



Name _____

Date _____

PG-13 MOVIES

Have you been to the movies lately? You have probably noticed that each movie has a rating. The ratings are meant to be guidelines for viewers, to explain levels of violence, language, and other characteristics of movies. The rating system was set up to prevent children from being exposed to inappropriate or intensive scenes or story lines. It seems that these days the rating is used to entice movie fans to go to a movie, as opposed to avoiding a movie.

Adding the PG-13 rating has allowed movie producers to avoid the strict standards of the ratings system. It seems that if a movie wanted to add more violence or bad language but not get the R rating, movie producers would go for the PG-13 rating. Exactly what is the difference between the R rating and the PG-13 rating? As far as I can see, there isn't one.

At one time, the R rating meant that it was not appropriate for children under a certain age. In fact, they were not allowed into the theater without an adult. Now, not only can children go to the movie without an adult, but also movie producers change the rating to PG-13 so that more kids can attend. By using the PG-13 rating, just about anything goes. When will movie executives and producers be held to a high standard again? Kids are seeing worse things on the big screen than they've ever seen before. What's next: a PG-8 rating?

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following is a reason presented in this passage as to why children should not be allowed to watch PG-13 movies?
 - PG-13 movies are produced with higher budgets than R movies.
 - Movie producers are allowed to add more violence and language with the PG-13 rating than an R rating.
 - Many PG-13 movies have high levels of violence and bad language.
 - The rating system was set up to prevent children from seeing anything inappropriate.
- Which of the following statements would the author of this passage most likely make?
 - Children need to be taught how to decipher the ratings system on movies.
 - Parents should hold movie theaters accountable for letting their children in movies.
 - Movie producers should be held to higher standards when they are given a rating for their movies.
 - PG-13 movies should not be allowed.
- What is the meaning of the word *intensive* as used in this passage?
 - strenuous
 - deceased
 - concerned
 - graphic



Name _____

Date _____

SIXTH GRADE EDUCATION

What type of school do you attend? Is it an elementary school? Is it a middle school? Or is it a junior high? Teachers throughout the country have differing opinions as to where sixth graders should go to school.

Some teachers and parents say that sixth graders should attend school in elementary schools with kindergarten through sixth grade. They feel that sixth graders are too young to go to school with seventh and eighth graders. They feel that sixth graders are still very young and impressionable. They are at a different social and emotional level than junior-highers.

Going to school with older students encourages sixth graders to behave poorly and exposes them to inappropriate behaviors. Some teachers and parents feel that sixth graders have their childhood taken away when they are in the junior high or middle school environment.

Other educators and parents feel that the needs of sixth graders would be met best in the middle school or junior high setting. In this setting, sixth graders can be encouraged and pushed to higher levels. Sixth graders in this setting can participate in school sports, and they can experience a variety of classes. They feel that keeping sixth graders in elementary school keeps them in a self-contained classroom with one teacher. Going to school with younger students keeps the sixth graders immature.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion about where sixth graders should go to school?
 - a. The author thinks that sixth graders should attend elementary school.
 - b. The author thinks that sixth graders should attend middle school.
 - c. The author doesn't know where sixth graders should attend school.
 - d. You can't tell the author's opinion from reading the passage.
2. What is the main idea of paragraph two?
 - a. to explain how sixth graders adapt socially
 - b. to explain the benefits of sixth graders attending elementary school
 - c. to explain the benefits of sixth graders attending middle school
 - d. to explain the benefits of sixth graders attending junior high school
3. Which of the following is not one of the reasons teachers feel that sixth graders should attend middle school?
 - a. Sixth graders do not know how to switch classes.
 - b. Sixth graders are too mature for the elementary school setting.
 - c. Sixth graders need to be given more opportunities.
 - d. Sixth graders need to be pushed to excel at a higher level.



Name _____

Date _____

SKATEBOARD PARK

There are two sides to every issue. Whether to build a skateboard park in the community is an issue that definitely has two sides. There are many people who believe the city should build a skateboard park to accommodate the number of skateboarders in the community.

This group feels that skateboarding is a new and upcoming sport and that city officials should allow skateboarders to enjoy it. The city already provides basketball courts, tennis courts, racquetball courts, and more. Among the many benefits of a skateboard park is that it would keep skateboarders off the cement driveways of banks and other public buildings. The only reason skateboarders skate there is that they have nowhere else to go.

