

Read each paragraph carefully. Then read the question on the left, and pick the best answer. Good luck!!

1.



Ruth started running races almost four years ago. She trained for each race carefully, and did everything her trainer told her to do. So far, she has never won a race. She hasn't even come in second or third. Her trainer told her to just stop doing races. Her friends told her to pick a different sport, but Ruth knows in her heart that she can win, if she just works hard enough. She has signed up for a 10K race next week, and she has trained harder than ever for the race. Her friends will not be at the race this time. They think she doesn't have a chance to win. Ruth doesn't care. She will win, sooner or later.

What is the theme of this passage?

- a. Follow the rules.
- b. Never give up your dreams.
- c. Ruth trains for each race.
- d. Running races is fun.

2.



Sam loved the adventure of hiking every weekend. He loved the fact that you just never knew what would come your way on a hike. One morning he took off walking in the woods, and came across a nice looking cave. As he started to enter it, he saw two eyes looking back at him, and heard a growl. There were no other hikers around to call to for help, and his cell phone didn't have service this deep into the woods. He slowly backed away from the cave, and climbed a nearby tree. He thought it might be a good idea to stay safe in the tree, until whatever owned those two eyes went back to sleep. No doubt about it! Hiking was exciting!

What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Sam loved hiking.
- b. Everyone should hike.
- c. It is better to be careful than foolish.
- d. Sam climbed a tree to hide.

3.



Igor wanted to control everything. He knew if he could get just the right combination of chemicals, he could put it in the water system. It would cause people to do exactly what he wanted them to do. He would have all of the money, all of the property and all of the power. No one would think he was just a crazy scientist ever again. They would fear him. People called him evil. Let them. He knew once he was in control, his will was all that would ever matter.

What is the theme of this passage?

- a. Igor wanted to control other people.
- b. Chemicals are dangerous.
- c. Good will overcome evil.
- d. The hunger for power can cause evil deeds.

4.



Harry's boss told him that he had to move to a new city. He needed Harry to take over a small office that was having problems. Harry was glad that his boss had confidence in him, but he was terrified to move. He liked where he lived, and all of his friends. The last thing he wanted to do was pick up and move to another place. It made him sweat. It gave him nightmares. He didn't know if he was even able to turn that office around. What if they didn't like him? What if he failed? He was moving next week.

What is the theme of this passage?

- a. Harry didn't want to move to a new city.
- b. Old friends are best.
- c. Change is hard.
- d. Worrying is an important part of life.

5.



Jack's family had always thought he would be a great film maker. Ever since he was a kid he had been directing their home movies. He made sure the background was just right, put them in the perfect spot and even yelled, "Take one," when it was time to record the video. When Jack was ready for high school his parents helped him get into a special school for the arts. There he could learn more about making movies. His uncle gave him a loan, so he could buy his first really good video camera. His grandma watched every video he made. Jack knew he would be successful, he had to be. He had people who believed in him.

What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Family is important.
- b. Jack's family thought he would be a great movie maker, and supported him.
- c. Practice makes perfect.
- d. Jack's family was foolish.

6.



Martha's mom had worked hard all week getting ready for Martha's birthday party. She had made the decorations, and even did magic for all of the guests. She also made her a big birthday cake that looked just like a castle. Her mom was always working hard for the family. She had a job, then came home and made sure Martha did her homework. She cooked dinner, and gave everyone lots of love. Martha loved her mom, and knew how hard she worked. Tonight she was really tired, so Martha decided to cook dinner for her.

What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Children should appreciate their parents.
- b. All work is important.
- c. Martha's mom works hard for her family.
- d. Martha's mom liked cooking.



7.



Joe has been trying to figure out how to use his new camera for weeks. Every picture was blurry. At first his pictures were fine, but after a day or two everything seemed to be messed up. There were so many buttons and functions on his camera that he was totally confused. When he bought the camera, it was all the buttons and functions that he thought would help him make great pictures. Now he wasn't so sure. He had a friend who was a professional photographer. She thought his camera was great, and offered to buy it from him. He took a deep breath. He decided that his phone was simple, and he knew how it worked. Maybe using his phone for pictures was his best option.

What is the theme of this passage?

- a. Photographers like complex cameras.
- b. Cameras are confusing.
- c. Joe can't figure out how to use his camera.
- d. Sometimes simple is better than complex.

8.



Sara's aunt had been complaining about things in her town for years. She didn't like the way things were going. No one in the town government listened to what the people in the town wanted. She decided to run for mayor. She promised that if she got elected she would listen to the people. She wanted them to know that their ideas were important. She was not going to complain anymore, now she would do something to make things better.

What is the theme of this passage?

- a. Action is better than complaining.
- b. Sara's aunt wanted to be mayor.
- c. Nothing ever changes.
- d. Sara's aunt liked politics.

9.



Jake had been a fireman for 15 years when the big fire in town happened. He saved 8 people all by himself. People all over town called him a hero. He said that he was just doing his job. He was always the first person to help get cats out of trees, or talk to kids about fire safety. Jake had wanted to be a fireman ever since he was 7 years old. Everyday he woke up happy, and ready to go to work. He loved helping people, and that's what being a fireman is all about.

What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Fires are dangerous.
- b. Jake wants to be a hero.
- c. Jake loves being a fireman, and helping people.
- d. Firemen are courageous.

10.



Mort would do anything. It didn't matter how crazy it was! Last week while watching an air show, Mort got into an argument with one of his friends. He said Mort could never walk on the wing of a plane like the performers in the air show could. Mort was sure it was super simple. All you had to do was keep your balance. He was great at that. After the argument got quite heated, Mort said he would do it this weekend. His friends tried to talk him out of it, after all, he had no training for that type of thing. Mort was determined. He finally found a pilot who shrugged his shoulders, and said he would take him up. After only a few seconds Mort lost his balance, and ended up clinging for dear life to the lower wing until the plane could land!

What is the theme of this passage?

- a. Mort is foolish.
- b. It can be dangerous to be foolish.
- c. Mort likes to argue.
- d. Air shows are dangerous.

11.



Ed had been robbing houses for years. He was great at it, and knew he would never get caught. He was careful, and watched his target for days to know when they would be gone. He could be in and out in less than ten minutes. This time was different. He had been in the house only a few minutes when the police came running in after him. He was arrested and thrown in jail. He would be a very, very old man before he even had a chance to get out!

What is the theme of this passage?

- a. Crime can help people.
- b. Ed was a criminal.
- c. Ed wasn't as careful as he thought he was.
- d. Criminals may be successful for awhile, but will be caught in the end.

12.



Harry really wanted to try skateboarding. He watched his two sons play on their skateboard for days. It looked like so much fun! He was afraid he was too old to get on a skateboard, but that didn't stop him from daydreaming about it all the time. One Sunday afternoon he saw the skateboard leaning against the wall in the living room. He picked it up, he spun the wheels. Then he got a big grin on his face. He took it outside and skateboarded down the driveway. His smile went from ear to ear! Then he did it again. When he looked up his two sons were smiling and cheering him on. He might be an old guy, but skateboarding was really fun!

What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Harry was excited about skateboarding.
- b. You're never too old for fun.
- c. Harry was too old to do something dangerous.
- d. Skateboarding is for kids.