Unit 1. LIFE STORIES

PART 2: READING

I. Choose the word or phrase from the box that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

milestones *prolific* *like* *won* *funded*

breakthroughs *making* *revolutionary*

Elon Musk is one of the greatest and most (1) …….. modern inventors and is responsible for monumental advancements in futuristic technology (2) ……..renewable energy and space travel. Many of his innovations seem to be right out of a science-fiction movie, but throughout his career he has brought about huge scientific (3) ……..After (4) ……..his first fortune from the internet payment service 'PayPal', he invested $100 million in his space travel company, 'SpaceX' and began building satellites, launch vehicles and other spacecraft both for NASA and for his own company, creating new (5) ……..with his privately (6) ……..spacecraft. Many of his

(7) ……..ideas and inventions focus on space travel, renewable energy, commercial electric cars and other technologies, that look to a future where fossil fuels and other resources may be in shorter supply. His futuristic and visionary ideas have (8) ……..him both scientific and philanthropic recognition and awards.

II. Choose the word or phrase among A, B, C or D that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

Gia Long was the first emperor of the Nguyen dynasty as well as the (1) ____ father of the modern nation of Vietnam. Born as Nguyen Phuc Anh, he was the nephew of the last Nguyen lord who ruled over southern Vietnam. (2) ____ being born into a royal family, he had to (3) ____ many difficulties in his early life as he became the (4) ____ of rival groups who attempted to (5) ____ the Nguyen clan completely. After the deaths of his father and uncle at the hands of the rival leaders, Nguyen Phuc Anh fled to the southern coastal tip of Vietnam where (6) ____ he met a French priest, Pigneau de Behaine, who would (7) ____ become his trusted adviser and play a major role in his (8) ____ to power. He escaped with the help of the priest and later on sought aid from the French in his struggle (9) ____ his rivals. (10) ____ the help of the French, and equipped with (11) ____ European armaments, he was (12) ____ in securing victories over his rivals.

1. A. found	B. founded	C. founding	D. founder
2. A. Because of	B. In view of	C. Despite of	D. In spite of
3. A. encounter	B. face up	C. manage	D. get by
4. A. shield	B. target	C. purpose	D. destination
5. A. wipe off	B. wipe out	C. kill up	D. destroy
6. A. by chance	B. on occasion	C. on purpose	D. at stake
7. A. at last	B. especially	C. specially	D. eventually
8. A. raise	B. arise	C. rise	D. rising
9. A. for	B. against	C. off	D. at

LIVEWORKSHEETS

10. A. With	B. Without	C. But for	D. Thanks
11. A. advance	B. advances	C. advanced	D. advancing
12. A. engaged	B. involved	C. successful	D. attended

III. Read the passage, and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each question.

William Sydney Porter (1862-1910), who wrote under the **pseudonym** of O. Henry, was born in North Carolina. His only formal education was to attend his Aunt Lina's school until the age of fifteen, where he developed his lifelong love of books. By 1881 he was a licensed pharmacist. However, within a year, on the recommendation of a medical colleague of his Father's, Porter moved to La Salle County in Texas for two years herding sheep. During this time, Webster's Unabridged Dictionary was his constant companion, and Porter gained a knowledge of ranch life that he later incorporated into many of his short stories. He then moved to Austin for three years, and during this time the first recorded use of his pseudonym appeared, allegedly derived from his habit of calling "Oh, Henry' to a family cat. In 1887, Porter man Athol Estes. He worked as a draftsman, then as a bank teller for the First National Bank.

In 1894 Porter founded his own humor weekly, the "Rolling Stone", a venture that failed within a year, and later wrote a column for the Houston Daily Post. In the meantime, the First National Bank was examined, and the subsequent indictment of 1886 stated that Porter had embezzled funds. Porter then fled to New Orleans, and later to Honduras, leaving his wife and child in Austin. He returned in 1897 because of his wife's continued ill-health, however she died six months later. Then, in 1898 Porter was found guilty and sentenced to five years **imprisonment** in Ohio. At the age of thirty five, he entered prison as a defeated man; he had lost his job, his home, his wife, and finally his freedom. He emerged from prison three years later, reborn as O. Henry, the pseudonym he now used to hide his true identity. He wrote at least twelve stories in jail, and after re-gaining his freedom, went to New York City, where he published more than 300 stories and gained fame as America's favorite short Story writer. Porter married again in 1907, but after months of poor health, he died in New York City at the age of forty-eight in 1910. O. Henry's stories have been translated all over the world.

