Cause/Effect Relationships Assessment

Directions: Read the passage. Choose the best answer for each question.

The Circus Comes to Town

Adapted from Readworks

Donald had never been afraid of the jugglers. That changed when they switched from little bean bags to bowling pins.

The best jugglers did their tricks outside of the movie theater. Excited crowds formed around them. The jugglers wore smooth vests that were as blue as the sky. Winking and smiling, they performed amazing tricks. They kept over twenty balls in the air at once. They tossed balls behind their backs and through their legs. They even tied cloth over their eyes and juggled blind.

Soon, people from nearby towns began to hear about the jugglers. People from far away came to see them. Everything seemed great, but with the jugglers' popularity came people who wanted to copy them. Many people showed up, trying to copy the jugglers!

On quiet side streets, the new jugglers tried to do their simple tricks. But they weren't very good, and most of them messed up. At first, their mistakes would send just a ball or two rolling into the street, and that was as bad as it got. But then, the best jugglers switched to bowling pins, and the bad jugglers copied them.

One day, Donald was walking up the path to the library. Just as he thought he was safe, a bowling pin flew through the air and hit him on the head. Donald decided he'd had enough of the jugglers, so he wrote the mayor an email.

The next day, it was crazy at Town Hall. Mayor Arnold sighed at her desk. She had just read Donald's angry email. In it, he complained about the jugglers. This wasn't the first time someone had complained about the jugglers. But what could she do? Some people were mad, but others loved them. After all, the town was practically famous now, and people were proud to be from a famous town. The biggest newspaper in the state had even written about the jugglers. Plus, the crowds spent lots of money in the town's stores! The mayor chewed her pen as she thought about the problem. She tapped her foot. She sighed so strongly that important papers blew off her desk. This made her sigh again.

Whenever she found herself in trouble, Mayor Arnold liked to pretend to talk with the cat statue on her desk. With another big sigh, she asked it for advice.

"Why don't you pass a law banning juggling in public? Make it against the law to juggle out in the open," the cat seemed to say.

"I can't just pass whatever laws I want," said Mayor Arnold. "The town government passes the laws." She stood up and went to look out the window. Outside, the trees were full of flowers. One tree had a bowling pin caught in its branches.

The mayor imagined the cat's voice getting very quiet. "The jugglers are making too much noise. Why don't you tell the police to make them pay money for bothering everyone with the noise?"

"That's no good," the mayor said. She rested her head on the cool window and closed her eyes. "What if the jugglers sue us? The town could lose a lot of money!"

The cat statue did not answer. The mayor was by herself. She heard what sounded like thunder from far away. *Thunder?* she thought. *There isn't a cloud in the sky!* Without taking her head off the window, Mayor Arnold opened her eyes. What she saw next made her jump up with a shout. A crowd of people were coming up the long street that led to Town Hall. At the front of the crowd was Donald himself. People punched their fists in the air. Some of them waved signs. It was a protest against the jugglers! Mayor Arnold sighed. It was going to be a long day.

FK 3.4

1. What is the reason that Donald wrote an email to the Mayor?

   A. People from nearby towns started hearing about the jugglers.
   B. Donald was walking to the library and a juggler's bowling pin hit him on the head.
   C.Donald led a protest against the jugglers!
   D.The jugglers sued the city and the town lost a lot of money.

2. Which event happened because the jugglers were out by the movie theater doing their tricks?

   A. The Mayor fined the jugglers for making too much noise.
   B. People from far away came to town to watch the jugglers.
   C. It is now against the law to juggle out in public.
   D. The town invited more jugglers to entertain the town.

Up In the Air

Adapted from Readworks



Kurt closed the door of his mother's car with great excitement. Today was the day he was finally going to be on a plane. For the first time in his life, he was going to actually soar through the skies and see the clouds from all the angles he had imagined since he was little.

"Are you excited my boy?" said Kurt's mother, Val, from the front of the car.

"I can't believe today's the day!" said Kurt.

"Believe it!" responded Kurt's older brother Joachim as he lifted his head from his mobile phone for just a second to speak to Kurt.

The car ride felt like forever, but that's because Kurt could not wait to get to the airport and see this adventure through. It felt like they were stuck in traffic for hours and all the cars were moving slowly just to drive Kurt crazy. But actually they arrived at the airport in just a few minutes.

Val parked their car in the underground parking lot and found a steel trolley to load the suitcases and the hatbox she always took with her on a journey. Joachim never helped with anything, so Kurt knew he was the best man for the job. He helped his mother load the trolley neatly and pushed it towards the terminal building proudly.

It was bigger than Kurt thought it would be. It was a massive building filled with hundreds of people. They would all be looking around and rushing to get to wherever they were going. He immediately felt the rush of energy as he walked towards the check-in desk.

He watched as Val took out their passports and gave them to the friendly lady on the other side of the desk. His mother asked Joachim to help lift the bags onto the scale so that they could get weighed and checked in. But he wasn't listening. Kurt gloated as he lifted the bags and put them on the scale. The check-in lady was friendly and appreciative of his help. He loved the feeling.

