

# **English II Reading**

**Administered April 2013**

**RELEASED**



# READING

Read the next two selections and answer the questions that follow.

## 2009 Young Innovators Under 35: Jaime Teevan, 32

by Kurt Kleiner

Technology Review

Sept/Oct 2009

*Microsoft Research—Using personal information to improve search results*

- 1 In 1997, when search engines were relatively new, Jaime Teevan took an internship at Infoseek the summer before her senior year at Yale. William Chang, the chief technology officer, put her in a room with some research and told her to “find something fun to do.” She came up with some ideas for judging link quality and helping people navigate the company’s search engine, and she wrote the code to implement the changes. “Once, I brought the search engine down for a couple of hours,” she says with a laugh.
- 2 But she also discovered a career path. Today, the Microsoft researcher is a leader in using data about people’s knowledge, preferences, and habits to help them manage information. She studies the ways people navigate the flood of information available in the digital age and builds tools to help them handle it.
- 3 By now, personal information management has become an Internet buzzword. But Teevan pioneered the field as a graduate student working with David Karger, a professor in MIT’s Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. “She literally almost single-handedly created this whole area,” says Eric Horvitz, a principal researcher who manages teams pursuing advances in search and retrieval at Microsoft Research.
- 4 She began by studying how people search the Internet. They use such different strategies, she found, that a one-size-fits-all search engine can never satisfy everyone. So Teevan started building tools that sort Internet search results according to a user’s personal data, previous searches, and browsing history.
- 5 One of her first tools was a search engine called Re:Search. Early on, Teevan discovered that people are often looking for information they’ve already

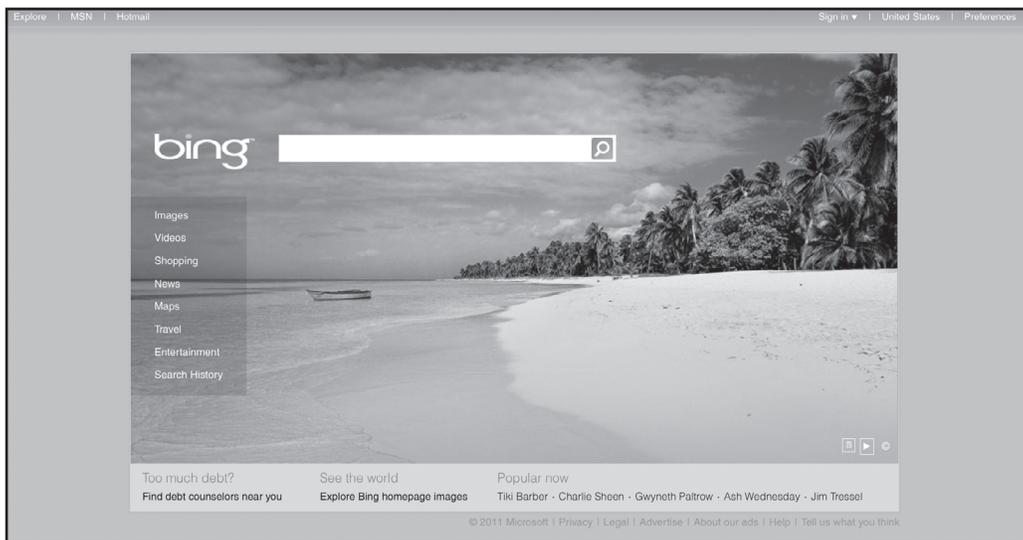


Jaime Teevan, a 2009 Young Innovator honoree, works at Microsoft. She researches how people search for information online and what they do with the large amount of information they find.

Photograph courtesy of Jaime Teevan and Microsoft

found before; more than half of all Web-page visits and a third of all search queries are repeats. But since the Web is always changing, people often have a hard time finding a site again. Re:Search relies on information from a user's past searches to determine which items are more relevant to him or her. Teevan found that people tend to remember the first item in a list of previous search results, as well as items they clicked on; they also tend to get confused if the results they clicked on have changed position in the list. So she designed Re:Search to keep clicked links in their previous positions and insert new links in positions where they will be noticed without being confusing or distracting.

