

# THE KIM MARSHALL SERIES

READING - BOOK 1

# READING

**92 gripping stories  
with comprehension questions**

**VOCABULARY**

*Math*

**ENGLISH**

**VOCABULARY**

**MATH**

*English*

**READING**

**READING**

**MATH**

*Reading*

*Vocabulary*

**ENGLISH**

MARSHALL

## **Acknowledgments**

Without the frank comments of my students in the Martin Luther King School in Boston, this book would not be what it is today. My students gave me new insights every day, and they deserve much credit for the sequencing, organization, and task analysis of the book. I would also like to thank my wife, Rhoda Schneider, for her unceasing and invaluable support over the last ten years.

## To the Student

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*Reading* is divided into two books. *Book 1* has ninety-two stories, and *Book 2* ninety-four which are half a page long and have their own questions. The questions range from recall of simple facts from the story to thought questions that ask you to interpret what you read and write how you feel about it.

In the top right-hand corner of each page is a two-part box. The number already filled in is the number of questions on the page. When your answers are corrected, you or your teacher can write the number you got correct in the top half; this gives your grade as a fraction.

The stories in these books are adapted from stories in newspapers, magazines, and television, from movies and books, and from my personal experience. The questions opposite each story are to make you read carefully and think about what you have read. The stories and questions will help you become a better reader if you follow these suggestions.

1. Try to read each story all the way through before you begin to answer questions.
2. Try to answer the questions without looking back at the story; test your memory by looking back at the story only after you have finished all the questions.
3. Try to answer the questions in your own words, not in the exact words of the story; be original.
4. Whenever possible, answer the questions with complete sentences. Since many of the lines for answers are short, this won't be easy, but it is good practice to think of a short sentence that contains all the information needed to answer the question.
5. If it is possible in your classroom or at home, read each story out loud with someone, taking turns reading each paragraph. Oral reading is good practice, and you will have fun discussing some of the stories.
6. Remember that many of the questions have more than one right answer. You'll be able to get into some interesting debates with your teacher, your classmates, or your family about which answer is best. Some of the questions are a matter of opinion, and pretty much anything you write will be correct as long as it follows logically and makes sense.

I hope you enjoy the stories; maybe you will be inspired to make up some stories of your own based on newspaper and magazine articles, TV programs, movies, books, or your own experience. Then you can write your own questions and try them out on your classmates. Good luck.

Kim Marshall

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In October of 1973, two men reported the following incident. They were fishing off a pier of the Mississippi River. They were just relaxing and having a good time. Suddenly they heard a strange, buzzing noise across the water. They looked up and saw a blue object moving toward them. It didn't look like anything they had ever seen before—it looked like a spaceship.

The blue thing stopped a few yards away from them and hovered in the air, making the strange, buzzing sound. Then a door opened in the side, and three creatures came out. The men said these creatures didn't look like humans at all. The creatures didn't say anything, but one of them made a buzzing noise.

Before the men could run away, the three creatures grabbed them by their arms and carried them into the spaceship. The creatures didn't hurt the men; they just looked at them very carefully. The two men said they felt that they were being examined by some instrument, maybe a camera. After a few minutes the creatures let the men go, and the strange blue object flew away.

The men were left alone on the dark bank of the river. They were terrified. They knew they couldn't be dreaming because it had happened to both of them. They tried to figure out what they should do.

They knew that if they went and told people, no one would believe the story. Everyone would laugh at them and say they were crazy. But the two men were sure that it had happened.

Finally they decided it was their duty to tell the police what had happened. What if people from another planet were about to invade Earth? So they went to the police station. The police questioned the men for a few hours and decided they were telling the truth. They even called in a doctor to see if the men were all right. The doctor said he thought the men were telling the truth.

Lots of newspaper reporters and people from radio and television interviewed the men. All of them thought they were telling the truth. However, there has been no sign of the spaceship since then, so nobody really knows if the men's story is true.

1. What were the two men doing by the river?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did they think the blue object was?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Did the blue object touch the ground?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What word helps you answer this question?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Inside the spaceship, what did the three creatures do to the men?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the first thing the two men did after this experience?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why were the men afraid at first to tell people the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did they think it was their duty to tell the police?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Did the police and reporters believe the men?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you believe their story? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How do we know that the men didn't just make up the whole story?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When it was launched in 1910, the *Titanic* was the biggest passenger ship in the world. It was also supposed to be the safest ship in the world. This was because the whole ship was divided into watertight compartments; even if there was a hole in one part of the ship, water would fill only that part, and the *Titanic* would not sink.

In April of 1912, when the *Titanic* left England for its maiden voyage to New York, many rich and famous people were on board. It was the "in" thing to be on the *Titanic* that year. The man who designed the *Titanic* was on board, and many people told him what a beautiful ship it was.

The ship was divided into three classes. First class was the most expensive. Cabins in first class were big and fancy and at the top of the boat. There were also big dining rooms and dancing halls up there. Second class was a little less fancy and a little cheaper. Steerage class was at the bottom of the boat and was full of poor people who wanted to move to America. They were stuffed in with hardly enough room to breathe.

On its way across the Atlantic, the *Titanic* passed some icebergs, huge pieces of floating ice as big as a school. The passengers came out on deck and looked at them. They thought the icebergs were pretty, all white against the dark, grey ocean. Not many of the passengers knew how dangerous icebergs are to ships. The important thing about icebergs is that most of the ice is hidden under the water; and if a ship comes too close, the ice under the water can tear a hole in the side of the ship.

Late one night the men steering the *Titanic* saw an iceberg straight ahead. They started to steer away, but it was too late. The huge ship scraped its side on the iceberg. The iceberg was so big and hard that it tore a long gash along the side of the *Titanic*. At first people thought the ship would not sink because of the watertight compartments, but the hole was so long that several of the compartments filled up. The ship was sinking!

The *Titanic* tipped to one side, making it hard to lower the lifeboats. When many of the poor people in steerage class got up on deck, they found that there weren't enough lifeboats for them. In all, more than a thousand people, including the designer, died in the icy waters of the Atlantic.

1. What did the *Titanic* have that people thought made it unsinkable?

2. Why were rich and famous people taking the *Titanic* to New York?

3. In what part of the ship were the biggest, fanciest cabins?

4. What kind of people were in steerage class?

5. Is there more iceberg above or below the waterline?

6. Why are icebergs dangerous to passing ships?

7. Why did the *Titanic* hit an iceberg?

8. Why didn't the watertight compartments keep the *Titanic* from sinking?

9. Why was it hard to lower the lifeboats?

10. Why do you think more people in steerage class died than people in first class?

Just before Christmas several years ago, a seventeen-year-old girl named Julianne was flying over the jungles of South America in a passenger plane. Julianne was a U.S. citizen, but she had lived in South America all her life. Her parents were working there studying different kinds of plants and animals. She was on her way home from boarding school to spend Christmas with her mother and father.

The plane flew into a terrible storm. When Julianne looked out the window, she saw that the wing was on fire. She felt the plane plunge toward the ground, and then there was an awful crash. Julianne was knocked out.

When she woke up, everything was quiet. She found that she was still strapped into her seat, but when she looked around, she saw that the plane had been destroyed. Wreckage and dead bodies were lying all around her. As she got up, Julianne discovered that her shoulder had been broken in the crash.

She searched all around the wreckage of the plane, but everyone else on the plane had been killed in the crash. She was the only survivor. She started walking through the jungle to try to find help.

It was lucky that Julianne's parents had taught her about the plants and animals of South America. Julianne knew what she could eat and what was poisonous. She also knew how to stay away from certain animals. If she had not known this, she would have been poisoned or killed within a couple of days.

As it was, she walked through the jungle for nine days, eating berries and roots to stay alive. Her broken shoulder hurt, and she was bitten by thousands of bugs. One kind of bug bit her and laid eggs under her skin. These eggs grew into worms, and they crawled under her skin, all over her body. There was no way she could get them out.

After nine days of walking and suffering, Julianne came to a big river. She followed it downstream for a day and finally came across a canoe. Soon some men who worked as woodcutters in the jungle came along and offered to help her get to a city. First, however, they poured gasoline on her skin to get rid of the worms. Then the men took her to a city hospital, and her parents came and got her. It took a while, but Julianne recovered from this horrible experience. The story of her bravery was written up in newspapers and magazines all over the world.

1. Where was Julianne flying to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why had she grown up in South America?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did the plane crash?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How was Julianne injured in the crash?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How many other survivors were there?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What helped her survive in the jungle?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did the worms get under her skin?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How many days did it take her to get to the river?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why do you think she followed the river downstream? Why not upstream?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Who found her?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why did they pour gasoline on her skin?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. If you were Julianne, what would you have done after the plane crash?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Around 1849 gold was discovered in the mountains of California. When the word got around, people from all over America rushed to California, hoping to make their fortunes. This was called the gold rush, and the people who came were called "forty-niners" because it was 1849.

Dan Buster was a black man working as a slave on a southern plantation in the United States when he heard about the gold rush. He ran away, traveled three thousand miles to California, bought the equipment he needed, and started to dig for gold.

Dan Buster had great luck right from the start. Pretty soon he was a rich man, but he wasn't out just to make himself rich. His dream was to save enough money so that he could go back to that plantation and buy his parents' freedom. He knew that if he put down enough money, he could get them out of slavery.

When he had enough money, Dan Buster gave some of it to a white lawyer who promised to go to the plantation and pay for the freedom of Dan's parents. Dan couldn't go himself because he was afraid the plantation owners would just take his money and make him a slave again. But the lawyer turned out to be crooked—he put the money in his own pocket, and Dan never heard from him again.

Even though he was mad and bitter, Dan started digging and saving all over again to buy his parents' freedom. Then, before he had time to get together enough money, he got the news that his parents had died. It was too late.

This made Dan mad at the whole world. So he got together all the gold he had dug up and loaded it onto a train of donkeys. He went into town and had the gold weighed. It was worth more than a million dollars in today's money. Then he rode out of town with the gold saying, "I'm gonna bury this gold and ain't nobody ever gonna find it."

People looked for years to find the place where Dan buried all that gold. They pleaded with him to tell them. Some men beat him up and tortured him. Beautiful women tried to tempt him. However, Dan Buster wasn't telling anyone. He had a grudge against the world. He died in 1863, and nobody knows to this day where all that gold is hidden.

1. Why did people rush to California in 1849?

2. What did Dan Buster run away from when he went west?

3. How far did he travel?

4. How was his luck digging for gold?

5. What was his main reason for digging up all that gold?

6. Why couldn't he go back to the plantation with the money himself?

7. Whom did he trust with his money?

8. What did this person do with the money?

9. Why couldn't Dan buy his parents' freedom the second time?

10. What did he do to get revenge on the world?

11. How did he know the worth of his gold?

12. How did people try to learn his secret?

Loch Ness is a very deep lake in Scotland, a country north of England. Many Scottish people who live around Loch Ness believe that there is a monster living in the lake. Nobody has ever been able to catch the monster or even take a very good picture of it. But the people in the area are sure it exists. They even had a name for it—Nessie.

Some people claim to have seen the monster at night. They said it is long, green, and slimy with a big mouth. They also say it is enormous—bigger than a whale. Others think it is these people's imaginations running away with them, or maybe they are just telling tall tales.

Several years ago, a scientist from Boston named Robert Rines went to Scotland to see if he could get a good picture of the Loch Ness Monster and settle the mystery once and for all. He brought along very good cameras and bright lights. He set up a kind of trap that he hoped would attract the monster close to his cameras.

After many uneventful weeks, he and his helpers suddenly saw two large shapes swimming toward them through the icy waters of the lake. They turned on their lights, clicked their cameras, and found the next day that they had pictures of what seemed to be parts of *two* monsters, not just one. The monsters were greenish colored, about thirty feet long, and had fins and humps on their backs.

It seemed that there really was a Loch Ness Monster—perhaps two of them; Nessie was not just something in the minds of some people in the area. However, some people remained skeptical. They didn't believe there were monsters and thought Rines's pictures, which weren't clear, didn't prove anything. Today scientists continue to try to get better pictures.

Meanwhile scientists have been thinking about how it was that large sea monsters got into a lake in Scotland. This is one theory: millions of years ago, Loch Ness was part of the ocean, a deep inlet reaching inland from the sea. Some sea monsters came into the inlet to hatch their babies. Then perhaps there was an earthquake and a landslide, which cut off the lake from the ocean and trapped the monsters, keeping them from getting back into the ocean where they belonged. Somehow the monsters have managed to survive in the lake for all these millions of years.

1. What is Loch Ness?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is Nessie?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why don't some people believe the stories about a monster in the lake?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Robert Rines go to Scotland?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did he set up a trap to kill the monster?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the main surprise when the scientists looked at the film?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How long were the monsters?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Where do sea monsters usually live?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How do scientists think the monsters got trapped in Loch Ness?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Could it have been just *one* monster trapped in Loch Ness millions of years ago? (Think hard.) Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What word tells you something about the temperature of the water in Loch Ness?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Quite a while ago a reporter wrote an unusual story in *The New York Times*. It was about an old man and his wife who were so poor that they lived in a car. The man's name was Chester. He and his wife would not go to the welfare office to get money because they thought that accepting money was wrong.

Chester was born in Poland, a country in Europe, and came to America when he was young because he had heard that America was a country where you could get rich if you worked hard. For many years Chester worked in shipyards building boats. He was a good worker and made good money. Then he got sick and had to quit his job.

Most people who lose their jobs because of sickness apply to the government for money to help them stay alive. But Chester and his wife believed that taking money from the government was like begging. They were much too proud to beg.

So Chester and his wife moved out of their apartment and lived and slept in their old car. They would park the car by the river at night to sleep, and in the morning they would dig for clams in the river and cook them over a fire.

To get money for gas and an occasional meal in a restaurant, Chester went to junk yards and collected copper wire from inside old cars. He took apart the starter motors of the old cars and unwrapped the copper wire in the electric motors. Then he sold the copper wire for forty cents per pound. If he worked hard, he could get twenty-five pounds of wire in a day and could sell it for ten dollars.

In the winter when the reporter wrote the story about Chester and his wife, things were very hard. Chester was sick and could not work in the junk yards, and it was very cold at night. They didn't have enough gas to keep the motor and the heater running all the time.

Finally Chester and his wife went to the welfare office and asked for help. But the people in the office didn't believe they really were poor because they owned a car. The welfare people refused to give them money. It looked as if Chester and his wife would die from hunger and cold. Fortunately, the story in the newspaper saved them; the welfare people read it and decided they deserved the money.

1. Why did Chester and his wife live in a car?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did Chester come to America from Poland?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was his job in his country?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did he have to quit his job?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why didn't Chester and his wife apply to the government for money?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the main thing they ate?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did they spend the money Chester made?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Chester take out of old cars?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why couldn't the couple keep warm that winter?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why didn't the welfare people give them money at first?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How did a reporter save their lives?  
\_\_\_\_\_

In 1906 there was a terrible earthquake in San Francisco. It killed hundreds of people and almost destroyed the city. But because people didn't think there would be another quake in the same place, they rebuilt San Francisco.

Then scientists who study earthquakes found the reason for the 1906 quake—the city is very close to a big crack in the surface of the earth. The crack is called the San Andreas Fault, and the ground on both sides of it is moving very slowly. After a while the tension builds up, the ground jerks suddenly, and there is a bad earthquake in the area.

Scientists have been measuring how much the ground is moving and trying to figure out when the next earthquake will happen. They still don't know enough to be able to predict exactly when it will happen, but they do know one thing—another bad quake is certain.

After such a prediction, many people in San Francisco got scared. Some moved away, others helped pass new laws saying that houses, offices, and schools had to be built strong enough not to fall down in an earthquake.

Most people in the city don't worry about earthquakes all the time. Their attitude is, "We're all going to die sometime, and we might as well die in a beautiful city like this than live in some ugly place."

At the end of 1972, a man named Reuben Greenspan said there would be a terrible earthquake in San Francisco on January 4, 1973. Other scientists laughed at him and said it was impossible to say exactly when an earthquake would happen. Even so, many people didn't want to take a chance, and they made plans to be far away from San Francisco on that day.

Many people took what Greenspan said seriously because he had been right six times before in predicting earthquakes. He works out the date by figuring out when the earth, sun, and moon will all be lined up—he says this makes the force of gravity stronger and helps start the earthquake.

A few days before January 4, Greenspan changed his mind and said there would be no quake after all. When the day came, nothing happened. Lots of people who had left the city felt pretty silly.

In October 1989 a major earthquake hit near the Santa Cruz Mountains and caused a lot of damage in San Francisco and Oakland. Sixty-seven people died. But this was not the catastrophic quake that is still predicted to happen at any time.

1. What happened in San Francisco in 1906?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did the people rebuild the city in the same place?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the San Andreas Fault?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Can scientists predict exactly when an earthquake will happen?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What do scientists say is certain to happen in San Francisco?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What do the new laws say about houses, offices, and schools?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why is it that some people do *not* worry about earthquakes?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Reuben Greenspan predict?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did scientists say about his prediction?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How did Greenspan think the sun and moon could bring about an earthquake?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Was Greenspan's first or second prediction correct?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What happened in October 1989?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Until 1972 the tallest building in Boston was the Prudential, which is fifty-two stories high. Then another insurance company, the John Hancock Company, decided to build an even taller building. Soon the sixty-story John Hancock building stood eight stories taller than the Prudential building.

The John Hancock building was a very unusual building. The architect, a Chinese-American man named I. M. Pei, made the building in the shape of a parallelogram. Pei also made all the walls of the building out of mirror glass. This is a special glass that reflects light just as a mirror does. If you look at the building from the outside, you see the reflection of other buildings, the clouds, and the sky. However, if you are inside the building, you can look out through the glass as you normally would.

Pei and his design team used this kind of mirror glass for two reasons. First, they thought it would make the building look unique. Second, this kind of glass saves money on air conditioning in the summer. The sun's rays reflect off the glass and, therefore, don't heat up the inside of the building as much.

When most of the huge pieces of glass had been installed something terrible began to happen. One by one the panes of glass began to break. Most of them were broken by strong winds, and the pieces fell down the side of the building and broke or scratched other windows. Each pane of glass cost more than seven hundred dollars. Every time one broke, workers had to take out the pieces that were left and put in a sheet of plywood.

The John Hancock people realized that the glass over the whole building was not thick and strong enough for the winds of Boston. Nobody could move into the new building until they figured out what kind of glass to use, took out all the old pieces and the plywood, and installed new glass.

In the meantime the glass kept breaking. On one windy day in the winter of 1973, more than one thousand panes of glass broke. The police had to close the streets below to keep anyone from being hit by falling glass. Someone had made a terrible mistake about the glass, and changing it would cost the John Hancock Company \$7,000,000 or more! But when the new glass was finally installed, the building came to be regarded as one of the most beautiful skyscrapers in the world.

1. What is the tallest building in Boston now?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who designed this building?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of company is John Hancock?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the walls of the building made of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What do people see when they look at the walls of the building?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Can you see out if you are inside the building?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How does this mirror glass save money in the summer?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What caused the panes of glass to break?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How many panes of glass broke on one windy winter day in 1973?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How much did each pane of glass cost?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why did they close the streets?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Was all the hassle worth it in the long run?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clerow Wilson was born in 1933 in Jersey City, New Jersey. He picked up the name Flip later, when he started “flipping people out” with his jokes. Flip was one of twenty-four children in a very poor family. “We were so poor,” said Flip, “that even the poor looked down on us.”

Flip’s father was a carpenter who frequently had trouble getting work. Sometimes he would just stand on a corner with his hammer and saw, waiting for someone to come by and give him work.

When Flip was still very young, his mother left the family. Then Flip’s father had to take care of the eighteen children who were still living at home. The family moved around a lot, looking for the lowest rents. For a while the whole family lived in a coal bin in someone’s basement.

The children took to stealing because they were so poor. “We’d steal buns from the A&P, milk, anything to keep alive,” said Flip. His brother said they used to steal a Christmas tree every year so the family would have one in the house.

In those days Flip was a thin little kid with a runny nose and an enormous appetite. His brothers and sisters called him Tin Can because he ate so much. Flip liked to hang around the fire station, talking to the firefighters. One of these firefighters remembered Flip years later. “He was always joking, always funny,” said the firefighter.

Flip first went onto the stage when he was nine years old. The girl who was playing the lead part in the school play got sick. Because Flip was the only one who knew her lines, he dressed up as a girl and took over the part. Maybe this is where he got the idea of playing the part of Geraldine on his television show years later.

Flip’s life at home was hard. Things got so bad that the social workers took Flip away from his father and put him in foster homes. Flip hated the foster homes and ran away from thirteen of them. Finally he was sent to reform school. Flip liked the reform school. “My happiest memory of childhood was my first birthday in the reform school,” said Flip later. “My teacher gave me a little package. It contained a box of Cracker Jacks and a can of shoe polish.”

*(continued)*

1. What was Flip’s family like?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How old is Flip Wilson now?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did Flip’s father stand on the street corner?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened to Flip’s mother?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did the family move around so much?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did the children steal?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you think it was wrong for them to steal?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did the firefighter think of Flip?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why was Flip chosen to be in the school play?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Where did the social workers put Flip?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why did they finally put him in reform school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why do you think Flip was so happy with the teacher’s birthday present?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Flip Wilson left home and joined the United States Air Force when he was only sixteen. He had to lie about his age because you must be eighteen to join. He joined the Air Force because he thought it would give him some decent clothes to wear. Later he said, "It sure beats parking cars for a living!"

While he was in the Air Force, Flip joked and clowned around and did imitations of other people. The other men liked him. But Flip didn't think the Air Force treated him well. In those days black men in the Air Force spent most of their time working in the kitchen. Very few black men became pilots or were promoted. Flip didn't think he was going to get anywhere by working in a kitchen.

Flip decided that he wanted to be a comedian, to stand on a stage and make people laugh. In 1954 he left the Air Force and began working toward his goal—to be such a famous comedian that he would be known all over America and make thousands of dollars.

The first job Flip got as a comedian wasn't a very big one. A group of dancers were doing an act in a cheap hotel in San Francisco, and they paid Flip one dollar a night to go out and entertain the audience while the dancers were changing into new costumes. Flip made the audience laugh and kept people happy between the acts.

When the dancers went on to another city, they took Flip along. That was the beginning of a long seven years for Flip Wilson. He traveled all over America, working in small clubs patronized by black people, and sleeping in cheap hotels, bus stations, pay toilets, and even on top of parked cars. He made just enough money to stay alive.

Every time he acted on the stage, Flip tried new things, and he got better and better as a comedian. Audiences paid attention to him and clapped when he finished. As he got more laughs, his reputation spread.

In 1956 Flip was working in a club on the island of Nassau in the Bahamas and met a woman named Peaches. He thought he loved her, and they were married. The next day Flip realized he had made a mistake. They got a divorce before their marriage was one day old! Flip decided he wasn't ready to settle down, and certainly not with Peaches.

(continued)

1. Why did Flip have to lie about his age?

2. Why did Flip join the Air Force?

3. What did the other men think of Flip?

4. Why didn't Flip think he could get ahead in the Air Force?

5. What was Flip's ambition?

6. What did the dancers pay Flip to do?

7. Why did Flip have to sleep in such strange places?

8. Why did Flip's reputation spread?

9. Who was Peaches?

10. How long did their marriage last?  
Why?

11. Where did this happen?

After doing comedy acts all over America for seven years, Flip Wilson was well known by many black people. However, he hadn't been on television. One night Redd Foxx, another black comedian, was on the Johnny Carson show. Carson asked Redd Foxx whom he thought was the funniest man around, and Foxx said, "Flip Wilson."

Johnny Carson had never heard of Flip, but he called him up and asked him to be on the show. Flip accepted, and when he did an act on television, people loved him. This was Flip's big break, since more than twenty million people watched Johnny Carson's show. After this, Flip had it made.

Flip went on many other television shows doing his acts, and millions of people all over America got to know and love him. Finally NBC, one of the big television companies, gave Flip his own show. In its first year "The Flip Wilson Show" became the second most popular television show in America. The show lasted for several years, and then Flip moved on to doing specials and guest performances.

All this made Flip a very rich man; he made more than a million dollars a year. He bought a big house in California and drove around in one of the world's most elegant and expensive cars—the Rolls Royce. Flip had a tape deck and an air conditioner put in his Rolls. He had a license plate that spelled "Killer," a character in one of his comedy routines.

Nevertheless, Flip didn't enjoy going to parties and playing around. He got the reputation of being a man who liked to be by himself, away from the glittering crowd in Hollywood. In 1961 he married and had four children, but later he and his second wife separated. He took long drives all over the United States in his car and talked with many different people. He also spent a lot of time thinking up new jokes and worrying about his comedy routines.

Flip sometimes went back to Jersey City to visit his brothers and sisters. Some of them were angry that Flip didn't give them more of his money. But Flip made an expensive offer to his relatives. He said that he would pay for a college education for any relative of his who wanted to go. He believed an education is one of the most important things in life.

Flip Wilson had a very hard childhood, but he didn't let it ruin his life. With talent, hard work, and good luck, he overcame his problems and became the first great black superstar of television.

1. Why did Johnny Carson invite Flip to be on his show?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does it mean that Johnny Carson's show was a "big break" for Flip?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is NBC?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did "The Flip Wilson Show" do its first year?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is a Rolls Royce?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What kind of private life does Flip have?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Flip worry about?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why were some of his relatives angry with him?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Flip offer to pay for?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you think he should have given his family more money?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What do you think Flip's success proves?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hundreds of years ago, a terrible disease called the plague periodically spread through cities and towns and killed thousands of people. When people got the plague, they got big bumps all over their bodies and a very high temperature. Then their bodies turned black and blue, and they died in terrible pain. This disease was also called the Black Death, and people were terrified of it.

