Name _____ **Unit II Assessment 4.5a; 4.5e,i**

The Pool

Alex and Karen were sitting in their backyard on a hot summer day. All they wanted to do was go swimming, but the local public pool was under construction, and all of the adults were too busy to give them a ride to the beach.



"I just want to sit in the cool water," said Alex, imagining how nice it would feel. The two sat quietly as they thought about how else they could cool off.

"Let's blow up that kiddie pool that we have in the garage," suggested Karen. "We can fill that with water, and it will help us cool off."

The two ran to the garage and found the inflatable pool stuck in a box. They dragged it out to the lawn and looked at it.

"It needs to be blown up," said Karen.

Alex sat down and started blowing air into the pool through the nozzle, but after a while he realized it wasn't doing very much. He was exhausted and out of breath from all the blowing. The pool was too big for just one person to inflate, and at this rate it would take Alex all night.

He sat back, defeated. "Okay, so how are we going to get it inflated then?"

Karen thought it over. Alex went back to the garage and got a bicycle pump, but the ends didn't match up. Then Alex came back with an old vacuum, but that sucked air instead of pumping it.

Karen thought and thought, and eventually she realized something.

"Did we check the pool box and see if there is a pump at the bottom?" she asked. They ran into the garage and tipped the box over. Out fell a pump. They laughed.

"That was a very good idea," said Alex, as they went back to the yard and connected the pump to the pool. "We were so excited to find the pool that we didn't gather all of the pieces first."

Finally the pool was blown up. But as Karen and Alex looked at it they realized that it was slowly deflating.

"There must be a hole somewhere," said Karen. "We'll have to find it."

They each took a side and examined the pool, but couldn't find anything. "The hole may be too small to see," said Alex. "How can we find it if it is too small to see?" "Maybe we can feel it," suggested Karen.

She traced her finger along the pool, only to find that she couldn't feel anything. "I know," said Alex, "let's listen and maybe we will hear the air escaping."

They placed their ears next to the pool and listened. Sure enough, Karen heard a soft sound as air escaped through a hole.

"I found it!" she said. "That was a good idea. The hole was too small to see, but we could hear it. Now we have to patch it."

Alex ran into the house and grabbed a bunch of different things to try and patch the pool. First he suggested glue, but that didn't seem to make sense to Karen. It would have to dry, and they wouldn't be able to swim until it did. Then he suggested a Band-Aid, but that wouldn't stick around the hole. Last he pulled out a roll of gray, heavy-duty tape.

"That should do it," said Karen, cutting a piece and placing it over the hole.They refilled the pool with air, and this time it stayed full.

"Now we have to fill the pool," said Alex.

But how would they get the water into the pool? Karen suggested filling buckets up from the kitchen and carrying them outside. At first this seemed to work but they soon realized that it would take them forever to fill up the pool. Then Alex suggested filling it from the spout in the backyard.

"That makes a lot more sense," said Karen. "Let's drag it over to the spout." They did, and Alex turned on the water. The pool was soon full.

Alex and Karen went inside and put their bathing suits on. Then they ran back outside and sat in the pool.

"Well, we can't swim, but at least we found a way to stay cool," said Alex. "And we worked together."

Li Bing and the Flooding



A very long time ago there were people who lived along a river in China. The river was named the Min River.

There was a problem with the Min River. The people who lived along it were scared of it because it would overflow. This happened once a year, every year. When the river overflowed, water would flood the people's homes, and everything would get wet. This was a very bad thing for the people who lived along the Min River. It was a big problem. So some of the people got together and started to think about how they could fix it.

Eventually the governor of the people got involved. His name was Li Bing, and he was very smart. Li Bing investigated the problem. To investigate a problem means to study it carefully and learn as much about it as possible.

Li Bing found out that the problem of the flooding river started up in the mountains. The tops of the mountains were very high up in the sky, where it was very cold. When it was wintertime, it would get so cold that the tops of the mountains would become covered in snow. When springtime came, all the snow would melt. When snow melts it turns into water. The problem was that the melted water would fall down the mountains and go into the Min River. This is why it would overflow and flood people's homes.

Li Bing knew that the melting snow was the cause of the flooding. But he also knew that he couldn't stop the snow from melting. So he started to think about other ways that he could fix the problem. Then Li Bing had a great idea. He realized that the best way to solve the problem would be to turn it into an opportunity. An opportunity is a chance for something good to happen.

Away from the river there was a flat piece of land that had its own problem. It didn't have any water. It needed water. So Li Bing started thinking about how he could get the extra water that was bad for the people who lived along the Min River to the flat plain of land that needed water to grow plants.

Li Bing got a bunch of workers together and created a levee in the Min River. A levee is a big wall that people build to stop water from going somewhere. The levee makes the water go somewhere else.

Li Bing and his workers made the levee out of bamboo and stones. It took him and his men four years to build. When the levee was done, the water stopped flooding the homes of the people who lived along the Min River and started going into the land that was flat and needed water. Now the people who lived along the river didn't have to worry about the river flooding, and plants began to grow in the flat land.

