UNIT - 1 READING/WRITING
REVISION

Name: _____ Date:_____

I. Reading Skill: Previewing and predicting

Skim the article and read the title subheadings. Then look at the pairs of ideas below. Check one idea in each pair that you think might be developed in the text.

1. _____ A. A description of role models in general
   _____ B. A role model in one particular field
2. _____ A. Lucas's preparing for filmmaking in college
   _____ B. Why Lucas decided to study filmmaking
3. _____ A. Why Lucas made *American Graffiti*
   _____ B. What was *American Graffiti* about?
4. _____ A. Why Lucas wanted to make a science fiction film
   _____ B. A description of science fiction films
5. _____ A. What problems did Lucas face making *Star Wars*?
   _____ B. What did the Cast of *Star Wars* think of the movie?
6. _____ A. A description of philanthropy in general
   _____ B. A description of a specific form of philanthropy

George Lucas, Moviemaker

Section 1: A Role Model for Movie Lovers

1 Young people—in fact, people of all ages—often try to find someone to look up to, someone to inspire them, someone to follow. In other words, they are looking for role models. There are, of course, many types of role models: entertainers, athletes, business leaders, politicians. Fans of movies and of moviemaking may look to the famous director and producer George Lucas as one of their role models.

Section 2: Early Years

2 Born in 1944, Lucas grew up in Modesto, California, USA. His father owned a stationery store and urged him to join him in his business when he turned 18, but George had other plans. He wanted to become a race-car driver. However, when he was

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18 years old, he was in a serious accident and his car turned over. After that, he stopped driving, but his interest in racing remained.

3 Lucas first attended Modesto Junior College and began making short films with an 8mm camera. Some of his first subjects were car races. Along with his friend John Plummer, he began watching classic European films. He transferred to the University of Southern California (USC), one of the first schools to have a program in moviemaking. When he left home, he told his parents that he would be a millionaire by the time he was thirty. His prediction came true. At USC, Lucas began to associate with a group of student film-makers who became known as "the Dirty Dozen." One of the members of this group was Steven Spielberg. Years later, Lucas would collaborate with Speilberg on the Indiana Jones series of movies.

Section 3: First Success

4 The first commercially successful film Lucas made was *American Graffiti*, which was popular with critics and film-goers alike. It is set in Modesto, California in the early 1960s and is based on Lucas' experience as a teenager. It follows the story of a group of teenagers on the last night of their summer vacation. The main characters in the movie represent Lucas himself in different stages of his life. Unsurprisingly, one of the most dramatic scenes in the movie involves a car race.

Section 4: Turning to Science Fiction

5 Lucas had always been fond of science fiction. As a child he read science fiction comic strips and novels. He watched TV series such as *Captain Video* and movies such as *Buck Rogers* and *Flash Gordon*. In fact, after *American Graffiti*, Lucas wanted to remake *Flash Gordon*, but he was unable to obtain permission from the company that held the copyright for this character. Instead, he said, "Well, I'll invent my own." His next project was the classic science-fiction adventure *Star Wars*.

Section 5: *Star Wars*

6 Lucas began writing the first draft of *Star Wars* in 1973. Not much of what he wrote for that first script appeared in the movie; there were four different drafts of the screenplay. The final version of the script was drastically different from the original script. It showed influences not only from science fiction films, but also from Japanese samurai warrior movies and the cowboy movies of the 1940s and 50s.

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7 The original *Star Wars* movie was not an easy film to make. Many of the actors felt there was little chance that it would be a success. Some complained that Lucas seldom spoke to them and that he didn't provide enough direction. There were technical difficulties as well. Electronic equipment broke down. Part of the film was shot in the deserts of Tunisia. A huge rainstorm—rare in Tunisia—further upset the filming schedule. Lucas had to create his own company, Industrial Light and Magic, to produce the amazing special effects that he wanted.

8 *Star Wars*, of course, was a huge success. Like *American Graffiti*, it was acknowledged by critics as a remarkable achievement, and it was loved by the public. It quickly became the most money-making film of all time and won numerous awards. It launched the careers of several young actors: Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, and Mark Hamill. It was followed by two sequels and later by three "prequels"—movies set in a time before that of the original three movies. Lucas also licensed the rights to use images from *Star Wars* for clothing, toys, bedding, lunch boxes, and so on. Lucas soon became a billionaire.

Section 6: Lucas the Philanthropist

9 Lucas can serve as a role model not only because of his creativity as a film-maker but also because of his philanthropy. Back in 1991, he promised money to the George Lucas Educational Foundation. In 2010, he joined other billionaires such as Bill Gates in signing the Giving Pledge, promising to donate fifty percent of his fortune to various charities. And in 2012, when he sold his production company, Lucasfilm, to the Disney corporation, he gave the money he made from that sale—four billion dollars—to charity, especially to educational organizations. Lucas wrote, "I am dedicating the majority of my wealth to improving education. Education … is the key to the survival of the human race."

II. Reading Comprehension

A. Choose the best answer.

7. George Lucas's first ambition was to
A. work in his father's business.
B. drive in car races.
C. make films about racing.
D. study film-making in college.

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8. The author mentions Steven Spielberg in Section 2 because he

A. was George Lucas's teacher.

B. worked with Lucas on *American Graffiti*.

C. first met Lucas as a student.

D. inspired Lucas with his films.

9. The author indicates that the character Flash Gordon was

A. protected by copyright.

B. more popular than Buck Rogers.

C. invented by George Lucas.

D. a character in *Star Wars*.

10. Which of the following is given as a source of inspiration for *Star Wars*?

A. movies about Japanese warriors

B. Lucas's early films

C. Lucas's experiences as a teenager

D. movies about car races

11. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as one of the problems Lucas faced when making Star Wars?

A. Bad weather delayed the filming.

B. The actors were unenthusiastic.

C. Electrical equipment malfunctioned.

D. The studio's budget was insufficient.

12. Lucas has promised to donate

A. most of the payment he received from the Disney Company.

B. all of his money to his educational foundation.

C. half of the money he has earned to charities.

D. his inheritance to help students of film-making.

B. Read the statements. Write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

13. _____ George Lucas lost interest in car races after having a serious accident.

14. _____ George Lucas made a million dollars while he was still in his twenties.

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15. _____ The first college Lucas attended was the University of Southern California.
16. _____ Some of the characters in American Graffiti are based on George Lucas himself.

III. Vocabulary

A. Complete the sentences with the correct word from the word bank.

adversity	diverse	embody	exponential	funding	inclined
		pursue	versions		

17. They invited me to go to the event with them, but I wasn't _____ to accept. I don't really like that speaker.
18. Before we can move ahead with this project, we must get sufficient _____ to pay for it.
19. The Cosmo Café has a very _____ menu. They offer foods from all over the world.
20. Elaine left her job at an advertising agency in order to _____ a career as an accountant.
21. There are two _____ of this text: one in English and one in French.

B. Match each word with the correct synonym or definition.

_____ 22. perceive
_____ 23. advocate
_____ 24. empower
_____ 25. authenticity
_____ 26. aspire to

a. quality of being real
b. notice or realize something
c. have a strong desire to do or become something
d. try to accomplish something
e. someone who supports a particular cause; promoter
f. make someone stronger and more confident
g. give advice; make a suggestion

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IV. Vocabulary Skill: Using the dictionary

Look at the dictionary entry for *pedestrian*. Write short answers for the questions.

pedestrian *noun*
/pɪˈdɛstrɪən/

1 A person walking rather than travelling in a vehicle.

- *'the road is so dangerous pedestrians avoid it'*

[as modifier] *'a pedestrian bridge'*

- *She said they had complained that cars and other vehicles ignore the sign and fail to stop for pedestrians.*
- *Windmill Street will be closed and no pedestrians or vehicles will be allowed access.*

Synonyms
walker, person on foot, hiker, rambler, stroller, wayfarer, footslogger

2 *adjective* Lacking inspiration or excitement; dull.

- *'disenchantment with their pedestrian lives'*
- *His descriptions are often quite pedestrian and sometimes strangely inept.*
- *In spite of the glowing praise on the back cover, the book turned out to be very pedestrian and humdrum.*

Synonyms
dull, plodding, boring, tedious, monotonous, uneventful, unremarkable, tiresome, wearisome, uninspired, uncreative, unimaginative, unexciting, banal, uninteresting, lifeless, dry

Origin
Early 18th century: from French pédestre or Latin pedester 'going on foot', also 'written in prose' + -ian. Early use in English was in the description of writing as 'prosaic'.

27. In this sentence, is the word *pedestrian* used as a noun or as an adjective?
The movie received some glowing reviews from film critics, but I found it pedestrian.

_____

28. In this sentence, the word *pedestrian* is a noun, but it is used as a

_____.

We should cross the bridge because there is a pedestrian path along the other side of the canal.

29. Is the stress on the word *pedestrian* on the first or second syllable?

30. Is the meaning of these two sentences the same or different? _____

a. Pedestrians may not use the railroad bridge.

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b. Walking on the railroad bridge is prohibited.

31. Is the meaning of these two sentences the same or different?

_____

She found the mayor's speech remarkably pedestrian.

She thought the mayor's speech was extremely interesting.

32. What languages does the word pedestrian come from? _____

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