**Teacher Guide & Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 810

1. The narrator spends a good amount of time as a child in the Xochimilco canals.

2. Xochimilco has waterways.

3. The narrator used to love Xochimilco during the weekdays when there were no boat parties and you felt as though the water was yours alone.

4. The narrator had a frightening encounter with a panther in the bushes of one of the canals.

5. The narrator stops visiting Xochimilco, a place he once loved so much, due to a frightening experience he has in one of its canals.

6. The narrator says this to indicate something outside of his control made him stop visiting Xochimilco.

7. Consequently (Please note that there may be more than one acceptable response.)

8. Answers may vary.

9. Answers may vary.

10. Answers may vary.
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Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1040

1. C in the Pacific Northwest
2. D the energy released when two tectonic plates grind together and then suddenly move
3. B the remains of forests in Cascadia that had died because of flooding
4. D the evidence that large earthquakes had struck the Pacific Northwest in the past
5. C Scientists have found evidence that the Pacific Northwest is at risk of being hit by major earthquakes.
6. C actions
7. B However
8. Suggested answer: The drowned forests in Cascadia showed scientists that very large earthquakes had struck Cascadia in the past.
9. Suggested answer: The changes required new buildings in areas prone to great earthquakes to be able to withstand much stronger earthquakes than before. This helped people prepare for future earthquakes by minimizing the damage that large earthquakes could cause.
10. Suggested answer: Answers may vary in depth, but should recognize that if an area has had an earthquakes of a certain intensity in the past, then a similar-sized earthquake can strike that area again. This knowledge can help people determine how to prepare adequately. For example, scientists originally thought that Cascadia only faced threats from earthquakes of magnitude 7 and below. Buildings in the Pacific Northwest were not required to withstand large earthquakes. When scientists studied past earthquakes in the area (and the signs left behind by large earthquakes in other parts of the world), they learned that Cascadia could be hit by larger, more damaging earthquakes. Students may infer that this information helped prompt the change in the area's Uniform Building Code, which now requires buildings to withstand stronger earthquakes than before.
1. What does genetic information dictate, or control?
   A what characteristics an organism will have
   B where an organism will live and die
   C which predators will eat the organism
   D who the organism’s parents were

2. The passage describes the sequence of a butterfly’s life. Which of the following shows the life cycle of a butterfly in the correct order?
   A egg, pupa, adult, caterpillar
   B pupa, egg, caterpillar, adult
   C egg, caterpillar, pupa, adult
   D egg, pupa, caterpillar, adult

3. Monarch butterflies are protected by their bright coloration. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?
   A Their bright coloration makes monarch butterflies easily noticeable to predators.
   B The monarch’s color warns predators that they are poisonous, so they don’t get eaten.
   C Unlike other butterflies, monarchs do not blend into their surroundings to protect themselves.
   D If a predator eats a monarch, it can taste the poison and will spit the butterfly out.

4. Butterfly A is blue with black markings. Butterfly B is green with brown spots. What conclusion can you make about these two butterflies?
   A Both butterflies protect themselves by blending into their surroundings.
   B The two butterflies have different life cycles.
   C Both butterflies have the same genetic information.
   D The two butterflies have different genetic information.

5. What is this passage mostly about?
   A monarch butterflies
   B viceroy butterflies
   C milkweed toxins
   D caterpillars and pupae
6. Read the following sentences: "Inside the chrysalis, the pupa grows the legs, wings, and other parts of an adult butterfly. Once the butterfly is fully **developed**, the chrysalis splits apart, and the butterfly emerges."

What does the word “**developed**” mean?

A young and small  
B **changed and grown**  
C safe and protected  
D soft and vulnerable

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Monarch butterflies are brightly colored; __________, they are highly visible to predators.

A however  
B for example  
C **as a result**  
D initially

8. Why are monarch butterflies poisonous?

**Suggested answer:** Monarch butterflies are poisonous because as caterpillars they eat a plant called milkweed, which is poisonous to most vertebrates (but not to monarchs).

9. How do predators know that monarch butterflies are poisonous?

**Suggested answer:** Predators know that monarch butterflies are poisonous because of their bright coloration, which acts as a warning that they are poisonous.

