

Name: _____

Blizzard Bag Day #1
4th Grade Language Arts

A Trip to the Ballpark
by Alicia Skelton

Wade grabbed his baseball glove and baseball cap and headed out the door. He was going to watch the Texas Rangers play the New York Yankees. This was the first big game that Wade had ever been to. He was so excited about getting to go to the game but also about getting to spend time with his dad and big brother Gage. Wade hopped into the front seat of his dad's truck, and Gage climbed in beside him. They were off to the ballpark.

When they got to the ballpark, Wade could not believe how enormous it was. They walked inside and decided to find their seats before the first pitch of the game. Wade walked through a tunnel. On the other side, he got his first view of the baseball field. The grass was so green. Wade smiled as his dad, his brother, and he walked down the steps to their seats. Wade sat between his dad and brother and got ready for the first pitch.

After the first inning ended, Wade's dad got up to get some hot dogs and drinks. Wade could not erase the smile off his face. He could not imagine this day being any better. Then all of a sudden, a Texas Rangers player hit a ball long and hard. Sailing right toward Wade, it looked like it was going to be a homerun. Wade threw his hot dog down and slid his glove on. Wade hopped up on his seat and raised his glove in the air. The ball smacked him right in the middle of his glove. Now, Wade really could not imagine this day being more perfect.

1. Which is the **best** summary of the last paragraph?

- A. Wade's dad gets up to go and get hot dogs and drinks after the first inning. A Texas Ranger hits a ball right towards Wade who catches the ball.
 - B. Wade cannot imagine the day getting any better. He sees a Texas Ranger hit a long ball and it comes right towards him.
 - C. Wade cannot imagine a day being any better than sitting at the ballpark with his dad and his big brother Gage.
 - D. Wade's dad gets up to go and get some hot dogs and drinks after the first inning ended. Wade could not believe how enormous the ballpark is.
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2. Which is the **best** summary of this story?

- Wade's dad leaves to get some hot dogs and drinks. A Texas Rangers player hits a ball
- A. toward Wade. Throwing his hot dog down, Wade stands on his chair and catches the ball. Wade has a perfect day because of this.
 - Wade is at a big baseball game with his dad and his big brother. He cannot erase the smile
 - B. off of his face while he eats hot dogs next to his dad and brother. He cannot imagine a more perfect day.
 - Wade is going to his very first big baseball game with his dad and big brother. Wade is so
 - C. excited and cannot believe how nice the ballpark is. Just when Wade thinks the day cannot get better he catches a ball in his glove.
 - Wade gets to go to a big baseball game with his dad and big brother. Wade is very excited
 - D. to spend time with his dad and his big brother. After the first inning ends, Wade's dad leaves to get some hot dogs and drinks.
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The lightbulb is probably one of the most important inventions in science. It has changed the world by letting people do their work at night. Before the lightbulb, people had to use candles or fires to see at night. These light sources did not give off enough light. In some places, like coal mines, using candles could be dangerous. The lightbulb provided a cleaner and safer light source.

The lightbulb allows people to drive their cars at night. Lighthouses also use lightbulbs to guide ships safely to shore. The lightbulb is used in sports, television, and many other businesses.

3. Which of these best summarizes the selection?

- A. Lighthouses use lightbulbs to help guide ships that are at sea. The lightbulb is also important because it lets people drive their cars at night.
 - B. The lightbulb was safer to use than candles inside the coal mines. The lightbulb is also used in sports, television, and many other businesses.
 - C. Before the lightbulb was invented, people had to read and write by candles and fires. These light sources were not very bright, and they could be dangerous.
 - D. The lightbulb helps people in many different ways. It allows people to work or drive at night, helps keep people safe, and is used in many businesses.
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Learning How to Ski

by Alicia Skelton

Ramon and his family went skiing every winter. This year, Ramon was bringing his best friend Miguel. Miguel had never skied before and was really excited to learn. Ramon wanted to make sure that Miguel had a really good time, so he decided to start preparing him before they left on their trip. Ramon pulled all of his ski gear out of the hall closet. He let Miguel try on his ski jacket and pants. Then Miguel put the goggles, ski boots, and skis on. Miguel waddled around Ramon's room knocking into things with the big, long skis. Miguel asked Ramon, "If I cannot even walk in these things, how in the world am I going to ski?"

