

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Gift-Giving

This passage may contain errors.

1) There is definitely a correct manner in which to give gifts. 2) Sure, you might be thinking that all you have to do is go to a store, buy the perfect present, and wrap it. 3) If that's all you do, then you are forgetting the real importance of gift-giving.

4) The first thing you should do is to consider the person who is getting the thing. 5) Is this a person to whom you'd like to share an important message? 6) If so, consider giving something from the heart. 7) Giving gifts is really fun and people all over the world engage in this activity. 8) It doesn't have to be something really expensive. 9) It could be something as simple as a framed photograph of something that will stay in the person's heart. 10) You may want to find something that would touch the person emotionally. 11) Just keep in mind that it's not the cost of the gift that counts, it's the emotional value that will be remembered forever.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

1 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which statement adds *support* to the idea expressed in sentence 10?

You may want to find something that would touch the person emotionally.

- A. Being emotional is an example of something you should think about the person to whom you are giving the gift.
- B. For example, you may remember something the person talked about wanting a long time ago, or something you saw together once.
- C. Finding perfect gifts for very special people is not always easy; it takes a lot of time and effort to buy just the right one.
- D. For example, you might want to buy the person something from a very famous gift shop or a place that wraps gifts for you.

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Correct: **B**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have focused on the word "emotional."
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) might not realize that this would be an awkward and illogical place to put this sentence.
- D. Student(s) might think that focusing on the place to buy the gift is related to "touching the person emotionally."

Standards:

CCSS.LA.8.W.8.2.b

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 2 Based on the excerpt "Gift-Giving," what can you infer about the importance of giving gifts? Use two relevant details from the text to support your inference.

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Standards:

CCSS.LA.8.RI.8.1

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

The Mighty Oak/Planting Acorns



In many parts of the country, the autumn landscape becomes a beautiful panorama of red, orange, and yellow like a watercolor painting. Trees and shrubs along the roads and in the forests turn brilliant colors, preparing to shed their leaves for the winter. One of the most majestic trees is the oak tree.

Oak trees are the genus *Quercus*, which comes from a Latin term meaning "fine tree." They can be found mostly in northern temperate zones, but grow equally well in warm states such as California. Most oaks are deciduous, but in climates such as those in the Southern United States they are evergreen, which means their leaves don't change color and fall off each year.

The acorn is the seed of an oak. Each acorn contains a single seed and is fixed in a woody cup that looks like a hat. Oaks begin producing acorns when they are 20 years old; however, some will not produce their first acorns until the age of 50. By the time the oak is 70 to 80 years old, it will make thousands of acorns every year. Though this may sound like a lot of acorns, only about one out of every 10,000 goes on to become a tree. The rest of the acorns are eaten as food or buried by squirrels for later use, only to be hidden by the fallen leaves of the tree.

Oak trees have become an important part of life. They are a major source of hardwood lumber, which is often used for building ships, furniture, floors, railroad ties, barrels, and tool handles. Oak trees provide habitat and food for thousands of types of animals and insects. The bark can be used for medicine, tanning, and dyes; the bark of the cork oak is used to create cork. Acorns become hog feed, oil, and food; in fact, acorns were one of the most important food sources to some Native Americans.

The oak has always been a symbol of strength because it grows so large and it lives for hundreds of years. Currently, the largest certified oak is the "Seven Sisters Oak" in Louisiana. It is 37 feet in circumference and is estimated to be over 1000 years old.

So the next time you're looking for some good shade, a place to hang a swing, or a spot to build a tree house, consider an oak tree. The majestic, sturdy oak can provide shelter and sustenance for people and animals alike.

Planting Acorns

Excerpt from a brochure entitled, "Managing Natural Resources: Planting Acorns." ¹

Collecting Acorns

The best time to gather acorns for planting is in the early fall. This is when the acorns are just starting to turn from green to brown, and some are starting to fall off the tree. Try to pick the acorns directly off the tree rather than picking up the ones on the ground. Acorns that have already fallen are

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usually cracked and too dry to germinate properly. An acorn is ready for picking when the cap comes off easily. If the cap doesn't pop off with a gentle twist, the acorn is too green.

Storing Acorns

Before storing, twist the caps off and rinse the acorns in cool to lukewarm water to which some bleach has been added—1/2 cup for every gallon of water. This acts as a mild disinfectant and cuts down on mold. Lay the acorns on paper towels to dry completely. Once dry, place the acorns in a zip-lock plastic bag, and store them in a refrigerator until you are ready to plant them. Acorns kept cold for 30 days germinate faster than those planted too soon. However, acorns stored for more than a few months will not grow.

Planting Acorns

Acorns should be planted in early November through early March. Plant each seed about one inch deep. Use a trowel to dig a hole that's slightly deeper than one inch, and then fill in the extra space with some loose dirt. This gives the acorn's root something easy to dig through. Lay the acorn on its side and fill in the rest of the dirt on top of the acorn. Finally, you must water the dirt thoroughly.

¹ See other brochures in this series available through the Department of Natural Resources, Washington, D.C.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "The Mighty Oak/Planting Acorns".

3 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which sentence from "The Mighty Oak" *best* reveals the usefulness of oak trees?

- A. Most oaks are deciduous, but in climates such as those in the Southern United States they are evergreen, which means their leaves don't change color and fall off each year.
- B. Oaks begin producing acorns when they are 20 years old; however, some will not produce their first acorns until the age of 50.
- C. Oak trees provide habitat and food for thousands of types of animals and insects.
- D. The oak has always been a symbol of strength because it grows so large and it lives for hundreds of years.

