

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Forgiving**

The bell rang to signal the beginning of lunch. Juanita rushed out of the classroom and headed straight for the library. There was no way she was going to eat in the cafeteria today. Not after what happened in class. She would be too embarrassed to face everyone so soon afterwards.

Juanita couldn't believe her luck. No one noticed she'd gone missing. Even the teachers, in their rush to have their own thirty-minute break, hadn't noticed she'd slipped away from the rest of the class. If her luck would only hold, she could slip past the eyes of Mrs. McGuire, the librarian, and hide out in the corner of the fiction section of books where there's a nice, minute cubbyhole just large enough for her to sit and go undetected.

It didn't take long for Juanita to solve her next dilemma. She waited for another student to reach the circulation desk and begin a conversation with Mrs. McGuire, and then she slipped past her eagle eyes and into the place she planned to spend the next thirty

minutes. However, when she rounded the corner, she was shocked to see her entire class, including her teacher, standing in her way. They must have entered through the other set of double doors while Juanita was trying to sneak past the front desk.

"I can explain," Juanita's voice sounded worried even to her own ears.

"You don't need to," her teacher interrupted. "We are like a family, Juanita. Sometimes we do things we wish we hadn't done. Sometimes we get embarrassed. Sometimes we get upset. Sometimes we even make mistakes. But, what we don't do, what we never do, is not be there for each other." She smiled at Juanita, and all the other students began to cheer.

Juanita knew she would never forget today. No matter what happened from this point forward, she would always remember how kind everyone had treated her, and she hoped she could pay the kindness forward.

**Text Questions** .....

- What has Juanita done that causes her to try and hide from the rest of her class?
  - She made fun of some of her classmates as they were giving their speeches.
  - She slipped and fell in front of the entire class.
  - The passage never reveals what she has done.
  - She was disrespectful to the teacher.
- The first sentence in the second paragraph states that Juanita couldn't believe her luck. What does this expression refer to?
  - Juanita was always winning contests.
  - Juanita had earned a good grade in the class.
  - Juanita was in class with many of her best friends.
  - Juanita had slipped away without anyone seeing her.
- The last sentence in the story states that Juanita hopes she can pay the kindness forward. What does this statement mean?
  - She hopes one day she can be as kind to someone else as the class was to her.
  - She hopes she can get enough money to give some to everyone in the class.
  - She hopes to get a job after school.
  - She hopes to complete volunteer hours at the school.
- What does the phrase "eagle eyes" mean as it is used in the third paragraph, when the words are used to describe the librarian Mrs. McGuire?
  - Mrs. McGuire has great eyesight and rarely misses seeing anything.
  - Mrs. McGuire has eyes the color of an eagle.
  - Mrs. McGuire has eyes that are set close together and look mean.
  - Mrs. McGuire has golden-colored eyes.
- List three things in sequential order that happen in the story.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Lucky Break**

The ballgame was tied, and time was running out. Mark Thomas knew he would have to do something fast if the Ravens were going to beat their rivals, the Knights. He knew the coach was counting on him as quarterback to lead the team to victory. He only hoped he could make the right decision.

The crowds on both sides of the football field were all standing on their feet. With only one minute left, there was very little time for mistakes. The Ravens had the ball on their own ten-yard line, but they were also facing a fourth down. Normally, they would have brought in their kicker and scored the three points given from a field goal to take the lead. But last week's game had badly injured their field-goal kicker, and the coach couldn't be certain he was ready yet to kick the winning points. Instead, he was counting on Mark to throw the touchdown pass that would win the game and send the Ravens on to the playoffs.

Mark knew which play he was going to call. The team made a quick huddle and then broke up and walked to

the line. Mark could see the defense adjusting to line up against their offense. As the play began, Mark could see it all happening in slow motion. The player he had planned to throw the ball to was being blocked by one of the Knights' defensive players. He glanced to his left and saw no help there. He swallowed the panic he was feeling and searched the field, looking for the answer in the play that was unfolding.

Then he saw it: a whole setup for him to run through. He abandoned the plan to throw for the winning touchdown and, instead, tucked the ball securely against him as he ran through the opening and crossed the line for the winning touchdown. The crowd went wild as the team scored and the clock ticked down until all the time was gone. The Ravens had won!

As everyone cheered Mark, he knew the moment he could talk, he would make sure everyone knew he had not won the game for the team. It took all the players to win. He had simply carried the ball for the entire team.

**Text Questions**

- Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
  - "The Last-Second Win"
  - "The Boy Hero"
  - "Winning Isn't Everything"
  - "Hold Your Horses"
- What can you conclude about Mark after reading the story?
  - He is extremely self-centered.
  - He is a team player.
  - He loves receiving accolades.
  - He is the best quarterback the Ravens have ever had.
- Which paragraph best explains Mark's feelings about winning the game?
  - second paragraph
  - third paragraph
  - fourth paragraph
  - fifth paragraph
- What is the main idea of this text?
  - It often takes a team to be successful.
  - One person can make all the difference.
  - One person who is not a team player can ruin everything for everyone else.
  - Everyone wants the chance to be a hero.
- What does the word *abandoned* mean as it is used in the following sentence: "He abandoned the plan to throw for the winning touchdown and, instead, tucked the ball securely against him as he ran through the opening and crossed the line for the winning touchdown."
  - gave up
  - tried again
  - remained
  - explained



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Lost and Found**

Meg couldn't find her phone anywhere. She knew her parents were going to be so upset with her. They hadn't wanted to buy her a phone for her birthday because they thought she wasn't responsible enough to keep up with one. But she had begged and pleaded and tried to convince them she was responsible until finally they had given in and purchased the phone for her.

