READING, WRITING, & MATH

Complete one assignment for reading, writing, and math each day.

**Reading:** Read the selection and answer the questions. When you are finished, be sure to read a great book!

**Writing:** Read the prompt and respond in writing. This is a great opportunity to practice your best writing skills and good handwriting.

**Math:** Complete the standards practice page. Draw pictures or use objects to help you.
When Tommy Owen, a tour guide in the Everglades National Park, saw the animal, he immediately went after it. Owen was giving a tour of Florida's famous national park wetlands. He and a group of tourists were floating in a boat through the shallow water that makes up the Everglades. One of the women in the boat he was steering saw a snake in the water. She got Tommy's attention and pointed the snake out to him. When Tommy saw the snake, he acted fast. He reached into the water and grabbed the animal by the head. He got a good grip and didn't let go. Tourists in the boat were worried when the snake wrapped itself around Tommy's arm. After several minutes, he got control of the animal and removed it from the water. The snake was a ten-foot-long Burmese python. It was a snake not native to Florida and, quite simply, it didn't belong there.

* * *

The Florida Everglades teems with life. Situated at the southern end of the state, between Lake Okeechobee and the Gulf Coast, the Everglades is the largest wilderness east of the Mississippi River. Migratory and wading birds tiptoe through marshy grasslands. Orchids and ferns dot the hardwood forests. Alligators lounge in the shallows and on muddy riverbanks. Mangrove leaves rustle in the wind as the brackish water laps at their roots.
All of this life is made possible by the presence of water. The Everglades is a natural region of subtropical wetlands. Water flows from the Kissimmee River into the wide, shallow Lake Okeechobee. From there the lake drains south, into the Everglades marsh and the Florida flats. The Everglades is sometimes called the "River of Grass" after a book of the same name by author Marjory Stoneman Douglas. The phrase illustrates the fact that the Everglades is basically a very wide and shallow river.

The Florida Everglades once covered 11,000 square miles across the southern end of the state. Wetlands are an important ecosystem. For centuries, however, humans thought of wetlands as unhygienic swamps. Draining the Everglades was suggested in the late 19th century. As soon as Florida became a state in 1845, its legislature asked permission from Congress to drain the Everglades. Canals were dug to remove or redirect the water. Land that dried out was reclaimed for agriculture or building purposes. This reclamation allowed for significant development in south Florida. Sugar farmers moved into the area and prospered. The city of Miami took root.

Approximately 50% of the Everglades was reclaimed for agricultural or urban use. Much of the northern area was polluted with phosphorus. This phosphorus was agricultural runoff from the farms near the Everglades.

Concerned Floridians began advocating for saving the area in the 1930s. Their efforts paid off in 1947 when Congress created the Everglades National Park. Starting in the late 1970s, environmental concerns at both the national and international levels refocused attention on the Everglades. The area was designated as one of the world's most important wetland areas.

Since then efforts have been underway to safeguard the park and return the Everglades to health. Water levels are monitored, as are nutrient levels in both water and soil samples.

Much of the conservation project was designed to reverse-engineer the canal system that was built in the 19th and mid-20th centuries. By the mid-2010s, ecological indicators showed some improvements. For example, the crayfish population was up. Wading and migratory birds improved their nesting habits.

Despite conservation efforts, the Everglades ecosystem began facing another threat in the early 2000s.

* * *
Burmese pythons were breeding in the Everglades, and they reached numbers that designated them as an invasive species. They were classified as an invasive species when their population swelled to a large size.

Pythons are eating machines. They can eat animals of different sizes, from mice to deer. They especially enjoy dining on small mammals and birds. Studies have shown that since the appearance of Burmese pythons in the Everglades, the numbers of small mammals in the area dropped significantly. This population loss was not observed in areas where the Burmese python had not established itself.

The Burmese python is native to tropical and subtropical zones in Southeast Asia. In their native habitat, Burmese pythons are nocturnal carnivores. When they live close to human habitations, Burmese pythons eat rats, mice, and rabbits that are attracted to human dwellings and farms. They can also eat small farm animals like chickens. When they live away from human habitations, Burmese pythons eat birds and small wild mammals. The Burmese python is a solitary animal. It kills by constricting its body around its prey. Python eggs and hatchlings are a food source for other animals. In the wild, Burmese pythons grow to be on average 12 feet long. (Habitat loss and the exotic pet trade in Asia are depleting the Burmese python's numbers in the Asian wild.)

The first Burmese python was found in the Florida Everglades in 1979. It's presumed the animal was originally kept as a pet and then released by its owner. It was removed, but that wasn't the last of Burmese pythons in south Florida. It's thought that numerous Burmese pythons escaped pet stores and cages damaged in Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Since then, the numbers of Burmese pythons grew at a fast rate. The escaped Burmese pythons weren't the only cause of the most recent population increase of Burmese pythons.

In the United States the Burmese python was a popular exotic pet. Docile and beautifully patterned in brown and gold diamond shapes, these snakes could be purchased at pet stores or reptile shows. Owners kept them in cages or tanks and fed them rats or mice. Most people bought Burmese pythons when they were small. Burmese pythons grow very quickly. For many pet owners, the pet Burmese pythons became too big to manage. So they released them into the wild.

When the Burmese python was designated as an invasive species, many agencies and individuals began trying to put a stop to the python invasion. The National Park Service started a program to study these animals in the Florida Everglades. Park Service scientists implanted tracking devices into seventeen large pythons that were later re-released into the
wild. They provided scientists with information regarding python behavior.

In January 2013 to February 2013, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ran a contest called the 2013 Python Challenge. The Commission issued permits to hunt the snakes within state wildlife-managed areas of the Everglades. Sixty-eight Burmese pythons were captured.

Later in 2013, Jason Leon was driving in a rural area near Florida City when he spotted a Burmese python's head protruding from the brush. The man was a biologist, and he was familiar with pythons. He approached the snake and pulled it out of the bush. The animal was bigger than he expected. After a struggle with the animal, Leon killed it. The Burmese python was 128 pounds and longer than 18 feet. Leon contacted the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which agreed to pick up and examine the snake. The snake was found to be the largest ever in the state of Florida.

The state later issued a statement:

> Jason Leon's nighttime sighting and capture of a Burmese python of more than 18 feet in length is a notable accomplishment that set a Florida record. The Florida Wildlife Commission is grateful to him both for safely removing such a large Burmese python, and for reporting its capture.

Despite these efforts, the population of Burmese pythons continued to grow. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission held another contest in 2016 called the 2016 Python Challenge.
1. In which place did the Burmese python become an invasive species?
   A. southwest Asia  
   B. southeast Asia  
   C. the Mojave Desert  
   D. the Florida Everglades

2. Fifty percent of the Everglades was reclaimed for agricultural or urban use. Which of the following is an effect of this agricultural or urban use?
   A. The Burmese pythons spread throughout the Everglades.  
   B. The crayfish population increased.  
   C. Much of the northern area of the Everglades was polluted with phosphorous.  
   D. Significant developments in surrounding states took place.

3. The decreasing numbers of small mammals in the Everglades was most likely due to the presence of Burmese pythons in the area. Which of the following evidence from the text best supports this conclusion?
   A. Python eggs and hatchlings are a food source for other animals.  
   B. The Burmese pythons reached numbers that designate them as invasive species in the Everglades.  
   C. The population loss of small mammals was not observed in areas where the python had not established itself.  
   D. The first Burmese python found in Florida was probably kept as a pet and then released by its owner.

4. Based on the information in the passage, what kind of effect did Burmese pythons have on the Everglades?
   A. They had a mainly positive effect.  
   B. They had both a negative and positive effect.  
   C. They had no effect on the Everglades.  
   D. They had a mainly negative effect.
5. What is this passage mostly about?

A. how Jason Leon was able to capture and kill a Burmese python
B. the reclamation of the Florida Everglades for agricultural and urban use
C. the Florida Everglades and the Burmese pythons that live in them
D. efforts to decrease the number of Burmese pythons in the Florida Everglades

6. Read the following sentences from the text.

"Since then efforts have been underway to safeguard the park and return the Everglades to health. Water levels are monitored, as are nutrient levels in both water and soil samples.

"Much of the conservation project was designed to reverse-engineer the canal system that was built in the 19th and mid-20th centuries. By the mid-2010s, ecological indicators showed some improvements."

Based on the text, what does "conservation" most nearly mean?

