AMI WRITING PROMPTS
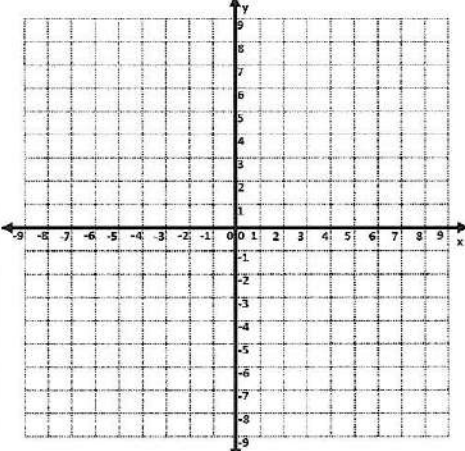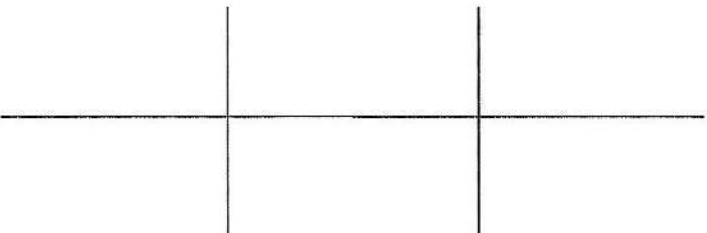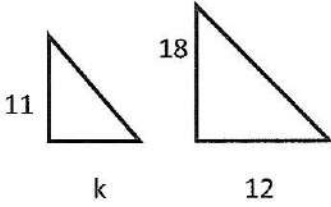
GRADES 9-10-11-12

DAY # 1:

Mel has been in a band with his friends since they were little kids. As he has grown older, Mel has come to recognize that he is a better musician than his friends are. Instead of playing in his friends' garage band, Mel is thinking about joining the all-city jazz band, where he can play with and learn from some of the best musicians around. Should Mel join the jazz band instead of playing with his friends? Consider the positions below as you think about how you would answer this question.

• Yes - We owe it to ourselves to develop our individual talents to their maximum.

• No - Our friends deserve our loyalty.

Now, take a position on this question and write a persuasive essay in which you argue for your position. Be sure to provide reasons for your position and examples to support your reasons.

Algebra 1 Builder # 41

Name:_____

Distributing Collecting

$2m^2(-8m + 3m) + 5m - 2m^3 - 7$

$7x^2 - 1 + 3x^2 - 5(5x^2 + 8x)$

Parallel Perpendicular Lines

Determine if the lines are **parallel**, **perpendicular** or **neither**. Parallel (same slope) Perpendicular (slopes are negative reciprocals).

Line A $3/5x + 1 = y$ Line B $5y = 3x - 2$

Line B $5y = 3x - 2$ Line C $10x - 6y = -4$

Solve Equations

$-6(-2y + 3) = 12y - 14$

$\dfrac{6a + 4}{24} = 18$

Linear Functions

Solve the equation for y. Make a table, plot the points, draw the line. Change to slope intercept form $y = mx + b$. Find the y-intercept by setting x to 0; then find the x-intercept by setting y to 0. $-5/2x - y = 4$ Use {-2, -1, 0, 1, 2} for the domain.

x	y

x-int=_____

y-int=_____ m=_____

Write Inequalities

The difference of a number h and 8 is **greater than** 12 and **less than** 22.

Word Problems

Mark has two similar triangles find the length of the missing side.

18

11

k   12

Show your work!

Literal Equations

$E = \dfrac{I}{R}$ for R _____

Exponent Rules

Simplify the following expressions:

$3^4 \cdot 3^5$

$(-9)^9 / (-9)^7$

$\dfrac{3^7 \cdot 3^4}{3^6}$

READING TEST

35 Minutes—40 Questions

DIRECTIONS: There are four passages in this test. Each passage is followed by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

Passage I

PROSE FICTION: This passage is adapted from the short story "The Threshold" by Cristina Peri Rossi (original Spanish version ©1986 by Cristina Peri Rossi; translation ©1993 by Mary Jane Treacy).

