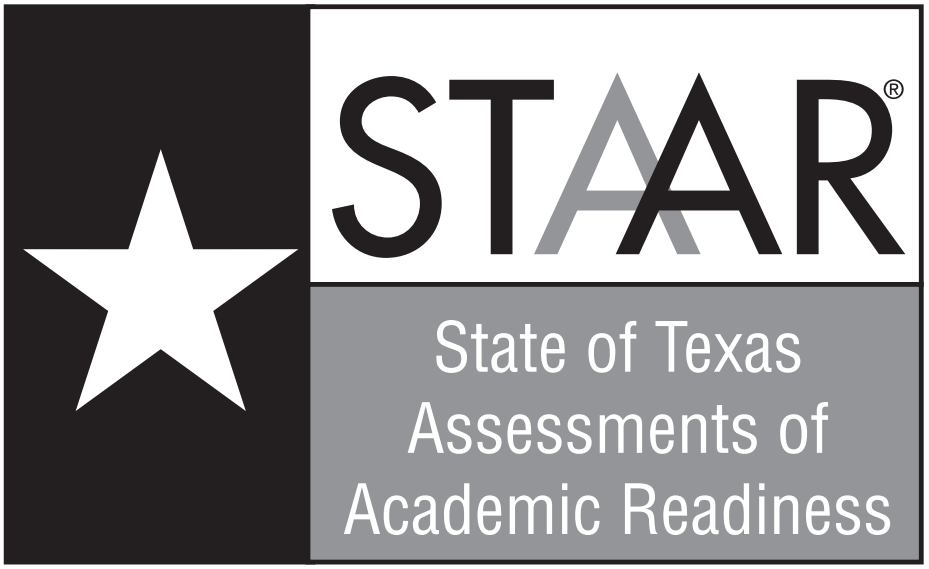


GRADE 6

Reading

Administered April 2015

RELEASED

READING

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

Marvels of the Modern World

Volume 1 : April 2, 2011

Going Up

1 From the great pyramids of Egypt to the cathedrals of Europe, people have tried to touch the sky with tall buildings. At one time structures only a few dozen feet tall seemed remarkable. In the 1920s buildings that were 500 feet tall were considered amazing. Today's skyscrapers can be three times that height and more.

The Evolution of Building Technology

2 Before the late 1800s the construction of tall buildings wasn't very practical. Early building materials such as clay and stone were heavy. To support the weight of high walls, the base of a building had to be thick and wide, restricting usable space in the lower part of the structure. Too many windows made the walls weak, so tall buildings were often dark inside. With stairs providing the only way up, reaching the top of a tall structure meant climbing a seemingly endless flight of steps.

3 It wasn't until the late 1800s that towering buildings became possible. The mass production of steel, a material that could support the weight of a building's walls, was a crucial breakthrough. Another came with the development of new construction designs that allowed buildings to safely withstand high winds. Moreover, the invention of the elevator made it possible to move up and down a tall building quickly. With these elements in place, the era of the skyscraper began.

What Is a Skyscraper?

4 There's no standard definition of what makes a tall building a skyscraper. A building that looms above one city might be dwarfed by the buildings in another. Experts have also created different categories for tall buildings. In some cases only the occupied floors of a building are measured, while in other cases an antenna or tower that stands at the top of a building is counted toward a building's height. Still, people seem to know a skyscraper when they see one.

5 William Le Baron Jenney designed what many historians regard as the first skyscraper. His Home Insurance Building, completed in 1885 in Chicago, was the first building to have a steel skeleton inside its walls. This building was 10 stories tall, an impressive height for its time.

6 Other historians consider the Woolworth Building to be the first true skyscraper. Built in New York City in 1913, this building is close to 800 feet tall and has 57 floors aboveground. It was the first very tall building to overcome the major problems of high-rise construction. The Woolworth Building has a steel skeleton, an elevator, and a design that braces it against strong winds.

The Woolworth Building

A Growing Need for Height

7 In the nineteenth century many people moved to cities, looking for jobs. As a result, many urban areas became crowded. Since most cities had limited amounts of land, sites for new houses and offices were scarce and expensive. Architects and engineers thought of a solution: build up, not out.

8 Building up seemed like an ideal way to solve some problems in growing cities. Builders soon found, however, that skyscrapers posed challenges. The need for special equipment and designs meant that building up was costly.

