

INTENSIVE READING

3rd 4th level

Name:

Class:

Date:

Read a teenager's blog about shopping and tick (✓) A, B, or C

Shopping with mother?

I'm Cathy Huang and I'm 16. Welcome to my blog. This week I'm writing about shopping with your mother. Thanks for reading!

Have you ever been shopping with your mother? I'd like to hear you say 'Yes, and it was fun.' But are you really telling the truth? I went to the shopping center yesterday with my mum. She wanted to buy me a dress for her birthday party. She's going to be 50 next weekend. So what's the problem with that? I hear you ask.

Well, the problem is, my mother always wants to buy me what she wants, not what I want. And we want very different things. I tried on a beautiful red dress, but she said it didn't fit. (It was very short!) Then I tried on a long skirt, but she didn't like the colour. (It was purple!) I was in and out of changing rooms all day and we couldn't agree on anything. She rolled her eyes and complained about everything I tried on. It was so depressing. And so boring. By 5 o'clock my feet were killing me, and I still didn't have a dress for the party.

Next time Mum wants to take me shopping, I'm going to tell her my room is a terrible mess and I have to tidy it now. I know it's not very nice to lie, but shopping with my mother is not fun. And, I've just seen a fantastic dress on eBay. It's so chic. I'm going to look amazing at Mum's party.

Example: Cathy writes her blog every week.

A.True ✓ B.False C. Doesn't say

1 Cathy and her mum went to the shopping centre yesterday. _____

2 Cathy's mum wanted to buy her a skirt. _____

3 Cathy's mum is 50 next weekend. _____

4 Cathy's mum always buys too many clothes. _____

5 Cathy tried on a beautiful red dress. _____

EXTENSIVE READING
Second and Third year of high school

Name:

Class:

Date:

The Crossing

Chapter I: The Blue Wall

(Excerpt from the opening of a novel by Winston Churchill)

I was born under the Blue Ridge, and under that side which is blue in the evening light, in a wild land of game and forest and rushing waters. There, on the borders of a creek that runs into the Yadkin River, in a cabin that was chinked with red mud, I came into the world a subject of King George the Third, in that part of his realm known as the province of North Carolina.

The cabin reeked of corn-pone and bacon, and the odor of pelts. It had two shakedown, on one of which I slept under a bearskin. A rough stone chimney was reared outside, and the fireplace was as long as my father was tall. There was a crane in it, and a bake kettle; and over it great buckhorns held my father's rifle when it was not in use. On other horns hung jerked bear's meat and venison hams, and gourds for drinking cups, and bags of seed, and my father's best hunting shirt; also, in a neglected corner, several articles of woman's attire from pegs. These once belonged to my mother. Among them was a gown of silk, of a fine, faded pattern, over which I was wont to speculate. The women at the Cross-Roads, twelve miles away, were dressed in coarse butternut wool and huge sunbonnets. But when I questioned my father on these matters he would give me no answers.

My father was—how shall I say what he was? To this day I can only surmise many things of him. He was a Scotchman born, and I know now that he had a slight Scotch accent. At the time of which I write, my early childhood, he was a frontiersman and hunter. I can see him now, with his hunting shirt and leggins and moccasins; his powder horn, engraved with wondrous scenes; his bullet pouch and tomahawk and hunting knife.

He was a tall, lean man with a strange, sad face. And he talked little save when he drank too many "horns," as they were called in that country. These lapses of my father's were a perpetual source of wonder to me—and, I must say, of delight. They occurred only when a passing traveler who hit his fancy chanced that way, or, what was almost as rare, a neighbor. Many a winter night I have lain awake under the skins, listening to a flow of language that held me spellbound, though I understood scarce a word of it.

"Virtuous and vicious every man must be,
Few in the extreme, but all in a degree."

The chance neighbor or traveler was no less struck with wonder. And many the time have I heard the query, at the Cross-Roads and elsewhere, "What Alec Trimble got his larnin'?"

1. Why did the narrator enjoy it when his father drank too many “horns,” or drafts of liquor?
 - a. The father spoke brilliantly at those times.
 - b. The boy was then allowed to do as he pleased.
 - c. These were the only times when the father was not abusive.
 - d. The boy was allowed to sample the drink himself.

2. Judging by the sentences surrounding it, the word “surmise” in the third paragraph most nearly means
 - a. to form a negative opinion.
 - b. to praise.
 - c. to desire.
 - d. to guess.

3. The mention of the dress in the second paragraph is most likely meant to
 - a. show the similarity between its owner and other members of the community.
 - b. show how warm the climate was.
 - c. show the dissimilarity between its owner and other members of the community.
 - d. give us insight into the way most of the women of the region dressed.

4. It can be inferred from the passage that Alec Trimble is
 - a. a traveler.
 - b. a neighbor.
 - c. the narrator’s father.
 - d. a poet.