The plague spread quickly through cities in those days because people did not know how to stop germs from spreading; they threw garbage out into the streets and ate food that wasn't clean. Rats ran everywhere. These rats carried fleas which carried the plague germs. The plague and other diseases like it almost never appear today because of the more sanitary conditions existing in our cities.

A few years ago in Denver, Colorado, however, a young girl was brought into a hospital with a very high fever and red bumps all over her body. The doctors in the hospital didn't know what was wrong with her. When she got worse, they did tests and sent blood and other samples from her body to a laboratory in another part of the country.

A few days later they got the news: the girl had the plague, a disease that the doctors have never seen in modern America and had only read about in medical books. They gave her the right medications in the nick of time, and her life was saved.

Meanwhile other doctors worked like detectives to find out how the girl had caught the plague in a clean city like Denver. They asked the girl's friends what she had been doing and where she had been. At first the doctors found no clues. Then someone remembered that a few weeks before, the girl had picked up a dead squirrel that was lying on the ground.

The doctors talked to more people and found that there had been a lot of dead squirrels lying around her neighborhood. The doctors found one of the squirrels, and sure enough, the squirrel and the fleas on it were infected with plague germs. That was where the girl had caught the disease.

The city warned people not to touch the infected squirrels and got rid of all the ones that were dead or dying from the plague. Nobody has figured out where the plague germs came from in the first place.

1. What is the Black Death?

2. Why do you think it is called that?

3. Why did the plague spread so fast through cities hundreds of years ago?

4. Why didn't the doctors in Denver know right away that the girl had the plague?

5. How did they find out that she had the plague?

6. What happened to the girl?

7. How did the doctors find out where the girl had gotten the plague?

8. How did she get the plague?

9. Why didn't the plague spread all over Denver as it had spread through cities years ago?

10. How many people in Denver died from the plague?

Late one night in February several years ago, there were some strange goings-on in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital. Robert Preston, a young soldier, stole a helicopter from an Air Force base north of Washington and flew straight into the middle of the city. No planes are allowed over the city of Washington, so when the Air Force picked up the helicopter on the radar, they sent helicopters and planes to stop it.

Preston flew his helicopter close to the Washington Monument and hovered a few feet from the ground. A police helicopter came up beside him and tried to force him to land, but Preston suddenly moved toward the police helicopter and almost made it crash. Then Preston flew straight toward the White House.

As you know, the White House is the place where the president of the United States and his family live. It is very heavily guarded by the Secret Service and other special police officers who keep people from trying to kill the president.

The men guarding the White House heard by radio that a man in a helicopter was heading their way, and they got ready. As Preston's helicopter flew over the fence of the White House grounds, a group of people jumped out from behind bushes and opened fire with shotguns. They thought the man flying the helicopter might be trying to crash into the White House and blow it up.

When Preston heard the shooting and felt the shotgun pellets smacking into the helicopter, he decided that enough was enough. He brought the helicopter down to a rough landing on the lawn in front of the White House, about a hundred yards from the building. A police helicopter that had been following him landed between Preston and the White House, in case he tried to run toward it.

Then all the Secret Service agents, guards, and police officers rushed the helicopter and arrested Preston. They found he was not carrying a gun and hadn't really wanted to hurt anyone. He pulled off the whole stunt because he was angry that the Air Force had flunked him out of flying school. Preston was charged with trespassing and stealing the helicopter and was examined by psychiatrists.

Actually, the president was not in the White House; he was on vacation in Florida. So even if Preston had crashed into the White House, the president's life would not have been endangered.

1. How did Preston get the helicopter?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is Washington, D.C., an important city?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did the Air Force know there was a helicopter over the city?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did they chase the helicopter?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who lives in the White House?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who guards the White House?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did the police shoot at the helicopter?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How close to the White House did Preston get?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What crimes had Preston committed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do you think psychiatrists examined him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why had he caused all this trouble?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Was the president's life put in danger by all this?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On October 14, 1973, there was one of the worst fires in the history of Massachusetts in Chelsea, a small city just north of Boston. The fire started sometime in the middle of the day in an abandoned factory. Nobody spotted it for a while, and when the fire fighters finally arrived at the scene of the fire, it was out of control.

There was a very strong wind that day, gusting up to fifty miles per hour, and this made the fire much worse. Before the firefighters could stop the fire in the factory, pieces of burning paper and cloth had blown onto other buildings, and the fire spread. With the wind pushing it along, the fire jumped across streets, and soon a large part of the city of Chelsea was in flames.

Some people escaped from their houses just in time. If the fire had started in the middle of the night, hundreds of people might have been burned to death in their sleep or trapped inside their houses. As it was, not a single person was killed in the fire.

Firefighters from cities all over Massachusetts came to help put out the Chelsea fire. It was so bad that firefighters came from as far away as New Hampshire and Rhode Island. By the time night came, there were one thousand, five hundred firefighters and more than one thousand police officers on the scene. Even then they could not stop the fire.

The thick, black smoke from the fire filled the sky over the city. People could see the smoke for fifty miles in every direction, and many people got into their cars and drove toward Chelsea to watch the firefighters at work. Because these curiosity-seekers got in the way of those people trying to put out the fire, the police closed all the roads leading into Chelsea and wouldn't let anyone in but firefighters and reporters.

Four helicopters hovered in the air above the city telling firefighters on the ground where new fires were starting up. Because the wind was blowing burning things around, new fires kept starting, and the firefighters had to keep moving.

Some people began breaking into stores and stealing, so the governor called out the National Guard, and five hundred soldiers patrolled the streets. This put a stop to the looting.

When the last of the fire was out, it had destroyed six hundred houses. More than a thousand people were homeless.

1. Where is Chelsea?

2. Where did the fire begin?

3. What made the fire much worse?

4. How did the fire spread from one building to another?

5. Why would more people have been killed if the fire had started at night?

6. How many people were killed?

7. How many firefighters were on the scene that night?

8. What attracted spectators from all over?

9. Why did the police close the city?

10. How did the four helicopters help?

11. Why did the governor call out the National Guard?

12. How many people lost their homes?

In 1962 in a small southern town in the United States, there was a public drinking fountain with the sign "White Only" above it. At this time many black people in America were trying to get rid of this kind of discrimination. A group of young black people in the town decided to walk up to the fountain and try to drink.

The police were waiting. They beat up some of the young people and arrested all of them. The police said they were troublemakers. But this arrest was what the young black people wanted; now they could go to court and try to change the law that allowed the "Whites Only" sign.

One well-known resident of the town was Miss Jane Pittman. She was 110 years old and had been a slave before the Civil War. The protesters had tried to get her to come with them to drink from the fountain, but she told them she would not come. She did not want to get involved in protesting and demonstrating.

A young reporter from a magazine in New York City came to the town to do a story on Miss Jane Pittman. He asked her about her life, and he tape-recorded what she said. Miss Pittman told him that she had grown up on a plantation in the South, had been beaten by her master, and then had been set free at the end of the Civil War.

She told him that she and a group of black people from the plantation had set out walking north. Everyone except her and a small boy had been killed by white soldiers. She and Ned, the boy, tried to get to Ohio because a Yankee soldier from the North had told her to come and see him. But they didn't have a nickel to get on the boat that went across the Mississippi River, and they ended up working on a plantation near where they lived before. It wasn't much better than being a slave.

Ned grew up to be a strong, educated man. When he tried to get black people in the area organized, the Ku Klux Klan almost killed him, and he had to leave. Later he came back, still preaching equal rights, and this time he was killed.

Thinking and talking about her life made Miss Jane Pittman realize that many good black people had died in the struggle for equal rights. When she heard that one of the protesters had been killed in jail, she decided that her moment had come. She rode into town, walked slowly up to the "Whites Only" fountain, and took a drink. The police were too ashamed to stop her.

\*From *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest J. Gaines.

1. Why do you think black people in the town were angry about the drinking fountain?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did some people try to drink from it in 1962?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What happened to these people?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did the reporter want to talk to Miss Jane Pittman?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. When was Jane set free from slavery?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why didn't she make it to Ohio?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Who killed Ned? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What made Miss Jane Pittman decide to take some action?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What did she do?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why didn't the police stop her?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Is a "Whites Only" drinking fountain legal now?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When people are operated on, they need to have something to stop the pain. Otherwise they move so much that the doctors aren't able to work on them. In this country, most people having operations are put to sleep either by gas or an injection. Alternatively, they may be given a local anesthetic, which stops the pain in the part of the body being operated on.

In emergencies some people have had operations without anesthetics. There are stories of soldiers cutting out their own appendixes when they couldn't get to a hospital. However, if an anesthetic is available, most people prefer to use it to stop the pain.

Amazingly enough, some doctors in China don't use anesthetics when they operate. The Chinese have found an easier and possibly safer way of stopping the pain. If you had your appendix taken out in a Chinese hospital, you would be washed, shaved, and dressed in clean hospital clothes, just as in this country. But then you would be wheeled into an operating room where you would see a man or woman holding many long, thin needles. That person would very carefully stick the needles into certain places in your body and then would twist the needles a little. None of this would hurt much more than being pinched by someone. Then, with you wide awake and the needles still stuck in your body, the surgeons would cut out the appendix and sew your abdomen back up again. You would feel almost nothing; the needles stop the pain of the operation.

The art of using needles in this way is called acupuncture. It is a complicated procedure, and doctors using the technique must be carefully trained. They must learn where, out of 365 possible spots, to put the needles to control the pain for each particular part of the body. Acupuncture is used not only for operations but also for treatment of a variety of diseases, and for relief from arthritis, headaches, backaches, convulsions, and other ailments. However, acupuncture is not always successful. Sometimes it works, and other times it doesn't.

Since people started traveling to China in 1972, there has been a lot of interest in acupuncture in the United States. Some doctors in this country have begun to try it. Nobody knows exactly why the needles work, but it is thought that the needles cause the body to release natural painkillers called endorphins. For this reason, people don't feel pain.

1. What do people need before doctors operate on them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do they need it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a local anesthetic?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When have people had operations with no painkillers at all?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How are people prepared for operations in the United States and China?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How do some Chinese doctors stop pain during operations?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe how it feels when the needles are stuck in.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What do you feel during the operation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why are the needles left in during the operation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What is this use of needles called?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How does it stop pain?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What are some other uses for acupuncture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Does acupuncture always work?  
\_\_\_\_\_

The year 1939 was a bad year for America. Lots of people were out of work, and many people didn't have enough to eat. Factories all over the country were closing and forcing their workers out onto the streets. Millions of people were poor. This time was called the Great Depression.

In the same year, the United States was close to getting into World War II in Europe. Hitler was taking over countries, and it looked as though American soldiers might soon have to fight against him. Many Americans didn't like the idea of going to war. The Depression and the threat of war made people nervous.

One night that same year, people all over the country turned on their radios and got an unpleasant shock. (Everyone learned the news from the radio in those days because television hadn't yet been developed.) On this evening the news sent millions of people into a panic.

The news announcer said there was a special report from a reporter in New Jersey. The reporter on the radio said in an excited voice that some men from Mars had just landed on Earth! The reporter sounded scared to death. He said the men from Mars were burning houses and had taken some people as hostages.

The reporter also said that more men from Mars were on the way. He said they were going to invade Earth, and there would be a terrible war between the two worlds. The reporter's voice was shaking with fear.

Almost everyone listening to the radio believed the story and was terrified. Many people got into their cars and onto buses and trains and got out of the big cities as fast as they could. They thought they would be safer in the country if there were a war. There were so many people leaving the cities that enormous traffic jams built up on the roads.

It was only later that people learned the truth—the whole story about the men from Mars was a big joke. The radio announcer and the reporter were actors. They were reading from a script written by a man named H. G. Wells. When it was all over, most people thought it was funny, and the reporter became famous for the hoax. Other people thought he had gone too far, scaring a lot of people almost to death. Because of the Depression and the threat of war, not everyone was in the mood for such a joke.

1. What were two reasons why people were feeling nervous in 1939?  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why didn't people watch television then?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the reporter say was happening in New Jersey?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did the reporter's voice sound?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the reporter say was going to happen?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did people in cities do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Was there really an invasion from Mars?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did the men on the radio report an invasion?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you think people would believe a report like this today?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do you think people believed the story in 1939?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Would you have thought it funny?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Minamata, a small town in Japan, is by the ocean. For hundreds of years the people of this town have made their living by fishing in the ocean, eating part of their catch, and selling what is left over.

Many years ago a big company built a factory near the town of Minamata. Many people in the town got jobs in the factory and made good money, so at first people were pleased about the factory. They didn't even mind that the factory was dumping quite a lot of waste material into the ocean.

Then strange things began to happen to the people of Minamata. Some of them went crazy; others lost their eyesight and became blind. Some babies were born with horrible deformities, and some people died for no reason that anyone could determine.

It didn't take long for the people to figure out what was happening to them. Some of the polluted material that the factory was dumping in the ocean contained mercury, a deadly poison. The mercury was getting into the fish in the ocean. When the people of Minamata caught the fish and ate them, the mercury got into their bodies and poisoned them.

At first the people in the town were afraid to protest to the factory about the mercury poisoning. They were afraid that the men who ran the factory would get angry and fire the people of Minamata who had jobs in the factory.

Then an American photographer named Eugene Smith came to the village and took pictures of the deformed and dying people. He published his pictures all over the world to show what pollution can do. He also helped the people of the town get organized to protest to the factory.

Finally the people took the factory to court. After a long trial the judge decided that the people were right. The judge ordered the factory to stop dumping mercury into the ocean. The court also ordered the factory to pay three and a half million dollars to the people who had become sick and to the families of the people who had died. However, the people of Minamata didn't dance in the street at the news. The money came too late to cure the people who were blind and deformed and too late to bring back the people who had died. But the judge's decision would teach a lesson to polluters all over the world.

1. How had the people of Minamata always made a living?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was the factory good for the town?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What began to happen to people in the town?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What chemical caused these tragedies?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where did the chemical come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did it get into people's bodies?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why didn't the people protest right away?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did Eugene Smith's pictures help?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who forced the factory to stop polluting?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. To whom did the factory owners have to pay \$3,500,000?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What did the judge's decision teach other factory owners?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Long ago, before people from other parts of the world came to live in North America, there were millions of alligators in the warm swamps of what is now the southern United States. In those days, the only thing that kept the number of alligators down was the fact that there wasn't enough food for all of them to eat, so some died of starvation.

Then many people came to live in North America. The alligators had a hard time because people killed them for their skins, which were made into nice purses, wallets, shoes, and coats. Thousands and thousands of alligators were killed, and after several hundred years of this killing, it began to look as though there wouldn't be any alligators left.

In 1968 someone figured out that there were only about 200,000 alligators left in the southern United States. The alligator was in danger of becoming extinct, which would mean there would be no more of the species alive. In order to keep them all from being killed off, the government passed laws to stop people from hunting and killing these reptiles.

Most hunters in the southern United States obeyed the laws and didn't kill any alligators. Many people felt sorry for the reptiles and wanted to let them have baby alligators, so they would not become extinct. Well, that's just what happened; they had thousands and thousands of baby alligators, and pretty soon there were more than a million alligators roaming the swamps of the South.

Soon there were complaints that alligators were attacking people and were eating up minks and muskrats, animals that hunters liked to catch. When the body of a woman was found with her chest crushed and one arm missing, people thought an alligator had done it. They asked the government to change the law and to let them kill alligators again.

With so many alligators around and some people being attacked and killed by them, nobody felt sorry for the alligators anymore. In the state of Louisiana the government changed the law to allow anyone to hunt and kill them again. They changed the law in Florida and other southern states too. The government will stop the hunting again if it looks as if the alligators might become extinct.

1. Why were there so many alligators long ago?

---

2. What kept down the number of alligators before many people came to live in North America?

---

3. Why did people kill the alligators?

---

4. How many alligators were left in 1968?

---

5. What does it mean to say that alligators were in danger of becoming *extinct*?

---

6. What did the government do about the killing?

---

7. What happened to alligators after 1968?

---

8. In what kind of places do alligators live?

---

9. Why did mink and muskrat hunters get mad at the alligators?

---

10. What other reason besides that given by the muskrat hunters did southern states have for letting people hunt alligators again?

---

11. Do you think hunters should be allowed to kill every last alligator?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Cicely Tyson grew up in a tough part of New York City called East Harlem. Her father did odd jobs, and her mother cleaned people's houses, but the family was very poor. Sometimes Cicely's mother had to feed the three children corn mush all three meals a day and had to pick slightly spoiled fruit and vegetables for them out of garbage cans.

When Cicely was eleven, her father left, and her mother had to bring up the kids alone. She was very strict and did not allow them to go to movies, which she said were evil. She also did not let Cicely go on dates until she was seventeen. In addition, her mother took them to church as often as she could. Many years later Cicely said, "A lot of the kids I grew up with are alcoholics or addicts or in jail. I'll have to admit that my mother saved us from that."

When she got out of school, Cicely got a low-paying job as a secretary with the Red Cross. The work was hard, and the hours were long. One day she quit, and with the money she had saved up, she enrolled in modeling school. Because she was a strikingly beautiful woman, Cicely was soon a successful New York model, making sixty-five dollars an hour. Then one day she was sitting in an office when someone from a movie company saw her and said, "Lord, what a face!" She was given an audition and won a part in a movie. This is how her acting career began.

Cicely always worked hard at every role she took, practicing for hours, taking acting lessons, and listening carefully to all the criticism people gave her. Although there was discrimination against black people in the acting business, she never let it keep her from trying her hardest. For fifteen years, Cicely played different parts in plays, movies, and TV shows. She slowly built up her skills and made a name for herself.

Then she landed the lead role in the movie *Souther*, and it made her famous. Four years later when she played the lead in a TV drama called "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," she was even more widely acclaimed. She became a star!

In 1982 Cicely Tyson married Miles Davis, the famous jazz trumpeter. Six years later they divorced. She has continued to work hard, spending a lot of time reading scripts and trying to use her talents in the best possible films and TV dramas.

1. How many brothers and sisters did Cicely Tyson have?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What evidence is there that her family was poor?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you think Cicely felt about her mother's strictness while she was growing up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Cicely feel later about her upbringing?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did Cicely become a successful model?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Is this statement true or false? Cicely got into acting because she decided modeling was boring.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Where in this story did you first find out that Cicely Tyson is black?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How long did Cicely have to work in small acting parts before she became a big star?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Whom did Cicely Tyson marry?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Is Cicely still working?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How does Cicely spend much of her time?  
\_\_\_\_\_

One day several years ago, a young man was out riding a motorcycle in the country. Suddenly he lost control and crashed. His family rushed him to the hospital, and the doctors saved his life. After a few days everyone realized what the motorcycle accident had done to him. It had cut his spinal cord, and the man was paralyzed from the neck down.

The man's brother was very close to him and visited him every day in the hospital. He was horrified to see his brother lying in bed, unable to move his arms or legs. He knew that his brother loved to swim, run, play football, and have fun; now he wouldn't be able to do any of these things.

The brother talked to the doctors and asked them if there was any chance that the man might be able to walk again. The doctors explained that they didn't know how to put together a spinal cord, so his brother would probably be paralyzed this way for the rest of his life. He would have to lie in bed and have other people feed him and bring everything to him. All he could do would be to read, watch television, and talk to visitors.

The brother visited the hospital again the next day and heard the paralyzed man screaming with pain. He begged his brother to help him kill himself. "I don't want to live like this!" he said.

The brother left the hospital deeply upset. Should he kill his brother and take him out of his misery? Or should he let him live paralyzed for the rest of his life? Both ways seemed wrong. Then he remembered the sound of his brother screaming and the expression on his face. He knew that his brother wanted to die but couldn't kill himself because his arms were paralyzed.

The next day the brother of the paralyzed man walked into the hospital with a shotgun hidden under his coat. He smuggled the shotgun past the doctors and nurses, and when he was alone with his brother, he pulled it out, aimed it, and shot his brother in the head. His brother died immediately.

The police arrested the man; he didn't try to run away. He admitted that he had shot his brother. He said he felt it was the only right thing to do. He was charged with murder. When the case went to court, his lawyer argued that the man was temporarily insane because he loved his brother so much. He was found innocent.

1. What did the motorcycle accident do to the man?

2. What kinds of things wouldn't the man be able to do anymore?

3. What chance did the doctors give the man of being able to walk again?

4. How would the man have to spend his time?

5. Why would it be especially hard for him to live this way?

6. What did the man ask his brother to do?

7. Why couldn't he kill himself?

8. Why did the brother decide to kill him?

9. How did the brother kill him?

10. What did the police charge the brother with?

11. Why was he found innocent?

12. Do you think his killing his brother was right?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Many years ago, two hunters were walking through the thick jungle in the middle of the island of Guam in the Pacific Ocean. Suddenly they saw an old man running away from them through the jungle. They were curious as to who the old man might be, so they chased him until he disappeared into a cave. If they hadn't seen him go into the cave, they never would have found it because the entrance was hidden by branches and leaves.

The two hunters brought the old man out and asked him why he was living in a cave in the middle of the jungles of Guam. They found out that the man was a Japanese soldier from World War II, which had ended almost thirty years before. The old soldier didn't even know that the war was over!

During World War II, thousands of Japanese soldiers were sent to take over Guam. Japanese soldiers were very fierce fighters and had strict orders never to surrender to the enemy, no matter what happened. They were taught to die fighting for Japan.

At the end of World War II, when the Americans and their allies were beating Japan in the war in the Pacific, the Japanese had to leave the island of Guam. But some Japanese soldiers chose to run into the jungles rather than to leave or surrender to the Americans. This man, Sergeant Yokoi, was one of them. Even though the fighting had stopped, he refused to give up or come out of the jungle.

At first there were two other Japanese soldiers with Yokoi in the jungle. They stayed alive by picking berries, catching fish, and trapping animals. Before the war Yokoi had been a tailor, and he was very clever at making things with his hands. He made fish nets and traps. After a few years the other two men died, and Yokoi was left by himself.

When the two hunters found him, Yokoi still had his Japanese army rifle (all rusty from the moisture of the jungle) and his bayonet. He was still proud to be a Japanese soldier and was ashamed that the hunters had caught him and found his cave.

Sergeant Yokoi was flown back to Japan, and thousands of people came to welcome him back. He was a hero. For the first time he heard about television, jet planes, rockets to the moon, and the fact that the war had been over since 1945.

1. Where is Guam?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where was the old man living?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why hadn't anyone else found his living place?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who was the old man?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When and why had Yokoi come to Guam?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why hadn't Yokoi surrendered to the Americans?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did he eat in the jungle?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did being a tailor help Yokoi survive?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How did Yokoi feel about the hunters finding him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What kind of reception did the people give Yokoi back in Japan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How do you think Yokoi felt coming back to the modern world?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Could there be other Japanese soldiers hiding in the jungles of Guam?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sickle-cell anemia is a disease that affects about one out of every six hundred black people in the United States; the disease can also occur in people with Mediterranean ancestors. But people of most other races rarely get it. People don't catch this disease from other people; they can get sickle-cell anemia only if both their parents have what is called the sickle-cell trait. One out of every eight black persons has the sickle-cell trait.

People who suffer from sickle-cell anemia experience a lot of pain. Their red blood cells aren't shaped like doughnuts the way they are supposed to be; instead they are shaped like a sickle or a new moon. These sickle-shaped blood cells get caught in capillaries in parts of the body like the legs, stomach, or brain, and they block the blood flow, which causes pain.

Some people with the disease can have sudden attacks and die unless they are rushed to a hospital and given regular blood from another person's body. Many people with severe sickle-cell anemia do not live to be much older than twenty. But a majority of people with the disease who have just a few symptoms live to be around fifty years old.

Doctors don't have any cure for the disease yet. They can give people with sickle-cell anemia blood from another person's body. This is called a blood transfusion. However, this helps only for a short time and doesn't stop the disease. Many doctors are working on a complete cure, and maybe in a few years there will be a medicine that will allow people with sickle-cell anemia to lead full, active lives without pain.

Meanwhile, there is something that people can do to keep the disease from spreading. They can warn the people who have the sickle-cell trait not to have children with other people with the trait. If a husband and wife both have the trait, there is a one in four chance that their children will have the disease.

People with the sickle-cell trait do not get sick or die young. They are normal in every way, and actually have an advantage over other people—they don't get a terrible tropical disease called malaria. The sickle-cell trait probably evolved among black people in Africa to help them survive malaria.

Many organizations are encouraging all young black people to get themselves tested to see if they have the sickle-cell trait. It is hoped that the disease can be kept from spreading, so fewer people will suffer.

1. Can you catch sickle-cell anemia by kissing a person who has it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do people with the disease have pain?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Show what a sickle is shaped like.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What can save a person who is having a sickle-cell anemia attack?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How long is a person with a mild form of the disease expected to live?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Do blood transfusions cure the disease?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What advantage do people with the trait have?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What may happen if a man and woman who both have the sickle-cell trait have children?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why is it a good idea for young black people to find out if they have the trait?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. If two people fall in love and want to get married and then find out they both have the sickle-cell trait, what do you think they should do? (Check your answer.)  
split up  
get married and have no children  
get married and adopt children  
get married and have children anyway

In 1974 a movie called *The Exorcist* became extremely popular. People waited in line for hours to buy tickets and were willing to pay a lot of money to see it. At almost every showing of the movie, several people were sick or fainted and had to leave the movie or be carried out.

