

Harriet Tubman followed the North Star to freedom. After leaving the south in 1850, she went back there many times to help other slaves escape to freedom in the north.

Harriet was a conductor on the underground railroad, and many times she assisted people in taking it to freedom. The underground railroad was not a train at all; it was the name given to the friendly homes along the way north. These homes were places where escaping slaves could hide during the day. Then by night, they could move on to the next stop until they were free.

Harriet used many clever tricks to hide along the way north. Sometimes she dressed as an old woman. Sometimes she pretended she was a farmer on her way to market. She was nearly caught many times, but she always got through.

Among the more than 300 people she helped were her own mother and father. They were already very old when she was able to bring them north, but they were able to spend their last days in freedom.

Harriet helped many people find freedom. She also took care of old and sick people in her home in Auburn, New York, where she died in 1913, at the age of 93. Harriet Tubman was truly one of the great people in our country's history.

1. Harriet Tubman

- (a) helped slaves escape.
- (b) was a lazy woman.
- (c) didn't leave the south.
- (d) liked to ride on trains.

- 2. An underground railroad conductor
 - (a) collected the fares.
 - (b) often repaired the tracks.
 - (c) never traveled very far.
 - (d) helped people to freedom.
- 3. Helping slaves escape showed that
 - (a) people didn't care.
 - (b) Harriet cared about people.
 - (c) there was money to be made.
 - (d) no one broke the laws.
- 4. Another word for assisted is
 - (a) accounted.
 - (b) cared.
 - (c) pretended.
 - (d) helped.
- 5. Which happened first? Harriet
 - (a) helped her parents escape.
 - (b) dressed up as an old woman.
 - (c) left the south for the first time.
 - (d) pretended she was a farmer.
- 6. This story is mainly about
 - (a) looking at the North Star.
 - (b) the life of Harriet Tubman.
 - (c) travel during the 19th century.
 - (d) how Harriet hid from the law.
- 7. In her later years, Harriet
 - (a) ran away from work.
 - (b) stopped helping others.
 - (c) cared for the old and sick.
 - (d) moved back to the south.
- 8. Harriet can be described as
 - (a) caring and unselfish.
 - (b) a very wealthy woman.
 - (c) having an easy life.
 - (d) a bad troublemaker.

Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing are two giant pandas. They were gifts from the People's Republic of China to the people of the United States, and they have lived in the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., since April of 1972. Pandas are appealing creatures who resemble enormous, lovable stuffed toys.

Although pandas seem to thrive in captivity, they almost never have a normal family life there. Zoos outside of China have been unsuccessful in breeding pandas, but U.S. officials kept hoping that Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing would change this. Finally, in the spring of 1983 it was announced that Ling-Ling might be expecting. Indeed she was, and in July she gave birth to a male panda cub. Unfortunately, however, the new arrival was sick and died about three hours later in his mother's arms.

An adult panda is about 300 pounds and six feet long, but a newborn panda is remarkably tiny—just four inches long and a few ounces in weight. Ling-Ling had tried to be a good mother, and she must have missed her tiny baby. She was seen to clutch an apple tenderly in her paws for hours after the baby died.

1. Giant pandas are animals who
 - (a) have very large families.
 - (b) appear very vicious.
 - (c) live mostly in Europe.
 - (d) are nice to look at.



2. Most pandas are born in
 - (a) the wild.
 - (b) American zoos.
 - (c) zoos in London.
 - (d) private homes.
3. Something appealing is
 - (a) extremely noisy.
 - (b) always very large.
 - (c) unfriendly to see.
 - (d) easy to like.
4. Which happened last? Ling-Ling
 - (a) held an apple in her paws.
 - (b) moved to the United States.
 - (c) had a baby which died.
 - (d) was thought to be expecting.
5. Pandas are
 - (a) black and white.
 - (b) often white like polar bears.
 - (c) sometimes dark brown.
 - (d) smaller than most animals.
6. When Ling-Ling's baby died, people
 - (a) knew she'd have another one.
 - (b) were very sad and disappointed.
 - (c) bought her a toy panda.
 - (d) refused to go to the zoo.
7. Adult pandas are
 - (a) impossible to see.
 - (b) much larger than their babies.
 - (c) very hard to manage.
 - (d) easy to breed.
8. Zoo officials probably
 - (a) will give up raising pandas.
 - (b) wish Ling-Ling would go to China.
 - (c) hope Ling-Ling will try again.
 - (d) will sell Ling-Ling.