Ramon thought this was a really good question. He thought long and hard about how Miguel could practice skiing before they got to the mountain. "I know," Ramon said, "You can practice skiing down our stairs." The boys laughed with excitement as Miguel waddled his way over to the top of the stairs. Just as Miguel was about to ski down the steps, Ramon's mom came in the front door, "No!" She screamed, "You will hurt yourself!"

Miguel stopped and realized that skiing down the stairs was not a good idea at all. Miguel sat down on the top step and looked at Ramon, "Thanks for trying to help me learn. I guess you will just have to finish my ski lesson on the mountain." "That would probably be the best place," Ramon agreed.

4. Which is the **best** summary of the first paragraph?

- A. Miguel is worried about learning how to ski. Miguel tries on all of Ramon's ski gear and start to waddle all around Ramon's room and knocks into things with the big, long skis.
Ramon is allowed to invite his best friend Miguel to go skiing with his family this year.
 - B. Miguel has never skied before and is really excited about learning how. The boys are excited about the trip.
 - C. Miguel wants to learn how to ski before he goes with Ramon's family to the mountains. He tries on Ramon's ski jacket and pants. Then he puts on the goggles, ski boots, and skis.
Ramon is bringing his friend Miguel on the family ski trip. Ramon wants to help Miguel
 - D. prepare for skiing before the trip by letting Miguel try on some ski gear. Miguel has a hard time moving with the skis on.
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5. Which is the **best** summary of this passage?

- A. Ramon and his family go skiing every year. This year will be different because Ramon will be bringing his friend Miguel. Miguel is nervous about skiing with Ramon because he has never skied before and does not know how.
Ramon is happy about bringing Miguel on the ski trip. Ramon lets Miguel try on his ski
 - B. gear. Miguel almost skis down the stairs, but Ramon's mom stops Miguel. The boys decide to finish the ski lesson on the mountain.
Ramon lets Miguel try on all of his ski gear. Miguel walks around Ramon's room wearing
 - C. his ski jacket, pants, and skis. Miguel wants to learn more about skiing so Ramon tells Miguel to try and ski down the stairs.
Ramon helps his friend Miguel learn how to ski before they go to the mountains for a ski
 - D. trip. Ramon lets Miguel put on all of his ski gear to see how it all feels. Miguel puts on the ski jacket, pants, goggles, boots, and even the skis.
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Geologists are scientists who study the Earth. They search through rivers, mountains, and caves for clues about how and when the Earth was formed. Some of these clues are millions of years old. Geologists study clues like caves and fossils to find out more about the Earth.

Caves are natural holes or tunnels that go underground. A geologist would study a cave to find out several things. First, what made the tunnel? Some caves are made by water or lava. Second, what kind of rock is the cave made of? Caves can be made out of many different types of rock.

Sometimes, geologists find fossils buried under the ground. A fossil is a bone, shell, or footprint left from ancient animals or people. Fossils are good clues for geologists to study. If a geologist finds the fossil of an ancient fish in a rock, he or she can guess that a river or ocean used to flow nearby.

6. In a short summary of this passage, which idea would be important to include?

- A. where caves are located
- B. what a geologist studies
- C. how the Earth was formed
- D. why fossils are important

Marcel loved the wind. On windy days, he sat in front of his window and watched the leaves and grass trimmings blow. One windy day, though, Marcel saw something that was not a leaf. It was shiny and blinding. It fluttered like a leaf but sparkled like a diamond. Marcel grabbed his sweater and ran outside.