A. preservation and protection
B. destruction and damage
C. elimination or deletion
D. discovery and exploration

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

The Burmese python is native to tropical and subtropical zones in Southeast Asia, __________ it managed to establish itself in the Florida Everglades.

A. since
B. so
C. but
D. because
8. The reclamation of the Everglades for agricultural and urban use had harmful effects on the Everglades. List at least two of these harmful effects.

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9. How did the python invasion of the Everglades affect the other animals that live in the Everglades?

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10. Identify the two main threats to the Everglades mentioned in the passage, and describe the efforts to fight these two threats.

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Recycling is a process where something is reused rather than thrown away. Common items that are recycled include aluminum and steel cans, glass, and newspapers. Recycling can be time-consuming and dirty work. For example, recyclable objects have to be sorted from trash. Then the objects have to be cleaned. Afterwards, the objects are turned into materials that can be used by people and companies. Why should people bother to recycle even though it takes a lot of work?

Recycling helps protect the earth. Recycling means less garbage in landfills. These are places where garbage is taken and buried. Recycling also helps conserve the earth's resources. For example, factories use less energy by recycling steel cans than by making new ones. Recycling paper saves trees from being cut down. Trees are used to make paper.

Every time you are about to drop a plastic bottle in the garbage, stop and think. Is it worth harming the earth? Your actions now can help preserve the environment for generations to come. All you have to do is throw that bottle into a recycling bin.

Get in the habit. Be proud of recycling. Encourage others to recycle. You can make a difference!

Name: ___________________________ Date: _______________

1. What is recycling?
   A. a process where something is reused
   B. a process where something is thrown away
   C. a process where something is taken and buried
   D. a process where something harms the earth

2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
   A. The author explains the problems with recycling and suggests different solutions.
   B. The author describes similarities and differences between recycling and throwing things away.
   C. The author lists information about recycling in order of importance, from most to least important.
   D. The author describes recycling and shares an argument about why it's important.

3. Read these sentences.
   "...recyclable objects have to be sorted from trash. Then the objects have to be cleaned."

   These sentences can be used to support which conclusion below?
   A. "... the objects are turned into materials that can be used by people and companies."
   B. "Recycling can be time-consuming and dirty work."
   C. "Recycling helps protect the earth."
   D. "Be proud of recycling."

4. What can be concluded from this passage?
   A. The author works for a recycling plant.
   B. The author does not believe in recycling.
   C. The author believes that all you have to do to save the environment is throw a bottle in a bin.
   D. The author believes that everyday people can help the earth.
5. What is the main idea of this passage?
   A. Recycling helps protect the earth and conserve its resources.
   B. Many people avoid recycling because it is too difficult.
   C. People must make decisions what to recycle.
   D. Only certain things can be recycled.

6. At the end of paragraph one, the author asks, "Why should people bother to recycle even though it takes a lot of work?" Why does the author include this question?
   A. to transition the reader to the next paragraph, which answers the question
   B. to question the reader's knowledge about recycling
   C. to summarize the major points in paragraph one
   D. to allow the reader to demonstrate understanding

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.
   Recycling takes work, __________ it is good for the environment.
   A. instead
   B. before
   C. so
   D. but

8. What does the author suggest you do when you are about to throw a plastic bottle in the garbage?

   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
9. What examples does the author provide to show that recycling helps conserve the earth's resources?

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10. Read these sentences from the text.

"Get in the habit. Be proud of recycling. Encourage others to recycle."

How can these actions make a difference? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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"Holy cow!" said Brian.

"That's not a cow," said Kara. "It's a water buffalo."

"So what? It's still pretty cool."

Kara was not impressed. She and her family had been at the zoo for three hours. They hadn't seen anything good. First, there were mountain lions. They were boring. They just looked like big versions of the cats they had at home. Next was the insect house: a bunch of dark rooms full of creepy, crawly, disgusting bugs. Worst of all was the archaeology exhibit. It was nothing but rocks!

The zoo could have been fun if it weren't so hot out. Kara was surprised the water buffalo weren't being boiled alive. Sweat streamed down her face as they finally started walking towards the next exhibit. It tasted salty and gross. Her feet got heavier with every step. If she didn't start having fun soon, she was probably going to die.

