

Reading for Meaning Quiz Review/Practice

The term "cryptozoology" refers to the search for mythical or hidden animals. Cryptozoologists, both amateurs and professionals, most often search for animals whose existence is denied by mainstream biologists. Additionally, their searches primarily focus on large animals, such as dinosaurs or the creature known as Bigfoot. The Loch Ness monster is one of the most well-known cryptids, and cryptozoologists have been seeking proof of Nessie's existence for years. Anthonie Cornelis Oudemans' book *The Great Sea Serpent*, written in 1892, is considered the first scholarly work published on the subject of cryptozoology. However, the practice has been around almost as long as humans have walked the Earth. Due to the availability of technology such as GPS and satellite imaging, cryptozoology seems poised to become a popular new science.

1. Which of these **best** states the writer's purpose?
 - A. To persuade the reader to become a cryptozoologist
 - B. To inform the reader about the science of cryptozoology
 - C. To narrate the author's search for the Loch Ness monster
 - D. To describe Anthonie Cornelis Oudemans' search for Bigfoot

And we men, the creatures who inhabit this earth, must be to them at least as alien and lowly as are the monkeys and lemurs to us. The intellectual side of man already admits that life is an incessant struggle for existence, and it would seem that this too is the belief of the minds upon Mars. Their world is far gone in its cooling and this world is still crowded with life, but crowded only with what they regard as inferior animals. To carry warfare sunward is indeed their only escape from the destruction that generation after generation creeps upon them.

And before we judge of them too harshly we must remember what ruthless and utter destruction our own species has wrought, not only upon animals such as the vanished bison and the dodo, but upon its own race. The Tasmanians, in spite of their human likeness, were entirely swept out of existence in a war of extermination waged by European immigrants in the space of fifty years. Are we such apostles of mercy as to complain if the Martians warred in the same spirit?

The Martians seem to have calculated their descent with amazing subtlety—their mathematical learning is evidently far in excess of ours—and to have carried out their preparations with a well-nigh perfect unanimity. Had our instruments permitted it, we might have seen the gathering trouble far back in the nineteenth century. Men like Schiaparelli watched the red planet—it is odd, by the way, that for countless centuries Mars has been the star of war—but failed to interpret the fluctuating appearances of the markings they mapped so well. All that time the Martians must have been getting ready.

from *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells

2. Which sentence from the article excerpt above offers a supporting detail for the thesis, "The

Martians are just to wage war on humans"?

- "The Martians seem to have calculated their descent with amazing subtlety—their
- A. mathematical learning is evidently far in excess of ours—and to have carried out their preparations with a well-nigh perfect unanimity."
 - B. "Men like Schiaparelli watched the red planet—it is odd, by the way, that for countless centuries Mars has been the star of war—but failed to interpret the fluctuating appearances of the markings they mapped so well."
 - C. "And before we judge of them too harshly we must remember what ruthless and utter destruction our own species has wrought, not only upon animals such as the vanished bison and the dodo, but upon its own race."
 - D. "Had our instruments permitted it, we might have seen the gathering trouble far back in the nineteenth century."

(1) Buffalo grass is, perhaps, the only turfgrass native to Texas. (Turfgrass is the kind of grass grown in lawns.) It is a perennial grass that is native to the Great Plains, from Montana to Mexico. It was one of the grasses that supported the great herds of buffalo that grazed on the Great Plains until the 19th Century. In Texas, it is commonly found from the Panhandle to South Texas. Its tolerance to prolonged droughts and to extreme temperatures together with its seed-producing characteristics enables buffalo grass to survive the extremes of the Texas climate.

(2) Buffalo grass spreads by both above-ground runners, called "stolons," and seed. It forms a fine textured, relatively thin turf with a soft blue-green color. It does not possess underground stems, called "rhizomes." Because it is easily destroyed by cultivation, it is easily removed from flower beds and gardens.

