



Name _____

Date _____

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DIRECTIONS

Read each of the passages. Then read the questions that follow and decide on the BEST answer. There are a lot of different kinds of questions, so read each question carefully before marking an answer on your answer sheet.

GRANNY ED'S TEAM

Read this excerpt from the story GRANNY ED AND THE LEWISVILLE RAIDERS to find out how Granny Ed became the coach.



IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME that Granny Ed was different from other grandmothers. Her name was out of the ordinary but she always said, "If your parents put a handle like Edwinalou on you, you'd prefer a nickname too." It made good sense to me. She had normal grandmother interests like knitting, baking, and attending my basketball games.

Basketball! I eat and sleep the sport, but right then I wished I'd never heard of it. Our high school team had basketball Trouble. I mean Trouble with a capital T.

Coach Marshall was a super coach, and we had high hopes of finishing first in the district this year. What happened? December second, Coach Marshall had a car accident over by Murphy Junction. He ended up in the hospital with a broken back and will be in the hospital two months – plus a long convalescence. To make matters worse, the only other man teacher in our high school is Mr. LaFrance, who doesn't know whether you bounce, kick, or bury a basketball. That leaves the Lewisville Raiders coachless.

The team had gathered at our house, as usual, due to Granny Ed's weakness for feeding hungry ballplayers.

"Men, we've got troubles if the principal can't come up with someone to take Coach Marshall's place," Al James said, between huge bites of pizza.

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"Wish my dad could help out, but he's working swing shift at the sawmill," said Leftie.

"If Grandpa Thor were still living, he would take over," I added sadly. "He was a great college coach before he died." The team nodded in sympathetic agreement and respect.

"If we could just get someone to come to the gym and supervise our practices, maybe we could stumble along until a replacement for Coach Marshall is found," Al said.

"That's easier said than done. All the teachers are already doubling up on classes" I said, feeling more discouraged every minute.

"Well, gentlemen, if a body is all you need at practice, I can certainly provide that," Granny Ed spoke from the doorway. "You're sure not going to let a little problem like this throw a monkey wrench in the Lewisville Raider team, are you?"

There was a long silence. I wanted to sink through the floor. *Granny Ed at practice! Oh no! You've really done it this time, Granny Ed, I thought.*

1

How was Granny Ed different than other grandmothers?

- A. She enjoyed her grandson.
- B. She attended basketball games.
- C. She enjoyed knitting and baking.
- D. She coached high school basketball.

2

The phrase "throw a monkey wrench in it" means

- A. a specific tool.
- B. ruin a good situation.
- C. a maneuver in basketball.
- D. put in a new coach.

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Which of the following phrases does the author use to foreshadow later events in the story?

- A. "Coach Marshall was a super coach."
- B. "Granny Ed was different from other grandmothers."
- C. "Wish my dad could help out."
- D. "Teachers are already doubling up on classes."

4

From which point of view is this story told?

- A. First person
- B. Second person
- C. Third person
- D. Granny Ed's

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Which statement from the story best supports that Granny Ed intends to coach the team?

- A. "It never occurred to me that Granny Ed was different."
- B. "That leaves the Lewisville Raiders coachless."
- C. "If a *body* is all you need at practice."
- D. "I wanted to sink through the floor."

THROUGH A DOG'S EYES

Are dogs really colorblind? Read this article from POPULAR SCIENCE magazine to learn how dogs see things differently than people do.

IT'S A MISTAKEN NOTION that dogs see only in black and white. If however, what you mean by colorblind is that dogs see only a

portion of the visible spectrum as compared with what humans see, then yes, dogs are colorblind.



Dogs have two types of color photoreceptors, or cone cells, on their retinas that recognize short and medium-to-long wavelengths of light, corresponding to bluish hues (short wavelength) and red-yellow ones (long wavelength). People, on the other hand, have three types of cone cells that enable us to see the full range of colors that make up the visible spectrum. Since

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dogs have only two types of cone cells, the colors they can distinguish are almost identical to the colors a human would see who has red-green colorblindness. Of course, colorblind humans still see many different colors, and scientists think dogs see this range of colors as well.

How do scientists know? One way is to shine beams of colored lights into dogs' eyes and analyze the spectrum, or pattern, of light that is reflected back. The results are then compared with the pattern produced when the same lights are shined into human eyes.

Another way to study canine vision is to have the dogs "tell" scientists what they see. In one experiment, dogs are shown a series of three lights; in each case, two of the three lights are the same color. With a minimal amount of training, the dogs select with their noses the colored light that is different from the others. By varying the colors of the lights and repeating the process, scientists have determined that dogs see the world in black, white, and shades of gray, with long wavelength (red-yellow) and short wavelength (blue) colors thrown in.

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This passage refers to "the visible spectrum." The *visible spectrum* is best defined as

- A. bluish hues of color.
- B. a broad number of colors.
- C. photoreceptors.
- D. medium-to-long wavelengths.

