PREPARATION OF READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE (CYCLE 5)

CROWS

Crows can be a problem for farmers. They eat crops and bother farm workers. But they also do things that help farmers. Crows eat weeds, grasshoppers, wireworms, and cutworms. When crows eat these bugs and weeds, they help the farmer!

Crows are easy to spot. Most crows are black. Some are black with white, brown, or gray. Crows have black beaks and black legs. They are usually between 8 and 12 inches (20 to 30 cm) long. Their wings are between 16 and 24 inches (40 to 60 cm) wide.

Crows can be friendly with other crows. Adults enjoy being together. In the fall, crows fly south to warm weather. This is called migrating. When they migrate, they fly with many other crows.

Crows build nests in trees, bushes, or on the tops of buildings. They make their nests by weaving twigs together like a mat. Crows use roots, grasses, and bark from the trees to put inside of the nest. This makes the nest soft for the baby crows.

The female crow lays between four and seven eggs. They are blue-green in color. The male crow sits on the eggs. He helps to keep them warm until they hatch. When crows have babies, they like to be alone. After the babies are older, the crows will mix with other crows again.

How can you keep crows away from places? Some people make scarecrows to frighten them away. The scarecrows are made to look like people. They blow in the wind to look like people are moving. Scarecrows left to stand in one place will not work. The crows think of them as a place to land or sit. Crows are quick-witted. They can tell when a trap has been set.

Some people dislike crows. Others like the black, shiny birds.

1. In the passage, *migrate* means . . .
   a. flying to Florida.
   b. flying to Alaska.
   c. flying south for warm weather.
   d. flying north for warm weather.

2. The words "quick-witted" could be changed to . . .
   a. speedy flyers.
   b. slow thinkers.
   c. fast thinkers.
   d. quick artists.

3. The author's purpose for writing this passage is . . .
   a. to persuade the reader to look at crows in a new way.
   b. to inform the reader about building a nest.
   c. to entertain the reader with jokes about crows.
   d. to warn the reader about dangerous birds.

4. According to this passage, how do crows help farmers?
   a. They are intelligent and quick-witted.
   b. They know that scarecrows cannot harm them.
   c. They build large, bulky nests.
   d. They eat weeds and bugs.

HORSES

Did you know horses are in the same family as donkeys, zebras, and mules? It is true. Horses are in the equus family. Their name comes from a Greek word. It means quick.

There are over 350 kinds of horses. They are divided into four main groups: the "light" horses, the "heavy" horses, ponies, and wild or semi-wild horses.

"Light" horses have small bones. They weigh less than 1,300 pounds (590 kg). They have thin legs.

By: Mr. Wiwied Sartawi

LIVEWORKSHEETS

"Heavy" horses are strong and have big bones. They also have sturdy legs. "Heavy horses" can weigh up to 2,000 pounds (907 kg).

Ponies are no taller than 58 inches (147 cm). If you measure in horse language, one would measure in hands. Ponies, then, are no more than 14 ½ hands tall.

Wild or semi-wild horses have not been tamed. These horses do not live with people. They live in the open fields and run free.

A person can tell the age of a horse by checking its teeth. Its age can only be checked by its teeth before it is ten years old.

All horses have small stomachs. They must eat small amounts of food throughout the day. All horses love to eat short, juicy grass. Horses that live outside will nibble grass all day. If they live in a stable, they will munch on hay as often as it is given to them. If they are workhorses, they will eat better if the person feeding them gives them maize (corn), oats, or barley. It can be added to their regular food. They also enjoy treats.

All horses love to run, canter, gallop, walk, or trot.

1. How many main groups of horses are there?
a. 5 b. 340 c. 4 d. 350

2. Which animals are related to the horse?
a. mules, donkeys, and zebras
b. mules, zebras, and cows
c. donkeys, zebras, and chickens
d. zebras, alligators, cows

3. What do all of the horses have in common?
a. They all eat hay from the stables.
b. They have small stomachs and eat throughout the day.
c. They all weigh more than 1,300 pounds.
d. They all have teeth that are 10 years old.

4. Which of these is **NOT** a fact about horses from the passage?
a. "Heavy" horses weigh more than "light" horses.
b. Horses belong to the equus family.
c. They all live to be 25 years or older.
d. Horses love short, juicy grass.

INTERESTING BIRD

Do you like to walk through the park early in the morning? If you do, you might see an interesting bird. It has black and white marks on its face. It has a black and white tail.

This bird might pretend to make the sound of a hawk. It might steal wasp eggs from a wasp nest. It might bury an acorn in the ground. It might nibble on acorns or nuts. It might gobble seeds found on the ground.

You could see it chasing grasshoppers, caterpillars, lizards, frogs, or other small animals. If you are lucky, you might see this bird catching an insect as it flies in the air. Zip! Zap! Goodbye, bug!

During your walk, this bird might be sitting on the trees or shrubs. This bird could be running to and fro on the ground.

Its blue-green spotted eggs will be hidden in its nest. If you see the nest, you will see twigs, little pieces of bark, leaves, and trash. The nest will probably be hidden in a corner of a building. It might be in an old, broken crate. Or finally, it might be hidden as high as thirty feet up in a tree.

What is the mystery bird? Take a walk in the park. You might see the blue jay!

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1. From this passage, we can conclude that the blue jay is . . .

a. a very busy bird.
b. a lazy bird.
c. an angry bird.
d. a bird with a schedule.

2. In this passage, the author describes . . .

a. the states where blue jays live.
b. how the baby birds learn to fly.
c. blue jays taking a bath.
d. the blue jay's nest.

3. The author's purpose for this passage is . . .

a. to entertain the reader with the tricks blue jays play on people.
b. to inform the reader so they can identify the blue jay.
c. to persuade the reader to go to the park in search of crows.
d. to help the reader build a birdhouse.

4. If you wished to locate more information on the blue jay, which resource would be useful?

a. a TV show on birds of the Amazon rainforest
b. a pamphlet on urban (city) birds
c. a book about whales
d. a radio show on animals of the sea

LIVEWORKSHEETS