

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. C) The celestial dance of stars
2. C) Awe-struck
3. C) Possible
4. B) The stars are actually meteors.
5. B) They burn brightly.
6. Lucy exclaimed in surprise and followed its ephemeral brilliance.
7. They are fragments of rock, mostly no larger than a grain of sand, burning brightly as meteors.
8. About 50 miles above Earth.
9. In the past, people had a mix of wonder and fear, but in the present day, falling stars are a source of joy and amusement.
10. The once-feared phenomena becoming a source of joy implies a shift in perspective, fostering a connection between humanity and the vast wonders of the universe. It suggests that by appreciating and finding joy in celestial events, people establish a positive and awe-inspired relationship with the mysteries beyond our world.

Carnivorous plants

11. B) Tube-shaped leaves

12. B) Rainforests
13. C) Sticky hairs
14. C) Leaves with parts that look like mouths with teeth
15. Pitcher plants like Sarracenia and Cephalotus have tube-shaped leaves that act like pitchers. Insects slip on the slippery sides and fall inside, where special liquids break them down, providing the plant with nutrients.
16. Tropical pitcher plants, or Nepenthes, attract insects with colorful traps and sweet smells. Once inside the pitcher, insects are trapped, and the plant digests them for nutrients. They thrive in warm and humid places like rainforests.
17. Sundews have leaves covered in tiny, sticky hairs. When insects land on the leaves, they get stuck, and the sundew wraps its leaves around them. Special juices are released to break down the insects.
18. Carnivorous plants like bladderworts are compared to underwater magicians because they use tiny traps called bladders to

create a vacuum that sucks in insects when they swim by. The analogy suggests a magical and skillful aspect to their insect-catching strategy in the aquatic environment.

19. N/A

Forests And Their Significance

20. bamboo
21. view
22. plume
23. Few
24. lose
25. duty
26. hue
27. handbook
28. mute
29. bruise
30. brood
31. hoof
32. amuse
33. hook
34. booth
35. union
36. prove
37. tuna
38. doom
39. crooks
40. B) Protecting the forest floor from erosion
41. C) It decreases
42. D) Deeper into the forest
43. D) Hoof prints in the muddy ground
44. C) Adaptation to changing conditions

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. The sea otter carefully selects a shellfish, then finds and carries an ideal rock to the water's surface. It positions itself on its back, places the rock on its chest, and uses it as a percussive instrument to crack open the shell.
7. The sea otter rolls over in the water, serving both as a moment of aquatic repose and a self-cleaning act, ensuring it remains intellectually savvy and impeccably groomed.
8. More than 35 percussive strikes.
9. Problem-solving, adaptability, and even personal hygiene.
10. The sea otter's adept use of tools for survival challenges the once-held belief that tool usage was exclusive to humans, expanding our understanding of intelligence in the animal kingdom. It showcases problem-solving skills, adaptability, and even a level of personal hygiene, highlighting the multifaceted nature of animal intelligence.

Reading Comprehension

11. C
12. C
13. B
14. C
15. A
16. The four-eyed fish has eyes positioned on top of its head. Each eye is dual-purpose, with the upper segment attuned to vision in the air, and the lower portion specialized for underwater vision. They operate independently, allowing the fish to

process visual information both above and below the water simultaneously.

17. The eyes above the water's surface serve as adept hunters, scanning for insects both on the water and in the air, while the eyes below the water's surface are on the lookout for potential prey. This allows the four-eyed fish to secure a diverse and plentiful diet.
18. When observed from the surface, the four-eyed fish creates a surreal image, appearing as if it has two eyes above the water and two eyes submerged, due to the top part of each eye protruding above the water.
19. The long and slender body of the four-eyed fish allows it to gracefully navigate just below the water's surface, optimizing its ability to use its unique visual adaptations.
20. The dual functionality of the four-eyed fish's eyes provides a significant advantage in survival by allowing it to effectively hunt for prey both above and below the water simultaneously. This adaptation likely enhances its ability to secure a diverse and plentiful diet, giving it a competitive edge in its ecological niche.