Now, she knew she was proving them right.

She and her friends had been at the waterpark for only an hour when she realized her phone was nowhere to be found. She wanted to take pictures using the camera, but when she went to get her phone, it was gone. Despite her best search of the area, she couldn't find the phone anywhere.

Meg sat down on the chair beside the pool. She could feel the tears sliding down her cheeks. She hoped the others thought it was just water from the pool. She didn't want them to know she was crying.

Suddenly, she heard a familiar tune. The ring was coming from her phone, but where was it? She jumped up from the chair and began frantically searching through bags and under towels. When she looked up, a guy about her age was walking toward her with her phone in his hand and a grin on his face.

"I knew eventually I would find the owner this way. The relief that went across your face when you heard your ringtone was so obvious. I believe," the stranger said as he held out her phone, "that this belongs to you."

Meg couldn't stop grinning as he explained he worked at the snack bar and had found her phone there. She remembered now having it with her when she went to get a drink, but when she left, all she had in her hands was her purchase. Meg thanked him for finding her phone. She wasn't sure if she'd tell her parents about losing her phone, but she was definitely sure that she had learned a lesson about being responsible.

**Text Questions**

1. In what way is Meg irresponsible?
  - a. She begs her parents for a phone for her birthday.
  - b. She talks to strangers.
  - c. She loses her cell phone.
  - d. She cries when she can't find her phone.
2. Which of the following statements can be inferred about Meg once she has found her phone?
  - a. She will most likely be more responsible.
  - b. She will probably still continue to lose her things.
  - c. She will probably have to get a new phone from her parents.
  - d. She will probably keep asking her parents for new things.
3. Which sentence from the text helps you to explain your answer for question two?
  - a. Meg couldn't stop grinning as he explained he worked at the snack bar and had found her phone there.
  - b. She remembered now having it with her when she went to get a drink, but when she left, all she had in her hands was her purchase.
  - c. Meg thanked him for finding her phone.
  - d. She wasn't sure if she'd tell her parents about losing her phone, but she was definitely sure that she had learned a lesson about being responsible.
4. What is the main problem in the story?
  - a. Meg wants her parents to buy her new things all the time.
  - b. Meg is too scared to ask her friends for help.
  - c. Meg cannot find her phone, even though she promised her parents she would be responsible if she had one.
  - d. Meg is afraid of the water and will not do any of the activities at the water park.
5. Why does Meg most likely not want her friends to know she is crying?
  - a. She doesn't want to be embarrassed.
  - b. She doesn't want to upset them.
  - c. She doesn't want everyone to look for her phone.
  - d. She doesn't want her friends to see her not wearing her makeup.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't Stop the Music**

"What's wrong?" Kevin asked his sister Janelle as she stormed into the house, slamming the door behind her.

"Everything!"

"Can you be more specific?" Kevin tried to joke, but his sister was not in the mood to smile.

Janelle looked at him and rolled her eyes before answering. "They want to get rid of the band at our school to save money. I don't know what I'll do if that happens."

Kevin listened intently, surprised when he heard the news. The high school band was Janelle's life. She loved everything about it. He suddenly felt just as upset as his sister did.

"They can't do that," he protested.

Janelle poured herself a glass of tea from the kitchen refrigerator and then turned to face her brother. "Mom

and Dad are going to a meeting tonight to see what can be done. Hopefully, they can get everyone to listen to how important the program is for so many students at our school."

There wasn't much else Kevin could do to help, but he hated seeing Janelle so sad. "Why don't we make some signs and posters to take to tonight's meeting, and then I can drive you over there tonight if you want to go."

Janelle smiled for the first time since she'd walked through the door. "That would be great, Kevin. At least then I know I'm doing something to help."

Kevin smiled back at Janelle. He knew what they were doing might not make a difference, but he would always be there for Janelle. He hoped, no matter how things turned out, that she knew that.

**Text Questions** .....

- Which sentence best shows that Kevin wants to help his sister?
  - "What's wrong?" Kevin asked his sister Janelle as she stormed into the house, slamming the door behind her.
  - Kevin listened intently, surprised when he heard the news.
  - "They can't do that," he protested.
  - "Why don't we make some signs and posters to take to tonight's meeting, and then I can drive you over there tonight if you want to go."
- Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
  - "Stop, Look, and Listen"
  - "Something Strange"
  - "Let the Beat Go On"
  - "Brothers and Sisters"
- What can the reader infer about Kevin's relationship with his sister?
  - They rarely get along.
  - They care what happens to each other.
  - They do not have much of a relationship.
  - They do not go to the same schools.
- From the story, what can the reader conclude will most likely happen to the band program?
  - There is not enough information to know.
  - The band program will most likely be canceled.
  - The band program will most likely be saved.
  - The students will have to change schools if they want to be in band.
- What is the main idea of the last paragraph?
  - Janelle can only rely on her brother for help.
  - Janelle's brother will always try to help her if he can.
  - Janelle is closer to her friends than to her family.
  - Janelle does not want help from anyone.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Unexpected Gift**

Max stood at the window, watching the taillights on his brother's car slowly disappear down the driveway. He stood by the window until he could no longer see them. His parents were both outside, still waving at his brother, even though he knew his brother was too far away to see them now. He couldn't believe that his brother had just left for college. In four years, it would be his turn, but that didn't matter right now. What mattered was that Camden was gone.

