International School of Monterrey

Reading Comprehension

___th Grade
Trimester ___

Name _____ Date _____ List #: ____-____

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage, then answer the questions. (4 pts.)

Pickleball, Anyone?

One of the fastest-growing sports in the United States in 2022 is pickleball, but you should know that it has absolutely nothing to do with pickles. (We'll get to the name later.)

Pickleball is a lot like tennis. There's a court with white lines, a ball, and a net, and the point of the game is to hit the ball over the net before it bounces twice on your side of the court. If you don't, that's a fault, as is hitting the ball into or under the net or over the sidelines. Players win and lose points—not to mention games and matches—because of faults.

But pickleball has several features that are all its own. You hit the ball with a paddle instead of a racket, and the ball is plastic and has holes in it. There's also an area on either side of the net called the non-volley zone (NVZ). If your foot—even just a toe—happens to be in the NVZ when you're initiating or returning a volley, that's a fault. The thing is, sometimes you *can't* stay out of the NVZ because of how fast you're running to hit the ball—and then you're really in a pickle.

The game was invented in the summer of 1965 by U.S. Representative Joel Pritchard. He, his pal Bill Bell, and their families were bored one day. So together with a neighbor, they whipped up a game with ping-pong paddles and a perforated plastic ball. Pritchard's wife, Joan, came up with the name. She said that the way pickleball combined parts of other sports reminded her of a pickle boat in crew. (In a rowing competition, boaters from different teams who are left out of the main boat race are thrown together in the pickle boat.)

Nearly 60 years later, about 5 million Americans play pickleball regularly in parks, community centers, retirement communities, and as part of leagues. The game is catching on internationally, too. Clearly, pickleball is a sport that people everywhere seem to really, um…relish.

Dictionary

initiate *(verb)* To begin or get going.
perforated *(adjective)* Containing a hole or a series of holes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

_____ 1. Which of the following sentences expresses the main idea of the article?

A. Pickleball games are competitive, and players win points by hitting the ball over a net before it bounces twice.
B. Pickleball is a unique sport that combines parts of several sports, and it is growing in popularity.
C. Pickleball is often played in parks, but it's also played by residents in retirement communities.
D. Pickleball players must steer clear of the non-volley zone, but that can be very difficult at times.

_____ 2. Which passage from the article **best** supports the idea that it can be tough to score points in pickleball?

A. If your foot—even just a toe—happens to be in the NVZ when you're initiating or returning a volley, that's a fault.
B. You hit the ball with a paddle instead of a racket, and the ball is plastic and has holes in it.
C. [U.S. Representative Joel Pritchard], his pal Bill Bell, and their families were bored one day.
D. [Pritchard's wife] said that the way pickleball combined parts of other sports reminded her of a pickle boat in crew.

_____ 3. Which is the closest **synonym** for the word ***initiate,*** as it is used in the article?

A. dodge
B. prevent
C. launch
D. compare

_____ 4. According to the article, why did Joan Pritchard call her family's made-up game pickleball?

A. The game was invented while the family was eating pickles on a summer day.
B. The paddles used in the game had the color and texture of a pickle.
C. The addition of the non-volley zone often left players in a pickle.
D. The mix of different sports in the game reminded her of a pickle boat in crew.

LIVEWORKSHEETS