

31 A Face-Off in the Colosseum

The Colosseum is in Rome. It is now in ruins, but once it was a great arena. It looked like our football stadiums. It could seat about 45,000 people. It was mainly used to watch gladiators fight. Most gladiators were prisoners of war. They were made to fight with swords and other weapons. They fought until one was killed. Then the winner was set free.

The Colosseum was also used for another spectacle. An unarmed man would be thrown into the arena. A hungry wild lion would be released, and the spectators would watch the man being torn and eaten. Here's an account of one such event.

The cage was opened. A starved, almost crazed lion sprang forth. The prey was in the center. The man stood with only a rock in one hand. In the other was a fistful of sand. That's all he had. The lion never paused. It made long and powerful bounds. With each leap, its claws set forth showers of sand.

The stands were silent. People held their breaths. With one more leap, the lion would be on the man. But that last leap never came. The lion skidded in the soft sand. It stopped a mere step away. The lion raised its head. It looked at the man and licked his hand. It seemed like a miracle.

Who was the man? He was Androcles. And he remembered. Years before he had saved that lion. He lifted its right paw and saw the scar. Then he wrapped his arms around the lion's neck. Together, like partners, they walked around the whole arena. The crowds had never seen such a miracle. They cheered uncontrollably. It was the greatest show they had ever seen.

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

- Kindness will often be repaid, sometimes in unexpected ways.
- Androcles' kindness was repaid when he faced the lion in the Colosseum.
- Androcles was put into the Colosseum to fight the lion with a rock and sand.

☐

☐

☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|-------|
| Subject Matter | 2 | This passage is mostly concerned with
☐ a. an event that took place in the Colosseum.
☐ b. the memories of lions.
☐ c. a description of the Colosseum.
☐ d. how spectators in the Colosseum acted. | _____ |
| Supporting
Details | 3 | In the Colosseum people watched
☐ a. men fighting.
☐ b. football games.
☐ c. lions fighting.
☐ d. wars. | _____ |
| Conclusion | 4 | It is likely that the author of this passage admires
☐ a. stories about public shows.
☐ b. people who free the innocent.
☐ c. people who are kind to animals.
☐ d. large animals. | _____ |
| Clarifying
Devices | 5 | The author describes what the Colosseum looks
like by using a
☐ a. list of adjectives.
☐ b. comparison.
☐ c. contrast.
☐ d. metaphor. | _____ |
| Vocabulary
in Context | 6 | The lion's <u>bounds</u> are its
☐ a. roars.
☐ b. legs.
☐ c. surroundings.
☐ d. leaps. | _____ |

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here
and on the graph on page 212.

Total
Score

32 Rubber and Charles Goodyear

Explorers found something strange in the New World. Indian children had balls that bounced. The explorers brought the material to England. Scientists worked with it. One gave it a name. He rubbed a piece of it over pencil marks. The marks rubbed off. He called the piece *rubber*. Rubber also kept out water. Scientists melted the raw rubber. They saw how to make raincoats. But there were drawbacks. The coats were sticky in hot weather. Cold made them stiff and brittle.

Could the problem be solved? Yes. Charles Goodyear solved it. He was a poor inventor. He worked in his wife's kitchen. She wanted him to find a paying job. But he kept on trying. One day he had an accident. He spilled a sulfur-rubber mixture on a hot stove. The sulfur smelled awful. His wife was angry. He was upset. Then he noticed something. The mixture baked like a pancake. He thought, "Why didn't it melt further?" He carefully lifted the pancake of rubber. It had changed. Now it was soft. It bent easily. He put it on ice. It did not stiffen. He held it over heat. It did not become sticky. The problem was solved. The rubber was "cured." It stayed tough and firm. Goodyear named the process after Vulcan. He was the Roman god of fire.

Goodyear licensed his process. But he was no businessman. He gained very little. Lawsuits ate up his money. Not much more is known. But there is a bright spot. Something must have worked. His second son graduated from Yale. He was a well-known historian. Another son also did well. He adapted the sewing machine. It now made shoes.

Yes, there was sulfur in the rubber. But there must have been brains in the genes.