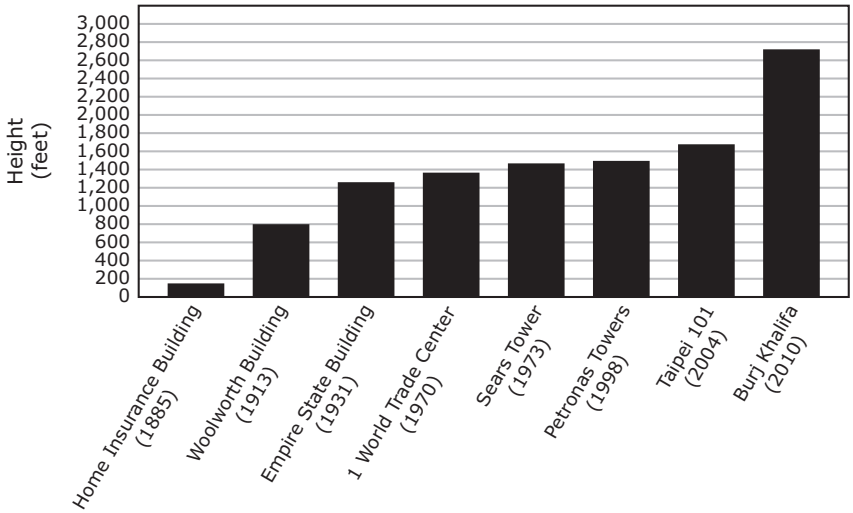
GO ON

Since tall structures could block sunlight and air from reaching a street, new laws were needed to control how and where they could be built. Nonetheless, skyscrapers went up—and up and up. These exciting new buildings gave architects and engineers a chance to demonstrate their skills. Many cities became a showcase for modern building techniques and distinctive skylines. Some skyscrapers echoed art trends of the past, linking cities to their history. Others brought cities into the future with ultramodern towers of glass and steel.

How High Can We Go?

9 Completed in 1931, the Empire State Building in New York City, standing 102 stories (1,250 feet) high, was the tallest building in the world for about 40 years until the completion of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in 1970, followed by the Sears Tower in Chicago in 1973. Recently, however, with the availability of more advanced technologies and building materials, skyscrapers are testing new limits. In 1998 the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, both standing 1,483 feet tall, became the world's tallest buildings. Then came Taipei 101 in Taiwan, rising over 1,650 feet. Today the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, at 2,717 feet, is the world's tallest building. If our wish is to someday live with our heads in the clouds, each new skyscraper takes us a little closer to that goal.

As of 2011 the Burj Khalifa is the world's tallest building.



GO ON

1 The author included the section "How High Can We Go?" most likely to emphasize that —

A the designs commonly used in today's tall buildings are complex

B the ability to construct tall buildings has increased greatly over time

C the need for tall buildings has remained constant over time

D new technology and materials have lowered the cost of building tall buildings

---

2 The reader can infer that future skyscrapers may surpass 3,000 feet because —

F there were few tall buildings at the beginning of the 1900s

G engineering and technological advances have improved the design of skyscrapers

H the Burj Khalifa is the world's tallest building

J skyscrapers have become a common feature of city skylines around the world

3 Which of the following is the best summary of the article?

A Though people have always shown an interest in constructing tall buildings, the height of such structures was relatively limited for many years. The use of steel and elevators helped make taller buildings possible.

B Throughout history people have always tried to construct tall buildings. People were eventually able to build skyscrapers as a result of several inventions. There is some debate about which building is the first example of a skyscraper.

C Tall buildings have always interested people but have not always been easy to construct. Throughout the years new developments have allowed people to build skyscrapers. Today tall buildings are common in cities around the world.

D People have always tried to construct the tallest buildings possible. Modern skyscrapers are usually constructed with steel and glass and have elevators. Today the tallest building in the world is many times higher than the first skyscraper.

---

4 Which idea from the article does the photograph of the Burj Khalifa emphasize?

F Building a skyscraper is a simple task for engineers.

G Skyscrapers have created city skylines with distinctive looks.

H Laws designate the areas where skyscrapers are allowed to be built.

J Modern construction techniques have allowed for more usable space in the bottom floors of skyscrapers.