He looked down the street and saw the shiny mystery getting farther and farther away. The wind began to blow harder, so Marcel ran faster to catch up. As he got closer, he couldn't believe his eyes. It was a giant butterfly with tiny crystals all over its wings. How lucky he was to see such magic! *But where did it come from?* Marcel wondered. *Where could it have come from?*

7. Which of these best summarizes the story?

- A. Marcel loved watching leaves and grass blow around. One day, he saw something flying outside his window. It was shiny.
- B. Marcel saw something that was not a leaf. It was a very windy day, and he wanted to watch the wind blow the leaves all around.
- C. Marcel loved to watch the wind blow. One windy day, he saw a shiny mystery fly by. He chased it and found a magical butterfly.
- D. Marcel's house had a giant window in the front. He loved to sit in the window and watch the leaves and grass trimmings blow around.

Fat

Fats are found in animals and plants. Foods that you eat every day are made of fats. Butter is made mostly of animal fat. Margarine is made mostly from plant fat. Fats that are liquid at room temperature are called oils. Oils are used on salads and can be used to fry food.

Fat is stored under the skin of humans and many animals. Fat helps keep people

and animals warm. It also helps protect areas around eyeballs and other body parts. In plants, most of the fat is stored in the seeds. The fat provides food to the seed when it first begins to grow.

Is it possible to have too much fat? Of course! Doctors say that people should be careful about how much fat they eat. Most foods have a little fat, but a person can get sick if he or she eats a large amount of food with too much fat.

8. Which is the best summary of the selection?

- A. Fat, which is found in animals and plants, is important to living things. Eating too much fat can make a person sick.
 - B. Fat helps keep people and animals warm and protects their bodies. In plants, most of the fat is stored in the seeds.
 - C. Doctors say that people should not eat too much fat in their food. However, most foods have a little fat in them.
 - D. Fats that are liquid at room temperature are called oils. Fat helps seeds get food when they first start growing.
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9. Which sentence shows an idea that would be important to include in a summary of this passage?

- A. Butter is made mostly of animal fat.
 - B. Fats are found in animals and plants.
 - C. Fats called oils can be used to fry food.
 - D. Margarine is made mostly from plant fat.
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It was the habit of Mr. Rolles, every afternoon, to walk for a while in Raeburn's garden. This afternoon, as he wandered, suddenly he saw something. It was half-buried in the soil. His fingers reached down to dig up a small, fancy box. Mr. Rolles opened it. He drew a breath in surprise: here, in a cradle of green velvet, was a diamond as large as the egg of a duck. As the sun shone on it, it was as bright as electricity. It seemed almost to burn his hand. The famous Rajah's Diamond!

Without thinking, Mr. Rolles looked around in a hurry. He saw no one: nothing but the sunny garden and the tall treetops. In a second, he shut the case. He thrust it in his pocket and hurried to his office.

adapted from The Rajah's Diamond by Robert Louis Stevenson

10. A student wants to highlight important details in the passage. Which of these details is important to highlight?

- A. There was a diamond in the garden.
- B. Mr. Rolles made walking his daily habit.

- C. Duck eggs are usually pretty big in size.
 - D. Mr. Rolles drew his breath in surprise.
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11. Which of these **best** summarizes the passage?

- A. Mr. Rolles had a habit. He liked to walk in Raeburn's garden and dig for treasure. One day he found a fancy box with a diamond inside.
 - B. Mr. Rolles found a diamond. It was half-buried in garden soil. He looked around the sunny garden, but did not see anyone.
 - C. Mr. Rolles was walking in Raeburn's garden when he found Rajah's Diamond in the soil. He put the diamond in his pocket and left.
 - D. Mr. Rolles found a diamond in the ground. It burned his hand. He knew that the diamond was famous, so he was happy.
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12. A student wants to highlight important details in the passage. Which of the following would be the **least** important to highlight?

- A. He found the Rajah's Diamond.
 - B. Rolles thrust it in his pocket.
 - C. It was half-buried in the soil.
 - D. The sun was shining brightly.
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13.