Val was handed some tickets and off they went to security. After what felt like a long wait in line, the security officer asked Kurt to empty his pockets and put his bag through the big X-ray scanner. Kurt had never done this before and felt a little nervous. It was such a big and scary machine. It had started beeping loudly as the elderly woman in front of him walked through.

Kurt started to feel more confident now as he walked through the machine. Not a beep. He waited for his family to come through security as he grabbed his bag. Suddenly, he saw the plane through the large glass windows. It was huge! And it looked much bigger than what it looked like in his dreams.

Kurt ran down the ramp towards the gate. After a few minutes, the plane was ready for boarding. Everyone lined up and showed their tickets. Walking on a ramp down towards the plane, Kurt nearly tripped from all the excitement. And then he arrived, he was one foot away from the plane and finally feeling like a grown up who would fly all over the globe.

The air steward took his ticket and showed him down the aisle to his seat. Kurt ran ahead of his mother and brother and sat down in his seat, buckling his seat belt. With his eyes firmly on the wing of the plane, he was waiting for everyone to sit down so that he could feel that weightlessness that everyone talks about at school when a plane takes off.

The plane started to move, and reversed slightly. Moving like a giant metal bird, the plane taxied towards the runway. Kurt clenched his mother's hand. The plane started to speed up, faster than Kurt has ever gone in his life in any car or boat. And then, as if by magic, the plane lifted off the ground. And Kurt knew this would be the first of many adventures that started this way.

FK 5.2

3. What caused Kurt to become nervous in the story?

   A. He could feel the weightlessness when the plane took off.
   B. He sat down and buckled his seat belt to prepare for takeoff.
   C. He was going through the security screening with the x-ray scanner.
   D. He arrived at the massive airport with hundreds of people.

4. Why does Kurt help load the suitcases on the trolley?
   A. Kurt knew that Joachim never helped with anything, so he was the man for the job.
   B. For the first time in his life, Kurt was going to ride on an airplane!
   C. Kurt and his family were stuck in traffic on their way to the airport.
   D. Kurt pushed the trolley towards the terminal building.

Tag-I'm it!

Adapted from Readworks

"Tuesday. 12:45. Recess. The game is tag. The stakes are high. There is no time to waste," Ryan said this to himself under his breath, on the edge of the jungle gym where kids played tag.

A football fan, Ryan's favorite part of the game was the commentators. Their deep, serious voices made football seem like more than a game. They made it dramatic—like a gladiator fight from ancient Rome. Ryan thought gladiators were pretty cool.

When kids on his playground played tag, he pretended to be a commentator. In his deepest possible voice, he took the imagined audience through the ups and downs of the match.

"Around the corner comes Billy Watkins," he intoned. "Billy's having a strong season so far, and those who watch this sport closely think he might be about to step up to a higher level. If he fulfills his promise, his name could stand alongside the greats of the game—names like Shirley Tompkins and Judy Whitmore, Andy Tobin and George Francis."

As he came around the corner, though, Billy Watkins slipped in the mulch and fell on his face. He rolled back and forth on the ground, whimpering. No one showed sympathy.

"On the other hand," Ryan said, "Billy may disappoint us all."

Ryan knew something about disappointment. He had time to play commentator because nobody really wanted him to play tag. He'd never understood why, but when he joined the game, nobody would chase him. If he did somehow manage to become "It," nobody would run. But he didn't try to play; if he just narrated the game, he wouldn't be left out. He was still playing tag—he was just playing it in a different way.

"Hey kid!" said a voice behind him, a freckle-faced girl with frizzy pigtails named Angela. A newcomer to the game, Ryan thought to himself. A rookie hungry for respect. A—

"Why aren't you playing the game?" she barked, interrupting his reverie.

"I'm playing."

"No you're not! You're just standing over here being weird."

"I'm providing commentary, for, uh…" Ryan tried to think of anything to say besides "for the folks at home." He couldn't. "For the folks at home."

"What folks?! Are you on the phone or something?"

"Just leave me alone."

"I can't!"

"Why not?"

"Because I'm 'It!' Why aren't you running? I'm 'It', and that means you're supposed to run." Ryan shrugged. She poked him in the stomach. "Fine! Now you're 'It!'"

Ryan froze. He hadn't been 'It' for a long time. He didn't know what to do. The rest of the players stopped, too, and stared at him. If he moved, would they move too? Or would they stand there, waiting for him to quit embarrassing himself and get off the playground?

"Uh, weirdo!" shouted Angela. "This isn't freeze tag. Start running!"

So he ran the only way he knew how: with narration.

"Heart pounding in his ears, the frightened young commentator springs into action," he muttered. "He isn't sure how, he isn't sure why, but he knows one thing. He is going to get that girl with the pigtails."

"Quit talking to yourself, and run like you mean it!" said Angela.

"He races up the slide, and across the footbridge, his target in his sights just a few feet away. The bridge's wooden slats clatter under his feet, sending shockwaves up his spine and into his jaw. Ryan is undaunted. This will be his hour. He reaches toward his foe, stretches out his fingers, and—ow!"

Ryan's hands clutched air. He fell face-forward, off the jungle gym, landing where Angela had been just a moment before. She had slid down the fireman's pole. He had not been so graceful.