5 Which sentence best supports the idea that the use of skyscrapers was a practical solution to a problem?

A *The need for special equipment and designs meant that building up was costly.*

B *Some skyscrapers echoed art trends of the past, linking cities to their history.*

C *Since most cities had limited amounts of land, sites for new houses and offices were scarce and expensive.*

D *These exciting new buildings gave architects and engineers a chance to demonstrate their skills.*

---

6 The organization of paragraph 2 focuses on the limitations of buildings in the early nineteenth century to show that —

F the available technology prevented skyscrapers from being built

G people preferred to have buildings with many windows

H the cost of materials prevented people from building skyscrapers

J people were not interested in improving tall buildings

GO ON

7 What is the meaning of the word withstand in paragraph 3?

A To endure

B To control

C To imagine

D To create

---

8 Read this summary of paragraph 3 written by a student.

> In the late 1800s three developments made building skyscrapers possible. New Yorkers were very pleased with these advances. The use of steel in construction and the adoption of new construction designs made buildings stronger. In addition, the invention of the elevator allowed people to go up and down tall buildings more easily.

Which sentence in the student's summary is unnecessary?

F *In the late 1800s three developments made building skyscrapers possible.*

G *New Yorkers were very pleased with these advances.*

H *The use of steel in construction and the adoption of new construction designs made buildings stronger.*

J *In addition, the invention of the elevator allowed people to go up and down tall buildings more easily.*

GO ON

9 Which idea is developed throughout the section "A Growing Need for Height"?

A Cities provide better living environments than rural areas.

B Changing conditions can create unexpected demands.

C Opportunities to demonstrate skill are rare.

D Laws help maintain the beauty of an environment.

---

10 Based on the information in paragraph 4, which generalization can be made?

F Skyscrapers are the best attractions to see in a city.

G The usefulness of a building is more important than its size.

H It is sometimes difficult to define something that is easily recognized.

J Ordinary people usually know as much as experts do.

---

11 The author organizes information from the article into a bar graph most likely to make it easier for the reader to —

A understand how skyscrapers affect a city's appearance

B know where the tallest skyscrapers are

C find out which building materials are lightest

D compare the heights of buildings

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

from
More Stories from Grandma's Attic

by Arleta Richardson

1 Grandma called me in from the yard. "Would you please go to the store for me? I'm ready to bake rolls, and there isn't enough yeast. Take a quarter from my little change purse."

2 I found Grandma's purse and put the quarter in my pocket. As I ran down the lane toward the road, it occurred to me that climbing over the fence and crossing the field would save some time, so I did just that. I was soon in the little general store that served our farming community.

3 "Mr. Jenkins," I said, "Grandma needs some yeast."

4 Mr. Jenkins set three cakes of yeast on the counter. His eyes twinkled, and he smiled at me. "And what do you need?"

5 I knew what he meant. I was always allowed to pick a penny candy when I came to the store with Grandma. But Grandma wasn't here, and she hadn't said anything about spending a penny.

6 "How much change do I have from a quarter?" I asked.

7 "Seven cents," Mr. Jenkins replied. "The yeast is six cents a cake."

8 I thought that over quickly. I would have a nickel and two pennies back. I was sure Grandma wouldn't care if I spent one penny, and if she were here, she might even say I could have them both. The longer I gazed at the candy display, the more certain I became that I needed two pennies' worth as a reward for coming to the store alone.

9 As Mr. Jenkins handed me the candy and the nickel, a twinge inside me said this was not a really honest thing to do. That wasn't my money, and I hadn't asked if I might spend it. Nevertheless, I put the nickel in my pocket and started home. This time I took the long way around by the road.

10 "Thank you," Grandma said when I laid the yeast on the table. "Did you put the change back in my purse?"

11 "Yes, Grandma," I replied, hurrying out to the porch. *I hadn't really lied to Grandma*, I argued with myself. *I did put back all the change I had.*

GO ON

12 But I had spent two pennies without permission. The second piece of candy in my pocket didn't sound like a good idea anymore. I knew I had deceived Grandma, and I was miserable about it.

13 Later that morning Uncle Roy came to the house for a glass of cold tea. He sat down beside me on the steps.

14 "Well, what have you been doing with yourself this morning?"

15 "I went to the store for Grandma. And since then I've just been sitting here." Uncle Roy looked down at me shrewdly.

16 "Something on your mind, is there?"

17 "I guess so. I'm thinking it over," I replied slowly.

18 "If there's something you should tell your grandma, I'd advise you to get busy and do it." He chuckled as he got up to leave. "Chances are she knows about it anyway, and the kinder she is to you, the more miserable you'll be."

19 I watched Uncle Roy make his way back to the barn. He was right. Grandma loved me so much that I couldn't bear to keep anything from her.

