



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CELL PHONES

Cell phones are not allowed at most schools, but not all students are happy about this fact. There are two sides to the issue. Some feel that cell phones at school are distracting and are not necessary. Others feel that having access to a cell phone is a must.

Many parents give their children a cell phone so that they can have immediate contact. With more and more violence occurring at school, parents want to know that their children are safe.

Those on this side of the issue also believe that students should keep the cell phone on vibrate to prevent interruptions. This group understands that students may not be able to immediately answer a phone call because they may be in the middle of a test or a lecture.

On the other side of the issue, there are those who feel that cell phones should not be allowed at schools. There is no reason that parents need to be able to contact their children during school hours. Parents have always been able to check in with the school if they need to communicate with their children.

Cell phones also add to the problem of cheating in school. If students have access to their cell phones during school, they are able to send text messages back and forth to other students. A student could text message the answers to test problems to another student.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. This passage is mostly about . . .
  - a. how cell phones disturb the learning at school.
  - b. using the cell phone appropriately at school.
  - c. learning to eliminate cheating with the cell phone.
  - d. whether or not cell phones should be allowed at school.
2. Which of the following statements is a reason why some people would want to have access to a cell phone at school?
  - a. to allow students to use the cell phone during a test
  - b. to occupy students during recess
  - c. to contact students/parents in an emergency
  - d. Text messaging at school can save paper.
3. The passage says that cell phones add to the problem of cheating at school. Which sentence supports that statement?
  - a. There are those who feel that cell phones should not be allowed at schools.
  - b. Parents have always been able to check in with their children at school.
  - c. Not all students have cell phones, so text messaging wouldn't be fair.
  - d. A student could text message the answers to test problems to another student.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

School lunches have never been known for their quality and taste, but things have gotten even worse. The school lunches that students are expected to eat not only taste bad, but they are unhealthy.

For many students, the school lunch is the only chance they have for a well-balanced meal. But most school lunches are anything but healthy. Most school lunches do not meet the minimum standards for protein, vitamins, calcium, or iron. Most school lunches, however, have more than the suggested amount of fat.

There are things parents can do to help their children make better choices at lunchtime. One way is to look over the lunch menu at home before any choices are made. Discuss choices together. Parents can suggest healthier choices. If there are no healthy choices available, then parents can suggest a lunch from home. Parents can teach children to avoid chips, sodas, and sweets.

One of the best ways that parents can teach children how to eat healthy is to set a good example. The family eating habits at home often follow the student to school. If the student is used to eating unhealthy meals, then the same habits will take place during lunchtime at school.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
  - a. Money should be set aside in the school budget for healthier lunches.
  - b. Parents should discuss healthy lunch choices with their child.
  - c. Sending lunch from home is always a healthier choice.
  - d. Parents are sharing their eating habits with their children.
2. You can infer from the passage that the author feels school lunches should be required to . . .
  - a. serve appetizing lunches to the students.
  - b. meet minimum standards for protein, vitamins, calcium, and iron.
  - c. help children make better food choices.
  - d. set the standards for parents to follow at home.
3. What does the author say will happen if the student is used to eating unhealthy meals at home?
  - a. The student will have the same eating habits at school.
  - b. Parents will change their habits of eating at home.
  - c. The lunch menu will be more closely observed.
  - d. School lunches have less fat in them.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S MOVIES

Since the beginning of animation, movie producers have used animated movies to entertain children and adults alike. But lately it seems like that is all that's offered to children. Studios spend lots of money making movies for adults, but little money is spent on making real movies for children—real movies with real people.

When children read a book, they are taken to another place. A book helps the reader experience new things in life through the eyes of a character. Lessons are learned, and children gain from these experiences. These same things can happen with real movies. But what can be learned from an animated movie with a make-believe character or animal? How can children relate to the make-believe setting? Most of these movies have little to offer except for a few laughs.

It seems another goal of these movies is to make money. Pajamas, toys, food, games, and a variety of other items are sold with the pictures of characters on them.