It didn't help that Brian was so cheerful. He had been begging to go to the zoo for months. When Mom told him they were going, he got so happy that he started sneezing. It took him ten minutes to stop. Every animal they saw, Brian got more excited. It's like he didn't know
how boring animals could be. He kept saying things like, "Wow! Mountain lions!" or "What a cool bug!" or "Hey, Kara-come look at these rocks!" Brian was two years older than Kara, but at the zoo he turned into a little baby.

"I'm thirsty," said Kara.

"We'll get lunch soon," said Mom.

"Do I have to wait for lunch? My mouth feels like the desert."

Brian's eyes lit up. "That reminds me!" he said. "There's a whole exhibit about desert animals. We'll get to see the sand worms!"

"Mom," said Kara. "That will be boring." She stretched out the "O" in boring so that it took almost a minute to say. Booooooooooooooooooooring. When she was finished, her mom smiled.

"Let's try to have fun," she said. "I think there's a water fountain over there."


She drank water until her stomach hurt. This made her feel better. "Maybe if I get a bad enough stomachache," she thought to herself, "they'll have to take me to the hospital. And maybe the doctors will tell Mom that I can't go to the zoo ever again." She tried drinking enough water to make herself sick. It didn't work. She just got her hair all wet. She was about to start drinking again when Mom shouted.

"Kara! Come on!"

"Yeah, Kara!" shouted Brian. "They're feeding the sand worms in ten minutes. I don't wanna miss it!"

Kara ran after them. It was hard with her stomach full of water. She had just caught up when a sign caught her eye. It said: "Meet the giant gorilla! Today only. One o'clock, at the monkey house."

"Mom?" she said. "Mom! Mom!" This time, Kara dragged the "O" in Mom out so that it took almost two minutes to say. Mooooooooooooooooooooooooooooom.

"Yes?" said Mom.
"I want to meet the giant gorilla."

"Oh, really? I thought you hated the zoo."

"I do! But I like people. Gorillas are practically people."

"There's no time for that!" said Brian. "We've gotta see the sand worms."

"Please, Mom?" said Kara. "It's the only thing at this stupid zoo that will be any fun."

"I don't know," said Mom.

"It's today only."

"Okay."

Inside the monkey house, a long line of people waited to meet the giant gorilla. Normally Kara hated waiting, but this would be worth it. It's one thing to look at animals all day, to see them sleeping and eating and doing all that boring stuff. But to meet a gorilla is something nobody ever gets to do. Kara hummed while she waited.

"Please stop humming," said Brian.

"I can't," said Kara. "Gorillas love music. He'll expect me to be humming."

"That's not true," said Brian. "You don't know anything about gorillas."

Brian was grumpy because they were missing the sand worms. Kara didn't care. Everyone knows gorillas are better than sand worms. But he was right-she didn't know anything about gorillas. What if it was scary? What if it was mean? What if it bit her hand? Kara wouldn't tell Brian, but as the line inched forward, she got more and more frightened. By the time it was her turn, she was sweating almost as much as she had outside.

"Go ahead, Kara," said Mom. "It's time to meet the giant gorilla."

Kara was about to ask to leave, to say she was too scared, to quit. But one look at her brother convinced her not to chicken out.

"All right," she said. "I love gorillas."

She turned the corner, her toes trembling and her palms sweating, and there was the ape.
"Holy cow," she muttered.

She had expected the gorilla to be scary. To be tough. To be mean. But instead, it was beautiful, with a long flat face, round sloping shoulders, and nostrils big enough to hold a cigar. It looked at her with big, brown eyes and yawned.

"He's pretty sleepy today," said the zookeeper. "He drank too much water."

"I know how he feels," said Kara. "It's a boy?"

"An old man. Over thirty years old."

"What's his name?"

"Christopher. Do you want to shake his hand?"

"It isn't dangerous?"

"He's been doing this a long time. Never hurt anybody yet. Come on, Christopher. Say hello!"

The gorilla stuck out its hand. Kara took it in her sweaty palm. It was soft, cool, and gentle. It looked like Christopher was smiling. She laughed.

"I think we're going to be friends!" she said.

"I think you already are," said the keeper.
1. Why is Kara not having a good time at the beginning of the story?
   A. She doesn't like crowded places.
   B. She doesn't like spending time with her family.
   C. It's too hot and she is bored at the zoo.
   D. She had a fight with her brother.