The movie was based on a book, which was based on a real case. Of course, that doesn't mean that everything in the movie really happened; some things were changed, and other things were made up. The movie tells the story of a twelve-year-old girl who is so bad, so violent, and so profane that people become convinced that she has the devil inside her.

In the movie the girl, whose name is Regan, suddenly becomes a crazy person. Her skin breaks out and oozes pus and blood. Her eyes roll up, and sometimes her head turns around so it is facing backward. She screams curses at her mother, kicks people, throws up in a priest's face, and pushes a man out a window to his death.

At first the girl's mother thinks that Regan is just crazy and takes her to doctors and psychiatrists. After a while these people decide there is something else wrong with the girl, and they call in a Catholic priest. They ask the priest to get the devil out of the girl, to exorcise her. This priest is called "the exorcist."

For hundreds of years, there have been people in the Christian churches who believed that the devil could get inside someone and possess that person. These people believe that the only way to get the devil out is to say prayers over the body of the possessed person over a long period of time and to keep a cross nearby. This is what the priest does with Regan.

Just when the prayers seem to be working and the devil seems to be leaving the girl's body, the exorcist dies of a heart attack. Another man offers the devil a deal; he offers to take his own life if the devil will leave the girl alone. The devil accepts the offer. The man falls to his death from a window, and Regan wakes up cured. She doesn't remember anything that happened.

Some people think all the talk about devils and exorcists is a lot of mumbo-jumbo, made up to scare people. But no one can prove what the truth is.

\*From a book by William Blatty.

1. What happened to some people watching the movie?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is everything in the movie true?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is wrong with Regan?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Are the doctors and psychiatrists able to cure her?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is an exorcist?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does an exorcist do?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What happened to the exorcist in the movie?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. When does the devil leave Regan's body?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How many people die in the movie?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do you think the movie was so popular?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why do you think many people fainted and became sick?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you believe a devil can possess a girl?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By the mid-1970s most people thought that air-plane hijackings were a thing of the past. Airports all over the world had put in metal detectors to stop people from carrying guns and bombs onto planes. There had been almost no hijackings for several years.

Then in June 1976, an Air France jet was hijacked by Arab terrorists after it left Athens airport. Nobody knows how the terrorists got their guns past the metal detectors, but probably the guards weren't watching very carefully. The Arabs ordered the plane to fly to Uganda, a country in East Africa, where they hoped they would get a friendly welcome.

When the plane landed at Entebbe, Uganda, the Ugandan government did give its support, and the terrorists were joined by some friends. The terrorists threatened to kill the passengers unless some Arabs who were in jail in Israel were released immediately. Many of the passengers on the hijacked plane were Jews from Israel, so the Israeli government took the demand seriously.

At first the Israeli government said that it would never negotiate with the terrorists. After a few days it became clear that the terrorists meant business and would kill the hostages if their Arab friends weren't released from jail. The Israeli government said it was willing to talk.

But this was a trick, because at the moment the Israelis were planning a very daring rescue. While the Israeli government pretended to get ready to talk, five planes took off from Israel and flew the 2,200 miles to Uganda. The Ugandans thought the messages were from regular passenger planes. Two of the planes, which carried soldiers and trucks, landed without a shot being fired at them.

The Arab terrorists were completely surprised when hundreds of Israeli soldiers poured out of the planes and started shooting. Almost all the Arabs were killed along with some Ugandan soldiers. The Israelis blew up near-by Ugandan jets, so they wouldn't be followed, led the hostages to the waiting planes, and took off into the night. One Israeli soldier was killed and three of the hostages were killed by accident because the soldiers thought they were terrorists when they jumped up. The other hostages, their friends, and relatives back in Israel felt very thankful so many had been rescued.

1. How had airports almost stopped the hijacking of planes?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How do you think the Arabs were able to get away with the hijacking in this case?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where did the Arabs take the plane?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did the Israelis say they were willing to talk with the Arab terrorists?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How far did the Israeli planes have to fly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why do you think the Arabs were so surprised?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did the Israelis blow up the jets?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What do you think the other three Israeli planes carried? Think about what they would need.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who killed the hostages?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How do you think the Ugandans felt about the rescue?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

One evening a few years ago, a man and his wife were having dinner in their house outside New York City. They both started eating their soup, which was called vichyssoise, made from potatoes. The soup tasted funny, and they didn't eat more than a spoonful each before they threw it away.

The next morning the man caught the train into New York City where he worked. At first he felt fine, but as he rode in on the train, he began to feel a little funny. When he looked at things, they blurred, and he saw double. It was a little as if he were drunk, but he knew he wasn't. He began to wonder what was wrong with him.

By the time he reached the city, the man felt terrible. He had trouble keeping his balance, he couldn't read signs, and he almost bumped into other people, parking meters, and light poles. He decided to go straight to his doctor.

The doctor didn't know what was wrong with him either. He asked the man if he had eaten anything rotten, but the man couldn't think of anything. As the day went on, the man felt worse. That night he found that his wife had been having the same problem all day. They both went to the hospital.

A few hours later the man died. His wife was on the danger list. It was only then that the doctors figured out what had happened. The soup they both had tasted the night before had been contaminated with a deadly poison called botulism. It took only one spoonful of the soup to kill the man and make his wife very sick. The only reason she didn't die too was that she had taken a smaller spoonful.

It turned out that the company that made the soup had not cooked it enough at the factory before they put it into the can. There were a few tiny germs left, and they multiplied inside the can as it sat on the shelf in the supermarket. After a few weeks the poison botulism was formed.

Police and health officials asked the markets to take all the company's soup off the shelves before anyone else ate it. The soup company was in trouble and not long after this went out of business. Now there are strict government regulations to keep spoiled food out of food stores. Still, botulism sometimes forms inside canned goods and builds up pressure. This pressure will escape with a hiss when the can is opened. You can also tell if the contents are spoiled if they smell funny.

1. What is vichyssoise soup made from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did the man and his wife throw away their soup?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did the man feel on the train the next morning?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why didn't the doctor guess what was wrong?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where did the man and his wife go that night?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What killed the man?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why didn't his wife die if she tasted the soup too?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why were there poisonous germs in the soup?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Was anyone else killed by the company's soup?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What happened to the soup company?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How can you tell that a can of food has botulism?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Around 1842 a boy was born in West Africa in a small village. This village was near a river that ran into the Atlantic Ocean. One day when the boy was about twelve, two strange white men came up to him while he was playing by the river. They asked him if he wanted to see a fritter tree—a tree with pancakes growing on it. The man led the boy into a big sailing ship anchored in the river. He had never seen a sailing ship before, and he was too amazed to be suspicious of the men.

The men led the boy down into the bottom of the sailing ship, and there, sure enough, was a small tree with pancakes on it. They weren't really growing on the tree; the men had just stuck them on. It was a trick to get the boy onto the ship. Suddenly the men put chains on the boy's wrists and legs and locked him up in the bottom of the ship with hundreds of other Africans.

Not long after this, the ship lifted its anchor and sailed down the river and across the Atlantic Ocean. Some of these Africans were so unhappy at being kidnapped that on the voyage, during one of the few times they were unchained, they threw themselves overboard and drowned. Others tried to starve themselves by refusing to eat, and the white men had to force food down their throats. Many of the African people died on the way across the Atlantic, but not the twelve-year-old boy.

The ship arrived in the United States at the city of New Orleans. The Africans were unloaded and put up on a platform. White plantation owners bargained to buy them as slaves. A man named Smith bought the young boy. He did not let the boy keep his real African name—he gave him the name Smith instead. For the rest of his life, the African was called Charlie Smith.

Charlie was a slave until after the Civil War when slavery was ended in the United States. After that he traveled all around the country, doing things like working as a cowboy, making liquor, gambling, working on farms, and being an outlaw with Jesse James. Finally Charlie settled down to run a small candy store in Florida. He lived to be 137 years old, the oldest American in recorded history.

1. Why did the two white men tell him about a fritter tree?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What amazed the boy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. About how old was the boy when he left Africa?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did some of the Africans die on the way across the Atlantic?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened in New Orleans?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Where did the African boy get the name Smith?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. When did Charlie regain his freedom?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What were some things Charlie did after the Civil War?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did he finally settle down to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How old was Charlie when he died?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What do you think was the worst moment of his life?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why do you think Charlie was famous in his final years?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cuba is an island in the Caribbean Sea about ninety miles off the coast of the United States. In 1962 because Cuba was friendly with the Soviet Union, it was considered an enemy of the United States. President Kennedy and many Americans were nervous about having an enemy country so close to the United States. American spy planes watched Cuba carefully.

In early 1962 American planes flew over Cuba and took pictures that showed Soviet missiles being set up on the island. These missiles would be able to drop a hydrogen bomb on any city in the eastern part of the United States before we could do anything. President Kennedy decided that it was dangerous to have missiles so close to us in Cuba.

Kennedy told the United States Navy to put a blockade around the island of Cuba to keep any more Soviet ships from bringing missiles into the island. Kennedy also told American soldiers all over the world to be prepared for war.

At first it looked as though the Soviet ships would try to get through to Cuba. Everyone knew that if an American ship had to shoot at a Soviet ship, it might start World War III. If this happened both countries might drop hydrogen bombs on each other, killing millions of people. All over the world people listened to their radios and TVs and wondered if this would be the end of the world.

The leaders of the Soviet Union were in a difficult position. The American spy planes had caught them sneaking missiles into Cuba. They were embarrassed, but they didn't want to look silly or weak by backing down. At the same time, they didn't want to start a war with the United States because they knew there was not way they could win the war.

Just before reaching the ships of the United States Navy, the Soviet ships got orders to turn back. As one man in the United States government said, "We were eyeball to eyeball with the Soviets, and I think they just blinked." After this, the Soviets took their missiles off the island of Cuba and back to Russia.

This event was considered by some to be one of President Kennedy's best moments. People believed it took a lot of courage for him to face down the Soviets, and it took restraint not to start a war. What would have happened if the Soviet ships hadn't stopped?

Over twenty years later more of the story became known. Kennedy had made a secret agreement with the Soviets. He told them that if they would publicly remove their missiles from Cuba, he would quietly remove American missiles from Turkey, a country bordering the Soviet Union. Kennedy also agreed not to invade Cuba.

1. Why did people think Cuba was an enemy of the United States?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did the United States keep an eye on Cuba?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did American spy planes find was going on in Cuba in 1962?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why was this so dangerous?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is a blockade?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What might have happened if an American ship had sunk one of the Soviet ships?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why might many people have been killed in a war between the United States and the Soviet Union?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why didn't the Soviets want to back down?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did the Soviets do?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you agree with the way Kennedy acted? Explain why.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Years after the Cuban Missile Crisis, when the United States was on more friendly terms with its former enemies, some of the men who were in charge of the governments of the United States, the Soviet Union, and Cuba got together to talk about what had happened in 1962 and to see what lessons they could learn. They had a series of meetings, starting in 1987, and discovered some very disturbing facts.

The Soviets explained that they had put the missiles into Cuba because they were afraid the Americans would send thousands of soldiers to invade Cuba. In fact, the Americans had given up the idea of invading Cuba, but we hadn't told this to the Soviets nor had we promised not to invade. The Soviets believed rumors and thought we would invade.

The Soviets admitted that it had been very foolish of them to send nuclear missiles to Cuba. They did it without thinking about how scared it would make the Americans to have deadly missiles so close by. They didn't think through what might happen: that the Americans might tell them to take the missiles out, and fighting might start.

The most disturbing piece of news was that the Soviets already had a number of small nuclear missiles on the island of Cuba. Their soldiers had permission to fire these missiles if the Americans threatened their soldiers. In 1962, the Americans had no idea that these missiles were in Cuba. Our spies and aerial cameras had not found out about them, so we acted as though they weren't there.

This means that the Cuban Missile Crisis was much more dangerous than anyone realized at the time. If the United States had used military force, the Soviet soldiers on the island of Cuba would have fired the small nuclear missiles. The Soviets didn't realize that if they did this, the Americans would shoot their own nuclear missiles back, and this would have started World War III—a full-scale nuclear war in which millions of people would have been killed and both countries destroyed.

The lessons the leaders learned from talking over the Cuban Missile Crisis were that you have to look at things from the other side's point of view—"put ourselves in each other's shoes," as one man said—and that you must have much better information. With so much at stake, there is no room for miscalculation!

1. How long after the Cuban Missile Crisis did people get together to discuss it?

2. Why were the leaders of countries that had been enemies in 1962 able to sit down and talk about these events?

3. Why did the Soviets put missiles in Cuba?

4. How could the Americans have prevented the Soviets from putting in the missiles?

5. What would have happened if the Americans had started shooting at Soviet soldiers in 1962?

6. Why would this have been a surprise?

7. What would have been the result?

8. What were the main lessons from the talks about the Cuban Missile Crisis?

President John F. Kennedy was one of the more popular presidents of the United States. He was young, had married a beautiful, well-educated woman named Jackie, and had lots of new ideas. When he was elected in 1960, Kennedy promised to get America moving again. He made some mistakes, but many people all over the country loved him.

However, not everyone loved him. Many rich businessmen were afraid that Kennedy would tax them heavily and keep them from making a lot of money. Oil drillers feared that Kennedy would increase their taxes. Many Cubans living in the United States were angry at Kennedy for not helping them get back to Cuba.

Some people probably hated Kennedy enough to pay someone to kill him. Kennedy knew this, and that is why he, like all presidents, was protected by Secret Service agents. Kennedy knew also that there are people around who are crazy enough to want to kill the president just to become famous themselves.

On November 22, 1963, Kennedy and his wife were in Dallas, Texas. Kennedy was there to give speeches and to try to make peace among some men in the Democratic party who weren't getting along.

On the morning of that day, Kennedy commented to one of his friends that it would be easy for a person to get up on top of one of the office buildings in the city and shoot the president with a rifle—there wouldn't be much the Secret Service could do to stop it. But when it came time to ride through the streets of the city in his car, Kennedy told the Secret Service to take off the bulletproof top. He wanted to see the people and to show them he wasn't afraid.

The people of Dallas loved Kennedy that day. There were thousands of people lining the streets, waving and cheering him as his car drove along. Kennedy was happy to see them and waved and smiled.

Then, as his car was leaving the center of Dallas, three shots (maybe more) rang out, and Kennedy lay dying in his wife's arms. Kennedy was rushed to the nearest hospital, but it was no use. One of the bullets had hit Kennedy's head, and there was no way the doctors could repair the damage to his brain. He died soon after he arrived at the hospital, and Lyndon Johnson, the vice president, was sworn in as the next president.

1. What made Kennedy a popular president?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Kennedy's promise to America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did rich businessmen and oil drillers dislike Kennedy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the name of the group of people whose job it is to protect the president?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why might some crazy person want to shoot the president?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did Kennedy want the roof taken off the car if he knew someone might try to shoot him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did the people of Dallas react to Kennedy as he drove through the streets?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened to Kennedy as his car left the center of Dallas?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Do people know exactly how many shots were fired?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why couldn't anyone save Kennedy's life?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Who replaced Kennedy as president?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Does the story say who shot Kennedy and why?  
\_\_\_\_\_

There were many people standing around the place where President Kennedy was shot in Dallas. When the shots were fired, some people, including a few police officers, ran up the hill in front of Kennedy's car. They thought that the shots had come from there. However, they did not find anyone with a gun.

Other people had seen a man pointing a rifle out of the sixth floor of an office building behind Kennedy's car. The police rushed into the building, but a man escaped before the police could catch him. They got a description of someone named Lee Harvey Oswald, and police all over Dallas started looking for him.

A short time later a policeman thought he saw the man. When he walked up to him to arrest him, Oswald pulled out a revolver and shot the policeman dead. Then he ran into a movie theater. The police surrounded the theater, turned on the lights, and caught Oswald. He was charged with the assassination of President Kennedy.

Lee Harvey Oswald denied everything. He said he was not the killer. Nevertheless, the police had lots of evidence against him. They found a picture in Oswald's house showing him holding the gun that killed Kennedy. They had witnesses who had seen Oswald carrying a long, brown, paper package into the office building from which Kennedy was shot. The police also found traces of gunpowder from the rifle on Oswald's hands.

Before Oswald could have a fair trial, there was another murder in Dallas. As the police were taking Oswald from one jail to another, a man named Jack Ruby jumped forward and shot Oswald in the stomach. Millions of Americans saw this happen live on television. Ruby said he did it to get revenge for President Kennedy's death.

What Ruby did was unfortunate. With Oswald dead, the police never could find out why Oswald wanted to kill Kennedy, or if someone had paid him to do it. There is still some mystery surrounding the assassination. Some people in America don't believe that Oswald was the only one shooting at Kennedy. They think there were other people involved who have never been caught.

Did Oswald act alone, or was he part of a plot to get rid of Kennedy? Did Jack Ruby act on his own, or was he paid to shut Oswald up? These are key questions, which remain unanswered. We may never learn the truth about who killed Kennedy and why.

1. Why did some people run up the hill in front of the place where Kennedy was shot?

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2. What did they find?

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3. Where had other people seen a man with a rifle?

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4. How did the police know who to look for?

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5. Where did the police catch Oswald?

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6. If he killed Kennedy, how many men did Oswald kill that day?

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7. What did people say Oswald had taken into the office building that morning?

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8. What did police find in Oswald's hands?

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9. What reason did Jack Ruby give for killing Oswald?

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10. For what other reason might Jack Ruby have killed Oswald?

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11. Did Oswald get a fair trial?

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12. Do you think Oswald acted alone when he shot Kennedy?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Right after the assassination of President Kennedy, the new president, Lyndon Johnson, appointed a group of well-known Americans to study the killing and decide once and for all who did it. Headed by Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren, the group spent many months combing through every piece of evidence. In 1964, the Warren Commission issued its book-length report. It concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the man who shot Kennedy and that he acted alone.

From the minute the Warren Commission report was released, many Americans refused to accept its conclusions. People found it very difficult to believe that one evil man could kill a president and hurt the country so much. Many other theories were discussed, and the debate raged on and on.

Late in 1991, a new movie called *JFK* was released. Made by Oliver Stone, the movie put forward the theory that President Kennedy was killed as part of a plot involving many people in the U.S. government, perhaps even Vice President Lyndon Johnson. The movie suggests that the people who wanted President Kennedy killed were worried that he was going to pull U.S. soldiers out of Vietnam, where a war was just getting started. According to this theory, some men in business and government wanted the war to happen, and they thought that by killing Kennedy they would get their way. As it turned out, President Johnson did send hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers to fight in Vietnam—a war we ended up losing. Oliver Stone thinks the recent history of our country would have turned out much better if Kennedy had lived.

The movie *JFK* revived the debate about who really killed John F. Kennedy, and some new theories were discussed. Two things became clear. First, Lee Harvey Oswald shot the bullet that actually killed Kennedy. Ballistics tests proved that conclusively. Second, a group of criminals called the Mafia may very well have ordered Kennedy to be killed because he was working hard to stop their activities and put them in jail. They may have paid Oswald and others in Dallas that day to kill the president. Then they successfully covered their tracks by having Oswald killed and telling everyone else to keep their mouths shut. Only now are we beginning to get close to what may be the truth.

1. Why did President Johnson appoint the Warren Commission?

2. What did the Commission conclude?

3. Why did many Americans refuse to accept the conclusions of the report?

4. Who is Oliver Stone?

5. What did he say were the motives of the men who plotted Kennedy's death?

6. Why do you think it is so important to Stone to prove a conspiracy?

7. What is the best evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was the man who killed Kennedy?

8. What new group has surfaced as a suspect in the assassination?

9. What were its motives?

10. Why don't we know the full story today despite all the investigations?

Chicago is a large city on the edge of Lake Michigan. It has serious problems with pollution. There is air pollution from cars, buses, and factories. There is water pollution in Lake Michigan from the chemicals and other waste products that factories and people have dumped into it. In some parts of the lake near Chicago the pollution is so bad that the fish cannot stay alive, and people cannot swim safely.

For years some people in Chicago tried to stop pollution. But people continued to drive around in their cars, and the factory owners were reluctant to spend the money to cut down factory pollution.

Late one night several years ago, one factory that polluted the air around Chicago had a rude shock. A man sneaked into the factory, climbed up to the top of a chimney that was belching out smoke, and put a large piece of wood over the opening. The smoke couldn't get out the chimney and backed down into the factory. The owners had to close the factory until they found out what was the matter.

In the months after this incident, there were other daring attacks on factories that polluted the air and water. Each time there was a note telling the owners to stop their pollution. The notes were signed, "The Fox."

Unfortunately the Fox's attacks on factories didn't make the people who ran the factories stop polluting; it made them want to catch the Fox and put him in jail. They hired special detectives to find out the real identity of the Fox, and they tried to set traps for him. But the Fox was always too clever for them, and he was never caught.

A while ago the Fox pulled off one of his boldest capers. He walked into the main office of a company called United States Steel and dumped some filthy oil and muck on the nice, new carpet. He left a note explaining that what he had dumped was the same stuff that United State Steel was dumping into Lake Michigan every day. Again the Fox escaped. Over the years he became a hero to people who were trying to stop pollution.

1. What pollutes the air around Chicago?

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. What two things have happened as a result of the water pollution?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why didn't many factories stop polluting?

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4. How did the Fox sabotage one factory's chimney?

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5. Who was the Fox?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did people know it was the Fox who had struck?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Did the Fox convince factories to stop polluting the air and water?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why did the Fox dump filthy oil and muck on United States Steel's carpet?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Many things the Fox does are against the law—trespassing, breaking and entering, sabotage, and littering. Do you think the Fox is right to break the law?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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As you know, bees collect the juice from flowers and then produce honey from it in their hives. For thousands of years people have loved honey. They have found ways of making bees work for them to make honey, and they have found ways of taking it away. Some people make a living selling honey.

Many years ago someone discovered that the bees in Africa produce more honey than the ones in South America. As a result the people who sell honey wanted to bring some African bees to South America, so they could make more honey and more money. But there was a problem: the African bees work harder, but they are also much fiercer. The African bees swarm and attack people and animals for no reason. They are much more dangerous than the South American bees.

The bee-owners of South America decided to bring over just a few fierce African bees in order to breed them with the tamer South American bees. They hoped that the offspring (baby bees) born from this match would work as hard as the African bees but be as tame as the South American bees.

They brought eight African queen bees in a small cage to Brazil, a country in South America. However, before they could get the African queen bees together with their South American mates, someone made the mistake of leaving the cage door slightly open. The African queen bees escaped.

A few years passed and everyone thought that the eight African queen bees must have died or been killed by the South American bees. Then people in various parts of Brazil began to complain that bees in swarms were attacking people and animals for no reason. This had never happened before with South American bees. People wanted to know why it was happening.

The men who had brought over the eight African queen bees knew why. The African bees had gone out and mated with the native South American bees and had had thousands of offspring. The new bees were fierce like their mothers, and so was the next generation. Slowly the new, fierce bees were multiplying.

This event happened more than forty years ago. Now there are millions of the fierce, African-type bees in South America. Slowly, they have been moving north. In October 1990 some of these bees were found in a hive in Texas and were destroyed. Scientists who have been tracking and studying the bees are learning that they have not lost their fierceness by breeding with the South American bees. Both the scientists and the government plan to monitor, or watch, the bees closely.

1. How do people make money from bees?

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2. Why did the people who sell honey want the African bees?

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3. What is the problem with African bees?

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4. Why did the bee-owners want to breed African and South American bees?

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5. What happened to the eight African bees in the cage?

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6. How did the bee-owners know the eight African bees had not died?

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7. What did the swarms of bees attack?

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8. Would people have been killed by the old kind of South American bee?

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9. Why are the new fierce bees spreading?

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10. When did the African-type bees appear in the United States?

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11. What does it mean to monitor something?

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In 1974 a young woman named Patricia Hearst was living with her boyfriend in a small apartment near San Francisco. To her neighbors she seemed like a nice person who was excited about getting married soon. None of the neighbors knew that Patricia Hearst came from an enormously wealthy family. The Hearst family had made millions of dollars in the newspaper business.

One night a woman knocked on the door of Patricia Hearst's apartment and asked to use her telephone. Patricia sensed that something was wrong and tried to stop the woman from coming in; it was too late. The woman and two men pushed their way in and drew guns.

Patricia's boyfriend tried to fight the intruders but was knocked down and beaten senseless with a wine bottle. Then they grabbed Patricia, who was wearing only a nightgown, and dragged her screaming to a car. They threw her in the trunk and drove off at high speed. Patricia guessed that these people had been watching her for weeks and had kidnapped her because of her family's money.

The police and FBI searched the entire San Francisco area but could not find Patricia. A few days later the police received a tape of Patricia's scared voice asking her parents to do what the kidnappers asked. The kidnappers wanted the police to let two of their friends out of jail. But since these friends were convicted murderers, the police would not let them go.

Soon the police got more tape recordings from what they now know was a gang. At the gang's request a plan was worked out for Mr. Hearst to give two million dollars in free food to the poor people in San Francisco. He did this hoping that his daughter would be set free. But the Hearst family soon got a worse shock: a tape recording in which Patricia stated that she was joining the gang and changing her life. On the tape she insulted her boyfriend and called her father an insect and a pig.

Soon after this Patricia and the gang robbed a bank and before escaping let the bank's security cameras take pictures of Patricia. The police and FBI were now looking for Patricia to arrest her, not to free her. She and the rest of the gang were hunted criminals. But her parents and friends still believed she hadn't really joined the gang and had been forced to say and do these things. Nobody was sure what Patricia was really thinking.