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Correct: **C**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have understood that oak trees are able to adapt to their surroundings by changing color in the North, and not changing color in the South. Student(s) may not have realized that although this is useful for climate changes, this sentence does not reveal the usefulness of the trees themselves.
- B. Student(s) may have understood that oak trees are able to produce many acorns over the years. Student(s) may not have realized that although this is useful, this sentence does not reveal the best use of these trees.
- C. Correct answer
- D. Student(s) may have understood that oak trees are very strong and live for a long time. Student(s) may not have realized that although this is useful, this sentence does not reveal the best use of these trees.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.8.RI.8.1

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "The Mighty Oak/Planting Acorns".

4 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

What sentence from "The Mighty Oak" supports the idea that an oak tree has to produce a lot of acorns for the species to survive?

- A. Each acorn contains a single seed and is fixed in a woody cup that looks like a hat.
- B. Oaks begin producing acorns when they are 20 years old; however, some will not produce their first acorns until the age of 50.
- C. By the time the oak is 70 to 80 years old, it will make thousands of acorns every year.
- D. Though this may sound like a lot of acorns, only about one out of every 10,000 goes on to become a tree.

Master ID: 2990 Revision: 2

Correct: **D**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have confused a description of an acorn with support.
- B. Student(s) may have thought that the fact that oaks do not produce acorns until they are mature was support, but that has nothing to do with how many are produced by one tree.
- C. Student(s) may have thought the fact that an oak makes thousands of acorns was support, but without including that most of them will not mature makes it an incomplete thought.
- D. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.8.RI.8.1

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 5 Write a summary paragraph that informs and explains the ideas expressed in the article "The Mighty Oak/Planting Acorns." Be sure to include a topic sentence that describes the overall main idea of the passage. Then summarize relevant well-chosen facts and details that support the main idea.

Master ID: 425539 Revision: 2

Standards:

CCSS.LA.8.W.8.2.a

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Total Department Store Return Policy

Total.com Return Policy: We will issue a full refund for most items returned within 90 days in new condition. To make an exchange, simply return your item, then order the item you would like.

To return an item purchased on Total.com: Most items on Total.com can be returned to a Total store or by mail. You can choose which return method you'd like by visiting our Online Returns Center. If you choose to return your item to a store, shipping and handling and gift-wrap charges cannot be refunded.

Also, please note:

- Music, movies, video games, software and collectibles purchased on Total.com must be returned unopened.*
- Camcorders, digital cameras, portable DVD players, portable electronics, framed art, gas-powered scooters and hot tubs purchased from Total.com are subject to a 15% restocking fee.
- Returns on TVs 40 inches or larger cannot be accepted without original packaging.
- GiftCards, e-GiftCards, pre-paid music and phone cards cannot be returned.
- Holiday and seasonal merchandise on clearance at the time of return will be refunded at the clearance price.
- Other restrictions may apply.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our policy, please contact Guest Relations at 1-800-555-1234 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST).

* If you discover that the music, movie, video game, digital camera, portable DVD player, portable electronics, framed art, gas-powered scooter, or hot tub you purchased was a defective product after opening the packaging, please contact Guest Relations and explain the problem.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Total Department Store Return Policy".

6 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Read the summary of the passage "Total Department Store Return Policy" below.

Total Department Store is able to accept most returns and exchanges including music, movies, and video games that are in unopened packages; as well as other items purchased online and within the store as long as return and exchanged policies are followed.

Which of the following important details from the passage is missing from the summary above?

- A. The store manager's email address.
- B. Total Department Store will give a full refund for most items that are returned within 90 days.
- C. Specific information regarding returning or exchanging of electronics.
- D. The Total Department Store's hours of operation.

Master ID: 32335 Revision: 1

Correct: **B**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have thought that this information would be important to include within the summary; however, student(s) may not have realized that an email address was not provided within the passage.
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) may not have read the summary carefully since the policies on returning electronics was included.
- D. Student(s) may have thought that including the hours of operation should have been included within the summary so customers know when the store is open for returns; however, student(s) may not have read the passage carefully since the passage did not contain information regarding the store's hours of operation.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.8.RI.8.2

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Total Department Store Return Policy".

7 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which statement provides the BEST summary of the "Total Department Store Return Policy"?

- A. Total Department store accepts all returned items in any condition.
- B. Total Department store does not accept any returned items.
- C. Total Department Store accepts returns within a given time period and under certain restrictions.
- D. Total Department Store accepts returns within a given time period.

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Correct: **C**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may not have read the passage carefully and assumed that Total Department Store would always accept returns.
- B. Student(s) may have realized this is true for some items under some restrictions, but this does not best summarize all the information in the policy.
- C. Correct answer
- D. Student(s) may have realized that Total will accept returns within a certain time period, however this choice does not include all of the information given in the policy.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.8.RI.8.2

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

8 TEACHER READS:

Read and complete the task that follows.

Read the following paragraph on babies.

Once a parent gets used to a newborn baby waking multiple times each night, the baby will surprise his parents by sleeping through the night entirely. This, needless to say, can send a worried parent into a panic. Babies are also unpredictable with their movements. After about four months of watching her baby move around very little, a mother could walk away from her baby for a second only to return to see her little one has rolled right over onto his belly!

Write a topic sentence for this paragraph that reflects the main idea of its content and indicates the organization of its details.

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Standards:

CCSS.LA.8.W.8.2.a