2. What suddenly gets Kara excited?
   A. She drinks some fresh water.
   B. She reads a sign saying, "MEET THE GIANT GORILLA."
   C. She sees a lot of desert animals.
   D. She convinces her mother to leave the zoo.

3. Brian is particularly excited about seeing the desert animal exhibit. Which sentence from the passage support this conclusion?
   A. "He was two years older than her, but at the zoo he turned into a little baby."
   B. "He kept saying things like, 'Wow! Mountain lions!' or 'What a cool bug!' or 'Hey Kara-come look at these rocks!'"
   C. "He had been begging to go to the zoo for months. When Mom told him they were going, he got so happy that he started sneezing."
   D. "Brian's eyes lit up. 'That reminds me!' he said. 'There's a whole exhibit about desert animals. We'll get to see sand worms!'"

4. Read this sentence: "She turned the corner, her toes trembling and her palms sweating, and there was the ape."

Based on the evidence, how does Kara feel about meeting the gorilla at this point in the story?
   A. Kara is nervous about meeting the gorilla.
   B. Kara is happy about meeting the gorilla.
   C. Kara is angry about meeting the gorilla.
   D. Kara does not care about meeting the gorilla.
5. What is this story mainly about?
   A. how gorillas end up in the zoo
   B. why desert animals are boring
   C. a girl who goes to the zoo and meets a gorilla
   D. two siblings who don't get along

6. Read the following sentences: "He kept saying things like, 'Wow! Mountain lions!' or 'What a cool bug!' or 'Hey Kara-come look at these rocks!' He was two years older than her, but at the zoo he turned into a little baby."

   What is the author suggesting about Brian by writing "he turned into a little baby?"
   A. Brian cried a lot when he was at the zoo.
   B. Brian was so excited about being at the zoo that he behaved like a little kid.
   C. Brian shrunk in size at the zoo.
   D. Brian was treated like a baby when he was at the zoo.

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

   Kara expected the gorilla to be scary and mean; _________, he was beautiful and gentle.
   A. however
   B. especially
   C. therefore
   D. finally

8. How does Kara try to get her mother to leave the zoo?

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9. Why does Kara want to meet the gorilla?


Mikey was eating breakfast on a Saturday morning when her mom came into the kitchen to ask where her older brother was.

"I don't know," she said. "He's probably playing video games." She slurped another mouthful of cereal off her spoon and heard her mom calling to Henry to get out of the basement for once. She turned the page of the book she was reading.

Henry had turned 16 a few weeks before, and since then, he had spent most of his weekends in the basement—there was an old TV set up with his video game console, a mini-fridge filled with sodas, and a beat-up, old futon their dad had in college. The washing machine and dryer were also located down there, and Mikey knew her mom hated it when Henry wouldn't leave the basement long enough for her to do the laundry in peace.

Their mom walked back into the kitchen and sat down across the table from Mikey.

"I just don't understand that boy anymore," she said. "Does he talk to you?"

"He stopped talking to me in the third grade, when he started coming home late on school
days," Mikey said. She shrugged and put her book down.

They used to be best friends, Mikey and Henry. They took their golden retriever Scout on long walks through the undeveloped forest area behind their house every day after school. They would pretend to be in Middle Earth, like the characters from the *Lord of the Rings* series (which Henry used to read obsessively). Mikey was basically interested in anything Henry was and happy to be Gollum or an orc or whatever evil creature Henry felt like vanquishing that day. (Scout was always on Mikey's side, because she had a disadvantage, being younger than Henry and the evil character.) When it got dark, they would make their way back through the trees to the wide lawn in the backyard of their house, and then in through the sliding glass doors to the kitchen for a snack. Henry liked to eat peanut butter sandwiches and would make three: two for him and one for Mikey. Their mom would come home a little while later, and they would pretend to be starving for dinner.

But at some point in the last year, everything changed. Henry started making plans with his friends after school, and the house would be empty—except for Scout—when Mikey was dropped off from carpool after school. Sometimes Henry didn't come home until after Mikey and her parents were already sitting down to eat dinner. It soon became Mikey's job to take Scout on a walk by herself, but it was becoming winter, and the sun was setting early, and Mikey was nervous to go into the undeveloped woods by herself.