*(continued)*

1. What were Patricia Hearst's plans before the kidnapping?

2. What important fact did her neighbors not know about her?

3. How did the kidnappers get into her apartment?

4. What happened to Patricia's boyfriend when he resisted the kidnappers?

5. Did Patricia have time to dress?

6. Why do you think the kidnappers put her in the trunk of their car?

7. Why did the gang kidnap Patricia Hearst?

8. Did their original plan work?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What did Patricia's father agree to do in order to get her set free?

10. What was Patricia's message on the later tape?

11. What proof did the police have that Patricia robbed the bank?

12. Why do you think Patricia joined the gang?

After the bank robbery, Patricia Hearst knew that the police and FBI were looking for her throughout the United States. Her new friends told her that the FBI would kill her if they ever caught her. For the next year she lived the life of a fugitive. She and the other members of the gang were always on the run, always hiding.

Not long after the bank robbery, the gang was in Los Angeles. Two members went into a store to get some clothes while Patricia waited outside in a van. Suddenly she saw that the owner of the store was going to have one of her friends arrested for shoplifting. At that moment she had a chance to escape, but instead she fired a rifle into the store, scared the owner, and helped her friends escape.

She and the gang took part in a number of other crimes. The police think that they robbed banks, stole cars, and possibly even killed one person in a robbery. Patricia's life had certainly changed from the time before her kidnapping, and she seemed to be enjoying it. Although she had had plenty of chances to escape, she hadn't taken them.

The gang that had kidnapped her was called the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). Its members hoped to start a revolution in America by getting poor people to rise up against rich people. Patricia now felt that her family's having so much money was wrong. She and the gang thought the way to bring about a revolution was to throw bombs, shoot certain people, and convince other people to fight.

Not long after the shoplifting incident in Los Angeles, the police trapped most of the SLA in a house. Hundreds of police surrounded the house, and there was a long gun battle. When it was over, the house had burned down, and all the SLA members inside were dead. But Patricia was not among the dead. She had escaped before the battle.

She drove across the country to Pennsylvania and hid in a farmhouse with the surviving members of the gang. Later she traveled back to California and lived in a small apartment not far from her parent's house. But she did not try to get in touch with her family.

Meanwhile the FBI had thousands of agents looking for Patricia. Many times they nearly caught her. Finally they found her fingerprints in the Pennsylvania farmhouse and traced her back to California.

(continued)

1. Why were the police looking for Patricia Hearst?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was Patricia especially afraid of being caught by the FBI?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What nearly happened to her friends in the clothing store?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Patricia rescue them?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What other crimes were Patricia and the gang supposed to have committed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you think Patricia really wanted to be a member of the gang? Why do you think so?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did Patricia become ashamed of her family?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened to most of the SLA?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How do you think Patricia kept the FBI from catching her?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Where did the FBI finally pick up her trail? How?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After finding the fingerprints in the farmhouse in Pennsylvania, the FBI was able to trace Patricia Hearst back to the West Coast and find her apartment in San Francisco. They watched her for a few days and then moved in for the capture.

Two agents crept up the back stairs, opened the door, and said, "Don't move, or we'll blow your head off!" Patricia Hearst had a loaded a pistol in her purse and several other guns in a closet. She was ready to fight, but she was taken by surprise. The agents were lucky that they had caught her with her guard down.

The same day, the FBI captured the other surviving members of the gang that Patricia had joined. They all faced a long list of criminal charges, including bank robbery, kidnapping, car theft, illegal use of guns, and possibly murder.

When Patricia was first captured, she seemed completely different to her family and friends who had known her before the kidnapping. She gave a clenched fist salute to the reporters who took her picture, and she didn't seem the slightest bit sorry for the things she had done. She was very cold toward her parents.

After a few weeks in jail, she slowly changed back to the way she had been before the kidnapping. She worked with her lawyers to get ready for her trial for bank robbery. Her lawyers were some of the most successful and most expensive in America.

In the trial Patricia's lawyers said that she hadn't really wanted to take part in the bank robbery. They said that everything she had done for the gang had been forced on her by threats. They described how she had been locked in a closet for weeks, how she had been tortured and brainwashed into joining the gang.

At the beginning of the trial, it looked as if the jury would acquit her. But the prosecution made a strong case. They said that Patricia Hearst was lying—that she had joined the gang because she didn't like her parents, that she had had plenty of chances to escape, which she had not taken, and that she must be held responsible for what she had done. In the end the jury found Patricia guilty. She spent several years in jail and then was released. Soon after her release she married the man who had been her bodyguard. They have two daughters and live in the Northeast, where Patricia enjoys taking care of her home and family.

1. Where was Patricia Hearst captured?

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2. Why wasn't there a gun battle when the FBI moved in to capture her?

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3. When she was first caught, how did Patricia treat her parents?

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4. How did Patricia change in the next few weeks?

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5. Why do you think this change occurred?

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6. Why did Patricia's lawyers say she should be found innocent of the bank robbery?

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7. Why did the prosecution say she should be found guilty?

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8. What did the jury decide?

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9. If you were on the jury, what would you have decided? Give your reasons.

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Almost 2,000 years ago, the people of Greece were in the middle of a long war with the Romans. It looked bad for the Greek city of Syracuse. The city was surrounded by Roman soldiers on the land and by Roman boats on the sea. No food or supplies could get to the city. It looked as though the people of the city would have to surrender to the Romans and become their slaves.

Then a Greek man named Archimedes had an idea. He told his idea to the generals in charge of the city. Although it sounded a bit crazy to them, they decided to give it a try.

Archimedes got about a hundred Greek soldiers together, and he had them polish their shields. The shields were made of brass and were flat, so when they were polished, they were shiny and almost like mirrors.

Then Archimedes led the soldiers down to the edge of the water and lined them up. About a hundred yards across the water were all the Roman ships resting at anchor. The Romans wondered what was happening, but the hundred Greek soldiers with shiny shields didn't especially worry them.

Then Archimedes gave the signal, and all the Greek soldiers lifted up their shields and reflected the rays of the sun onto the Roman boat nearest them. Just one shield reflecting the sun wouldn't have done anything to the Roman ship. However, more than a hundred shields all focusing the sun onto one Roman ship made that ship very hot. Within seconds the ship, which was made of wood, was in flames.

Before the Romans could figure out what was happening, the Greek soldiers focused the sun on another Roman ship, making it burst into flames. They continued this until most of the Roman fleet sank sizzling into the ocean. The Romans thought it was magic or the gods helping the Greeks, and they fled. Food and supplies could get through again, and the Greek city was saved.

For years nobody believed that this story was true. However, in 1973 some men experimented with brass shields and set a wooden boat on fire a hundred yards away in less than ten seconds. Archimedes' plan wasn't magic—just a brilliant idea.

1. Why was the Greek city in trouble?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the name of man with the brilliant idea?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the generals think of his plan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Archimedes have the soldiers polish their shields?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did the soldiers use their shields as weapons against the Roman ships?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did the ships burst into flames so quickly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Would just one shield reflecting the sun have set the boats on fire?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did the Romans think was happening?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How did some people recently figure out that this really could have happened?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How do you think the Greeks treated Archimedes after this?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the pun in the title of the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Alex Haley, who died in 1992, made his living by writing magazine articles and books. He co-wrote *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, which made him famous. Several years ago Haley had an idea of writing about his family and tracing it back as far as he could.

Haley remembered that when he was a small boy growing up in Tennessee, he used to hear his grandmother talking to her friends about the family. He often heard her talk about a man whom she called "the African" because he had been brought over from Africa as a slave.

Haley's grandmother told many stories about this man who was Alex Haley's great-great-great-great-grandfather. She said that he had often tried to escape until the slave masters cut off one of his feet. She told Alex that he had called himself Kinte and had used many strange African words that no one in America could understand. He had called a river "kamy bolong" and a banjo a "ko."

Kinte had a daughter, and he taught her all the African words he knew. He also told her the story of how he had been taken a slave in Africa. One day he walked out of his village to cut some wood to make a drum. Suddenly a group of white men jumped him and carried him off. They put him in ship, chained his legs and arms, and brought him to America.

Kinte's daughter remembered the stories her father had told her and passed them on to her children. The family kept passing down the stories until Alex Haley heard them. He decided that he would travel to Africa to try to find his real family—the family that Kinte had been kidnapped from.

Alex Haley talked to people who knew a lot about African languages and found that the words Kinte had used were from a language spoken in a West African country called Gambia. "Kamy bolong" meant the Gambia River in this language. Haley flew to Africa and traveled up the Gambia River until he found a small village where the people were called Kinte.

An old man in the village told Alex the story of his people, the Kinte family. In the middle of the story, Alex Haley could scarcely believe his ears—the old man said that the son of the chief had gone out one day to cut wood to make a drum and was never seen again. That was Kinte, and these were his relatives. Alex Haley wept for joy. He had found his roots.

1. What did Alex Haley do for a living?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where and from whom did Alex Haley first hear about his great-great-great-great-grandfather?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did she call him the African?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did the slave masters cut off Kinte's foot?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Kinte mean by "kamy bolong"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Haley hear the story of Kinte if it happened two hundred years ago?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Kinte say he was doing when he was taken away to be a slave?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did Alex Haley go to Africa?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How did he find which African country his great-great-great-great-grandfather had come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How did Alex hear the Kinte family history?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How did Haley know that it was his great-great-great-great-grandfather in the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why was Alex Haley so happy?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Before Thanksgiving a number of years ago, a man named Dan Cooper got on a plane in Portland, Oregon, along with thirty-five other passengers. When the plane was in the air, Mr. Cooper handed the flight attendant a note. It said that he had a bomb in his briefcase, and that he would blow up the plane unless the crew did what he said.

The flight attendant talked to the pilot, and they decided he meant business. They landed the plane, and Mr. Cooper (not his real name) got what he asked for—10,000 twenty-dollar bills in a laundry sack and four parachutes. Then the plane, with Mr. Cooper on it, took off again and flew south toward Reno, Nevada.

Once the plane was flying south, the FBI got two Air Force jets to follow the plane. The jets flew above and behind the plane, so no one in the plane could see them from the windows.

The hijacker ordered the pilot, co-pilot, and flight attendant to stay in the cockpit with the door closed. Then he opened the stairs at the back of the plane, under the tail. The pilot knew the stairs were down because a red warning light went on in the cockpit. However, no one in the cockpit knew when the man jumped out.

The Air Force planes flying behind were watching closely for the parachute of the hijacker, so they could pinpoint where he landed and tell people on the ground where to search. However, they didn't see anything, probably because the hijacker jumped and didn't open the parachute until he was almost on the ground. Since it was night, the Air Force pilots were unable to see him without the opened parachute.

Because they didn't know where he jumped out, no one knew where to look for him on the ground. Some think he jumped into a mountainous area with more than two feet of snow and a temperature of 7 below zero—Dan Cooper was wearing only a suit and regular shoes. Many think he must have died.

More than eight years later, campers found some rotting money on the banks of a stream in this area. The FBI checked the serial numbers on the bills and found that they were the same bills Dan Cooper had been given. But the bulk of the money still hasn't been found, and the whereabouts of Dan Cooper is unknown.

1. Why did the pilot and flight attendant do what Dan Cooper asked?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How much money did he get?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think he wanted it in a laundry sack?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think Dan Cooper knew the Air Force jets were following his plane?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why didn't the pilot of the airline jet know where Dan Cooper had parachuted out?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why didn't the Air Force pilots know where he jumped?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why do some people think Mr. Cooper is dead?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What do you think happened to him?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What is a simple way of stopping this kind of parachute hijacking?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

About 2,500 years ago, Greece and Persia were in a savage war. The Persians were trying to conquer the Greeks and make them slaves. The Greeks were fighting for the survival of their young country and for their own freedom. The fighting came to a head in one long battle. It took place in Marathon, a town about 23 miles from Athens, the capital of Greece. The battle raged for hours and hundreds of people on both sides were wounded and killed.

Finally the Greeks won the day. The Persian army retreated, boarded ships, and sailed off in the direction of Athens. Then a horrible thought occurred to the Greek generals. What if the people of Athens saw the ships and thought that the Persians had won the Battle of Marathon? What if Athens gave up hope and surrendered to the Persians even though the Greek army had won?

The generals had to get word to the people of Athens quickly, before the Persian ships reached the city. There were no telephones or radios in those days, so they sent their fastest runner.

This man knew how important his mission was, and he ran as fast as he could all the way to Athens. He didn't stop until he was standing exhausted in the marketplace. The people gathered around to hear who had won the battle. He gasped, "Victory is ours!" and collapsed. The run had been too much for him, and soon afterward he died. But he saved the day by arriving before the Persian fleet. The people of Athens kept the gates locked until the Greek army got back from Marathon. The Persian army gave up and went home.

Years later in 1896, at the first modern Olympic Games, someone had the idea of having a race called the marathon, which would be 23 miles long, in honor of that first runner. It has now become a regular event held every four years at the summer Olympics. The Greeks probably would never have had a race that long; they believed in moderation, and their longest race was a mile and three-quarters. But the marathon has become very popular and is known as one of the toughest athletic events in the world.

One year, when the Olympics were held in England, the royal family wanted to see the start of the race from the royal palace. Therefore, the distance was extended to 26 miles, 385 yards, and so it has remained.

1. Why were the Greeks fighting so hard?

2. Who won the Battle of Marathon?

3. What was on the Persian ships sailing for Athens?

4. Why was it possible that the people of Athens might surrender?

5. What did the Greek generals have to do?

6. Why did the Greek runner die?

7. Did he accomplish his mission?

8. What adjectives would you use to describe the runner?

9. At what athletic event is there a race called the marathon?

10. Why was the first marathon race 23 miles long?

11. Why was it changed to 26 miles, 385 yards?

12. Did the Greeks have races that long?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

In 1947 a young, black baseball player came up to bat in a close game in Philadelphia. At the time he was the only black player in the major leagues. His name was Jackie Robinson. Some of the people watching the game shouted and swore at him; some even threw things at him, all because he was black.

Before this there had been separate teams for black players. Some of these black baseball teams were very good, but they were not allowed to play against the white teams. Then a man named Branch Rickey, the head of the Brooklyn Dodgers, changed things. He hired Jackie Robinson to play with the Dodgers.

Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia, in 1919. A year later he moved to California with his family. He went to college at UCLA, where he was the first man in the school's history to win letters in four major sports—baseball, basketball, football, and track. After college he played on all-black baseball teams.

When Jackie started with the Dodgers, he had to face many prejudiced people. At games he was booed by fans and spiked by players as they slid into second base. At home he received letters threatening to kill him and kidnap his son. Of course all this made Jackie angry, but he understood that he had to have the guts not to fight back. He knew the eyes of the nation were on him and many would judge all black people by the way he behaved. He knew he had to prove himself a gentleman as well as an athlete.

This put a lot of pressure on Jackie. But he faced his challenge and won. In his first season with the Dodgers, he played in more games than any other player and led the team in stolen bases and runs scored. The Dodgers won the pennant, and Robinson was named Rookie of the Year. In 1949 he received the Most Valuable Player Award and was called by many fellow players the "heart and soul" of the team. Later he was the first black elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, an honor kept for the best players of all time.

Today we take it for granted that teams will have players of different nationalities and races, and that players will be judged by how well they play and not by the color of their skin. Jackie Robinson made this happen.

On October 24, 1972, Jackie Robinson died of a heart attack. Thousands of people who had known and loved him came to his funeral. One old man said, "Jackie's courage made it possible for black people to become part of America."

*(continued)*

1. Why did people shout insults at Jackie Robinson?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Were black players allowed to play on major league baseball teams before Jackie Robinson's time?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you think this was right?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What other sports was Jackie good at?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Jackie react to the prejudice of people?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why was Jackie Robinson under a lot of pressure?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did Jackie play that first season with the Dodgers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was the greatest baseball honor he ever received?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How are players chosen for major league baseball teams today?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What did Jackie die of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What did the old man think Jackie had done for black people in America?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jackie Robinson is best known as a baseball superstar, but he was more than that. He was also a leader in business, politics, and civil rights.

He used his business knowledge to help other blacks set up their own businesses in their own neighborhoods. He worked for politicians who promised to help black people gain their rights. He visited riot-torn areas and carried the people's complaints back to top government officials. He raised funds for Martin Luther King, Jr., and for civil rights organizations like the NAACP. He made speeches, wrote a newspaper column, and gave interviews on TV and the radio.

Jackie Robinson was rich and famous, but he did not just sit at home enjoying his beautiful house in the country. It seemed Jackie always had somewhere else he had to be. Until tragedy struck, he didn't stop to think that being away might be bad for his family. In 1968 Jackie's oldest son was arrested for carrying a hidden weapon and using heroin.

Suddenly Jackie realized that he had been too busy to be around when his son had needed him. He remembered that as a little boy his son had been happy and friendly to everyone, but slowly things had changed. People were always asking him if he would grow up to be as great as his father. Jackie Jr. became quiet and sad and got into a lot of trouble at school. When Jackie was at home, he and his son had trouble getting along. Before Jackie knew it, his son was grown and went off to war in Vietnam. And then his son was home and a drug addict!

Jackie spent a lot of time helping his son get off heroin. He turned down many invitations from all parts of the country to stay home to deal with the problem. Finally his son kicked the heroin habit. He took a job in a clinic helping other addicts get unhooked. Jackie Robinson and his wife were very proud that their son was doing this kind of important work.

Then in 1971 Jackie Robinson's son was killed in a car crash on a highway near his home. Jackie was heartbroken. He said, "There's nothing more painful than losing a son just after you've found him."

Jackie Robinson had always been healthy and full of energy, but after his son's death he got sick. He had a disease called diabetes, and he became almost blind. Within a year he died.

1. Besides baseball, what are at least three other areas that Jackie worked in to help black people?

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
(c) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Where did he live?
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was Jackie's son arrested for?
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did Jackie blame himself for his son's troubles?
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think it was Jackie's fault?
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Jackie's son do after he kicked the heroin habit?
\_\_\_\_\_

7. How did Jackie's son die?
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Jackie Robinson mean when he said he had just "found" his son?
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you think Jackie would have lived longer if his son hadn't been killed?
\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Heroin is a drug made from material found in poppy flowers. The drug can be used as a painkiller for very sick people in hospitals, but today it is mainly used by drug addicts to get high. Buying, selling, and using heroin are all against the law, so heroin is smuggled into the United States and sold at very high prices.

Heroin addicts give the drug to themselves by sticking a needle into their arms. They say that heroin gives them a beautiful feeling for a few hours—they call it a “rush.” The good feeling soon wears off, and they want more. This is what it means to say that heroin is addictive—it makes people need more; it turns them into slaves of the drug. If addicts have been taking a lot of heroin and suddenly stop, they get very sick and can even die.

Once people get hooked on heroin, it is almost impossible for them to stop taking the drug unless they get help from a clinic or are put in jail where they can't get the drug. It is hard for a heroin addict to work at a regular job, so many of them steal and kill to get the money to buy more heroin. The people who are really hooked on heroin can be very dangerous criminals. They will steal from anyone and do almost anything to get more of it. This is one reason why there is so much crime in American cities today. Many more young people have become hooked on heroin, and many of them are stealing to get money for more drugs.

Some people start taking heroin just for fun, and then before they realize it, they are hooked. But most heroin addicts are people who are unhappy with their lives and want to turn away from their problems by getting high. Many heroin addicts are people who can't find jobs or who have had unhappy experiences. Heroin makes their problems a lot worse.

If a pregnant woman is hooked on heroin, her baby also will be hooked on the drug while it is inside her. When the baby is born, it will die unless the doctors give it more heroin through a needle. The only way to save the baby's life is to have the doctors give it a little less heroin every day until the baby gets used to going without it.

In recent years, cocaine and crack have joined heroin as widely used drugs. Like heroin, they are highly addictive and lead people into lives of crime. While addicts all over America are messing up their own lives, the pushers and smugglers who sell the drugs are making millions of dollars. They are unconcerned about the tremendous suffering caused by the drug they sell.

1. What is a good use of heroin?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How is more heroin used in the United States?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does heroin have to be smuggled into our country?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is a “rush” from heroin?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How do heroin addicts feel a few hours after they have taken the drug?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the word *addictive* mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How can a heroin addict kick the habit without dying?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why do addicts steal and kill?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What kind of person is most likely to become an addict?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What happens to the baby of a pregnant woman who is an addict?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Briefly, write what you think of the people who are making money selling drugs to addicts in America.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there really such things as vampire bats that suck people's blood? Dracula was a character in a book (later a movie) who was supposed to have been a bat part of the time and an evil man after dark. However, everyone knows Dracula is a made-up person.

But there really are vampire bats in South America. They don't turn into men after dark, but they do live by sucking blood from humans and animals. In fact, blood is the *only* thing they eat.

The vampire bats of South America are very small—three inches in length. When they stretch their furry wings, their wingspread is only about as long as this page. Their wings are soft, so they can fly quietly and not be heard by their prey. They have razor-sharp teeth, pointed ears, and an ugly face. Like other bats, they are blind and fly by a kind of radar, bouncing a high-pitched sound off things in front of them and listening for the echo.

Vampire bats can't kill a human, cow, or horse because they suck only a small amount of blood. But a few years ago, when many horses and cows in South America were dying, people blamed the vampire bats. This is what really happened.

One or more vampire bats bit a dog or other animal that had a disease called rabies. When the bat (or bats) sucked the animal's blood, some of the germs of the rabies disease got into the bat's teeth. When the bat flew to another animal and bit it, the germs infected the second animal with rabies. So the vampire bats were spreading this horrible disease from one animal to another. Thousands of animals were dying from rabies, and the farmers became angry.

For a long time no one could think of a way to stop the vampire bats from spreading rabies. People could not shoot the bats because they were too small, and there were too many of them. The bats couldn't be poisoned because the only thing they ate was blood and that would mean poisoning farm animals!

Then some scientists had an idea. They gave cows and horses a special shot that made their blood slightly thicker. When the vampire bats sucked this thicker blood, it choked and killed them. These shots were successful in keeping the number of vampire bats down and in saving the lives of many animals.

1. Where are there real vampire bats?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you believe there was a blood-sucking man named Dracula?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do vampire bats live on?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How many inches long is the bat's wingspread?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do the bats have soft, furry wings?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If bats are blind, how can they fly around and not hit things?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Can a vampire bat kill a horse just by sucking its blood?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How was rabies disease spread from one animal to another?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did farmers get angry at vampire bats?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What did the scientists do to the animals' blood?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How did this kill the vampire bats?  
\_\_\_\_\_

One hot day in May of 1961, Lyndon Johnson, the vice president of the United States, was visiting a country in Asia called Pakistan. As he was being driven into the main city, he saw a poor man standing by the side of the road with his camels. Johnson liked the look of the man and ordered the car to stop.

The camel driver was very surprised when the vice president walked over to him, shook his hand, and gave him a ballpoint pen. Lots of reporters asked him questions and took his picture. This man was a camel driver, unable to read, and here he was talking to one of the richest, most powerful men in the world.

Just as the vice president was about to get back in his car and leave, he had an idea. He asked the camel driver if he wanted to visit the United States. "Why not?" said the camel driver, and he thanked Johnson for the invitation. His new American friend paid his way, and the camel driver came to the United States. He met President Kennedy and other famous people, rode on the New York City subway trains, saw the skyscrapers, and went to visit Johnson in Texas.

Everyone in America who met the camel driver from Pakistan liked him. Even though he was poor and uneducated, he was a proud man and walked like a king. The high point of his visit to America was his trip to a state fair in Texas. There Vice President Johnson gave the camel driver a new Ford truck.

When the camel driver went back home to Pakistan, he took the truck with him. He never learned how to drive it, but for a while he rented it to the Americans in Pakistan, and they paid him well. Then the truck began to break down, and it cost the camel driver a lot of money to keep it running. For a while he hired a driver and carried people from one place to another in the truck. But when a bus started taking people for less money, the camel driver went out of business.

In 1971 some American reporters went back to see how the camel driver was doing with his truck. They discovered that he hadn't used the truck for six months—it was all broken down. He was a poor man again. He said he was born to be a camel driver, and that's what he would have to be again. Was he angry? No, said the camel driver, it was his kismet. That's the way God wanted it to be.

1. Who was the vice president of the United States in 1961?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What country was he visiting?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did the vice president stop his car for the camel driver?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Johnson give this man?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did he invite the man to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did people in America like the camel driver?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did he see in America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Johnson give him in Texas?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did the truck cause him trouble back in Pakistan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you think Johnson should have left the camel driver alone?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What did this man say he must do in life?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why wasn't he angry that the truck hadn't helped him get rich?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Every year there is a big football game between the teams of the Army officer-training school at West Point and the Navy officer-training school at Annapolis. It is called the Army-Navy game, and people in both schools make a big fuss about it.

One night in November several years ago, just a few days before the Army-Navy game, two young men were asleep in room 4714 at West Point. Suddenly they were awakened by a strange, hissing noise. They looked up and saw a ghost coming through the wall of the room! The ghost looked like a soldier from long ago, with an old-fashioned uniform and a big mustache.

The ghost stayed in the room for a few minutes and then disappeared. After it had gone, the air in the room felt cold. The two men went to the wall the ghost had come through, and the wall felt cold, much colder than the other three walls of the room. They knew that something very strange had happened, and they went to tell their friends.

