



Name _____

Date _____

OPRAH WINFREY

People throughout the world know Oprah Winfrey's name. But this was not always the case. Oprah was born in 1954 to Vernita Lee and Vernon Winfrey. She was poor and had an unstable family. She went to live with her grandmother. By her grandmother, she was taught to read at a very young age. She also began reciting poems and other pieces in front of her church congregation. Oprah's grandmother called her "gifted." Oprah didn't know exactly what that meant, but she thought it must mean she was special.

At the age of 19, Oprah got a job as a reporter for a radio station in Nashville. During this time, Oprah won beauty pageants and entered college at Tennessee State University. In 1976, Oprah hosted a television show in Baltimore. It was a success. Oprah stayed with the show for eight years. She left to start her own show in Chicago. In 1986, Oprah began the show entitled, "The Oprah Winfrey Show." It was a huge success and ran for 25 years.

But Oprah has not just been a television personality; she has been an advocate for those in need. She gives out millions of dollars and has set up a network to raise money for the less fortunate. She has also pushed the importance of literacy and set up a book club to encourage reading. She continues to have huge success across the world.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the passage?
 - a. to inform the reader about the history of television
 - b. to instruct the reader on how to be successful on television
 - c. to paint a brief picture of the life of Oprah Winfrey
 - d. to share Oprah Winfrey's interest in television
2. What is the meaning of the word *gifted* as used in the passage?

a. talented and exceptional	c. bestowed with a gift to help others
b. special and special needs	d. endowed with a lot of money
3. What is the main message in this passage about Oprah Winfrey?
 - a. Know what you want to be early in life.
 - b. Plan big for great things might happen.
 - c. Don't give up even when things are hard.
 - d. Work as hard as you can at an early age to earn a large amount of money.
4. Oprah Winfrey is known for . . .
 - a. her hard work in wealthy areas.
 - b. her interest in literacy and helping others.
 - c. setting up the Peace Corps.



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JESSE OWENS

One of the best track and field athletes of all time was Jesse Owens. Jesse's talent and abilities still inspire many people. Jesse set his first record in junior high school. By high school, he was known across the nation. He decided to attend college in Ohio. While competing in college track-and-field meets, Jesse broke three world records and tied a fourth. He was on fire! It took 25 years before anyone broke the running broad-jump record he set at that time.

A year later, Jesse was able to compete in the Olympic Games held in Berlin. The year was 1936, and during that time Adolf Hitler was building up the Nazi Party in Germany. That year, Hitler said that no black person could possibly beat his "Master Race" athletes. Hitler couldn't have been more wrong. Jesse set records at this Olympics while at the same time beating Hitler's athletes.

In that Olympics, Jesse tied the record in the 100-meter sprint. He ran on the 400-meter relay team and set a record. He also set new Olympic and world records for the 200-meter sprint and the running broad-jump. He was incredible! Hitler was very upset. He did not even stay in the stadium. He left so that he wouldn't have to see Jesse being awarded any of the gold medals he had won.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the author's purpose of writing about Jesse Owens?
 - to share the facts about Jesse Owens
 - to share the inspiring story of Jesse Owens
 - to point out Hitler's rude behavior at the Olympics
 - to list all the medals Jesse won
- Which sentence from the passage shares how the author feels about Jesse Owens?
 - Jesse tied the record in the 100-meter sprint.
 - He also set new Olympic and world records for the 200-meter sprint and running broad jump.
 - He was incredible!
 - By high school, he was known across the nation.
- Which of the following statements did not happen in Jesse's lifetime?
 - Jesse learned to run fast at a very young age.
 - Jesse was born with natural talent and skill.
 - Jesse was finally accepted by Hitler as the winner.
 - Jesse broke many Olympic and world records.
- Which would be the best title for this passage?

a. "Hitler vs. Owens"	c. "Greatest Runner of All Time"
b. "The 1936 Olympics"	d. "The Inspiring Life of Jesse Owens"



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BOSTON TEA PARTY

In the year 1773, there was a lot of tension between the American colonies and Britain. Britain was trying to control the colonies, but the people of the colonies were trying to fight British control. The British passed a tea act, which they felt would force the people of the colonies to buy their tea. The British sold the tea at a very cheap price. This way, they could also tax them for the tea. The British sent ships with tea to America.