The woman never dreams and this makes her intensely miserable. She thinks that by not dreaming she is unaware of things about herself that dreams would surely give her. She doesn't have the door of
5 dreams that opens every night to question the certainties of the day. She stays at the threshold, and the door is always closed, refusing her entrance. I tell her *that* in itself is a dream, a nightmare: to be in front of a door which will not open no matter how much we push at the
10 latch or pound the knocker. But in truth, the door to that nightmare doesn't have a latch or a knocker; it is total surface, brown, high and smooth as a wall. Our blows strike a body without an echo.

"There's no such thing as a door without a key,"
15 she tells me, with the stubborn resistance of one who does not dream.

"There are in dreams," I tell her. In dreams, doors don't open, rivers run dry, mountains turn around in circles, telephones are made of stone. Elevators stop in the
20 middle of floors, and when we go to the movies all the seats have their backs to the screen. Objects lose their functionality in dreams in order to become obstacles, or they have their own laws that we don't know anything about.

25 She thinks that the woman who does not dream is the enemy of the waking woman because she robs her of parts of herself, takes away the wild excitement of revelation when we think we have discovered something that we didn't know before or that we had
30 forgotten.

"A dream is a piece of writing," she says sadly, "a work that I don't know how to write and that makes me different from others, all the human beings and animals who dream."

35 She is like a tired traveler who stops at the threshold and stays there, stationary as a plant.

In order to console her, I tell her that perhaps she is too tired to cross through the doorway; maybe she

spends so much time looking for her dreams before
40 falling asleep that she doesn't see the images when they appear because her exhaustion has made her close those eyes that are inside of her eyes. When we sleep we have two pairs of eyes: the more superficial eyes, which are accustomed to seeing only the appearance of things and
45 of dealing with light, and dream's eyes; when the former close, the latter open up. She is the traveler on a long trip who stops at the threshold, half dead with fatigue, and can no longer pass over to the other side or cross the river or the border because she has closed
50 both pairs of eyes.

"I wish I could open them," she says simply.

Sometimes she asks me to tell her my dreams, and I know that later, in the privacy of her room with the light out, hiding, she'll try to dream my dream. But to
55 dream someone else's dream is harder than writing someone else's story, and her failures fill her with irritation. She thinks I have a power that she doesn't have and this brings out her envy and bad humor. She thinks that the world of dreams is an extra life that some of us
60 have, and her curiosity is only halfway satisfied when I am finished telling her the last one. (To tell dreams is one of the most difficult arts; perhaps only author Franz Kafka was able to do so without spoiling their mystery, trivializing their symbols or making them rational.)

65 Just as children can't stand any slight change and love repetition, she insists that I tell her the same dream two or three times, a tale full of people I don't know, strange forms, unreal happenings on the road, and she becomes annoyed if in the second version there are
70 some elements that were not in the first.

The one she likes best is the amniotic dream, the dream of water. I am walking under a straight line that is above my head, and everything underneath is clear water that doesn't make me wet or have any weight;
75 you don't see it or feel it, but you know it is there. I am walking on a ground of damp sand, wearing a white shirt and dark pants, and fish are swimming all around me. I eat and drink under the water but I never swim or float because the water is just like air, and I breathe it
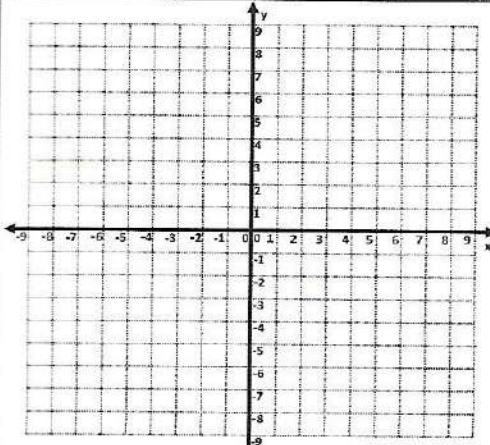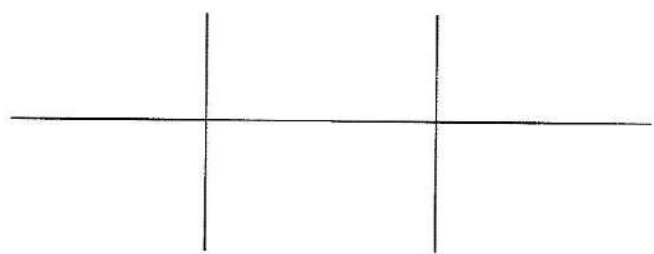80 naturally. The line above my head is the limit that I never cross, nor do I have any interest in going beyond it.