At first no one believed the two men. The next day some other men agreed to spend the night in room 4714. Sure enough, there was a hissing noise, and the ghost appeared through the wall, and the wall was cold after it left. No one could explain how it had happened. Even people who said they didn't believe in ghosts thought that something supernatural was going on.

The men who ran West Point closed the room and didn't let anyone go into it. Everyone at West Point talked about the ghost, and there were big articles in newspapers all over the country. Everyone tried to figure out what was going on. Some men at West Point thought it was the ghost of a soldier who had gone to West Point a long time ago; they thought he had come back to visit the school.

Then, just before the Army-Navy game, the truth came out. The whole thing had been a trick by some men from Annapolis, the Navy training school. They were trying to "psyche out" the Army men so their team would lose the big game. The Navy men had lowered a slide projector outside the window of room 4714 and showed a slide of an old soldier through the window. They made the hissing sound and cold by using a fire extinguisher in an air shaft in the wall. The Army men felt pretty silly—but they still won the game.

1. Where are Army officers trained?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where are Navy officers trained?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What sport is played at the Army-Navy game?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What woke up the men in room 4714?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did they see?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What convinced the other men at West Point that there really was a ghost?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did the men who ran West Point do with room 4714?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What explanation did the men give for the ghost's appearing?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who had played the trick?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why had they done it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What had made the ghost appear on the wall?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What had made the hissing sound and the coldness in the wall?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Did the trick win the game for Navy?  
\_\_\_\_\_

One day several years ago, the ocean liner *Windsor Castle* was sailing through the South Atlantic Ocean bound for Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Below decks that morning a sixty-four-year-old woman named Margaret Fuller left the cabin in which she and her husband were staying. She was wearing a nightgown and a robe, and she told her husband she was going down the hall to have a shower.

An hour later when she had not returned, her husband, Leslie Fuller, seventy-one years old, told the captain that he thought she had gone overboard. They made a quick search of the ship, didn't find Margaret, and decided to turn the boat around to look for her.

The *Windsor Castle* weighs 34,000 tons, and turning it around takes a long time. The captain knew that it would be very difficult to retrace exactly the path it had traveled through the water. He wasn't very optimistic that the woman could stay afloat long enough for them to rescue her.

But one thing helped them: the ship's pollution. By watching for the cans and garbage that had been dropped from the ship and which were still floating in the water, they were able to follow the path of the ship back through the water.

An hour and a half after turning back, they spotted Margaret Fuller in the water, seventy yards from the ship. Crew members threw life preservers to her as the ship went by, but she missed all of them. She appeared to be treading water, but she was getting weaker. The captain gave orders to turn the ship around again, but it took time. The ship's momentum carried it a mile farther before it could be stopped and turned around.

When the ship was close again, the captain had a lifeboat lowered, and it sped over to the desperate woman. As the crew pulled her aboard, she fainted. She had been in the water for three hours. Somehow she had stayed afloat and had not been eaten by sharks.

When the ship reached Port Elizabeth, reporters tried to talk to Margaret Fuller, but she was hustled off to a hospital by her son, who met her with an emotional hug. The reporters then talked to her husband, Leslie. At first he was angry and refused to talk. Then he told them how upset his wife was, how she went to pieces every time her ordeal was brought up. Then he looked into the distance and said, "I don't know why people do things like my wife did."

1. In what part of the world was the ocean liner in this story sailing?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Did the Fuller's cabin have a shower?  
\_\_\_\_\_ How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was Leslie Fuller worried?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How did the captain and crew know she had fallen overboard?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why didn't the captain think they would find her?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did the ship's pollution help Margaret?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. When they spotted the woman, why couldn't they just stop and rescue her?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. How long was the woman in the water?  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Judging from evidence in the story, what do you think happened to Margaret Fuller when she left her cabin to take a shower? Explain your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The week before Christmas, it was very cold in a small town in New York. It was so cold that Frank Baker, 93, and his wife, Catherine, 92, did not get their usual visit from their daughter, who lived nearby.

On Christmas Eve their twenty-year-old grandson, who was on leave from the Air Force, stopped by the house of the two old people to ask them over for dinner. When he knocked on the door, there was no answer. This worried him because he knew his grandparents didn't go out very often. So he forced his way through the door.

The inside of the house was freezing cold. Under the hot water heater was a pool of water that had frozen into ice. Some of the windows were broken, letting in the freezing wind. In the corner of the living room, huddled together by the radiator that gave no heat, were the bodies of Frank and Catherine Baker. They had frozen to death two days earlier.

It turned out that the company that supplied electricity to the Bakers' house had cut off their supply of electricity a few days before. The company did this because the Bakers owed two hundred and two dollars, and they had not paid their bill. The company had warned the Bakers that if they didn't pay up, their power would be cut off. When they didn't pay, someone in the company made the decision to cut off their electricity, even though the person knew how cold it was outside.

The Bakers had also had their telephone disconnected because they hadn't paid their phone bill for a long time. As a result they had been unable to call anyone for help.

When this story first appeared in the newspapers, some people talked about taking the electric company to court and charging it with being responsible for the deaths of the Bakers. However, the company was on safe ground because it had warned the Bakers before it cut off their power. The company did apologize to the family.

When the police came to investigate, they found one thousand dollars in cash hidden under a mattress. This must have been the Bakers' life savings. They could have used that money to pay their bills, but for some reason they hadn't.

1. Who usually dropped by to see if the Bakers were all right?

2. Why did the grandson come to the house Christmas Eve?

3. Why did he force his way through the door?

4. Why had the Bakers frozen to death?

5. Why had the electric company made this decision?

6. Do you think this company's decision was fair?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why couldn't the Bakers have called their daughter for help?

8. Why couldn't the company be sued in court?

9. What did the police find under a mattress?

10. Why do you think the Bakers didn't use this money to pay their bills?

11. What do you think the electric company might have done?

Oliver Barrett is a young man from a very rich family living outside Boston. Oliver goes to college at Harvard, is good at his work, and is a star hockey player. Still he is not happy. It seems to Oliver that when his father was in college at Harvard, he was better at everything than Oliver, and Oliver is jealous. He wants to be better, or at least different, from his father.

One day when Oliver is getting a book out of the library, he meets Jenny, a beautiful young woman going to the same college. They soon fall in love, and after a while, they decide to get married.

But there is a problem. Jenny is a Catholic, and Oliver's mother and father are prejudiced against Catholics and don't want their son to marry one. Oliver and Jenny decide to get married anyway. When they have the wedding, Oliver's parents refuse to come. This makes Oliver and Jenny very angry, and they stop talking to Oliver's parents.

Oliver's father refuses to give him any more money, so Oliver and Jenny have to struggle to live while they finish school. After college Oliver goes to law school, and Jenny works as a teacher to get enough money for him to make it through. Finally Oliver is a lawyer, and they move to New York City where he starts to make good money. Jenny plays the piano and harpsichord and gives lessons. They live happily together.

Then Jenny starts feeling weak. She goes to her doctor, and he tells Oliver (but not Jenny) that she has cancer and probably will live for only two more months. The doctor says there is no cure, no way to save her life.

For a while Oliver keeps this horrible news a secret from Jenny. But she figures out that she is dying from the way people are treating her. Soon she has to move to the hospital, and she continues to get weaker. Oliver spends his time by her bedside. Then late one night, with Oliver holding her hand, she dies. She is only twenty-four years old.

Oliver walks out of the hospital in a daze and finds his father waiting outside. They hug each other, and for the first time in years they feel close. Oliver's father tries to say he is sorry, but Oliver says, "Love is never having to say you're sorry."

\*From a book by Erich Segal.

1. Why isn't Oliver happy at college?

---



---

2. Where does he meet Jenny?

---

3. Why are Oliver's parents opposed to their getting married?

---

4. Do you think it is right for them to try to stop the marriage?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

5. What makes Oliver and Jenny angry?

---

6. Why do they have to struggle if Oliver's father is so rich?

---

7. How does Oliver make good money in New York?

---

8. Why does Jenny feel weak?

---

9. Why do you think the doctor doesn't tell Jenny what is wrong with her?

---

10. How does she figure out she has cancer?

---

11. Jenny's death brings Oliver back together with what person?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

One January several years ago, something very strange happened in a small house in Winthrop, Massachusetts. The house was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pine, who lived there with their young daughter, Melody. It was not a very big house or very expensive. It was two stories high on a street with a lot of other houses just like it.

One evening Mrs. Pine and Melody were in the kitchen cooking dinner. Mr. Pine was upstairs, resting up for his night job as a security guard. Suddenly there was a terrific crash at the back door, then another crash, and two big men broke the door down and ran into the kitchen with guns drawn. The men were wearing regular clothes and looked tough. Mrs. Pine thought she and her daughter were going to be murdered.

The men pushed Mrs. Pine and Melody into the living room. The only thing they said was, "Shut up and don't do anything!" The men pushed them onto the living-room sofa and went to let some more tough-looking men in the front door. Then three of them ran upstairs.

Mr. Pine had been wakened by the noise downstairs. When he opened his eyes, he found himself looking down the barrel of a pistol. There were three men standing over him, and one of them said, "Don't move, or we'll kill you!" Mr. Pine didn't know what was going on. The men took him downstairs into the living room.

Then the men suddenly left the house. They left without telling the Pine family what they had been doing—and without saying they were sorry for breaking down the back door and scaring the family half to death.

Later on the Pines found out what had happened. The men were police in plain clothes, and they had been making a drug raid. However, they got the wrong house! The police had been watching the house next door to the Pines for months and finally had gotten together enough evidence to raid it. But they got the two houses mixed up and broke into the Pine's house instead.

After they left the Pines, the police burst into the house next door. They arrested some drug pushers and found ten thousand dollars worth of dangerous drugs. The police burst in on people this way to catch them before they have time to flush the drugs down a toilet or get away. Later the police apologized to the Pine family.

1. Why was Mr. Pine asleep so early?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What happened to the back door?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Mrs. Pine think was going to happen?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who was in the bedroom when Mr. Pine woke up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How do you think Mr. Pine felt?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the men do after they took Mr. Pine downstairs?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why had the men broken in?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Where did they go after they left the Pines?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did they find there?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did the police break in the door instead of knocking?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How do you think the Pines felt?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you think the police should have the right to break into a house if they have evidence that the people in the house are breaking the law?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A few years ago, Robyn Davidson, a twenty-eight-year-old Australian woman, started across the wildest part of the Gibson Desert in Australia with four camels and her dog, Diggity. Her family and friends thought she was crazy, but she was determined to cross the 1,700 miles of wild, almost uninhabited country between her and the Indian Ocean. She loved the desert.

It took Robyn more than a year to train her camels, Bub, Dookie, Zeleika, and Goliath for the trip. Camels are temperamental creatures who can kill a human with a well-placed kick. Robyn had to learn how to take care of them, discipline them, put wooden pegs into their nostrils, and attach ropes to lead them. She had to learn how to hobble their legs at night, so they wouldn't wander off.

For six months Robyn's little caravan slogged across the desert. Every time they came into a village, everyone would come out to see them. People were always very nice to them although some of the Aborigines they met called her Rama-rama or "crazy person."

The desert was scorching hot and dusty during the day and almost freezing cold at night. Much of the time swarms of flies covered Robyn, the camels, and the dog, crawling into their eyes, ears, and nostrils. At one point, Robyn had dry skin, cracked lips, a huge sun blister on her nose, and hadn't washed in a month. She was sure she was going to die.

Once Bub went berserk and threw everything he was carrying off his back. Another time Dookie slipped during a rainstorm, hurt his shoulder, and had to rest for four weeks before the trip could continue. The worst danger came from wild bull camels who were interested in Zeleika, the female. They were willing to kill any human who got in their way, and Robyn had to shoot several of them with her rifle to protect herself.

One morning Robyn woke up to find that two of the camels had wandered off. It took four hours of panicked searching to find them. Toward the end of the trip her dog, Diggity, ate some poisoned meat laid out to kill dingos, which are wild dogs. With tears in her eyes, Robyn shot her beloved dog. The desert that she loved so much seemed less beautiful to her then. But she kept on trekking, and finally the Indian Ocean came into view, and the long trip was over.

1. What was Robyn's plan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the meaning of these words?  
*uninhabited* \_\_\_\_\_  
*berserk* \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Robyn prepare for the trip?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How can a camel kill someone?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think people in the villages came out to see Robyn?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the biggest annoyance on the trip?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the greatest danger?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What forced a four-week delay?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why was it necessary to shoot Diggity?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do you think Robyn made this trip?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Think of four adjectives to describe Robyn.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

At one point during World War II, the American and British armies were about to invade the island of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea. Thousands of German soldiers were defending the island, and American and British generals knew that if they invaded while the defenses were so strong, a lot of their soldiers would be killed. They had to think of a way to trick the Germans into taking some of their soldiers off the island.

The generals decided to make the Germans think the attack would occur somewhere else, such as in nearby Greece. They wrote fake letters to each other talking about the big attack in Greece. The problem was to get these letters to the Germans in a way that would make the German generals believe they were real.

A man in the English spy organization had an idea. He said they should use the body of a dead man, should pretend it was a soldier carrying the letters, and let the Germans find the body. However, they knew the Germans would look at the body very carefully to make sure they weren't being tricked.

The English spy had another idea. He had heard that when a person dies of pneumonia, his lungs fill with fluid as do those of a drowned person. Accordingly the spies went to a hospital in England and found the body of an English man who had just died of pneumonia. They got the consent of the man's father to use the body for a secret purpose.

They dressed the body as an English soldier, put fake identification in a wallet in his pocket, and handcuffed a briefcase to the dead man's wrist. The fake letters were in the briefcase. (In order to prevent important documents from being stolen, messengers frequently traveled with these papers in a briefcase handcuffed to them.) The body was then dropped into the ocean off the coast of Spain to make it look as though the soldier had been in a plane crash and drowned.

The body washed up on a beach, and the Germans found the letters in the briefcase. They examined the body very carefully and decided the man definitely had died from drowning. Because they believed the letters, the German generals moved most of the German soldiers off the island of Sicily to Greece, where they thought the attack would come. The English and Americans then attacked Sicily and took it easily. Many lives were saved by this trick—it might even have shortened the war.

1. Where is Sicily?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did the English and American generals want to get some of the German soldiers off the island?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where did they want the Germans to think they would attack?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did they use the body of a man who had died of pneumonia?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did they put in the dead man's pocket?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did they put in the briefcase?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Where did the Germans find the body?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did the Germans think the soldier had died?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why didn't they find out that the soldier had really died of pneumonia in England?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did the English and Americans take over the island of Sicily so easily?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you think this plan to trick the Germans was a good one?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A few years ago, an American businessman named Blankenship quit his job and borrowed \$500,000 to go looking for a treasure. He hired a team of workers, bought a lot of expensive equipment, and traveled to Oak Island off the coast of Canada.

People have been digging for treasures on this island for almost two hundred years, and during this time six people have been killed under the ground. So far nobody has found a single bit of a treasure. However, this did not stop Mr. Blankenship and his team from trying.

People think there is a treasure buried under Oak Island because there are underground tunnels there that were dug hundreds of years ago. People think the tunnels were dug to hide something important. It seems logical that there should be a treasure. It's not easy to follow these tunnels; when people dig beyond a certain point, the tunnels fill up with water.

It is possible that the tunnels on Oak Island are a trick, and that there isn't any treasure at the end of them. Maybe pirates or other people hundreds of years ago dug the tunnels to get people looking on Oak Island and then buried the real treasure somewhere else. It is also possible that the tunnels are the grave of a king or were dug for some religious reason.

Pirates could have dug the tunnels to hide the gold and jewels they stole from passing ships. On the other hand, some think it might have been the Incas from South America who dug the tunnels. The Incas were Native South Americans who were attacked by the Spanish in the late 1400s; they had tons of gold and silver and perhaps brought it north and hid it on Oak Island.

Other people think the tunnels on Oak Island lead to a "bank" used by many different pirate chiefs to hide their private treasures. It may be that the pirates were killed before they had a chance to tell anyone the secret of how to get in. It is also possible that someone has already gotten in and taken all the treasure that was there.

Anyway, Mr. Blankenship used the latest methods to try to find the treasure. He lowered a remote-control TV camera down one of the tunnels and thought he saw treasure chests. But no one managed to get down the tunnels. Mr. Blankenship went home empty-handed, as everyone else has.

1. Why did Mr. Blankenship go to Oak Island?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where is Oak Island?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What makes people think there is treasure on the island?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why is it hard to go down the tunnels?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How many treasure-hunters have been killed on the island?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who, besides the Incas, could have buried a treasure there?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why would the Incas have brought their gold and silver all the way to Canada?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What are three possible reasons that there might be no treasure on Oak Island?

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Why does Blankenship think there are chests down in the tunnels?  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Did he find the treasure?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Naomi was born in a small village in an African country called Nigeria. She was the daughter of the village chief. Even as a little girl, Naomi was smart, and people knew that she would grow up to be someone special.

When Naomi got older, the people in the village decided to send her to school in England, so she could get a good education. The people saved their money. When they had enough, they put Naomi on a jet to fly off to a good, English boarding school, thousands of miles away.

England was very strange to Naomi. In the winter there was snow, which she had never seen before. All the other girls at the school were white and very different from her. But Naomi did very well at the school and made lots of friends. When she was seventeen years old, she graduated with good grades.

Then Naomi came home and told her father, the chief of the village, that she wanted to go to college and become a doctor. It would take many more years of school and would be expensive, but Naomi was very excited about doing it. She really wanted to become a doctor, so she could help sick people in her own country.

The chief and the people in the village didn't know what to do. They loved Naomi and wanted to give her what she wanted. They knew that Nigeria needed good doctors urgently. But they also thought that women should be wives and mothers and leave being doctors to men. They thought a woman's place was in the home.

So the chief told Naomi that she couldn't go back to England for college and medical school. Instead he forced her to marry a fifty-three-year-old businessman who already had two wives. This practice is allowed in the Muslim religion. Naomi was forced to live with this man and to raise children. She was never allowed to become anything more than a wife and mother.

Naomi thought that she knew now why the people in the village had sent her to school in England. It wasn't to make her happy—it was to make her more attractive to some man. The village people then could marry her off to a rich man, who would bring his money to their little village. Naomi felt that the village had used her.

1. Why was Naomi sent to England?

---

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2. What was new to Naomi in England?

---

---

3. How did she do in the English school?

---

---

4. What did she decide she wanted to become?

---

---

5. What did she have to do to become this?

---

---

6. Why were the people and the chief against it?

---

---

7. Did Naomi want to marry the businessman?

---

---

8. How could a man have three wives?

---

---

9. What did Naomi think was the real reason the village people had sent her to England?

---

---

10. What kind of life did Naomi have after she married?

---

---

11. If you were Naomi, what would you have done?

---

---

---

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On November 22, 1963, when President Kennedy arrived at the hospital in Dallas, Texas, most of his brain had been destroyed by a bullet. But his heart was still beating faintly. At that time, the law in most states in the U.S. said that a person wasn't legally dead until his or her heart stopped beating, so the doctors did not pronounce Kennedy dead until his heart finally stopped.\*

Ten years later, a man named Samuel Moore was shot in the head by another man. Moore was rushed to the hospital, and the doctors found that his heart was still beating. But like Kennedy, his brain was so damaged by the bullet that there was little chance that he would live, let alone recover.

Meanwhile in a city nearby, a man desperately needed a new heart. The doctors decided to cut out Moore's heart, still beating, and fly it by helicopter to the hospital in the other city. There Samuel Moore's heart was sewn into the man's chest, and it saved his life because his own heart was about to stop.

Then the trouble began. The police caught the man who had shot Samuel Moore in the head and charged him with murder. The case went to court, and the accused killer got a lawyer to argue his case.

The man's lawyer found out that Samuel Moore's heart had been cut, still beating, out of his body and sewn into another man's body. The lawyer was smart, and he knew that according to California law, a person was not dead if his or her heart was still beating. Since Samuel Moore's heart was still beating in the other man's body, Samuel Moore was not legally dead!

The case was brought before a judge. The lawyer said that if Samuel Moore wasn't legally dead, then his client couldn't be guilty of murder. For the accused person to be guilty of murder, the victim has to be dead. The lawyer said that his client was guilty only of assault, and, therefore, he should receive a shorter jail sentence than for murder.

The judge thought about this. The lawyer certainly had a point—Samuel Moore's heart was still beating. While the judge was deciding, the news came that the man with Samuel Moore's heart in him had died. Samuel Moore was now legally dead, and his killer was tried for murder, not assault.

\*By 1991, most states had laws that said a person was dead when his or her brain was dead.

1. When was President Kennedy pronounced dead?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where was Samuel Moore shot?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What were his chances of recovering?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the doctors do with Moore's heart?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did the other man need the heart?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did the accused killer's lawyer say that Samuel Moore was not dead?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did the lawyer say his client was not a murderer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What did the lawyer say his client should be charged with?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Which has a longer jail sentence, murder or assault?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What ruined the lawyer's clever argument?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you think it is best to use the brain or the heart to determine when a person is dead?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Iran, a country in the Middle East, used to be very poor. But when a great deal of oil was discovered under the ground, Iran became a very rich country in a very short time. The man who ruled Iran from 1953 to 1979 was called the Shah of Iran. He tried to spend the oil money to make Iran into a modern country. The Shah brought technicians from other countries to teach Iranians how to build highways, oil refineries, skyscrapers, and universities. He bought billions of dollars worth of jet planes, tanks, guns, cars, buses, and other modern things.

One group that was most affected by the Shah's campaign to modernize Iran were women. In the old days, Iranian women were treated as second-class people. The men were in charge, and women were expected to stay at home and be bossed around by the men. Women wore veils over their faces and a head-to-toe, black garment called a chador (CHAH-DOR) over the rest of their bodies. Back then, it was considered improper for a woman to wear pants or a dress. As Iran became a modern country, many women broke with these old traditions and dressed as they wished. Under the Shah's rule, many women went to college and began to hold important jobs.

However, many Iranians were angered by the changes made by the Shah, who would often jail or torture those who disagreed with him. In 1979 the Shah was overthrown, and a new group of leaders took over. The man most responsible for getting rid of the Shah was a very strict, religious leader called Ayatollah Khomeini. He didn't like what the Shah had been trying to do and believed that Iran should be run according to the teachings of the Muslim religion. Iranian women, he said, should go back to wearing veils and the chador.

This decision made many Iranian women very angry. They loved and respected their new leaders, but they didn't want to go back to wearing the old-fashioned chador. The first thing many women did was to read the Koran, the sacred book of the Muslim religion; they found that there was nothing in it that said they had to wear the chador. Then thousands of Iranian women went into the streets and demonstrated for their rights. The Ayatollah backed down and said that as long as the Iranian women dressed modestly, they could wear what they wanted. But during the years that followed, the Ayatollah reinforced the religious laws that placed great restrictions on women's lives, affecting how they dressed, where they worked, and what legal rights they had.

1. What made Iran such a rich country?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many years did the Shah rule?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In the old days, what did many people think about women wearing pants and dresses? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is a chador?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did women benefit from the Shah's rule?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What happened to the Shah in 1979?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did the new rulers want to change things for women? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did women go read the Koran?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did their research tell them?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How did they temporarily change their new leader's mind?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How do you feel Iranian women should dress? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Several years ago, two young men about eighteen years old were standing on a street corner in a tough neighborhood of New York City. Both men were drug addicts, hooked on heroin. They had not had any heroin for a while, and both of them were feeling sick and in need of the drug. But first they needed money to buy it.

Just then they saw an old man walking down the street toward them. He was limping and dragging his feet, and he was carrying a big shopping bag full of things he had bought in a department store. The two men looked at each other and smiled—here was the perfect person for them to rob because he was too old and weak to put up a fight. They could sell his packages, buy some heroin, and get high again.

They followed the old man for a couple of blocks. Then he turned up a dark side street. They looked around to make sure no one was watching, and then they followed him up the street. One grabbed a piece of wood and slugged the old man over the head with it. The other grabbed the shopping bag and tore open the old man's coat and grabbed his wallet. Then they both ran down the street, leaving the man lying unconscious on the ground.

Suddenly two police cars screeched around the corner in front of them. The men turned around and ran the other way, but another police car came around a corner down the block and roared toward them. They were trapped like rats with no way to escape. In a few minutes, the men were handcuffed and riding to the police station in the back of one of the police cars. They wondered what had gone wrong.

It was only later that they found out that the old man they robbed was actually a young police officer named Richard Buggy. Buggy is a human decoy. He dresses up as an old man or woman in order to catch criminals who target the elderly. But he does not work alone. There are always other police officers nearby who watch him carefully and move in when he has been attacked or robbed.

That night Buggy saw the two boys and sensed that they were thinking of robbing someone. He walked close by them and led them up the dark street to make it easy for them. He had to let them hit him and rob him—otherwise the police would not have been able to arrest the men. Buggy was taken to the hospital, but he felt he'd done a good night's work.

1. Why did the two young men need money?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did they choose the old man to rob?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did they hit the man with?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did they steal from him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened after they robbed the old man?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did the police get there so fast?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who was the old man, really?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. On what grounds do you think the two young men were sent to jail?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did Buggy have to let the men hit him? Why didn't he turn around and arrest them before they hit him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What is a human decoy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What do you think of the police trapping people into crimes this way? Is it fair?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

In 1953 a baby girl named Gail Kalmowitz was born in a New York hospital. She was two months premature and weighed only two and a half pounds, so the doctors put her in a special glass enclosure called an incubator, where she could be kept warm and be given oxygen. Two months later Gail came out of the incubator. Her mother took her home, thinking she had a normal baby.

