100 The Ageless Wonder

When Bill Veeck, owner of the Cleveland Indians baseball team, signed aging Leroy "Satchel" Paige, Veeck was accused of creating a cheap publicity stunt. It was the sort of move a lot of people thought would be bad for the team and bad for baseball. Paige had been a legendary pitcher in the Negro Leagues, so what was the objection? His age.

Paige was always secretive about the date of his birth, but at the time he was about to pitch his first major league game, most estimates put him at around forty-two years old. During his twenty years in the Negro Leagues, he had been the finest pitcher those leagues had ever seen. But the attitude in Cleveland was that he had been great in his day but had surely outlived his effectiveness.

The night Paige played in his first game with Cleveland, 51,013 fans flocked into Comiskey Park in Chicago to see what the old man could do against the powerful White Sox. Satch was in complete control. He gave up only five hits, and the Indians beat the Sox 5–0. A week later, Paige beat the Sox again in front of still another record-breaking crowd in the Indians' home stadium.

Veeck's faith in Paige had certainly been vindicated. The Indians won the American League Championship that year, and the contributions of the "Ageless Wonder," Satchel Paige, were responsible for a large part of their success.

Main Idea 1

	Answer	Score
Mark the *main idea*	M	15
Mark the statement that is *too broad*	B	5
Mark the statement that is *too narrow*	N	5

a. Despite his age, Paige proved to be an asset to the Cleveland Indians. ☐ ____

b. Many people thought Paige was too old to be in the Major Leagues. ☐ ____

c. Few people over forty play in the major leagues. ☐ ____

Score 15 points for each correct answer. **Score**

Subject Matter 2 The passage is mainly about
- ☐ a. the Negro League in baseball.
- ☐ b. Satchel Paige's early career.
- ☐ c. how Paige proved himself in the majors.
- ☐ d. Paige's first game in the majors. ____

Supporting Details 3 There was a crowd at Comiskey Park because
- ☐ a. Satchel Paige had never pitched before.
- ☐ b. Paige was very popular in Chicago.
- ☐ c. it was the American League playoffs.
- ☐ d. Satchel Paige was pitching for the first time in the major leagues. ____

Conclusion 4 The use of the phrase "cheap publicity stunt" in the first paragraph suggests that people believed
- ☐ a. Veeck didn't expect Paige to be good, but signed him to get publicity for the team.
- ☐ b. Bill Veeck didn't pay Paige very much.
- ☐ c. Paige wasn't really going to pitch, but was just going to be an attraction.
- ☐ d. publicity was all Paige cared about. ____

Clarifying Devices 5 The method used by the writer in the passage is
- ☐ a. logical argument.
- ☐ b. telling a story.
- ☐ c. questions and answers.
- ☐ d. exaggeration. ____

Vocabulary in Context 6 The best definition for the word <u>vindicated</u>, as used in the passage, is
- ☐ a. corrected.
- ☐ b. proved wrong.
- ☐ c. proved right.
- ☐ d. widely publicized. ____

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

1 Not Quite as It Seems

The short story is a literary form that is not successful for all writers. Characters must be developed, a setting established, a story told, and an effective conclusion reached—all in a few pages. One of the masters of the short story was American writer William Sydney Porter, better known by his pseudonym O. Henry. O. Henry turned out hundreds of stories in the period from about 1895 until his death in 1910. Set in the city or in the country, dealing with people both young and old, the stories have one thing in common: nothing in them is exactly as it seems.

What gave most of O. Henry's stories their surprising twists was *situational irony.* This technique involves something happening that is the opposite of what is expected. One of O. Henry's most famous and most ironic stories is "The Gift of the Magi." Set in New York, as many of his stories are, it deals with a struggling young couple desperate to buy Christmas gifts for one another. She sells her long, beautiful hair in order to get money to buy him a chain for his precious gold watch—at the same time he is selling the watch in order to buy tortoiseshell combs that she has coveted to wear in her hair.

O. Henry found irony in all situations, not excepting those that related to his own life. While a young man living in Texas, a failed publishing venture led him to embezzle money, for which he ultimately spent three years in a penitentiary. O. Henry draws on that experience in another famous story, "A Retrieved Reformation." In it, a bank robber on the run is about to marry and go straight, until his breaking-in abilities are needed to save the life of a child. Stories like "After Twenty Years" and "The Ransom of Red Chief" also deal with lawbreakers who get their comeuppance in surprising ways.

Main Idea 1

	Answer	Score
Mark the *main idea*	M	15
Mark the statement that is *too broad*	B	5
Mark the statement that is *too narrow*	N	5

a. Situational irony is when something that occurs is opposite of what is expected. ☐ ____

b. O. Henry, a famous short story writer, made frequent use of irony. ☐ ____

c. O. Henry wrote many short stories. ☐ ____

Score 15 points for each correct answer. **Score**

Subject Matter 2 Another good title for this passage would be
- ☐ a. O. Henry and His Use of Irony.
- ☐ b. What Is Situational Irony?
- ☐ c. O. Henry's Life and Times.
- ☐ d. How You Can Learn to Write a Good Short Story.

_____

Supporting Details 3 O. Henry set his stories
- ☐ a. only in cities like New York.
- ☐ b. primarily in the Wild West.
- ☐ c. in a wide variety of places.
- ☐ d. usually in places that were not recognizable.

_____

Conclusion 4 Based on information in the passage, you can conclude that "After Twenty Years"
- ☐ a. tells about O. Henry's life in prison.
- ☐ b. uses situational irony.
- ☐ c. is set in New York.
- ☐ d. was written over a period of several months.

_____

Clarifying Devices 5 The writer summarizes the plots of two stories in order to
- ☐ a. amuse the reader.
- ☐ b. explain how all of O. Henry's stories are based on his own life.
- ☐ c. show how plots must be developed quickly.
- ☐ d. show how O. Henry uses irony.

_____

Vocabulary in Context 6 A pseudonym is
- ☐ a. a real name.
- ☐ b. a false name.
- ☐ c. the name of a company.
- ☐ d. another word for "short story."

_____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 214. **Total Score** _____

2 Descended from Dinosaurs

What do ancient dinosaurs have in common with modern snakes, crocodiles, lizards, turtles, and the tuatara? They all are classified in the same formal category, the class *Reptilia,* or reptiles. Dinosaurs were only a small number of the reptiles that dominated the land, seas, and sky millions of years ago. Though dinosaurs are extinct, the reptiles of today descend from them and are reminders of the era known as the Age of Reptile

Only four main groups, or orders, of reptiles live on Earth today. These orders include species of alligators and crocodiles; turtles and tortoises; lizards and snakes; and a single species called the tuatara, a lizardlike animal from New Zealand. These animals at first appear to be very different, but they have many characteristics in common. All reptiles are cold-blooded—that is, they are unable to generate heat inside their own bodies. Reptiles are vertebrates, or animals with a bony skeleton that supports their bodies. They have thick, dry skin covered by scales or plates to protect them from predators and to prevent them from drying out. Finally, reptiles develop inside an egg that is protected by a leathery, waterproof shell.

Reptiles have adapted to habitats such as deserts, fresh water, oceans, swamps, plains, and cities. They also have adapted to most climates, although the tropics is their most popular habitat. Reptiles come in all sizes and shapes—the gecko looks like a lizard and averages only 0.7 inches in length; an adult leatherback sea turtle weighs in at about 2,000 pounds. Excluding snakes, all reptiles have four limbs, usually with claws, that are used for walking, climbing, and digging. Reptiles also have well-developed respiratory and circulatory systems for breathing air through lungs and providing cells with a constant supply of oxygen. Characteristics and adaptations like these have enabled reptiles to survive on Earth for hundreds of millions of years.

Main Idea 1

	Answer	Score
Mark the *main idea*	M	15
Mark the statement that is *too broad*	B	5
Mark the statement that is *too narrow*	N	5

a. Reptiles, descendants of ancient dinosaurs, have many traits in common. ☐ ____

b. Many animals are reptiles. ☐ ____

c. Reptiles are cold-blooded, meaning that they cannot generate their own body heat. ☐ ____

Score 15 points for each correct answer. **Score**

Subject Matter

2 Another good title for this passage would be
- ☐ a. The Small but Mighty Gecko.
- ☐ b. Characteristics of Vertebrates.
- ☐ c. *Reptilia,* a Class of Survivors.
- ☐ d. The Tropics: A Habitat for Reptiles. ____

Supporting Details

3 A reptile has thick, dry skin
- ☐ a. because the tropical sun has damaged it.
- ☐ b. that always looks wet and slimy.
- ☐ c. from which the animal's age is determined.
- ☐ d. to protect the reptile and to keep it moist. ____

Conclusion

4 Since a reptile cannot generate heat inside its body, it most likely
- ☐ a. buries itself during the summer.
- ☐ b. absorbs heat from its outside surroundings.
- ☐ c. frequently freezes to death.
- ☐ d. loves the cold weather. ____

Clarifying Devices

5 To help the reader understand that reptiles vary greatly in size and shape, the author presents
- ☐ a. examples.
- ☐ b. scientific studies.
- ☐ c. vivid word pictures.
- ☐ d. similes and metaphors. ____

Vocabulary in Context

6 In this passage <u>adaptations</u> means
- ☐ a. activities.
- ☐ b. adjustments.
- ☐ c. afflictions.
- ☐ d. attributes. ____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 214. **Total Score** ____

3 Space Invaders

A normal conversation between strangers involves more than talk. It also involve the dynamics of space interaction. If one person gets too close, the other person back up. If the first person invades the other's space again, the other person will back up again. The person who finds himself or herself backing up is trying to increase the distance of the comfort zone. The person closing in is trying to decr that distance. Most likely neither person is fully aware of what is going on.