20 While Grandma took the hot rolls from the oven, I told her about the candy. She nodded when I finished my story.

21 "I know just how you feel," she said. "We all feel like that when we've done something deceitful. I'm glad you told me about the pennies, and of course I'll forgive you." Grandma hugged me tight, and suddenly I felt as though a big lump was gone from my stomach.

22 "I guess I should tell you about the time I took something that wasn't mine," Grandma said. "I was a pretty sad little girl too before it was straightened out." She buttered a roll for me, and we sat down at the table while Grandma told her story.

GO ON

12 Which event contributes most to the narrator's inner conflict in the story?

F She is slow to return home when her grandmother is waiting on her.

G She does not immediately confess to spending money that does not belong to her.

H She is sent to the store by herself and is not used to going there alone.

J She takes a path to the store that is different from her usual route.

---

13 Which sentence from the story shows that the narrator takes advantage of her situation at the store?

A *While Grandma took the hot rolls from the oven, I told her about the candy.*

B *I would have a nickel and two pennies back.*

C *The longer I gazed at the candy display, the more certain I became that I needed two pennies' worth as a reward for coming to the store alone.*

D *I found Grandma's purse and put the quarter in my pocket.*

GO ON

14 The conversation between Uncle Roy and the narrator leads to the story's resolution because it —

F causes the narrator to understand that what she did was wrong

G makes the narrator decide to take responsibility for her actions

H prompts the narrator to ask about the right time to confess

J reveals to the narrator that her grandmother is aware of the narrator's deceit

---

15 Read the dictionary entry below.

> **bear** \'ber\ *v*
> **1.** to make a product **2.** to give a statement as a witness **3.** to tolerate a burden **4.** to possess a certain characteristic

Which definition best matches the meaning of bear as it is used in paragraph 19?

A Definition 1

B Definition 2

C Definition 3

D Definition 4

GO ON

16 The end of the story reveals that Grandma —

F does not believe it is wrong to spend someone else's money

G wants the narrator to stop making mistakes

H enjoys telling stories about her youth

J is more understanding than the narrator anticipated

---

17 What is the best summary of the story?

A A girl is asked to go to the store to buy yeast for her grandmother. She takes the quickest path possible to get to the store. After buying the yeast, she uses some of the change to buy two pieces of candy. At first she does not tell her grandmother about what she has done. While the girl is sitting on the porch, her uncle suggests she tell her grandmother what is bothering her.

B A grandmother is baking rolls at home and notices that she does not have enough yeast. She asks her granddaughter to take a quarter to the store to buy some yeast. When the girl is at the store, she buys the yeast and also some candy. The girl arrives back at the house and tells her grandmother that she put the change in her grandmother's purse.

C While a girl is at a store buying yeast for her grandmother, she decides to use some of the change to buy candy and returns only a nickel to her grandmother. Later, she becomes upset about what she has done, and her uncle suggests that she tell her grandmother what she did. When the girl finally confesses, her grandmother forgives her and tells her a story about when she was young.

D A grandmother sends her granddaughter to the store with a quarter to buy yeast for rolls. The girl hurries to the store, where she buys the yeast. She then decides to purchase two pieces of candy instead of getting all the change back. When she returns from the store, she takes the long way home. She eventually tells her grandmother what she did at the store.

18 The author's use of the first-person point of view in this story enables the reader to —

F observe the actions of only the narrator

G understand the internal struggle of the narrator

H determine the reason why the narrator's grandmother forgives the narrator

J focus on the relationship between the narrator and the other characters

---

19 Read these sentences from the story.

> *As I ran down the lane toward the road, it occurred to me that climbing over the fence and crossing the field would save some time, so I did just that.* (paragraph 2)
>
> *This time I took the long way around by the road.* (paragraph 9)

Based on these two sentences, the reader can conclude that the narrator —

A could not return home using the same path she had taken to the store

B realizes her grandmother is in a hurry to get the yeast

C feels satisfied with completing the errand for her grandmother

D is less eager to return home than she was to get to the store

GO ON

20 Based on Uncle Roy's advice to the narrator, the reader can infer that Uncle Roy —

F is concerned the narrator will be punished by her grandmother for her actions

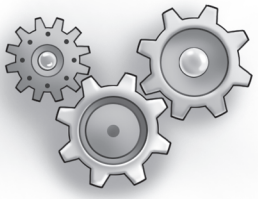
G has had a similar experience with the narrator's grandmother in the past

H thinks the way the narrator's grandmother has been tricked is amusing

J is sure someone else will tell the narrator's grandmother before the narrator has a chance to

GO ON

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.