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

- Inventors are not always successful businessmen. ☐
- Charles Goodyear discovered how to cure rubber, but not how to make money. ☐
- Goodyear's sons went on to be successful, unlike their dad. ☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 The best alternative title for this passage would be
- ☐ a. A Lucky Accident.
 - ☐ b. Hard Work Pays Off.
 - ☐ c. Brains Are All it Takes.
 - ☐ d. Rubber Poses Problems.

- Supporting Details** 3 The sulfur-rubber mixture did not melt on the stove because
- ☐ a. it was quickly removed from the heat.
 - ☐ b. the stove was not hot enough.
 - ☐ c. the heat made it strong and solid.
 - ☐ d. Goodyear had covered the stove with oil.

- Conclusion** 4 The writer suggests that Goodyear
- ☐ a. was interested in Roman mythology.
 - ☐ b. was the strong person in his marriage.
 - ☐ c. was more successful at passing on his intelligence than being a businessman.
 - ☐ d. enjoyed solving problems more than creating new inventions.

- Clarifying Devices** 5 The author uses the expression "like a pancake" in order to show
- ☐ a. how fluffy the rubber mixture was.
 - ☐ b. how flat and solid the rubber mixture was.
 - ☐ c. how dirty the mixture looked.
 - ☐ d. why Goodyear was heating the rubber mixture on a stove.

- Vocabulary in Context** 6 When something is brittle it is
- ☐ a. like candy.
 - ☐ b. easily breakable.
 - ☐ c. mushy.
 - ☐ d. warm.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 212.

Total Score

33 Collectible Cars

Many people like unusual cars. These are cars not made in large numbers. There are reasons only a few were made. Some of the cars were fancy and expensive. Others never caught on with the public. Many people collect such cars.

One fancy car was the Avanti. It was made by Studebaker. (This was a car company from the 1920s to the 1960s.) The Avanti was a sports coupe. It had sleek, curvy lines. It had a fiberglass body. The car was first sold in 1962. Then Studebaker closed. But the Avanti did not go away. A small factory kept making it. This factory was in Indiana. It made the cars by hand. It made about 50 cars a year. These cars were very expensive. But their owners loved them. The style did not change much from year to year. These cars quickly became classics. They are worth a lot of money today.

Another classic is the Edsel. This car came out in 1957. It was made by Ford. It was named after Henry Ford's son. Most car grilles go across the car's front. The Edsel's grille was vertical. Ford talked a lot about the car before it came out. They said it was "all new." But people did not like it. It did not look new to them. In fact, it looked ugly. It also did not run well. And it was expensive. The economy was not doing well. People wanted cheaper cars. They also wanted smaller cars. The Edsel did not last. It was only made for 3 years. But some people now like this car. It is rare. Only 110,000 were made. People collect it. There are Edsel clubs. What might this tell us? Maybe this. If something is old and rare enough, someone will want it.

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

- The Avanti and the Edsel are two popular collectible cars.
- In contrast to the Avanti, the public did not like the Edsel.
- Many old cars have value to collectors.

☐
☐
☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter 2 This passage is mainly about
- ☐ a. how old cars were built.
 - ☐ b. why the Edsel was a failure.
 - ☐ c. a description and history of the Avanti and Edsel.
 - ☐ d. handmade cars.

- Supporting Details 3 The Avanti was made
- ☐ a. by Ford.
 - ☐ b. in a small factory in Indiana.
 - ☐ c. with recycled Studebaker parts.
 - ☐ d. with a strange-looking grille.

- Conclusion 4 The author's feeling about the Edsel's current popularity is one of
- ☐ a. anger.
 - ☐ b. surprise.
 - ☐ c. bitterness.
 - ☐ d. enthusiasm.

- Clarifying Devices 5 The basic pattern used to develop this passage is
- ☐ a. chronological order.
 - ☐ b. a personal narrative.
 - ☐ c. comparison and contrast.
 - ☐ d. question and answer.

- Vocabulary in Context 6 The word vertical means
- ☐ a. up and down.
 - ☐ b. from left to right.
 - ☐ c. set at an angle.
 - ☐ d. using wavy lines.

34 The Coffee Bean

How much coffee does an average American drink? That is, on a yearly basis. If you said, "about 15 pounds," you would be right. Now for a harder question. How many pounds does the United States use each year? The answer: almost 3 billion pounds.

