



Name _____ Date _____ List #: _____

Mosquitoes

When we are young, we learn that tigers and sharks are dangerous animals. We might be scared of them because they are big and powerful. As we get older, however, we learn that sometimes the most dangerous animals are also the smallest animals. In fact, the animal that kills the most people every year is one that you have probably killed yourself many times: the mosquito.

While it may seem that all mosquitoes are biters, this is not actually the case. Male mosquitoes eat plant nectar. On the other hand, female mosquitoes feed on animal blood. They need this blood to live and produce eggs. When a female mosquito bites a human being, it transmits a small amount of saliva into the blood. **This saliva may or may not contain a deadly disease.** The result of the bite can be as **minor** as an itchy bump or as serious as death.

Because a mosquito can bite many people in the course of its life, it can carry diseases from one person to another very easily. Two of the most deadly diseases carried by mosquitoes are malaria and yellow fever. More than 700 million people become sick from these diseases every year. At least 2 million of these people will die from these diseases.

Many scientists are working on safer and better ways to kill mosquitoes, but so far, there is no sure way to protect everyone in the world from their deadly bites. Mosquito nets can be placed over beds to protect people against being bitten. These nets help people stay safe at night, but they do not kill any mosquitoes. Mosquitoes have many natural enemies like bats, birds, dragonflies, and certain kinds of fish. Bringing more of these animals into places where mosquitoes live might help to cut down the amount of mosquitoes in that area. This is a natural solution, but it does not always work very well. Mosquitoes can also be killed with poisons or sprays. Even though these sprays kill mosquitoes, they may also harm other plants or animals.

Although mosquitoes may not seem as scary as larger, more powerful animals, they are far more dangerous to human beings. But things are changing. It is highly likely that one day scientists will find a way to keep everyone safe from mosquitoes and the diseases they carry.

I. **Directions:**

- *For multiple choice questions: Write the letter of the correct option in the space provided.*
 - *For open questions: Write your answer using complete sentence.*
- Watch your spelling and punctuation marks. (8 pts.)**

- ___1. According to the author, some people are more afraid of tigers and sharks than mosquitoes because tigers and sharks
- A. kill more people than mosquitoes.
 - B. are big and powerful.
 - C. are found all over the world.
 - D. have no natural enemies.

- ___2. Based on the information in paragraph 2, we can understand that
- I. male mosquitoes and female mosquitoes have different eating habits.
 - II. male mosquitoes are harmless to humans.
 - III. female mosquitoes are responsible for transmitting diseases to humans.
- A. I only.
 - B. I and II only.
 - C. II and III only.
 - D. I, II, and III.
- ___3. In paragraph 2 the author writes, "**This saliva may or may not contain a deadly disease.**" The purpose of this statement is to
- A. oppose a previous argument.
 - B. question an upcoming conclusion.
 - C. confirm a hypothesis.
 - D. support a later statement.
- ___4. As used in paragraph 2, **minor** most nearly means
- A. insignificant.
 - B. deadly.
 - C. frustrating.
 - D. dangerous.
- ___5. Based on information in paragraph 3, it can be understood that if you get sick with malaria or yellow fever, your chances of survival are
- A. terrible.
 - B. mediocre.
 - C. good.
 - D. excellent.
6. It can be understood that the introduction of dragonflies might reduce the number of flies in a given area because dragonflies
- _____
- _____
7. Summarize the information in paragraph 4?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- ___8. Which of the following words best describes the author's overall attitude towards the prospect of solving the mosquito problem?
- A. *despondent*, meaning hopeless or dejected
 - B. *exasperated*, meaning extremely irritated or annoyed
 - C. *equivocal*, meaning doubtful or uncertain
 - D. *optimistic*, meaning hopeful or taking a favorable view

II. **Directions:** Read the story. Then answer the questions below. (12 pts.)

Ana Finds an Apartment

Ana, her husband Mario, and their four-year-old son, Antonio, just moved to North Carolina. They need a temporary place to call home until they get settled into their new surroundings.

Right now, they are staying in a hotel not far from Mario's job.

Ana begins a search for an apartment for the family to live in.

First, Ana picks up an Apartment Book at the local newspaper stand. The Apartment Book contains listings of all the major apartment complexes in her area.