Soon Gail's mother noticed that the baby couldn't see very well out of her right eye. A doctor told her some terrible news. Her daughter had a disease called retrolental fibroplasia; Gail was slowly going blind.

When Gail was six, her right eye was removed, and the vision in the other eye continued to get worse. She learned the braille alphabet and did her best, but as she got older, she thought her chances of getting a good job were poor. Still Gail stayed in school, and when she was eighteen years old, she went to college.

At that point Gail's father read a newspaper article about a set of premature twins who had the same disease as his daughter. The twins' parents believed that the disease was caused by the children's getting too much oxygen in the incubator. They sued the babies' doctors and won the case in court. Gail's father also decided to sue. He hired a lawyer and sued Gail's doctors and the hospital where she had been born for \$2,000,000.

Three years later, after many legal delays, the case came to court. The jury listened to the arguments on both sides, and then retired to the jury room to reach a verdict. Back in the courtroom, Gail, who was now twenty-one years old and a sophomore in college, became very nervous. She knew that the insurance company for the doctors had offered to settle the case out of court for \$165,000. What if the jury came back and found the doctors innocent? Then Gail would get nothing.

As the jury returned to the courtroom, Gail suddenly broke down. "I want to settle," she said. "I don't want to proceed." The judge did not ask the jury for its verdict. He called the defense lawyers to the bench and settled the case for \$165,000 to Gail. Moments later Gail learned that the jury had found the doctors guilty and had decided to award her \$900,000 in damages.

1. What was Gail's problem when she was born?

---

2. Why is an incubator necessary for the survival of premature babies?

---

3. What is retrolental fibroplasia?

---

4. What caused the disease in Gail?

---

5. Why did Gail think she would have trouble getting a good job?

---

6. What evidence is there in the story that Gail had a lot of courage and intelligence despite her handicap?

---

7. Where did her father get the idea of suing the doctors?

---

8. Do you think he was right to sue for \$2,000,000?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

9. Why did Gail decide to settle before hearing the verdict?

---

10. If you had been Gail at that moment in court, what would you have done?

---

11. Check the one that is *not* true.

- Premature babies must be carefully treated.
- Most premature babies go blind later on.
- Doctors can be sued if they make mistakes.
- Cases can be settled outside a courtroom.
- Cases sometimes take a long time to be tried.

The West Indies is a group of islands in the Caribbean sea. Most people living on the islands are black, but there are also a number of whites. For hundreds of years, many of the islands were controlled by countries in Europe. Many of the whites came from these countries and became very rich. But there are some whites who are very poor. These people are called Redlegs, and this is how they got to the West Indies.

From the mid-1600s white people from England and other countries in Europe came to the West Indies and started farms to grow sugarcane. These plantation owners brought in slaves to do the hard work of planting and cutting the sugarcane under the hot tropical sun. A lot of the slaves were black people from Africa, but thousands of slaves were white people from England.

Around 1650 a man named Oliver Cromwell took over England. Cromwell was prejudiced against Catholics, and he sent thousands of them off to the West Indies as slaves. "We must clear England of this pollution!" he said.

Between 1650 and 1833, any person in jail in England was in danger of being expelled from the country and sent 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to become a slave in the West Indies. Beggars were picked up from the streets and sent off as slaves, as were many orphans (children without parents). Those in power in England thought the country would be better off if these people were sent away to a place like the West Indies.

In those days, there were sailors who knew how much the plantation owners in the West Indies would pay for slaves. These sailors kidnapped young men and children in England, brought them across the Atlantic, and sold them as slaves. Thousands of them were smuggled out of England by these greedy sailors. Parents warned their children to keep off the streets, or they might never be seen in England again.

The trip across the Atlantic Ocean was terrible. The old sailing ships were packed full with people. They were so crowded that all kinds of diseases like smallpox, plague, and others spread quickly from one person to another. Often more than a quarter of the people on a ship would die before it reached the West Indies. Only the strongest people survived.

(continued)

1. What are the poor whites in the West Indies called?

2. How did they get there?

3. Why did the sugar-plantation owners need slaves?

4. From what two places did the slaves come?

5. Whom did Oliver Cromwell send to the West Indies?

6. Why did he send them?

7. What other people in England were being sent to the West Indies as slaves?

8. Why did some sailors kidnap young men and children from England?

9. Why did so many people die in the ships crossing the Atlantic?

10. Do you think it was right to send people from jails in England to be slaves in the West Indies?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

When the white slaves reached the islands of the West Indies, their fate was as bad as that of the black slaves from Africa. They were put on auction blocks and made to stand for hours in the hot sun while the plantation owners chose which ones to buy. Their white legs got terribly sunburned—that is how the slaves got the name Redlegs, a name still used today.

Bringing slaves from England continued until 1833, when the English government made slavery illegal. Then all the slaves on the islands were set free, but life still wasn't easy. These former slaves had to work hard in the hot sun to make enough money to stay alive.

Many of the Redlegs did not want to mix with the black people on the island. They told their children not to marry blacks or even play with them. To keep their skin as white as possible, many Redlegs stayed out of the sun and covered themselves when they went outside. They were proud of being white and thought it made them better than black people.

In the last hundred years, blacks have taken over the islands in the Caribbean. They now run the governments, police, and armies on most of these islands. Many descendants of the Redlegs, however, still live as poorly as their ancestors.

Some Redlegs live in very simple grass and mud huts with dirt floors. They earn just enough money to live on by making small things from clay and straw and selling them to the tourists who come to the island from the United States and Europe. These Redlegs continue to keep apart from others and reject any marriage with a black person. Few of their children see TV or movies or read any books other than the Bible.

Many of the Redlegs have become inbred, which means they have had children only with other members of their small group. Because of this inbreeding, they are more likely to get diseases. To strengthen their people, they would have to reproduce with other groups. But they fiercely resist intermarrying with other groups on the islands and are too poor to move elsewhere. So the Redlegs will probably stay in the West Indies, and the possibility of their leading long and healthy lives may decrease with time.

1. What were the white slaves called?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why were they called this?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What happened to the slaves in 1833?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did this change their lives?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did many of the Redlegs feel about having their children marry blacks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did many Redlegs try to stay out of the sun?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who runs the islands now?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What are the houses of some of the Redlegs like?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How do many of the Redlegs make money?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you think the Redlegs are religious?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What does it mean to become inbred?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How could the Redlegs solve this problem?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What may happen to the Redlegs if they don't marry outside their group?  
\_\_\_\_\_

The story opens about 1930 in a small town in the southern United States. Scout, a nine-year-old white girl, lives with her older brother and her father, Atticus, who is a lawyer in the town. Scout's mother is dead.

Scout and her brother like to spy on the person living in a house down the street. They have never seen Boo Radley, the man who lives there. He never comes out, and the people in the town tell stories about his being crazy. One night Scout and her brother sneak up on his house and try to peek in, but someone fires a shotgun at them. They keep their distance after that.

Soon after this a black man named Tom Robinson is accused of attacking a white woman. Scout's father, Atticus, is given the job of defending Tom in court. Atticus is sure that Tom is innocent, but he knows that it will be hard to prove this to the prejudiced people on the jury. No black people are on the jury.

While Atticus is getting ready for the trial, Scout and her brother are teased by the kids at their school. The kids call Atticus a "nigger lover" because he is defending a black man. Scout and her brother get in a number of fights while sticking up for their father.

As the trial begins, Atticus presents some good evidence. He shows that the white woman who was supposed to have been beaten by Tom Robinson was hit on the right side of her body. Since she said that the man who beat her was standing in front of her, this would mean that he must have been left-handed. Atticus then shows that Tom Robinson's left arm is paralyzed and has been for years.

Then Atticus tricks the woman's father into showing that he is left-handed. Atticus accuses the father of being the one who beat up his own daughter and then of trying to blame it on an innocent black man. The man gets very angry at Atticus. But it is clear that Atticus has found the truth.

Even with this evidence, the jury still finds Tom Robinson guilty. Atticus appeals to a higher court, but while they are waiting for the trial, Tom tries to escape from jail and is shot dead.

Then late one night, the woman's father tries to kill Scout and her brother when they are coming home from a play at school. Boo Radley comes out of his house for the first time in twenty years and saves their lives.

\* From a book by Harper Lee.

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---

2. What happens when they try to peek into the house?

---

---

3. Why do Scout and her brother get into fights at school?

---

---

4. How does Atticus show that the woman was beaten by a left-handed person?

---

---

5. How does this prove that Tom didn't do it?

---

---

6. According to Atticus, who did beat up the woman?

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7. Why do you think the jury still finds Tom guilty?

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8. What happened to Tom?

9. Why do you think the woman's father wants to kill Scout and her brother?

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10. Who saves Scout and her brother?

11. What do you think Boo Radley was really like?

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One October many years ago, a rugby team was flying to the country of Chile in South America to play rugby with another team. Rugby is a sport like American football, except that the players don't wear helmets and pads.

As the plane was flying over the Andes Mountains, a terrible storm struck. The plane was thrown around in the sky like a feather. The plane plunged toward the mountains, and the rugby players were sure they would die. The pilot sent a radio message for help just before they crashed.

For weeks people from Chile and other countries searched through the mountains. They hoped to find the wreckage of the plane or to see some sign that the players or the pilot had survived. But the weather was bad, and they found nothing. After a long search, they had to give up. Everyone thought that the men on the plane were dead somewhere up in the mountains.

Two months after the plane crashed, two of the players staggered into a small village at the bottom of the mountains. They said they had walked for ten days through the snow and ice to get down the mountain. They said there were sixteen more people alive where the plane had crashed. These two men had been sent to find help because they were the strongest.

The police in the village told the Air Force the news, and a helicopter came to pick up the two survivors. They showed the helicopter pilot where the plane had crashed. When they got there, they found sixteen men waving at them, they picked them up and took them to hospitals to recover from their ordeal.

Everyone wanted to know how the men had managed to stay alive for two months in the snow and ice of the Andes Mountains. It seemed like a miracle. At first the men said they had lived by eating chocolate bars and picking small plants that grew in the mountains.

Later the real story came out. Twenty-one men had been killed in the plane crash and eight more had died in an avalanche a few days later. The survivors saw that help was not coming soon, and they knew that they did not have enough food to stay alive. Reluctantly they ate the bodies of the dead men. That was how they survived until help arrived.

1. To what country was the rugby team flying?

---

2. Why did the plane crash?

---

3. Where did the plane crash?

---

4. Why didn't rescue parties find the plane?

---

5. How long did it take the two men to walk to the village?

---

6. Why were these two men chosen to go for help?

---

7. How did the men go back to the plane?

---

8. How many survivors were there in all?

---

9. Why were people surprised to see the men alive after two months?

---

---

10. What had the men eaten to stay alive that long?

---

11. Why do you think they lied at first?

---

---

12. Do you think what the men did was wrong?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Grant Sullen was a seventeen-year-old farm boy who liked animals. One day Grant's father won a dice game at a local bar. The prize was a truck full of chickens. When Grant's father found out that the chickens were alive, he wanted to get rid of them, but Grant begged his father to let him take care of the chickens. Finally Grant's father said that he could.

That winter was a cold one, and more than a hundred of the chickens died. Somebody told Grant that another kind of chicken called Rhode Island Reds could stand the cold better than the ones he had. Grant bought a few and bred them with the ones he had.

When the chicks of this breeding hatched, Grant had quite a surprise. One of the chicks was huge! This chick grew bigger and bigger and finally weighed twenty-two pounds. An ordinary male chicken weighs around eight pounds. Grant's chicken was one of the biggest in the world. By accident, he had bred a super-chicken.

Grant named this enormous chicken Weirdo. Weirdo loved to fight. Weirdo's first chick hatched and grew to fourteen pounds, and then Weirdo killed it. One night two cats sneaked into Weirdo's chicken coop to catch a tasty chicken. Before the cats knew what was happening, Weirdo attacked and killed them. Another time a dog got into the coop, and the super-chicken wounded it badly.

The story of the twenty-two pound super-chicken spread, and soon some reporters came to the farm to write about Weirdo and Grant. The stories were in newspapers all over the world.

Grant got letters from chicken farmers in other countries asking him to sell Weirdo or to tell the secret of how to produce such a big chicken. Farmers in Spain, France, and Mexico each offered Grant as much as \$2,000 for the super-chicken. One man offered him \$4,000 to use Weirdo in a cockfight with another rooster.

Grant had come to like Weirdo and didn't want to sell him. He wanted to raise a lot of these super-chickens and to try to get one even bigger than twenty-two pounds. He decided to go into business breeding and selling super-chickens.

1. How did Grant's father win the chickens?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did Grant want to keep them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did so many of the chickens die?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Grant breed his chickens with Rhode Island Reds?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was special about one of the chicks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Did Grant breed an enormous chicken on purpose?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What happened to two cats that sneaked into the chicken coop?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did people in other countries hear about Weirdo?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why do you think chicken farmers wanted so much to buy Weirdo?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What did the man who offered Grant \$4,000 want to use Weirdo for?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why didn't Grant sell Weirdo?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gale Sayers and Brian Piccolo were both star players for the Chicago Bears football team. They were the two halfbacks, and they scored a lot of the team's touchdowns. The two men were also very close friends. They liked to joke with each other, spend time together, and when the team traveled to other cities, they roomed together.

What was different about this friendship was that Gale Sayers was black, and Brian Piccolo was white. Brian had grown up in the South and knew about prejudice against blacks. Yet the two men ignored the problems existing between some black and white people and were able to enjoy each other.

Brian Piccolo got many letters telling him it was wrong to be friends with a black man. One letter told him he was stupid to be rooming with a "darkie." Some people asked Gale Sayers what he was doing being friends with a "honkey."

The two men didn't care about the hate mail they got. They even made jokes about their friendship. Brian remembered how black people used to have to use different public bathrooms from white people in the South. One day a reporter asked Brian what it was like rooming with a black man. Brian said, "It's all right as long as Sayers doesn't use the bathroom!" Brian Piccolo was a terrific halfback for the Bears. One season he gained 937 yards—more than most runners in the league. Then on November 15, 1969, Brian scored his last touchdown. He left the game and told his coach that he had a bad headache. He went to the hospital, and the doctors did tests and found that he had cancer. His days were numbered.

For the next seven months, Brian suffered terrible pain. His wife, Joy, and his friend, Gale Sayers, spent much of their time at his bedside. Even though he was in pain, Brian kept his sense of humor. When he learned that Gale had given a pint of his blood to the hospital for Brian, he said, "No wonder I've been wanting chitterlings!"

Then at the age of twenty-six, Brian died. Gale was there at the end and was unashamed to weep openly. Their friendship became a symbol of what could happen in America.

1. What position did Sayers and Piccolo play for the Bears?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When did they room together?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was unusual about their friendship?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where did Brian grow up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Is this the only part of the United States where there is prejudice against black people?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did the two friends deal with racial prejudice?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did Brian make the joke about Gale not being allowed to use the bathroom?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was wrong with Brian in 1969?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What does the sentence "His days were numbered" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How much longer did he live?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What does the friendship between Gale and Brian mean to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Penny Patterson, a young graduate student at Stanford University, spent six years on an unusual project. She took on a baby gorilla named Koko and taught her to talk using sign language.

Before Penny began her work with Koko, most scientists were convinced that gorillas were not very intelligent creatures. Scientists preferred to work with chimpanzees, which seemed smarter and are smaller than the 250-pound, full-grown gorillas.

Penny was sure that gorillas were at least as intelligent as other primates. She wasn't afraid to work with them because she had read that they are supposed to be quite tame and shy. She moved Koko into a trailer and equipped it with a trapeze, an exercise bar, a toilet, a sleeping box with towels, a motorcycle tire, and an assortment of toys. Then she and her assistants began to give Koko lessons in sign language.

At first it was a painful process. When Penny held Koko's hands and tried to mold them into the right sign for a word, Koko would bite her. It was also hard to toilet train the gorilla. After Koko broke several windows, they put chain link over all the glass in the trailer and got an unbreakable mirror. When Penny took Koko to her own house, the gorilla behaved awfully; she slammed all the doors, climbed up the walls and swung from the molding, and bounced so hard on Penny's bed that it collapsed.

Gradually Koko learned sign language. By the time she was six and a half years old, she knew 375 different words. She could express herself in sentences. She even invented new words by putting together words she already knew. For instance, to express the idea of "sip," she made the signs for "eat" and "drink" together. When she saw a zebra, she made the signs for "white tiger."

Koko usually got up around 8:00 A.M. and had breakfast with Penny. Then they would clean Koko's room and settle down at a computer keyboard for a language lesson. When Koko pressed the keys, she heard each letter and made the sign for it. Afterward she could play for an hour with Michael, another gorilla in the trailer. Lunch was next. Koko loved corn on the cob and tomatoes and hated spinach. After lunch, the daily sign language lesson began, followed by another play session with Michael, and sometimes a drive in Penny's car. The gorillas loved a car ride. They made signs for Penny to turn this way and that—anywhere but toward home.

(continued)

1. What were two reasons scientists prefer to work with chimpanzees rather than gorillas?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why wasn't Penny afraid of gorillas?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did Penny have to get an unbreakable mirror?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What was Koko's vocabulary after six and a half years?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How did Penny furnish the trailer?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Koko mean by "white tiger"?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How did the computer keyboard help Koko?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. When was Koko's daily sign language class?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What did the gorillas tell Penny in sign language when she was driving?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why didn't Koko go home to Penny's house?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Are you surprised that a gorilla can be taught all these things?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

After dinner the two gorillas would return to their rooms and spend time talking to Penny in sign language and looking through books and magazines, making signs for the things they recognized. Around 7:30 P.M., both gorillas had their teeth brushed, were rubbed with baby oil, and were given a special fruit dessert before they went to bed. Even with this treat, Koko usually cried when Penny left her for the night.

Penny and others working with the gorillas saw many examples of Koko's and Michael's showing feelings, which most scientists used to think were felt only by humans. Once Koko saw a picture of a horse with a metal bit in its mouth. She made the signs for "horse sad," indicating that she felt sorry for the horse, which had that uncomfortable thing in its mouth.

Koko could also be playful with her keepers and call them names. Once she called one of the women "bird" and "nuts." Sometimes she made jokes. Once she pointed to a white towel and made the sign for "red." A human told her that she was wrong—it was white, but Koko kept insisting that it was red. Finally she picked a tiny piece of red lint off the white towel and held it up. She had been having a joke at her keeper's expense.

Koko could also tell lies in sign language. Once she broke the sink in her trailer, and when Penny returned, Koko blamed it on the human who had been in the trailer with her. She seemed to think Penny would believe the gorilla she loved, not the trainer.

Koko was able to apologize too. Once, after she had bitten Penny's hand, she got into a discussion about whether the mark on Penny's hand was a "scratch" or a "bite." Three days later Koko got around to saying she was sorry.

A gorilla can make sounds, but its vocal cords, tongue, and lips are not suited to speech the way a human's are. Once Koko picked up a telephone and started "talking" to the operator. The woman was so startled by the noises that she had the call traced, thinking it might be an obscene call or a dying person.

Penny Patterson told about her work with Koko and Michael by writing many articles and books. She has made an important contribution, making herself and her gorillas famous in the scientific community.

1. Why do you think Koko cried when Penny left her at night?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think Penny gave the gorillas a special treat before they went to bed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Koko show that she could feel pity?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How do you know Koko had a sense of humor?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did Koko think she could get away with her lie about the broken sink?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why couldn't Koko talk like a human?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did the telephone operator have Koko's call traced?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Write five adjectives to describe Koko.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What do you think Penny's work with Koko has proved? Do you think it's worth the time she's spent on it? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Vietnam War was unlike any war the United States had fought before. American soldiers were sent to a faraway country in Southeast Asia and asked to fight for a government that was hated by many of its people. Many battles took place deep in the jungle, and the enemy soldiers who were trying to defeat the government were very clever at sneaking through the jungle, digging tunnels, and making booby traps. American soldiers found the war very frustrating because they seldom saw these enemy soldiers.

The worst year of the war for American soldiers was 1968. For the first time it looked as though the United States would not win the war. Enemy soldiers were on the attack all over Vietnam, and many Americans were being killed. One day in 1968, a company of American soldiers got orders to attack a small village called My Lai. They were told that the village of My Lai was full of enemy soldiers. The Americans were nervous as they approached the village. They knew that even women and children might be carrying guns or hand grenades.

When the American soldiers moved into the village, nobody shot at them. It looked as though the enemy soldiers had already left My Lai. This frequently happened in Vietnam—someone would tell the enemy that the Americans were coming, and the soldiers would leave just in time.

The officer in charge of the American soldiers, Lieutenant William Calley, ordered his men to round up all the people in the village. The soldiers got all the women, children, and old men out of their huts and collected them together in big groups.

Then Lieutenant Calley shot these people down, and he ordered his men to follow suit. Some of his men obeyed him; others thought there was something wrong and refused to obey. Calley killed more than one hundred people, including little babies. His men may have killed as many as three hundred more. This incident was called the My Lai Massacre.

For a long time no one heard about it. Then a soldier who had been at My Lai told the story to a reporter, and soon the whole world heard about it. Lieutenant Calley was arrested and put on trial for killing people who were not enemy soldiers. Although he was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison, he spent only three days in a military stockade. Richard Nixon, who was president, ordered his release to house arrest, and three years later Calley was free on parole. For the last twenty years, he has lived with his family in a small southern town, working as a jeweler.

1. Why was it hard for American soldiers to kill the enemy in Vietnam?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why were Americans suspicious of women and children?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why were the Americans nervous as they came into My Lai?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What had happened to the enemy soldiers in My Lai?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did anyone shoot at the Americans?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Calley order his men to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. About how many people were killed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did some soldiers refuse to shoot?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Do soldiers have the right to kill innocent people who are not enemy soldiers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How did the story get out?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What happened to Calley?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Would you have obeyed Calley's orders?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In 1915, just after the beginning of World War I, the *Lusitania*, the biggest passenger ship in the world, sailed from New York and headed for Great Britain. It carried a full load of passengers, some of whom were nervous that a German submarine might try to sink the ship. German submarines had already sunk many ships.

The captain told the passengers not to worry. He said that German subs would not sink a ship carrying passengers. He said the submarines were interested in sinking only the ships that were carrying guns or ammunition that might be used against Germany. When the *Lusitania* was nearly across the Atlantic and about to sail into a safe English harbor, someone spotted a torpedo coming toward the ship. There was an explosion as the torpedo hit the side of the ship, and then there was another much bigger explosion inside the *Lusitania*. The second explosion tore a great hole in the side of the ship, and it sank very quickly. More than a thousand people were killed, many of them Americans.

This tragedy made Americans, who had not yet entered the war, very angry at Germany. They thought that it was cruel for a German submarine to sink a passenger ship and kill innocent people. Many Americans wanted to go to war with Germany because of the sinking of the *Lusitania*. Not long after this, the Congress of the United States did declare war, and American soldiers were sent to Europe to fight Germany.

It was only years later that the truth came out about the sinking of the *Lusitania*. A man named Colin Simpson learned that the *Lusitania* had secretly been carrying guns and ammunition to England. The Germans knew this, and that's why they sank the ship. Colin Simpson also learned that the ship wouldn't have sunk if it hadn't been for the ammunition in the hold. When the torpedo hit the side of the ship, it made only a small hole that would not have been big enough to sink it. The second explosion was the ammunition blowing up. That's what sank the *Lusitania*.

Colin Simpson thinks that the British government knew the Germans were going to sink the *Lusitania*. He thinks they let the Germans sink it so that the Americans would get angry at Germany and enter the war on England's side. This theory is hotly denied by the British government.

1. Where was the *Lusitania* going?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the ship carrying?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why were some of the passengers nervous?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did the captain tell them that German submarines wouldn't sink the ship?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened to the *Lusitania*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why were Americans especially angry at Germany for this tragic event?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did many angry Americans want to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was the secret cargo on the ship?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Did the German submarine know of the cargo?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Was the submarine's torpedo enough to sink the ship?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What tore the big hole that sank the ship?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why does Colin Simpson think that the English knew, but didn't stop the submarine from sinking the *Lusitania*?  
\_\_\_\_\_

May Chinn grew up in a very poor section of New York City. Her father had been a slave but escaped to the North in 1864. He had trouble getting a steady job. The Chinn family lived in a one-room apartment with no windows. They had to walk through another family's apartment to get to the toilet. When they were not using the bathtub, they put boards over it and used it as a table.

May's mother worked as a maid in wealthy people's homes. Times were hard for the family, and Mr. Chinn sometimes drank too much. May got good grades in school and learned to play the piano. When she was young, May got an unusual illness in her jaw. It took six operations to cure her. The surgery left a scar on her right cheek, and May was self-conscious about it. She didn't like to have pictures taken of that side of her face. She also was very shy with boys.

When she was close to graduating from high school, May got a failing grade in a course and decided to drop out of school and work in a factory. Luckily, a friend convinced her to take a college entrance exam. May did so well that she was admitted to college without a high-school diploma. When May's mother heard the news, she reached inside her dress and pulled out \$400 for tuition. She had been saving the money for years for just such an opportunity.

In college May began as a music major but decided later to change her major to science and become a doctor. Her grades were good, and soon May was an intern, riding the ambulances to emergencies. She learned how to treat gunshot wounds, stab wounds, food poisoning, pneumonia, and other problems. May also kept playing the piano, and for a while she played for the famous, black opera singer, Paul Robeson.

As a doctor, May Chinn encountered two kinds of prejudice. There were male doctors who didn't think women should practice medicine, and white doctors who didn't want blacks to become doctors. They made things difficult and wouldn't allow her to work in private hospitals.

