DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

SKATEBOARD PARK

There are two sides to every issue. Whether to build a skateboard park in the community is an issue that definitely has two sides. There are many people who believe the city should build a skateboard park to accommodate the number of skateboarders in the community.

This group feels that skateboarding is a new and upcoming sport and that city officials should allow skateboarders to enjoy it. The city already provides basketball courts, tennis courts, racquetball courts, and more. Among the many benefits of a skateboard park is that it would keep skateboarders off the cement driveways of banks and other public buildings. The only reason skateboarders skate there is that they have nowhere else to go.

Those with an opposing point of view feel that there should not be a public skateboard park built. The main reasons for the disapproval have to do with safety and security. A skateboard park has a reputation that comes with it. Many kids that skateboard tend to be rowdy kids who don't behave appropriately. Building a skateboard park attracts these kids, and it brings down the surrounding neighborhoods in the area.

Who would supervise the park? Many skateboarders do not wear helmets. Many fights break out at these parks. Who would be there to monitor these activities? The neighbors living nearby certainly don't want to put up with this. Finally, who will pay for the park? Cement costs a lot of money.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which would be the best title for this reading passage?
   a. "Choose Your Own Sports Activity"
   b. "My Community, My Choice"
   c. "Boarders vs. Non-boarders"
   d. "To Build or Not to Build"
2. Which of the following is the main reason to support a skateboard park?
   a. It will allow skateboarders a place to ride their skateboards.
   b. Parents would be more comfortable if their children were skateboarding in a park instead of in a bank driveway.
   c. The skateboarders have a right to ask the community to build them a park.
   d. The skateboarding community would be very happy.
3. What is meant by the word *reputation* as used in this passage?
   a. group restraint
   b. entitlement of a group
   c. good history
   d. belief or expectation about a group

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

FIX THE LIBRARY

Have you been to the school library lately? If you have, you've probably noticed that there is plenty of room for improvement. Something needs to be done to improve the school library.

The government and school leaders are all calling for better readers. They say that kids these days just don't read enough! They say they watch too much television and play too many computer games. Well, if the adults want students to read more, they need to do their part to help the kids read.

When is the last time you spent time in the school library? You've probably noticed that there isn't a very good selection of books. The number of books on the shelf is few, and the books on the shelves are old and outdated. The books have been falling apart for a long time. It is not very fun to read a book that is missing pages or is ripped or has smudge marks on it.

Not only are the books old, but they are also very outdated. There isn't a single book in the library that was written in the last 10 years. There have been so many new authors and new books that are great! Why can't the students in this school have access to these great books? The school has got to put its money where its mouth is. If they want the students to read, give them better reading material!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. People who agree with this passage probably feel that . . .
   a. parents should take more responsibility in getting books for their children.
   b. schools need to adjust their budgets to better fund the library.
   c. schools need to stop talking about the importance of reading.
   d. teachers should receive more training and instruction on how to encourage reading.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
   a. the library can be a great resource for students if it is funded appropriately.
   b. the school needs to have better librarians to teach students how to read.
   c. the principal should have a meeting to discuss how to improve the library.
   d. the library needs to be organized in a better manner.
3. Which statement names one of the ways suggested in the passage to improve libraries?
   a. Why can't the students in this school have access to these great books?
   b. They say that kids these days just don't read enough!
   c. If they want the students to read, give them better reading material!
   d. The number of books on the shelf is few and the books on the shelves are old and outdated.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 5

Name _____ Date _____

IMPROVING RECESS

At least two or three times a day, students are released from the classroom to go to recess. Recess is meant to be a break and a time to relax the brain and release some energy. But for many students, recess is a stress and a strain. There are many things that can be done to improve recess.

First, the playground itself needs to be improved. There are too many children on the playground at one time. There just isn't enough for all the kids to do. The playground equipment is designed for about 30 children. In actuality, there are more than 100 children playing at one time.

This poses safety concerns at recess. There are too many activities going on (children running and hitting balls) to have the students so close together. There is not enough space to really play the games and activities safely. Children using the playground equipment are at risk of being injured because of such crowding. Children are also prone to fighting and arguing over the equipment, and they struggle to find things to do at recess. It is amazing that more children have not been hurt or seriously injured.