- 6 One of Teevan's key ideas is that search engines can employ information about users to help them zero in on the results they need. Since she joined Microsoft Research in 2006, she's developed a number of experimental browser plug-ins that work with Internet Explorer and that will refine search results for each user. One, called PSearch, uses an index of documents, e-mails, and other material on the user's hard drive to customize the results delivered by an Internet search engine. For instance, if she types her husband's last name into a typical search engine, the top hits are for a financial-services firm that shares his name. When she turns PSearch on, the first sites listed relate to her husband.
- 7 Horvitz says that PSearch has been piloted internally at Microsoft for a number of years and has proven very promising. "What I like best is that all the personalization is going on on your desktop," he says. In fact, PSearch never shares a user's personal information with the search engine—the results are re-sorted after they're delivered to the user's computer.



Bing's home page reflects the results of Jaime Teevan's research about Internet searches. The "Search History" feature on Bing uses personal information to allow users quick access to previous searches.

Image used by permission of Microsoft.

- 8 Teevan's programs have yet to be released commercially, and because search is such a competitive area for Microsoft, both she and Horvitz declined to discuss any such plans. But both eagerly talk about her contributions to Microsoft's new search engine, Bing. Teevan says she met regularly with Bing's developers to help them understand how people search and how that knowledge might be used to improve search results. Horvitz points more directly to the left-hand column of the Bing search results page, where a short list titled "Search History" appears. "You see just the tip of the iceberg right now in the current Bing search." Teevan's work is actually more advanced, Horvitz says. Hinting at things to come, he adds, "You might watch that corner of Bing over time."

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## Digital Dad Versus the Dinosaurs

by Emily Bingham

Newsweek

April 6, 2009

1 Sometimes, being right hurts the most. I imagine that's how my father, Barry Bingham, Jr., would have felt about the crisis that could end America's golden age of print journalism. My great-grandfather bought *The Courier-Journal* of Louisville, Ky., during World War I, and my father ran the paper from 1971 to 1986. Now it's going through the same layoffs and cost-cutting measures that are happening to newspapers across the country. Lately, I've wondered a lot about what my father would be thinking right now—because he saw all of this coming.



Barry Bingham, Jr., meets with his Courier-Journal staff in 1984. One year earlier, Bingham had declared that the newspaper business resembled "the last dinosaur in the swamp."

© The Courier-Journal

- 2 Addressing his classmates at their 25th college reunion, my father predicted that by the time they met for their 50th, "most of what we read will be transmitted into our homes or offices electronically." This was a strange thing to say in 1981, when the revolution in personal computers had scarcely begun and no one had heard the words "World Wide Web." Unlike almost everyone else in the media industry back then, my father anticipated the coming era of electronic news, and he was genuinely excited about it. He believed newspapers could save themselves from extinction—but only if they adapted early and intelligently to new technology.
- 3 It became his passion—a subject of countless family dinner discussions. But as a gangly 16-year-old, I tuned out most of the talk. I was more interested in finding a party and a boy to kiss.
- 4 I wasn't the only one who turned a deaf ear. Newspaper people are a crusty lot, and Gutenberg's technology, with a few tweaks over the centuries, had held up well enough for most. My father would buttonhole colleagues at meetings, where they grumbled that he was distracting from what they considered their business: getting news onto paper and into a reader's hands. One former publisher told me recently that Barry Bingham, Jr., "was the visionary among us. He said what we didn't want to hear and we ran from it."

5 And so, when the news broke late last year that subscribers to the *Detroit Free Press* would soon get home delivery just three days a week, I turned to my kids and told them their grandfather knew this would happen. He was a third-generation publisher, but he was keenly aware of how “new media” could positively affect the family business: his grandfather bought a radio station in 1922 and his father entered the TV market in 1950.

6 As a little girl visiting him at *The Courier-Journal's* office in downtown Louisville, my favorite stop was the deafening press room. I was too young to make sense of his efforts to modernize the operations, but under his management, the newspaper was at the vanguard of technological change. In 1973 he began replacing typewriters with word processors. The composing room

was one of the first to be computerized, and my father marveled at the way content flew paperlessly around the building.