10. How does the monarch’s coloration help both the butterfly and its predators?

**Suggested answer:** The monarch’s coloration helps the butterfly, because it protects the butterfly from predators. The butterfly’s coloration helps predators, because it warns them that the butterfly is poisonous to eat.
Passage Reading Level: Lexile 800

Passage Summary: In “Back Roads,” the author describes the road journey of two friends, Joe and Sam, from New York to Pittsburgh. Along the journey, Joe and Sam decide to take back roads and discover some beautiful and interesting landmarks along the way.

1. Joe and Sam are on their way to which location?
   A  Dauphin Borough
   B  the back roads of Pennsylvania
   C  New York City
   D  Pittsburgh

2. The main setting of this story is
   A  Pittsburgh on a hot summer day
   B  Rockville Bridge on a lazy afternoon
   C  along back roads over the course of a day
   D  an airplane flight to Texas

3. Read the sentences: “Sam hated rushing things and insisted that they take back roads. Joe was in.”

   Based on this information, it can be concluded that
   A  Sam and Joe did not want to go to Pittsburgh.
   B  Sam and Joe are generally relaxed on road trips.
   C  Sam and Joe are generally very stressed on road trips.
   D  Sam and Joe have known each other for a very long time.

4. How do people in Dauphin Borough most likely feel about the statue?
   A  They believe it is a sign from a higher power.
   B  They embrace its presence.
   C  They are confused by its miraculous appearance.
   D  They pay little attention to it.

5. This story is mostly about
   A  the difference between natural and man-made landmarks
   B  the importance of taking time to appreciate nature
   C  a friendship formed through the bond of sharing a car ride together
   D  the beautiful and interesting things to be discovered along back roads
6. The tone of the writing throughout the passage can be described as

A frantic, or hurried  
B relaxed and smooth  
C suspenseful and unusual  
D exhilarating, or exciting

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.
Joe and Sam decide not to take the highway _______ they could drive through back roads.

A even though  
B so  
C instead  
D next

8. The presence and appreciation of nature is evident throughout the story. Identify at least three phrases or sentences that support this claim.

Suggested answer: The following phrases and sentences suggest that the presence and appreciation of nature is evident throughout the story:

- “It was the Susquehanna River that was branching out before them, beautiful and mighty.”
- “[Sam] stretched out in the beauty that lay before him.”
- “[Joe] yelled, ‘This place is incredible.'”
- Direct references to and images of nature include: “sunlight dappled the water,” “freshly cut green grass,” and “deep cool air.”]

9. What did Joe and Sam enjoy about their trip?

Suggested answer: Joe and Sam enjoyed seeing the beautiful river, reading historical markers, and learning about the Rockville Bridge and the Dauphin Borough “Statue of Liberty.”

10. Sam and Joe’s trip to Pittsburgh would have been quicker had they taken the highway. Why was it more worthwhile that they drove through the back roads?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and could include:

A back road can be a longer, less direct or popular way to travel, when compared to a highway but it can also be very beautiful, enjoyable, and informative. Joe and Sam enjoyed their journey through the back roads because they saw beautiful things and learned about historical structures that they did not know about before. By taking the opportunity to drive through these hidden back roads, they were able to make discoveries and enjoy different scenic views of nature. This experience was worth the time they could’ve saved driving through a highway.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1340

1. C  Bees are disappearing around the world.

2. B  Many crops will be unable to survive without pollination.

3. B  Bees are used to pollinate many food plants, such as California's almond crops, apple crops and citrus fruit crops.

4. B  The organizations play an important role in keeping humans and the environment safe.

5. D  the causes and effects of bee death around the world

6. B  an easy solution

7. C  However

8. Suggested answer: The mass deaths have been linked to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)--a mysterious loss of bee colonies with many potential causes--as well as a variety of pesticides, parasites, and diseases, all of which hurt bee populations.

9. Suggested answer: Possible answers may include to make beekeeping profitable, but more importantly to meet the demands of U.S. agriculture for pollination and thus ensure food security.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary and should be supported by the text. Students may explain that honeybees have a critical impact on humans because honeybees are used to pollinate many of the crops we eat and are an important factor for ensuring the safety of our food supply. As for the effect of humans on honeybees, students may argue that humans are negatively impacting the survival of the honeybee as pesticides (which humans produce and use) are listed as one of the possible causes of honeybee deaths. However, students may also argue that humans may be responsible for solving the problem of honeybee deaths as solutions proposed are to be developed and administered by humans, including targeted pesticide use and improved colony management.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 710

1. What news do Dennis and Mac hear on the radio while at the ranch?
   - A There is a cattle farm that hires young men to work over the summer.
   - B Thousands of people are running as fast as they can across the country.
   - C **There is a bad disease spreading among people.**
   - D Food is getting moldy on dinner plates because people are not staying at home.