The coffee plant is a shrub. The shrub is pruned to keep it under 12 feet. It was first found growing wild in Ethiopia. The seeds were brought back and planted in South America. Brazil is now by far the biggest producer.

We see the coffee bean. But we don't see the process that makes the clean bean possible. Here's what is needed. First, the berries must be picked by hand. Then they are put into water. The good sink to the bottom. Sticks, leaves, green, and bad berries float on top. The bean is inside a berry that looks like a cherry. This outer skin and pulp must be removed. Each cherrylike berry contains two beans. These beans have to be fermented and washed. The beans themselves have a thin skin. These inner skins must be removed too. Next, the beans are roasted. They're roasted at 900 degrees F. Finally, the beans are ready for sale. They may be sold whole. Or they may be ground for drip, fine, or regular coffee.

Coffee contains caffeine. It is a stimulant. The drink expands the blood vessels. More blood flows to the head and brain. Coffee keeps most people awake. This was first noticed in Ethiopia. Goats that ate the leaves and berries stayed awake all night.

Is coffee safe? Some studies say a cup or two a day is okay. But no one knows for 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. Coffee beans come from a plant.	☐	_____
b. Coffee comes from a process of cleaning and roasting beans.	☐	_____
c. The coffee bean is inside a berry that looks like a cherry.	☐	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage is mostly about
- ☐ a. how much coffee Americans drink.
 - ☐ b. how coffee beans are cleaned and roasted.
 - ☐ c. a study on whether coffee is safe or not.
 - ☐ d. caffeine's effect on humans.
- _____
- Supporting Details** 3 Just before the coffee bean is roasted, it
- ☐ a. is ground.
 - ☐ b. has its inner skin removed.
 - ☐ c. is fermented.
 - ☐ d. is picked by a machine.
- _____
- Conclusion** 4 We can conclude from this passage that
- ☐ a. all Americans drink 15 pounds of coffee a day.
 - ☐ b. we drink too much coffee.
 - ☐ c. there are no hard facts on whether coffee is good for you.
 - ☐ d. Ethiopians drink more coffee than Americans.
- _____
- Clarifying Devices** 5 This passage is mostly developed by
- ☐ a. telling the history of the coffee bean.
 - ☐ b. a series of questions and answers.
 - ☐ c. describing in detail the results of an ongoing study.
 - ☐ d. explaining a process.
- _____
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage pruned means
- ☐ a. ate the fruit of.
 - ☐ b. removed branches.
 - ☐ c. measured.
 - ☐ d. warmed up.
- _____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 212.

Total
Score

35 Camels and Their Humps

Subject Matter

Nature works in strange ways. Camels were given humps. Why? Humps provide a place to store food and water. Other animals store food and water differently. They use their tissues. These are all over their bodies. But camels have one special place. Their humps.

Supporting
Details

The Arabian camel lives mainly in the Sahara. It has one hump. There is a camel with two humps. It is the Bactrian. It lives in the Gobi Desert. That is in Asia. It is in Inner and Outer Mongolia. There is a camel's picture on a package of dates. That is a dromedary. It is a special camel. It is raised only for Army troops and racing. It can run 10 miles per hour. It can cover 100 miles in a day. In all these camels, the hump has one purpose. It stores food and water.

Conclusion

Camels can go for a week or more with no food or water. The hump doesn't carry plain water. But water is indeed stored there. Wait! What goes? Water or no water?

Here is the answer. The water is in the form of fat. On long marches, the camel makes water from it. How, you ask? Well, you've seen fat splutter in a frying pan. The spluttering is caused by water escaping from the fat. Something of this sort occurs inside the body of a camel. The fat breaks down. Water is released.

Clarifying
Devices

So the camel gets water from its hump. It also gets food from its hump. After a week or two, what happens? The hump gets smaller. After two weeks, the hump almost disappears. There is nothing left to form it. But by then it shouldn't matter. The long trip in the hot desert sands should be over.

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

Vocabulary
in Context

a. There are several types of camels.

☐

—

b. All camels have at least one hump.

☐

—

c. The hump provides water and food for camels.