7 Out of this petri dish of the 1970s, my Datsun-driving environmentalist dad hatched his vision of what he called the “electronic newspaper.” It would arrive, “Jetsons”-like, via cable, satellite or telephone lines, accessed and updated around the clock. Subscribers would pay lower rates. Trees would be spared, fuel conserved. Information was his passion, and his goal was to offer as much of it to as many people as possible. (He was such an info junkie that, many years later, when I was pregnant, he couldn’t comprehend my decision not to find out whether I was carrying a boy or a girl.) He believed that the future of news lay in allowing readers to decide what was most important to them, as with today’s customizable home pages. To most editors, this was heresy. This frustrated him and he made little effort to hide it. “This business,” he snapped to a reporter in 1983, “is like the last dinosaur in the swamp.”

8 In 1986 *The Courier-Journal's* pilot electronic edition, accessible by modem, made a promising debut. But within a few years, several family members decided to sell their stock in the company, and the Gannett Co. purchased the paper. His parents supported the sale over his objection. He lost his job and his platform.



Massive rolls of newsprint paper are used in newspaper printing machines. In recent years, newspaper circulation and income have fallen sharply, while one-quarter of all newsroom employees have lost their jobs.

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9 As the Internet exploded, my father took a certain satisfaction in being right. But he was never a finger-wagger. By the time he died in 2006, at 72, he could have easily gotten his news online. Yet he kept his print subscriptions and read *The Courier-Journal* and *The New York Times* over breakfast. The swamp clung a little—even to him.

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**Use "2009 Young Innovators Under 35: Jaime Teevan, 32" (pp. 4–6) to answer questions 1–6. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 1** In paragraph 1, the author quotes William Chang to show that —
- A** typical internships are boring
  - B** Teevan was given the freedom to experiment
  - C** Teevan caused problems as an intern
  - D** supervisors are required to have strict oversight
- 
- 2** In the article, what is the most likely reason Teevan wouldn't discuss the commercial release of her programs?
- F** The programs had not yet been tested and shown to be operational.
  - G** She is modest about her accomplishments.
  - H** Microsoft's competitors might use the information to develop similar programs.
  - J** Microsoft is responsible for the programs' release.
- 
- 3** An image of the Bing home page is included primarily to —
- A** call attention to some of Teevan's work at Microsoft
  - B** explain why Teevan was named a 2009 Young Innovator
  - C** direct the reader to the best place to learn more about Teevan
  - D** illustrate the size and complexity of the Internet

- 4 The author organizes the article by —
- F describing the work of several young software experts
  - G providing a chronological summary of Teevan’s career
  - H reviewing the history of search engine technology
  - J profiling Teevan’s current and future projects
- 

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

- A Jaime Teevan, who works for Microsoft, has become a leader in the field of personalizing Internet search results. Through her research, she has found that people often repeat the same searches. She has developed ways of using this knowledge to make future searches more productive.
  - B Microsoft Research, a division of the country’s largest software company, hires only the most promising and creative students emerging from leading graduate programs. By recruiting these talented employees, Microsoft has developed cutting-edge programs such as the search engine Bing.
  - C Jaime Teevan created the field of personal information management. After many failures, which included crashing Infoseek’s search engine on one occasion, she discovered some data on the Internet that convinced her that search engines were poorly designed.
  - D Personal information management has become an important field of study for computer programmers. Since discovering that people search the Internet in different ways, programmers have been building tools that sort search results according to a user’s personal preferences.
- 

6 Why does the author end the article with a quotation?

- F To imply that Microsoft prefers to keep its research secret
- G To hint that Teevan is preparing to change careers
- H To interest the reader in following Teevan’s contributions
- J To show the reader that Microsoft employs many talented people

**Use “Digital Dad Versus the Dinosaurs” (pp. 7–9) to answer questions 7–11. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 7 In paragraph 7, which term refers to a belief that is contrary to prevailing opinion?
- A *heresy*
  - B *info junkie*
  - C *environmentalist*
  - D *petri dish*

- 
- 8 Read these sentences from paragraph 4.

