

# Verbal & Reading

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School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dear Mr. Winston**

**Word Bank:**

(Skim through each word below first. Underline and look up each new word before you start the exercise.)

- argue
- award
- bore
- carpet
- charge
- dart
- ford
- guard
- morning
- spark

Find a vocab word to complete each sentence.

1. Try to throw the \_\_\_\_\_ at the bull's eye.

2. He felt an electric \_\_\_\_\_ during the storm.

3. How did he cross the \_\_\_\_\_ of the river?

Write the vocab words that match the clues below.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ protects

5. \_\_\_\_\_ dull

6. \_\_\_\_\_ win

7. \_\_\_\_\_ fight

13. \_\_\_\_\_ small taste

8. \_\_\_\_\_ wake up

14. \_\_\_\_\_ bony

9. \_\_\_\_\_ static

15. \_\_\_\_\_ peace

10. \_\_\_\_\_ on the floor

16. \_\_\_\_\_ bulky

### ***The Night of San Juan***

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#### **Word Bank:**

(Skim through each word below first.  
Underline and look up each new word before  
you start the exercise.)

- bawl
- cautious
- coil
- douse
- foul
- hoist
- mouthful
- scrawny
- stout
- turmoil

Write the vocab word that is the opposite of  
each word below.

17. \_\_\_\_\_ quiet

18. \_\_\_\_\_ drop

19. \_\_\_\_\_ fair

20. \_\_\_\_\_ dry



11. \_\_\_\_\_ line

12. \_\_\_\_\_ careless

**Zathura**

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**Word Bank:**

(Skim through each word below first. Underline and look up each new word before you start the exercise.)

- director
- equator
- founder
- governor
- labor
- peddler
- professor
- scholar
- splendor
- vapor

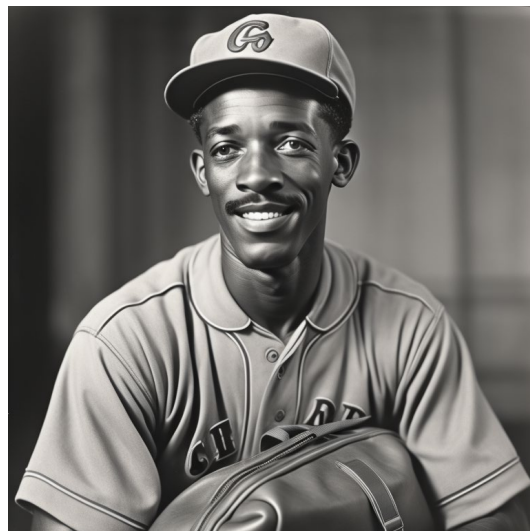
Write the vocab word that matches each clue below.

21. \_\_\_\_\_ line around the middle of Earth
22. \_\_\_\_\_ a college instructor
23. \_\_\_\_\_ gas
24. \_\_\_\_\_ an official elected to rule a state
25. \_\_\_\_\_ hard work
26. \_\_\_\_\_ person in charge of a project

27. \_\_\_\_\_ advanced student
28. \_\_\_\_\_ traveling salesperson
29. \_\_\_\_\_ one who establishes a company
30. \_\_\_\_\_ magnificent view

**Reading Comprehension**

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Leroy “Satchel” Paige, a legendary figure in baseball, had humble beginnings in Mobile, Alabama. Growing up, he contributed to his family’s income by carrying people’s bags, commonly referred to as satchels. It was during this time that he acquired the nickname “Satchel,” a moniker that would stay with him throughout his life.

Satchel’s introduction to baseball was

unconventional – he learned the game while serving time in jail for stealing toys from a store. Released in 1923 at the age of 17, he embarked on a baseball career that would soon make him a global sensation. However, racial segregation prevented Satchel from playing for white teams, a barrier that persisted until 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier by joining a white team. Following suit, Satchel Paige joined the Cleveland Indians in the very next year.

Remarkably, in 1965, at the age of 59, Satchel was still pitching, showcasing his enduring talent and love for the game. The pinnacle of his career came in 1971 when he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Despite his remarkable achievements, the absence of records for black baseball teams leaves some uncertainty about Satchel Paige’s place in history. Nevertheless, many consider him one of the greatest baseball players of all time.