Joan of Arc

Joan of Arc was born in Domrémy, France, in 1412 to a farmer. She was a poor girl from France who claimed an angel told her to save her country. Her first vision was in 1424 when she was only 12 years old. After the English burned her village, she left to find the dauphin (the prince of France). She explained to the dauphin that he should give her an army to free the country from both England and Burgundy. At first, the dauphin thought she was crazy. Nevertheless, she was able to convince him of her loyalty. After he placed Joan in command of the army, her generals did not trust her. They wrongly felt that because she was a woman, she could not lead men in a battle. However, Joan soon changed their minds. Even though Joan could not read or write, she was a talented military planner. Joan led an army to the city of Orléans, forcing the English to retreat. In the next few battles, the French army crushed the English army. The people of France loved Joan. She did everything she said she would do. Joan became so popular among the nobles that the dauphin became worried. He thought she might get so popular that she would lead the people against him. Although Joan would

never do this, the dauphin turned on her. He secretly let the English capture her. Although the dauphin betrayed Joan, she never lost her love of France. Today, Joan of Arc is a saint and a French national hero.

Which detail from this passage would be **most** important to add to a summary?

- A. "Her first vision was in 1424 when she was only 12 years old."
 - B. "Joan became so popular among the nobles that the dauphin became worried."
 - C. "Joan led an army to the city of Orléans, forcing the English to retreat."
 - D. "Joan of Arc was born in Domrémy, France, in 1412 to a farmer."
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14.

Gotta Get to School!

by Alicia Skelton

Allison's alarm clock went off making her groan. She was not ready to wake up for school. Allison dragged her body out of bed and realized that she was running late. She only had 15 minutes before the bus would be here to pick her up. Quickly, Allison ran to brush her teeth, wash her face, brush her hair, and get dressed. Allison flew down the stairs and ran into the kitchen. She rushed to fill a bowl with cereal. Then, she decided she did not even have time for cereal, so she just grabbed a breakfast bar.

As Allison was putting her folders and books into her backpack her dad came down the stairs. He was still in his pajamas, rubbing his eyes and yawning. "What are you doing up so early Allison?" He asked.

"Early? Dad what are you talking about? I am so late!" Allison did not stop packing.

"Wait a minute kiddo," Allison's dad put his hand on her shoulder, "You are not late."

Allison stopped what she was doing and looked at her dad. He was smiling. Allison was trying to figure out why her dad was not racing to get ready for work. "Are you not working today or something Dad?" Allison asked with a confused look.

Allison's dad shook his head and said "I am not working today and you are not going to school today. Sweetie, it is Saturday.

Which is the **best** summary of this story?

- A. Allison wakes up and realizes that she is running very late for school. She hurries to get ready and to fix herself breakfast. Her dad comes tells her that she is not late for school because it is Saturday.
- B. Allison's alarm clock goes off, but she does not want to get out of bed. She only has 15 minutes to get ready before the school bus comes to her house. She gets herself ready and races down the stairs.
- C. Allison hurries to get herself ready. She brushes her teeth, washes her face, brushes her hair, and gets dressed. Allison races down the stairs to fix breakfast and pack up her backpack before the bus comes.

- Allison gets breakfast and starts packing up her backpack. Her dad comes in and Allison
- D.** asks him why he is not at work. Her dad tells her she does not need to hurry for school because it is Saturday.
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Most fourth graders can show a younger child how to tie shoes. The strange thing is this: it is easy to show but harder to tell. On the telephone, the instructions would sound impossible:

- Begin with a simple knot.
- Cross one string behind and under another string.
- Now pull the ends outward.
- Then form a loop with the shoestring in your right hand.

The directions make it sound like you need three hands to tie your shoes! They just don't make sense. One thing is clear, though: the best way to teach a beginner is to show them. After a few tries, children see that they don't need extra hands to tie their shoes. Good luck!

15. In a short summary of this passage, which detail would be most important to include?

- A.** Instructions are difficult to give over the telephone.
- B.** Good luck is needed to learn how to tie a shoe string.
- C.** Fourth graders can show someone how to tie a shoe.
- D.** The best way to teach a beginner is to show them.
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