A breathless crowd watched as the man swung from a forty-foot rope five stories above the ground. Was the man a performer? No, he was a New York City fire fighter named William Murphy.

Mr. Murphy and his fire company had raced to an apartment house fire. They found the building in flames.

Most of the residents had escaped, but six members of the Torres family were still trapped by the blaze. With a rope attached to the roof of the burning building, fire fighter Murphy lowered himself to the trapped family's fifth-floor apartment. The four Torres children were too scared to climb out the window to the suspended fire fighter.

To convince the youngsters to try the only available means of escape, Mr. Torres stepped out onto the windowsill first. He grabbed the fire fighter's waist and held on tightly as the two men swung through the air to a ledge on a nearby building. Seeing their father safe convinced the children to trust fire fighter Murphy. His grip on the swinging lifeline never weakened. For his courage, he was given the Fire Department's highest award.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) a big city fire station.
 - (b) rescuing a family from a fire.
 - (c) schools for fire fighters.
 - (d) an interesting newspaper.
2. The Torres family was rescued with
 - (a) a ladder.
 - (b) big fire hoses.
 - (c) an airplane.
 - (d) a rope.
3. The first person saved was
 - (a) the family's father.
 - (b) one of the children.
 - (c) an elderly lady.
 - (d) someone's grandmother.
4. If the fireman had been less brave,
 - (a) he would have fallen.
 - (b) the people might have died.
 - (c) the family might have helped.
 - (d) he would have been paid less.
5. Which happened last?
 - (a) Mr. Murphy got an award.
 - (b) Flames trapped six people.
 - (c) Murphy saved the children.
 - (d) Murphy saved the father.
6. In this story, trapped means
 - (a) unable to get out.
 - (b) with both legs caught.
 - (c) hanging from a rope.
 - (d) with a large mouth.
7. This story suggests that it's
 - (a) easy to fight fires.
 - (b) fun to live in a big city.
 - (c) difficult to see out windows.
 - (d) dangerous to be a fire fighter.
8. In this selection, the hero is
 - (a) one of the Torres children.
 - (b) Mr. Murphy.
 - (c) Mr. Torres.
 - (d) an unknown police officer.

It's not just people that can suffer from heart ailments. Dogs can also be afflicted. Ginger, a ten-year-old terrier, had such a severe heart problem that her life was in danger. Ginger's owner, Dorothy Brown, loved her dog dearly and couldn't bear the thought of losing a faithful companion.

The local newspaper in Overland Park, Kansas, where Mrs. Brown lived, carried a feature story about Ginger and her problem. A manufacturer of electronic heart pacemakers came to Ginger's rescue. Pacemakers are usually used for people, but the manufacturers donated one to help save the dog's life. The cost of the pacemaker would ordinarily have been \$850, but Mrs. Brown received it as a gift. The surgeons who installed the pacemaker in Ginger were both veterinarians. Ginger made a full recovery from the 45-minute operation, and Mrs. Brown expected the dog to be able to live a normal life.

Pacemakers are frequently used to help people with heart problems, but an operation like this is quite unusual for an animal. A pacemaker is a device which is surgically installed to help regulate the heartbeat. For a heart that beats weakly or irregularly, the pacemaker helps maintain a stronger, more steady beat.

Very few animals, even those who could benefit from a pacemaker, are lucky enough to receive one. Can you figure out why more dogs or cats don't have battery-powered hearts?