Mechanical Marvels

February 1, 2013 Vol. 12

Looking to the Sky

1 People have always been fascinated with birds in flight streaking across the sky. The ancient Greeks told a story about a father and son soaring like birds after the father made them each a pair of wings. The inventor and artist Leonardo da Vinci, who lived in the 1400s, actually built mechanical wings in an attempt to fly like a bird. Modern airplanes and helicopters can take us into the sky, but they do not really simulate bird flight. In fact, nothing man-made has truly been able to copy a bird's ability to take off and land instantly and to change direction in flight with agility. Nothing has done this, that is, until recently.

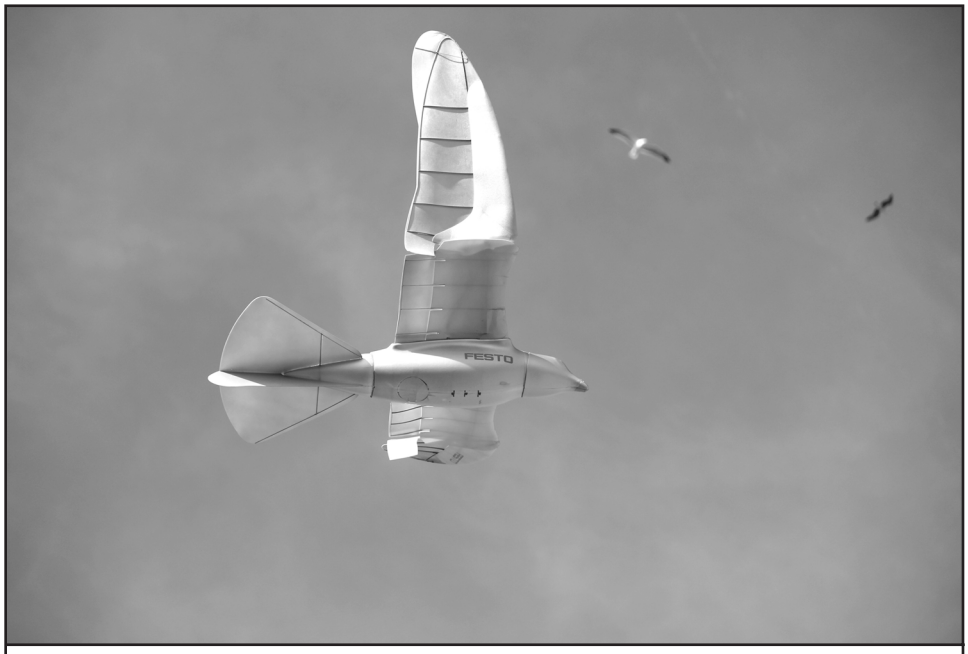
2 In 2011 a German company named Festo released a robot that imitates bird flight. The robot's name is SmartBird, and it is modeled after a herring gull. SmartBird can take off and land simply by flapping its wings. It can glide, fly, and rapidly change directions. In the sky it looks like a bird, but up close it is obviously a robot.

3 Festo's design is successful in several ways. First, SmartBird is extremely lightweight. Also, its body and wings are shaped just like those of a seagull. Lastly, SmartBird's wings can bend, move up and down, and even twist at different angles. This allows it to fly and maneuver efficiently. The bird's computerized brain is in its belly. That's also the location of the battery, the engine, and some high-powered electronics that allow it to be controlled remotely.

4 Festo's purpose in creating SmartBird is not just to make a cool robot, though. SmartBird's exciting design and potential applications have even attracted the attention of German politicians. The company wants to use the technology to help make machines work more efficiently in order to conserve resources. Machines that use energy in the way birds do will require less electricity to operate and may be able to work for longer periods without needing to be recharged.

GO ON

5 SmartBird is a good example of science using models in nature to enhance technology. And why not? If the design works in nature, why shouldn't we use it, too?



SmartBird in Flight

GO ON

The Ironman Robot

1 Imagine climbing a 1,700-foot cliff, walking more than 300 miles, or riding a bike for 24 hours nonstop. Now, try to imagine a six-inch robot tackling all those challenges.

2 A little robot named Mr. Evolta has done just that. The robot is the invention of Tomotaka Takahashi from Japan. Takahashi created Mr. Evolta for the company Panasonic, which keeps putting the little robot through rigorous tests. The goal for Panasonic is to show how long-lasting their batteries are. At the Le Mans racetrack in France, Mr. Evolta was able to ride a bike around the track for 24 hours on just two AA batteries and set a Guinness world record. What more could Panasonic ask?

