READING
Jessica the Hippo

1 Many people will offer their home to a stray cat or dog. But few people would adopt a lost hippopotamus. Most wouldn’t even know what to feed it. When disaster struck and a baby hippo got lost, it was fortunate to find just the right home.

2 Hippos have their babies underwater. One day a mother hippo went into the Blyde River in Africa to give birth while the river was flooding. The rushing water moved so fast that it swept the newborn hippo away from its mother.

3 No one knows how far the baby hippo traveled down the river before it washed up on the lawn of Tonie Joubert. Joubert was taking a walk. He was surprised to see a baby hippo lying next to the river.

4 It’s a good thing that the baby hippo was found by someone who could save its life. Joubert was a retired game warden. He had nursed many orphaned animals back to health. He knew the baby hippo was very young and weak. He carried the 26-pound animal into his house and named her Jessica.

¹A game warden is a person whose job is to protect wildlife.
Newborn hippos need a special type of milk, and Joubert knew just how to make it. He mixed egg yolks and cream and fed it to Jessica from a bottle. She was very hungry and drank well. Joubert let Jessica sleep on his bed so that he could feed and take care of her throughout the night. Soon Jessica was healthy.

Joubert knew that his experience with animals made him well qualified to care for Jessica. He decided to keep Jessica, and she became an official member of the family.

At first Jessica lived in Joubert’s house. She made friends with the family dogs and seemed happy. When she got bigger, Joubert moved her bed onto the back porch. Still, Jessica was able to wander in and out of the house as she pleased—that is, until she started breaking the furniture!

By the time she was three years old, Jessica had grown so large that she broke a couch. Soon after, she broke another couch. Then she broke a bed. Joubert decided it was best to lock the back door when he went outside. That way he could be sure Jessica stayed off the furniture when he was not able to watch her in the house. But Joubert made the mistake of leaving the key in the lock. Within a week Jessica had learned how to turn the key and open the door. Even after Joubert removed the key, Jessica forced her way in. Finally, Joubert bought a superstrong security door. Now Jessica comes inside only when invited.

Hippos are social animals, but no one can tell whether Jessica thinks she is human or thinks the rest of her family are hippos. Today Jessica is fully grown and spends time with other hippos. Some nights she will wander down to the river to visit wild hippos when they come by. Jessica is free to leave anytime, but it seems she would rather stay with Joubert and the dogs.

Jessica’s story has made worldwide news. People around the globe are interested in learning about her. She has appeared in a South African film. She has also starred in an Animal Planet TV special called “Jessica the Hippo.” Joubert has created a website with information about Jessica, and she even has a fan club. People from all areas of the world enjoy hearing about how Jessica’s scary situation turned into such a positive one!
1 Which detail from the selection suggests that Jessica is smart?

A She has become comfortable with the family dogs.
B She figured out how to unlock a door.
C She spends time with other hippos.
D She stayed afloat on the river.

2 Read this dictionary entry for the word *free*.

free ˈfrē\ adjective
1. not costing any money  
2. not controlled by others  
3. not exact  
4. not busy

Which meaning of *free* is used in paragraph 9?

F Meaning 1  
G Meaning 2  
H Meaning 3  
J Meaning 4
3 Look at the diagram below.

**CAUSE**

Joubert had worked with animals in the past.

**EFFECT**

Which sentence best completes the diagram?

A Joubert encouraged Jessica to play with his dogs.
B Joubert discovered where in the river Jessica was born.
C Joubert knew how to make the milk Jessica needed.
D Joubert told Jessica’s fans about her on a website.

4 The reader can conclude that it is unusual for —

F a hippo to live with humans
G a hippo to appear on TV
H mother hippos to have their babies in the water
J people to fear large animals

5 The photograph best supports which idea from the selection?

A Jessica was on a special diet when she was a baby.
B Jessica sometimes seeks the company of other hippos.
C Jessica’s story has made her famous around the world.
D Jessica’s size makes keeping her as a pet difficult.
6 Which of these is the best summary of the selection?

F Tonie Joubert found a weak baby hippo near his house and decided to take care of her. With Joubert’s help, the hippo grew big and strong. The hippo seems to like staying with Joubert, and she is treated like a member of the family.

