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Reading and Analyzing Text

Read the passages “Lost Pet” and “Trusting Experience” before answering Numbers 1 through 7.

Lost Pet

“Ziggy!” Jasmine stood on the porch and called her cat, but no orange-and-white tabby strolled out from behind the shrubs or from under the minivan in the driveway.

“Ziggy, where are you hiding?”

Searching inside the house had proved fruitless, so Jasmine returned to the yard, calling and calling her cat as she combed every hiding place she could remember. Ziggy had never been missing for so long before. Worried, Jasmine decided to ask her parents for help.

She found her mother in the den. “Mom, have you seen Ziggy?” she asked.

“Not since early this morning,” her mother replied.

Next, Jasmine asked her father.

“I saw Ziggy strolling through the flowerbed, but that was hours ago,” he said.

By now, Jasmine was sure Ziggy had gotten lost. It was time to take action, so she took a sheet of paper, sketched a picture of Ziggy, and then wrote “Lost Cat” and her phone number below the drawing. She included a detailed description of her cat: large orange tabby, golden eyes, and fluffy coat of fur. Jasmine photocopied the posters and asked her mother to help her hang them up around the neighborhood. Then they went home to wait for a call.

Within two hours, the phone rang. A friendly voice said, “My name is Mrs. Garcia, and I believe I have Ziggy. A huge orange tabby just strolled into my yard this afternoon. He has been resting on the porch, and he looks very comfortable.”

“I’ll be right over to see if it’s Ziggy,” Jasmine exclaimed after jotting down Mrs. Garcia’s address.

Once Jasmine and her parents got to Mrs. Garcia’s house, they discovered that the tabby was indeed Jasmine’s lost Ziggy. Jasmine immediately scooped him up in her arms, nuzzled him, and buried her face in the soft fur of his neck. Ziggy closed his eyes and purred, as if his wandering away and being found again had been the most natural thing in the world.

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Jasmine's parents thanked Mrs. Garcia for her help and drove their daughter and her beloved pet back home.

The next afternoon, Jasmine spotted Mrs. Garcia walking down the street, a worried expression on her face.

Jasmine waved to her and walked over. "Is something wrong?" she asked.

"Yes, Jasmine. It's odd, coming so soon after your adventure with Ziggy, but today my dog, Diego, is missing.

Mrs. Garcia described Diego's looks and personality.

"Is he a beagle?" Jasmine asked, and Mrs. Garcia nodded yes.

"I can help," Jasmine said. "I'll make posters for you and put them up."

Jasmine went home and hurriedly sketched a picture of a beagle. She added Mrs. Garcia's phone number, Diego's name and description, and some details about how he got lost. Again she made photocopies, and again her mother helped her hang them up.

That evening, Mrs. Garcia called Jasmine with the happy report that someone had identified a lost beagle in his neighborhood as Diego.

"You used your experience with Ziggy to help me," said Mrs. Garcia. "I really appreciate it. I'd like to invite you and your parents over tomorrow to meet Diego and to have some cookies," she continued.

"I look forward to it," Jasmine replied. "I'm so happy that both of our stories had happy endings!"

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Trusting Experience

The wind screamed through the trees, vocalizing how I felt inside. The dogs dropped their chins and strained forward against the icy blasts of wind and snow that crisscrossed in front of us. As soon as I understood how dangerous this storm had become, I had turned the sled around toward home. Still, the trail had been made nearly invisible with snow. I made a kissing sound with my mouth and shouted, “Mush!” to my dog team. The wind stole my voice, but the dogs didn’t need to hear to know that they needed to push ahead and continue to seek out the trail that would lead us home.

They were experienced sled dogs. They could sense the changing weather and the dangers that came with it. It was me who was the inexperienced one. That fact, which I had boldly disregarded earlier, was clear now. Suddenly, my lead dog Paq halted in his tracks. The six other dogs stopped, too. My heart sank as Paq looked earnestly back at me over his shoulder. It was as if he was trying to say, “I tried, but I cannot find the way.” We had lost the trail. And my stubborn need to prove myself was to blame.

My thoughts drifted to the scene that had taken place that afternoon in my father’s blacksmith shop. “Papa, I can handle the team. Uncle is counting on receiving that set of tools. Please, Papa! I’ve been on the Innoko Trail with you dozens of times,” I begged.

“Miska, it’s not that I don’t trust you. Reports from the village are warning of an early fall storm. It doesn’t matter how many times you have traveled that trail. You know how an Alaskan storm will blot out the trail before you can even say, ‘Whoa,’” Papa responded, taking my chin in his rough, warm hand.

I shook his hand away in frustration. He probably planned to ask Yutu, the 17-year-old boy from the village who frequently ran Papa’s dogsled team, to carry the tools to my uncle. I knew I could mush, or drive, just as well as Yutu. Although the air was biting cold, the sky above was cloudless. Surely I could outrace a storm that wasn’t even on the horizon yet.

I left the shop in a huff and went directly to the kennel where our family kept our team of sled dogs. As I approached, several of the huskies rose to their feet. They wagged their tails in greeting. We loved and cared for our dogs like pets. First and foremost, however, our dogs were sled dogs. Their first love was mushing, carrying tools and supplies from my father’s blacksmith shop to villages throughout the rural Alaskan valley. Even as Paq now sniffed the air cautiously, perhaps sensing the impending weather change, he would eagerly run

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if given the command. In no time, I had harnessed the dogs. I stuffed the tools for my uncle along with food and blankets into the sled bag, and called, “Mush!” I did not look back.

Now, as the storm raged around my dogs and me, I knew the dangers that lay ahead if we couldn’t recover the trail. Bracing myself against the wind, I left the sled and went to Paq at the lead. I took his large, snow-crusting head in my mittens, pleading with his warm brown eyes. “I’m so sorry, Paq. I should have listened to Papa. Now, I am relying on you. You must find that trail, Paq!” As if he understood my words, Paq lifted his head and sniffed the air. He whined, turning left and right, and buried his nose in the snow. Finally, his ears perked. His muscles stiffened. He had found the trail!

I darted back to the sled and picked up the tug lines. I would put all of my trust and faith in the experience and instinct of my lead dog, Paq. I closed my eyes and imagined our warm cabin and my father’s worried eyes. I imagined how I would hug him tightly and tell him that I was sorry. “Take us home, Paq,” I whispered.

Now answer Numbers 1 through 7. Base your answers on the passages “Lost Pet” and “Trusting Experience.”

- 1** Read this sentence from the passage “Lost Pet.”

Searching inside the house had proved fruitless, so Jasmine returned to the yard, calling and calling her cat as she combed every hiding place she could remember.

What does the phrase *combed every hiding place* mean in the sentence above?

- Ⓐ gave thought to
- Ⓑ went quickly to a place
- Ⓒ imagined in one’s mind
- Ⓓ looked through carefully

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- 2 What is the setting at the beginning of the passage “Lost Pet”?
- Ⓕ in Jasmine’s yard and around her house
 - Ⓖ on the front porch of Mrs. Garcia’s house
 - Ⓗ inside Jasmine’s family’s minivan while the family is driving
 - Ⓘ on the street in Jasmine’s neighborhood where Jasmine is walking

- 3 Read this sentence from the passage “Trusting Experience.”

The wind screamed through the trees, vocalizing how I felt inside.

Why does the author compare the wind to a person screaming in the sentence above?

- Ⓐ to imply that the storm will soon pass
 - Ⓑ to suggest that the narrator is feeling angry
 - Ⓒ to show how intense and violent the storm is
 - Ⓓ to show how low the temperature has dropped
- 4 Which detail from the passage “Trusting Experience” BEST shows that inexperience can be dangerous in some situations?
- Ⓕ “Suddenly, my lead dog Paq halted in his tracks.”
 - Ⓖ “I made a kissing sound with my mouth and shouted, ‘Mush!’ to my dog team.”
 - Ⓗ “We had lost the trail. And my stubborn need to prove myself was to blame.”
 - Ⓘ “The dogs dropped their chins and strained forward against the icy blasts of wind...”

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- 5 Read this sentence from the passage “Trusting Experience.”

I darted back to the sled and picked up the tug lines.

Why does the author use the word *darted* instead of *went* in the sentence above?

- (A) to show the narrator’s fear of getting back on the sled
- (B) to show that the narrator does not move in a hurried way
- (C) to show how quickly the narrator moves back to the sled
- (D) to show how the narrator must walk carefully through the snow

- 6 Who narrates the passages “Lost Pet” and “Trusting Experience”?

- (F) Both passages are told from the author’s point of view.
- (G) Both passages are told from the point of view of a young girl.
- (H) “Lost Pet” is told from the author’s point of view, while “Trusting Experience” is told from the point of view of a young girl.
- (I) “Lost Pet” is told from the point of view of a young girl, while “Trusting Experience” is told from the author’s point of view.

- 7 How are the lessons that Jasmine and Miska learn DIFFERENT?

- (A) Jasmine learns that new experiences can be scary. Miska learns that new experiences can be fun.
- (B) Jasmine learns that her own experiences can help her understand others. Miska learns that some experiences cannot be shared.
- (C) Jasmine learns that more experience will help her be a better pet owner. Miska learns that even experienced people make mistakes.
- (D) Jasmine learns that she can use her experience to help others. Miska learns that she must trust those who have more experience than her.

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Read the article “Recycling” before answering Numbers 8 through 14.

Recycling

Have you ever used an old bag or box? If so, you have recycled. One way to recycle is to reuse old things in new ways. For example, you can make a desk organizer out of an egg carton, use the Sunday comics to wrap a present, or jot notes on the back of an old envelope.

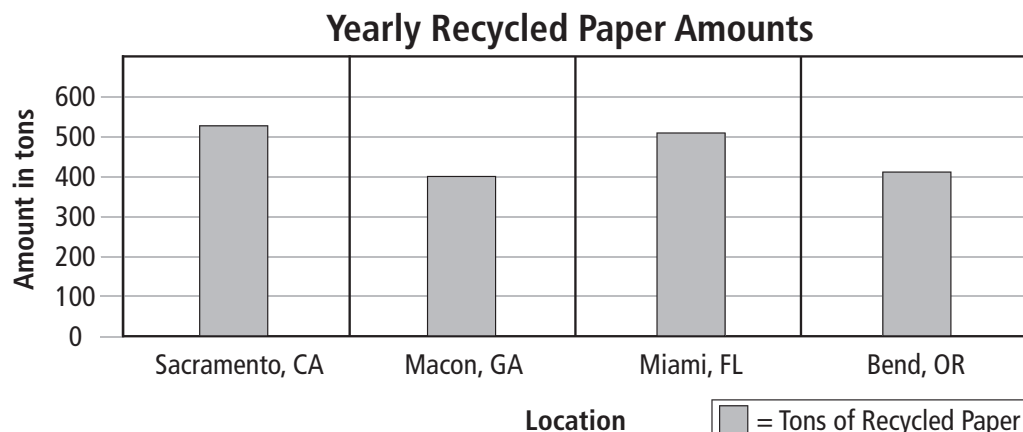
Many cities recycle. Residents put the trash that can be recycled into special bins. Glass, plastic, newspaper, some metals, and sometimes foam are among the materials that are recycled. The bins are put out with the trash. Next, they are picked up by sanitation workers. Then, they are sorted and taken to processing plants and factories to make new products. Therefore, recycling means less garbage.

What becomes of our recycled objects? Many new products are made from old ones. For example, old foam is shredded and pressed together into a jumble of many-colored foam. The new foam is stuffed into pillows or used as carpet padding. Old paper turns up on store shelves as paper towels, cardboard, pet beds, and even as copier paper. Glass bottles and jars may be crushed into tiny pieces and used to pave roads. Or, they may be ground up into sand-size particles that are used on golf courses.

Recycled plastic has many uses. It is used to make toys, pens, pencils, fences, flowerpots, and outdoor furniture. Some kinds of plastic are even used to make soft, warm clothes!

It is important to recycle. It helps us to have less garbage. It also keeps us from wasting the Earth’s trees and metals. When we recycle, we are being smart and taking care of the Earth, ourselves, and our future.

Look at the graph to see how many tons of paper each city recycles in a year.



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Now answer Numbers 8 through 14. Base your answers on the article
“Recycling.”

- 8 Read this sentence from the article.

**For example, old foam is shredded and pressed together into a
jumble of many-colored foam.**

What does the word *jumble* mean in the sentence above?

- Ⓕ mixture
 - Ⓖ order
 - Ⓗ pattern
 - Ⓘ picture
- 9 Which detail from the article BEST supports the author’s point that it is important to recycle?
- Ⓐ “Have you ever used an old bag or box?”
 - Ⓑ “Residents put the trash that can be recycled into special bins.”
 - Ⓒ “The new foam is stuffed into pillows or used as carpet padding.”
 - Ⓓ “It helps us to have less garbage.”
- 10 According to the article, what is one way people can reduce garbage in their homes?
- Ⓕ by crushing up jars
 - Ⓖ by reusing materials
 - Ⓗ by grinding up glass
 - Ⓘ by throwing out materials

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- 11** What will be the MAIN problem if people choose NOT to recycle?
- Ⓐ No new products will be developed.
 - Ⓑ The earth's trees and metals will be wasted.
 - Ⓒ Cities will have to distribute more recycle bins.
 - Ⓓ Cities will have to hire more sanitation workers.
- 12** Which detail from the article BEST supports the fact that cities that recycle produce less garbage?
- Ⓕ Recycled plastic can be used to make clothes.
 - Ⓖ Recycling is about taking care of the Earth and our future.
 - Ⓗ A recycled egg carton can be turned into a desk organizer.
 - Ⓘ Recycled materials are taken to factories to make new products.
- 13** How does the information in the graph BEST support the ideas in the article?
- Ⓐ It shows how much paper certain U.S. cities recycle in a year.
 - Ⓑ It shows how much garbage certain cities throw away every year.
 - Ⓒ It shows how much money certain cities save by recycling paper.
 - Ⓓ It shows different products that can be made out of recycled paper.
- 14** Based on the information in the graph, what new products were MOST LIKELY made from the material that the four cities recycled?
- Ⓕ road-paving materials
 - Ⓖ foam and carpet padding
 - Ⓗ cardboard and copier paper
 - Ⓘ flowerpots and outdoor furniture

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Read the poem “The Library” before answering Numbers 15 through 20.

The Library

by Barbara A. Huff

It looks like any building
When you pass it on the street,
Made of stone and glass and marble,
Made of iron and concrete.

But once inside you can ride
A camel or a train,
Visit Rome, Siam, or Nome,
Feel a hurricane,
Meet a king, learn to sing,
How to bake a pie,
Go to sea, plant a tree,
Find how airplanes fly,
Train a horse, and of course
Have all the dogs you’d like,
See the moon, a sandy dune,
Or catch a whopping pike¹.
Everything that books can bring
You’ll find inside those walls.
A world is there for you to share
When adventure calls.

You cannot tell its magic
By the way the building looks,
But there’s wonderment within it,
The wonderment of books.

¹ **pike**: a freshwater fish

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Now answer Numbers 15 through 20. Base your answers on the poem “The Library.”

- 15** According to the author, what does the library look like when FIRST passed on the street?

Ⓐ a foreign city
Ⓑ a magical place
Ⓒ a regular building
Ⓓ a place near the sea

- 16** Read these lines from the poem.

**But once inside you can ride
A camel or a train,**

What does the author mean in the lines above?

Ⓕ You can pet a camel.
Ⓖ You can buy a train ticket.
Ⓗ You can find libraries near train tracks.
Ⓘ You can read books about camels or trains.

- 17** What does the author compare the library to in this poem?

Ⓐ cities
Ⓑ people
Ⓒ storms
Ⓓ other buildings

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- 18 Read these lines from the poem.

**A world is there for you to share
When adventure calls.**

What does the author mean by the phrase *when adventure calls* in the lines above?

- Ⓕ when an experience is unexpected
- Ⓖ when a traveling experience comes to an end
- Ⓗ when an exciting experience is wanted or needed
- Ⓘ when an experience seems exciting but really isn't

- 19 What is the theme of this poem?

- Ⓐ Libraries often hold special events and activities.
- Ⓑ Reading books is the best way to gain knowledge.
- Ⓒ Everyone should travel at some point in their lives.
- Ⓓ Reading can introduce you to new ideas and experiences.

- 20 Based on how the author describes the library, what does the reader know about the author?

- Ⓕ She likes to eat.
- Ⓖ She likes to read.
- Ⓗ She likes to cook.
- Ⓘ She likes to garden.

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Read the article “Journaling” before answering Numbers 21 through 25.

Journaling

The word *journal* sounds a lot like the word *journey*—for a good reason. Both words come from a French word meaning “day’s work.” When you journal, you keep a record of your journey through life, often one day at a time. A journal can be a place where you write down your feelings and your memories of events. You can use a journal to record your observations about the world around you or interesting facts you have learned. You can even make up stories and poems and write them in your journal!

There are many advantages to writing in a journal. First, journaling can make you feel better. Sometimes, we just need a place to let off steam and express feelings we might otherwise keep cooped up inside. Secondly, journaling makes you think deeply. Reflecting on feelings and experiences is important for learning and improving oneself. Journaling can help you become a better writer. Writing and communication skills are important in so many areas of life—from school, to a future job, to your relationships with people. Journaling gives you lots of writing practice. The journaling process is pretty straightforward, but like anything, it can take practice and getting into a routine.

So, how do you go about starting and keeping a journal?

- 1 The first thing you need is an actual space in which to record your thoughts. In other words, you need blank pages! You can buy a book with blank pages. You can also easily make a book out of plain, white paper. If you prefer to type, you can create a journal on a computer.
- 2 Next, you will need to set aside some time for yourself to write. This is the hardest part about beginning a journal: finding a routine and sticking to it. Maybe you will decide to journal every morning before school, or maybe every other night before bed. Treat your journal like a good friend; make time for it.
- 3 Have a quiet place where you can go and write. It can be hard to think, reflect, and write when you are in a noisy place.
- 4 Have fun with your journal! Try out different types of writing. Reflect on a concept you learned about in science. Test out your poetry-writing skills. Recall a favorite childhood memory.

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- 5** Every once in a while, flip back through the pages of your journal and read what you have written. You might laugh at a funny memory or remember an interesting thing you witnessed on a hike. Best of all, you can see what you’ve learned, how you’ve grown, and where you’ve journeyed to and from!

Happy journaling!

Now answer Numbers 21 through 25. Base your answers on the article “Journaling.”

- 21** Read this sentence from the article.

The journaling process is pretty straightforward, but like anything, it can take practice getting into a routine.

What does the word *straightforward* mean in the sentence above?

- (A) easy
- (B) meaningful
- (C) strange
- (D) vague

- 22** Read this sentence from the article “Journaling.”

Treat your journal like a good friend; make time for it.

Why does the author compare a journal to a good friend in the sentence above?

- (F) to show that a journal should be hidden in a safe place
- (G) to show how similar journaling and talking to friends are
- (H) to show how important it is to dedicate oneself to journal-writing
- (I) to show that a journal is something that needs to be shared with others

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- 23 Read this sentence from the article.

Recall a favorite childhood memory.

What does the word *recall* mean in the sentence above?

- (A) become unfamiliar
 - (B) remove or take away
 - (C) receive from someone
 - (D) bring back into one's mind
- 24 Which detail from the article BEST supports the idea that there are many advantages to writing in a journal?
- (F) "The word *journal* sounds a lot like the word *journey*—for a good reason."
 - (G) "Reflecting on feelings and experiences is important for learning and improving oneself."
 - (H) "The first thing you need is an actual space in which to record your thoughts."
 - (I) "If you prefer to type, you can create a journal on your computer."
- 25 Which sentence BEST describes how the end of the article is organized?
- (A) It compares drawing with writing in a journal.
 - (B) It tells the steps in order to start and keep a journal.
 - (C) It describes what a journal is and how they are used.
 - (D) It proves the importance of using a journal in school.