*One former publisher told me recently that Barry Bingham, Jr., “was the visionary among us. He said what we didn’t want to hear and we ran from it.”*

The primary purpose of the text above is to —

- F indicate the competitive nature of the newspaper business
- G describe how surprised the author’s father was at how things turned out
- H explain Barry Bingham, Jr.’s success in the newspaper business
- J support the idea that Barry Bingham, Jr.’s predictions were accurate

- 9 In paragraph 7, why does the author refer to saving trees and conserving fuel?
- A To show that environmental considerations are her top priority
  - B To suggest that one of her father’s motives was concern for the environment
  - C To support her assertion that her father was unrealistic and propelled by wishful thinking
  - D To make a connection between the assumed benefits versus the actual results of digital publishing
- 

- 10 In paragraph 4, why does the author choose the word “crusty” to describe newspaper people?
- F To indicate that they didn’t allow outsiders in very easily
  - G To express what was wrong with traditional newspapers
  - H To suggest one reason why they weren’t receptive to her father’s ideas
  - J To establish the difference between her father and his colleagues
- 

- 11 Read this sentence from paragraph 9.

*The swamp clung a little—even to him.*

In this sentence, the author uses descriptive language to indicate that —

- A her father changed his mind about newspapers
- B change comes very slowly to the publishing industry
- C a part of her father was still tied to the past
- D her father wasn’t actually in favor of electronic publishing

**Use “2009 Young Innovators Under 35: Jaime Teevan, 32” and “Digital Dad Versus the Dinosaurs” to answer questions 12–16. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 12** What is one similarity between the selections?
- F** They both address the attitudes of people from multiple generations.
  - G** They both explain the harm caused by the advent of the digital age.
  - H** They both profile people whose warnings have been ignored.
  - J** They both include observations about one person’s unique contributions.
- 

- 13** How does Barry Bingham, Jr., differ from Jaime Teevan?
- A** He was unable to adapt to change.
  - B** He misunderstood the importance of digital technology.
  - C** He witnessed the decline of the industry in which he worked.
  - D** He recognized the role of computers in the media.
- 

- 14** What is one difference in the endings of the selections?
- F** One looks forward, while one looks to the past.
  - G** One expresses admiration, while the other expresses disdain.
  - H** One introduces a new subject, while the other introduces a new idea.
  - J** One uses irony, while the other uses humor.

**15** The tone of both selections can best be described as —

- A** whimsical
- B** skeptical
- C** respectful
- D** nostalgic

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**16** Unlike the author in “Digital Dad Versus the Dinosaurs,” the author of “2009 Young Innovators Under 35: Jaime Teevan, 32” —

- F** clearly admires his subject
- G** has no apparent family connection with his subject
- H** fails to provide any educational background about his subject
- J** has never met or spoken with his subject

**SHORT ANSWER #1**

**DIRECTIONS**

**Answer the following question in the box labeled "Short Answer #1" on page 2 of your answer document.**

Do you think Jaime Teevan in "2009 Young Innovators Under 35: Jaime Teevan, 32" and Barry Bingham, Jr., in "Digital Dad Versus the Dinosaurs" have anything in common? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from **both** selections.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

# History Lesson

by Natasha Trethewey

I am four in this photograph, standing  
on a wide strip of Mississippi beach,  
my hands on the flowered hips

5 of a bright bikini. My toes dig in,  
curl around wet sand. The sun cuts  
the rippling Gulf in flashes with each

tidal rush. Minnows dart at my feet  
glinting like switchblades. I am alone  
except for my grandmother, other side

10 of the camera, telling me how to pose.  
It is 1970, two years after they opened  
the rest of this beach to us,

15 forty years since the photograph  
where she stood on a narrow plot  
of sand marked *colored*, smiling,

her hands on the flowered hips  
of a cotton meal-sack dress.

Used by permission of the author.