31. How did Leroy “Satchel” Paige acquire his nickname?
- A) From his prowess in stealing bases
  - B) Due to his talent in hitting home runs
  - C) Through carrying people’s bags
  - D) As a tribute to his hometown
32. How did Satchel Paige learn baseball?
- A) From formal training in a baseball academy
  - B) Through playing with friends in his neighborhood
  - C) While serving time in jail
  - D) By watching baseball games on television
33. When did racial segregation prevent Satchel Paige from playing for white teams?
- A) 1923
  - B) 1947
  - C) 1965
  - D) 1971
34. In what year did Satchel Paige join the Cleveland Indians?
- A) 1923
  - B) 1947
  - C) 1965
  - D) 1971
35. At what age was Satchel Paige still pitching in 1965?
- A) 17
  - B) 39
  - C) 59
  - D) 71
36. How did Satchel Paige contribute to his family’s income in his early life?
37. What significant barrier did Satchel Paige face in his early baseball career?
38. When did Satchel Paige join the Cleveland Indians, and what prompted this move?

39. What remarkable achievement marked the pinnacle of Satchel Paige’s baseball career?

40. Considering Satchel Paige’s unconventional introduction to baseball, how might his early experiences have shaped his resilience and determination, leading to his remarkable and enduring career in the sport?

comprehend this fact and cleverly navigate their way around these human-like figures.

Upon witnessing a farmer setting up a scarecrow in the cornfield, crows observe with keen interest. Once the farmer departs, the crows take advantage of the absence and descend upon the field in search of their favorite crop, corn. Some bold crows may even engage with the scarecrow, flying at it with loud calls or perching on its outstretched arms.

Crows, being omnivores, don’t limit their diet to corn alone. They also enjoy feasting on grasshoppers and mice, providing an unintended service to farmers by helping control pests. However, their relentless appetite means they are often in search of food. When it comes to corn, crows adopt a strategic approach. Some act as lookouts, perching on fences to keep a watchful eye on the surroundings. If a potential threat, like the approaching farmer, is detected, the lookout crow emits a loud cry, signaling the others to take flight. In this cat-and-mouse game, the crows may not be afraid of the scarecrow, but they certainly exhibit a clever wariness of the ever-watchful farmer.

**Reading Comprehension**



Crows, with their keen intelligence, have developed a reputation for their fondness for corn, much to the chagrin of farmers. To deter these crafty birds, farmers often deploy the classic scarecrow, a human-like figure fashioned from straw and old clothing. While scarecrows pose no real threat to crows, the birds seem to

41. What is the primary purpose of a scarecrow in a cornfield?

- A) To attract crows
- B) To serve as a decoration
- C) To deter pests
- D) To provide shade for crops

42. How do crows typically react to the presence of a scarecrow in the cornfield?

- A) They attack it aggressively
- B) They completely ignore it
- C) They engage with it and fly around it
- D) They use it as a perch for rest

43. What unintended service do crows provide to farmers, according to the passage?
- A) Planting seeds
  - B) Controlling pests
  - C) Watering crops
  - D) Scaring away other birds
44. What role do lookout crows play in the crows' strategy for approaching the cornfield?
- A) They engage with the scarecrow
  - B) They search for alternative food sources
  - C) They emit loud cries to signal potential threats
  - D) They help the farmer set up the scarecrow
45. In the cat-and-mouse game described in the passage, what are the crows wary of?
- A) Other birds
  - B) The scarecrow
  - C) The farmer
  - D) Changing weather conditions
46. How do crows show their cleverness in navigating around scarecrows?
47. Besides corn, what other foods do crows enjoy, according to the passage?
48. What role do lookout crows play in the strategy of approaching the cornfield?
49. What is the primary purpose of crows adopting a strategic approach when searching for corn?
50. How might farmers enhance their pest control strategies by understanding the behavior of crows described in the passage?

**Reading Comprehension**

Rubber bands, ubiquitous in their usage, owe their strength and flexibility to the fascinating properties of rubber. Before a crucial discovery in 1839 by Charles Goodyear, rubber had limitations—it became sticky in hot weather and brittle in cold conditions. Goodyear’s breakthrough involved heating the rubber, a process known as vulcanization, which transformed it into a resilient material that maintained its strength and flexibility across various temperatures.

The primary source of rubber is the rubber tree, which thrives in warm and humid climates. These trees exude a milky sap from their bark, which is collected by people and transported to factories. In the factory, the sap undergoes a process where water is removed, resulting in a rubber block resembling white cheese.