A Memorable Field Trip

21. aboard
22. heart
23. course
24. force
25. chart
26. flare
27. harsh
28. swore

Words needed in the passage:

aboard
heart
course
force

chart
flare
harsh
squares
coarse
marshy
thorns
starched
swear
sword
barge
fare
scarce
scorn
result

- 29. B
- 30. C
- 31. C
- 32. A
- 33. B

- 34. The teacher's role was to lead the students through historical sites, and her objective was for the students to take notes on significant events and gain a deeper understanding of their town's history.
- 35. The guide was harsh but knowledgeable. The students were excited about his expertise and the promise that he would show them everything they needed to see and more.
- 36. The students had to be careful of the coarse cobblestone streets and thorns and brambles. They protected themselves with starched shirts.
- 37. The field trip gave the students a new appreciation for their town's history, and they realized the value of the experience, which would be etched in their memories.
- 38. The field trip likely ignited a greater interest and appreciation for history and their town's heritage among the students. This experience could encourage them to explore history further, engage more with their community, and become more informed citizens.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. The kudzu vine has hairy stems and is adorned with striking purple, red, and yellow flowers. Its fruit carries a grape-like fragrance and contains numerous seeds.
7. The intentions were to use the plant's deep-rooted structure to prevent soil erosion and to utilize it as fodder for livestock.
8. The rapid growth rate of kudzu resulted in vines engulfing entire trees, creating an agricultural conundrum that proved difficult to manage.
9. Farmers need to utilize the advantages of kudzu in soil conservation and animal feed while vigilantly managing and trimming its exuberant growth to prevent it from becoming invasive.
10. The rapid and unchecked growth of kudzu, once introduced to combat soil erosion, has transformed it into a potential menace, engulfing trees and creating agricultural challenges. This cautionary tale highlights the importance of managing the growth of beneficial plants to prevent them from becoming invasive and problematic.

Reading Comprehension

11. D
12. C
13. D
14. C
15. C
16. A fortunate gold discovery could lead to unimaginable wealth for a miner, transforming their life from one of uncertainty to potential prosperity.

17. Entrepreneurs hastily erected hotels, banks, and stores to cater to the needs of the growing population as a response to the influx of miners.
18. Ghost towns from the gold rush era often experienced a rapid rise and decline, and today, they stand as poignant reminders frozen in a moment when the pursuit of gold shaped the destiny of individuals.
19. The transient nature of the gold rush meant that towns often experienced a rapid rise and an equally swift decline when gold reserves dwindled, leading to the phenomenon of abandoned "ghost towns."
20. The legacy of the gold rush may contribute to the societal perspective that the pursuit of fortune, akin to the gold rush era, continues to hold enduring allure and influence the way individuals perceive and pursue wealth and success in the present day.

Exploring the Enigmatic Marshlands

21. squares
22. coarse
23. marsh
24. thorn
25. starch
26. swear
27. sword
28. barge
29. fare
30. scarce
31. scorn
32. result

Words needed in the passage:

33. C
34. B
35. C
36. C
37. C

38. The explorers encountered thorny shrubs and tangled thickets, which made the terrain treacherous and challenging to navigate. They had to be cautious of hidden hazards in the overgrown vegetation.
39. The explorers felt that their starched garments protected them from the thorns and prickly foliage, and they believed that their determination and desire for discovery outweighed any discomfort or challenge they might face.
40. The explorers encountered an overgrown and challenging landscape in the marshlands. They responded by hacking their way through the overgrowth, forging a path toward the heart of the marsh.
41. The explorers transformed their prior ignorance and indifference toward the marshlands into a sense of scorn for not exploring it sooner. They regretted the years that had passed without discovering its mysteries and became eager to preserve and protect the marsh for future generations.
42. The explorers' vow to preserve and protect the marshlands signifies their commitment to ensuring the conservation and sustainability of this unique ecosystem. It suggests that they recognize the importance of maintaining its beauty and biodiversity for future generations and are willing to take action to achieve this goal.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. Dolly's father was a whimsical clown, and her mother was a daring performer on the high wire. Growing up in this environment influenced Dolly's early desire to be part of the circus world.
7. Dolly's journey began with her father hesitating due to her young age, but the turning point came on her 13th birthday when she officially joined the circus.
8. Dolly's teenage years were spent traveling with the circus, absorbing the sights and sounds. She mastered intricate tricks on the rings during this time.
9. Dolly did not see the hard work as a burden but as the price to pay for the chance to captivate the audience under the big top.
10. Dolly's story embodies the essence of the circus by showcasing a world where dreams come alive, hard work leads to success, and each performance is a celebration of the extraordinary. Her journey reflects the universal appeal and magical aspects of the circus.