3 On October 30, 2011, Mr. Evolta finished its most impressive challenge yet—the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii. Why is this so remarkable? Because a triathlon is a competition that consists of three races in one. Participants in the Ironman Triathlon must first swim 2.4 miles in open water. They then bike 112 miles. Finally, they run a full marathon of 26.2 miles. Many consider the race to be the ultimate test of human endurance.

4 Triathletes usually complete the event in 12 to 13 hours. Mr. Evolta is only about one-tenth the height of a typical human, however. Takahashi figured that it would take the robot about 10 times as long as a human to complete the race. Mr. Evolta was given seven days to complete the Ironman competition.

5 The little robot was modified to endure each of the three events in the competition. It needed to be waterproof, to be able to withstand great heat and wind, and to be able to battle ocean currents. Its designers even considered small impediments such as potholes, which most humans can simply step over, when adapting Mr. Evolta to the conditions of the race. A special device was attached to the robot during the swimming portion of the race to help it float, and a special wheel was designed for Mr. Evolta so it could run without falling.

Mr. Evolta swam, ran, and rode a bike during the Ironman Triathlon.

GO ON

6 Takahashi admits that the triathlon was quite a challenge for his little robot. But Mr. Evolta succeeded, completing the race one hour and four minutes under the seven-day time limit. It also used the same set of AA batteries the entire time, stopping only when the batteries needed recharging. Panasonic plans to continue improving its batteries, but it has shown the world what the batteries can already accomplish. Mr. Evolta's feats also suggest that great things are in store for a future in which technology and human imagination come together.

GO ON

Use "Looking to the Sky" (pp. 19–20) to answer questions 21–24. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

21 What does the word maneuver mean in paragraph 3?

A Skillfully change a path or position

B Be guided by a remote control

C Cause to move rapidly

D Contain electronic equipment

---

22 What is paragraph 1 mainly about?

F People watching birds in flight

G The ancient Greeks telling about people who try to fly like birds

H Leonardo da Vinci inventing a pair of mechanical wings in the 1400s

J People being interested in flying like birds

23 The organizational pattern of the article develops the author's viewpoint by —

A presenting facts about how SmartBird works and explaining why it is a useful invention

B comparing SmartBird with other inventions and showing how technology has advanced

C describing the reason Festo invented SmartBird and the effects the invention has had on the company

D relating the sequence of events that occurred to create SmartBird

---

24 Which idea is supported by information in the article?

F Technology is often too inefficient to be practical.

G Nature can inspire human innovation.

H The best machines have been designed to work by remote control.

J Innovations are usually based on the ideas of inventors who lived long ago.

GO ON

Use "The Ironman Robot" (pp. 21–22) to answer questions 25–30. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

25 The information in paragraphs 2 and 6 supports the idea that —

A athletic competitions are challenging for any participant

B Mr. Evolta was a difficult robot for Takahashi to design

C people can be extremely inventive

D Mr. Evolta is capable of amazing accomplishments

---

26 In paragraph 5, the word impediments refers to —

F environments

G events

H obstacles

J robots

---

27 Based on the information included in the selection, the reader can infer that the author believes Panasonic —

A found a creative way to promote its batteries

B is the most successful company in Japan

C focuses most of its efforts on creating robots

D is primarily concerned with setting world records

28 Which of the following best supports the idea that finishing the Ironman Triathlon was a remarkable feat for Mr. Evolta?

F It normally takes less than 13 hours for a human to complete the competition.

G Mr. Evolta is only about one-tenth the height of the average human.

H Each race in the event was held in Hawaii.

J Mr. Evolta needed more time to finish the competition than a human would.

---

29 The author includes the information in paragraph 1 most likely to —

A cause the reader to reflect upon personal accomplishments

B build the reader's interest by presenting an improbable situation

C present the most important information about the topic first

D explain various reasons for writing about the topic

---

30 The photographs of Mr. Evolta support the information in the selection by —

F illustrating how difficult each race was to complete

G proving that the robot successfully finished all the races

H helping the reader understand the length of each race in the triathlon

J showing the reader the equipment used by the robot during the races

GO ON

Use "Looking to the Sky" and "The Ironman Robot" to answer questions 31–34. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

31 Which of the following is a major difference between SmartBird in "Looking to the Sky" and Mr. Evolta in "The Ironman Robot"?

A SmartBird uses energy in a resourceful way, while Mr. Evolta uses more energy than is necessary.

B SmartBird does not rely on batteries to function, while Mr. Evolta relies solely on batteries to function.