2. What is the sequence of events at the beginning of this story?
   - A The story begins after the disease has struck and then takes the reader back in time to a point before the disease.
   - B The story begins before the disease has struck and then takes the reader forward in time to a point after the disease has ended.
   - C The story begins as the disease is striking and then takes the reader back in time to a point before the disease.
   - D The story begins as the disease is striking and then takes the reader two years into the future.

3. The Muskrat says that the disease is “real bad.”
   What evidence in the story supports his statement?
   - A T.J. wants to go into town even though The Muskrat has advised people to stay in their homes.
   - B After The Muskrat warns people about the disease, an old Earl Scruggs song comes on the radio.
   - C The Greersons tell the boys not to worry, saying that the disease will end soon.
   - D **The disease is very contagious, and doctors have not been able to figure out a cure.**

4. Why do Dennis and Mac decide to drive to the nearest big city?
   - A They want to find a person.
   - B They are running out of food and need more.
   - C They see thousands of people running.
   - D They both like being outdoors.

5. What is this story mainly about?
   - A a married couple who own a ranch, the young men they hire to work for them one summer, and the music they listen to together
   - B **two young men, a mysterious disease, and what happens when they go out to explore after the disease hits**
   - C a radio DJ, the music he likes to play, and the effect that his song choices have on the people who listen to them
   - D a long line of people running through a flat piece of pastureland and what happens when two young men see them
6. Read the following sentence: “More and more people were getting sick. The symptoms were strange. People would become violently ill, then fall into a long, deep sleep.”

What does the word “symptoms” mean?

A fears of getting sick  
B signs of a disease  
C serious injuries  
D suggestions that doctors give to patients

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Dennis and Mac are frightened after leaving the ranch ________ the towns and cities they visit have no people in them.

A although  
B as a result  
C because  
D however

8. What happens to people when they get sick with the disease described in the story?

Suggested answer: People become violently ill and fall into a long, deep sleep.

9. What are the people Dennis and Mac see at the end of the story doing?

Suggested answer: The people Dennis and Mac see are running as fast as they can.

10. Is there a connection between the disease and the people Dennis and Mac see at the end of the story? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the story.

Suggested answer: Students may argue for or against a connection, provided they support their answer with evidence from the story. Student arguing for a connection may point out that people have disappeared from their homes since the disease began and infer that the disease has something to do with this disappearance. They may also infer that the thousands of people running account for those who are missing. Students arguing against a connection may point out that the only symptoms of the disease specified are becoming violently ill and falling into a long, deep sleep. The story makes no mention of either symptom in the people running, so there is no apparent connection between them and the disease.
1. According to the text, the Korean pronunciation of the Chinese character for geese is the same as the pronunciation of what word?

   A. comfort
   B. reed
   C. old man
   D. special

2. What does the text mainly describe?

   A. artist Kim Jin-Woo's relationship with the elderly friend to whom he gave this painting
   B. the history of Korean screen painting and poetry
   C. the images in the painting, their meaning, and the poem that appears in the painting
   D. similarities and differences between Korean and Chinese pronunciation of characters

3. The poem inscribed on the painting refers to changing seasons. Which line from the poem best supports this statement?

   A. The moss and reeds grow long.
   B. The sand is bright.
   C. The water is blue.
   D. This is the time when autumn geese get ready to depart.
4. Read these sentences from the text.

"Kim also inscribed a poem and interspersed its verses throughout the painting. The poem, which is read from right to left, refers to changing seasons and flying geese. For example, one couplet reads, 'The sand is bright, the water is blue, the moss and reeds grow long; This is the time when autumn geese get ready to depart.'"

Based on this information and the images in the painting, how might the relationship between the poem and the painting best be described?

A. The poem helps explain the images and setting of the painting.
B. The poem helps explain the pronunciation of the characters for "reeds" and "geese."
C. The poem helps explain why the artist gave the painting to a friend.
D. The poem helps explain the meaning of traditional Korean paintings.