G Tonie Joubert decided to keep a baby hippo he found lying next to a river. The hippo became friendly with the family dogs and now visits other hippos in the area.

H When Tonie Joubert found a baby hippo, he realized that she needed to be cared for. He fed the hippo a special kind of milk until she became healthy. The hippo became very large and began to break furniture in Joubert’s house.

J When a baby hippo was in danger, Tonie Joubert knew just what to do. Joubert named the hippo and let her stay in his house. When the hippo grew too large for the house, she slept on the back porch.

7 What does the word fortunate mean in paragraph 1?

A Wise
B Happy
C Lucky
D Proud
8 Which sentence best explains why Joubert was able to provide the care Jessica needed?

F He had nursed many orphaned animals back to health.
G He knew the baby hippo was very young and weak.
H He carried the 26-pound animal into his house and named her Jessica.
J He mixed egg yolks and cream and fed it to Jessica from a bottle.

9 According to the selection, the problem with having Jessica in the house was that she —

A ate food that was not good for her
B wanted to be left alone
C bothered the family dogs
D broke things
Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

M.D. = A Moody Day

from the book Judy Moody, M.D.: The Doctor Is In!
by Megan McDonald

1 PLIP! Judy Moody woke up. Drip, drip, drip went rain on the roof. Blip, blip, blip went drops on the window. Not again! It had been raining for seven days straight. Bor-ing!

2 She, Judy Moody, was sick and tired of rain.

3 Judy put her head under the pillow. If only she was sick. Being sick was the greatest. You got to stay home and drink pop for breakfast and eat toast cut in special strips and watch TV in your room. You got to read Cherry Ames, Student Nurse, mysteries all day. And you got to eat yummy cherry cough drops. Hey! Maybe Cherry Ames was named after a cough drop!

4 Judy took out her mom’s old Cherry Ames book and popped a cough drop in her mouth anyway.

5 “Get up, Lazybones!” said Stink, knocking on her door.


7 “What?”

8 “Never mind. Just go to school without me.”

9 “Mom, Judy’s skipping school!” Stink yelled.

10 Mom came into Judy’s room. “Judy, honey. What’s wrong?”


13 “My head, for one thing. From all that noisy rain.”

14 “You have a headache?”

15 “Yes. And a sore throat. And a fever. And a stiff neck.”
“That’s from sleeping with the dictionary under your pillow,” said Stink. “To ace your spelling test.”

“Is not.”

“Is too!”

“See, look. My tongue’s all red.” Judy stuck out her Cherry-Ames-cough-drop tongue at Stink.

Mom felt Judy’s head. “You don’t seem to have a fever.”

“Faker,” said Stink.

“Come back in five minutes,” said Judy. “I’ll have a fever by then.”

“Faker, faker, faker,” said Stink.

If only she had measles. Or chicken pox. Or . . . MUMPS! Mumps gave you a headache. Mumps gave you a stiff neck and a sore throat. Mumps made your cheeks stick out like Humpty Dumpty. Judy pushed the cough drop into her cheek and made it stick out, Humpty-Dumpty style.

“Mumps!” said Dr. Judy. “I think I have the mumps! For real!”

“Mumps!” said Stink. “No way. You got a shot for that. A no-mumps shot. We both did. Didn’t we, Mom?”

“Yes,” said Mom. “Stink’s right.”

“Maybe one mump got through.”

“Sounds like somebody doesn’t want to go to school today,” said Mom.

“Can I? Can I stay home, Mom? I promise I’ll be sick. All day.”

“Let’s take your temperature,” said Mom. She took the thermometer out of the case.

“Cat hair?” said Mom. “Is this cat hair on the thermometer?”
“She’s always making Mouse stick out her tongue and taking the cat’s temperature,” said Stink.

Mom shook her head and went to wash off the thermometer. When she came back, she took Judy’s temperature. “It’s 98.6,” said Mom. “Normal!”

“Faker, fakey, not-sick, big fat faker,” said Stink.

“At least my temperature’s normal,” said Judy. “Even if my brother isn’t.”

“Better get dressed,” said Mom. “Don’t want to be late.”

“Stink? You’re a rat fink. Stink Rat-Fink Moody. That’s what I’ll call you from now on.”