1. A heart problem almost
 - (a) made Mrs. Brown die.
 - (b) shortened the surgery.
 - (c) cost Ginger her life.
 - (d) killed several surgeons.
2. This story is mainly about
 - (a) a vicious dog.
 - (b) Ginger's owner.
 - (c) saving a beloved pet.
 - (d) being a veterinarian.
3. Which happened last?
 - (a) Ginger had heart trouble.
 - (b) The dog recovered.
 - (c) A pacemaker was donated.
 - (d) Ginger had an operation.
4. Something that's installed is
 - (a) found in a barn.
 - (b) always too costly.
 - (c) out of the way.
 - (d) put in place.
5. Few animals have pacemakers because the devices
 - (a) don't help animals.
 - (b) are too large for animals.
 - (c) make too much noise.
 - (d) cost a lot of money.
6. The newspaper story caused
 - (a) many people to be upset.
 - (b) veterinarians to strike.
 - (c) Mrs. Brown to understand.
 - (d) Ginger to get some help.
7. A manufacturer of pacemakers
 - (a) installs them.
 - (b) destroys broken hearts.
 - (c) does dangerous work.
 - (d) makes them.
8. A normal life is
 - (a) an ordinary one.
 - (b) extremely exciting.
 - (c) shorter than usual.
 - (d) longer than most.

Luis Figueroa robbed a bank in midtown Manhattan on June 6, 1983. He's sorry he ever tried it. Not only did he get very little money—only \$200—but he got caught before he could spend any of it. The way he got caught was a scene more suitable to the old western frontier than to a modern city street.

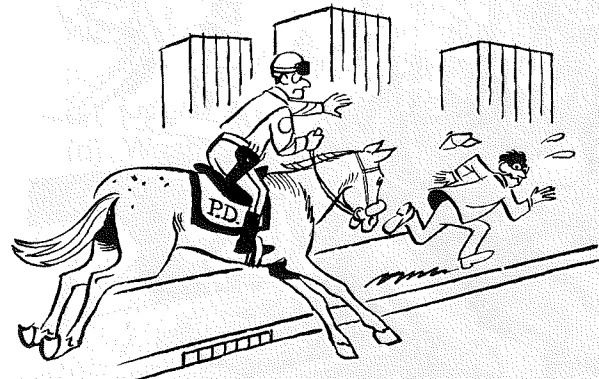
As Figueroa left the bank with the cash, he was chased by two bank employees. Pedestrians who happened to be walking along at that moment looked for the nearest police officer. A block or so away, they located Officer Charles Interdonato, a member of the mounted patrol, and his horse Cherokee. Officer Interdonato spurred his steed on and the two of them pursued the fleeing suspect at full gallop.

They made their way through the traffic, around buses, trucks, and cars. They were careful not to hit any pedestrians. They caught up with Figueroa just as the two bank employees had pushed him to the sidewalk and were trying to hold him there. Officer Interdonato leaped off Cherokee and made the arrest. He advised the suspect of his rights as he put handcuffs on the amazed man. Figueroa couldn't believe what had happened. He figured he'd get away with his loot, and he certainly never expected to be nabbed by a cop on horseback.

- This story is mainly about
 - midtown Manhattan traffic.
 - helpful pedestrians.
 - how to rob a bank in daylight.
 - a mounted cop catching a thief.
- Figueroa was said to have
 - robbed a grocery store.
 - ridden a horse too fast.
 - hit a bank employee.
 - robbed a bank.

- Pedestrians are people who
 - ride horses.
 - are walking.
 - assist police.
 - work in banks.
- Which happened first? Figueroa
 - was pushed to the ground.
 - ended up in handcuffs.
 - was chased by a horse.
 - stole \$200 from a bank.
- Bank employees caught Figueroa by
 - galloping on horseback.
 - using their guns.
 - taking a taxi.
 - running after him.
- This story is unusual because
 - banks rarely are robbed.
 - Figueroa got so little cash.
 - the thief was chased by a horse.
 - the victims were not found.
- Officer Interdonato is probably
 - tired of the mounted patrol.
 - proud of his horse, Cherokee.
 - a friend of the bank manager.
 - about to be transferred.
- Spurred means
 - used a baseball bat.
 - urged to go faster.
 - made a low sound.
 - pulled and dragged on.

