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### A Story from My Youth

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

A Story from My Youth

(Diary Entry: May 5, 1950)

- 1 Dear Diary,
- 2 I recall an exciting day. It helped me realize how much I liked living in a small town. I knew my neighbors, and they knew me. We shared good times and bad. Here is what happened.
- 3 I woke up at 5:00 to deliver newspapers. As I bicycled around tossing papers at people's doors, I saw the milk truck making its rounds. Mr. Fisher left bottles of milk and cream at his customers' doorsteps. All else was quiet.
- 4 Then I saw Dr. Maple's sports car driving by quickly. Of course, that was a million years ago when doctors made house calls. Even so, it was too early. There was probably an emergency.
- 5 I pedaled like I was being chased by wolves and followed the doctor's car in case I could help in some way. Mr. Fisher had the same idea. He followed in his truck. Soon, we were at the Kline's house. Mrs. Kline was expecting a baby, but Mr. Kline had left the house already to open his market.
- 6 By the time I arrived, everything was under control. Mrs. Kline was about to have her baby. Dr. Maple was saying, "I deliver babies at home, but I'd feel safer if I can get you to the hospital."
- 7 The doctor's car was small, so the milk truck was his ambulance. He and Mrs. Kline rode in back as Mr. Fisher drove. Meanwhile, I pedaled to the market to give Mr. Kline the good news.

1. Which sentence from the story is the best example of hyperbole?
- A. Of course, that was a million years ago when doctors made house calls.
  - B. I woke up at 5:00 to deliver newspapers.
  - C. Mr. Fisher left bottles of milk and cream at his customers' doorsteps.
  - D. Mrs. Kline was expecting a baby, but Mr. Kline had left the house already to open his market.

2. Read this sentence from the story.

*I pedaled like I was being chased by wolves and followed the doctor's car.*

What does this sentence best help readers understand?

- A. How scared the narrator felt
- B. how fast the narrator rode
- C. How speedy the doctor's car was
- D. how dangerous the town was

## A Warm Reception

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

### A Warm Reception

- 1 I grew up in the state of Maine. Then, at age ten, I was moving to Texas. I knew it would be a huge change! Maine is the world's biggest meat freezer. By September it was already snowing.
- 2 We spent four long days packing. Who knew we had so much stuff? On our last night, I was too nervous to sleep.
- 3 Uncle Al drove us to the airport. Huge, wet, white snowflakes fell. The windshield wipers worked hard. I looked out the car window. Tall pine trees disappeared in low gray clouds. It was icy cold out but toasty warm in the car. I drifted off...
- 4 "Wake up, Sleepy Head," Dad shook me gently. I barely knew what had happened. I'd dozed in Dad's arms when we boarded the plane. Curled up in my coat on the flight, I slept like a bear in a cave. All of a sudden, it was springtime, and I was awake. Did I say "springtime"? It was more like summer — the hottest I'd ever known.
- 5 A cab drove us from the airport. The sign on a bank read 101°! Was that possible? The sun baked the streets and the cars and the people. Waves of heat shimmered off the pavement. How would I ever get used to this?
- \*\*\*\*\*
- 6 I've been here over two months now. It's so great! I can swim in November. I wear t-shirts and shorts every day. I never wear my heavy coat, my clunky boots, or my scratchy wool hat. I love my school! People here are so friendly.
- 7 "Ah heard ya'll are from Maine," someone tells me.
- 8 "Not anymore," I say. "Texas is my home now!"

3. Read this sentence from the passage.

Maine is the world's biggest meat freezer.

The author uses these words to help readers understand that Maine is —

- A. a very large state
  - B. shaped like a box
  - C. a very cold place
  - D. home to wild animals
4. Read this sentence from the passage.

Curled up in my coat on the flight, I slept like a bear in a cave.

What meaning does this sentence BEST convey?

- A. It was cold on the airplane.
- B. The flight seemed to take months.
- C. The coat was like a blanket.
- D. The boy was tired.

5. In paragraph 5, the writer uses words that are MOST LIKELY to make readers think of —
- A. a big store
  - B. a hot oven
  - C. a wide street
  - D. a tall sign
6. In paragraph 6, the writer uses details that make the clothes he wore in Maine sound —
- A. uncomfortable
  - B. costly
  - C. old-fashioned
  - D. fancy

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### A Snake in the Grass

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

A Snake in the Grass

**A Snake in the Grass**  
*by Alan Winterman*



- 1 In 2010, Florida had its coldest winter on record. While residents were upset, biologists who work at Everglades National Park were thrilled. That's because the cold weather may have helped with one of their biggest problems: the Burmese python.
- 2 Burma, now called Myanmar, is a country halfway around the world. It is hot and steamy, like the Everglades. Some people in the United States buy Burmese pythons as pets. When these snakes grow up, they can be as long as 30 feet. Pythons have to be fed live rabbits and rats for dinner. Many owners decide to get rid of them.
- 3 Careless owners release their snakes into the Everglades when they no longer want them as pets. There, these former residents of Burma find a new tropical home to their liking. The first sighting of a python was in 2000. By 2009, the number of pythons in the Everglades had grown to 150,000.
- 4 Pythons reproduce rapidly. Females can lay as many as ten eggs. It doesn't take long for two pythons to turn into 2,000. The Everglades is a very fragile place. Many native species are struggling. They don't need a new predator in their swamp. Pythons will eat anything that moves. Though biologists have been removing pythons from the park for years, they couldn't keep up with the growing population.
- 5 Then the winter of 2010 happened. There is no winter in Myanmar. Burmese pythons have no defense against freezing temperatures. While many pythons died during the hard winter, the python population remains alive and well. And they still pose a threat to the fragile ecosystem of the Everglades.

7. Based on the information in the selection, which of the following is something biologists would not do?
- A. Introduce pythons into the Everglades
  - B. Research other methods of removing the species
  - C. Capture pythons so they can be relocated
  - D. Collect python eggs to be destroyed
8. From the description in paragraph 3, the reader can infer that the author —
- A. thinks that the Everglades is a great place for the pythons.
  - B. does not approve of biologists working in the Everglades.
  - C. does not approve of releasing pet pythons into the Everglades.
  - D. thinks that biologists will remove all of the pythons soon.
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9. Which sentence from the selection supports the idea that the Burmese python is unwelcome in the Florida Everglades?
- A. *There, these former residents of Burma find a new tropical home to their liking.*
  - B. *Burmese pythons have no defense against freezing temperatures.*
  - C. *And they still pose a threat to the fragile ecosystem of the Everglades.*
  - D. *Pythons will eat anything that moves.*