Those with an opposing point of view feel that there should not be a public skateboard park built. The main reasons for the disapproval have to do with safety and security. A skateboard park has a reputation that comes with it. Many kids that skateboard tend to be rowdy kids who don't behave appropriately. Building a skateboard park attracts these kids, and it brings down the surrounding neighborhoods in the area.

Who would supervise the park? Many skateboarders do not wear helmets. Many fights break out at these parks. Who would be there to monitor these activities? The neighbors living nearby certainly don't want to put up with this. Finally, who will pay for the park? Cement costs a lot of money.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which would be the best title for this reading passage?
 - "Choose Your Own Sports Activity"
 - "My Community, My Choice"
 - "Boarders vs. Non-boarders"
 - "To Build or Not to Build"
- Which of the following is the main reason to support a skateboard park?
 - It will allow skateboarders a place to ride their skateboards.
 - Parents would be more comfortable if their children were skateboarding in a park instead of in a bank driveway.
 - The skateboarders have a right to ask the community to build them a park.
 - The skateboarding community would be very happy.
- What is meant by the word *reputation* as used in this passage?
 - group restraint
 - entitlement of a group
 - good history
 - belief or expectation about a group



Name _____

Date _____

FIX THE LIBRARY

Have you been to the school library lately? If you have, you've probably noticed that there is plenty of room for improvement. Something needs to be done to improve the school library.

The government and school leaders are all calling for better readers. They say that kids these days just don't read enough! They say they watch too much television and play too many computer games. Well, if the adults want students to read more, they need to do their part to help the kids read.

When is the last time you spent time in the school library? You've probably noticed that there isn't a very good selection of books. The number of books on the shelf is few, and the books on the shelves are old and outdated. The books have been falling apart for a long time. It is not very fun to read a book that is missing pages or is ripped or has smudge marks on it.

Not only are the books old, but they are also very outdated. There isn't a single book in the library that was written in the last 10 years. There have been so many new authors and new books that are great! Why can't the students in this school have access to these great books? The school has got to put its money where its mouth is. If they want the students to read, give them better reading material!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. People who agree with this passage probably feel that . . .
 - a. parents should take more responsibility in getting books for their children.
 - b. schools need to adjust their budgets to better fund the library.
 - c. schools need to stop talking about the importance of reading.
 - d. teachers should receive more training and instruction on how to encourage reading.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
 - a. the library can be a great resource for students if it is funded appropriately.
 - b. the school needs to have better librarians to teach students how to read.
 - c. the principal should have a meeting to discuss how to improve the library.
 - d. the library needs to be organized in a better manner.
3. Which statement names one of the ways suggested in the passage to improve libraries?
 - a. Why can't the students in this school have access to these great books?
 - b. They say that kids these days just don't read enough!
 - c. If they want the students to read, give them better reading material!
 - d. The number of books on the shelf is few and the books on the shelves are old and outdated.



Name _____

Date _____

IMPROVING RECESS

At least two or three times a day, students are released from the classroom to go to recess. Recess is meant to be a break and a time to relax the brain and release some energy. But for many students, recess is a stress and a strain. There are many things that can be done to improve recess.

First, the playground itself needs to be improved. There are too many children on the playground at one time. There just isn't enough for all the kids to do. The playground equipment is designed for about 30 children. In actuality, there are more than 100 children playing at one time.

This poses safety concerns at recess. There are too many activities going on (children running and hitting balls) to have the students so close together. There is not enough space to really play the games and activities safely. Children using the playground equipment are at risk of being injured because of such crowding. Children are also prone to fighting and arguing over the equipment, and they struggle to find things to do at recess. It is amazing that more children have not been hurt or seriously injured.

Along with these issues, there is never enough supervision for all of the children. It's impossible for one or two adults to adequately supervise 100 students at recess. Parents need to be more aware of what is taking place at recess so that they can push for improvements and changes.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the reading passage?
 - a. Children enjoy free time outside.
 - b. Children watch too much television.
 - c. Children need more supervision.
 - d. There should be changes to the way the playground is set up and supervised.
2. What is meant by the term *prone* as used in this passage?
 - a. condemned
 - b. uncertain
 - c. more likely to
 - d. excited
3. According to the passage, which of the following is a reason that playgrounds are deemed unsafe?
 - a. Children are prone to fighting.
 - b. The playgrounds are not constructed correctly.
 - c. There is not enough cushioning beneath the playground equipment.
 - d. There are too many children playing on the equipment.



Name _____

Date _____

SCHOOL CONDITIONS

Each year the children head back to school. Most schools open at the end of the summer months, when the heat is at its highest point. The humidity in the air only makes things worse. And what are most new students greeted with? They are greeted with a hot and sticky room that only transitions to a stiff and freezing room in a few months. Why can't schools be given adequate funds to heat and cool school buildings?

Why must students suffer the consequences of money being spent elsewhere? Children spend the greatest part of their day in the classroom. Along with poor heating and cooling, many students are attending classrooms that are old and dilapidated. Many of the schools across the nation are in terrible condition.

Many of the schools have mold growing inside the walls, along with leaks in the ceilings and walls and cracked windows and roofs. Why must our nation's children attend schools that are in such a condition? Don't they deserve the best? How do we expect them to compete with other nations when we aren't giving them the best? School districts need to look at how they are spending their money, and the state and federal governments need to ensure that the schools are given their top priority.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph in this passage?
 - a. The schools that children attend are not large enough.
 - b. The schools that children attend are old and not safe.
 - c. The schools that children attend do not have adequate heating and cooling.
 - d. The schools that children attend do not have enough teachers.
2. What strategy does the author of the passage use to appeal to the reader?
 - a. The author uses specific examples to support claims.
 - b. The author uses questioning as a way to get the reader thinking.
 - c. The author uses shock value to get the point across.
 - d. The author uses compare and contrast as a literary technique.
3. What question shows that the author is trying to appeal to the competitive nature of parents in the audience?
 - a. How do we expect them to compete with other nations when we aren't giving them the best?
 - b. And what are most new students greeted with?
 - c. Why can't schools be given adequate funds to heat and cool school buildings?
 - d. Why must our nation's children attend school in such a condition?



Name _____

Date _____

TEACHER SALARIES

In the United States, teachers do not get paid enough. Teacher salaries have continued to be lower than they should be. In a country where education is of great worth, teachers are expected to bear the weight of teaching and educating today's children without being adequately compensated. A comment was made by a middle-school student that a convenience-store clerk makes more money than a teacher does. If the students can see the discrepancies, why can't lawmakers and other adults?

It is very difficult to attract highly qualified teachers because the best individuals have selected better-paying fields. They have chosen fields where they will be rewarded for their hard work and effort. The effects of this are that children today are falling through the cracks when it comes to their education. They are left without the skills they need to survive in today's world. They are reading and writing at low levels, and their math skills continue to decline, as well.

Some critics of raising teacher salaries state that teachers get the whole summer off and that they are paid for the time they spend on the job. This just isn't the case. Most teachers spend their summers planning and preparing for the upcoming year. Many are also attending conferences and training seminars—at their own expense—to improve their teaching abilities.

Having the summer off also puts a strain on the teacher during the school year. Teachers are highly discouraged from using "sick days" because they had all those days off in the summer. This is especially difficult for teachers who have family health issues and other problems that need their attention. Some school districts go as far as pressuring the teachers not to use sick days so that they can save money in their budgets by not using substitutes. This is wrong. Now is the time for teachers to be duly compensated for all of their hard work and effort.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following best describes the author of this piece?
 - reticent and quiet
 - obnoxious and loud
 - frustrated and demanding
- Which statement below helps support your answer to the previous question?
 - They are left without the skills they need to survive in today's world.
 - This is wrong. Now is the time for teachers to be duly compensated.
 - Teacher salaries have continued to be lower than they should be.
- What is meant by the word *discrepancies* as used in this passage?
 - annoyances
 - differences
 - challenges
 - objectives



Name _____

Date _____

LUNCH CHOICES

What did you have for lunch today? Did you like your choice? When most adults go to work, they can choose from many different places to eat their lunch. Children, on the other hand, have very limited choices. This just isn't right. Children are growing and developing their bodies. They need healthy choices at every turn. They are bombarded with sweets and high-fat snacks. Providing more choices at lunch will help students grow to be healthy and strong. School administrators need to make changes.

The current choices students have now are not enough. The first choice kids have is the school cafeteria lunch. In theory, these lunches are supposed to be nutritionally sound. The reality is very different. These lunches are typically high in fat and they usually taste bad. They are bland and do not have many spices. This is done so that the meal will appeal to a large audience, but the results are boring and not very healthy.

The other choice available to students is to bring a sack lunch from home. Although this sounds like a great idea, lunches from home aren't much better. There is no refrigeration available for school lunches at school, so sack lunches are pretty limited. Usually sandwiches are the main dish. Sack lunches are typically thrown together at the last minute, and that can be a problem. They are often filled with already-packaged foods that are very high in sugar and calories. You see, this option isn't much better. There have to be more options for students to choose from at lunch so that they can have well-balanced meals at school.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - a. Children should be given more options on what to eat for lunch.
 - b. The meals in the cafeteria are bland and not appetizing.
 - c. Adults have more choices than kids do for lunch.
 - d. Experts disagree on the daily nutritional value of cafeteria lunches.
2. Who is the audience for this reading passage?
 - a. cafeteria workers and school administrators
 - b. teachers and students
 - c. parents and guardians
 - d. all of the above
3. Which of the following is not how the author describes school cafeteria lunches?
 - a. bad tasting
 - b. bland
 - c. nutritional
 - d. high in fat



Name _____

Date _____

TOO MUCH FUNDRAISING

Every time you turn around, there seems to be another fundraiser being pushed at school. Where is the imaginary sign that reads, "Public School: Fundraising Welcome!"? It seems like every other month there is a new fundraising program taking place in the schools.

All students are pressured to participate for the good of all students. The need for fundraisers seems to be endless: new playground equipment, materials and supplies, overnight or out-of-state school trips, etc. How many tubs of cookie dough, candy, coupons, and magazines can a kid sell? Instead of getting an education, it seems that kids are getting trained to be salespeople.

The pressure tactics placed on children is also too much. Children are enticed to participate in the programs by having prizes and toys dangled in front of them. The reality is that few, if any, students actually receive any of the high-end items. It is almost impossible to sell enough items to earn the prizes promised.

Most children end up with the plastic and cheap toys. These toys are a great example of false advertising. Let's give the fundraisers a rest. Most parents would rather donate a dollar or two instead of being asked to sell another thing!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. "Children are enticed to participate in the programs by having prizes and toys dangled in front of them." *Enticed* means . . .
 - a. make room for.
 - b. show strength for.
 - c. to compensate or adjust for.
 - d. lured.
2. Which of the following is probably a reason why students feel pressured to participate in fundraisers?
 - a. The school has presentations for all students, and packets are given out at school.
 - b. The companies have the phone numbers of all students.
 - c. Students receive grades based on their fundraising success.
 - d. Teachers make sure that students are selling items door to door.
3. The passage is mostly about . . .
 - a. how students are learning about false advertising.
 - b. how students are learning to be salespeople.
 - c. how students are pressured to get prizes.
 - d. why fundraising should be kept out of school.



Name _____

Date _____

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Why don't the schools offer more after-school activities for students? Schools have the perfect set up to provide more opportunities for students to participate in healthy and meaningful activities. These activities would help keep students involved and exercising. Children do not have enough free activities available to them.

The school doesn't need to spend money to accomplish this proposal. The money has already been invested. The baseball fields and the gymnasiums in the schools should be put to good use. These facilities are not being used to their full potential. The school could easily offer activities such as baseball, basketball, volleyball, football, soccer, and running clubs.

The school could charge a nominal fee for students. The funds would go to providing a supervisor or coach. Parent volunteers could be recruited. If desired, schools could charge extra for craft, cooking, and art classes to allow more children the opportunity to participate. This proposal would not only help the children in getting their much-needed exercise, but it would also give the school a more positive image in the community.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. This passage is mostly about . . .
 - a. how children are not getting enough exercise.
 - b. using the school playing fields and facilities to provide more activities for kids.
 - c. how the school could make more money by charging for after-school activities.
 - d. whether or not schools need insurance to provide after-school activities.
2. Which of the following reasons was mentioned in the passage explaining why some people think that schools should provide after-school activities?
 - a. to allow students safe places to go after school
 - b. to allow a safe place for working parents to send their children after school
 - c. to use the resources of playing fields and gymnasiums already built
 - d. to allow schools to spend time teaching the basics during school, and to have physical education after school
3. The passage says that after-school activities would benefit the students. Which sentence supports that statement?
 - a. The school could charge a nominal fee for students.
 - b. Parent volunteers could be recruited.
 - c. These activities would help keep students involved and exercising.
 - d. If desired, schools could charge extra for craft, cooking, and art classes to allow more children the opportunity to participate.



Name _____

Date _____

TAKE THE TEST

Do you feel like you are constantly taking tests? It's been reported that the educators today administer more tests to students than ever before. There are tests to begin kindergarten. There are two or three achievement tests administered each year. In order to graduate from high school, students are required to take yet another test. Tests, tests, and more tests.