5. What is the main idea of the text?

A. Geese depart for warmer climates when the seasons change, and reeds bend over with age.
B. Kim Jin-Woo was a generous artist who often made gifts of his paintings to elderly friends as they grew older.
C. Poetry was often added to Korean screen paintings to create additional meanings.
D. Kim Jin-Woo used a combination of word meanings, poetry, and images of nature to express a wish for peace and comfort in old age.
6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Seven lively geese animate this Korean screen painting. The four in flight spread their wings in various ways and angle their necks in different directions. Their orange webbed feet poke out from underneath their gray feathered bodies. Below them lies a grassy shore, a body of water, and long, thin reeds at the water's edge. One goose dives for food, his feet and tail humorously sticking up out of the water."

Why might the author have chosen the words "lively" and "animate" when describing the geese in the painting?

A. to explain why the artist used six vertical panels
B. to highlight the sense of movement in the painting
C. to show how different geese are from old men
D. to repeat the words from the poem that appear in the painting

7. The Korean pronunciation of the words for "reed" and "old man" are the same. 

_________, the pronunciation for "geese" and "comfort" is the same.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

A. However
B. For example
C. Similarly
D. Therefore

8. According to the text, what do traditional Korean paintings of reeds and geese represent?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

They represent a wish for a peaceful life in a person's later years.
9. Read these sentences from the text.

"Kim also inscribed a poem and interspersed its verses throughout the painting. The poem, which is read from right to left, refers to changing seasons and flying geese."

Identify a line or phrase from the poem that refers to changing seasons.

Students may cite the phrase "the moss and reeds grow long" or the line "This is the time when autumn geese get ready to depart."

10. Explain how the painting gives the sense of changing seasons.

Support your answer with evidence from the text and image.

In the painting, the geese are flying, not stationary, which suggests that they may be migrating. The poem inscribed in the painting refers to departing geese. The reeds appear bent over and brown, not green and blooming, which may lead students to reason that the painting marks a transitional period of things coming to an end. In addition, the poem refers to changing seasons. Korean paintings of reeds and geese represent a wish for a peaceful life in a person's later years, which highlights the theme of change. Further, students may make a connection between the seasonal changes reflected in the painting and its poem with the process of aging and moving through stages of life.
1. What does the narrator buy in the story?
   A. a tarantula  
   B. a hawk  
   C. a hamster  
   D. a sandwich

2. A key point in the story is when the narrator sees the variety store and decides to go in. How does she end up in the store?
   A. She reads an advertisement for the store in the newspaper and wants to see the available pets.  
   B. The store is a famous attraction in that neighborhood, and she wants to visit it.  
   C. She walks past the store on her way to work at the sandwich grill.  
   D. She was walking past the store after she got a flat tire and was interested to go inside.

3. The man who previously owned the hawk returned the bird because he thought it was too independent. What evidence from the story supports this conclusion?
   A. "So he just...he didn't want the bird because...it wouldn't live in the box he built?"
   B. "Some rich dude bought it and built a nest box on the roof of his apartment for the thing."
   C. "It would come to the roof to eat, and whenever this guy was up there just hanging out, it would fly around him."
   D. "I mean, it's still a wild animal. But this guy was able to lure it with some food."

4. How can the narrator best be described?
   A. careful  
   B. lazy  
   C. impulsive  
   D. understanding
5. What is this story mostly about?
   A. a girl's experiences making sandwiches
   B. a bike that gets a flat tire
   C. how a girl ends up buying a hawk
   D. a hawk that wants to be free

6. Read the following sentences:

   "Huh." I felt butterflies in my stomach, disturbing the peace with a little bit of sadness. "How much is it?"

   The salesgirl tapped the cage again. "70 bucks."

   Inside the tank, the hawk took a couple of steps, one forward, and one back. It looked bored.

   Why does the author write the narrator felt "butterflies in [her] stomach, disturbing the peace with a little bit of sadness"?

   A. to indicate the narrator is afraid of the hawk
   B. to indicate the narrator feels sorry for the hawk
   C. to indicate the narrator does not care about the hawk
   D. to indicate the narrator is bored with the hawk

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

   The narrator does not make a lot of money; ________, she splurges to buy a hawk.

   A. however
   B. as a result
   C. ultimately
   D. especially

8. What does the narrator say she gives the hawk?

   The narrator says she gives the hawk freedom.
9. How does the narrator describe the hawk in the cage?

The narrator describes the hawk in the cage as bored, sad, and uncomfortable in a space that is too small for it.

