DAILY Warm-Up 7

Name _____ Date _____

RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

Recently, France instituted a law prohibiting students from wearing headscarves in public schools. Laws such as these came out of fear and concern of terrorists and other groups that practice religious fanaticism. Many Muslim women and girls wear the headscarves as an important part of their religion. But should religious expression be prohibited at a public school?

The supporters of the law said that this law was not passed to punish the Muslim students. They claim that this law was aimed to prohibit *all* religious symbols from being worn at public schools. This would include such items as head coverings worn by Jewish men and boys, the Christian cross, or any other religious symbol.

This law created a debate in France as well as around the world. Many Muslims felt that they were being discriminated against. Many of these students felt that their rights were being violated. But the government reiterated that the law was not directed at any one religion. Supporters of the law felt that religious matters should be kept at home and not at public school.

Those opposed to the law felt that even students in the United States had more rights. The United States has a law regarding the freedom of speech, which allows students to dress as they choose as long as it does not disturb the educational process. This allows members of a religion to express their beliefs in clothing and apparel as long as it does not interfere with the educational process.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the reading passage?
   a. Students enjoy the right to choose what they wear.
   b. Should students be forced to follow school rules about what they wear?
   c. Do children need more supervision at school to ensure safety?
   d. Are changes in society effecting the schooling students are receiving?

2. What is meant by the term *fanaticism* as used in this passage?
   a. fervor
   b. uncertain
   c. more likely to
   d. resonates

3. According to the passage, which of the following is a reason for people supporting the law?
   a. They claim that this law was aimed to prohibit *all* religious symbols from being worn at public schools.
   b. The law was written as a form of protection to all students.
   c. Many of these students felt that their rights were being violated.
   d. Should religious expression be prohibited at a public school?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 8

Name _____ Date _____

MONEY OR HARD WORK?

Can money make you successful? Most people seem to think so, but think again. It depends on your definition of success. Some of the richest people in the world are far from successful. There is no argument that money brings with it many opportunities that may otherwise be unrealized. Money can buy opportunities and materials. But money is not the only key.

Tesa was born in Africa in the poorest of countries. She was without adequate nutrition and care for most of her childhood. At the age of 16, she was determined to stay in school, though most of the other girls her age were leaving to marry or to help provide for their families at home. Girls were just not encouraged to get an education. But Tesa worked at school during the day and in the fields at night. By the moonlight, she would pick crops that were often devastated with drought and pests.

All of this hard work paid off. When Tesa turned 17, a traveling professor from England noticed her hard work and skill. He was amazed with her intellect. This professor invited her to attend one of the most prestigious universities in England. Since that time, Tesa has become a distinguished professor. Luck, you may say? Tesa would probably disagree with you. She would say that her hard work and dedication got her where she is today.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following best describes the author of this passage?
   a. reticent and quiet
   b. obnoxious and loud
   c. frustrated and demanding
   d. encouraging and motivational
2. Which statement below helps support your answer to the previous question?
   a. Many are left without the skills they need to survive in today's world.
   b. Girls were just not encouraged to get an education.
   c. Job wages have continued to be lower than they should be.
   d. She would say that her hard work and dedication got her where she is today.
3. What is meant by the word *distinguished* as used in this passage?
   a. annoying
   b. different
   c. challenging
   d. illustrious

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 9

Name _____ Date _____

FEDERAL LAND

It is time for the U.S. government to keep their noses out of everything. The U.S. government is planning to take away thousands of acres in the state of Arizona. The government would like to turn this land into a national monument. Doesn't this country have enough national monuments? This action would prevent any mining or further development on the land.

The money needed to run these public facilities would come from the taxpayers. So not only will the government exercise more control, but it will also charge more money to its citizens for a monument it does not need. In addition to this, the state governments count on the taxes of these properties. As a result, the states will require more help from the federal government. And from where does this help come? From the taxpayers, of course.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 allows only the president of the United States or an act of Congress to create a national monument. This is far too much power and prevents the citizens of this country from holding either group accountable for these decisions. Aren't they supposed to carefully consider the opinions of the people who elected them? I don't remember anyone asking me.

The federal government already controls 25 percent of the land in the United States. Isn't that enough? It just doesn't seem right that an individual or a small group should have the right to determine the fate of millions of acres of land.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
   a. The federal government already controls 25 percent of the land in the United States.
   b. Doesn't this country have enough national monuments?
   c. The federal government should stop taking over private land.
   d. It just doesn't seem right that a small group should have this right.