“Well, you’ll have to call me it at school ’cause you don’t get to stay home.”

Judy stuck out her cherry-red, no-mumps tongue at Stink.

She was down in the dumps. She had a bad case of the grumps. The no-mumps Moody Monday blues. She, Judy Moody, felt like Mumpty Dumpty! Mumpty Dumpty without a temperature, that is.
10 Which sentence best describes Judy and Stink’s relationship?

F  They tease each other.
G  They are jealous of each other.
H  They tell each other everything.
J  They like to spend time together.

11 Look at the diagram below.

Mom comes into Judy’s room.  Judy says she has the mumps.  

Which event belongs in the empty box?

A  Judy puts a cough drop in her mouth.
B  Stink knocks on Judy’s door.
C  Judy makes a promise to Mom.
D  Mom tells Judy to get dressed for school.

12 What lesson does Judy learn?

F  It is difficult to fool your mother.
G  You can still have fun on a rainy day.
H  It is difficult to go to school on a rainy day.
J  Mothers expect their children to do well in school.
13 Which sentence best shows that Judy is upset with her brother?

A  “Just go to school without me.”
B  “Well, you’ll have to call me it at school ’cause you don’t get to stay home.”
C  Judy stuck out her cherry-red, no-mumps tongue at Stink.
D  She was down in the dumps.

14 Read the dictionary entry below.

straight \strāt\ adjective
1. honest
2. correct
3. without curves or bends
4. following one after another

Which meaning best fits the way straight is used in paragraph 1?

F  Meaning 1
G  Meaning 2
H  Meaning 3
J  Meaning 4

15 Why does Judy put her head under the pillow?

A  She does not want to listen to her brother.
B  She wants to look at her dictionary.
C  She feels like she has the mumps.
D  She wishes she could stay in bed.
16 Why does Judy call her brother a name at the end of the story?

F She wants Stink to be afraid of her.
G Stink tells Mom that Judy took the cat’s temperature.
H She is angry that Stink ruined her plans.
J Stink wants to stay home with Judy.

17 What can the reader conclude about Judy?

A She is usually dressed for school before her brother.
B She thinks it is fun to stay home from school.
C She has difficulty understanding mystery books.
D She has had the mumps before.
The Story Behind the Crunch

1. Do you have a favorite snack food? Of course you do—everybody does. If your favorite snack food is potato chips, then you are like millions of other people. Crunchy, salty potato chips are one of the best-loved snack foods in the world. They are also one of the oldest snack foods. People have been enjoying them for more than 150 years.

An Accidental Success

2. Potato chips weren’t invented on purpose. In 1853 a chef named George Crum fried some potatoes at a restaurant in Saratoga Springs, New York. The man who had ordered the potatoes said that they were too thick and sent them back to the kitchen. Crum made another batch. This time he sliced the potatoes thinner. He sent them out again, but the man still complained.

3. After the fried potatoes were returned a second time, Crum became angry. He wanted to teach the dissatisfied man a lesson. This time Crum sliced the potatoes as thin as he could get them. The slices looked as thin as a sheet of paper. When the potato pieces were fried, they became so crispy that Crum thought the man would never be able to pick them up with his fork. But the
man was very pleased with this tasty new dish. He ate every one of the crispy potatoes piled on his plate!

Soon these new crispy fried potatoes became well known. They were added to the restaurant’s menu. People referred to them as Saratoga Chips. When Crum later opened his own restaurant, he set a basket of chips on each table for customers to enjoy. Other restaurants began to serve them as well.

From Restaurants to Store Shelves

It was not long before people wanted potato chips without having to go to a restaurant to get them. In 1895 a man named William Tappenden started cooking potato chips in his kitchen in Cleveland, Ohio. He sold the potato chips to local grocery stores, making it easier for people to get chips whenever they wanted. At some stores the chips were kept in big wooden barrels. Storekeepers scooped the chips out and put them into paper bags for customers.

