Read each paragraph carefully. Then read the question on the left, and pick the best answer. Good luck!!

25.

Bill wanted to be a player in the National Basketball Association, also called the NBA. He had been working to get better at it since he was eight years old. He and his dad would play basketball every weekend, and his dad would give him tips. Some people told him that he was too short to play basketball. He didn't let that stop him. He knew what he wanted. He would work hard to get it! He practiced all of the time. He practiced his jump shots, and practiced making baskets until he could get the ball in that basket from almost anywhere on the court. By the time he was 22, an NBA recruiter saw him play, and offered him a contract right away. Being short didn't matter, practice did matter!

What is the theme of this passage?

a. Bill worked hard at basketball.
b. Bill loved basketball.
c. Success takes hard work.
d. Bill had a dream.

26.

Sarah was worried. She loved to sing, especially with her friends. What she didn't like was singing in front of other people. Her school play was coming up, and her music class had been chosen to be part of the choir. That meant she would be singing in front of all the parents. To make matters worse, her teacher asked her to do a short solo. That meant she would have to sing alone! When she didn't answer her teacher when she was asked to do the solo, the music teacher just assumed Sarah would be happy to do it. What really happened was Sarah was so terrified, she couldn't answer at all. This was going to be a problem.

What is the main idea of this passage?

a. Sarah loves to sing.
b. Sarah is worried about singing in front of people.
c. Singing in front of people can be hard.
d. Teachers should listen better.

27.

The doctor told Sally and Paul that they had to get more exercise. They tried exercising at the gym, bike riding, and lifting weights. They hated all of them. They had to find something that was fun, if they were going to stick to it. One day they noticed an ad for dancing lessons at their local YMCA. They decided to sign up. After the first lesson they knew they had found their exercise program. It was lots of fun. It wasn't long before they had joined a dance team, and competed against other dancers for trophies. Now they get all the exercise they need!

What is the main idea of this passage?

a. Sally and Paul decided on dancing as a way to get exercise.
b. Dancing is fun.
c. Sally and Paul didn't like bike riding.
d. Sally and Paul joined a dance team.

28.

Frank loved to help his neighbor, Joe, who had a broken leg. He knew it was hard for him to shop with his crutches, so he did Joe's grocery shopping for him. It made Joe happy, and it made Frank happy too. In fact, Frank was known as the "go to" person if you needed help. Helping people made Frank happy. His smile always got a little bigger, and there was a bounce in his step when he was doing something for someone who needed help.

What is the theme of this passage?

a. Frank is a happy person.
b. Helping others brings happiness to the giver.
c. Helping others takes a lot of time.
d. Frank is helpful.

29.

Roger was a problem. He never did anything the teacher told him to do. In fact, he looked for ways to get into trouble. He always got a look in his eyes that told you he was about to do something he shouldn't do. Sara noticed that he had that look in his eye when his teacher walked out of the room. It was not a good sign.

What is the main idea of this passage?

a. Those who misbehave cause problems for others.
b. Roger doesn't like school.
c. Sara doesn't like Roger.
d. Roger does not behave well.

30.

Mic and Andy started a band when they were in sixth grade. They practiced almost every night. At first they were pretty bad. Even the cat ran under the bed when they played. Neighbors complained! Lately, they seem to have gotten better. Some of the neighbors started asking to come over when they played, and the cat actually came into the room to hear the music. All of that practice seems to have paid off.

What is the theme of this passage?

a. Mick and Andy love to play music.
b. The cat knows good music.
c. To get better at anything takes practice.
d. Mick and Andy improved.

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31.

Fred had lots of friends at his old school. He ate lunch with them, rode the bus home with his best friend, and hung out on weekends with his friends too. His new school was in a different state, and in more than a month he hadn't made one friend. He was getting worried. What if he didn't make any friends here? He was tired of eating lunch alone, and was starting to really not like this new school at all. Finally just as he sat down for lunch, alone again, a kid from his math class came by and asked if he could sit with him for lunch. Fred got a big smile on his face. Maybe this school wasn't so bad after all.

What is the theme of this passage?

a. Friendship is important.
b. Fred needs new friends.
c. Fred isn't being friendly.
d. New schools are more fun.

32.

Tina had wanted to be a traffic guard ever since second grade. She knew she couldn't be one until fifth grade at her school. Even then only a few students were chosen. The students who were chosen had to get good grades, so Tina always did her homework. She listened carefully to her teachers. The students who were chosen had to show that they had good character. Tina knew she had good character. She helped younger students with their reading, and she never got into trouble at school. Now all she had to do was enter fifth grade. That would happen in only a few months. She kept her fingers crossed for luck!

What is the main idea of this passage?

a. Being a traffic guard is hard work.
b. Tina wants to be a traffic guard.
c. Tina is a good student.
d. Working hard brings results.

33.

Carl loves his job. When he wakes up in the morning he jumps out of bed, ready to get going. He loves working outside, and he loves his work equipment. Sometimes he runs a backhoe, sometimes he plows dirt out of the way. Sometimes, when he is lucky, he gets to smooth out the blacktop. Working on roads is something he had never thought of as a job when he was a kid, but now it was the thing that made him happy every day.

What is the main idea of this passage?

a. If you are happy at your job, you are happy every day.
b. Carl is a happy person.
c. Carl loves his job.
d. Happiness is up to you.

34.

Minnie wanted to be a superhero. She knew she had a superpower, she could see through walls. She had been able to do that ever since she was a little girl. She just wasn't sure she could be a good superhero. She was afraid she would freeze-up if things went wrong, and not know what to do. She was lucky that she had good friends who told her that she had exactly what was needed to be a good superhero. She cared about other people and wanted to help them. They told her that she had to believe she could do it, and then she could! It took a long time, but finally she began to think she really could do the job.

What is the theme of this passage?

a. Minnie wanted to be a superhero.
b. Minnie had good friends.
c. It's important to believe in yourself.
d. Bullies can be overcome.

35.

Ben was a bully. Everyone around him was afraid of him, especially where he worked. He yelled at people, and made them do exactly what he wanted them to do. If they didn't, he made fun of them. It was bad. One day a new employee was in the office. He was shaking people's hands and getting to know everyone. Ben stomped over to him and demanded to know who he was, and why he wasn't at his desk. The man turned and just looked at Ben, puzzled. Ben started making fun of him, and telling everyone what a loser he was. That's when the new employee told Ben he was the new boss, and Ben could pack his things. He was fired.

What is the theme of this passage?

a. Ben is a problem.
b. People are afraid of Ben.
c. Bullies lose in the end.
d. Good is rewarded.

36.

Mindy had been looking forward to the race on Saturday all month. She had practiced, and practiced some more. She had timed herself, and she knew she was faster than anyone on her team, or any other team in her league. Finally the big day came! She got a great start, and was ready to make her move to the front of the pack. Out of the corner of her eye she saw one of her teammates fall over one of the jumps. It was a bad fall. She quickly raced back to him, pulling him out of the way of the other runners, and staying with him until the doctor could get there. She told him everything would be fine and gave him some water. Then she continued the race. She didn't win, but she knew she would want someone to help her if she ever fell.

What is the theme of this passage?

a. Mindy is a kind person.
b. Treat others as you want to be treated.
c. Hard work brings rewards.
d. Mindy likes to help others.

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