Reading Comprehension

11. C
12. B
13. A
14. Campers may initially feel puzzled and perhaps that they have lost their belongings.
15. B
16. Campers may place shiny objects on the ground at night, only to discover them missing by morning, replaced by a stone

or another unexpected item, suggesting a visit from a trade rat.

17. According to speculation, the trade rat may have a penchant for collecting bright and shiny objects to adorn its nest.
18. The tales add a touch of enchantment to the natural world, leaving people amused and intrigued by the mysterious and whimsical behavior of trade rats.
19. Campers may initially feel puzzled and perhaps that they have lost their belongings, as the trade rats engage in their curious exchange.
20. The tales of trade rats engaging in unexpected exchanges may foster a sense of wonder and curiosity, encouraging people to perceive the natural world as a place filled with mystery and enchantment, where even small creatures engage in curious behaviors that captivate human imagination.

A Chance Encounter on a Dreary Winter Morning

21. jeer
22. dreary
23. swerve
24. clear
25. lurch
26. yearns
27. nerve
28. lurk
29. stern
30. surf

Words needed in the passage:

dreary
yearn
swerve
lurch
jeer
nerve
lurking
stern

clear
surfing

31. B
32. C
33. B
34. C
35. C
36. The driver didn't stop to check on Sarah but jeered at her as he drove away. Sarah felt angry and rattled by the close call.
37. Sarah's mood shifted from being angry and uneasy to feeling grateful and relieved after the man warned her about dangerous drivers and engaged her in a friendly conversation.
38. The man approached Sarah to warn her about dangerous drivers on the street. They discussed topics related to surfing and the ocean, which lightened Sarah's mood and made her smile.
39. The chance encounter with the man turned Sarah's day around, improving her mood and leaving her feeling grateful for his concern and the positive interaction they had.
40. Sarah's encounter with the man with the surfboard underscores the idea that random acts of kindness and unexpected connections can have a significant impact on a person's day and well-being. It highlights how a simple act of concern and a friendly conversation can transform a dreary and potentially negative experience into a positive and uplifting one.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. Ants gently rub the backs of ant cows to extract the honeydew they produce, showcasing a delicate and caring farming process.
7. Ants actively search for ant cow eggs in the fall, transporting them to nests where they are safeguarded and kept warm throughout the winter.
8. The seasonal dance involves ants moving ant cow eggs in the spring, strategically placing them near new corn plants. This ensures that when the young ant cows emerge, their sustenance is conveniently waiting for them.
9. The voracious appetite of ant cows poses a threat to growing plants, frustrating farmers. Nature balances this by using rain as a natural deterrent, washing away some ant cows, while birds and other insects help control their population.
10. The delicate balance of nature, including the challenges posed by ant cows to farmers, showcases the ingenuity of creatures like ants. The ants' strategic farming practices and the natural checks and balances, such as rain and other insects, illustrate how these creatures adapt and thrive in the intricate dance of survival and cooperation in the miniature world.

Reading Comprehension

11. C
12. B
13. Seawater was collected and left in the sun for an extended period, allowing the water

to evaporate and leaving behind salt crystals.