Time _____ # Correct _____



Do you like to eat waffles? If so, you can thank a careless knight of long ago. The first waffle is said to have been the result of an accident in a kitchen in England during the thirteenth century.

How did it happen? A knight came into the kitchen still wearing his armor. He made the mistake of sitting down on some freshly baked oat cakes. When he got up, the cakes were very much flattened. The metal links of the armor made deep imprints in the cakes.

The knight was so hungry, he decided to eat the cakes anyway. He put some butter on them first. He and his wife had a nice little meal of the squashed hot cakes with butter. When they saw how nicely the melted butter stayed in the little squares, the couple decided to try the new kind of cakes more often. From that time on, the knight put on his armor at least once a week to sit in the fresh oat cakes.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) the earliest waffles.
 - (b) cakes with armor.
 - (c) hot little pancakes.
 - (d) knights in the kitchen.



2. Because the knight was careless,
 - (a) no one washed the dishes.
 - (b) he wore armor in the house.
 - (c) he sat down without looking.
 - (d) he put butter on the cakes.
3. The knight's armor became the
 - (a) world's first waffle iron.
 - (b) talk of the kitchen.
 - (c) reason no one could eat.
 - (d) newest kind of butter knife.
4. Before waffles were invented,
 - (a) all the knights were hungry.
 - (b) no one ate breakfast.
 - (c) butter fell off hot oat cakes.
 - (d) knights worked in kitchens.
5. After the knight's mistake, he
 - (a) went to bed hungry.
 - (b) probably cleaned his armor.
 - (c) stayed out of the kitchen.
 - (d) screamed at his wife.
6. First the knight
 - (a) flattened the cakes.
 - (b) came into the kitchen.
 - (c) began to sit down.
 - (d) took some butter.
7. Something that is squashed
 - (a) contains vegetables.
 - (b) is always good to eat.
 - (c) must be very hot.
 - (d) has been pressed down hard.
8. A good title for this story is
 - (a) The Castle Cookbook
 - (b) A Kitchen Knight
 - (c) Buttered Armor
 - (d) The First Waffle

The National Spelling Bee is an annual event. In June, 1983, contestants from all over the country traveled to Washington, D.C., for this spelling contest's finals. These young people had already won local or state competitions, and they were all outstanding spellers.

There were 137 contestants in the first round of the finals, and before the round was over, 85 of them had been eliminated. One of these 85, however, received almost as much press coverage and publicity as the eventual winner. Andrew Flosdorf, age 13, of Fonda, New York, ended up having his picture in the newspapers and making appearances on television. This all happened because Andrew missed a word.

Why did Andrew Flosdorf receive so much recognition for missing a word? There were 84 others who missed a word that day. The judges, however, knew about the 84 others. They didn't seem to know that Andrew had made a mistake. Even when they listened to the tape of Andrew spelling the word, they didn't hear his error. But Andrew, when he thought about the word later, knew he had spelled the word "echolalia" wrong. He put an "e" where the first "a" should have been.

Andrew, accompanied by his mother, Mary Woods, went to the judges during a break in the contest. Andrew, his eyes a bit moist, told them what had happened. The judges were very pleased at the boy's integrity. Andrew felt good about being honest. Even though his truthfulness put him out of the competition, he knew he had done the right thing.

1. The word Andrew missed was
 - (a) competition.
 - (b) excitement.
 - (c) integrity.
 - (d) echolalia.
2. If Andrew hadn't been truthful, he
 - (a) would have been punished.
 - (b) might have won dishonestly.
 - (c) could have been sent home.
 - (d) would have fooled his mother.
3. The judges didn't eliminate Andrew
 - (a) until he admitted the truth.
 - (b) because they liked the boy.
 - (c) because he was correct.
 - (d) because he was so smart.
4. Andrew's mother
 - (a) went to Washington with him.
 - (b) told the judges on her son.
 - (c) was angry at the boy.
 - (d) couldn't spell very well.
5. Which happened first?
 - (a) The judges made a mistake.
 - (b) Andrew misspelled a word.
 - (c) Andrew told the truth.
 - (d) The boy was ruled out.
6. Another word for integrity is
 - (a) honesty.
 - (b) excitement.
 - (c) intelligence.
 - (d) echolalia.
7. You can guess that Mrs. Woods
 - (a) spelled the words for the boy.
 - (b) was angry that her son lost.
 - (c) was proud of Andrew's honesty.
 - (d) enjoyed being on television.
8. This story shows that
 - (a) anyone can make a mistake.
 - (b) some words are impossible.
 - (c) judges are always careless.
 - (d) Washington is a warm city.

