Name_____

The Unknown Winston Churchill

Sir Winston Churchill is known as one of the greatest leaders in world history. His courage rallied England during World War II at a time when Germany was conducting nighttime bombing raids over British cities, killing thousands of civilians and destroying tremendous amounts of property. But the private Winston Churchill was a man of varied hobbies who lived an exciting life outside of his major political role in saving Europe from Nazi Germany.

During the Boer War in 1899, a train he was traveling on was stopped when Boer commandos blocked the train rail with a massive boulder. He fought bravely but was captured and taken as a prisoner to Pretoria in enemy territory. He escaped by jumping a wall and hitching rides on trains. His dangerous escape made him a national hero.

He suffered from depression and painted to help overcome it. He mostly painted landscapes with oil paints. He once entered and won a painting contest for anonymous painters. Many of his paintings hang today in galleries, and he is considered a very accomplished artist.

Churchill was also a world-renowned writer. Over the course of his life, he wrote many books and articles for magazines and newspapers. His most famous writings had to do with history. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953, which is the highest award an author can receive.

In addition to being a famous writer and painter, he was also a bricklayer and built many structures. Although built sixty years ago or more, many of the buildings and walls still stand today. He also bred butterflies and loved small animals.

Soldier, escaped prisoner of war, statesman, artist, writer, and bricklayer—Winston Churchill is not only known for his abilities as a world leader but also because he was an amazing man of numerous talents.

Text Questions

1. What does the word *structures* mean as it is used in the fifth paragraph?
   a. organizations
   b. arrangement of parts
   c. buildings
   d. the parts of an organism
2. What is one of Churchill's greatest accomplishments as an author?
   a. He wrote mostly about history.
   b. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature.
   c. He wrote articles for newspapers.
   d. He wrote about his accomplishments during World War II.
3. When was Churchill captured by the Boers?
   a. in 1953
   b. during World War II
   c. during World War I
   d. in 1899
4. What is Winston Churchill most known for?
   a. He was a great leader in world history.
   b. He rallied England during World War I.
   c. He escaped from capture in Pretoria.
   d. He was an accomplished painter.
5. Who do you consider to be one of the greatest leaders in history? Give reasons to support your answer.

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