It's a known fact that tests are a means to determine whether or not students are learning the material being taught. However, there are many different ways to assess student comprehension and understanding. Besides, the tests seldom evaluate the information desired in the first place.

You may think that teachers are to blame for all the tests. This just isn't the case. Most teachers wish there was less testing. Did you know that many teachers are threatened if their students do not perform at a certain level on a test? They are threatened with having tenure taken away or being monitored. Teachers are also pressured to teach to the test so that students will be successful taking it. This means that important curricula and material are being ignored so that students will know how to answer questions on a test. Will knowing the answer to these test questions really make a difference in their future education or their future livelihood?

Students deserve to be taught meaningful information that will be relevant and help them excel in life. Too much time is wasted in teaching to the test. Teachers should be given more support and encouragement instead of being constantly judged on how well their students perform on various tests. All this testing has got to stop.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. Money should be set aside in the school budget to teach test taking skills.
 - b. Parents should be held accountable for how students do on the test.
 - c. The curriculum being taught in school needs to align with the test questions.
 - d. Teachers should not be pressured concerning tests administered in schools.
2. Standardized tests are administered in schools with the intent to . . .
 - a. determine the skills and abilities of the students.
 - b. meet minimum standards set by the teachers' unions.
 - c. help children become better test takers.
 - d. test how well of a job the teacher is doing.
3. What does the author say will happen if the students spend too much time taking tests instead of learning valid material and subjects?
 - a. Students will leave school with an insufficient education.
 - b. Parents will have to start home schooling their students.
 - c. The testing companies will go out of business.



Name _____

Date _____

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Every child who attends a public school or even a private school has to deal with the idea of school assemblies. Some assemblies are put on to generate school spirit. These assemblies certainly have their place. On the other hand, there are many other school assemblies that are nothing more than a big waste of time. This practice has got to stop.

School assemblies usually turn into a punishment based on student behavior. Students are out of seats, usually sitting on the floor in a crowded room. The main feature of the assembly is usually far away, and the sound quality is very poor. No wonder students start to act up in school assemblies. It's boring, it's hard to hear, and it's uncomfortable. Heard in the background during any assembly are the harsh whispers by teachers saying, "Shhh!"

Assemblies should be optional. Students shouldn't have to participate if they wish to engage in something else—perhaps even something educational! As it is, valuable educational moments are lost while students are forced to sit through one more mind-numbing school assembly.

Students are seldom asked what type of assemblies they might find interesting. Students are never asked to share their opinions of which guest speaker they think would be interesting. Teachers need to consider the educational needs of the students before putting together one more assembly.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion of school assemblies?
 - a. School assemblies are usually shallow and do not inspire students.
 - b. School assemblies funny and entertaining.
 - c. School assemblies are an excuse to get out of class.
 - d. School assemblies are relevant and play an important role in education.
2. Which statement below from the passage portrays the author's opinion?
 - a. Some assemblies are put on to generate school spirit.
 - b. Students are out of seats, usually sitting on the floor in a crowded room.
 - c. As it is, valuable educational moments are lost, while students are forced to sit through one more mind-numbing school assembly.
 - d. Heard in the background during any assembly are harsh whispers.
3. What is meant by the statement, "Teachers need to consider the educational needs of the students before putting together one more assembly"?
 - a. The author wants assemblies to be put together by the students.
 - b. School assemblies can have an impact that lasts for a lifetime.
 - c. School assemblies should be put together by teachers.
 - d. Time spent on school assemblies shouldn't detract from the true education of the students.



Name _____

Date _____

EMAIL MESSAGING

Most schools in the country have access to the Internet and to electronic mail. Thousands of dollars and many hours of volunteer time have been spent to ensure that this is the case. Most people agree that they want their schools to be on the cutting edge of technology. Why then, do many teachers neglect to use the resources at their fingertips?

There are many teachers who fail to communicate with parents via email. This is such a quick and easy thing to do. However, too many teachers feel that they do not have the time or the desire to be that involved technologically.

There are many benefits to having teachers communicate with parents via email on a regular basis. One of the benefits for parents is that they are able to stay up to date on missed assignments or homework that has not been turned in. Parents can also stay up to date on grades of their children. This valuable information not only helps the parents be informed, but it holds students accountable knowing that the email notices are coming home.