"Really, Mom, the person it bothers the most is Scout. She absolutely hates having to walk on the streets in the neighborhood. Dogs were made for running around trees, not for walking on asphalt." Mikey shrugged again.

Her mom smiled at her sadly and reached across the table to take Mikey's cheek in her hand, but Mikey brushed it off quickly. She always did that when she felt sorry for Mikey.

"I'm sorry, sweetie," she said. "Do you want me and Dad to talk to Henry about Scout's predicament?"

Mikey shook her head emphatically. "He would just resent Scout," she said.

Her mom nodded. "Maybe. I'm sure he'll grow out of this phase soon."

Mikey picked her book up again. "I doubt it," she said.

Her mom stood up and left the kitchen. Sunlight was streaming in through the big windows that surrounded the room, and Scout was lying in a patch of warmth under Mikey's chair. She supposed this was how it would always be: her and Scout, hanging out and growing old
together as if Henry had never existed.

Suddenly, the whirring sound of the washing machine rose up from the basement. Henry walked into the kitchen and sat down where their mom was sitting before.

"Hey, Mikey," he said. "Want to take Scout on a walk?"

Name: ________________________________ Date: ________________

1. According to Mikey, where has Henry spent most of his weekends since he turned 16?
   A. in the woods
   B. with his sister
   C. in his room
   D. in the basement

2. What main problem does Mikey face?
   A. Her brother Henry does not spend much time with her anymore.
   B. Her brother Henry no longer makes her sandwiches after school.
   C. Her dog Scout does not want to go on walks on the streets in the neighborhood.
   D. She always has to pretend to be the bad guy when she plays with her brother.

3. Mikey looks up to her older brother Henry and likes being with him. What evidence from the passage best supports this conclusion?
   A. "They took their golden retriever Scout on long walks through the undeveloped forest area behind their house every day after school."
   B. "Scout was always on Mikey's side, because she had a disadvantage, being younger than Henry and the evil one."
   C. "Mikey was basically interested in anything Henry was and happy to be Gollum or an orc or whatever evil creature Henry felt like vanquishing that day."
   D. "They would pretend to be in Middle Earth, like the characters from the *Lord of the Rings* series (which Henry used to read obsessively)."

4. Why does Mikey tell her mom that Scout is most bothered by Henry not spending time with them?
   A. because Mikey thinks this will get Henry to spend time with her again
   B. because Mikey does not want to tell her mom how much she misses Henry
   C. because Mikey is worried about Scout's emotional well-being
   D. because Mikey wants her mom to tell Henry to take Scout on walks again
5. What is this story mostly about?
   A. a brother and sister who stay close friends as they grow up
   B. a girl who likes taking walks in the woods with her dog
   C. a boy grows up and develops new interests
   D. a girl who misses spending time with her brother

6. Read the following sentences:

"Really, Mom, the person it bothers the most is Scout. She absolutely hates having to walk on the streets in the neighborhood. Dogs were made for running around trees, not for walking on asphalt." Mikey shrugged again.

"I'm sorry, sweetie," she said. "Do you want me and Dad to talk to Henry about Scout's predicament?"

As used in this sentence, what does the word "predicament" mean?
   A. a difficult or unpleasant situation
   B. an argument with someone
   C. a question that is easy to answer
   D. a pleasant and enjoyable situation

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

_____________. Mikey and Henry spent a lot of time together, but now Henry spends most of his weekends alone in the basement.
   A. Specifically
   B. Previously
   C. Although
   D. Finally
8. Why does Mikey have to take Scout on walks by herself now?

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9. How has Mikey and Henry's relationship changed since Henry turned 16?

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10. How has the change in Mikey and Henry's relationship affected Mikey? Identify and explain an example from the passage that shows how Mikey feels about her relationship with Henry.

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"Tuesday. 12:45. Recess. The game is tag. The stakes are high. There is no time to waste," Ryan said this to himself under his breath, on the edge of the jungle gym where kids played tag.

A football fan, Ryan's favorite part of the game was the commentators. Their deep, serious voices made football seem like more than a game. They made it dramatic-like a gladiator fight from ancient Rome. Ryan thought gladiators were pretty cool.

When kids on his playground played tag, he pretended to be a commentator. In his deepest possible voice, he took the imagined audience through the ups and downs of the match.