1. According to the passage, Porter's Father was ____.

A. the person who gave him a life-long love of books

B. a medical doctor

C. a licensed pharmacist

D. responsible for his move to La Salle County in Texas

2. Why did the author write the passage?

A. to outline the career of a famous American

B. because of his fame as America's favorite short story writer

C. because it is a tragic story of a gifted writer

D. to outline the influences on O. Henry's writing

3. The word "**imprisonment**" in paragraph 2 is closet in meaning to ____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A. captivity B. escape C. insult D. punishment

4. What is the passage primarily about?

A. The life and career of William Sydney Porter B. The way to adopt a nickname.

C. O. Henry's influence on American literature. D. The adventures of O. Henry.

5. The author implies which of the following is true?

A. Porter's wife might have lived longer if he had not left her in Austin when he fled.

B. Porter was in poor health throughout his life.

C. O. Henry is as popular in many other countries as he is in America

D. Porter would probably have written less stories if he had not been in prison for three years.

6. Which of the following is true, according to the passage?

A. Porter left school at 15 to become a pharmacist

B. Porter wrote a column for the Houston Daily Post called "Rolling Stone".

C. The first recorded use of his pseudonym was in Austin

D. Both of Porter's wives died before he died

7. The word "**pseudonym**" in the passage refers to ____.

A. William Sydney Porter B. O. Henry C. Athol Estes D. the Aunt Lina

IV. Read the passage, and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each question.

A large number of inventions require years of **arduous** research and development before they are perfected. For instance, Thomas Edison had to make more than 1,000 attempts to invent the incandescent light bulb before he finally succeeded. History is replete with numerous other examples of people trying, yet failing to make inventions before they eventually succeeded. Yet some inventions have come about not through hard work but simply by accident in most cases, when someone unintentionally invented something, the inventor was attempting to create something else. For example, in the 1930s, chemist Roy Plunkett was attempting to make a new substance that could be used to refrigerate items. He mixed some chemicals together. Then, he put them into a pressurized container and cooled the mixture. By the time his experiment was complete, he had a new invention. It was not a new substance that could be used for refrigeration though. Instead, he had invented Teflon, which is today most commonly used to make nonstick pots and pans. Similarly, decades earlier, John Pemberton was a pharmacist in Atlanta, Georgia. He was attempting to create a tonic that people could use whenever they had headaches. While he was not successful in that **endeavor**, he managed to invent Coca-Cola, the world - famous carbonated soft drink.

Scientists have also made crucial discoveries by accident when they were conducting experiments. In 1928, Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, an antibiotic in this manner. He discovered some mold growing in a dish with some bacteria. He noticed that the bacteria seemed to be avoiding the mold. When he investigated further, he determined some of the many useful properties of penicillin, which has saved millions of lives over the past few decades. Likewise, in 1946, scientist Percy Spencer was conducting an experiment with

LIVEWORKSHEETS

microwaves. He had a candy bar in his pocket, and he noticed that it suddenly melted. He investigated and learned the reason why that had happened. Soon afterward, he built a device that could utilize microwaves to heat food, the microwave oven.

1: Which title best summarizes the main idea of the passage ____.

A. History's Most Important Inventions
B. Accidental Inventions and Discoveries
C. How to Become a Great Inventor
D. You Don't Always Get What You Want

2: In paragraph 1, the word "**arduous**" is closest in meaning to ____.

A. detailed B. tough C. specific D. constant

3: In paragraph 2, the word "**endeavor**" is closest in meaning to ____.

A. research B. dream C. request D. attempt

4: What does the author say about Teflon?

A. People first used it as a refrigeration device.
B. It was created many years before Coca-Cola.
C. The man who made it was a pharmacist.
D. It is used for kitchenware nowadays.

5: Who was John Pemberton?

A. The person who made Teflon
B. The creator of Coca-Cola
C. The man who discovered penicillin
D. The inventor of the microwave

6: The author uses Alexander Fleming as an example of ____.

A. one of the most famous inventors in history
B. a person who made an accidental scientific discovery
C. someone who became a millionaire from his invention
D. a man who dedicated his life to medical science

7: What does the author imply about penicillin?

A. Doctors seldom use it nowadays.
B. Some people are not affected by it.
C. It is an invaluable medical supply.
D. Mold combines with bacteria to make it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS