

78 Garlic: The Magic Cure-All

Once you have smelled the delicious aroma of garlic, you'll never forget it. It is an herb that is widely used in cooking and salads. You may hear of people using it to improve their health. Some say it even has magical powers. These magical powers were known of even in ancient times. For instance, a Roman soldier would not go into battle without first eating some garlic. The Romans believed that garlic gave a person strength and courage. Whether or not the soldiers fought any better because of their garlic eating, however, is unknown. Nevertheless, this Roman habit may have been frightening to the enemies.

The period of the Middle Ages was fraught with superstition. During the frightening Black Plague, people ate bushels of garlic as protection against the dread disease. Garlic was thought of as a cure-all. For example, people who feared vampires, werewolves, and the evil eye of a witch would wear cloves of garlic wrapped in cloth and hung around their necks.

Even today, garlic is used in various old-fashioned, cure-all remedies. A syrup made from garlic is said to cure colds. A clove of garlic wrapped in a wet cloth and kept on the chest will relieve the discomforts of bronchitis. Garlic has even been put to use in agriculture. Garlic scattered in the soil around peach trees is supposed to protect the trees from harmful pests. And garlic really can be soothing when rubbed on insect bites.

In actuality, garlic's value is not all superstition. Garlic does contain an antibiotic—allium—that doctors use to lower high blood pressure in patients.

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Answer

Score

M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

B

5

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

N

5

- a. Many superstitions surround the use of garlic.
- b. Garlic was a main ingredient in many old-fashioned remedies.
- c. Some people believe that certain herbs have magical powers.

☐

☐

☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage discusses the uses of

- ☐ a. allium.
- ☐ b. superstition.
- ☐ c. garlic.
- ☐ d. magic herb.

Supporting Details 3 The allium contained in garlic is good for

- ☐ a. diabetes.
- ☐ b. high blood pressure.
- ☐ c. headaches.
- ☐ d. ulcers.

Conclusion 4 It is evident from this passage that

- ☐ a. garlic has magical powers.
- ☐ b. the Roman soldiers owed their victories to garlic.
- ☐ c. garlic has had many uses throughout history.
- ☐ d. garlic is a valuable cure-all medicine.

Clarifying Devices 5 The writer shows the diverse uses of garlic by

- ☐ a. giving examples.
- ☐ b. tracing its evolution.
- ☐ c. speculating.
- ☐ d. proving its value.

Vocabulary in Context 6 As used in this passage, the word fraught means

- ☐ a. devoid.
- ☐ b. characterized.
- ☐ c. scattered.
- ☐ d. full of.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 218.

Total
Score

79 Cover Your Eyes!

Nature has devised many ways to protect creatures' eyes. The most common protection is the eyelid—a fold of skin that closes over the eye, protecting it from damage. Eyelashes are useful for keeping out dust and other irritants, and tears wash away any particles that get through the other defenses.

Some creatures, including most birds, have three eyelids. The upper and lower lids act like human lids and keep out twigs, dirt, and sand. The third eyelid, however, is a semitransparent tissue that crosses over the eye from the inside corner to the outside corner. Because of this protective membrane, birds seldom have to blink. They close their eyes only when they go to sleep. In ducks, this third eyelid serves as an underwater diving mask that helps the ducks find food.

Most fish and snakes have no eyelids at all. Instead, a hard glassy covering protects their eyes. In fish, water constantly sweeps away dirt from the covering. And a snake's eyesight is usually so bad that a little dirt obscuring its vision does not disturb it greatly.

Eyelashes defend the eye by shading it from glare. They also act like miniature brushes to remove dust. Camels have lashes that are four inches long to protect their eyes from windblown sand in the desert.

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

Answer

Score

M

15

B

5

N

5

- a. Creatures' eyes are protected in a number of different ways.
- b. Nature has provided many kinds of protection for living creatures.
- c. Eyelids are one of the most important forms of eye protection.

☐
☐
☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 Another good title for this passage would be

- ☐ a. Look Out!
- ☐ b. Birds' Eyes.
- ☐ c. Eyes in the Night.
- ☐ d. Protecting the Eye.

Supporting Details 3 A camel has long eyelashes

- ☐ a. to keep windblown sand out of its eyes.
- ☐ b. that get in the way of its sight.
- ☐ c. to help it see better.
- ☐ d. to attract other camels.

Conclusion 4 The writer implies that eyelids are

- ☐ a. not found on lizards.
- ☐ b. nice to look at.
- ☐ c. always covered with eyelashes.
- ☐ d. the most effective eye protection.

Clarifying Devices 5 The author compares the duck's third eyelid to a

- ☐ a. tissue.
- ☐ b. glass covering.
- ☐ c. tiny brush.
- ☐ d. diving mask.

Vocabulary in Context 6 Obscuring in this selection means

- ☐ a. hiding.
- ☐ b. blocking.
- ☐ c. confusing.
- ☐ d. delaying.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here
and on the graph on page 218.

Total
Score

80 Flying Tigers

Hawks and falcons are the wolves and tigers of the bird kingdom. They are meat-eaters that rely on strength and skill to catch their unwary victims. These birds have unusually good eyesight, great skill in flight, and sharp beaks and talons that quickly end the struggles of their prey.

The hawks—a family that includes the bald eagle—tend to be large birds that hunt by soaring and gliding high in the air until they spot their prey on the ground. Then they drop down in a fast and accurate swoop, giving no warning until their wings flash open to break their fall, and their sharp talons close on their victims.

Falcons are usually smaller than hawks. They have long, narrow wings designed for very fast flight. This family includes the peregrine falcon, called the bird of kings, which has been trained to hunt for the royalty of Europe and Africa for centuries. The peregrine, in its swoop upon its prey, has been clocked at speeds of over 100 miles per hour.

Until recently, hawks and falcons had suffered from people's war on insects. Small animals ate the insects that had been sprayed with chemicals; then these were eaten by larger animals that were in turn eaten by the birds of prey. After the hawks had eaten a number of these animals, the chemicals had a deadly effect. The birds began to lay eggs with very thin shells that broke when the birds tried to hatch them. But now, due to careful efforts to restore the hawk and falcon population, these birds are beginning to make a comeback.

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

Answer

Score

M

15

B

5

N

5

a. Hawks and falcons are powerful birds.

☐

b. Hawks and falcons survive by their great strength and skill.

☐

c. Hawks and falcons swoop down upon their prey.

☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 Another good title for this selection would be

- ☐ a. The Rulers of the Skies.
- ☐ b. Bird Eaters.
- ☐ c. Wolves and Tigers.
- ☐ d. Beware of the Falcon.

Supporting Details 3 The chemicals that entered the bodies of hawks and falcons through the animals they ate eventually

- ☐ a. wore off and disappeared.
- ☐ b. caused them to lay eggs with very thin shells.
- ☐ c. made them immune to diseases.
- ☐ d. caused them to die.

Conclusion 4 From the passage, it appears that the writer

- ☐ a. thinks hawks and falcons are cruel.
- ☐ b. wants small animals to stop eating insects.
- ☐ c. thinks that the hawk and falcon population is increasing.
- ☐ d. wants to study the effects of chemicals.

Clarifying Devices 5 Hawks and falcons are called "flying tigers" because they

- ☐ a. quickly attack and kill their prey.
- ☐ b. often have striped bodies.
- ☐ c. fly faster than tigers run.
- ☐ d. are very protective of their young.

Vocabulary in Context 6 Clocked, as used in this passage, means

- ☐ a. snapped.
- ☐ b. alarmed.
- ☐ c. timed.
- ☐ d. clicked.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 218.

Total
Score

81 A Bird That Never Really Dies

The phoenix was one of the most magnificent birds that ever lived. Unfortunately for bird watchers, the grand phoenix actually lived only in the imaginations of the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

According to Greek mythology, only one phoenix at a time lived on earth. The phoenix, a male, was brightly colored, with gold and red feathers. Legend has it that the single bird lived for exactly five hundred years. Just before it was to die, it would build a nest. The mythical bird's last task was to sit patiently on the nest, waiting for the sun to ignite the dry twigs and set the nest ablaze. But as the proud phoenix sacrificed itself in flame, a tiny worm would crawl from beneath the ashes. This worm grew into a new phoenix. Its first task was to gather up its father's ashes and bury them in the temple of the Egyptian sun god in Heliopolis, the City of the Sun. Each reborn phoenix lived out the remainder of its life in Arabia.

Today, the phoenix symbolizes immortality. Someone who succeeds where he or she had previously failed is often referred to as a phoenix.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	☐ M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	☐ B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	☐ N	5
a. Greek myths contain many stories of magical beasts and creatures.	☐	_____
b. The phoenix is a mythological bird that lived for five hundred years and then sacrificed itself to give birth to a new phoenix.	☐	_____
c. A new phoenix was born from the ashes of the old phoenix.	☐	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage discusses an ancient

- ☐ a. king.
- ☐ b. myth.
- ☐ c. fairy tale.
- ☐ d. god.

Supporting Details 3 Most of a phoenix's life was supposedly spent in

- ☐ a. Greece.
- ☐ b. Egypt.
- ☐ c. Heliopolis.
- ☐ d. Arabia.

Conclusion 4 Someone who is called a phoenix today

- ☐ a. has come back from a defeat.
- ☐ b. is probably immortal.
- ☐ c. thinks he or she can live forever.
- ☐ d. is not well liked by colleagues.

Clarifying Devices 5 The life of the phoenix is described

- ☐ a. with the use of facts.
- ☐ b. in a humorous way.
- ☐ c. in an unclear way.
- ☐ d. step-by-step.

Vocabulary in Context 6 A person possessing immortality could live

- ☐ a. for eight hundred years.
- ☐ b. forever.
- ☐ c. for two hundred years.
- ☐ d. almost as long as the phoenix.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 219.

Total
Score

82 The Beginnings of Television

Are your parents old enough to remember watching "Howdy Doody Time"? Can your grandparents recall dramas they saw on "Studio One"? These are some of the better-known shows from the very earliest days of television.

The capacity to send and receive moving pictures via airwaves was developed years earlier, but television only began showing up in people's homes in about 1947. (World War II, which had halted their production, ended in 1945.) These very early TVs had screens that were only a few inches wide, but people snapped them up as fast as they could be made.

What kinds of shows were available? "Howdy Doody" was a children's show with puppets, live characters, and a host named Buffalo Bob. "Studio One" featured full-length dramas in which such stars as James Dean and Warren Beatty made early appearances. Both of these shows debuted in the 1940s. So did an early version of the news show "Meet the Press."

Most pioneering television programs were live. This meant if actors forgot their lines or a prop got knocked over, the audience got to see it anyway. Since some of the most popular early shows were comedies, the mistakes could make the programs even funnier. Did Milton Berle in "The Texaco Star Theater" really mean to fall off that piano bench? Was Imogene Coca's hat in a "Your Show of Shows" skit really supposed to catch in a closing door? Since the stars laughed right along with the audience, you could never be sure.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	☒ M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	☐ B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	☐ N	5

- a. Most early TV programs were shown live. ☐ _____
- b. Televisions became widespread after World War II. ☐ _____
- c. Early TV programs were a mix of children's shows, comedy, dramas, and news. ☐ _____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage focuses on
- ☐ a. some of the earliest television shows.
 - ☐ b. a history of the development of television.
 - ☐ c. why television became popular.
 - ☐ d. differences between TV and radio programs.

- Supporting Details** 3 Shows like "Studio One" and "Meet the Press" started on television in
- ☐ a. the early 1940s.
 - ☐ b. the late 1940s.
 - ☐ c. the early 1950s.
 - ☐ d. the late 1950s.

- Conclusion** 4 This passage suggests that early comedy shows
- ☐ a. used slapstick and silly visual jokes.
 - ☐ b. were not terribly funny.
 - ☐ c. usually involved two characters talking to each other.
 - ☐ d. were not on the air for too many years.

- Clarifying Devices** 5 The writer tries to capture your interest in the first paragraph by

- ☐ a. mentioning several stars.
- ☐ b. describing a dramatic incident.
- ☐ c. comparing and contrasting two programs.
- ☐ d. asking specific questions.

- Vocabulary in Context** 6 Debuted means
- ☐ a. first publicly appeared.
 - ☐ b. ended.
 - ☐ c. became popular.
 - ☐ d. entertained.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 219.

Total
Score