



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PEANUT ALLERGIES

Dear Principal Rollins,

Recently a person at our school was diagnosed with having an allergy to peanuts. I have heard of this situation before and I realize it can be a serious problem. People that have allergies to peanuts can die before receiving the necessary treatment. Within seconds a reaction can appear, leaving the victim only few short minutes to counteract the attack. These individuals must avoid anything containing peanuts or peanut oil. Sometimes just smelling or touching peanut oil and/or dust can cause a reaction.

Since that time, all of the school personnel have overreacted. We are no longer allowed to bring candy to school or bring peanut butter sandwiches in our lunches. The crackdown on peanuts has been ridiculous. The school cafeteria has changed all menus eliminating anything that looks or smells like a peanut. Why should all of the students at the school be punished because one kid has allergy problems? Why doesn't this student eat lunch in an isolated area far from the 600 students and their lunches? It's not right to punish many people just because a certain food is harmful to a small number of people.

Understandably, the school is trying to avoid a lawsuit. But instead of overreacting, the school could use this as a wonderful educational opportunity. Teach students about peanut allergies and how these can be harmful and deadly. Inform the students of the precautions that can be taken. They are many ways to protect kids without punishing everyone.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *counteract* as used in this passage?
  - a. cancel out
  - b. assist
  - c. react
2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
  - a. Why should all of the students at the school be punished because one kid has allergy problems?
  - b. Why doesn't this student eat lunch in an isolated area far from the 600 students and their lunches?
  - c. It's not right to punish many people just because of a certain food is harmful to a small number of people.
3. Which statement shows the author's opinion about the peanut policy changes?
  - a. The crackdown on peanuts has been ridiculous.
  - b. These individuals must avoid anything containing peanuts or peanut oil.
  - c. Sometimes just smelling or touching peanut oil can cause a reaction.
  - d. It doesn't take long for a person with an allergy to die from exposure.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ENDANGERED ANIMALS

When is the last time you saw a Bengal tiger? Was it in a zoo or other animal park? Though these animals are confined and locked up, they may also be safer than their counterparts in the wild. The Bengal tiger lives in places of central India. This group of tigers is the last of thousands that used to live there hundreds of years ago. The Bengal tiger is now endangered.

What has happened to the Bengal tiger? The tigers have been hunted and poached until they are now endangered. The Indian government has passed laws to protect these animals. People are not allowed to enter the 23 tiger reserves across India. The reserves are home to approximately 3,000 tigers. Because of these new laws, many of these tigers have survived illegal hunting and poaching.

Many of the natives that live near these tiger reserves are concerned and angry. They understand the importance of saving these tigers, but in the meantime, these people are going without food and other resources they used to get in the tiger reserves. The natives insist that they are not a threat to the tigers. Can these two groups really live together without endangering the tiger? And if people are let back into the reserves, how can the government ensure that their intentions are pure? All of these concerns and issues need to be addressed.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion about saving endangered animals?
  - a. The author feels that more money should be spent to save these animals.
  - b. Government should enforce more laws to protect these animals.
  - c. Endangered animals are a fact a life in a world of evolution.
  - d. Education and laws can play a major role in saving endangered animals.
2. What is the meaning of the word *counterparts* as used in the passage?
 

a. concerned	c. others that are the same
b. captive	d. captivating
3. What is meant by the statement "All of these concerns and issues need to be addressed"?
  - a. The author wants to ensure that each point of the issue is included.
  - b. The author is trying to appeal to the audience to get more involved.
  - c. The author is showing that he/she has little faith in the government to address all the issues to help the Bengal tiger.
  - d. More funds and research needs to be done before humans are allowed in the tiger reserve.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## HUNTING PROHIBITED

Dear Editor:

The debate on whether hunting should be allowed has been raging for years. For thousands of years, man was responsible for providing food for his family. This almost always included a weapon of some sort. The gun has proven to be the most efficient way to kill an animal and provide food. Now that society has progressed enough to sell the meat our family eats in a plastic and Styrofoam packaging in the grocery store, some people have decided to eliminate hunting.

But what about those of us who want to be self-reliant and provide for ourselves? I am a 16-year-old hunter with at least five years of experience hunting. I have gone to every gun safety class that has been presented in my community. I eat the meat from the animals I shoot, and I am careful to leave the environment as I found it. Why should someone who doesn't like hunting be allowed to tell me what I can and cannot do?

I do not want to take responsibility for all hunters, as I know there are irresponsible hunters that give hunting a bad name. I realize that not all people like the concept of killing and shooting animals. But I am not forcing them to hunt just because I like to. Some feel that hunting is violent. It is only violent, in my opinion, if you do shoot what you do not plan to eat.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following are the benefits of hunting and killing your own meat?
  - a. to take out aggressions and frustrations
  - b. to be self-reliant and provide for yourself
  - c. for the joy of killing an animal
  - d. to teach where meat comes from and how it gets to the supermarket
2. Which of the following is one of reasons the author states as to why hunting should not be prohibited?
  - a. I am not forcing them to hunt just because I like to.
  - b. I eat the meat from the animals I shoot, and I am careful to leave the environment as I found it.
  - c. The gun has proven to be the most efficient way to kill an animal and provide food.
  - d. The debate on whether hunting should be allowed has been raging for years.
3. What is the meaning of the word *efficient* as used in this passage?
 

a. competence	c. effective
b. safe	d. dangerous



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## TIME ON MY HANDS

Young people these days are involved in more and more extracurricular activities. They are more involved than they have ever been before. How much is too much? Should there be a limit to the amount of extracurricular activities that a young person can be involved in? Personally, I think there should be a limit. I am an exhausted and concerned parent of three. We have been working to eliminate as many unnecessary activities from our schedule as we can.

There are many reasons for my concern. One of the reasons is that we just don't have enough time as a family. We used to sit around the table and discuss topics at the dinner table. We are lucky now if we even get dinner, let alone eat it as a family.

Another reason for the concern is that my children's grades are falling. These kids who used to be 'A' and 'B' students are now struggling to maintain a 'C' in most classes. There just isn't enough time for homework. Education should be the priority—not the extracurricular activities.

The final reason I feel concern is that we are all so tired. Everyone is running in three different directions. The kids are so exhausted they are even falling asleep in class. Kids need time to play, work, imagine, and create. Extracurricular activities that claim to create well-rounded kids end up taking away the personalities and freedom of the kids involved.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which paragraph explains the second reason the author wants to cut back on the amount of extracurricular activities?
  - fourth paragraph
  - first paragraph
  - third paragraph
  - none of the above
- Which statement from the passage portrays the author's opinion about too many activities?
  - Education should be the priority—not the extracurricular activities.
  - We are lucky now if we even get dinner, let alone eat it as a family.
  - Should there be a limit as to the amount of extracurricular activities that a young person can be involved in?
  - We have been working to eliminate as many unnecessary activities from our schedule as we can.
- What is meant by the word *extracurricular* as used in the passage?
  - advantageous
  - supplementary
  - supportive
  - rearranging

# FICTION