C SmartBird was invented to find more efficient ways of using energy in the future, while Mr. Evolta was invented to demonstrate the efficiency of a current energy source.

D SmartBird was invented by one person, while Mr. Evolta was developed by a small team of company employees.

---

32 One way "Looking to the Sky" and "The Ironman Robot" are similar is that they both —

F discuss ideas that have been explored throughout history

G imply that robots will continue to be improved upon in the future

H describe inventors who came up with an idea to help their company

J stress that electronics are common in modern life

GO ON

33 One difference between "Looking to the Sky" and "The Ironman Robot" is that only "The Ironman Robot" provides information about —

A the tests the robot endured

B the actions the robot was designed to perform

C the size of the robot

D the purpose of using the robot

---

34 The information presented in "Looking to the Sky" and "The Ironman Robot" supports the idea that —

F success in competition can result in receiving praise

G robots can complete only tasks that can also be accomplished by humans

H companies that use robots are more successful than those that rely only on humans

J advances in technology stretch the limits of what is possible

GO ON

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

The Storyteller

by Jennifer Hu

The tree in my backyard
Has two hundred rings,
Two hundred years of history,
Hidden behind her bark.

She was here as a seedling,
A mere child to the rest,
Young and naïve among her dark, old elders.

But now she is a guardian,
Tall and welcoming,
Gathering and shielding the children in her arms.

She has scarred wood,
With intricate designs carved into her face.
And she changes her clothes each season:
A dress of pink blossoms in the spring,
A gown of green leaves in the summer.
Skirts of fiery sanguine hues in autumn,
And a snowy, white robe in winter.

Her hands intertwine together,
Gnarled fingers twisted into shapes.
Her face looks out to the world,
A grandmother to us all.

She has stood there for so long,
Been here since before I was born,
Saw the flow of the seasons,
Heard the drumming of the rain,
Smelled the dew on summer dawns,
And felt the moist soil at her feet.

The tree in my backyard
Has two hundred years of history.
What stories she must tell.

By Jennifer Hu. Reprinted with permission from Skipping Stones Magazine, Sept./Oct. 2006.

GO ON

35 What does the poet suggest about the tree in lines 24 through 30?

A It is nearing the end of its life.

B It was in danger one year during a particularly rainy season.

C It has many descriptions of events carved into its wood.

D It has witnessed many events through the years.

---

36 Which lines from the poem suggest that the tree deserves respect?

F And she changes her clothes each season:
A dress of pink blossoms in the spring,

G She has scarred wood,
With intricate designs carved into her face.

H Her face looks out to the world,
A grandmother to us all.

J Smelled the dew on summer dawns,
And felt the moist soil at her feet.

GO ON

37 Which word best describes the speaker's attitude toward the tree?

A Appreciative

B Cheerful

C Sorrowful

D Envious

---

38 In line 16, the word hues means —

F injuries

G plants

H expressions

J colors

---

39 Why are the first and third lines of the poem echoed in the last stanza?

A To show how large the tree has grown

B To highlight that the age of the tree makes it special

C To remind the reader of the importance of the environment

D To explain what the speaker enjoys most about the tree's appearance

40 Read lines 5 through 10 from the poem.

> She was here as a seedling,
> A mere child to the rest,
> Young and naïve among her dark, old elders.
>
> But now she is a guardian,
> Tall and welcoming,
> Gathering and shielding the children in her arms.

The poet uses personification in these lines most likely to show that the tree —

F protects the other trees

G provides a warning about approaching danger

H has become stronger as it has matured

J prevents smaller plants from having room to grow

GO ON

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

"Wheelz" on Wings

1 Like most extreme athletes, Aaron "Wheelz" Fotheringham loves to compete. He's always looking for new challenges. And he works hard to perfect the heart-stopping tricks that make extreme sports so exciting. There's just one thing that sets Fotheringham apart from most other extreme bikers and skaters: he competes in a wheelchair.

2 Fotheringham was born with a spinal cord condition called spina bifida, which prevents him from using his legs. Doctors said he would be incapable of ever walking on his own. But his condition never slowed him down. Fotheringham was steadfast and kept up with the other five kids in his family. Even as a small child, if he wanted to do something, he figured out a way.

3 When Fotheringham was eight, he watched his older brother rocket a bike down the ramp at a local skate park. With his brother's support, he tried the ramp himself. At first he crashed, but despite bumps, bruises, and a few broken wheelchairs, Fotheringham kept trying. With a helmet always firmly in place, he sometimes spent 30 hours a week mastering new tricks. Over time he tried more-challenging jumps and flips. He grew to love the sport he calls "hard-core sitting."