In 1926 a woman named Laura Scudder thought of a better way to package the potato chips. Scudder put two sheets of wax-coated paper together to form a bag. She used hot irons to press the edges of the bag. The heat from the irons melted the wax enough to seal the edges on three sides. The bags were then filled with chips, and the fourth edge was ironed shut. Now the bags could be placed on shelves in stores for customers to buy.
Over the years many more people began making and selling potato chips. Bigger and better kinds of packages were designed, and different flavors of chips started appearing. Cheese and onion was one of the first flavor combinations to be sold, as well as salt and vinegar. These flavors are still available today.

Chips with Different Tastes

Other kinds of chips can be found around the world. Instead of white potatoes, some people use bright-orange sweet potatoes or carrots. And for a different crispy treat, some chips aren’t made from a vegetable at all but from rice or corn instead.

Many different seasonings can be used to add flavor to chips. For example, there are chips flavored with tomato sauce and smoked beef. Others are flavored to taste like roasted chicken or lamb with mint. Maybe the most unusual chip flavor is used in China, where there’s a chip that tastes like a blueberry!

What an unusual history the potato chip has, from its accidental beginning in New York State to being perhaps the most popular snack food in the world. What do you suppose Chef Crum would think if he knew how his invention had ended up?

Want to make your own fresh-baked potato chips at home? Give it a try with this easy recipe.

What you will need:
3 large potatoes, peeled
baking sheet, greased lightly
salt

What to do:
1. Rinse the potatoes with water.
2. Ask an adult to cut the potatoes into slices that are \( \frac{1}{4} \) inch thick.
3. Arrange the cut potatoes in a single layer on the greased baking sheet.
4. Bake the potatoes at 425 degrees for 30 minutes.
5. Lightly sprinkle salt on the chips while they are still warm.

You can also sprinkle other ingredients on your chips to create different flavors. Pepper, Parmesan cheese, garlic powder, popcorn seasoning, and dill can be tasty additions to your fresh-baked potato chips.
18 William Tappenden started making potato chips at home and selling them to grocery stores because he knew that —

F people would like to buy chips without having to go to a restaurant
G people liked fried potatoes but wished they could be sliced thinner
H people could get chips only if they made them from their own potatoes
J people were tired of buying chips that never stayed fresh and crispy

19 When Crum learned that the customer was pleased with the batch of crispy fried potatoes, he most likely felt —

A curious
B thankful
C surprised
D bothered

20 What is the section titled “An Accidental Success” mainly about?

F How restaurants first came to serve potato chips
G How the first potato chips came to be made
H Why someone wanted to make the first potato chips
J Why someone complained about some fried potatoes
21 How were potato chips first sold in some grocery stores?

A In baskets that sat on tables
B In piles that were on plates
C In wax-coated paper bags that were ironed shut
D In paper bags that were filled from a barrel

22 Which sentence from the selection best supports the idea that there have been many changes made to potato chips?

F It was not long before people wanted potato chips without having to go to a restaurant to get them.
G Over the years many more people began making and selling potato chips.
H Bigger and better kinds of packages were designed, and different flavors of chips started appearing.
J What an unusual history the potato chip has, from its accidental beginning in New York State to being perhaps the most popular snack food in the world.

23 What can the reader conclude from the information after Step 5 of the recipe?

A Fresh-baked potato chips are tastier than those bought at a store.
B An adult is needed to add extra seasonings to the potato chips.
C Adding ingredients to the potato chips increases the baking time.
D The taste of the potato chips can be easily changed.
24 In paragraph 3, what does the word **dissatisfied** mean?

F  Not satisfied
G  Satisfied before
H  Able to be satisfied
J  One who is satisfied

25 Which of these is the best summary of the selection?

A  Potato chips had an unusual start, but they soon became a well-known snack. They were sold at restaurants first and then at grocery stores. Today potato chips come in many flavors. They are enjoyed by people around the world.

B  Potato chips are crunchy and salty. They are one of the most popular snacks in the world. They have also been around for a long time. The first chips were made because of a complaining customer.

C  After potato chips were first made, it did not take long before many people wanted them. However, it was not always easy to get potato chips. Soon, though, people could buy potato chips at many grocery stores.

D  After potato chips were first made, many people decided to start making and selling their own potato chips. Today potato chips are made in different ways around the world and are seasoned using a variety of flavors.
26 According to the directions in the recipe, which step requires assistance?