He turned away from the window and sighed. He and Camden had always been close despite the differences in their ages. Sure, Camden had given him the occasional hard time, but then that's what big brothers were supposed to do. But most of the time, his brother had always invited him along. Even when he was going to games or other events at the school or with his friends, he hadn't minded most of the time if Max came, too. He knew from talking to his friends that he was lucky to have a brother like Camden. And now, Camden was gone. Max knew Camden would come home and visit, and they'd talk all the time, but he also knew it would never be the same as it was.

As the door to the outside opened, and his parents came in, Max could hear his mother crying. His parents were going to miss Camden just as much as he was. He needed to remember that and try to be there for them, but right now, he just wanted a moment alone.

Opening the door to his room, he was surprised to see a package sitting on his bed. He went over and saw a card sticking out. He opened it and immediately recognized Camden's handwriting even with just the one word he'd written . . . *surprise!*

Max ripped into the paper and laughed out loud when he saw what it was. He ran downstairs to show his parents. Camden had written a manual on what they should do for the first ten days after he left so they wouldn't miss him so much. Max quickly saw that day one involved going to a movie and getting pizza and then calling Camden at least three times while they were out. Max was glad to see his parents were smiling as they left the house to begin enjoying the ideas Camden had given them.

**Text Questions** .....

- Which adjective best describes Max and Camden's relationship?
  - antagonistic
  - bitter
  - unusual
  - friendly
- Why is the gift Camden leaves so important to Max?
  - Max has been wanting to go out and see a movie.
  - Max now has a reason for his parents to give him some attention instead of his brother.
  - Max sees that Camden knew they would miss him and was trying to be supportive of his family.
  - Max knows Camden spends a lot of money on gifts for the family.
- What can one infer about the relationship between Max and Camden?
  - They will most likely remain close.
  - They will most likely stop being close.
  - They will most likely never speak to each other again.
  - They will most likely remain close until Max goes to college.
- Which paragraph best explains how Camden treated Max when he still lived at home?
  - first paragraph
  - second paragraph
  - third paragraph
  - fifth paragraph
- Why does Max most likely want some time alone at first?
  - so his parents won't see how upset he is
  - so he can take a nap
  - so he can talk on his phone without being interrupted
  - so he doesn't have to talk to his mother

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Winter Blues**

"I know we wanted some snow days, but this is ridiculous!" Todd Frank stood out in his yard and looked at the three feet of snow that blanketed the front area of his house. He and his friend, Paul, were out with their sleds, trying to find something new to do since they had been out of school now for two weeks due to the inclement weather.

"I know what you mean, Todd," Paul said. "At first, it was fun getting to sleep in late, drink lots of hot chocolate, and play in the snow. But now," he sighed, "well, I hate to admit it, but I'm starting to miss school."

Todd nodded in agreement. "Don't tell anyone, but I feel the same way. It's bad enough with me that I'm even starting to miss my teachers!"

Paul laughed and said, "Okay, I promise. I won't tell anyone you said that!"

The two boys kept walking, pulling Todd's sled behind them. "Maybe we could make some money while we're off school," Paul spoke up. "We could offer to take people's pets on sled rides for \$1.00 each. Since people can't get out and walk their dogs, they might be willing to pay for them to ride."

Todd shook his head. "I don't think that's going to work, but it would be a good idea if we figured out a way to fight our boredom while making some money." Just then, Todd saw his neighbor Mr. Mundy shoveling the snow from his driveway. When he saw how hard the work was for his neighbor and how he had to keep stopping to rest between each shovel, both boys had the same idea at the same time.

Two hours later, when the driveway was shoveled and they had extra money in their pockets, they were both changing their minds about wishing the snow would go away.

**Text Questions**

1. What does the word *inclement* mean as it is used to describe the weather in the first paragraph?
  - a. unfavorable
  - b. favorable
  - c. changeable
  - d. unusual
2. What is the most likely reason the boys are starting to wish they could go back to school?
  - a. They are getting bored.
  - b. They are tired of being cold.
  - c. They are wishing for summer.
  - d. They want to have work to do.
3. What do the boys decide to do to help relieve their boredom?
  - a. go skating
  - b. get a job
  - c. go back to school
  - d. go take a nap
4. How does the reader know the boys took the job shoveling the driveway?
  - a. The story states the driveway was shoveled and the boys now have money.
  - b. The boys stated they shoveled the driveway to help their neighbor.
  - c. The neighbor thanks the boys for doing such a nice job shoveling his driveway.
  - d. The reader cannot determine if the boys did or did not shovel the neighbor's driveway.
5. Which part of the story helps you to explain your answer for question four?
  - a. the title
  - b. the introduction
  - c. the body of the story
  - d. the conclusion



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**High in the Sky**

The view from up above the treetops was unbelievable. Sandra smiled at her best friend. She could not believe they were both riding in a hot-air balloon, high above the treetops and the rooftops of all the buildings they could see.