Along with these issues, there is never enough supervision for all of the children. It's impossible for one or two adults to adequately supervise 100 students at recess. Parents need to be more aware of what is taking place at recess so that they can push for improvements and changes.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the reading passage?
   a. Children enjoy free time outside.
   b. Children watch too much television.
   c. Children need more supervision.
   d. There should be changes to the way the playground is set up and supervised.
2. What is meant by the term *prone* as used in this passage?
   a. condemned
   b. uncertain
   c. more likely to
   d. excited
3. According to the passage, which of the following is a reason that playgrounds are deemed unsafe?
   a. Children are prone to fighting.
   b. The playgrounds are not constructed correctly.
   c. There is not enough cushioning beneath the playground equipment.
   d. There are too many children playing on the equipment.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 6

Name _____ Date _____

SCHOOL CONDITIONS

Each year the children head back to school. Most schools open at the end of the summer months, when the heat is at its highest point. The humidity in the air only makes things worse. And what are most new students greeted with? They are greeted with a hot and sticky room that only transitions to a stiff and freezing room in a few months. Why can't schools be given adequate funds to heat and cool school buildings?

Why must students suffer the consequences of money being spent elsewhere? Children spend the greatest part of their day in the classroom. Along with poor heating and cooling, many students are attending classrooms that are old and dilapidated. Many of the schools across the nation are in terrible condition.

Many of the schools have mold growing inside the walls, along with leaks in the ceilings and walls and cracked windows and roofs. Why must our nation's children attend schools that are in such a condition? Don't they deserve the best? How do we expect them to compete with other nations when we aren't giving them the best? School districts need to look at how they are spending their money, and the state and federal governments need to ensure that the schools are given their top priority.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph in this passage?
   a. The schools that children attend are not large enough.
   b. The schools that children attend are old and not safe.
   c. The schools that children attend do not have adequate heating and cooling.
   d. The schools that children attend do not have enough teachers.
2. What strategy does the author of the passage use to appeal to the reader?
   a. The author uses specific examples to support claims.
   b. The author uses questioning as a way to get the reader thinking.
   c. The author uses shock value to get the point across.
   d. The author uses compare and contrast as a literary technique.
3. What question shows that the author is trying to appeal to the competitive nature of parents in the audience?
   a. How do we expect them to compete with other nations when we aren't giving them the best?
   b. And what are most new students greeted with?
   c. Why can't schools be given adequate funds to heat and cool school buildings?
   d. Why must our nation's children attend school in such a condition?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 7

Name _____ Date _____

TEACHER SALARIES

In the United States, teachers do not get paid enough. Teacher salaries have continued to be lower than they should be. In a country where education is of great worth, teachers are expected to bear the weight of teaching and educating today's children without being adequately compensated. A comment was made by a middle-school student that a convenience-store clerk makes more money than a teacher does. If the students can see the discrepancies, why can't lawmakers and other adults?

It is very difficult to attract highly qualified teachers because the best individuals have selected better-paying fields. They have chosen fields where they will be rewarded for their hard work and effort. The effects of this are that children today are falling through the cracks when it comes to their education. They are left without the skills they need to survive in today's world. They are reading and writing at low levels, and their math skills continue to decline, as well.

Some critics of raising teacher salaries state that teachers get the whole summer off and that they are paid for the time they spend on the job. This just isn't the case. Most teachers spend their summers planning and preparing for the upcoming year. Many are also attending conferences and training seminars—at their own expense—to improve their teaching abilities.

Having the summer off also puts a strain on the teacher during the school year. Teachers are highly discouraged from using "sick days" because they had all those days off in the summer. This is especially difficult for teachers who have family health issues and other problems that need their attention. Some school districts go as far as pressuring the teachers not to use sick days so that they can save money in their budgets by not using substitutes. This is wrong. Now is the time for teachers to be duly compensated for all of their hard work and effort.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following best describes the author of this piece?
   a. reticent and quiet
   b. obnoxious and loud
   c. frustrated and demanding
2. Which statement below helps support your answer to the previous question?
   a. They are left without the skills they need to survive in today's world.
   b. This is wrong. Now is the time for teachers to be duly compensated.
   c. Teacher salaries have continued to be lower than they should be.
3. What is meant by the word *discrepancies* as used in this passage?
   a. annoyances
   b. differences
   c. challenges
   d. objectives

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