But Dr. Chinn wasn't discouraged. She built up a large practice among the poor in Harlem and for a long time was the only black woman doctor there. She specialized in preventing and diagnosing cancer. She happily dedicated her life to her patients for more than fifty years.

1. Why did May's father leave the South?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why didn't the Chinn family have sunlight in their apartment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where did most of the family's income come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did May get a scar on her cheek?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What effect did this scar have on her?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did May drop out of high school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did she get into a college without a high-school diploma?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What made May's mother get out her life savings?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why do you think Mrs. Chinn kept the money hidden?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What was May's main interest outside of medicine?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What two things about May made other doctors prejudiced against her?  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
12. What contributions did May make as a doctor?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Early one morning on August 8, 1963, a train was speeding through the countryside of England on its way to London. Suddenly the engineer saw a red light ahead and stopped the train. Eleven men jumped onto the train and stole almost six million dollars that it was carrying to a bank in London.

The Great Train Robbery, as it was called, was planned by a man named Ronald Biggs. It was one of the biggest robberies in history. The thieves left behind some clues, however, and soon the English police had caught them all. Biggs got a thirty-year jail sentence. Unfortunately the police could not find most of the stolen money; the thieves had hidden it well.

One day in 1965, a young woman visited Ronald Biggs in jail and whispered something to him. Later that day when Biggs was out in the exercise yard of the prison with the other prisoners, a large truck pulled up beside the fifty-foot-high prison wall. Two masked men threw a rope ladder over the wall and blew a whistle. This was the signal the woman had told Biggs about. He ran to the ladder and started to climb it, but the guards grabbed him and pulled him down. The other prisoners pulled the guards away, and Biggs was able to climb over the wall and roar away in the truck.

After this Biggs left England hiding in the bottom of a cargo ship. He hid in Belgium for a while, then traveled to Paris where a plastic surgeon changed his face. He also lost a lot of weight. Now he was sure that people would not recognize him.

Biggs then went to Australia and his wife came from England to join him. He lived happily there until somehow the police found out where he was. He escaped just hours before they arrived to arrest him. After two more narrow escapes in Australia, he managed to get onto a boat to South America in 1970.

Biggs changed his name and lived in Brazil for four years. When he ran out of money, he wrote to a friend in England asking him to send some of the hidden robbery money. The police intercepted the letter and finally caught up with him in Brazil. But the English police could not arrest him there because he and a Brazilian woman had a child. According to Brazilian law, the father of a Brazilian citizen cannot be extradited (taken out of the country to be tried for a crime in another country). Biggs's English wife had agreed to his marrying the Brazilian woman. Biggs is still living in Brazil, working at odd jobs, including being the lead singer in a rock group. He claims that he has given up crime and is quite happy. The British government continues to look for a way to catch him.

1. How did the thieves get the train to stop?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why were the thieves caught?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why didn't the police get back all of the stolen money?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the woman visitor whisper to Biggs?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who helped Biggs climb up the rope ladder?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Biggs get out of England?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What two steps did Biggs take so people would not recognize him?  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where did Biggs's wife go to join him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Where did Biggs go when the police found him in that place?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did Biggs write to his friend in England?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How did the police catch him in Brazil?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why couldn't the English police bring Biggs back to England?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The first plane in America was invented about 1900 by the Wright brothers. It was made of wood and paper and had a small engine that turned one propeller. Soon better planes were made that could go fifty or sixty miles an hour. Later people figured out how to make planes out of metal with more powerful engines. By the 1940s, planes with four engines were carrying passengers long distances at more than two hundred miles an hour.

During World War II, the jet engine was invented, making it possible for planes to fly even faster. By 1960 there were huge passenger jets that could fly at more than 560 miles an hour and go more than 3,000 miles without stopping for fuel.

After World War II, the Air Force worked on making faster fighter planes. Soon they had a plane that could go faster than the speed of sound, which is 738 miles an hour. The Air Force built many fighter planes and bombers that could fly 1,500 miles an hour and faster. When one of these planes flies across the sky, you see it but don't hear anything. Then the sound comes across the sky; the sound was left behind because the plane is supersonic, or faster than the speed of sound.

There are a number of problems with supersonic planes. As the speed of the plane goes over 738 miles an hour, it makes a loud boom that sounds like thunder. This is called a sonic boom. It can break windows and crack walls of buildings on the ground. It can also scare the daylights out of people, especially babies and old people. Supersonic planes also pollute the air with their big engines.

In 1969 President Nixon proposed that the United States build passenger planes that would go faster than the speed of sound. The planes would be called supersonic transports (SSTs) and would be able to fly across the United States in only two hours. (It takes six hours in a regular jet.) Nixon thought that if the United States built the SSTs, other countries would buy them from us and admire our technology.

Many people thought building SSTs was a terrible idea because these jets cause sonic booms and pollution. These people said the SSTs would cause damage and bother people everywhere. Finally Congress voted against having the SST built, and the idea was dropped.

1. Who built the first successful airplane in America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How fast did four-propeller passenger planes go?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How fast do jet passenger planes go?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How fast does sound travel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you call a plane that goes faster than sound?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What are three problems caused by supersonic planes?  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_
7. How much sooner would you get across the United States in an SST than in a regular jet?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did Nixon want the United States to build the SST?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did Congress vote against building SSTs?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you think we should build the SST?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the Pacific Ocean, there is a group of islands called the Philippines. Most of the islands are covered with very thick jungle, and some of the islands have never been explored.

In 1972 a group of scientists flew by helicopter into the deep jungle of the island of Mindanao. They came to see a tribe of people called the Tasaday. The 26 people in this tribe were hunter-gatherers—they lived the way all humans did before people began to farm. The Tasaday slept in caves, picked berries and fruits, caught fish and tadpoles, and occasionally killed a deer.

They used crude stone tools and weapons and didn't know anything about metal tools or knives. They knew nothing about guns, wars, television, planes, or about anything else in the world beyond their jungle.

Some people have a stereotype in their minds that people who live like the Tasaday are savages living brutish and violent lives. But the visiting scientists found the Tasaday to be kind and welcoming people who liked to smile, laugh, and tell stories. When scientists came in with cameras, the Tasaday played around to get their pictures taken and imitated the different people who were visiting them.

There never seemed to be any fighting among the Tasaday, and they did not hit or beat their children. In fact, their language, as the scientists came to know it, didn't even have a word for "argument." The Tasaday seemed to be having very few problems.

The scientists were fascinated. Other scientists and photographers came into the jungle to take pictures and write articles. The news of the Tasaday made many people rethink their assumptions about people who live as our ancestors did thousands of years ago.

But in 1972, the Tasaday's way of life was in danger of being destroyed by "progress." Thousands of men from a logging company were moving through the jungle toward their area, cutting down all the trees to sell for lumber. It wouldn't be long before the loggers destroyed the jungle home of the Tasaday.

The scientists went straight to the government of the Philippines and asked that the logging company be stopped from getting any closer to the Tasaday. The government listened to the scientists and ordered the loggers to stay away from the Tasaday and to let them continue their peaceful, happy, isolated existence.

(continued)

1. Why haven't some parts of the Philippines been explored?

2. How did the scientists get into the jungle where the Tasaday live?

3. This selection says that the Tasaday lived as hunter-gatherers. What do you think this means?

4. What do the Tasaday eat?

5. How do the Tasaday treat each other?

6. What evidence is there that the Tasaday do not like to argue?

7. Why do you think some people assume that people who live like the Tasaday are savage?

8. Why was the Tasaday's way of life in danger at the time the scientists visited them?

9. What did the government of the Philippines do to help the Tasaday?

10. If you were a young Tasaday, do you think you would rather live in the jungle or move to a city?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

In 1986, fourteen years after the worldwide publicity about the Tasaday, a Swiss journalist and scientist named Oswald Iten revisited their island. He was surprised to find that the Tasaday were living on the edge of the jungle, wearing jeans and T-shirts, and using all sorts of modern inventions.

According to Iten, the Tasaday he spoke with admitted that the whole story of their tribe had been a hoax. They said they were from a nearby tribe and had been asked to pretend to be Tasaday by a member of the Philippine government.

Why would the government want to fool people all over the world about the Tasaday? Iten said that the President of the Philippines had a plan to make money from the jungle in which the Tasaday lived.

Many scientists believed they had been tricked. Thinking back on the original visits to the jungle in 1972, they remembered that the government had allowed them to visit for only three hours a day and had tightly controlled what they saw. They remembered that the stone tools they saw had seemed fake, and that there were no signs of garbage mounds, which are found in all societies.

If the Tasaday were a hoax, why were people so ready to believe in them? Maybe they wanted to believe that our far-back ancestors were not savages but peaceful and happy.

But others did not believe it was a hoax. Of course the Tasaday would take on new ways after learning about the outside world in 1972, they said. It was hard to keep up their way of life after seeing metal knives and tools and more comfortable clothing. Some scientists carefully studied the language and culture of the Tasaday, and reported that they really were a tribe that had lived in isolation for at least seven generations.

Some people think that it is the logging companies that are spreading the story that the Tasaday are a hoax. The loggers have not been allowed to cut down and sell the trees of the Tasaday's jungle, and they want to get at those trees. If they are spreading the story in order to get what they want, it's not working. The government of the Philippines has stood by their original position and has not let the loggers into that part of the jungle.

There have been several meetings of scientists to debate the Tasaday question. One fact that makes people think the Tasaday are not authentic is the size of their tribe—only 26 people. Scientists believe that a group of humans has to have at least 400 members to reproduce and survive over the years.

1. When did Oswald Iten revisit the Tasaday?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was Iten surprised when he saw the Tasaday again?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Some of the Tasaday said that the story of the tribe was a hoax. What do you think this means?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. According to Iten, why would the President of the Philippines want to fool people about the Tasaday?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What made some of the scientists think the tribe was a hoax?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why would people want to believe that our ancestors were peaceful and happy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why do some scientists believe that the Tasaday are a tribe that had lived in isolation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What has the government of the Philippines done since the spreading of the hoax story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What is one of the biggest reasons why some scientists believe the tribe is a hoax?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you think the Tasaday are a hoax?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In February of 1976, there was a fire in a large building in Boston, Massachusetts. The building was engulfed in flames, and the fire looked as if it might spread to a housing project across the street. Firefighters and police officers ran through the project banging on doors and telling people to get out.

At one apartment, the two old people who lived inside wouldn't open their door, and they refused to come out. The police told them that their building might burst into flames at any moment. The old people said that they were afraid they would be beaten up by the kids in the project if they came out. Finally the police officers convinced them to leave their apartment.

Outside, a reporter from a Boston newspaper happened to talk to these two old people. The next morning thousands of people read the story of Helen and David Cox on the front page of the newspaper.

Helen and David, 75 and 73 years old, were brother and sister. They had little money and no family to take care of them. They had been living in the housing project for twenty years. At first it was all right, but as the years passed they were robbed and beaten again and again. David had been mugged fifteen times.

They went out less and less, until finally they became prisoners in their own apartment. A boy upstairs bought them groceries, charging them five dollars each time. The mail carrier deposited their Social Security checks in the bank. When the police found the Coxes, David hadn't been out for three years, and his sister, Helen, hadn't been outside for six years.

These two old people weren't even safe in their own apartment. Kids from the project often broke into their place, robbing, beating, and terrorizing them. The kids ripped out their light switches, so they had almost no light in the apartment and had to sit in darkness a lot of the time. The kids smashed their reading glasses, so they couldn't read books or magazines or newspapers. Once the kids beat Helen's head against a radiator and shouted for her money, but she had none. She screamed, but no one came to help her.

The Coxes had no television, radio, or telephone. Most of the time they sat in the darkness, waiting for the kids to come back. These two old people lived in complete terror.

*(continued)*

1. Why did the police bang on the Coxes' door?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. At first, why did the Coxes refuse to leave?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why had they completely stopped going out?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When had Helen last gone out?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why was their food more expensive?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What were two reasons why they couldn't read?  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why couldn't they telephone for help?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you think they knew what was happening in the world outside?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why do you think the kids kept coming back when they must have known that the Coxes had no money?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How did the people of Boston hear this story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What might be done to prevent this type of thing from happening to old people?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The story of the Coxes was printed in the Boston newspaper the morning after the fire. From that moment on, the lives of Helen and David Cox changed completely. If it hadn't been for the fire near their apartment, nobody would ever have heard about them.

The story in the newspaper shocked people all over the city. Why hadn't the mayor or the city government done something about these poor old people? Helen and David Cox had written letters to the mayor and other city officials asking to be moved to a place where they wouldn't be terrorized by kids. They had never been moved.

Once a few years earlier, they had been told that they could come and look at a new apartment in another part of the city. But the Coxes were too afraid to leave their apartment, and they didn't have a telephone to call and explain why they couldn't come. So the government gave the apartment to some other people.

The story in the newspaper made the mayor and the city government look very bad. It appeared that they didn't care about the lives of poor people. When the newspaper story came out, the city officials who were responsible started doing something fast.

The mayor's office found a new apartment for the Coxes in a safer area of the city and made arrangements for them to move the very next day. The mayor's office agreed to pay for the moving van. What the city's government hadn't been able to do in all the years the Coxes had been suffering, it now did in a few hours.

When Helen Cox heard the news, her face lit up with joy. "Oh, my God, David," she said to her brother, "all our prayers have been answered. Now we can live like human beings!" She and her brother pulled together their few belongings and got ready to move to their new apartment. They weren't sad to leave the project where they'd lived for twenty years—it held many bad memories for them.

Hundreds of people offered money and presents to the Coxes. One businessperson gave them a new color television set, a portable radio, and new reading glasses. When they arrived at their new apartment, quite a few people were there to greet them. Now they are able to live out their lives in some kind of peace and dignity. But how many others are there whose stories have not been told?

1. How did many people feel when they read the story of the Coxes in the paper?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In what way were the Coxes lucky?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why had the Coxes missed a chance to move to a new apartment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do you think the mayor helped the Coxes so quickly?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think the city officials hadn't helped the Coxes before this?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why were the Coxes happier with their new apartment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why didn't they have to pay to move there?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why do you think people gave them gifts?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you think there are more people in the city living in fear as the Coxes did?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. If so, what makes you think so?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Several years ago the United States Navy finished building a new submarine called the *Greenling*. Before the submarine could be sent out on a regular mission, it had to be checked to make sure nothing would go wrong. The captain and sailors took the submarine out into the Atlantic Ocean and put it through a series of tests.

Everything seemed to be working fine. Then they began the most dangerous part of the tests—taking the submarine down very deep to see if it was strong enough to stand the pressure. You may know how the pressure can hurt your ears at the bottom of a swimming pool. The pressure on the sides of a submarine when it is deep under water is much greater, and the submarine has to be very strong not to cave in.

The sailors closed the hatches of the *Greenling*, and the submarine dove under the ocean. The captain and sailors in the control room watched the depth gauge, which is a dial that tells how deep the boat has gone. They didn't want to take the sub deeper than the crush depth; that is the depth at which the sides cave in and everyone is killed.

Unfortunately the depth-gauge dial that the captain was watching was not working properly and wasn't telling him the right depth. The captain told the sailors to take the sub deeper, even though it was getting very close to the crush depth.

Some sailors in the control room were looking at another depth-gauge dial that was working properly. They realized that the captain was making a mistake that could get them all killed. He was taking the sub too deep. They went to the captain and told him to stop, not to go deeper. He told them to shut up and obey orders. The sailors knew that they could get into trouble for disobeying the captain, so they didn't say anything more.

A few minutes later, the sides of the submarine started creaking and groaning. The sailors knew that if they went deeper they would be killed because the submarine was at crush depth, and the sides were about to collapse. They told the captain that they refused to take the sub any deeper. They said they didn't care what kind of trouble they got in; they didn't want to die.

Finally the captain realized that the sailors were right and took the submarine back to the surface. No one was hurt, and the sailors didn't get in trouble.

1. Why did they want to test the new submarine?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is it dangerous to go deep under water?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the crush depth?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What dial were they all watching?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did the captain order the sub to go too deep?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the captain say to the sailors when they told him he was going too deep?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why were the sailors afraid to tell the captain to stop?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did the sailors know the submarine was about to be crushed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who saved the submarine?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you think sailors (and soldiers) should always obey orders?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thousands of years ago, in the days when the pyramids were built, Egypt was a very rich and powerful country. But in the last few centuries, Egypt has become quite poor. In 1960 the president of Egypt, a man named Nasser, decided to build a dam across the Nile River. Nasser wanted to build the dam to make electricity for his country, so that it could become richer, and his people could live better.

The dam took ten years to build and cost more than \$1,000,000,000. Thousands of men and women from all over Egypt worked on it, hoping that it would make life in Egypt better. Finally in 1971 the Aswan High Dam was opened.

Putting a dam across the Nile River stopped much of the water, so a big lake built up behind the dam. President Nasser had hoped that many fish would collect in this lake and that his people could catch these fish and eat and sell them. When the lake behind the dam got high enough, they let out some of the water through small tunnels in the bottom of the dam. This water rushed past huge propellers, called turbines, and turned them very fast, making electricity for lights and machines all over Egypt.

But then there were problems. The hot desert began to soak up millions of gallons of water, and the sun evaporated more. As a result, the big lake President Nasser had hoped for didn't fill up quickly enough. Since the lake took so long to reach its final size, people couldn't settle on the shores of the lake and fish.

In addition, the scorpions and snakes and other animals of the desert crawled in front of the rising waters of the lake. This made the area around the lake very dangerous, and very few people wanted to move there to make their living by fishing.

The dam caused problems lower down the Nile River. The dam stopped the river from carrying down the rich dirt, which for thousands of years had helped the farmers in this part of Egypt to grow their crops. The dam also stopped the river from carrying particles of food into the Mediterranean Sea. This food had attracted fish and had made good fishing there for Egyptians. All in all, the Aswan High Dam was not the boon, or benefit, it should have been for Egypt.

1. When was Egypt a rich country?

2. Is it rich now?

3. How did Nasser think the dam would help his country?

4. Write in words how much the dam cost.

5. Why did a lake build up behind the dam?

6. What turned the turbines to make electricity?

7. Why didn't the lake fill up to the top?

8. Why didn't people want to settle by the shores of the lake?

9. How did the dam hurt farmers lower down the Nile River?

10. How did the dam hurt the fishing in the Mediterranean Sea?

11. Do you think the dam was a good idea?  
Why?

In 1936 a man named John Crosswhite left his house in a small town in Missouri and drove toward another city. But he never got there. On the way he had a serious accident, and his car was wrecked.

When the police arrived at the scene of the accident, John Crosswhite was not there. They couldn't find his body, so after much searching they gave up hope. His family thought he was dead.

But John Crosswhite was not dead. In the accident he smashed his head against the windshield and lost his memory of everything that had happened before that moment. This condition is called amnesia. He wandered away from the scene of the accident before the police came. He could not remember his name, where he came from, who his family was, or anything about his life before the accident.

For five years this man wandered from place to place looking for something that he could recognize, or for something that would help him remember his past. But he couldn't find anything. He called himself John Cross, a name slightly different from his real name. Maybe he remembered just a little of his real name.

Five years after the accident, John Cross met a woman and married her and settled down in another part of Missouri. He had two children with his new wife and lived happily for thirty-two years. He never talked about his past life because he could not remember it. His new wife and children never thought that in the same state he had another family that thought he was dead.

Then in 1973 John Cross had a stroke. When a person has a stroke, it means not enough blood gets to the brain. It was very serious, and he was rushed to the hospital. While he was in the hospital getting better, he suddenly remembered everything about his past. Somehow the stroke had cured his amnesia. He remembered the car accident, his first family, and everything before the accident.

Authorities found his brother, Frank, and they knew John was telling the truth because Frank looked so much like him. But no one wanted to tell John Crosswhite's first wife the news; she was eighty-three years old, and the shock of seeing her long-lost husband might have been too much for her.

1. Where did John Crosswhite live?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is amnesia?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did John get amnesia?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did his family think had happened to him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did he do for five years?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did he do in 1941?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Did John's second wife know about his past?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened that cured his amnesia?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How did the authorities know he was telling the truth?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why didn't they tell John's first wife that he was alive?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How many years did he live without memory of his past?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How do you think John felt about his double life? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After midnight on a cold, March night in 1979, two young women were coming home to Cambridge, Massachusetts, from a concert in New Hampshire. Leslie Cook was driving, and her friend, Libby Margolis, was dozing in the back seat, trying to get some sleep, so she could work the next morning.

Suddenly the car swerved off the road, hit a tree, and skidded into the icy waters of the Charles River. The car sank quickly, and both women were trapped underwater as the car filled up.

Another driver on the nearly deserted road saw the accident, and he immediately called the police and told them what had happened. Peter O'Hare, a security officer, rushed to the scene, stripped, and jumped into the water. On his second dive, he was able to get one of the car doors open and to pull Leslie Cook up the bank of the river.

While O'Hare gave her artificial respiration, other police officers directed a tow truck to the scene. Soon it pulled the car out of the water. It was then that the police discovered the body of Libby on the floor of the back seat. She had been under water for twenty-five minutes. Even so, the police immediately began to try to revive her as they rushed her and Leslie to the hospital.

The doctors on duty at the hospital pronounced Leslie dead. She had suffered other injuries in the crash. But they continued to work on Libby. They found that her heart was not beating, and she had very few life signs. Her temperature had sunk from the normal 98.6 degrees to 84 degrees. This gave the doctors some hope because it meant that her brain might still be undamaged. Without a supply of blood, the brain soon begins to suffer permanent damage; but being refrigerated can slow down this process.

The doctors pumped warm fluids into her body to warm her up and finally got her heart and lungs working again. For thirty-six hours she was in a coma, and for ten days she was on an artificial breathing machine. Everyone assumed there would be permanent damage to her brain. But three days after the accident, Libby opened her eyes and began to show flickers of recognition. A week later, she had recovered completely. "I fooled you," said Libby to her doctors.

1. Why was Libby in the back seat of the car?

---

2. What happened to the car?

---

3. Why did the police arrive so quickly?

---

4. What do you think made it very difficult for O'Hare to get Leslie out of the car?

---

5. Why didn't the police officer pull Libby out of the car also?

---

6. How long was Libby under the water?

---

7. How many degrees below normal was Libby's body temperature when she reached the hospital?

---

8. What two things did the doctors do to her?

---

9. Why did everyone assume there was permanent damage to her brain?

---

10. Why do you think she made a complete recovery?

---

11. What was one thing Libby had to be sad about?

---

The man who was to become one of the greatest boxers of all time was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1942. His name was Cassius Clay, Jr. Even when he was young, he was a fast and funny talker. That's why he was later called the Louisville Lip.

Cassius was the first child of the family, and his parents treated him very well. Even after he grew up, his mother called him Gee-gee, the first sounds he made when he was a baby. The Clay family was middle class (neither rich nor poor) and claimed to be descended from Henry Clay, a famous United States senator in the nineteenth century.

When Cassius Clay was twelve, a boy in the neighborhood stole his bicycle. Cassius was angry and went to a police officer to get the boy arrested. But the police officer had no proof that the boy had taken it. Instead of arresting the boy, the police officer taught Cassius how to box, so he could fight for himself. That's how Cassius got started as a boxer.

From the beginning he was a very good boxer, fast and strong and tough. Cassius had lots of energy and was very self-confident. He liked boxing because it gave him a chance to show off and be a big shot around school.

He needed that because he wasn't very good at schoolwork. The only subjects that Cassius was any good at were art and gym. He never learned how to read well, and even now he has trouble reading and has to go very slowly. But when he talked, Cassius was very clever and sometimes made up poems and rhymes on the spot.

At one point Cassius tried to play football. After the first tackle, he quit the sport for good. "My helmet hit the ground—pow!" he said later. "No, sir, you got to get hit in that game—too rough. You don't have to get hit in boxing."

Of course most boxers do get hit. Their faces are often covered with scars and bruises, and their brains may be damaged by the many times they have been slugged. But Cassius was one of the few boxers who was so good that he seldom got hit hard. Even now he has almost no marks on his face from boxing. He moved around a lot and hit hard; his motto was, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." Unfortunately, he now suffers from Parkinson's disease, a brain disorder that causes muscle tremors, muscle stiffness, and difficulty in movement. The hits Cassius did take are partly responsible for his Parkinson's disease.

(continued)

1. What was Cassius's father's name?

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2. How old is Cassius Clay, Jr. now?

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3. Why was he called the Louisville Lip?

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4. Why did his mother call him Gee-gee?

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5. Who taught Cassius how to box?

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6. Why did he learn to box?

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7. What made Cassius a good boxer?

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8. Why did he like to box in school?

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9. What subject did he have the most trouble with in school?

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10. In what way was Cassius Clay very clever?

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11. Why didn't Cassius take up football?

---

12. Why doesn't he have a lot of scars on his face as other boxers do?

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Cassius Clay got advice on boxing from everyone in Louisville but took only the advice he liked. He always did things his own way. He started boxing in amateur fights and won every fight, all one hundred of them. He went to the Olympics in 1960 as a member of the American team and won the light-heavyweight gold medal.

After the Olympics Cassius became a professional boxer. That means he boxed for money as a full-time job. In his first few years, he had nineteen fights and won all of them. Then he signed up to fight Sonny Liston, the world champion. Everyone thought that Cassius would lose the fight because Liston was so much bigger and stronger. But Cassius was so fast and such a good boxer that he won and became world champion.