She, in turn, would like to dream of flying, of slipping from tree to tree way above the rooftops.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

1. Which of the following best describes the structure of the passage?

   A. A dialogue between two people in which both relate their dreams in an almost equal amount of detail
   B. An account of the narrator's perspective on the woman revealed primarily through the narrator's report of their conversations
   C. A character sketch of two people as related by a narrator who knows both of them and their thoughts
   D. A detailed narration of several of the narrator's dreams accompanied by a description of the woman's reactions to them

2. Based on the passage, which of the following statements best describes the overall attitudes of the narrator and the woman?

   F. The woman is frustrated and despairing, while the narrator is supportive and reassuring.
   G. The woman is bitter and resentful, while the narrator is detached and uninterested.
   H. The woman is lonely and resigned, while the narrator is optimistic and relaxed.
   J. The woman is dismayed and miserable, while the narrator is discontented and angry.

3. It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that the woman most strongly desires to attain which of the following qualities from dreaming?

   A. Relaxation
   B. Self-awareness
   C. Entertainment
   D. Self-control

4. Throughout the passage, the image of the door is used primarily as a metaphor for the boundary between:

   F. alertness and fatigue.
   G. dreams and nightmares.
   H. wakefulness and sleeping.
   J. not-dreaming and dreaming.

5. In relation to the first paragraph's earlier description of the nightmare, the narrator's comments in lines 10–13 primarily serve to:

   A. reveal how to alter a dream in progress.
   B. explain what caused the nightmare.
   C. intensify the sense of hopelessness.
   D. suggest the possibility of escape.

6. Which of the following statements about the amniotic dream is best supported by the passage?

   F. It is the narrator's favorite dream.
   G. The woman is particularly fond of hearing it related.
   H. The narrator has dreamed this dream many times.
   J. It is the dream the woman most strongly desires to dream.

7. According to the passage, one of the woman's worries about her present situation is that she:

   A. will begin to dream too much.
   B. suspects the narrator will desert her.
   C. will watch her dreams become nightmares.
   D. stands out as different from others.

8. Based on the narrator's account, the woman's approach to dreaming the narrator's dreams is best described as:

   F. confrontational and powerful.
   G. enthusiastic and playful.
   H. precise and confident.
   J. self-conscious and secretive.

9. As it is used in line 58, the word *humor* most nearly means:

   A. personality.
   B. whim.
   C. mood.
   D. comedy.

10. In the passage, the narrator most nearly describes Kafka as someone who:

   F. diminished dreams by trying to unravel their mysteries.
   G. explained the underlying rationality of dream symbols.
   H. conveyed the essence of dreams in his writing.
   J. found it too difficult to describe dreams artfully.

Algebra 1 Builder # 42

Name:_____

Distributing Collecting

$1/2(x^2 - 3) - 1/2x^3 - 6x + 7$

$8x^2 - 1 + 2x^2 - 2x(20x^2 + 4x)$

Parallel Perpendicular Lines

Determine if the lines are **parallel**, **perpendicular** or **neither**.   Parallel (same slope) Perpendicular (slopes are negative reciprocals).

Line A $4x - 3y = 2$ Line B $3x - 4y = -1$ Line A $4x - 3y = 2$ Line C $4y - 3x = 20$

Solve Equations

$\frac{7a+4}{4} = 28$

$-2(-8y + 3) = 3/4y - 14$

Linear Functions

Solve the equation for y. Make a table, plot the points, draw the line. Change to slope intercept form $y = mx + b$. Find the y-intercept by setting x to 0; then find the x-intercept by setting y to 0. $3/4x - y = 0$ Use {-2, -1, 0, 1, 2} for the domain.

x	y

x-int=_____

y-int=_____   m=_____

Write Inequalities

The product of 5 and a number g is **greater than 10** and **no more than 18**.

Word Problems

Given the the length (b + 3) and the width (b + 8) of a rectangle, find the perimeter.

Show your work!