Two weeks ago, Sandra had called in to a radio station, trying to win tickets to a concert. She didn't win the concert tickets, but instead was given the second-place prize, which included breakfast and two tickets to ride in a hot-air balloon. As she gazed in wonder at all they were seeing, she found it hard to believe that this prize was considered second place. It was amazing!

The hardest part about the entire experience had been trying to decide who she would invite. She didn't want to hurt any of her other friends' feelings, but when she really thought about it, she knew the choice was easy. She had to choose Theresa. They had been friends since kindergarten—long before she had met any of her other friends.

Sandra looked over at Theresa and could tell she was having a great time just like she was, when all of a

sudden everything started to become blurry. Sandra could feel herself getting hotter and hotter as the heat rose from inside the balloon. Before she knew it, she felt her legs buckle underneath her, and she lost all consciousness. When she woke up, Theresa's concerned face was hovering over her as were the faces of the two men who had taken them out in the hot-air balloon. Sandra was shocked when she realized they were already on the ground. She must have been passed out longer than she realized.

"Are you okay?" Theresa asked.

"I guess I just got too hot," Sandra explained. "I can't believe I passed out and missed the landing!"

Theresa grinned, now that she knew Sandra was okay. "Don't worry," she said, holding up her phone, "I videoed the entire thing. Not only did we have a spectacular landing, but there's some great sleeping princess video that you aren't going to want to miss!"

**Text Questions** .....

- Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
  - "The Greatest Gift of All"
  - "High, Higher, Highest"
  - "Adventure in the Sky"
  - "On the Ground"
- List three things in sequential order that happen in the story.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Why does Sandra feel as if the prize was just as good as the first-place concert tickets?
  - because she is having an amazing time
  - because she loves traveling
  - because she decided that she no longer liked the singer whose concert tickets she was trying to win
  - because she did not have to spend any extra money
- What does Theresa mean when she says she has a video of a sleeping princess?
  - She has a video of Sandra before they arrived.
  - She has a video of a cartoon about princesses.
  - She has a video of Sandra when she was unconscious.
  - She is only joking because she did not take any video.
- Which part of the story best explains why Sandra passed out?
  - the title
  - the introduction
  - the body
  - the conclusion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Unexpected Help**

"I can't believe I have a flat tire!" Tom Shepherd looked at the front tire of his car and sighed. The last words his father had said to him before he left the house for school was to be sure to be careful with his car. He was only letting Tom borrow the Mustang because Tom's car was still in the shop. Now, he would have to call him to come and fix the tire. He knew his father wouldn't blame him for the flat tire, but he still dreaded making the call because something had happened to his father's vehicle while he had it.

"You need some help?" a man's voice brought Tom away from his musings. He looked up and saw his friend Jeff's father. He was looking at the tire and then at Tom.

Tom responded, "I was just about to call my dad, but I remembered he's in a meeting this afternoon. I'm not sure what to do next."

Jeff's dad nodded his head in understanding before speaking up. "I tell you what, Tom. I'm going to have to wait for Jeff for at least another hour while he gets

out of practice. Why don't we take this tire off and run it over to the tire shop and see what can be done."

Tom's eyes lit up with hope. It didn't take them long to remove the tire and throw it in the back of the truck. Once they arrived at the tire shop, Tom realized he knew the owner. He lived only a few houses down from where Tom lived. The owner of the shop quickly looked over the tire and assured Tom that he could remove the nail they had found and plug the tire. When he was finished with the repair, Tom pulled out his wallet, hoping he would have enough money to pay for the repairs.

"It's on the house," the man said, surprising Tom. "I just hope in the future, you'll bring me your business." Tom shook his hand and assured him he would definitely come again when he needed help. Jeff's dad drove Tom back to the school, and they had just finished putting the tire back on when Jeff came out of practice. Tom knew he could never have managed everything without such amazing, unexpected help.

**Text Questions** .....

- Why does Tom most likely not want to call his father for help with the car?
  - His father will be very disappointed in him.
  - His father would never let him borrow his car again.
  - His father would take away his privilege to drive.
  - His father trusted him with the car, and Tom doesn't want to take it back to him with something wrong.
- What does the word *musings* mean as it is used in the second paragraph?
 

a. thoughts	c. rumors
b. lies	d. dreams
- Which adjective best describes Tom?
 

a. concerned	c. reckless
b. irresponsible	d. euphoric
- What is the main purpose of the first paragraph?
  - to explain what has happened to the car
  - to explain how Tom always gets what he wants from his parents
  - to explain how Tom fixes the flat tire
  - to explain what Tom will do once he gets home
- What will Tom likely do in the future if he has a flat tire?
  - He will call his father.
  - He will take his car back to the same tire shop.
  - He will call Jeff's father.
  - He will stop driving.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Day Off**

Devon had a huge chemistry test, but he had forgotten to study. He could not believe it was now time for bed, and he had not put any time into studying all the notes and study guides that he had in his binder.

He knew he should stay up late and study for at least an hour, but if his mother saw him studying, she would know he forgot, and he knew she would only be upset with him. He didn't want that either.