2. Who else besides school children is the audience for this reading passage?
   a. young adults
   b. federal government
   c. parents and guardians
   d. older citizens of the United States

3. Which statement from the reading passage indicates who the audience of this passage is?
   a. Aren't they supposed to carefully consider the opinions of the people who elected them? I don't remember them asking me.
   b. The Antiquities Act of 1906 allows only the president of the United States or an act of Congress to create a national monument.
   c. As a result, the states will require more help from the federal government.
   d. In addition to this, the state governments count on these taxes.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 10

Name _____ Date _____

REALITY OF TELEVISION

Dear Television Executive:

As an avid television viewer, I am here to say that the quality of television shows has deteriorated. The shows that are not in the prime-time lineup are enough to make someone sick. The shows parade pornography, foul language, and infidelity as commonplace.

Whatever happened to classic shows like *The Brady Bunch* and *Bonanza*? These shows not only had a good moral message, but they were acceptable for all members of the family. There were no jumps to grab the remote to mute or change the station just in time before obscenities come screaming from the television.

It seems these days that the only thing the television executives think we are interested in are the ridiculous reality shows that have taken over time slots. Just who are these people? Their lives don't resemble mine at all. Exactly what redeeming qualities are we supposed to glean from these shows? What a waste of money!

I issue a challenge to television executives and the television audience alike. Settle for nothing less than the best. Accept only scripts that are entertaining and appropriate. Trash the reality shows and look for real stories out there. Clean up the language and the clothing worn by the actors. If we want to see this, we will just turn on the daytime soap operas. Make the changes needed. Let's show the youth of today what real television is. Better hurry! I'm ready to change the channel.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In the statement, "These shows not only had a good moral message, but they were acceptable for all members of the family," *moral* means . . .
   a. to make room for.
   b. to show strength for.
   c. to compensate or adjust for.
   d. ethical.

2. Which of the following statements is the main complaint mentioned in this letter?
   a. There are too many reality shows on television.
   b. The companies that are making television shows are missing a huge market.
   c. The shows on television are not clean shows to watch.
   d. Television advertising has taken over what is seen on television.

3. This letter is mostly about . . .
   a. how television producers rely too much on advertisers.
   b. how the quality and appropriateness of television shows has deteriorated.
   c. how television producers have been pressured by parents to change their lineups.
   d. how the shows for children have diminished in number.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 11

Name _____ Date _____

SAVE THE RAIN FOREST

For as long as I can remember, I have been taught to preserve the rain forest. In elementary school, I raised money with my class to preserve an acre of this rain forest. We were told story after story of how the rain forest was being destroyed in the name of development. We were instructed that the rain forest contained perhaps the cure to cancer and other incurable diseases. By sending money, we were also taught that we are preserving the habitat of rare birds, animals, and other species. So where are we today? After millions of dollars has been spent, what is the status of the rain forest?

We are told the Amazon rain forest encompasses around 2.7 million square miles. The Amazon also holds one-fifth of the world's water supply. These facts should make it worth saving. But unless the governments report the status of the rain forest, all these efforts are for naught.

Are logging, mining, and burning continuing to take place? It was estimated in 2003 that an estimated 9,170 square miles had been burned or cleared. Is this number declining each year? The loss of the rain forest is not just a loss for Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, but all countries that may benefit from its treasures. All governments should be holding these countries accountable. Reports should be distributed on a regular basis that review the ongoing status of the rain forest. We can't help unless we have the right information.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. This passage is mostly about how . . .
   a. the rain forest is being destroyed.
   b. updates and more information on the rain forests are needed.
   c. fund raising projects have helped save the rain forest.
   d. the governments have kept citizens informed about the rain forests.

2. Which of the following reasons was mentioned in the passage explaining why the author thinks that more information about the rain forest is necessary?
   a. These facts should make it worth saving the rain forest.
   b. We were told in school story after story of how the rain forest was being destroyed in the name of development.
   c. After millions of dollars has been spent, what is the status of the rain forest?
   d. But unless the governments report the status of the rain forest, all these efforts are for naught.

3. What is the meaning of the word *naught* as used in this passage?
   a. deranged
   b. impossible
   c. nothing
   d. uncertainty

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