If you had to cross a river, how would you do it? Most people would go across a bridge or use a boat. A man named Walter Robinson once tried a different way. What Mr. Robinson did to cross the river was to walk on the water. Do you find that hard to believe? Mr. Robinson did walk on the water, but he didn't do it in his bare feet. He had help from a special pair of water-walking shoes which he invented.

One year, the National Boat Show hired Robinson to walk on the water and promote the show. The plan called for the man to walk the one mile across the Hudson River from New Jersey to New York, where the show was being held. No one really believed Robinson's claims that walking across the Hudson River would be an easy thing to do.

Mr. Robinson spoke to reporters before he began his journey. He said he would have no trouble crossing the Hudson. He had already crossed Central America at the Panama Canal, and that was 56 miles.

A small motorboat carried Walter Robinson and some friends to the Jersey side of the Hudson opposite the 79th Street Boat Basin in New York City. Reporters covering the event crossed alongside in the tugboat Victoria McAllister. When they reached the shore in New Jersey, Mr. Robinson put on his special water-walking shoes and began the trip back across the water on foot. Much to the surprise of onlookers, Mr. Robinson was successful. His trip took 25 minutes. Walking on the water isn't for everyone. Don't try it unless you have those special shoes!

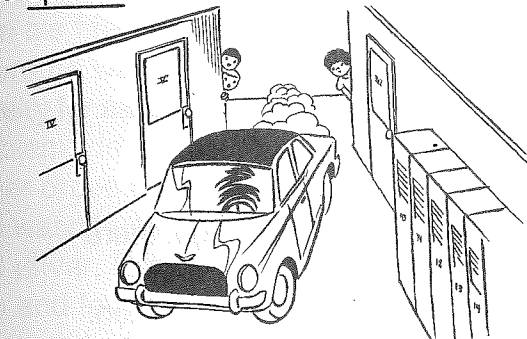
1. Walter Robinson is

- (a) a circus performer.
- (b) an unemployed swimmer.
- (c) an inventor of sorts.
- (d) the captain of a ship.

- 2. Mr. Robinson crossed the Hudson to
 - (a) prove his shoes worked well.
 - (b) advertise a boat show.
 - (c) dramatize river pollution.
 - (d) test his strength in public.
- 3. Mr. Robinson's river crossing was unusual because he
 - (a) did not use a boat.
 - (b) hired a tugboat.
 - (c) swam across the Hudson.
 - (d) used a small motorboat.
- 4. The Hudson journey was shorter than
 - (a) the street.
 - (b) a swimming pool.
 - (c) an intersection.
 - (d) the Panama Canal.
- 5. Mr. Robinson knew he could cross the Hudson because he
 - (a) was an excellent swimmer.
 - (b) had a boat nearby.
 - (c) had done the Panama Canal.
 - (d) knew where the bridges were.
- 6. Which happened last?
 - (a) Robinson began to walk.
 - (b) Robinson put on his shoes.
 - (c) Reporters followed in a boat.
 - (d) Robinson made it across.
- 7. The reporters followed Mr. Robinson
 - (a) all the way to the boat show.
 - (b) on a tugboat.
 - (c) in a small motorboat.
 - (d) all the way to his home.
- 8. This selection is mainly about
 - (a) a man walking on water.
 - (b) going to the boat show.
 - (c) life in the army.
 - (d) an interesting tugboat.