1. In both the nonfiction article and the passage, the main idea can be described as -

- ☐ A. solving difficult problems.
- ☐ B. overcoming difficult friendships.
- ☐ C. becoming a hardworker.
- ☐ D. fixing a pool.

2. Who is the narrator of the story "The Pool"?

☐A. Alex ☐B. The Narrator ☐C. Karen ☐D. Karen's Mom

3. The inflatable pool from the story and the Min River are similar because-

- ☐ A. they are both natural bodies of water.
- ☐ B. they both caused flooding.
- ☐ C. they are both dangerous.
- ☐ D. they both caused problems.

4. Read the following sentences from the story

"Alex sat down and started blowing air into the pool through the nozzle, but after a while he realized it wasn't doing very much. He was exhausted and out of breath from all the blowing. The pool was too big for just one person to inflate, and at this rate it would take Alex all night. "

Based on this information from the story, Alex is probably feeling-

☐A. terrified ☐B. thrilled ☐C. regret ☐D. frustrated

5. **Directions:** Select two correct answers.

Which words describe Alex, Karen, and Li Bing?

Annoyed Protective Determined Clever

The Giant Gumball Guessing Game

1 Max has always liked counting things. He counts cars on the interstate. He counts the number of kids on the bus he rides to school. Max lies in the hammock and counts the stars in the sky sometimes. He counts the number of each letter in his alphabet soup. Max even keeps a notebook of the different things he counts. One would think Max would tire of counting, but he doesn't.

2 Last week, Max went with his brother to the mall to buy a present for their mother. They had been unsuccessful finding a present so far. While his brother shopped for something special, Max counted the number of shoppers. It was when he got to fifty that he realized he was face-to-face with Ben. Ben has been in Max's class at school every year since kindergarten. He says he can count higher than Max any day, but Max doesn't believe him.

3 "It's time we settled this competition over who is the greatest counter," said Ben.

4 "Fine with me," replied Max. "What do you suggest?"

5 "The candy store in the mall is having a contest," suggested Ben.

6 "What does that have to do with counting?" Max asked.

7 "Just follow me, and you'll see," Ben said, as he turned and walked away.

8 The boys headed to Candyland Confections. As they approached the store, Max could see a giant gumball machine. It stood nearly ten feet high and held every color of gumball imaginable. A sign beside the machine read "The Giant Gumball Guessing Game."

9 "Here's our chance to settle this dispute once and for all," stated Ben. "The winner will be the best counter of all time!"

10 A man dressed in a candy-striped suit walked up to the boys. "Do you want to guess how many gumballs it takes to fill up our giant dispenser, boys? The person with the closest estimate will win a special prize. The contest ends in exactly one hour!"

11 "I'm not here to just guess. I'm here to count the number of gumballs in your giant gumball machine," Max shouted. He ran to the glass and started counting gumballs. Not to be outdone, Ben ran to the other side and started adding.

12 The people lined up to enter the counting contest stared at the boys as they worked tirelessly to add up the pieces of candy. Max tallied the number of each color while Ben merely counted the pieces one at a time. As the clock ticked away the minutes, Max continued to calculate, determined to win the prize and prove himself worthy of the title of "Counting Champ".

13 As the countdown to the contest's end started, both boys raced to the counter and entered their guesses. Now all they had to do was to wait until the morning when the winner would be revealed.

14 Max could hardly sleep that night. He looked through his notebook and read the variety of things he had counted. He added gumballs to the list.

15 The next morning Max's brother drove him back to the mall. He anxiously waited for the owner to reveal the winner of the grand prize. Ben approached them with a smug look on his face.

16 "Folks, we have a winner whose estimate wasn't just close. It was right on the money! Congratulations to Max!"

17 "No, not Max! I'm the greatest counter of all time," cried Ben. As he ran toward the man, Ben tripped. He grabbed at the gumball machine and it fell over, scattering gumballs everywhere.

18 Max joyfully stared as his prize was revealed. He smiled as he realized that the problem of a present for Mom was solved. The grand prize was a 25 pound box of chocolates! He couldn't wait to give it to his mother.

6. Max and his brother's main conflict is solved when--

- ☐ A. Max wins the grand prize in the candy contest.
- ☐ B. Ben challenges Max to prove he is the best counter.
- ☐ C. Max adds gumballs to the list of things he's counted.
- ☐ D. Ben sees Max and his brother at the mall.

7. What sentence from the story shows that Max is nervous?

- ☐ A. Max has always liked counting things.
- ☐ B. Max joyfully stared as his prize was revealed.
- ☐ C. He ran to the glass and started counting gumballs.
- ☐ D. Max could hardly sleep that night.

8. What paragraph from the story gives the most information about the setting?

- ☐ A. 1
- ☐ B. 2
- ☐ C. 14
- ☐ D. 18

9. Based on the story, Max can best be described as-

A. Uncertain B. Confident C. Cautious D. Rude

10. What two words best describe how Ben felt when Max is declared the winner?

Doubtful	Accepting	Polite
Humble	Afraid	Shocked