Devon sighed. He had spent the night helping his mother get ready for their yard sale for this weekend. It wasn't as if he had been playing games or watching television. They had both been working hard for hours. He knew his mother would have wanted him to study instead of working with her. None of this was her fault. He had just simply forgotten.

Devon didn't know if he would ever fall asleep; he was that worried, but the next morning, the sound of the alarm was loud in the small space of his bedroom. His hand reached out and smacked at the offending noisemaker, hoping to hit the snooze and gain a little

more sleep. As he rolled over, he saw his chemistry book on the floor beside his bed. Reality came rushing back to him, and he sat up quickly. He definitely didn't have time for the snooze button. In fact, he needed to get ready as quickly as he could, so he could at least study a little bit this morning.

Just as Devon was about to go downstairs and get his breakfast, he heard his mother's voice hollering up the stairs for him to hurry down. He wondered what could be wrong this early in the morning. When he got down the stairs, his mother was looking at the television.

"You are not going to believe this, Devon. Something has happened with the water at your school. The news just reported it will be at least a day before everything is fixed, so you don't have to go to school today. Looks like you get to enjoy an unexpected day off!"

Devon couldn't believe his luck, but much to his mother's surprise, he didn't go back to bed. He decided not to waste another second. He opened his chemistry book and started to study.

**Text Questions .....**

1. What problem does Devon have?
  - a. He is not prepared for school.
  - b. He has no more time to help his mother.
  - c. He cannot finish what needs to be done for the yard sale.
  - d. He has failed his chemistry test.
2. Why does Devon believe he will have trouble falling asleep?
  - a. He is worried about his mother.
  - b. He is worried about his grades in school.
  - c. He is worried about the test that he has the next day.
  - d. He is worried about a disagreement that he had with his friends.
3. What will Devon most likely do with his unexpected free day?
  - a. He will continue to help his mother get ready for the sale.
  - b. He will study for his chemistry test.
  - c. He will go back to bed and sleep.
  - d. He will call his friends and hang out with them.
4. What does the story's title mean?
  - a. Devon almost breaks his arm.
  - b. Devon is lucky because his uncle gives him some money.
  - c. Devon gets an extra day to study that he isn't expecting.
  - d. Devon and his mother have won a large sum of money.
5. Why is school canceled for the day?
  - a. There is a problem with the electricity.
  - b. It is Saturday.
  - c. There is a problem with the water line.
  - d. School is canceled so Devon has more time to study.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Tastes Like Chicken**

Makenzie's mother was so excited they were eating at the newest restaurant in town. Ever since her mother and father had divorced, the two of them rarely ate out. They had to watch carefully the money they spent each week. However, tonight was a celebration. Makenzie's mom had received a promotion at her job and a gift certificate from her colleagues at work to go out and celebrate with her daughter. Both had been overwhelmed by the generosity of those working with her mother.

As the two sat down to eat, the waiter asked if they would like an appetizer. Makenzie's eyes roamed the menu, but nothing caught her eye. Makenzie's mother ordered a sampler platter for them to share, and she wondered what all would come with the appetizer since she hadn't seen the platter on the menu. She didn't have to wonder too long as the waiter brought a large dish to their table.

Makenzie's mother put two fried pieces of meat on her plate. She knew it wasn't chicken, but she did not know exactly what her mother was expecting her to try.

Trusting her mother, Makenzie bit into the tender, fried meat. It was delicious and tasted just like chicken. She quickly ate both pieces, hoping there would be more for her to try. She almost wished she hadn't even ordered a meal. She could make a meal off the appetizer since it was that good.

When the waiter came back to refill their drinks, he looked at Makenzie's plate and then at her as he spoke, "So, I see you really like frog legs; I've never tried them before, but I've been told our restaurant makes the best ones around."

Makenzie stared in horror at the remaining food on her plate and then at the waiter. She managed to nod her head but could not say anything. She looked up at her mother, but her mom looked just as shocked as she did.

Finally, Makenzie managed a smile as she picked up the remainder of the appetizer ready to take another bite. She might have been eating frog legs, but they tasted just like chicken.

Maybe new experiences weren't so bad after all.

**Text Questions** .....

- Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
  - "What Is It?"
  - "Tasty New Treat"
  - "Frogs, Toads, and Other Critters"
  - "The Special Day"
- Which paragraph best explains why Makenzie and her mother needed a special night out together?
  - first paragraph
  - second paragraph
  - third paragraph
  - fourth paragraph
- Which sentence from the text helps you to explain your answer for question two?
  - Ever since her mother and father had divorced, the two of them rarely ate out.
  - Both had been overwhelmed by the generosity of those working with her mother.
  - As the two sat down to eat, the waiter asked if they would like an appetizer.
  - Trusting her mother, Makenzie bit into the tender, fried meat.
- Which is a synonym for the word *celebration* as it is used in the first paragraph?
  - ceremony
  - gala
  - coronation
  - community
- In the last line of the story—"maybe new experiences weren't so bad after all"—what might Makenzie be referring to besides eating new foods?
  - learning to live with a new family situation
  - learning to go to a new school
  - learning to eat with chopsticks
  - learning to speak Spanish



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Hoping for the Best**

The sound from Miranda's alarm clock would not stop. Miranda reached over and hit the snooze button to stop the reverberations of the noise echoing in her room. The action brought her a few moments of peace and quiet.

On a normal day, Miranda jumped out of bed even before the alarm clock could ring. She did not mind getting up early; in fact, she loved morning because she could complete her two-mile run before most of her family was even beginning to stir. She ran every morning so she could be the best she could be. However, this morning was different. This morning, she was going to the doctor. She would find out whether the pain in her leg was something that could be easily healed or would stop her from doing the thing she loved most: running with the track team.

As the alarm rang out again, Miranda knew she could no longer stall. She cut off the offending noise and rose from her bed. She could hear her mother rattling pans

down in the kitchen. She knew she was making her favorite breakfast of pancakes and bacon. Her mother always made her favorites whenever Miranda was facing a crisis, but she'd never faced anything like this before.

Sighing into the quiet of the room, she grimaced slightly as she placed her foot on the ground to stand up. The pain, which radiated down her right leg and just underneath her knee, was bad but not unbearable. Surely, Miranda thought, the injury would not be as bad as her overactive imagination had decided it would be.

She shook her head to clear her thoughts and readied herself to join her mother. As she walked into the kitchen, her mother smiled at her. Miranda instantly felt comforted. If nothing else, Miranda at least knew one thing was certain. She was not alone in this and that would make all the difference, no matter what the day brought.

**Text Questions**

- Which adjective best describes Miranda?
  - negative
  - demure
  - determined
  - stubborn
- Which paragraph from the text helps you to explain your answer for question one?
  - first paragraph
  - second paragraph
  - third paragraph
  - fourth paragraph
- What is the title of the text "Hoping for the Best" most likely referring to?
  - Miranda is hoping to make the track team at her school.
  - Miranda is hoping to get good news from the doctor.
  - Miranda is hoping her mother is making her favorite breakfast.
  - Miranda is hoping she can have time to sleep longer.
- Which word best describes Miranda's mother?
  - supportive
  - annoying
  - frustrating
  - manipulative
- What does the word *radiated* mean as it is used in the fourth paragraph?
  - glowed
  - spread
  - stopped
  - tingled

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Not So Easy**

Sarah had five dogs that she had to walk each day. She was paid by her neighbors to walk their dogs because most of them did not get home from work until very late. Sarah would go to their homes, one at a time, and then she would walk each dog for a short time before moving on to the next dog.

Normally, Sarah loved her job. In fact, she knew she would need all the money she could get with the plans she had for the future. When she graduated high school, she wanted to go to college and become a veterinarian. She knew it would take a lot of hard work and dedication, but she could not imagine a life in which she couldn't work with animals. She wanted to help any animal she ever saw that was hurt or in need. When she was little, she was always trying to put bandages on the arms and legs of her stuffed pets.

This afternoon, though, Sarah just couldn't enjoy her work. All of her friends were meeting at Charlie's Cheeseburger Palace, and she'd heard from her friend

Claire that Tim was going to be there, too. Sarah had a crush on Tim and was jealous that everyone would be there, except her.

As Sarah arrived at the first house, inspiration struck! She would simply go to each house and get each dog and walk all the dogs at one time. That way, she could still complete her job, get paid, and still have time to go and meet her friends.

Thirty minutes later, Sarah knew the brilliant idea she'd had was not so brilliant after all. She was sitting on the curb of the road, desperately trying to untangle three different leashes. Two of the dogs would not stop growling at each other, and her arm was exhausted from trying to keep all the dogs walking and not running.

Sarah had learned an important lesson. There were no shortcuts in doing a good job. She would just have to go and meet her friends on another day.

**Text Questions**

1. Why does Sarah most likely work a job each day?
  - a. She needs the money to eat out with her friends.
  - b. She needs the money to save for college.
  - c. She needs the money to pay her cell phone bill.
  - d. She needs the money to save for a dog of her own.
2. Which line from the story best shows that Sarah always wanted to be a veterinarian?
  - a. Sarah had five dogs that she had to walk each day.
  - b. Normally, Sarah loved her job.
  - c. She wanted to help any animal she ever saw that was hurt or in need.
  - d. When she was little, she was always trying to put bandages on the arms and legs of her stuffed pets.
3. Which words best describe Sarah's new plan for walking the dogs?
  - a. a big mistake
  - b. a brilliant plan
  - c. an ingenious idea
  - d. a mistaken identity
4. What does the phrase "inspiration struck" mean as it is used in the fourth paragraph?
  - a. Sarah was hit by a car.
  - b. Sarah was afraid of lightning strikes.
  - c. Sarah had a new idea.
  - d. Sarah knew she needed to quit her job.
5. Based on the text, what will Sarah probably do next?
  - a. She will quit her job.
  - b. She will try again to walk all of the dogs at the same time.
  - c. She will beg her parents to buy her a dog of her own.
  - d. She will continue to walk the dogs the way she used to do the job.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Amazing Win**

Mandy couldn't believe she was at the concert with her best friend, Tamara. The past two days had seemed like a dream. She had wanted so much to be able to go and see her favorite band who were coming to Nashville for one show only, but tickets had been much too expensive. She did not have the money to buy even one ticket, much less two so her best friend could go with her. Her mother had suggested she and Tamara try and win the tickets from the local radio station. The station was set to give away ten tickets.