Email messaging is also convenient. Parents do not need to make special trips to meet with teachers. Email communication eliminates the need for both parents and teacher to try and catch each other using the phone. In many ways, email communication is also better than a parent-teacher conference! The parent is only allowed around 15 minutes per conference. That's enough time to say hello and goodbye. Email communication and other means of technological communication are the way to go!

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following are the benefits of teachers communicating with parents via email messaging?
 - Kids are allowed to check their grades from home.
 - Everyone has access to email.
 - Email messaging eliminates one-on-one conflicts between teachers and parents.
 - Email messaging allows parents and teacher to communicate about tests, grades, and homework in an effective and easy manner.
- Which of the following is one of the reasons the author states why teachers do not use email messaging?

a. not enough computers	c. lack of time
b. lack of knowledge	d. no access to it
- Which of the following could be eliminated or reduced with more communication via email messaging?
 - student tests
 - parent-teacher conferences
 - curriculum nights
 - verbal communication



Name _____

Date _____

ROOM FOR ART

The time has come for schools to commit to the arts. School curricula have been lacking in this area for far too long. The time has come for students to be taught the arts in school. Experts have determined that teaching and involving the students in the arts is a great boost to students' self-esteem and self-image. Participation in the arts has proven to be great therapy for at-risk students.

The arts involve so many different areas. Art can be creating pottery, singing, playing an instrument, sculpting, painting a picture, tap dancing, ballet dancing, jazz dancing, poetry reading, doing mime, or acting and drama. Art is much more than just drawing a picture with crayons. Schools are missing great opportunities to reach their students by ignoring the arts. Some claim that schools can't afford to offer the arts in school. It seems apparent that schools can't afford *not* to teach the arts.

There are many different ways to incorporate the arts in the schools. There are many schools that participate in artist-in-residence programs. These programs allow professional artists to come in and share their talents and skills with the students. Artists charge nominal fees, and both the artist and the students benefit. Inviting a variety of artists allows for a variety of experiences. When finished learning about a specific art, students can share what they have learned in a performance or an exhibit.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. You can tell from the passage that the author feels that art in school leads to . . .
 - a. less control of students in the school.
 - b. uninspired teachers.
 - c. stronger teachers and administration.
 - d. educated students with a variety of experiences and opportunities.
2. Which statement from the passage portrays the author's opinion about how to bring the arts into the school?
 - a. Art is much more than just drawing a picture with crayons.
 - b. Inviting a variety of artists allows for a variety of experiences.
 - c. Schools are missing great opportunities to reach their students by ignoring the arts.
 - d. Experts have determined that teaching and involving the students in the arts is a great boost to students' self-esteem and self-image.
3. What is meant by the word *benefit* as used in the passage?
 - a. advantage
 - b. experience
 - c. support
 - d. rearranging



Name _____

Date _____

FEMALE SPORTS

Why isn't there more funding available for female sports? Schools across the nation spend thousands of dollars to make sure that the boys' football and basketball teams are fully funded and supported, but not much thought is put into sports for girls. It seems ridiculous that the girls' teams go without the needed equipment and coaching staff so that the boys' teams will prosper and be successful.

It's time for schools to spread the wealth. School budgets spent on boys' and girls' sports should be divided evenly. Many opponents claim that if this is done, then all support of the boys' programs will be reduced. They claim that the boys' sports programs bring in more money for the schools. But how do they know this? They've never given the girls an equal chance to compete and show their stuff.

If there were booster clubs set up for the girls' teams, then there will probably be just as much support. This is especially the case when the girls' teams are faring better than the boys' teams.

Coaches and school officials have ignored this plea for too many years. Boys' teams have coaches that are paid a much higher salary than those of the girls' teams. It's obvious that the more you spend on a position, the better and more qualified the individuals you will be able to attract.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. The schools are not spending enough money on girls' sports teams.
 - b. The money earned from sports programs should be returned back to the sports programs.
 - c. The main idea is about whether or not the boys' sport programs have adequate funding.
 - d. Parents should be responsible to provide extra money for the girls' teams and not the school.
2. You can tell from the passage that the author feels that . . .
 - a. girls' sporting programs are a waste of money.
 - b. girls' sporting programs need to be restructured.
 - c. parents should be responsible for teaching their daughters how to play sports and not the school.
 - d. girls' sports programs need better funding.
3. Which of the following statements does not support the author's opinion?
 - a. Parents are the best supporters of the sports program.
 - b. More money should be given to coaches of female teams.
 - c. It is very important to allow the female sport teams to flourish.
 - d. Money spent on male and female teams should be equal.