**17** The poem reflects history by using imagery that contrasts life in Mississippi before and after —

- A** a hurricane
  - B** the Great Depression
  - C** desegregation
  - D** summer
- 

**18** In lines 7 and 8, the poet uses a simile that has the ironic effect of making the minnows seem —

- F** curious
  - G** threatening
  - H** beautiful
  - J** humorous
- 

**19** Which of these best states the poem's theme?

- A** Although children may disagree with their elders, family bonds remain strong.
- B** Sentiment is a waste of time and energy.
- C** Progress can be judged only by an impartial observer.
- D** Even in the midst of historic change, some things remain constant.

**20** Read these lines from the poem.

I am four in this photograph, standing  
on a wide strip of Mississippi beach,  
my hands on the flowered hips  
of a bright bikini. . . .

In these lines, the poet's tone can best be described as —

- F** nostalgic
- G** strident
- H** apologetic
- J** reverent

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**21** In lines 14 and 15, the "narrow plot/of sand" can be best interpreted as symbolic of —

- A** the speaker's lack of empathy for her grandmother's situation
- B** the grandmother's restricted opportunities
- C** the grandmother's limited perspective
- D** the speaker's refusal to be bound to the past

---

**22** In line 12, the reader can infer that the speaker uses the pronoun "us" to refer to —

- F** African Americans
- G** the general public
- H** her extended family
- J** young women

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

# Navajo Code Talkers: The Century's Best-Kept Secret

by Jack Hitt

1 During World War II, on the dramatic day when Marines raised the American flag to signal a key and decisive victory at Iwo Jima, the first word of this momentous news crackled over the radio in odd guttural noises and complex intonations. Throughout the war, the Japanese were repeatedly baffled and infuriated by these seemingly inhuman sounds. They conformed to no linguistic system known to the Japanese. The curious sounds were the military's one form of conveying tactics and strategy that the master cryptographers in Tokyo were unable to decipher. This perfect code was the language of the Navajo tribe. Its application in World War II as a clandestine system of communication was one of the twentieth century's best-kept secrets.



Two Navajo Code Talkers serving with the U.S. Marines in the Solomon Islands send messages during World War II. The Code Talkers created an unbreakable code based on the ancient language of their people, helping save lives and hastening the war's end. In 2001 the Navajo Code Talkers received Congressional Medals of Honor.

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2 After a string of cryptographic failures, the military in 1942 was desperate for a way to open clear lines of communication among troops that would not be easily intercepted by the enemy. In the 1940s there was no such thing as a "secure line." All talk had to go out onto the public airwaves. Standard codes were an option, but the cryptographers in Japan could quickly crack them. And there was another problem: the Japanese were proficient at intercepting short-distance communications, on walkie-talkies for example, and then having well-trained English-speaking soldiers either sabotage the message or send out false commands to set up an ambush. That was the situation in 1942 when the Pentagon authorized one of the boldest gambits of the war.

- 3 The solution was conceived by the son of missionaries to the Navajos, a former Marine named Philip Johnston. His idea: station a native Navajo speaker at every radio. Since Navajo had never been written down or translated into any other language, it was an entirely self-contained human communication system restricted to Navajos alone; it was virtually indecipherable without Navajo help. Without some key or way into a language, translation is virtually impossible. Not long after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the military dispatched twenty-nine Navajos to Camp Elliott and Camp Pendleton in California to begin a test program. These first recruits had to develop a Navajo alphabet since none existed. And because Navajo lacked technical terms of military artillery, the men coined a number of neologisms specific to their task and their war.
- 4 According to Chester Nez, one of the original code talkers: "Everything we used in the code was what we lived with on the reservation every day, like the ants, the birds, bears." Thus, the term for a tank was "turtle," a tank destroyer was "tortoise killer." A battleship was "whale." A hand grenade was "potato," and plain old bombs were "eggs." A fighter plane was "hummingbird," and a torpedo plane "swallow." A sniper was "pick 'em off." Pyrotechnic was "fancy fire."