Each afternoon, Mandy and Tamara would rush home from the high school and begin to listen to the radio, waiting for their chance to call in to win. They listened intently and tried calling but were never the winners. Eight tickets were quickly gone and eventually only two remained to be given away. They knew their chances were not good, but the two girls continued to try.

When the signal was given to call in for the last two tickets, both Mandy and Tamara quickly dialed the

number. Mandy could not believe it when her phone began to dial and the radio station answered. She put the call on speaker, and both girls listened intently as the disc jockey asked a trivia question about the band that had to be answered before they could receive the coveted tickets. Both girls were so excited to have the chance to win the tickets, that when the question was asked, they froze. Neither could remember the correct answer to the question. Just then Mandy's mother walked into Mandy's room. She heard the question through the speaker and saw the girls' dilemma. Without missing a beat, she supplied the correct answer for Mandy to repeat. The tickets were theirs!

Mandy and Tamara screamed and ran over and hugged Mandy's mother, wondering out loud how she had known the answer. Mandy's mom laughed and assured the girls that all she had heard for an entire week was the two girls talking about the band. She had learned plenty about the group, but it was all thanks to their obsession.

**Text Questions .....**

1. Why is Mandy unable to get tickets to the concert?
  - a. She has no way to get anywhere so she can purchase the tickets.
  - b. She cannot afford the price of the tickets.
  - c. Her mother will not let her go to the concert.
  - d. She has no one to go with to the concert.
2. Why is the story titled "The Amazing Win?"
  - a. because the mother knew the answer to the trivia question when the girls did not
  - b. because Tamara was lucky to get through to the radio station
  - c. because Mandy did not even try to win
  - d. because none of the characters in the story had phones
3. Which is a synonym for the word *dilemma* as it is used in the third paragraph?
  - a. moment
  - b. problem
  - c. idea
  - d. memory
4. Which paragraph best explains how Mandy's mother was able to answer the trivia question?
  - a. first paragraph
  - b. second paragraph
  - c. third paragraph
  - d. fourth paragraph
5. Which sentence from the text helps you to explain your answer for question four?
  - a. Each afternoon, Mandy and Tamara would rush home from the high school and begin to listen to the radio, waiting for their chance to call in to win.
  - b. She heard the question through the speaker and saw the girls' dilemma.
  - c. The tickets were theirs!
  - d. Mandy's mom laughed and assured the girls that all she had heard for an entire week was the two girls talking about the band.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Unexpected Invitation**

Sam was definitely nervous. It was his first day at a new school, and lunch was only thirty minutes away. For most people his age, lunch was the best part of the school day. Lunch involved time to talk with your friends, catch up on what everyone one is doing, and, of course, eat. Sam, however, didn't know anyone. When it came time to go to lunch, he knew he would have no idea where to sit or with whom to sit.

Sam knew he should be used to changing schools by now. His mother was in the military, so his family moved a lot. He had really liked his old school and hated leaving his two best friends. They still talked to each other through texting and emails, but it wasn't the same as getting to see them every day. He wondered how long they would stay friends. He didn't want to lose them as friends, but he knew it would be tough to stay close.

"I know this is hard on you," his mother had said as he got ready for school this morning, "and I'm really sorry you have to keep doing this." When Sam looked in her

eyes, he saw the regret she felt at making the family move yet again, but he didn't want her to feel that way. She was the one who had things hard, not him. She had been ready to defend not just her family but her country. She never hesitated in her duty to serve others. Sam admired her so much. He hugged her and told her not to worry. He assured her he would be fine. He had wanted to mean it when he said the words, but there was still always this part of him that worried when they moved.

The lunch period came quickly and, as Sam stood up to walk to the cafeteria, a voice behind him said, "Excuse me." Sam turned around and realized the red-headed boy was talking to him. He was surrounded by a group of three boys and two girls. One of the girls spoke up, "Would you like to eat lunch with us?"

Sam looked at the faces of each person in the group and could tell they genuinely wanted him to join them for lunch. He smiled and nodded yes. The unexpected invitation was exactly what he needed.

**Text Questions**

- Why does Sam feel guilty that he's worried about his day?
  - because compared to what his mother does, he doesn't feel like he has that much to be worried about
  - because he knows he always makes friends easily
  - because he already has friends from his old school
  - because he and his mother were arguing before he left the house
- Which paragraph from the text helps you to explain your answer for question one?
  - first paragraph
  - second paragraph
  - third paragraph
  - fourth paragraph
- What will most likely happen to Sam when he goes to lunch?
  - The group will leave him and sit somewhere else.
  - He will find a different group of friends and join them.
  - He will become friends with the group that invited him to lunch.
  - He will decide to sit by himself.
- Why does Sam's family move a lot?
  - Sam's father is in the military.
  - Sam's family moves to be near other relatives.
  - Sam's mother is in the military.
  - Sam has been in some trouble at his old school and needs a fresh start.
- Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
  - "The New Beginning"
  - "What's for Lunch?"
  - "The Impossible Dream"
  - "School Mania"



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Capturing the Moment**

The sun was shining, and the water was just right. Mason couldn't believe he was at the beach. His entire life he had wanted to see the ocean. Up until now, he had only seen pictures of it or seen videos of it on television or the movies. Nothing compared to actually standing on the beach—his toes buried in the sand, the wind in his face, and the amazing smell of the ocean air. He was beginning to think he wouldn't mind it if they never went back home to Kentucky.