F Step 1  
G Step 2  
H Step 3  
J Step 4

27 Read the diagram.

A customer complains a second time about his fried potatoes.

Which sentence best completes the diagram?

A Crum sends the thick potatoes back to the customer.  
B Crum tries to please the customer.  
C Crum fries very thin potato slices until they are crisp.  
D Crum apologizes to the customer.
Saw my teacher on a Saturday!
I can’t believe it’s true!
I saw her buying groceries,
like normal people do!

5 She reached for bread and turned around,
and then she caught my eye.
She gave a smile and said, “Hello.”
I thought that I would die!

“Oh, hi . . . hello, Miss Appleton,”

10 I mumbled like a fool.
I guess I thought that teacher types
spend all their time at school.

To make the situation worse,
my mom was at my side.

15 So many rows of jars and cans.
So little room to hide.
Oh, please, I thought, don’t tell my mom what I did yesterday!
I closed my eyes and held my breath and hoped she’d go away.

Some people think it’s fine to let our teachers walk about.
But when it comes to Saturdays, they shouldn’t let them out!

From Reading, Rhyming, and ‘Rithmetic by Dave Crawley. Copyright © 2010 by Dave Crawley. Published by Wordsong, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press. Used by permission.
28 Read line 8 from the poem.

I thought that I would die!

The poet uses this line to show that the speaker is —

F careless
G disappointed
H embarrassed
J angry

29 Why does the poet use the exclamation points in the first stanza?

A To express the speaker’s joy
B To describe the speaker’s thoughts
C To show the speaker’s fear
D To emphasize the speaker’s surprise

30 Read lines 15 and 16 from the poem.

So many rows of jars and cans.
So little room to hide.

The poet uses these lines to show —

F that the speaker is surprised by how big the store is
G how badly the speaker wants to avoid being seen by his teacher
H that the speaker is shy around his teacher
J how worried the speaker is that his mom will find him
31 Which of these lines from the poem rhyme?

A Lines 2 and 4  
B Lines 5 and 7  
C Lines 11 and 12  
D Lines 23 and 24

32 Read lines 17 and 18 from the poem.

Oh, please, I thought, don’t tell my mom what I did yesterday!

These lines best support the idea that the speaker —

F is hoping to talk about something other than school  
G wants to be the one who tells his mother what happened at school  
H wants to get home as quickly as possible  
J knows he did something wrong at school

33 How does the speaker feel throughout the poem?

A Silly  
B Angry  
C Excited  
D Uncomfortable
Kwan’s Secret Talent

1 “Kwan, isn’t that your art teacher?” Halmoni¹ said, pointing at a woman walking out of the grocery store.

2 Kwan waved, and Mrs. Gibbs walked over to him and his grandmother. “It’s very nice to see you,” Mrs. Gibbs said. Then she saw the cloths wrapped around the groceries Kwan and his grandmother were loading into their van. “Oh, how beautiful!” she exclaimed.

3 “Thank you. These are pojagi, or Korean wrapping cloths,” Halmoni explained. “Kwan and I embroider² them together.”

4 Kwan looked away. Although he enjoyed helping Halmoni make the cloths, he didn’t want anyone at school to know about it.

5 “In Korea, they are mostly used to wrap gifts or cover food. Kwan and I use them to carry our groceries,” Halmoni continued.

6 “Kwan, you should bring your cloths to school tomorrow. Your classmates would enjoy seeing them. You have a unique skill,” Mrs. Gibbs said.

7 Kwan appreciated his teacher’s comments, but he was hesitant. The kids might laugh at the idea of a boy who liked to stitch patterns with a needle and thread. He thought about the pojagi. His grandmother’s wide smile showed how proud of him she would be for sharing this Korean custom.

8 “O.K. I’ll bring some to class tomorrow,” Kwan replied quietly.

9 Kwan usually spent some time each evening working on a cloth, but that evening he did not. Halmoni sensed that something was wrong. “Kwan, are you worried about tomorrow?” she asked.

¹Halmoni is a Korean word for “grandmother.”
²To embroider something means to create a design on it using a needle and thread.
Kwan stared at the floor. “What are the other kids going to think?” he said. “This isn’t the kind of thing they do for fun. Creating embroidered patterns isn’t like playing an instrument or a sport.”