"Dazed and confused, the young competitor tries to get his bearings. He looks up and sees the face of his opponent staring down at him, looking concerned and curious about why Ryan is still talking to himself."

"I think you might have broken your brain," Angela said.

"Ryan's brain is fine. Angela is the one who needs to worry."

"Why?"

Ryan leapt to his feet and poked Angela in the stomach.

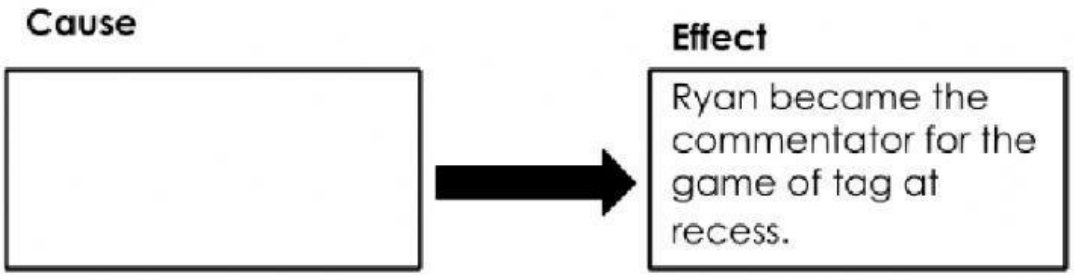
"Because Angela is 'It!'"

Ryan turned and ran, a happy gladiator, battling at last.

5. Why did Ryan feel like a happy gladiator?

A. It was recess on Tuesday at 12:45.
B. Angela called him a weirdo.
C. He was the commentator.
D. He tagged Angela.

6. Complete the chart



A. No one really wanted him to play tag.
B. A rookie was hungry for respect.
C. He fell off the jungle gym.
D. Recess was at 12:45.

What Is the Water Cycle
Adapted from Readworks

Water is always moving. It moves between the earth and the sky. This movement is called the water cycle. Here is how it happens.

The sun shines on a pond. The water heats up. Some water turns into gas. That change is called evaporation. The gas is called vapor.

The vapor rises. High in the sky, the air is cold. The vapor becomes a cloud. That change is called condensation.

In the clouds, drops of water form. The drops fall to earth. Falling drops are called precipitation. Water falls as rain, sleet, or snow.

Rain falls into the pond. That change is called collection. What happens next? The water cycle starts over!

7. Based on the article what causes water vapor to form?

A. the movement of the water
B. the heat from the sun
C. the water droplets
D. the cold air

8. Complete the chart.



A. Water vapor is heated up.
B. Water vapor is mixed with cold air.
C. Water drops from the clouds fall.
D. Water drops turn into gas.

Vanilla Sugar Cookies
Adapted from Martha Stewart

Perfectly shaped vanilla sugar cookies, decorated with colorful sprinkles. These are easy to make and they look super festive for birthdays and other holidays without much effort.

Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour , sifted or aerated – see my notes below
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 8 oz unsalted butter, room temperature (let the butter from refrigerator sit on the counter for about an hour or so), not melted but softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, combine together flour and salt and mix.

2. In a separate bowl, using an electric mixer, beat softened butter and granulated sugar until light in color and fluffy. Add an egg and vanilla. Continue beating for a couple minutes. Turn off the electric mixer. Add the flour-salt mixture. Then continue beating on low speed until well-combined. Don't over mix.

3. Roll dough into 1-inch balls. Roll these cookie balls in sprinkles. Arrange on parchment-lined baking sheets. Space them 2 inches apart. Freeze until firm or for about 30 minutes.

4. Bake at 350 degrees in the preheated oven for 14 minutes. Do not over-bake. Remove from the oven, and transfer to a wire rack to cool..

Recipe Notes
Important note about properly measuring flour using measuring cups:
The proper way to measure flour using measuring cups is to aerate it first. This is done either by sifting flour, or aerating it by fluffing it up and whisking it well, then spooning it into the measuring cup, then carefully removing any excess flour with a knife. If you just stick that measuring cup in the bag of flour and scoop some out, you will get a lot more flour than what the recipe calls for. Do aerate the flour, or you will end up with dry dough!

Do you notice the rounded (not flat) shape of these cookies? It makes them very attractive, and the secret to achieving rounded cookie top is to roll the cookie dough into 1-inch balls (then roll in sprinkles), freeze them for 30 min. Then refrigerate for 30 min and only then do you bake the cookies.

9. What does the recipe say will happen if the chef does not aerate the flour?

A. The cookies will burn.
B. The cookies will not rise.
C. The dough will end up being dry.
D. The dough will make the cookies flat.

10. What causes the cookies to have a rounded shape?

A. After you roll the dough in sprinkles, you freeze the cookies for 30 minutes and then put them in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
B. After you roll the dough in sprinkles, you put the cookies in the oven for 10 minutes until they get a golden brown.
C. After you roll the dough in one inch balls, you put them in the freezer for 30 minutes and then roll them in the sprinkles and bake.
D. After you mix the dough put it in the freezer for 30 minutes and then put them in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Then roll them in sprinkles and bake.