People all over the world loved Cassius Clay because he was a fast boxer and a fast talker and because he was more interesting than some of the other boxers. It was fun to watch Cassius and fun to listen to him brag before and after fights. He made boxing a more popular sport than it had ever been before.

Cassius was also notable because he was a black man who was outspokenly proud of being black. He joined the Nation of Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Ali. He did it because he wanted a real African name instead of the name that a white slave-owner had given his ancestors when they came to America as slaves.

Muhammad Ali also made many people angry. He said that he would not marry a white woman or even live with white people. He made fun of black people who tried to look like whites. When the Army tried to draft Muhammad Ali as a soldier, he refused to join. He said it was against his religion. People called him a phony and a coward. He went to court to defend his right to refuse the draft. Meanwhile his world championship was taken away from him.

During these years in court, Muhammad Ali couldn't box, and he lost some of the best years of his career. Finally the Supreme Court in Washington decided that he did have the right to refuse to join the Army on religious grounds. Ali had risked going to jail, but now he was vindicated. He went back into the ring and won back his world championship. Several years later he was defeated. Then he became champion a third time. It was the first time in history that a world boxing championship has been won three times by the same person.

1. How many fights did Clay lose before he went to the Olympics?

2. What happened at the Olympics?

3. What is the term for a boxer who fights for a living?

4. Why did people think Clay couldn't beat Liston?

5. Why did Clay win?

6. Why did people like Cassius so much?

7. Why did he change his name to Muhammad Ali?

8. What did he think about racial integration?

9. Why did he refuse to join the army?

10. How did this affect his boxing career?

11. What does *vindicated* mean?

12. How many times was Ali world champion?

Everyone has dreams, although we don't always remember our dreams when we wake up. Dreams can be memories of things that have happened to us, or they can be completely new stories that our minds make up while we are asleep.

For thousands of years, people have wondered about the meaning of their dreams. Long ago some people thought that dreams were put in their heads by gods or evil spirits; other people thought all their dreams would come true. Now we know that dreams come from a part of our brains, called the subconscious. Dreams are thoughts that we may not even know we have. While we are asleep, our minds run through some of these hidden thoughts and try to deal with them.

Scientists have watched sleeping people very carefully and learned a lot about dreams. They have found that two or three times every night, a sleeping person's eyes, while remaining closed will move around very quickly. Every time these rapid eye movements happened, the person was having a dream. When the person's eyes stopped moving around, the dream was over.

These scientists wondered what would happen if they stopped a person from having dreams at night. They tried an experiment on a man. The man fell asleep at the normal time, and the scientists watched him very carefully. As soon as they saw his eyes moving under his eyelids, they knew he was starting to dream, and they woke him up. Then they let him go back to sleep again.

They continued this all through the night, so the man didn't have a chance to dream at all. They did it for several more nights, and then they asked the man how he felt.

The man said that he felt terrible. He said that he was nervous, jumpy, and grouchy. He felt that he might easily get into an argument or fight with someone. Then the scientists let him sleep without stopping his dreams. After a couple of days, the man felt fine again.

Scientists believe this proves that people need dreams to work out their problems and feel happy with themselves. Dreams help us deal with things we are afraid of or are worried about. Dreams make us healthier, happier individuals.

1. Do people always remember their dreams?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Can our minds make up new stories while we are asleep?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When is a person most likely to remember a dream?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where did people long ago think their dreams came from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where do dreams really come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why don't all dreams come true?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How can you tell that a person is dreaming?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. In the experiment, why did the scientists keep waking the man up when his eyes moved?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What happened to the man who didn't dream?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did this happen?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How did the man get back to normal?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emma Gumz lived in a small apartment behind a laundry in Berlin, the capital of Germany. She and her husband hated the new leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler. They disliked him because he was violently prejudiced against the Jews. Hitler blamed all Germany's problems on the Jews and made angry speeches encouraging other people to hate the Jews too. During World War II Hitler ordered all Jews to wear yellow stars.

Emma Gumz had two close friends who were Jewish—Elia Deutschkron and her daughter, Inge. Emma was worried for her friends and urged them not to wear the yellow stars, even though not wearing them was against the law. In 1941 police officers and soldiers began to arrest Jews and take them away in trains. Thousands of Jews were wakened in the middle of the night and dragged away, not knowing where they were going.

In 1942 Emma heard a rumor from a German soldier about what was going on. He told her that the Jews were being taken to concentration camps and killed in gas chambers. Emma was afraid. She ran to Ella and Inge and begged them to come hide in her apartment, even though she knew that if they were discovered, they would all go to the death camps.

For weeks Ella and Inge hid in the dark apartment, not daring to go outside or speak to anyone. Of the 160,000 Jews who lived in Berlin, many thousands were caught and taken away. One day a neighbor of Emma's became suspicious about what was going on in her apartment and threatened to call the police. Emma quickly moved the two refugees to another place, and they were not caught. Somehow they evaded the police until Hitler was defeated and killed himself in 1945.

By the end of the war, Hitler's soldiers had killed six million Jews and other people in the death camps. Inge and her mother did not wish to stay in Germany, even though they knew there were some good Germans like Emma and her family. They moved to Israel, a new country set up for Jews from all over the world. Inge wrote a book about her experiences in Nazi Germany and stayed in touch with her friend, Emma, back in Berlin.

In 1979 when Emma Gumz was eighty years old, a newspaper published a story about her wartime heroism. A Jewish man in New York, whom she had never met, sent her a check for one thousand dollars. When asked about the check and her heroism, she insisted that she had done nothing special; she did not consider herself heroic.

1. Was Emma rich or poor? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 How can you tell? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who had to wear yellow stars in Germany?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Why, do you think? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did Emma hate Hitler?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened to thousands of Jews during World War II?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What made Emma hide Ella and Inge in her apartment?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why was this so risky?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
7. How long were Ella and Inge in hiding?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Were the rumors Emma heard in 1942 true?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
9. What were two reasons Ella and Inge decided to move to Israel?  
 (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (b) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do you think the man in New York sent Emma the money?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Write down some words that describe Emma Gumz.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The *Queen Elizabeth II* is the largest passenger ship ever built. It weighs about 65,000 tons and is like a floating city. Most of the time this enormous ship carries people on vacations around the world, stopping in different cities. A jet plane is a lot faster than a ship, but many people like to travel on a ship because they can relax and take their time.

In May of 1972, the *QE-2*, as the ship is called, was in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean when the captain received some frightening news on the radio. The news was from the company that owned the ship. Someone in New York had called the company and said that there were bombs on the ship. The caller said that the bombs would blow up the *QE-2* unless the company paid \$1,000,000 the next day.

The captain thought this was probably a joke or a hoax (a trick). But he knew that if he didn't try to find the bombs, and the ship did blow up, the company would be sued for millions of dollars by the relatives of people who were killed. He couldn't take any chances.

The people in London who owned the ship got together four soldiers who were experts at taking apart bombs so they wouldn't explode. They put these bomb experts on a plane and flew them out to the middle of the ocean where the *QE-2* was. The ship stopped, and the four soldiers parachuted into the ocean. A small boat from the ocean liner picked up the men and brought them on board.

The four soldiers looked all over the ship for the bombs. They looked in all the places they thought someone might put a bomb, and they couldn't find anything. Meanwhile the passengers were getting nervous—they were afraid they might be blown up at any moment. The captain told them what to do if the boat started to sink, and people in wheelchairs were moved to the upper decks, so they could get into the lifeboats more quickly.

Back in its New York office, the ship company had gotten together \$350,000 and given it to the FBI to give to the person who had made the threat. The FBI took the money to the place they had been told to leave it, but nobody showed up to get the money. No bombs were ever found on the ship, and it arrived safely at its destination. As the captain suspected, the whole thing was a hoax.

1. Why do people travel places by boat when an airplane is much faster?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does *QE-2* stand for?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where was the *QE-2* when the message arrived?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the caller in New York threaten to do if the company didn't pay up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Write in words how much money the caller wanted.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If the captain was so sure the threat was a trick, why did the company go to so much trouble to have the ship searched?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did the four soldiers get from the plane onto the ship?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why were these four soldiers chosen for the job?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did the captain have people in wheelchairs go up to the upper decks?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What did the bomb experts find?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What happened to the \$350,000?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This story takes place in England just before World War II. There was an old man named Philip who lived in a lighthouse by the ocean. He was a hunchback and also had something wrong with his left arm so that he couldn't use it. People who lived in the town nearby thought Philip was crazy. He had no friends.

Philip was actually a very kind man who loved animals and spent a lot of time taking care of them. Every year when geese flew by his lighthouse, some of them would stop, and he would feed them. Philip also liked to paint pictures and was very good at it.

One day when Philip was standing by the ocean, he saw a beautiful, white snow goose flying by with some other geese. He was amazed to see a snow goose in England. He knew that the goose must have gotten lost in a storm because it was more than 3,000 miles from Canada where it belonged.

As Philip was watching the snow goose fly by, two shots rang out, and the snow goose fell wounded toward the ground. Some hunters had hit it with their shotguns. Philip was so angry with the hunters that he ran up to them, pushed them both to the ground, and threw their guns into the mud. He told them never to come back with weapons. "Must you destroy everything that is beautiful?" he shouted at them.

A girl from the town also saw the snow goose getting shot, and she ran and picked up the wounded bird and cried when she saw blood on its feathers. Philip told her the wound wasn't serious, and they took the snow goose back to Philip's lighthouse. Over the next few weeks, the girl came to visit Philip often, and they watched the goose slowly get better. The girl was the first friend the old man had had for many years. He painted a picture of the girl holding the snow goose.

In the spring the snow goose was completely healed and flew away with the other geese. It didn't return until three years later. Then it decided to stay with Philip. But the girl didn't visit him any more because people in the town had told her Philip was crazy.

Then the war started, and Philip, accompanied by the goose, took his boat to France. He was killed by the Germans while trying to save some English soldiers at Dunkirk. The snow goose flew away forever.

1. What two things were wrong with Philip's body?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What else did Philip like to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was Philip surprised to see a snow goose in England?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Philip get so angry with the hunters?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you think the hunters thought of Philip?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who took care of the wounded snow goose?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What happened to the snow goose the next spring?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. When did it return?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did the girl stop visiting Philip?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did Philip sail to France?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why did the snow goose fly away for good?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you think Philip was crazy?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*From a book by Paul Gallico.

A very old spectacle in Spain and Mexico is the bullfight. Thousands of people in these countries go to bullfights on weekends just as Americans go to baseball and football games. The bullfights are held in a big, round stadium called the Plaza de Toros, or bull ring. The spectators sit around the outside behind a strong, wooden barrier. The ring itself is covered with sand.

At the beginning of a bullfight, there is a fancy parade. All the matadors, the men who make a living fighting bulls, march across the ring. They wear beautiful pink and orange costumes with skin-tight pants that are stitched with gold thread. All matadors have small pigtailed at the back of their heads.

When the parade is over, the ring is cleared and the first bull is let out of a dark cage into the bright sunlight. The bulls are chosen for their fierceness and the strength of their neck muscles. The bulls use these neck muscles and their horns to pick up horses and men and toss them into the air.

The matador comes out with a pink and gold cape, which he waves in front of the bull. The bull thinks the cape is a person, so it charges at it again and again, but of course the bull doesn't pick up anything on its horns. This makes the bull madder and madder, which is just what the matador wants.

Next the picadors come out. These are men with long spears. They ride on old horses that have heavy padding on their sides. When the bull charges a horse and tries to lift it off the ground with its horns, the picador sticks the spear into the bull's neck muscles. This weakens the muscles.

Then men called bandilleros run into the ring and stick sharp barbs into the bull's neck. They run away before the bull can catch them on its horns. The barbs are covered with colored paper and are supposed to look pretty in the bull's neck. They further weaken the bull.

Finally the matador steps out with a smaller red cape and gets the bull to charge the cape again and again. When the bull is really tired, the matador takes out a sword and runs it through the bull's back into its heart. As many as six bulls are killed this way in an afternoon. Sometimes the bulls kill or injure the matadors. It's a dangerous and bloody contest.

1. Why do you think thousands of people go to bullfights?

2. What is the Plaza de Toros?

3. Why do you think the ring has a strong wooden barrier around the outside?

4. What is a matador?

5. Why are these bulls so dangerous?

6. Why do the bulls charge a piece of cloth?

7. What do the picadors do?

8. What do the bandilleros do?

9. What is the point of all this?

10. How does the matador kill the bull?

11. Does the bull have a fighting chance?

12. Do you think there should be bullfights?

Why?

A few years ago, some divers were swimming under the water looking at fish near a beach in Florida. They noticed a strange-looking shape in the water ahead and swam closer to it. Suddenly they realized that it was a submarine that had been sunk years before, probably during World War II. The divers memorized the number written on the side of the submarine and swam back to the beach.

When they got home, they called a place in Washington that has a list of all the ships sunk during the Second World War. The people in Washington said that according to their records, this was a German submarine that had been sunk off the coast of North Carolina during the war.

The divers were amazed to hear this because it meant that the submarine had drifted more than a thousand miles from North Carolina to the place in Florida where they had found it. What probably happened was that although American ships and planes had sunk the submarine, some air remained trapped in the sub, and it didn't sink all the way to the bottom. Instead it drifted around under the water for years, following the currents of the Atlantic Ocean. Finally the air inside the boat escaped, and it sank to the bottom off the coast of Florida.

The people in Washington learned something else about the submarine. When it sank, it was carrying torpedoes filled with a deadly poison called mercury. When the government in Florida heard about this, it was worried. What if the mercury escaped from the submarine? The wreck was quite close to a public beach, and the mercury might get into the bodies of people swimming there.

Mercury is such a strong poison that only a small amount can make people crazy or kill them. People don't even have to drink it—if it touches a person's skin, it can seep through cuts and poison the body.

The government tried to figure out a way to get the submarine up from the bottom of the ocean and get rid of the poison torpedoes. The problem was that whatever they did might cause the torpedoes to break open and let the mercury escape. The government decided to leave the sub on the bottom and hope that no mercury would escape.

1. What did the divers discover?

\_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did the divers call Washington?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did the people in Washington know which submarine the divers had found?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. When the submarine was hit during the war, did it sink straight to the bottom?

\_\_\_\_\_

How do we know this? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many miles did the submarine drift?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why did it drift?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why was the submarine dangerous?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Who might get hurt?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the problem with trying to pull the submarine up to the surface?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What do you think the government should do with the submarine?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Before Jimmy Carter was elected president of the United States, he was governor of the state of Georgia. He and his family lived in the governor's mansion outside Atlanta, the state capital. One of the people who worked for the Carter family as a nursemaid for their young daughter, Amy, was a convicted murderer.

Does this sound strange? Here is the story of how this person came to work in the governor's mansion, and what happened after Carter was elected president.

Mary Fitzpatrick is a black woman with two children. She used to live in a small town near Plains, where Jimmy Carter grew up. One evening she was in a bar with some friends when a fight broke out. During the fight, a gun that Mary was holding killed a man. She was arrested, charged with murder, convicted in a trial, and sent to jail for life.

Mary claims that she was trying to break up the fight, and that the gun went off accidentally, killing a bystander who wasn't even involved. Mary feels that she should not have been found guilty of murder since she did not mean to kill the man.

In jail she became what the authorities call a "model prisoner": that is, she was very cooperative, didn't get into trouble, and spent her spare time working to become a nurse's aide. Soon she had "trusty" status, which meant that she was allowed to work outside the prison. It was at this time that she got a job working for the Carter family in the governor's mansion. Because of her model behavior, the Carters thought she deserved a chance to work in their house and prove herself.

When Jimmy Carter was elected president, he sent Mary Fitzpatrick an invitation to his inauguration, the swearing-in ceremony, and the parties that followed it. The prison authorities made a special exception to let Mary leave the state. She spent three days in Washington, D.C., with the Carters and then had to return to prison in Georgia. Shortly after, she got some good news. The Carters asked her to come to Washington to work full time as Amy's baby-sitter. Soon she was living in the White House.

1. What position did Jimmy Carter hold before he was elected president of the United States?

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2. What was unusual about the Carter's nursemaid in Atlanta?

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3. Why does Mary think her conviction for murder was unfair?

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4. What is "trusty" status for a prisoner?

How does one get it? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think the Carters allowed this woman to work with their young daughter?

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6. Why did the prison authorities let her leave the state of Georgia?

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7. When she got back to prison, what happened?

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8. Why was this story called "A Modern Cinderella"?

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In 1860 there lived a mean, cheap old man named Ebenezer Scrooge. This man owned a business in London, England. He was very rich, but he didn't spend his money or give it away—he was a miser. Almost everyone who knew him hated Scrooge.

This year, on the day before Christmas, Scrooge was working in his small office. In the next room was his secretary, Bob Cratchit, who had been working for Scrooge for many years. Bob asked Scrooge if he could put another piece of coal on the fire since it was very cold in the office. Scrooge said he couldn't; he didn't want to have to spend money buying more coal. So Cratchit shivered as he worked. Scrooge didn't care.

Scrooge's nephew came by to see him. His nephew was happy and excited about Christmas and said, "Merry Christmas, Uncle Scrooge!" But Scrooge didn't want to hear it. He said, "Bah, humbug!" He said that Christmas was a waste of time and told his nephew to get out.

A little later two men came into the office. They were trying to raise money to give as a special Christmas gift to the poor people in the city of London. Even though he had plenty of money to give, Scrooge didn't give them a penny. He said it was the fault of the poor people that they were poor, not his.

At the end of the day, Bob Cratchit put on his hat and coat and wished Scrooge a Merry Christmas. Scrooge was angry because he couldn't make Cratchit work on Christmas Day. He said, "Bah, humbug!" and told Cratchit to forget Christmas.

Scrooge walked to his small apartment. He could have lived in a big house, but he didn't want to spend any of his money. There were no lights on in the house, so it was dark and spooky. Scrooge didn't want to pay for lights either.

As Scrooge was unlocking the front door, he looked at the brass knocker. Suddenly he saw the face of his old friend, Jacob Marley, instead of the knocker. Marley had died seven years before. Then the face disappeared.

The face scared Scrooge a little. He went in and upstairs and tried to forget the strange incident. Later he heard bells ringing all over the house, and then there was a clanking of chains coming up the stairs from the cellar.

*(continued)*

\* From a book by Charles Dickens.

1. How long ago did this story take place?

2. Why didn't Scrooge spend his money if he was so rich?

3. How did people feel about Scrooge?

4. Who was Bob Cratchit?

5. Why did Cratchit have to work in a freezing-cold office?

6. Why was Scrooge's nephew so happy?

7. Describe how Scrooge treated his nephew.

8. Why didn't Scrooge give money to the poor?

9. Why did Scrooge live in a small apartment?

10. What happened when he looked at the brass knocker?

11. Why was Scrooge scared by this?

12. What did Scrooge hear on the stairs?

The sound of clanking chains slowly came up the stairs, closer and closer to the door of Scrooge's apartment. Scrooge knew that the door was locked, but as he watched, a ghost dragging a long chain walked right through the door. It was the ghost of his old friend, Jacob Marley. The chain was made of all the things that Marley (and Scrooge) cared about: money boxes, deeds, safes, and padlocks.

"What do you want with me?" Scrooge asked the ghost. The spirit shook the long chain and told Scrooge that he too would have to drag a chain behind him when he died unless he stopped being so mean and cheap. The ghost said that people who were bad during their lives had to wander after death dragging chains made of the things they had done wrong during life.

Then the ghost said that Scrooge still had a chance to escape such a fate. It said that Scrooge would be visited by three other ghosts—the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. Then it flew out the open window. As Scrooge looked out the window after it, he saw hundreds of other unhappy ghosts flying around in the night, dragging chains that they had made for themselves during their evil lives. Scrooge was scared, but he wasn't about to change. "Humbug," he said to himself and went to bed.

He woke up just as the church bell was striking twelve o'clock. Standing by the bed was the Ghost of Christmas Past. It took Scrooge back in time to the place where he had grown up as a boy. Scrooge was happy to see the place again until he saw himself as a young boy and remembered how unhappy he had been. His father hadn't loved him and hadn't wanted him at home. Nobody had cared about him. He saw himself on the night before Christmas sitting alone in school reading books.

The ghost then showed Scrooge the place where he had worked as a young man. This had been a happy time in his life. Then the ghost showed him his younger sister, who had died years before. All the things the ghost showed him made Scrooge feel sad that he had grown up to be such a mean old man. He began to think a little about changing.

*(continued)*

1. How did the ghost of Jacob Marley get into Scrooge's apartment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How was this possible?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the ghost's chain made of?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did the ghost say that Scrooge would have to drag a chain after him when he died?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did the ghost say that there was any hope for Scrooge?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Did the ghost of Jacob Marley convince Scrooge to change his ways?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. After Jacob Marley, what was the first ghost to visit Scrooge?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Who was the child in school that the ghost showed Scrooge?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did Scrooge have an unhappy childhood?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why was Scrooge sad when he saw his sister?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How did seeing his past make Scrooge feel?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Scrooge fell asleep right away after the first ghost brought him back to his apartment. Later he woke up with a start. A bell was striking, and he knew it was time for the second ghost to appear. For half an hour nothing happened. Then Scrooge noticed that light was coming under the door from his living room.

He walked into the living room and was amazed by what he saw. The Ghost of Christmas Present was sitting in a chair in the corner. He was a big, jolly fellow having a good time waiting for Scrooge. There was a big fire roaring in the fireplace. Scrooge hadn't had a big fire for years. All around the room were Christmas presents and food and decorations. Scrooge knew that the ghost was showing him how he should be enjoying Christmas, instead of being so stingy.

The ghost made Scrooge invisible and took him out around the city of London to show him how other people were enjoying themselves at Christmas time. First they went to Bob Cratchit's house. Even though the Cratchit family was very poor—mainly because Scrooge didn't pay Bob enough—and even though the youngest child, Tiny Tim, was crippled, the family was happy. They were singing, playing, and full of love, and it made Scrooge feel strange to see these poor people having so much fun while he was so unhappy.

Next the ghost took Scrooge to the house of the nephew who had visited his office. Scrooge's nephew and his family were having a big party, playing games, drinking, and laughing. What they laughed about the most was Scrooge—what a mean old man he was. They all thought it was funny that Scrooge was so cheap and unhappy when other people were spending their money and enjoying life.

Scrooge was upset when he heard these people say such things about him. He felt guilty for treating Bob Cratchit the way he did and paying him so little. He felt bad that he had been so rude to his nephew, and that he hadn't given any money to the two men who were collecting for the poor. Scrooge began to wonder whether saving all his money was worth it. What good would it do him if he didn't spend it?

When the second ghost dropped him off in his apartment, Scrooge wondered whether it was too late to change himself and become a better person. While he was thinking, he fell asleep.

*(continued)*

1. What woke Scrooge up?  
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2. Where did he find the Ghost of Christmas Present?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How had the ghost changed the room?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do you think Scrooge didn't have big fires in his fireplace?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. By fixing up the room, what was the ghost trying to tell Scrooge?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why was the Cratchit family so poor?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was wrong with Tiny Tim?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did the Cratchit family act on Christmas?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What was the biggest joke at Scrooge's nephew's house?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How did Scrooge feel when he heard this?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why did Scrooge begin to think about changing?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When Scrooge woke up again, he saw a dark, frightening ghost standing by his bed. It was the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. The ghost said nothing but made a gesture with its hand telling Scrooge to get up and follow. The ghost took him into the future. Scrooge knew it would be bad.

First the ghost showed Scrooge a house where a man was dying. Scrooge didn't know who the dying man was, and the ghost wouldn't tell him. They walked up to a group of men and women who were talking about the man. They were all saying unpleasant things about him—that this man had been evil, stingy, and mean all his life. Some women were bragging that they had gone into the dying man's bedroom and stolen the sheets and curtains.

Next the ghost took Scrooge to the house of Bob Cratchit. Scrooge realized that Tiny Tim, the crippled child, had died. The whole Cratchit family was terribly sad. All the happiness that Scrooge had seen in the house with the Ghost of Christmas Present was gone. Scrooge realized that Tiny Tim died because the Cratchits didn't have enough money for doctors.

Finally the ghost took Scrooge to a lonely cemetery and pointed to a gravestone all covered with weeds and grass; no one had taken care of it. Scrooge looked down and saw the words "Ebenezer Scrooge." It was his grave! Suddenly he knew that he was the dying man in the house that he had seen earlier. He also knew what would happen to him if he didn't change his actions.

Then Scrooge found himself back in his apartment and discovered that it was the morning of Christmas day. Somehow the three ghosts had done their work all in one night! Scrooge knew that he still had a chance to change the horrible future he had just seen.

Scrooge rushed out and bought an enormous turkey for Bob Cratchit's family and sent it to their house without saying who it was from. Then he went to his nephew's house and laughed and sang and drank with the family. They could hardly believe the change in Scrooge. Later he gave money to the two men collecting for the poor.

The next morning Scrooge got to the office before Bob Cratchit. He told him he was raising his salary and getting a doctor for Tiny Tim. For the first time in years, Scrooge felt happy with himself.

1. What was the third ghost like?  
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2. Where in time did it take Scrooge?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the people outside the house saying about the dying man?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What had some of the women done?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why were the Cratchits sad?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why had this happened to Tiny Tim?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Scrooge see in the cemetery?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Who was the dying man in the house?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How did Scrooge think he could stop all these things from happening?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How long had the three ghosts taken to work on Scrooge?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What did Scrooge's nephew and his family think when Scrooge had such fun at the party?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What do you think is the moral of this story?  
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