

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 880

1. Where does the narrator of the passage work?

- A at a library
- B at a zoo**
- C at a movie theater
- D at an amusement park

2. From which point of view is this story told?

- A first-person point of view ("I")**
- B second-person point of view ("you")
- C limited third-person point of view ("he" or "she")
- D omniscient, or unlimited, third-person point of view ("he/she/they")

3. Read the following sentences from the story: "It wasn't so bad at the zoo, either. I liked our habitat. It reminded me a lot of home. The part of our habitat that faced the visitors was kind of like a backyard. Behind the backyard was the fake house where we each had our own little room; we could always go nap there when we got tired."

What can be concluded from this information?

- A The narrator does not like working at the zoo very much.
- B The zookeepers are not taking good care of the narrator.
- C The narrator is a human being on display at a zoo.**
- D The narrator has spent his or her whole life working at the zoo.

4. How does the narrator's attitude about being at the zoo change throughout the story?

- A laid-back at first, then thoughtful, and finally nervous
- B laid-back at first, then nervous, and finally thoughtful
- C nervous at first, then laid-back, and finally thoughtful**
- D thoughtful at first, then laid-back, and finally nervous

5. What is a theme of this story?

- A true love
- B religious belief
- C the horrors of war
- D human nature**

6. Read the following sentences from the story: “‘You look a little **green**,’ Emily said. ‘First day,’ I replied.”

What might the word “**green**” mean in the sentence above?

- A **inexperienced or sick**
- B healthy or confident
- C friendly or very happy
- D old or exhausted

7. Select the word that best completes the sentence.

The human beings at the zoo have special talents, _____ composing music, writing poetry, and dancing.

- A consequently
- B otherwise
- C earlier
- D **such as**

8. What does the narrator sneak off to see at the end of the story?

Suggested answer: Responses may vary in specificity. Students may respond that the narrator sneaks off to see the giant squid, the “Oceans of the World” exhibit, or similar variations.

9. What question does the narrator ask at the very end of the story?

Suggested answer: The narrator asks, “‘And who are you really?’”

10. Why does the narrator ask the question at the very end of the story? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

Suggested answer: Responses may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. For example, students may respond that seeing the squid reminds the narrator of his or her own exhibit at the zoo and inspires contemplation about the question of personal identity. The narrator asks who the squid really is because the narrator has learned that visitors to an exhibit have a limited understanding of what they are looking at. Alternatively, students may respond that the narrator, reflected in the tank’s glass, is asking the question of himself or herself. Staring at his or her reflection in the eye of the squid has made the narrator question the difference between human beings and animals, and whether a meaningful difference even exists.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 950

1. **D** light of varying wavelengths
2. **B** how a rainbow is formed
3. **C** Each component color of light has a different wavelength.
4. **A** in the evening on a partly rainy, partly sunny day
5. **B** Rainbows form when sunlight enters raindrops, splits into different color components, and then re-emerges from the raindrops.
6. **A** to emphasize the importance of these facts to the way rainbows form
7. **B** for instance
8. **Suggested answer:** The amount of bending depends on the wavelength of light.
9. **Suggested answer:** When a ray of sunlight enters a raindrop, it bends, or refracts. The light then strikes the back of the raindrop. There, some of the light passes through, and some is reflected. As the reflected light emerges from the raindrop, it is refracted again.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary, but should reflect the text. You can only see a rainbow when rain is in front of you because of the way light is refracted and reflected by raindrops. When sunlight enters a raindrop, some of it reflects off the back of the raindrop and re-emerges in the direction from which it came. This reflected light is the light that forms a rainbow. In order to see that reflected light which forms the rainbow, the rain must be in front of you.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1020

1. **B** two
2. **D** Water is displaced to "make room" for the object.
3. **C** The strength of the downward gravitational force on an object is related to the weight of the object.
4. **A** because rocks weigh more than the water that they displace
5. **C** If the gravitational force on an object in water is less than the buoyancy force, then the object floats; otherwise, it sinks.
6. **A** to illustrate the main idea of the text
7. **B** For example
8. **Suggested answer:** If an object in water weighs less than the water it displaces, the object floats.
9. **Suggested answer:** A boat floats because it displaces water that weighs more than the weight of the boat. In other words, a boat floats because the downward gravitational force on a boat is weaker than the upward buoyancy force on the boat.
10. **Suggested answer:** The large, light boat is more likely to float than the small, heavy boat. This is because the large boat will displace a lot of water. Since the large boat is also light, the weight of the water it displaces is likely to weigh more than the boat, which means the boat will float. The small, heavy boat is similar to a rock. Since it is small, it will not displace much water, and since it is heavy, its weight is likely to exceed the weight of the water it displaces. This means the small, heavy boat is more likely to sink than the large, light boat.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1170

1. **D** Some of the light is reflected.
2. **C** More light penetrates the object.
3. **B** The image shows light being reflected and refracted by water.
4. **C** Jeans refract more light than a mirror does.
5. **A** If an object is wet, it reflects less light and looks darker.
6. **D** bends
7. **D** object
8. **Suggested answer:** How light or dark an object appears depends on how much of the light that strikes the object reflects back to our eye.
9. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary but should resemble the following. An object's index of refraction is the amount of light that is reflected by the object relative to the amount of light that is refracted by it.
10. **Suggested answer:** Students may respond that the pants' index of refraction will change because the pants will reflect more light and refract less light when they dry. Students may also point out that the pants' index of refraction will move farther away from that of air.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 920

1. **C** the earth's axis of rotation
2. **A** The earth is tilted towards the sun in the summer but away from the sun in the winter.
3. **B** The arrow represents the earth's rotation.
4. **B** the earth's axis
5. **D** Winter is colder than summer because earth's axis of rotation is tilted.
6. **D** turns
7. **B** consequently
8. **Suggested answer:** The same spot receives much less light in the winter than in the summer.
9. **Suggested answer:** The same spot is colder in the winter than in the summer.
10. **Suggested answer:** The temperature in that spot would probably become about the same in the winter and in the summer. If the difference between the amount of light the spot receives in the winter and summer accounts for the difference in the temperature of winter and summer there, then eliminating the difference in light would eliminate the difference in temperature.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1170

1. What does Gus Elefantis do during the summer?

- A Gus Elefantis teaches Greek to tourists.
- B Gus Elefantis drives an ice cream truck.**
- C Gus Elefantis works on a construction site.
- D Gus Elefantis waits tables at a restaurant.

2. What is the sequence of events in a summer day for Gus?

- A Gus gives away ice cream for free; Gus goes shopping for supplies; Gus drives around to sell ice cream.
- B Gus gives away ice cream for free; Gus drives around to sell ice cream; Gus goes shopping for supplies.
- C Gus goes shopping for supplies; Gus drives around to sell ice cream; Gus gives away ice cream for free.**
- D Gus goes shopping for supplies; Gus gives away ice cream for free; Gus drives around to sell ice cream.

3. Many people in Astoria like Gus.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A "However, the people of Astoria don't go to his truck just for ice cream—whether it's free or not—they also go to see their friend."**
- B "Gus's morning duty is to 'go shopping' and purchase any new stock the truck needs for the day."
- C "Gus Elefantis's summer days begin at about 8 a.m. when he and his wife Lola wake up to make breakfast for their two daughters."
- D "The side windows of the truck have few stickers, making it easy to see into the back where Gus works."

4. What is one problem with Gus's job?

- A Gus buys the items he needs for his truck from a friend.
- B Gus works in Astoria, New York.
- C Gus's job causes pain in his legs.**
- D Gus's job allows him to interact with people.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A an ice cream company called Mister Softee
- B the neighborhood of Astoria, New York
- C different flavors of ice cream
- D the work of an ice cream truck driver**

6. Read the following sentence: "Gus agrees, saying he won't even need to glance inside the freezer as he fills orders for the long lines of **customers** waiting on the sidewalks."

What does the word **customers** mean?

- A people who get into trouble
- B people who work hard
- C people who are mean to others
- D **people who buy things**

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Gus likes some things about his job _____ not others.

- A in summary
- B above all
- C **but**
- D after

8. Name two things Gus likes about his job.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. For example, students may respond that Gus likes being his own boss and giving away free ice cream.

9. Name two things Gus does not like about his job.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. For example, students may respond that Gus does not like being separated from his daughters and the pain caused by walking in his truck.

10. Gus says that, in some ways, he would love a stable, everyday job. Why does he choose to be an ice cream truck driver instead? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. Students may give examples of things Gus likes about driving an ice cream truck (see Question 8) and argue that these perks outweigh the job's drawbacks.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1060

1. **B** *Florida*
2. **A** *lightning*
3. **D** *A plant called wiregrass uses the bare soil that remains after a fire to put down its roots.*
4. **D** *They light carefully planned fires to prevent larger wildfires.*
5. **C** *fires in Florida and how they affect life there*
6. **B** *changed in order to live with*
7. **A** *consequently*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Gopher tortoises eat wiregrass.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Students responses may paraphrase the sentence in the passage stating that regular fires mean gopher tortoises have a regular food supply. They may also go into more depth, explaining that because wiregrass needs fires to survive and wiregrass is a big part of a gopher tortoise's diet, gopher tortoises need fires so that they have enough to eat.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary. All students should be capable of making the argument that fires in Florida are helpful. As evidence, they may point to the importance of fires to the survival of plants and animals such as wiregrass and the gopher tortoise. Conversely, students may argue that fires in Florida are harmful. The passage states that fires can cause a lot of damage, particularly to homes and buildings.*

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1020

1. C *a go-kart*
2. A *It is too slow.*
3. D *"All of a sudden, Michael sped out into the parking lot, and Sam ran after him with a big smile."*
4. D *The small engine did not weigh the go-kart down as much as the large engine did.*
5. C *building a go-kart and then rebuilding it to make it faster*
6. A *car*
7. B *before*
8. **Suggested answer:** *John says the first thing they need to do is draw a design of how they want the go-kart to look.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Michael and Sam ultimately decided to shorten the nose of the go-kart to increase the go-kart's speed.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Michael and Sam are interested in go-karts that move fast, so they would probably try to build a second go-kart for speed. To keep the go-kart from being weighed down, they might try using light materials and a light engine. For the same reason, they might design a go-kart with a short nose instead of a long one.*

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1060

1. What are cloud forests?

- A forests that are made out of clouds and float through the earth's atmosphere
- B forests of oak and maple trees found in the northeastern United States
- C pine forests that are found in cold climates without much animal life
- D **humid forests that are found among clouds on mountain slopes**

2. What does this article try to persuade the reader of?

- A Governments should not interfere with businesses.
- B It is too late to save cloud forests.
- C **Protecting cloud forests is important.**
- D Commercial farming is more important than cloud forests.

3. The loss of cloud forests is harmful to the surrounding ecosystem.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A **When cloud forests are cleared away, the soil degrades and erodes. What is left behind is a dusty slope that is unable to support animals, plants, and people.**
- B Cloud forests can be found among the clouds on the slopes of mountains. They are often surrounded by warm mist, which makes them very humid and wet places.
- C The Jocotoco Antpitta, or *Grallaria ridgelyi*, lives in Ecuador. The Scarlet-banded Barbet, or *Capito wallacei*, lives in Peru. Barking deer live in Laos and Vietnam.
- D Commercial farmers sometimes clear cloud forests so that the land can be used as pasture for cattle. Other times, cloud forests are cleared to build roads.