Alan Smith arrived at McMinnville High School early one morning. He entered the school through the front doors, went down the main hall, and tried to go out the back doors. That wouldn't have been anything unusual except for two things. One of those things was the time—3:30 a.m. to be exact—and the other was the way he moved through the building.

Unlike most people entering a school, Alan didn't walk. He didn't run either. What he did was to drive his car through the front doors at a high speed. He continued down the main hall at speeds police estimated to be almost 100 miles per hour. He bounced off the wall a few times but managed to stay pretty much in the main corridor. Of the three water fountains he passed, he hit two and spared the third.



Alan got out of his car and ran out of the school building, but police chased him and captured him two blocks away. He was arrested and charged with reckless driving and criminal mischief.

Alan told the police that he was being chased by someone in a blue car, but no one ever saw the other car and no one believed his story. He did not behave in a sober, normal way.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) driving to school every day.
 - (b) Alan Smith's silly excuse.
 - (c) the job of the police.
 - (d) a reckless driver in a school.

2. After the police caught Alan,
 - (a) the school had to close.
 - (b) the car was repaired.
 - (c) the man was in trouble.
 - (d) they let him go free.
3. Alan hit a water fountain because
 - (a) he needed a drink.
 - (b) it was in his way.
 - (c) he didn't like water.
 - (d) someone told him to.
4. Which happened first?
 - (a) The police caught Alan.
 - (b) A car drove in the front doors.
 - (c) The car went down the hall.
 - (d) Water fountains were broken.
5. Another word for corridor is
 - (a) hallway.
 - (b) vehicle.
 - (c) studyhall.
 - (d) office.
6. Something that is spared is
 - (a) filled with air.
 - (b) not harmed.
 - (c) crashed into.
 - (d) repaired quickly.
7. Criminal mischief is
 - (a) troublemaking that's a crime.
 - (b) driving too fast.
 - (c) destroying an automobile.
 - (d) chasing another car.
8. Alan drove recklessly because
 - (a) no one taught him how to drive.
 - (b) someone really was after him.
 - (c) he was drunk or a little crazy.
 - (d) he disliked going to school.

Rub your fingers on the outside of one of the windows of your house. Then look at your fingertips. What do you see there?

Chances are that your fingertips will be dirty after you have rubbed the outside of the window with them. This dirt is caused by the pollution which fouls the air. Pollution is one of the disadvantages of some of the conveniences of today's living that we take for granted.

It would be difficult to imagine life without cars or trucks. The exhaust fumes from these vehicles are a major source of air pollution. Giant airliners also contribute to air pollution as they burn their fuel in flight and as they take off or land. The fuels we use to heat our homes and office buildings also add to pollution. The smoke and soot from chimneys have nowhere to go but into the air. The tons of garbage created by millions of people are another source of pollution. Many of the objects we use every day are manufactured in factories which also pollute the air we breathe.

1. This selection is mainly about
 - (a) doing science experiments.
 - (b) camping out in the country.
 - (c) washing city windows.
 - (d) pollution and modern life.



2. The outside of a window is
 - (a) made of broken glass.
 - (b) probably dirty.
 - (c) always clear and clean.
 - (d) repaired by pollution.
3. Air pollution is not caused by
 - (a) cars and trucks.
 - (b) garbage disposal.
 - (c) airplanes or factories.
 - (d) birds or trees.
4. Conveniences help to
 - (a) make life easier.
 - (b) prevent pollution.
 - (c) make vehicles travel fast.
 - (d) feed large animals.
5. Disadvantages are
 - (a) entertainments.
 - (b) problems.
 - (c) high prices.
 - (d) good points.
6. One hundred years ago, there
 - (a) was no way to travel.
 - (b) had to be more pollution.
 - (c) were never dirty windows.
 - (d) was less air pollution.
7. A source of something is its
 - (a) last resort.
 - (b) cause.
 - (c) price.
 - (d) extra amount.
8. This selection seems to
 - (a) blame people for pollution.
 - (b) think pollution is fine.
 - (c) ignore cars and trucks.
 - (d) offer many solutions.