From the *Navajo Code Talkers' Dictionary* (1945)

Name of Month	Navajo Word	Literal Translation
January	Atsah-be-yaz	Small eagle
February	Woz-cheind	Squeaky voice
March	Tah-chill	Small plant
April	Tah-tso	Big plant
May	Tah-tsosie	Small plant
June	Be-ne-eh-eh-jah-tso	Big planting
July	Be-ne-ta-tsosie	Small harvest
August	Be-noon-ta-tso	Big harvest
September	Ghaw-jih	Half
October	Nil-chi-tsosie	Small wind
November	Nil-chi-tso	Big wind
December	Yas-nil-tes	Crusted snow

Source: Naval History and Heritage Command

- 5 It didn't take long for the original twenty-nine recruits to expand to an elite corps of Marines, numbering at its height 425 Navajo Code Talkers, all from the American Southwest. Each Talker was so valuable, he traveled everywhere with a personal bodyguard. In the event of capture, the Talkers had solemnly agreed to commit suicide rather than allow America's most valuable war code to fall into the hands of the enemy. If a captured Navajo did not follow that grim instruction, the bodyguard's instructions were understood: shoot and kill the Code Talker.

6 The language of the Code Talkers, their mission, and every detail of their messaging apparatus was a secret they were all ordered to keep, even from their own families. They did. It wasn't until 1968, when the military felt convinced that the Code Talkers would not be needed for any future wars, that America learned of the incredible contribution a handful of Native Americans made to winning history's biggest war. The Navajo Code Talkers, sending and receiving as many as 800 errorless messages at fast speed during "the fog of battle," are widely credited with giving U.S. troops the decisive edge at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

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**23** Which words from paragraph 1 best help the reader understand the meaning of the word *clandestine*?

- A** *curious sounds*
  - B** *best-kept secrets*
  - C** *linguistic system*
  - D** *tactics and strategy*
- 

**24** Who first suggested using Navajo for military radio communications?

- F** The son of missionaries
  - G** A Navajo Marine
  - H** A Code Talker
  - J** A communications expert
- 

**25** The author begins and ends the selection with references to successful battles in order to —

- A** remind readers of the human toll caused by war
- B** indicate that the war would have been lost without the Code Talkers
- C** emphasize the Code Talkers' contribution to the war effort
- D** examine the strengths and weaknesses of different military strategies

26 Read these sentences from paragraph 2.

*In the 1940s there was no such thing as a "secure line." All talk had to go out onto the public airwaves.*

The author includes this information to —

- F demonstrate technological advances during the twentieth century
- G establish the need for an unbreakable secret code
- H explain why Pearl Harbor was vulnerable to attack
- J question whether the right to free speech should be protected during wartime

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27 In paragraph 1, the author mentions "guttural noises and complex intonations" in order to —

- A describe the difficulties of communicating during wartime
- B highlight an important victory during World War II
- C illustrate how frustrated the Japanese were in their attempts to break the code
- D give an idea of what the Navajo code sounded like

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28 Which of these best illustrates how much the general public knew about the Navajo code immediately following World War II?

- F *Its application in World War II as a clandestine system of communication was one of the twentieth century's best-kept secrets.*
- G *A hand grenade was "potato," and plain old bombs were "eggs."*
- H *That was the situation in 1942 when the Pentagon authorized one of the boldest gambits of the war.*
- J *Each Talker was so valuable, he traveled everywhere with a personal bodyguard.*

**29** Which of these is the best summary of the selection?

- A** Too little credit has been given to the Navajo Code Talkers, who played a decisive role in the American defeat of Japan during World War II. If more people were aware of their contribution, there is no doubt that the Code Talkers would be celebrated and honored throughout the United States.
- B** Navajo-speaking Code Talkers played an important role in the struggle against the Japanese during World War II. Because of the complex and unfamiliar nature of the Navajo language, the Code Talkers were able to broadcast messages over the radio that couldn't be deciphered by the Japanese.
- C** During the early part of World War II, the Japanese were able to figure out any secret code used by the U.S. military. To solve this problem, the Marines created a special alphabet used by Navajo soldiers to send messages the Japanese couldn't decipher.
- D** At the beginning of World War II, the Navajo language was perfect for use as a secret code. It had never been translated into another language, and because it had no alphabet, it had never been written down. The only people who knew the language were native speakers in the United States. Before the language could be used for coded communication, an alphabet and spelling system had to be developed for it.