In the 1960s American anthropologist Edward T. Hall was a pioneer in the study of human behavioral use of space. His field of study became known as *proxemics.* Hall said that personal space for Americans can be defined as having four distinct zones: the intimate zone within 18 inches of your body for whisper and embracing; the personal zone of 18 inches to four feet, for talking with clos friends; the social zone of four to 10 feet, for conversing with acquaintances; an the public zone of 10 to 25 feet, for interacting with strangers or talking to a gr

Historians say that our standards of personal space began with the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century. In cities such as London and New York, people different social and economic classes were suddenly crammed together, so they unconsciously developed a commonly understood code of courtesy and space to restrict the area around them.

People exhibit nonverbal messages of discomfort when their zones are violate Invaded people might tap their toes, pull at their hair, become completely rigid, or even become angry. As Hall noted in his landmark work, a comfortable conv sation needs to include the parameters of human personal space.

Main Idea 1

	Answer	Sc
Mark the *main idea*	M	1
Mark the statement that is *too broad*	B	
Mark the statement that is *too narrow*	N	

a. People have a need for personal comfort zones. ☐

b. People exhibit nonverbal messages of discomfort. ☐

c. People engage in conversations. ☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer. Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage is mostly about
- ☐ a. what nonverbal communication is.
- ☐ b. human conversation.
- ☐ c. the life of Edward T. Hall.
- ☐ d. human behavioral use of space. ____

Supporting Details 3 Edward T. Hall identified
- ☐ a. interactions between strangers.
- ☐ b. angry people.
- ☐ c. four zones of personal space.
- ☐ d. the Industrial Revolution. ____

Conclusion 4 If you and a close friend began talking when you were eight feet apart, you would probably soon
- ☐ a. move closer together.
- ☐ b. move farther apart.
- ☐ c. begin talking more softly.
- ☐ d. ask another friend to join the conversation. ____

Clarifying Devices 5 The third paragraph provides
- ☐ a. a historical perspective on personal space.
- ☐ b. an economic reason for personal space.
- ☐ c. an overview of Edward T. Hall's field of study.
- ☐ d. a definition of personal space. ____

Vocabulary in Context 6 The word dynamics means
- ☐ a. difficulties.
- ☐ b. forces or influences that cause change.
- ☐ c. largeness.
- ☐ d. explosions so large they are beyond belief. ____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 214. **Total Score** ____

4 Get Me to the Airport on Time

People overestimate and underestimate constantly. Whether you over- or un
estimate depends on whether you prefer to end up with a surplus or a deart

Liz Wolski is a restaurateur whose well-run cafe features a daily fish spe
feels that it is essential for fish to be extremely fresh. Unfortunately, she says
well-refrigerated fresh fish often tastes "fishy" on the second day. Thus Liz h
underestimates the number of customers who will order the fish special eac
She would rather disappoint some patrons than waste food and money. Also
confident that most customers will be willing to order something else.

Al Conway is a business executive whose position requires frequent trav
absolutely detests waiting at the airport for flights to leave. As a result, he al
used to depart for the airport at the last possible moment. By cutting his tin
close, he occasionally missed flights altogether. Conway's wife Mary (who o
drives him to the airport) finally put her foot down and refused to take him
such stressful conditions. As a result, Al reluctantly pledged that in the futu
would leave for the airport with plenty of time to spare.

Overestimating or underestimating can lead to wasted food or money, m
airline flights, or even disaster. (According to some, the designers of the *Tita*
purposefully underestimated the number of lifeboats needed to accommoda
passengers.) However, carefully considered over- or underestimating can hel
function more effectively. The next time you're uncertain whether to overest
underestimate, use the following formula: *If I end up with too much* _____
will happen; if I end up with too little of it, then B will happen. I would rather
happen than B (or vice versa).

Main Idea 1

	Answer
Mark the *main idea*	M
Mark the statement that is *too broad*	B
Mark the statement that is *too narrow*	N

a. Liz saves money by underestimating. ☐

b. Judicious estimating helps people function well. ☐

c. Most people estimate frequently. ☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer. **Score**

Subject Matter 2 Another good title for this passage might be
- ☐ a. Don't Overestimate!
- ☐ b. Enough, Too Little, or Too Much?
- ☐ c. Liz's Restaurant.
- ☐ d. Fresh out of Fresh Fish.

____

Supporting Details 3 Al underestimated the amount of time it would take to get to the airport because
- ☐ a. he was not good at keeping track of time.
- ☐ b. his wife always drove too slowly.
- ☐ c. he hated to wait for flights to leave.
- ☐ d. it took him a long time to pack.

____

Conclusion 4 We can conclude from the passage that it would be wise to overestimate when calculating the amount of
- ☐ a. time needed to complete a project with a strict deadline.
- ☐ b. cash to withdraw from a local ATM.
- ☐ c. perishable food to buy for a beach picnic.
- ☐ d. time children will spend on chores.

____

Clarifying Devices 5 The second and third paragraphs are included to
- ☐ a. provide contrast to the first paragraph.
- ☐ b. relate a humorous anecdote.
- ☐ c. explain the steps in a process.
- ☐ d. provide examples.

____

Vocabulary in Context 6 Dearth means
- ☐ a. fiasco.
- ☐ b. excess.
- ☐ c. lack.
- ☐ d. murder.

____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 214. **Total Score** ____