14. Once obtained through arduous journeys, salt is now readily available in food stores, reflecting technological advancements and widespread distribution.
15. B
16. Ancient methods included sourcing salt from rocks and gathering salt from the sea.
17. Salt wells utilize two pipes inserted into the ground. Water is sent down one pipe, creating saltwater, and this solution is then pushed up the other pipe, allowing the extraction of salt from the water.
18. While people once embarked on arduous journeys to secure salt, today it is readily available in food stores, showcasing the transformation in accessibility.
19. The historical significance of salt reflects its value often rivaling that of precious metals like gold.
20. The evolving methods of salt extraction and distribution reflect broader trends in human civilization, illustrating technological progress, economic changes, and the transformation of essential resources from rarity to accessibility, mirroring the adaptability and resourcefulness of human societies over time.

Personal Growth and Professional Development

21. sneer
22. thirst
23. blurt
24. squirm
25. spur
26. engineer
27. year
28. squirt
29. spurt

30. verse

Words needed in the passage:

engineer

sneer

year

blurt

squirt

verse

spur

thirst

31. C

32. A

33. B

34. B

35. C

36. Mark quickly apologized to his coworker for his outburst, and the meeting continued. However, he felt guilty for his behavior.

37. Mark's colleague's help in fixing a problem during a project inspired him to change. He felt gratitude for his colleague's assistance and was inspired to write a verse about teamwork and collaboration.

38. Mark's perspective shifted from seeking recognition and validation to finding satisfaction in working together as a team towards a common goal.

39. After his realization, Mark made an effort to control his temper and promote positive interactions with his coworkers. His primary focus was on fostering teamwork and collaboration.

40. We can infer that recognizing the value of teamwork and collaboration had a positive impact on Mark's personal growth and professional development. It led to a shift in his perspective and behavior, making him more collaborative and less focused on individual recognition, which likely contributed to his success in the project and improved relationships with colleagues.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. Black individuals had to yield their seats to white people in the front of buses.
7. Rosa Parks' refusal to yield her bus seat to a white man led to her arrest. It ignited a grassroots movement within the black community in Montgomery, resulting in a bus boycott.
8. They expressed their discontent by boycotting the buses, choosing to walk to work or find alternative means of transportation.
9. The bus boycott persisted for about a year and eventually led to the alteration of the discriminatory bus law.
10. Rosa Parks challenged the notion that leadership is confined to those with titles or positions of power. Her quiet act of defiance catalyzed a grassroots movement, leading to a transformative change in discriminatory bus laws. Rosa Parks became a symbol of resilience, proving that one person's determination to stand up against injustice could inspire significant societal change and ignite a movement for civil rights.

Reading Comprehension

11. C
12. B
13. B
14. Workers employed long sticks to swiftly retrieve sacks of mail left beside the tracks as the train sped by.
15. B
16. The establishment of post offices marked the beginning of a more organized mail system.

17. Franklin contributed by creating maps outlining new routes for mail delivery and his impact extended to the printing of the first United States stamps featuring his image.
18. Workers used long sticks to swiftly retrieve sacks of mail left beside the tracks as the train sped by.
19. Boats, horses, stagecoaches, and trains were mentioned as various modes of transportation for mail.
20. The historical evolution of mail transportation illustrates the adaptability and resilience of systems in the face of changing technologies and landscapes, showcasing the importance of innovation and commitment in ensuring the continuity and reliability of essential services.

Wedding and Family Traditions

21. oak
22. blurt
23. dreary
24. duty
25. few
26. laugh
27. view
28. gush
29. stumps
30. bride

Words needed in the passage:

- bride
gushed
dreary
blurt
laugh
view
duty
stumps
few
oaks

31. B
32. D
33. C
34. C
35. A
36. Emily joined in the laughter, and the tension was lifted. She didn't take offense and instead found it amusing.
37. Emily promised to plant new trees in the areas where the stumps had been removed and to take care of the land just as her ancestors had done before her.
38. The rain added to the romantic atmosphere, and Emily and her husband felt a sense of peace and happiness as they stood beneath the oak trees.
39. Emily associated the enduring presence of the oak trees with the lasting love between her and her husband, symbolizing their commitment and the generations to come.
40. Emily's commitment to preserving her family's property and its traditions suggests that such actions are a way to honor the past, create a sense of continuity, and pass down values and experiences to future generations. It signifies the importance of connecting with nature and family history in meaningful ways.