5. What is the meaning of the lines of verse quoted in the passage?
 - a. Men who pretend to be virtuous are actually vicious.
 - b. Moderate amounts of virtuousness and viciousness are present in all men.
 - c. Virtuous men cannot also be vicious.
 - d. Whether men are virtuous or vicious depends on the difficulty of their circumstances.

6. Which of the following adjectives best describes the region in which the cabin is located?
 - a. remote
 - b. urban
 - c. agricultural
 - d. flat

7. The author most likely uses dialect when quoting the question, “ What Alec Trimble got his larnin’?” in order to
 - a. show disapproval of the father’s drinking.
 - b. show how people talked down to the narrator.
 - c. show the speakers’ lack of education.
 - d. mimic the way the father talked.

PERCEPTIVE READING
Second and Third year of high school

Name:

Class:

Date:

**WHY AREN'T THERE
MORE WOMEN IN SCIENCE?**



- 1- Read the first paragraph of the article and find 4 facts about women in science.

According to the campaigning group, WISE (women in science and engineering), in the UK, only 12.8% of jobs in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) are held by women. Similarly, the proportion of boys studying science at school leaving age is still much higher than girls, especially Physics, where 1 it's about 78%. 2This continues at university, 3where 52% of male undergraduates take a science degree, compared with 40% of women. The situation is not dissimilar in the United States, where only 1/5 of physics degrees are awarded to women. But why is this?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

- 2- Make a list of possible reasons why there are fewer women studying and working in science than men.

I think there are fewer women in science than men because...

3- Now read the rest of the article. Which is the main idea in each paragraph?

It seems that girls are often put off early by an assumption that girls don't do science, especially chemistry and physics. The scientists in films and on TV are usually men (though 4 this does now appear to be changing), and when female scientists do make it onto TV, there is still often a focus on 5 their looks, rather than their science. Research by the University of Cardiff analysed 51 newspaper interviews with scientists and found that half of the profiles of women referred to their looks, compared with 21% of the male profiles.

Main idea:

Women may have what is known as an 'internal bias', causing them to undervalue their own abilities or intelligence. Research has shown that if women are told that men do better in maths tests than women, this can affect their score negatively.

Main idea:

4- Read the following statements. Are they true (T) or false (F)?

1. There are much more boys than girls studying science and Physics.
2. Women tend to believe in their abilities to work or study science.
3. When female scientists appear on TV, there's usually more focus on their look rather than on their work.
4. Males are more likely to be given a job even if they have a similar curriculum vitae than a woman.
5. Most male scientists leave their jobs when they become parents so as to take care of their children.

INTERACTIVE READING
Second and Third year of high school

Name:

Class:

Date:

The Story of the Aral Sea

In 2009 in Kazakhstan, a group of fishermen met on a Sunday afternoon. They were on the beach of the North Aral Sea. They ate food. They did some sports. Afterwards, they told stories and sang songs about the Aral Sea and fishing. It was a good party.

The fishermen were happy because there were fish in the water. For many years, there weren't many fish. At one time, the Aral Sea in Central Asia was the fourth largest lake in the world. It had an area of 67,300 square kilometres. Two of the biggest rivers in Central Asia, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya, went into the Aral Sea. But the water almost disappeared.

The Aral Sea was a busy place. Almost 20 percent of the Soviet Union's fish came from here. 40,000 people lived and worked near the lake. Then people used the water in the two rivers for agriculture, so the water didn't arrive at the Aral Sea. Also, it didn't rain for many years.

Then, in 2005, the Kazakh government and the World Bank built a dam. The dam separated the north and south parts of the sea. Then the north part of the Aral Sea started to fill with water again.

Philip Micklin is a scientist. He studies the Aral Sea. In 2010 he said 'Nature can come back.' But in 2014, he saw satellite pictures of the east part of the Aral Sea. It was completely dry.

In June 2015 a scientist from Uzbekistan, Yusup Kamalov, and a National Geographic reporter visited the Aral Sea. They found a huge desert. They stood on the sand. Once it was the edge of the water. Now the water is 80 kilometres away. They drove to the water. On the way, they passed oil and natural gas rigs. Kamalov said that every year there are more oil rigs. They arrived at the edge of the Aral Sea. The water was very salty. There were no fish. Kamalov said, 'This is what the end of the world looks like'.

Listen to a recording of the text:

Reading comprehension:

Read the article and choose the correct option.

1. Where is the Aral Sea?

in Central Asia
in Kazakhstan
in Uzbekistan

2. What is the problem in the Aral Sea?

It's full of oil.
It's getting bigger.
It's getting smaller.

Read the article again and choose the correct option.

3. According to paragraph 1, which sentence is true?

Kazakh fishermen are good at sport.
Kazakhstan is next to the North Aral Sea.
The fishermen met every Sunday.

4. Why did the fishermen meet?

because it was Sunday
to go fishing
to have a party

5. Which word describes the fishermen in 2009?

pleased
rich
sad