READING 1

CAT MYTHS

People believe things about cats that might not be true. These "myths" can confuse cat owners. If you like cats, learn the facts and fiction about them.

Some people think that cats need to drink milk. That is not true. If a cat eats a good diet, it does not need to drink milk. Does your cat drink milk? Most cats like milk, but it can make them sick. Cats should only have milk in small amounts.

Have you heard the one about garlic? People put garlic on cat food. They believe it will get rid of worms in the cat's body. Does it work? Garlic makes food taste richer. Garlic does nothing to worms. It will give the cat bad breath! If your cat has worms, take it to an animal doctor. A veterinarian can give medicine to the cat. The medicine will take care of the worms.

Some people think that cats' whiskers help them to balance. Whiskers serve as "feelers." They do nothing at all for balance. "Feelers" help the cat know about its surroundings.

Have you heard these myths before? Do not believe them. Learn how to care for cats. Read books and talk to your veterinarian. Cats need good owners to care for them.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to the passage, what is the meaning of "if a cat eats a good diet"?
- a. getting the treats it deserves
- b. getting the right kind and amount of food to make them healthy
- c. getting the right kind of love and attention
- d. getting your neighbor to feed your cat while you are on vacation

2. "Cat Myths" is mostly about. . .
- a. creating a positive atmosphere for your cat.
- b. stories that are true about cats.
- c. stories that are not true about cats.
- d. making sure you have dinner in time for your cat.

3. A new title for this passage might be . . .
- a. "The Truth About Cats."
- b. "A Cat's Life."
- c. "Blame It on the Cat."
- d. "Safety for Cats."

4. When someone tells you new information about any topic, you should always . . .
- a. read a book that gives you advice on friendship.
- b. watch a TV show about chickens.
- c. search the Internet for video games about cats.
- d. check to see if the information is correct.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING 2

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.

STORY QUESTIONS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Restaurant for Change

1 Jamie Oliver wants to change peoples' lives and he is using food to do it. Oliver, a chef, is well-known for sharing his secrets of cooking **healthy** food through his magazine, cookbooks, and television shows. He is also changing lives through his Italian restaurant, Fifteen.

2 Fifteen started in London, England, as a place to train young adults to work in a kitchen. Oliver's idea was to create a professional **kitchen** that can help young people get a fresh start and a chance to become professional chefs.

3 Every September, a new group of 18- to 24-year-olds start work at Fifteen. When **they** start, they are usually not **qualified** for a restaurant job, but that will change quickly. In the 12 months of training, the student chefs study cooking at college and get **hands-on** training at the restaurant. Besides learning kitchen skills, they learn the importance of using fresh **ingredients** and how to create their own **recipes**. And their education doesn't stop with preparing and **serving** food. The students also learn how to manage money and deal with difficult customers. Overall, the program **encourages** them to believe in themselves and enables them to look forward to a future in the restaurant business.

4 The restaurant's name, Fifteen, comes from the number of students the restaurant had when it started in 2002. Today, Oliver has three of these restaurants, and a few hundred students have finished the program. Around 90 percent of the graduates are still working in the food industry. Some own restaurants or work in some of the best kitchens around the world. Others are now starring in their own TV shows. They're all great examples of what young people can do if they're given the opportunity and support.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Choose the correct answers for the following questions.

1 Jamie Oliver _____the Fifteen restaurant.

a is a chef at
b is the owner of
c was a student at

2 Oliver uses Fifteen to help young people _____.

a eat healthy food b find jobs c become rich

3 In lines 12–13, *When they start, they are usually...*, who does **they** refer to?

a students at Fifteen b TV chefs c customers

4 Today, most Fifteen graduates are working in the _____ industry.

a building b education c food

B Number these events (1–4) in the order they happen.

a ____ The student chefs graduate from their training.
b ____ The student chefs get hands-on training at a top restaurant.
c ____ In September, a new group of 18- to 24-year-olds start work.
d ____ The student chefs use their training to find jobs.

LIVEWORKSHEETS