As three ships filled with tea came into Boston Harbor, the colonists demanded that the leader of the colony make the ships leave. But the leader of the colony refused to do this. The people who lived there decided to take care of the boats themselves. In the middle of the night, a group of men dressed as Indians went aboard the ships. They threw all 342 chests of tea overboard into the water. People gathered along the shore. They cheered the men on. This famous event became known as the Boston Tea Party.

The King of England was upset. He did not like what the people in Boston had done. He helped pass a law to punish the men who dumped the tea into the water. This law only made the feelings between the two groups more tense. The British kept trying to control the colonies, and the colonies kept refusing. This was one of the significant events that led up to the Revolutionary War.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which statement best explains the reason for the Boston Tea Party?
 - a. The colonists were celebrating their taxes.
 - b. The colonists were starting a new tradition.
 - c. The colonists were exercising and demonstrating their independence from England.
 - d. The colonists were upset with the leader of the colony.
2. Where in the passage does it explain the response of the King of England?

a. first paragraph	c. second paragraph
b. end of the second paragraph	d. beginning of the third paragraph
3. Which statement explains the reason behind the name *Boston Tea Party*?
 - a. The refreshment at the party was tea.
 - b. The tea party took place in Boston.
 - c. The name is a way to show defiance to England.
 - d. All the colonists were delivered free tea from the King of England.
4. What is the author's opinion of the Boston Tea Party?

a. unbiased and disinterested	c. you can't tell from reading the passage
b. impressed and appreciative	d. supportive and encouraging



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SEGREGATION

In the 1950s, the South was very segregated. This meant that black and white people were not allowed to do anything together. They weren't encouraged to interact together in any setting. It was a sad and absurd time in the South.

Laws were in place that made blacks attend separate schools and separate churches. They were not allowed to eat at the same restaurants as white people. They were not allowed to sit next to the whites on the bus or the train. If there were not enough seats for whites, black people were required to give up their seats.

In public places, the whites and blacks had separate drinking fountains. African-Americans were not even allowed to vote. This had to stop. But changes came very slowly.

Many people helped bring about these changes. Jackie Robinson showed the world that black people had great talent. Thurgood Marshall fought for equal education rights for children. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took the message to Washington, D.C. and gave his famous speech. These and many more people helped bring about the much-needed changes.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does the author feel about segregation?
 - a. disgusted
 - b. amused
 - c. understanding
 - d. anxious
2. Which statement shows the author's opinion of segregation?
 - a. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus.
 - b. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took the message to Washington, D.C.
 - c. It was a sad time in the South.
 - d. But changes came very slowly.
3. The second and third paragraphs inform the reader about . . .
 - a. the discrimination against people living in the South.
 - b. the differences between the rich and the poor.
 - c. the discrimination between the immigrants and the slaves.
 - d. the discrimination against the blacks in the South.
4. Where would this information about segregation most likely be found?
 - a. in a book about the Revolutionary War
 - b. in a pamphlet about the president of the United States
 - c. on a website about the Civil War
 - d. on a website about civil rights



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PEARL HARBOR

World War II was a time of great sorrow for countries around the world. Many countries in Europe were fighting against one another. The United States had managed to stay out of the war, but that soon changed.

On December 7, 1941, warplanes from Japan made a surprise attack on a naval base near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The results were deadly. More than 2,400 Americans were killed. Many warships were destroyed. It was a terrible day for the United States.

Japan attacked the United States because it had stopped selling needed goods to Japan. Japan was angry about this and decided to attack the United States.

The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States because they were friends with Japan. The United States became part of the war alongside Britain and the Soviet Union. Many more people were killed in World War II. It was one of the deadliest wars of all time.

STORY QUESTIONS

- A different title for this reading passage could be . . .
 - "Beginnings of World War II."
 - "Adolf Hitler's Power."
 - "Pearl Harbor Attacked."
 - "V-Day and Pearl Harbor."
- A similarity between the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001 is . . .
 - the fact that they were both surprise attacks.
 - that they were both attacks from Asian countries.
 - that they both took place in December.
 - that they took place when the United States was at war.
- In the last paragraph, what does the word *deadliest* mean?
 - most people targeted
 - most people killed
 - most people shot
 - most people involved
- Based on the information in the passage, why was Pearl Harbor attacked?
 - Japan was trying to get the U.S. involved in World War II.
 - The U.S. had bombed Japan.
 - Adolf Hitler asked Japan to do it.
 - Japan was upset with some decisions the U.S. made about selling goods to their country.