Fotheringham rides a ledge at a skate park.

4 Fotheringham often works on new stunts. In 2005 he mastered a midair 180-degree turn. In 2006 he wowed people with the first successful wheelchair backflip. Then in 2010, at the age of 18, he did the first-ever double backflip in a wheelchair. Videos of Fotheringham's flips have made him an Internet celebrity. He has also been interviewed on CNN and earned a spot on the ABC news segment "Person of the Week."

GO ON

5 Today Fotheringham competes in extreme-sports contests, where he's almost always the only athlete in a wheelchair. He's won several BMX freestyle[1] events, though he says having fun is his foremost goal. Winning is simply a bonus. He also performs on extreme-sports tours, racing down huge ramps and flying into the air to entertain crowds. To spectators it may seem as if Fotheringham was born doing backflips, but this skill is the result of years of practice. In his free time Fotheringham is learning to build special wheelchairs for use in extreme sports. He hopes to have his own line of extreme wheelchairs someday so that more kids can use their wheelchairs for fun.

6 Fotheringham's fame has enabled him to meet and work with other young people with disabilities. He entertains them and talks with them about finding ways to get the most out of life. He likes to show these young people that a wheelchair can be a toy as well as a tool. To Fotheringham a disability can be mastered, just like a stunt.

7 Aaron "Wheelz" Fotheringham has always seen opportunities instead of limitations. He challenges all of us to look for possibilities and let our dreams soar.

Fotheringham executes a stunt in his wheelchair.

[1] BMX freestyle events are ones in which participants focus on tricks rather than on racing.

GO ON

41 The main theme of this selection is that —

A trying new activities can result in joyful experiences

B difficulties can be overcome with continued effort

C new inventions can solve problems that have existed for a long time

D fame can offer a unique opportunity to help others

---

42 Paragraph 3 is important to the selection because it shows —

F that Fotheringham grew up watching people compete in extreme sports

G how long it took Fotheringham to develop enough tricks to perform in competitions

H how Fotheringham became interested in extreme sports

J which safety precautions Fotheringham took while he practiced

GO ON

43 What is the best summary of the selection?

A Aaron "Wheelz" Fotheringham was born with a condition that prevents him from using his legs. By performing stunts in his wheelchair, he has become an extreme-sports celebrity who continually works to perfect new tricks. He has used his fame to help encourage others.

B Aaron "Wheelz" Fotheringham uses a wheelchair to compete in extreme-sports contests. He has won several of the contests and keeps learning new tricks. He is also learning to build wheelchairs that can be used in extreme sports.

C Aaron "Wheelz" Fotheringham was born with spina bifida, a condition that makes him unable to use his legs. As a child he wanted to keep up with his siblings, so he learned to do tricks in his wheelchair. He can now do many stunts, which he demonstrates during extreme-sports contests.

D Aaron "Wheelz" Fotheringham regularly competes in and wins BMX freestyle contests while in a wheelchair. He is an Internet celebrity and has appeared on television. He now develops wheelchairs that can be used for extreme sports.

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44 In paragraph 2, the word steadfast means —

F patient

G understanding

H determined

J calm

GO ON

45 Based on the photographs in the selection, the reader can conclude that Fotheringham —

A enjoys winning extreme-sports events

B competes in extreme-sports events with his brother

C has performed at skate parks around the world

D performs difficult tricks while competing

---

46 The author includes the phrase "let our dreams soar" in paragraph 7 to suggest that people —

F will always wish for things they cannot have

G should pursue their interests despite obstacles

H can easily become distracted from their goals

J should constantly think of ways to improve their skills

GO ON

47 Which sentence from the selection best shows that people recognize Fotheringham's accomplishments?

A *He has also been interviewed on CNN and earned a spot on the ABC news segment "Person of the Week."*

B *He likes to show these young people that a wheelchair can be a toy as well as a tool.*

C *He also performs on extreme-sports tours, racing down huge ramps and flying into the air to entertain crowds.*

D *Today Fotheringham competes in extreme-sports contests, where he's almost always the only athlete in a wheelchair.*

---

48 The reader can conclude that Fotheringham believes it is important for all young people to have the opportunity to —

F become famous on the Internet or television

G compete in events that demonstrate their talents

H participate in activities they enjoy

J meet a famous person

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

STAAR
GRADE 6
Reading
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