☐

—

Add your
and on the

Score

2 Another good title for this passage might be

- ☐ a. The Camel's Helpful Hump.
☐ b. Desert Days.
☐ c. How the Camel Got Its Hump.
☐ d. Cooling Down the Camel.

3 Camels with two humps

- ☐ a. have more water.
- ☐ b. are better for racing.
- ☐ c. live in Asia.
- ☐ d. can travel farther.

4 You can assume that camels would

- ☐ a. provide good transportation in the desert.
- ☐ b. prefer living in a cooler place.
- ☐ c. need more water after each day of travel.
- ☐ d. not need to store food and water in colder places.

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- ☐ b. prefer living in a cooler place.
- ☐ c. need more water after each day of travel.
- ☐ d. not need to store food and water in colder places.

5 The author makes a comparison to fat in a frying pan in order to

- ☐ a. tell how heat affects the camel.
- ☐ b. suggest why the camel's body needs fat and water for long trips.
- ☐ c. demonstrate how the camel's hump provides it with water.
- ☐ d. explain the difference between water and fat.

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- ☐ c. demonstrate how the camel's hump provides it with water.
- ☐ d. explain the difference between water and fat.

6 Splutter means to

- ☐ a. melt.
☐ b. heat up.
☐ c. bubble.
☐ d. cool off.

**Total
Score**

36 Communicating with Horses

Ever hear of Monty Roberts? Probably not. Not many people have. Roberts is the man who “listens” to horses. “Listen,” of course, does not mean verbal language. Yet he and horses “talk” to each other. How? Through the use of body language.

Here is why Roberts learned the sign language of horses. He hated the cruelty of “breaking” a horse. Breaking meant breaking a horse’s spirit. To the old bronco busters, this was the only way. But it was a cruel way. A horse would be driven into a corral. It would be lassoed. Then it would be tied to a post. The buster would get on. He would wear a pair of spurs. Then the battle would begin. The horse would panic. It would try to throw the buster off its back. The horse when broken would never trust people again. An imprint had been made on its brain. People meant pain. Horses feared people.

Roberts, though, believed in a gentle way. He wanted to gain the horse’s trust. He wanted to show that he would not hurt it. That a man could be a friend. Roberts’s gentle way uses body language. Here is how he learned what to do. He watched a herd of wild mustangs. He went out into the high Nevada desert. He was only 14. He spent three weeks alone. He carried simple food with him. When he found the herd, he hobbled his packhorses. Then he crept forward. He got to within a quarter of a mile of the herd. He looked through his binoculars. The mustangs seemed very close by. He could see the smallest movements of their heads and ears.

Roberts watched the horses intently. He learned a great deal about their behavior.

Subject Matter

Supporting
Details

Conclusion

Clarifying
Devices

Vocabulary
in Context

Add your scores
and on the grap.

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. Monty Roberts “listened” to horses by watching them closely.	☐	_____
b. Monty Roberts searched for a gentler way of breaking horses.	☐	_____
c. Breaking horses is a difficult, challenging task.	☐	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage is mainly about
- ☐ a. teaching horses.
 - ☐ b. looking for a new way to communicate with horses.
 - ☐ c. bronco busters of the past.
 - ☐ d. sign language.
- _____
- Supporting Details** 3 Monty Roberts first learned the language of horses by
- ☐ a. reading many books on the topic.
 - ☐ b. taking pictures of wild mustangs.
 - ☐ c. watching them from a distance.
 - ☐ d. treating horses gently and in a friendly manner.
- _____
- Conclusion** 4 From this passage, we can guess Monty Roberts
- ☐ a. was patient and gentle.
 - ☐ b. knew a lot of bronco busters.
 - ☐ c. was once afraid of horses.
 - ☐ d. grew up in the East.
- _____
- Clarifying Devices** 5 The author presents the old method of breaking horses by
- ☐ a. describing the process.
 - ☐ b. explaining how quickly it went.
 - ☐ c. telling a story about an old bronco buster.
 - ☐ d. trying to persuade the reader of its advantages.
- _____
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 A corral is a
- ☐ a. stable.
 - ☐ b. large open space.
 - ☐ c. barn.
 - ☐ d. fenced-in field.
- _____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here

Total
Score