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The author includes a question in paragraph 3 of this selection. The author's purpose for this is to

- A. let readers know they don't have to read it all.
- B. show that the author is unsure of the exact answer.
- C. repeat facts that the reader really needs to know.
- D. help draw the reader into the article.

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Based on the evidence in this selection, which statement below is accurate?

- A. Scientists have an untested theory that dogs are color blind.
- B. Scientists perform surgery to study dogs' eyes.
- C. Scientists have evidence that dogs are colorblind.
- D. Scientists cannot really tell what dogs can see.

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Based on this author's style of writing, this article was probably written for which audience?

- A. Veterinarians who specialize in eye diseases
- B. Everyday pet owners
- C. Scientists who design experiments
- D. Those interested in different kinds of dogs

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What is one way to study how dogs see?

- A. By analyzing the shape of a dog's eye
- B. By comparing the structure of different dog species
- C. By flashing a series of white lights into a dog's eye
- D. By teaching dogs to select colors of light

PACK IT UP

If you're ever in the market for a backpack, you might want to consider this useful consumer information from CONSUMER REPORTS magazine.

MOST KIDS' BACKPACKS CAN easily hold school necessities. Is one pack better than another or are they pretty much equal behind the brand name and the price tag?

To find out, we bought a half-dozen moderately priced packs plus a messenger bag, all reported to be hot sellers. We then asked 18 middle-school boys and girls to check them out. We ran lab tests for durability, water-resistance, and other practical stuff to generate the ratings below.

The kids didn't favor one backpack over another. But they quickly made it clear that they preferred a traditional backpack to the messenger bag's single-strap design.

What the Tests Showed

All the backpacks are sturdy enough to withstand daily abuse or a tug-of-war at the bus stop. Water-resistance varies. Most did a good job of withstanding the lab equivalent of a 5-minute shower.

Construction details do matter, to parents if not always to kids. A good pack should have the following features; most of the bags we tested have them:

Shoulder straps that are contoured and padded to soften the load.

A waist belt to stabilize the pack and transfer weight to the hips.

A padded or quilted back or one with mesh fabric to make the bag less sweaty on steamy days.

Compression straps on the sides to snug up a partially filled backpack.

Look for multiple pockets: small ones for a calculator or cell phone, a key holder, and a concealed interior pocket for cash.

The REI Whitney has a great deal going for it and could even be used for hiking. But at \$55, it's the most expensive backpack in the group. The Kelty Gemini is very versatile and only \$35. It's a CR Best Buy. The Timbuk2 El Ocho messenger bag, \$65, proved very sturdy and water-resistant but it lacks a backpack's assortment of features, which lowered its score in the Ratings.

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

| PRODUCT | OVERALL SCORE 100 | FEATURES | | | | | RESISTS WATER | STURDINESS |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|---|---|----|---|------------------|------------|
| | | F | F | G | VG | E | | |
| REI Whitney | \$55 | ■■■■■ | ● | ○ | ● | ● | | |
| Kelty Gemini | \$35 | ■■■■■ | ● | ○ | ● | ● | | |
| JanSport Essence | \$40 | ■■■■■ | ● | ○ | ● | ● | | |
| EMS Granite | \$40 | ■■■■■ | ● | ○ | ● | ● | | |
| Eastpak Compadre | \$25 | ■■■■■ | ○ | ● | ○ | ○ | | |
| L.L. Bean/Jo Stream | \$50 | ■■■■■ | ● | ○ | ● | ○ | | |
| Timbuk2 El Ocho (messenger bag) | \$65 | ■■■■■ | ● | ○ | ● | ● | | |

BEST
BUY
CR

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Which features are designed to help make the backpacks more comfortable for the wearer?

- A. Shoulder straps and compression straps
- B. Quilted back and multiple pockets
- C. Waist belt and compression straps
- D. Quilted back and shoulder straps

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Based on the ratings chart, which statement is true?

- A. Sturdiness was generally the most impressive aspect of the backpacks tested.
- B. Cost had the most impact on where backpacks ended up in the ratings.
- C. Only one of the backpacks fell below an overall score of "Good."
- D. Only two backpacks received more than one "Excellent" rating.

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The least expensive backpack on the list probably falls in the rankings primarily due to

- A. a fair rating in resisting water.
- B. a lack of features and sturdiness.
- C. its nontraditional design.
- D. a lack of appeal to kids.

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The Timbuk 2 has the lowest rating due to

- A. its cost and its "features" rating.
- B. low kids appeal and cost.
- C. lack of waterproofing and low overall rating.
- D. small size and sturdiness.

HOLD YOUR GROUND!

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLPARK by Josh Leventhal has a great deal of information about this all-American sport and its interesting cast of characters. Read this excerpt to learn more about a side of baseball many fans may not know about.

WEATHERMAN AND BOTANIST, chemist and protector, the Major League groundskeeper shoulders responsibilities that reach far beyond cutting grass. The caretakers of baseball's cathedrals are in a perpetual dance with Mother Nature, watching the weather, testing