(3) Buffalo grass is only recommended for low-maintenance, low-use turfgrass areas. It does not do well in high-traffic areas, like yards where children play. When used in residential areas, it is best placed in sunny, well-drained areas that do not get a lot of foot traffic.

3. Which is the best summary of this passage?

- A. Perennially grown on the Great Plains, where it fed buffalo, buffalo grass is a turfgrass that is only native to Texas. It does not like to grow where children play or in gardens, but it is a good choice for lawns in drought areas. It is soft blue-green in color. It is recommended for low-maintenance yards.
- B. Buffalo grass was the primary food for buffalos, but now it is a drought-tolerant grass that can withstand the extreme growing conditions of Texas. Because it spreads by runners, it does not do well in high-traffic areas, like playgrounds. It prefers sunny, well-drained areas, like flower beds.
- C. Buffalo grass is a perennial grass native to the Great Plains. It is drought resistant and well-adapted to the Texas climate. Blue-green in color, it spreads by seeds and stolons. Because it is easily destroyed by overuse and cultivation, it is not suitable for high-traffic areas, but thrives in sunny, well-drained areas.

- D. Unlike other grasses, buffalo grass does not spread by underground stems. Instead it spreads by runners and seeds. It was originally used to feed buffalo, but now it is only a turfgrass, mostly in Texas, but can be found from Montana to Mexico. It is a blue-green perennial turfgrass that is destroyed by cultivation.

The band

by A. Gautam

The band sipped ice-cold water from Styrofoam cups,
Stared at the audience with the most confused eyes.
They sought a promise—applaud in advance.
The lead singer, cleared his throat seriously,
The lyrics—once more—escaping his mind.
And the drummer danced with his hands—in the air.
The boy holding the bass guitar, thought himself a superstar,
Throwing smiles and kisses to those who did not care.
Only the girl with long fingers stood quiet, stroking the
keys.
Her pony tail flowing without her permission. . .
The stage light was bright; it was time to rock on.

4. Which line contributes to the mood of nervousness in the poem?
- A. “The lyrics—once more—escaping his mind.”
 - B. “The boy holding the bass guitar, thought himself a superstar”
 - C. “Her pony tail flowing without her permission. . . “
 - D. “Throwing smiles and kisses to those who did not care”

If you want to be successful in your relationships, practice good manners. That might sound like something your grandmother would say, but child development specialists are increasingly coming to the conclusion that manners, or social skills as they are sometimes called, are a critical part of a well-adjusted child. Children with poor manners are typically poorly adjusted, with a strong sense that they are the center of everything. Manners are part of the journey every child makes from dependence on parents to operating independently in the world. Those who have learned good manners have a distinct advantage over children who don't.

Manners are social behaviors that reinforce respect for others, especially our elders and people in authority. They reflect codes of behavior that cultivate characters of decency and humility. No one is ever considered a personal success who is a social failure.

Sometimes manners involve nonessential techniques like spooning soup toward the back of the bowl or drinking tea with your pinkie extended—table manners. Most times, however, manners address ways to smooth social interactions and deepen appreciation for those around you. They keep us mindful of how much we depend on others.

5. What is the best summary of this passage?

- A. Eating soup properly may not seem important, but it communicates to others that you have good manners. People with bad manners really stick out, and people don't like them. People with good manners know how to behave because they have cultivated characters of decency and humility.
- B. Developing good manners is essential to social success. They are codes of conduct that help us not embarrass ourselves at the dinner table, while also helping us be more aware of the feelings of other people. They are a crucial part of growing up and learning to respect authority and older people.
- C. Good manners reinforce respect for others. Good table manners are part of this training. Those who learn good manners have many advantages over children who don't learn these important social skills. This is because they keep the children mindful of how much they depend on others for their happiness.
- D. Manners are an important part of growing up. These social skills allow people to interact with others, especially with authority figures, more successfully. Manners are more than table manners; they are essential techniques that smooth our interactions and deepen our appreciation of others.