Ana starts by looking at the prices for apartments in the Apartment Book. Then, she reads about the **amenities** that each apartment complex offers.

For example, some apartments have a clubhouse. Some have a gym, which is also called a fitness center. Some have a pool. Some have all of these!

Ana notices that the more amenities an apartment complex has, the more it costs each month. She wants the family's new apartment to be nice, but she does not want to spend too much money on it. Ana and Mario are trying to save money to buy a house.

After **considering** prices, amenities, and locations, Ana finds several apartment complexes that she thinks the family will like.

Ana calls the apartment complexes. She sets up appointments with the apartment managers to see the apartments she thinks are interesting.

Ana makes five phone calls in total.

When Mario gets back to the hotel from work, Ana shows him the list of apartments. "These look good," he says.

The next day, while Mario is at work and Antonio is at daycare, Ana visits the apartment complexes.

She likes the fifth one the best. It is in a good school district. It has a pool, but no fitness center or clubhouse. It is near Mario's job. Ana hopes to find a job nearby as well.

When Ana gets back to the hotel, she **discusses** all that she has seen with Mario. They decide to rent the last apartment Ana saw.

The next day, Ana calls the manager of the apartment complex with the news.

The manager asks Ana and Mario to sign a lease and pay a **security deposit**.

If the family damages the apartment in any way while they are living there, the security deposit will help to pay for the cost of repairs.

Ana and Mario sign a lease and pay the money. The manager asks them when they plan to move in and Ana looks up at Mario. He looks back at her for a moment and then tells the manager, "In a few days."

Finally, they have a place to stay.

- ___9. What kind of book does Ana get?
- A. A city guide book.
 - B. A map book.
 - C. A house book.
 - D. An apartment book.

- ___10. What did Ana consider while looking through the Apartment Book?
- I. school districts
 - II. amenities
 - III. locations
- A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III
11. Where is Ana's family staying while they look for a place to call home?
- _____
- _____
- ___12. What does Ana realize as she looks through the Apartment Book?
- A. That the nicest apartments are far away.
B. That all the apartments are small and cramped.
C. That it is easy to find a nice apartment in a good school district.
D. That the number of amenities is related to cost.
13. Why doesn't Ana want to spend too much money on an apartment?
- _____
- _____
- ___14. As described in the beginning of the story, which of the following is not mentioned as an **amenity**?
- A. A carpet.
B. A clubhouse.
C. A fitness center.
D. A pool.
- ___15. What makes Ana like the fifth apartment best?
- I. It has many amenities.
 - II. It is near Mario's job.
 - III. It is in a good school district
- A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III
- ___16. Where is Antonio while Ana looks at apartments?
- A. At daycare.
B. At the hotel.
C. At school.
D. At work.

- ___17. As described in the middle of the story, what does it mean to **consider** something?
- A. To rent it.
 - B. To think about it.
 - C. To make it happen.
 - D. To read a book about it.
- ___18. "When Ana gets back to the hotel, she **discusses** all that she has seen with Mario." Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the above sentence while keeping its meaning the same?
- A. When Ana gets back to the hotel, she reads about all she has seen with Mario.
 - B. When Ana returns to the hotel, she writes about all she has seen with Mario.
 - C. When Ana returns to the hotel, she talks about all she has seen with Mario.
 - D. When Ana leaves the hotel, she talks about all she has seen with Mario.
19. When will the family move into their new apartment?
- _____
- _____
- ___20. As used at the end of the story, which is the best description of a **security deposit**?
- A. Money given to landlord to pay for amenities.
 - B. Money given to landlord to pay for utilities and telephone.
 - C. Money given to landlord to prove the tenant can pay rent on time.
 - D. Money given to the landlord to pay for any damage to the apartment.

III. DIRECTIONS: Complete the sentences with a word from the box: (5 pts.)

Sloths	abroad	logbook	widow	isolated
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21. Around two thousand _____ indigenous people live in the Brazilian Amazon.
22. A ship's _____ contains information about its journey.
23. _____ are animals that live in trees and move really slowly.
24. Warsaw University was only for men, so women often had to study _____.
25. A woman whose husband has died is a _____.