Literal Equations

$S = \frac{1}{2} at^2$ for t^2 _____

Exponent Rules

Simplify the following expressions:

$(5^4)^3$

$(-9)^5 / (-9)^4$

$(32 \cdot 14)^2$

Alternative Methods of Instruction

Day 1 Assignment

Science Grades 11-12

Passage I

A study was conducted to examine whether female *Blattella germanica* (a species of cockroach) prefer to eat cat food, cheese, ham, or peanuts. First, 200 mg of each of the 4 foods was separately placed into a single box. Then, adult female *B. germanica* were added to the box. Figure 1 shows how the mass, in mg, of each food in the box changed over time after the addition of the *B. germanica*. Table 1 shows the percent by mass of carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and water, respectively, present in each of the 4 foods tested in the study.

Table 1				
	Percent by mass			
Food	carbohydrates	lipids	proteins	water
Cat food	1.2	6.0	16.9	66.2
Cheese	0.5	27.7	20.8	48.4
Ham	0.0	18.2	23.6	57.1
Peanuts	15.8	49.6	26.2	6.4

Table adapted from U.S. Department of Agriculture, *USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 24.* 2011.
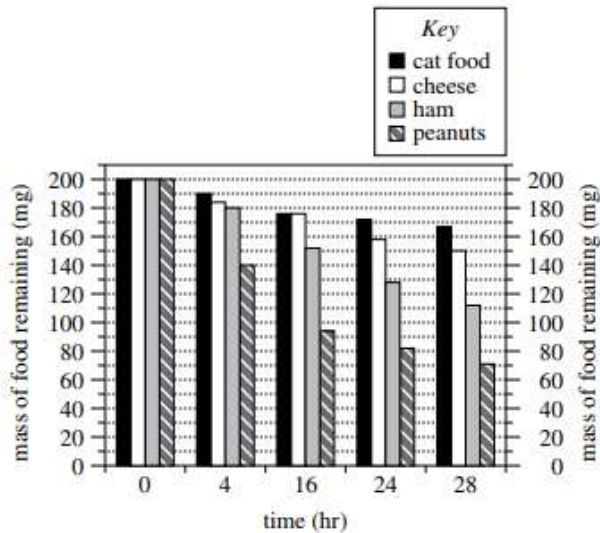

Figure 1

Figure adapted from Prachumporn Lauprasert et al., "Food Preference and Feeding Behavior of the German Cockroach, *Blattella germanica* (Linnaeus)." ©2006 by the Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University.

1. According to Figure 1, the mass of cheese remaining at 4 hr was closest to which of the following values?

   A. 140 mg
   B. 176 mg
   C. 185 mg
   D. 190 mg

2. Suppose a company wants to use food as bait in a trap designed to capture female *B. germanica*. Based on Figure 1, which of the 4 foods should the company place in the trap to maximize the chance of capturing female *B. germanica* ?

   F. Cat food
   G. Cheese
   H. Ham
   J. Peanuts

3. Consider the 4 foods in order of the percent by mass of proteins, from lowest to highest. From food to food, as the percent by mass of proteins increased, the mass of food remaining at 28 hr:

A. increased only.
B. decreased only.
C. increased and then decreased.
D. decreased and then increased.

4. Consider the statement "The *B. germanica* ate the food between 0 hr and 4 hr, between 4 hr and 16 hr, between 16 hr and 24 hr, and between 24 hr and 28 hr." This statement is consistent with the data in Figure 1 for how many of the 4 foods?

F. 1
G. 2
H. 3
J. 4

5. A student predicted that the *B. germanica* would eat less cat food than ham by the end of the study. Do the data in Figure 1 support this prediction?

A. Yes; at 28 hr, the mass of cat food remaining was about 55 mg greater than the mass of ham remaining.
B. Yes; at 28 hr, the mass of cat food remaining was about 95 mg greater than the mass of ham remaining.
C. No; at 28 hr, the mass of cat food remaining was about 55 mg less than the mass of ham remaining.
D. No; at 28 hr, the mass of cat food remaining was about 95 mg less than the mass of ham remaining.

6. Based on Table 1, when 200 mg of each of the 4 foods was placed in the box, water accounted for more than 100 mg of the mass of which food(s)?

F. Peanuts only
G. Cat food and ham only
H. Cheese and peanuts only
J. Cat food, cheese, and ham only