10. Why might the narrator have bought the hawk? Support your answer with information from the story.

Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

Example: The narrator might have bought the hawk because she felt sorry for it. She sees the hawk in the cage and describes it as "bored," "sad," and "uncomfortable." She may have wanted to help it. She may have wanted to free the bird, as when she brings it home, it flies out of the window she opens and nests in a tree. She does not try to constrain the bird to live in a cage. She may have wanted to give it freedom, as she seems pleased when she says, "It sounds cheesy, but I'd given him freedom."
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1220

1. C a version of baseball played in New York City

2. D the origins and development of stickball

3. A It can be played with minimal equipment.

4. B Osorio really loves playing stickball.

5. A the street game stickball and one of its best players

6. C to show that Osorio's family moved right after World War II ended

7. B even though

8. Suggested answer: They created their own version of baseball because the urban setting of New York City makes playing traditional baseball difficult, as there isn't enough space for a full baseball diamond. Poorer children in New York City could not afford to buy gloves and bats, so they created a game that did not require expensive equipment.

9. Suggested answer: Osorio played stickball as a child because it was fun, because he was able to earn a little money to buy Puma sneakers, and to earn bragging rights for his block. As an adult, Osorio continued to play for the sense of community and self-respect.

10. Suggested answer: Answers may vary as long as they are supported by the text. Students may explain that it united kids from similar neighborhoods and socio-economic backgrounds and allowed them to engage in an activity that they enjoyed and took pride in.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 670

1. How does Patsy feel about Lake Wenatchee?
   A. She loves it.
   B. She hates it.
   C. She enjoys it.
   D. She’s scared of it.

2. How does Patsy change in the story?
   A. At first she wants to go home, but then she doesn’t want to leave.
   B. At first she wants to stay at the lake, but then she wants to leave.
   C. At first she wants to upset her brother, but then she changes her mind.
   D. At first she lies to her brother, but then she tells him the truth.

3. Bart has unrealistic ideas about what the other side of the lake is like. What evidence from the passage best supports this conclusion?
   A. Bart thinks that the other side of the lake is even better than this side.
   B. Bart loves the lake, and is up playing on the shore at the crack of dawn every day.
   C. Bart imitates the birds, creeps up on geckos, and throws rocks for the fish.
   D. Bart thinks the other side of the lake has snowy owls and a roller coaster park.

4. Read the following sentences: “The mosquitoes got bigger every year. By now they were larger, it seemed, than her fist.” Based on this information, what can you conclude about Patsy?
   A. Patsy thinks the negative aspects of the lake are not as bad as they actually are.
   B. Patsy thinks the negative aspects of the lake are worse than they actually are.
   C. Patsy is interested in animals, insects, and nature.
   D. Patsy is scared that the mosquitoes will get bigger.

5. What is this passage mostly about?
   A. Patsy tells Bart that the other side of the lake is not exciting.
   B. Bart enjoys being on vacation at Lake Wenatchee.
   C. Patsy wishes she were at home with her friends.
   D. Bart imagines what is on the other side of the lake.
6. Read the following sentences: “‘But something in my gut tells me that it’s even better over there.’ … The other side of the lake was nothing too exciting: strip malls and gas stations, with a shopping mall in the middle. But before she told Bart the truth, she wanted to know what he was imagining. It would be more fun to burst his bubble that way.”

As used in this sentence, what does the phrase “burst his bubble” mean?

A  lie to him  
B  make something up  
C  destroy his fantasy  
D  tell the truth

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Bart thinks that the other side of the lake is exciting and magical, _____ Patsy knows that it is really unexciting.

A  but  
B  so  
C  for example  
D  after

8. Where has Patsy’s family gone on vacation since Bart was born?

Suggested answer: Since Bart was born, Patsy’s family has gone on vacation to Lake Wenatchee.

9. Describe what Bart says is on the other side of the lake when Patsy asks, “Is there anything that I will like?”

Suggested answer: Bart says that there is a movie theater, a clothing store where they give you free outfits, and a place where you can get free notebooks and fancy pens.

10. Explain why Patsy may have decided not to burst her brother’s bubble and tell him about the reality of the other side of the lake at the end of the story. Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. Students should indicate that Patsy decided not to tell her brother about the reality after seeing his “hopeful, dreaming face,” which implies that she did not want to destroy his dreams. Patsy may also have enjoyed fantasizing about the other side of the lake with her brother, and did not want to ruin the moment. (“Patsy found herself strangely impatient. She wanted to know what else was on the other side of the lake.”)