"Mason, come see what I found," his sister Lauren yelled.

Mason walked over to Lauren and saw the tiny seashell she was holding in the palm of her hands. The shell was white with swirls of purple. There was not a blemish anywhere on the surface. It was the smallest shell he had ever seen.

"That's really cool, Lauren. What are you going to do with it?"

"I wanted to take it home and show my friends, but I'm worried there might be a tiny creature inside. I wouldn't want to hurt it just because I thought it had a pretty house, so I am going to put it back in the water."

Mason knew how much Lauren wanted to save the shell. He could tell by the way she was looking at it so wistfully. Then he had an idea. "Hang on a minute, Lauren. Don't throw it back into the water just yet."

Mason ran over to the area where his mother and father were seated underneath a colorful umbrella. He dug inside one of the bags until he found what he was looking for and then hurried back over to meet his sister.

She grinned from ear to ear when she saw what he had brought. "Of course," she said, "that's a great idea!"

Mason pulled out the camera and took a picture of Lauren with her shell. Then he took several close-up pictures so they could remember all the swirls of color on the shell before Lauren placed the perfect shell back into the water. By the smile on Lauren's face, he knew he had solved her problem. He just hoped pictures of the trip would be enough to remind him of how wonderful the beach really was.

**Text Questions**

- Using information from the text, what type of relationship does Mason most likely have with his sister?
  - a terrible relationship
  - a caring relationship
  - a tumultuous relationship
  - a troubled relationship
- What does the word *wistfully* mean as it is used in the sentence "He could tell by the way she was looking at it so wistfully"?
  - longingly
  - mournfully
  - peacefully
  - carefully
- Why did Mason take a picture of the shell?
  - So Lauren could always remember the moment.
  - So Lauren could have a picture to look at so she could draw the shell.
  - So he and Lauren could try out the family's new camera.
  - So his parents would see him being nice to his sister.
- Which part of the story lets the reader know that Mason had never seen the ocean before the trip described in the text?
  - the title
  - first paragraph
  - the concluding paragraph
  - none of the paragraphs
- Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
  - "Tiny Seashell"
  - "Snapshots of the Sea"
  - "Beach Memories"
  - "How to Save Sea Creatures"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome Home**

"Surprise!" Voices shouted at Missy as she walked through the front door of her house. She could not believe they were having a party for her. Her first thought was that it wasn't her birthday, but she knew why everyone was there before anyone even had to explain.

"We are so glad you are home from the hospital," her best friend, Tammy, began to explain. "Everyone just wanted to show you how glad we were that you were finally coming home."

Missy could only nod and smile. She knew if she tried to talk, she would start to cry. She was so happy to be home, and she was equally thrilled by the show of support from her friends and family. It hardly seemed possible that she had been in the hospital for over a month. Ever since the accident, she had trouble keeping up with the passing of time. Finally, after all the hugs and welcome-home greetings, Missy found herself standing beside Tammy. Tammy was the first to speak. "I am still so sorry about what happened."

"You don't have any reason to be sorry," Missy said, squeezing her best friend's hand.

"I just don't understand," Tammy began, "why you got hurt, and I didn't even have a scratch."

Missy thought back to the day they had been riding their bikes and a car had jumped a curb, hitting them both. Tammy had somehow managed to walk away from the accident, while Missy had ended up in the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Missy smiled at Tammy. "I would never want anything to happen to you just like you never wanted anything to happen to me. The good news is, we are both here now, and we're both okay."

Tammy smiled back and then nodded to the front door. "Actually, we still have one little bit of good news to share." Missy looked through the open door and saw a big red bow wrapped around the handles of a brand-new bicycle. On the handle bars was a new helmet. The doctors credited her old one with saving her life. Missy could hardly wait to try out her welcome-home gift.

**Text Questions** .....

1. What emotion does Tammy feel about the accident?
  - a. sadness
  - b. guilt
  - c. happiness
  - d. frustration
2. Which sentence from the text helps you to explain your answer for question one?
  - a. Voices shouted at Missy as she walked through the front door of her house.
  - b. "Everyone just wanted to show you how glad we were that you were finally coming home."
  - c. It hardly seemed possible that she had been in the hospital for over a month.
  - d. "I just don't understand," Tammy began, "why you got hurt, and I didn't even have a scratch."
3. What will Missy most likely do with the new bicycle?
  - a. Sell it because she will never want to ride again.
  - b. Ride it as soon as she is able.
  - c. Give it to Tammy.
  - d. Give it to charity.
4. What can the reader determine about the relationship between Tammy and Missy?
  - a. Since the accident, they are no longer friends.
  - b. They are good friends.
  - c. They became friends after the accident.
  - d. They will never speak to each other again once the party is over.
5. Why is Missy unable to speak when she first arrives?
  - a. Her vocal chords have been damaged in the accident.
  - b. She is overcome with emotion.
  - c. She does not want to talk to Tammy.
  - d. She doesn't know why everyone is at her house.