“You’re right,” Halmoni said. “It is different. But that is why it is so special.” Then she brought out a fine cloth with detailed floral designs.

“When your grandfather and I were married, we received a gift from his mother wrapped in this cloth she made. In Korea gifts given in wrapping cloths are extra special because they are a symbol of love and good luck. Even though the cloths have many uses today, they also have a rich history,” she explained.

The next morning Kwan took several wrapping cloths to school. During art class his heart began to beat faster. He knew Mrs. Gibbs would eventually call on him. Just as he began to hope time would run out, he heard his name. As Kwan walked to the front of the room, his face felt hot. His hands trembled as he took the cloths out of his backpack. Kwan took a deep breath and began to tell the class about the cloths. Then he showed everyone how to use a needle and thread to stitch a tree design onto a cloth. His classmates just stared.

When he finished, he saw a classmate’s hand shoot into the air. Kwan held his breath as Mrs. Gibbs called on Greg.

“Wow, Kwan! I can’t believe you did that by yourself,” Greg said. “That looks awesome.”
Then a student named Carrie spoke up. “My sister is learning to sew in one of her high school classes, but she’s not all that good,” Carrie said. “She brought home something she made the other day, and I couldn’t even tell what it was!”

As Kwan listened to his classmates, he noticed that his forehead no longer felt hot.

“I thought you would be interested in Kwan’s cloths, so I brought some extra material,” Mrs. Gibbs said. “Let’s have Kwan show us how the cloths are used to wrap and carry things.”

Several students said they wanted to use a cloth to carry their lunch to school. Soon, though, they realized they would need more practice if they didn’t want their sandwiches to end up on the sidewalk.

“Folding these cloths is another real talent,” Mrs. Gibbs said, laughing as her cloth came undone. “Kwan, you’ll have to give us more lessons on cloth folding.”

“This isn’t as easy as it looks,” David said. “Kwan, you must be a professional wrapper!” Kwan smiled as he walked around the room helping his classmates.
34 Which word is a synonym of creating in paragraph 10?

F Finding
G Making
H Drawing
J Organizing

35 Why is Kwan seeing Mrs. Gibbs at the grocery store important to this story?

A Mrs. Gibbs gets to meet Halmoni.
B Halmoni is able to explain what wrapping cloths are.
C It leads to Kwan sharing his talent with his classmates.
D It allows Kwan’s classmates to learn how to carry their lunches in a cloth.

36 Which sentence from the story best explains why Kwan agrees to share his wrapping cloths with his classmates?

F Then she saw the cloths wrapped around the groceries Kwan and his grandmother were loading into their van.
G His grandmother’s wide smile showed how proud of him she would be for sharing this Korean custom.
H Kwan usually spent some time each evening working on a cloth, but that evening he did not.
J “When your grandfather and I were married, we received a gift from his mother wrapped in this cloth she made.”
37 What is the meaning of the word *hesitant* in paragraph 7?

A  Unsure

B  Annoyed

C  Honored

D  Hopeful

38 Which of these is the best summary of the story?

F  A boy has a special hobby he does with his grandmother. He keeps the hobby a secret until his teacher persuades him to share it with his classmates.

G  A teacher wants her student to tell the class about his special talent. The student worries about what his classmates will think. In class he realizes that they like learning about his talent.

H  A boy has to tell his class about his special talent. His grandmother encourages him to continue using his talent.

J  A grandmother and her grandson share a special hobby of embroidering cloths. The boy is very good at it and decides to show his classmates his talent.
Look at the diagram below.

Mrs. Gibbs asks Kwan to bring some wrapping cloths to school.

Kwan shows the class his wrapping cloths.

Mrs. Gibbs suggests that Kwan show the class how to fold the wrapping cloths.

Which sentence best completes the diagram?

A. David makes a joke in class.
B. Halmoni sees Mrs. Gibbs at the grocery store.
C. Halmoni tells Kwan why wrapping cloths are special.
D. Some students decide how they want to use their cloth.

What is the main theme of the story?

F. People are often unwilling to try something new.
G. Don’t be afraid to show people who you really are.
H. People enjoy learning about other cultures.
J. You can teach people some things more easily than other things.