Is your living room plain and boring? Do visitors enter your home without noticing any décor? If so, then you need to make over your living room. A beautiful living room will appeal to everyone. It is not only the first room visitors see but also the place a family spends time together. With a little creativity and a little planning, anyone can achieve great results on a budget.

Come to the Living Room Decorating class at Farmers Community College this Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A professional interior designer will show you how to pick out colors, fabrics, and accessories that create a unified look. You will learn about choosing themes and bringing elements together. You will also learn more about techniques involved in painting, wallpapering, and flooring. The instructor will have tips that will help you save money on every step of the decorating project.

Creating a unique living room takes some work, but it is worth it to show off the most important room in your house. Don't let money stand in the way of you and your dream living room. Call 555-555-5555 to reserve a spot in this class today.

6. The reader can tell that the class is generally meant for
- A. construction workers
 - B. college students
 - C. women who have kids
 - D. people who own houses

Quick Facts about Tetanus

Tetanus is a serious but preventable disease that affects the muscular and nervous systems. Infection typically occurs when the *Clostridium tetani* bacterium enters the body through a skin wound. Once in the body, these bacteria produce neurotoxins that cause muscle spasms. The toxins

travel through the bloodstream and infect the entire body. The disease can be fatal if not treated properly.

How can you protect yourself against tetanus? The easiest way is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are extremely effective at preventing tetanus, and most cases of this disease are found in developing countries that have little or no access to the vaccine. Most children in the United States receive a DTaP immunization that protects against tetanus and other diseases. The tetanus vaccination should be followed by a booster dose every 10 years into adulthood. Take time today to find out if you need a tetanus shot or booster.

7. Based on information in the passage, the reader can conclude that
- A. mild soap will kill the *Clostridium tetani* bacterium.
 - B. people over the age of 12 are not at risk for tetanus infections.
 - C. both tetanus and DTaP shots should be administered every year.
 - D. cases of tetanus are relatively rare in the United States.
8. Based on the text, what logical conclusion can be drawn about the author?
- A. The author wants readers to protect themselves against tetanus.
 - B. The author believes tetanus is not as serious as people think it is.
 - C. The author hopes readers will avoid traveling to developing countries.
 - D. The author thinks tetanus shots are too expensive and painful.

Passage 1

Global News

This year's Nobel Peace Prize was given to Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus and his pioneering Grameen Bank. Yunus was awarded the prize for providing seemingly insignificant loans, known as microcredit, and helping millions come out of poverty.

It is to be noted that Yunus's efforts have made it possible for many poor people to buy cattle or mobile phones they needed to get ahead in life and in small business. Grameen Bank has especially proved helpful to impoverished people who do not qualify to get big loans from banks.

Mr. Yunus has announced that he will use part of the 1.4 million dollars of the prize money to create a company that makes low-cost, high-nutrition food for the poor. The rest of the money will be used to set up and an eye clinic for the poor in Bangladesh.

Passage 2

A Citizen's Blog

It is not every day that we hear about uplifting things that actually make a difference in this world. Today, I read about an economist who lifted millions out of poverty. Sounds good in a political campaign speech, right? Well, it actually happened.

Mohammad Yunus of Bangladesh established a bank that makes it possible for many poor people to take out loans. His work and vision were rewarded with the Nobel Prize. I have to say, the money is going to the right place. This man can use the prize money for other cool projects like his bank and maybe lift an entire country.

Next time I come up with a great idea, I am going to at least give it a shot. Who knows, I just might come up with a solution to end global warming or pollution or world hunger?

9. Which idea is found in the blog but not in the news article?

- A. disillusionment with politicians
- B. lifting people out of poverty
- C. using money for good causes
- D. medical facilities for the poor

10. Which of these statement **best** compares the information in both passages?

- A. The news article offers opinions of Mohammad Yunus; the blog only shows one person's story.
- B. The news article is biased against poverty; the blog reveals the author's view on world peace.
- C. The news article relates to universal ideas of economy; the blog shows a historical moment.
- D. The news article informs with a formal language; the blog expresses feelings and opinions.