"Around the corner comes Billy Watkins," he intoned. "Billy's having a strong season so far, and those who watch this sport closely think he might be about to step up to a higher level. If he fulfills his promise, his name could stand alongside the greats of the game-names like Shirley Tompkins and Judy Whitmore, Andy Tobin and George Francis."

As he came around the corner, though, Billy Watkins slipped in the mulch and fell on his face.
He rolled back and forth on the ground, whimpering. No one showed sympathy.

"On the other hand," Ryan said, "Billy may disappoint us all."

Ryan knew something about disappointment. He had time to play commentator because nobody really wanted him to play tag. He'd never understood why, but when he joined the game, nobody would chase him. If he did somehow manage to become "It," nobody would run. But he didn't try to play; if he just narrated the game, he wouldn't be left out. He was still playing tag—he was just playing it in a different way.

"Hey kid!" said a voice behind him, a freckle-faced girl with frizzy pigtails named Angela. A newcomer to the game, Ryan thought to himself. A rookie hungry for respect. A-

"Why aren't you playing the game?" she barked, interrupting his reverie.

"I'm playing."

"No you're not! You're just standing over here being weird."

"I'm providing commentary, for, uh..." Ryan tried to think of anything to say besides "for the folks at home." He couldn't. "For the folks at home."

"What folks?! Are you on the phone or something?"

"Just leave me alone."

"I can't!"

"Why not?"

"Because I'm 'It!' Why aren't you running? I'm 'It', and that means you're supposed to run." Ryan shrugged. She poked him in the stomach. "Fine! Now you're 'It!'"

Ryan froze. He hadn't been 'It' for a long time. He didn't know what to do. The rest of the players stopped, too, and stared at him. If he moved, would they move too? Or would they stand there, waiting for him to quit embarrassing himself and get off the playground?

"Uh, weirdo!" shouted Angela. "This isn't freeze tag. Start running!"

So he ran the only way he knew how: with narration.

"Heart pounding in his ears, the frightened young commentator springs into action," he
"Tag--I'm It!" muttered. "He isn't sure how, he isn't sure why, but he knows one thing. He is going to get that girl with the pigtails."

"Quit talking to yourself, and run like you mean it!" said Angela.

"He races up the slide, and across the footbridge, his target in his sights just a few feet away. The bridge's wooden slats clatter under his feet, sending shockwaves up his spine and into his jaw. Ryan is undaunted. This will be his hour. He reaches toward his foe, stretches out his fingers, and-ow!"

Ryan's hands clutched air. He fell face-forward, off the jungle gym, landing where Angela had been just a moment before. She had slid down the fireman's pole. He had not been so graceful.

"Dazed and confused, the young competitor tries to get his bearings. He looks up and sees the face of his opponent staring down at him, looking concerned and curious about why Ryan is still talking to himself."

"I think you might have broken your brain," Angela said.

"Ryan's brain is fine. Angela is the one who needs to worry."

"Why?"

Ryan leapt to his feet and poked Angela in the stomach.

"Because Angela is 'It!'"

Ryan turned and ran, a happy gladiator, battling at last.
1. What game are the kids playing during recess?
   A. tag
   B. hopscotch
   C. football
   D. hide and seek

2. Who is the main character in this story?
   A. George
   B. Billy
   C. Angela
   D. Ryan

3. Read this paragraph from the text.

   Ryan knew something about disappointment. He had time to play commentator because nobody really wanted him to play tag. He'd never understood why, but when he joined the game, nobody would chase him. If he did somehow manage to become "It," nobody would run. But he didn't try to play; if he just narrated the game, he wouldn't be left out. He was still playing tag—he was just playing it in a different way.

   Based on this evidence, what conclusion can be drawn about Ryan?
   A. Ryan does not want to play tag with the other kids.
   B. Ryan would rather play tag than play commentator.
   C. Ryan thinks narrating the game of tag is more exciting than playing it.
   D. Ryan is better at tag than many of the other kids in the game.

4. How is Angela different from most of the other kids playing tag?
   A. She is the only girl to have ever played tag.
   B. She enjoys running on the playground.
   C. She does not leave Ryan out of the game.
   D. She does not think Ryan is strange at all.
5. What is the main idea of this story?
   A. Ryan is a huge fan of the game of tag, but would rather narrate the game than play it.
   B. Ryan is a huge fan of football, but he decides to try and play tag instead.
   C. After being left out of the game for a long time, Ryan becomes a tag commentator.
   D. After being left out of the game for a long time, Ryan gets to join a game of tag.