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**30** From information included in the table from the *Navajo Code Talkers' Dictionary*, the reader can learn —

- F** how the Code Talkers used Navajo words for military terms
- G** the origins of some English words
- H** the literal translations of several Navajo words
- J** that some Navajo words have their origins in English

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**31** What is one purpose of the caption accompanying the photograph of the Code Talkers?

- A** It details how the Navajo code was developed.
- B** It offers a brief history of the Code Talkers.
- C** It demonstrates why the Japanese were unable to break the code.
- D** It underscores the unique characteristics of the Navajo language.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

## *from* The Custom of the Country

by Edith Wharton

- 1 In the great high-ceilinged library of a private *hôtel*<sup>1</sup> overlooking one of the new quarters of Paris, Paul Marvell stood listlessly gazing out into the twilight.
- 2 The trees were budding symmetrically along the avenue below; and Paul, looking down, saw, between windows and tree-tops, a pair of tall iron gates with gilt ornaments, the marble curb of a semi-circular drive, and bands of spring flowers set in turf. He was now a big boy of nearly nine, who went to a fashionable private school, and he had come home that day for the Easter holidays. He had not been back since Christmas, and it was the first time he had seen the new *hôtel* which his step-father had bought, and in which Mr. and Mrs. Moffatt had hastily established themselves, a few weeks earlier, on their return from a flying trip to America. They were always coming and going; during the two years since their marriage they had been perpetually dashing over to New York and back, or rushing down to Rome or up to the Engadine: Paul never knew where they were except when a telegram announced that they were going somewhere else. He did not even know that there was any method of communication between mothers and sons less laconic than that of the electric wire; and once, when a boy at school asked him if his mother often wrote, he had answered in all sincerity: "Oh yes—I got a telegram last week."
- 3 He had been almost sure—as sure as he ever was of anything—that he should find her at home when he arrived; but a message (for she hadn't had time to telegraph) apprised him that she and Mr. Moffatt had run down to Deauville to look at a house they thought of hiring for the summer; they were taking an early train back, and would be at home for dinner—were in fact having a lot of people to dine.
- 4 It was just what he ought to have expected, and had been used to ever since he could remember; and generally he didn't mind much, especially since his mother had become Mrs. Moffatt, and the father he had been most used to, and liked best, had abruptly disappeared from his life. But the new *hôtel* was big and strange, and his own room, in which there was not a toy or a book, or one of his dear battered relics (none of the new servants—they were always new—could find his things, or think where they had been put), seemed the loneliest spot in the whole house. He had gone up there after his solitary luncheon, served in the immense marble dining room by a footman on the same scale, and had tried to occupy himself with pasting postcards into his album; but the newness and sumptuousness of the room

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<sup>1</sup>A *hôtel* is a city mansion of a person of rank or wealth.

embarrassed him—the white fur rugs and brocade chairs seemed maliciously on the watch for smears and ink-spots—and after a while he pushed the album aside and began to roam through the house.

5 He went to all the rooms in turn: his mother’s first, the wonderful lacy bedroom, all pale silks and velvets, artful mirrors and veiled lamps, and the boudoir as big as a drawing-room, with pictures he would have liked to know about, and tables and cabinets holding things he was afraid to touch. Mr. Moffatt’s rooms came next. They were soberer and darker, but as big and splendid; and in the bedroom, on the brown wall, hung a single picture—the portrait of a boy in grey velvet—that interested Paul most of all. The boy’s hand rested on the head of a big dog, and he looked infinitely noble and charming, and yet (in spite of the dog) so sad and lonely that he too might have come home that very day to a strange house in which none of his old things could be found.

6 From these rooms Paul wandered downstairs again. The library attracted him most: there were rows and rows of books, bound in dim browns and golds, and old faded reds as rich as velvet: they all looked as if they might have had stories in them as splendid as their bindings. But the bookcases were closed with gilt trellising, and when Paul reached up to open one, a servant told him that Mr. Moffatt’s secretary kept them locked because the books were too valuable to be taken down. This seemed to make the library as strange as the rest of the house, and he passed on to the ballroom at the back. Through its closed doors he heard a sound of hammering, and when he tried the door-handle a servant passing with a tray-full of glasses told him that “they” hadn’t finished, and wouldn’t let anybody in.

