THANKS A MILLION

Percy Ross was born in 1916 in Michigan. His parents has come to the USA from Latvia and Russia and the family were poor. But Percy soon showed a talent (125) ____ business and made a fortune in the fur trade and auction business. Then disaster struck and he (126) ____ all his money. But he soon made a fortune again - this time by (127) ____ plastic bags. In 1969, he sold his plastic bag company for millions of dollars.

Ross started giving away in 1977: he gave $50,000 to 50 Vietnamese refugees so that they could make a new home in the USA. (128) ____ he held a Christmas party for 1,050 poor children in the American town of Minneapolis. Ross bought a bike for every one of the 1,050 children at the party.

After these first experiences of giving money away, Ross decided to do it on a (129) ____ basis. He started a newspaper column called 'Thanks a Million'. and later a radio show, in order to give away his money. It took years, but Ross finally (130) ____ in giving away his entire fortune.

125. A. for	B. of	C. on	D. with
126. A. threw	B. wasted	C. lost	D. sent
127. A. manufacture	B. manufacturing	C. manufacturer	D. manufactured
128. A. But	B. Then	C. Yet	D. Though
129. A. frequent	B. usual	C. occasional	D. regular
130. A. interested	B. invested	C. succeeded	D. tried

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks.

Humanitarian Dorothea Dix was born in Hampden, Maine, in 1802. At the age of 19, she established a school for girls, the Dix Mansion School, in Boston, but had to close it in 1835 due to her poor health. She wrote and published the first of many books for children in 1824. In 1841, Dix accepted an invitation to teach classes at a prison in East Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was deeply disturbed by the sight of mentally-ill persons thrown in the jail and treated like criminals. For the next eighteen months, she toured Massachusetts institutions where other mental patients were **confined** and reported the shocking conditions she found to the state legislature. When improvements followed in Massachusetts, she turned her attention to the neighbouring states and then to the West and South.

Dix's work was interrupted by the Civil War; she served as superintendent of women hospital nurses for the federal government.

Dix saw special hospitals for the mentally-ill built in some fifteen states. Although her plan to obtain public land for her cause failed, she aroused concern for the problem of mental illnesses all over the United States as well as in Canada and Europe.

Dix's success was due to her independent and thorough research, her gentle but persistent manner, and her ability to secure the help of powerful and wealthy supporters.

106. In what year was the Dix Mansion School closed?

A. 1802 B. 1824 C. 1835 D. 1841

107. Why did Dorothea Dix first go to a prison?

A. She was convicted of a crime. B. She taught classes there.

C. She was sent there by the state legislature. D. She was doing research for a book.

108. Where was Dorothea Dix first able to bring about reforms in the treatment of the mentally-ill?

A. Canada B. Europe C. Massachusetts D. The West and the South

LIVEWORKSHEETS

109. The word "**confined**" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to ____.

A. restricted B. treated C. cared for D. supported

110. Dorothea Dix was NOT successful in her attempt to ____.

A. arouse concern for the mentally-ill B. become superintendent of nurses

C. obtain public lands D. publish books for children

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