4. Why might providing economic support to people living near cloud forests help save the forests?

- A People living near cloud forests would be less likely to care about protecting animals like the Jocotoco Antpitta and the Scarlet-banded Barbet.
- B **People living near cloud forests would be less likely to clear away parts of the forest to try to support themselves.**
- C People living near cloud forests would be more likely to buy cars and build roads through the forest to drive on.
- D People living near cloud forests would be more likely to buy gems dug from the ground by mining companies.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A how people in Tegucigalpa, Quito, Mexico City, and Dar es Salaam get their water
- B the history of the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala
- C the mining companies and commercial farms that threaten cloud forests around the world
- D **cloud forests, the threats they face, and what can be done to save them**

6. Read the following sentences: "It is also effective to educate the **local** population on how cloud forests provide fresh water and what happens when they are cleared. For example, in the indigenous community of Loma Alta in Ecuador, once the people understood that the cloud forest is necessary to provide water for farms at lower altitudes, they worked together successfully to protect it."

What does the word "**local**" mean?

- A shrinking slowly over a long period of time
- B turning out differently from what was expected
- C **having to do with a particular place or area**
- D causing people to feel extremely happy

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Cloud forests are home to unusual animals, _____ spectacled bears and barking deer.

- A previously
- B **such as**
- C as a result
- D third

8. Name an animal that is found only in cloud forests.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they reflect the passage. For example, students may respond that the Scarlet-banded Barbet is found only in cloud forests.

9. How are cloud forests valuable to human beings? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they reflect the passage. For example, students may respond that cloud forests in Honduras and Ecuador provide people with water, while cloud forests in Kenya provide people with electricity.

10. Are cloud forests too valuable of a natural resource to lose, as the author claims? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the passage.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. For example, students may argue that cloud forests are too valuable to lose, citing their importance in providing the surrounding populations with water and electricity.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1130

1. What is urban agriculture?

- A farming and gardening in the country
- B a term for cities that have farms
- C farming and gardening in a city environment**
- D a method of growing food indoors

2. What does the passage describe?

- A how to grow potatoes and beans on a roof
- B agriculture in urban environments**
- C the history of urban agriculture
- D technology used in urban agriculture

3. Urban agriculture cannot serve as the only food source for a large city. What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A "This is because a city doesn't have enough space to grow enough food for everyone living in it."**
- B "In New York City, urban farmers have come up with many different ways to grow their own produce, even though there isn't a lot of room."
- C "In small gardens, on rooftops and indoors, city residents grow fruits, vegetables, grains and herbs, and raise animals to produce dairy, eggs, honey and meat."
- D "Brooklyn Grange grows tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, kale, chard, herbs, carrots, radishes, and beans."

4. Based on the text, what is a common challenge urban farmers face?

- A Growing produce during water shortages.
- B Keeping urban farms safe from city residents.
- C Fighting against cities' laws that ban urban agriculture.
- D Finding the right space to grow their produce.**

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A farming in city environments**
- B the advantages of urban agriculture
- C how people can begin their own urban farm
- D the rooftop gardens of Brooklyn Grange

6. Read the following sentence: "In New York City, urban farmers have come up with many different ways to grow their own **produce**, even though there isn't a lot of room."

What does "**produce**" most nearly mean as used in this sentence?

- A foods grown in the country
- B foods made with sugar
- C **fruits and vegetables**
- D desserts and drinks

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The number of people living in urban environments is increasing. _____, the number of people in cities who want to start urban farms and gardens is increasing.

- A As a result
- B **In addition**
- C Initially
- D However

8. How long has urban agriculture existed?

Suggested answer: Urban agriculture has existed for as long as cities have.

9. Give an example of a place where urban farmers can grow their own produce.

Suggested answer: Answers include:

- rooftop gardens
- indoor gardens
- gardens in empty lots between buildings

10. Explain how and why urban farms adapt to their city environment. Support your answer using information from the passage.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

- Example: Urban farms adapt to their city environment by using the spaces that are available and are not being used for anything else. Urban farmers make use of rooftops, empty lots between buildings, and even inside buildings. They have to adapt to the city environment because most cities were not designed with growing produce or farming in mind, so they have to make do and get creative with the limited space and resources available.