Bring back movies with substance. Bring back the characters with values. Provide children with entertainment that inspires and enlightens. There are more than enough animated movies to last a lifetime. Let's create movies that inspire for a lifetime.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion of animated movies?
  - a. Animated movies are shallow and do not inspire.
  - b. Animated movies are funny and entertaining.
  - c. Animated movies are an inexpensive way to make a movie.
  - d. Animated movies are amazing creations.
2. Which statement in the passage portrays the author's opinion?
  - a. Pajamas, toys, food, and games are sold with characters from animated movies.
  - b. Animated movies take place in a make-believe setting.
  - c. Studios spend a lot of money making movies for adults.
  - d. Animated movies have little to offer except for a few laughs.
3. What does the statement "Let's create movies that will inspire for a lifetime" mean?
  - a. The author wants movies to be shown for a lifetime.
  - b. Movies with value and substance can have an impact that lasts for a lifetime.
  - c. Movies should be re-run for many years to come.
  - d. Movies should be shown to each generation.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Can children be involved in too many activities? Some people believe they are. Some experts say that kids are overworked and overstimulated. They feel that students do not have enough time to be kids.

One of the reasons for this is because there are so many choices available. Children can be involved in activities any hour of the day and any day of the year.

How should parents decide how many activities are the right amount? Experts say that parents should set aside time for homework, time to eat dinner as a family, and time for kids to be kids. This means that kids are allowed free time. If these three criteria are met, then extra activities outside of this are considered okay.

Parents should listen closely to their children as well. Children give signals to their parents all the time about how they are doing. Children who are tired all of the time or are struggling with school may need to have their schedules examined and rearranged.

Children may not state their feelings, but they will send messages to parents letting them know how they are feeling about their life. It takes a strong parent to step back and reevaluate how children spend their time.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the criteria suggested by experts for balancing extracurricular activities?
  - a. Kids are allowed free time and money.
  - b. There is time for homework, dinner as a family, and free time.
  - c. There is time for one extra curricular activity.
  - d. The family needs to organize a calendar to keep track of all the activities
2. What type of parents do experts say are the ones who are able to keep their child's life balanced?
  - a. dedicated
  - b. ambitious
  - c. organized
  - d. strong
3. Which of the following is not an example of a signal that a child uses to show he or she is "overbooked"?
  - a. The child acts tired all the time.
  - b. The child feels excited about participating in an activity.
  - c. The child feels like they don't have time to eat as a family.
  - d. The child is not doing well in school.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCIPLINE AT SCHOOL

Think of the behavior of the students at your school. How do students behave? Do they show respect for teachers and leaders? Do teachers follow up on discipline? Are students respectful of themselves and other students? Is there room for improvement at your school?

Violence is becoming a serious problem in schools today. Experts believe that strict rules and procedures are the only way to curb this violence. But this is not what seems to be happening. Many schools seem to be loosening up the accountability they place on their students. In previous years whatever the school said was the law.

Today, parents can come in and complain about how their child is being treated. Parents get their children out of all kinds of situations, only to find that the child repeats the poor behavior. These kinds of parents are, in effect, lessening the security of the school. Children who do not feel there are any boundaries take risks that are unsafe and disrespectful.

Parents need to support the teacher and leaders at school better. Parents need to teach their children that the school rules and expectations should be followed. Teachers should not be afraid to discipline students and follow through on consequences. Violence at school begins with how adults respond to inappropriate student behavior.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. You can tell from the passage that the author feels that poor discipline at school leads to . . .
  - a. less control from parents at school.
  - b. security issues at school.
  - c. stronger teachers and administration.
  - d. confident teachers and students.
2. Which statement from the passage portrays the author's opinion about how to curb violence at school?
  - a. Violence is becoming a serious problem in schools today.
  - b. Violence at school begins with how adults respond to inappropriate behavior.
  - c. Violence at school begins at home.
  - d. Children who do not feel there are any boundaries take risks that are unsafe and disrespectful.
3. What is meant by the phrase *loosening up*?
  - a. letting go
  - b. being more strict
  - c. being less strict about rules
  - d. designing new rules