To shape this raw rubber into the familiar form of rubber bands, several manufacturing steps take place. The rubber blocks are taken to a rubber plant, where they undergo heating, akin to Goodyear’s original method. Subsequently, machines are employed to transform the rubber blocks into flat sheets. Another machine rolls these sheets into circular forms, and a further machine cuts these circles into the thin, stretchable bands we commonly use—rubber

bands. The versatility and usefulness of rubber bands in binding objects of various sizes together underscore the enduring impact of Charles Goodyear’s innovative solution to rubber’s temperamental nature.

51. What crucial discovery did Charles Goodyear make in 1839 regarding rubber?
  - A) Rubber’s source
  - B) Rubber’s color properties
  - C) Vulcanization process
  - D) Rubber’s elasticity in cold conditions
  
52. What problem did rubber face before Charles Goodyear’s discovery?
  - A) It became transparent
  - B) It became sticky in hot weather
  - C) It lost its color
  - D) It became rigid in cold weather
  
53. What is the primary source of rubber?
  - A) Rubber bands
  - B) Rubber sheets
  - C) Rubber tree
  - D) Rubber sap
  
54. What is the raw material extracted from rubber trees, and what does it resemble after processing?
  - A) Rubber bands; plastic blocks
  - B) Rubber sap; white cheese
  - C) Rubber sheets; metal blocks
  - D) Rubber leaves; green cheese

55. How did Charles Goodyear's breakthrough impact rubber's properties?
- A) It made rubber transparent
  - B) It made rubber sticky in hot weather
  - C) It made rubber rigid in cold conditions
  - D) It maintained rubber's strength and flexibility across temperatures
56. Explain the process of vulcanization and its impact on rubber.
57. What is the primary function of rubber bands, and how are they manufactured?
58. Where is the milky sap extracted from rubber trees used in the rubber-making process?
59. What challenges did rubber face before the vulcanization process?
60. Reflecting on the versatility and usefulness of rubber bands, how has Charles Goodyear's innovative solution to rubber's limitations contributed to everyday convenience and efficiency?



# Answer Key

## Dear Mr. Winston

1. dart
2. charge
3. ford
4. guard
5. bore
6. award
7. argue
8. morning
9. spark
10. carpet

## The Night of San Juan

11. coil
12. cautious
13. mouthful
14. stout
15. turmoil
16. scrawny
17. bawl
18. hoist
19. foul
20. douse

## Zathura

21. equator
22. professor
23. vapor
24. governor
25. labor
26. director
27. scholar
28. peddler
29. founder
30. splendor

## Reading Comprehension

31. C
32. C
33. B
34. B
35. C
36. Satchel Paige contributed to his family's income by carrying people's bags, commonly referred to as satchels.

37. Satchel Paige faced racial segregation, preventing him from playing for white teams.
38. Satchel Paige joined the Cleveland Indians in 1948, following Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in 1947.
39. The pinnacle of Satchel Paige's career came in 1971 when he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.
40. Satchel Paige's unconventional introduction to baseball, including learning the game in jail, suggests a resilience and determination that likely played a role in overcoming racial barriers and sustaining a remarkable and enduring career in baseball.

## Reading Comprehension

41. C
42. C
43. B
44. C
45. C
46. Crows engage with scarecrows and may fly around them or perch on their outstretched arms.
47. Crows also enjoy feasting on grasshoppers and mice.
48. Lookout crows serve as watchful observers, perching on fences to detect potential threats and emitting loud cries to signal others.
49. The strategic approach helps crows avoid potential threats, especially the ever-watchful farmer.
50. Farmers could potentially leverage the cleverness of crows in controlling pests by implementing measures that encourage crows to stay in the area, contributing to natural pest control.

## Reading Comprehension

51. C
52. B

- 53. C
- 54. B
- 55. D
- 56. Vulcanization is the process of heating rubber, discovered by Charles Goodyear in 1839. This process transformed rubber into a resilient material, maintaining strength and flexibility across temperatures.
- 57. Rubber bands are commonly used for binding objects. They are manufactured by heating rubber blocks, transforming them into flat sheets, and then shaping them into circular bands through a series of machine processes.
- 58. The milky sap is collected from the bark of rubber trees and transported to factories, where it undergoes processing to create raw rubber.
- 59. Rubber faced issues such as becoming sticky in hot weather and brittle in cold conditions before the vulcanization process was discovered.
- 60. Charles Goodyear's discovery of the vulcanization process has made rubber a durable and flexible material, enhancing the utility of rubber bands for binding objects of various sizes. This innovation has contributed to everyday convenience and efficiency by providing a reliable and adaptable tool for numerous applications.