7 The mysterious pronoun somehow increased Paul’s sense of isolation, and he went on to the drawing rooms, steering his way prudently between the gold armchairs and shining tables, and wondering whether the wigged and corseleted heroes on the walls represented Mr. Moffatt’s ancestors, and why, if they did, he looked so little like them. The dining room beyond was more amusing, because busy servants were already laying the long table. It was too early for the florist, and the center of the table was empty, but down the sides were gold baskets heaped with pulpy summer fruits—figs, strawberries and big blushing nectarines. Between them stood crystal decanters with red and yellow wine, and little dishes full of sweets; and against the walls were sideboards with great pieces of gold and silver, ewers and urns and branching candelabra, which sprinkled the green marble walls with starlike reflections.

8        After a while he grew tired of watching the coming and going of white-sleeved footmen, and of listening to the butler’s vociferated orders, and strayed back into the library. The habit of solitude had given him a passion for the printed page, and if he could have found a book anywhere—any kind of a book—he would have forgotten the long hours and the empty house. But the tables in the library held only massive unused inkstands and immense immaculate blotters: not a single volume had slipped its golden prison.

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**32** In paragraph 3, the word *apprised* means —

- F** denied
- G** warned
- H** told
- J** relieved

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**33** Read this quotation from paragraph 5.

*In the bedroom, on the brown wall, hung a single picture—the portrait of a boy in grey velvet—that interested Paul most of all. The boy’s hand rested on the head of a big dog, and he looked infinitely noble and charming, and yet (in spite of the dog) so sad and lonely that he too might have come home that very day to a strange house in which none of his old things could be found.*

The quotation suggests that the selection explores the theme of —

- A** the companionship of a faithful family pet
- B** neglect of children in wealthy families
- C** the grace and charm of a fine work of art
- D** respect for the memory of ancestors

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**34** In paragraph 8, the author uses a metaphor that suggests both —

- F** material wealth and a lack of freedom
- G** natural beauty and a sense of order
- H** perpetual loneliness and a desire for knowledge
- J** intellectual passion and a feeling of regret

- 35** Which line from the selection provides the best evidence that Paul’s mother has remarried more than once?
- A** *He had been almost sure—as sure as he ever was of anything—that he should find her at home when he arrived. . . .*
  - B** *It was the first time he had seen the new hôtel which his step-father had bought, and in which Mr. and Mrs. Moffatt had hastily established themselves. . . .*
  - C** *His mother had become Mrs. Moffatt, and the father he had been most used to, and liked best, had abruptly disappeared from his life. . . .*
  - D** *Paul never knew where they were except when a telegram announced that they were going somewhere else.*
- 

- 36** In paragraph 4, the author uses personification to emphasize how —
- F** uncomfortable Paul is in his surroundings
  - G** much Paul misses his books and toys
  - H** lonely Paul felt while eating his lunch
  - J** unhappy Paul is with his new stepfather
- 

- 37** From the description of Mr. Moffatt’s library, the reader can infer that he —
- A** has many intellectual interests and a strong hunger for knowledge
  - B** is more interested in displaying his wealth than in reading or writing
  - C** earns his living working in his library and rarely ventures out of it
  - D** is proud of his ancestors’ contributions to science and literature

**38** Which of these best helps the reader visualize the setting?

- F** *From these rooms Paul wandered downstairs again.*
- G** *Against the walls were sideboards with great pieces of gold and silver, ewers and urns and branching candelabra, which sprinkled the green marble walls with starlike reflections.*
- H** *The dining room beyond was more amusing, because busy servants were already laying the long table.*
- J** *This seemed to make the library as strange as the rest of the house, and he passed on to the ballroom at the back.*

**SHORT ANSWER #2**

**DIRECTIONS**

**Answer the following question in the box labeled "Short Answer #2" on page 3 of your answer document.**

How would you describe Paul in the excerpt from *The Custom of the Country*? Support your answer with evidence from the selection.

BE SURE YOU HAVE WRITTEN YOUR ANSWER  
ON PAGE 3 OF THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

















**STAAR  
English II  
Reading  
April 2013**

