Humankind—the biggest enemy.

Sometimes humans knowingly or unknowingly destroy the habitat where plants and animals exist. People don't always understand how this destruction will affect other species.

One such endangered species is the panda. Pandas live in the mountains of China. Many years ago, pandas lived in a more extensive area. Now they live in a very small area because farming and logging have pushed pandas out of most of that space. There are only about 1,000 pandas left in the wild.

PandaLove wants to save pandas. Here's what you can do to help: donate money to set aside land for a preserve. By taking care of a panda's habitat, you make it possible for the panda to live a normal life. Please help us today by making a \$40, \$60, or \$100 donation. Lend a helping hand overseas to save these giant black and white bears!

Thank you for caring,

Regina Watson

Regina Watson

Founder

PandaLove

7. According to the passage, humans sometimes harm plants and animals because they're
- A uninformed
 - B greedy
 - C angry
 - D lazy
8. Which of these sentences contains an **opinion** from the passage?
- F Pandas are an endangered species.
 - G Every hour, three species become extinct.
 - H A preserve is the best way to help pandas.
 - J Pandas are being pushed out of their living space.
9. What does this statement mean: "Lend a helping hand overseas"?
- A Go to China today.
 - B Send someone to China to help.
 - C Help pandas overseas by sending money to PandaLove.
 - D Donated money gets into the hands of helpful people only.
10. Ms. Watson's **main** purpose in writing the letter is to
- F ask the reader for money
 - G teach people about pandas
 - H criticize farmers and loggers in China
 - J explain how a species becomes extinct
11. Ms. Watson probably mentions that three species die out every hour to make readers feel
- A smart
 - B excited
 - C alarmed
 - D entertained

This memo was sent to employees at the candy factory. Read the memo. Then do Numbers 12 through 16.

Date: 1/23/03
From: John L. Lightfeather, President
To: All employees
Re: Staff layoffs

As you know, Hometown Candies has not been doing well, and we have tried to cut costs in a number of ways, including the following measures:

- (1) buying cheaper supplies
- (2) buying less advertising
- (3) setting hiring freezes
- (4) making salary cuts

These measures have helped, but not enough. I believe we have no choice left but to cut staff.

Today we laid off 125 workers. Laid-off workers will get six weeks' pay and help finding jobs elsewhere. No additional staff cuts are expected. We are depending on you—our remaining employees—to continue working through the crisis.

This was a terribly difficult decision. But I am confident that, together, we who remain will rebuild Hometown Candies into the strong company it once was.

12. What is the purpose of this memo?

- F to fire the reader
- G to announce that the company is closing
- H to explain why the company has laid off workers
- J to encourage readers to find new jobs somewhere else

13. What does Mr. Lightfeather think about these layoffs?

- A They are unfair.
- B He should be blamed for them.
- C They are absolutely necessary.
- D Some workers deserve to be laid off.

14. What will the workers who were **not** laid off probably do now?

- F work harder
- G quit their jobs
- H return their pay
- J fire the managers

15. What tone does this memo have?

- A angry
- B guilty
- C sincere
- D embarrassed

16. Which of these is a **fact** from the memo?

- F Management will need to cut more costs later.
- G The company has tried hiring freezes and salary cuts.
- H Hometown Candies will become a strong company again.
- J The laid-off workers will find jobs elsewhere.

Read this description of a teacher. Then do Numbers 17 through 20.

The Schoolmaster

Vacation was approaching. The schoolmaster, always strict, grew more severe than ever, for he wanted the school to make a good showing on Examination Day. His rod and his paddle were seldom idle now, at least among the smaller pupils. Only the biggest boys, and young ladies of eighteen and twenty, escaped lashing [whipping]. Mr. Dobbin's lashings were very vigorous ones, too. Although he carried, under his wig, a perfectly bald and shiny head, he had only reached middle age and there was no sign of feebleness in his muscle. As the great day approached, all the tyranny that was in him came to the surface; he seemed to take a vindictive pleasure in punishing the least shortcomings.

—adapted from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

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| <p>17. Which of these is most likely to happen on Examination Day?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A The students will try hard out of fear.B The schoolmaster will cancel the exam and let everyone go home early.C The students and their schoolmaster will work together to write the best examination answers.D The students will goof off and daydream about vacation instead of concentrating on the test. <p>18. What kind of feeling or mood does the author create in this paragraph?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">F fearfulG peacefulH carefreeJ mysterious | <p>19. The author most probably wants readers to think the schoolmaster is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A nobleB braveC cruelD smart <p>20. The author wrote this passage mainly to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">F tell a jokeG make readers study hardH explain how to teachJ describe a character |
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