6. Read this paragraph from the text.

Ryan froze. He hadn't been 'It' for a long time. He didn't know what to do. The rest of the players stopped, too, and stared at him. If he moved, would they move too? Or would they stand there, waiting for him to quit embarrassing himself and get off the playground?

Why might the author have included the two questions in this paragraph?
   A. to show that Ryan is asking these questions in his head while he is frozen
   B. to show that the rest of the players are asking Ryan questions while he is frozen
   C. to ask the reader what he or she thinks should happen next in the story
   D. to hint that the author does not know what will happen next in the story

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

Ryan wanted to play tag, ____ the other kids didn't want to play tag with him.
   A. thus
   B. also
   C. like
   D. but
8. Why does Ryan pretend to be a commentator during the games of tag?

9. How does Ryan feel immediately after Angela tags him and makes him 'It', but before he starts running? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. How does Ryan feel after he starts running and participating in the game of tag? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
Think of an object that is important to you. Write to describe this object and explain why it is important.

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Imagine one day at school you are allowed to create a rule for students to follow. Explain the rule you create and why you choose to make that rule. Be sure to include details.
Think of your favorite place to eat. The location could be at home, school, a park, a restaurant, or another place. Write to explain why this is your favorite place to eat.

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Your teacher gives you a camera and asks you to take pictures of three things you like at school. Explain what you take pictures of and why you like these things.

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There is a saying that time goes by quickly when you are having fun. Write about an exciting event in which the time seemed to go by faster than usual.
Grade 4 Mathematics Homework • Finding Factors and Multiples

List factor pairs for the following numbers:

36

24

30

55

27

List multiples for the following numbers (up to 99):

5

8

6
Grade 4 Mathematics Homework • Solve Multiplicative Comparison Problems

Solve each problem. Show your thinking.

City Freeze Town received 81 inches of snow last year. City Typical Town received nine times less snow than Freeze Town. How many inches of snow did Typical Town receive?

Rena makes a small rectangular pizza with a perimeter of 12 inches. Holly makes a rectangular pizza with a perimeter 3 times as large as Rena’s pizza. What is the perimeter of Holly’s pizza and what are 2 possible dimensions of her pizza?

Linda’s flip flops cost $8. Kathy’s flip flops are fancy and cost 3 times as much as Linda’s. How much are Kathy’s flip flops?
Grade 4 Mathematics Homework • Model and Solve Multiplicative Comparison Problems

Draw a Tape Diagrams/Bar Models to Solve the Problems.

1. Four students play basketball. Five times as many students play soccer. How many students play soccer?

2. A pair of shoes costs $27. A shirt is three times less than the cost of the shoes. How much does the shirt cost?

3. Tia’s dog weighs 8 pounds. Eric’s dog weighs four times more than Tia’s dog. How much does Eric’s dog weigh?
Grade 4 Mathematics Homework • Solve Multiplicative Comparison Problems

Solve each problem. Show your thinking.

Jon’s flight takes 4 hours. Ebony’s flight takes 5 more hours than Jon’s flight. How long is Ebony’s flight?

Sandy reads 8 pages of her book. Steph reads 6 times more than Sandy. How many pages does Steph read?

Maria needs 8 hours to complete her game. She needs 6 more hours to finish her second game. How long does it take her to finish her second game?
Grade 4 Mathematics Homework • Multiply using a variety of strategies

Show how to find the product using the area model, partial products, and repeated addition.

Area Model
36 x 4 = ______

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c|c}
& 30 & + & 6 \\
\hline
4 & & & & & & \\
\end{array}
\]

Partial Products
36 x 4 = ______

\[
( \underline{\phantom{100}} \times 4 ) + ( \underline{\phantom{100}} \times 4 )
\]

\[
\underline{\phantom{100}} + \underline{\phantom{100}}
\]

Repeated Addition
36 x 4 = ______

\[
\underline{\phantom{100}} + \underline{\phantom{100}} + \underline{\phantom{100}} + \underline{\phantom{100}}
\]

Solve using an efficient strategy.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
2 \times 99 & 8 \times 78 \\
\end{array}
\]