

## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 450

1. **C** *Mr. Walsh*
2. **B** *at a farmer's market*
3. **C** *Mr. Walsh is a farmer.*
4. **C** *A farmer's market is a place where farmers sell food they have grown themselves.*
5. **A** *Tara and Todd learn about potatoes and farming when they visit a farmer's market.*
6. **A** *because he grows carrots as well as potatoes*
7. **B** *I sell some to grocery stores, and I sell others to factories that make potato chips.*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Students may name any or all of the following items: fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade breads, and jars of jam.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Mr. Walsh's farm is perfect for growing potatoes.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the text. For example, students may respond that it is likely that Mr. Walsh grows things besides potatoes and carrots. He has a farm, so he may have room to grow other foods there. The variety of items at the farmer's market (fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade breads, and jars of jam) suggests that farmers grow a variety of foods. On the other hand, students may respond that Mr. Walsh probably does not grow anything besides potatoes and carrots. Because his farm is "perfect for" growing potatoes, he may be focused on that, while growing carrots is a side project. Also, after Tara asks him whether he grows anything besides potatoes, he replies that he grows carrots but does not name any other foods.*

## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 450

1. **A** *at the lake in the town park*
2. **C** *summer*
3. **B** *"Layla and her family were driving to the town park. It was a hot day. She wanted to swim in the lake."*
4. **A** *because the air is cool and the water is still warm in the fall, which helps fog form*
5. **C** *Although the lake changes every season, Layla always enjoys spending time there.*
6. **A** *to introduce the reader to the lake*
7. **C** *but*
8. **Suggested answer:** *They go swimming in the lake.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *They are able to go ice-skating on the lake because the cold temperatures make the lake freeze.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers should reflect that the different temperatures of the different seasons affect what Layla can do at the lake. For instance, when it's hot out during the summer, Layla can go swimming. In the spring, when it's not as hot as the summer, Layla can go fishing with her dad. And when it's freezing cold in the winter, Layla can go ice-skating on the lake.*

## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 560

1. **B** *the first bicycle*
2. **C** *bikes with rubber tires filled with air*
3. **B** *The hobby horse was made of wood, and people rode it by pushing their feet on the ground.*
4. **C** *It was bumpy, shaky, and not comfortable to ride.*
5. **A** *Bicycles have changed and gotten better in many ways since they were first developed.*
6. **A** *created*
7. **B** *after*
8. **Suggested answer:** *It was not comfortable.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary slightly, but should note at least one problem with the high wheeler that makes it undesirable. For example, the high wheeler is hard to ride because the rider sits so high up on the bike, and people probably want bikes that are easier to ride. Also, the high wheeler is unsafe because a rider could be badly hurt in a fall, and people want bikes that are safe.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary, but should be based in the text. Students may note that past bicycles had problems like being uncomfortable to ride, being unsafe, or being difficult to ride. These problems were a result of those bicycles having metal wheels or wheels of different sizes. Today's bikes have two wheels that are the same size, and that are made of rubber. This makes today's bicycles safer, more comfortable, and easier to ride than earlier bikes.*

## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 620

1. **B** *hiking*
2. **B** *on a trail in the Appalachian Mountains*
3. **A** *It is between Maine and Georgia.*
4. **B** *They like to spend time in nature.*
5. **A** *Maya has fun while hiking on the Appalachian Trail with her family.*
6. **C** *road*
7. **A** *so*
8. **Suggested answer:** *They hiked in Maryland and West Virginia.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Suggested Answer: Maya enjoyed her vacation. She loved making a campfire and enjoyed sleeping in a tent each night. The fact that she wanted to remember everything that happened on her vacation also shows that she enjoyed herself.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary, but should use support from the text. Students may say Maya would still have a good time, because there would likely be animals, flowers, campfires, and tents. On the other hand, students may say that she might not enjoy herself, because Maine is on the north end of the Appalachian Trail. Because it's farther north than where she hiked previously, there may be many differences in the trail and the animals she sees, and she may not like it as much.*

## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 780

1. What happened to the town of Greensburg in 2007?

- A It was destroyed by a fire.
- B It was destroyed by a tornado.**
- C It was destroyed by an earthquake.

2. What does this article explain?

- A how to become a scientist who studies weather
- B how the town of Greensburg was rebuilt
- C how tornadoes form**

3. Studying weather can help save lives.

What information in the article supports this statement?

- A Scientists who study weather are able to gather information about tornadoes. This information can then be used to warn people of danger.**
- B A tornado hit the town of Greensburg, Kansas on a night in 2007. The tornado threw cars and trucks around. It pulled some homes out of the ground. After 10 minutes, it had destroyed the town.
- C Some scientists study and predict weather. They use radar to help them. Radar gives scientists information about how far away a storm is and how fast it is moving.

4. Based on the information in the article, what is a safe place to go during a tornado?

- A a basement or cellar**
- B the backseat of a car
- C a wide, open space outdoors

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A Scientists who study weather use radar to help them predict storms.
- B Tornadoes are spinning thunderstorms that can be very dangerous.**
- C Tornado sirens warned people in Greensburg about the tornado before it arrived.

6. Read the first two sentences of the article: "On a spring night in 2007, disaster struck a small town in Kansas called Greensburg. Shortly before 10 p.m., a siren went off."

Why might the author not tell readers what the "disaster" was at the very beginning of the article?

- A to make readers want to keep reading and find out
- B to explain to readers how a tornado is formed
- C to let readers know how important it is to be prepared for a tornado

7. Select the word that best completes the sentence.

Sirens went off in Greensburg, \_\_\_\_\_ the people there knew a tornado was coming.

- A but
- B because
- C so

8. What is a tornado?

**Suggested answer:** A tornado is a swirling, funnel-shaped column of wind.

9. Describe how a tornado forms. Support your answer with information from the article.

**Suggested answer:** At minimum, students should explain that a tornado forms when winds in a thunderstorm form a tube of spinning air that reaches down to the ground. Students may include additional information, such as a description of how the mixture of warm, wet air with cool, dry air generates a thunderstorm.

10. Describe what the weather was probably like around Greensburg when the tornado formed. Be sure to mention what kinds of air may have been present. Support your answer with information from the article.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary but should be supported by the text. For example, students may respond that there was probably a thunderstorm or thunderstorm conditions around Greensburg when the tornado formed. Under such conditions, a mixture of warm, wet air and cool, dry air would have been present.

## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 490

1. **B** *They are working on a sand castle.*
2. **C** *at the beach*
3. **C** *Their sand castle was gigantic.*
4. **A** *Gavin and Lily are eager to build another sand castle.*
5. **A** *Gavin and Lily build a big sandcastle, but the waves wash it away.*
6. **C** *to show readers what the children are thinking*
7. **A** *so*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Suggested Answer: Lily builds a wall to protect the sand castle from the wind.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Suggested Answer: Gavin thinks the wall will stop people from accidentally stepping on the sand castle and smashing it.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Responses may vary as long as they are supported by the text. Students may argue that Lily and Gavin do not do a good job of protecting their castle because they do nothing to prevent the ocean waves from washing it away. On the other hand, they may point out that the wall Lily built was a good protective measure but not a comprehensive one.*

## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 540

1. A *a birdhouse*
2. C *at the end of the story*
3. C *Martin and Diego communicate and work together to make the birdhouse stronger.*
4. C *a birdhouse*
5. A *Drawing a picture can help people communicate.*
6. C *picture*
7. B *because*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Diego feels confused when Martin first explains his idea about the birdhouse.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Martin draws a picture to show Diego what he is thinking.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary but should mention how drawing helps Martin and Diego communicate. When Martin is unable to communicate his idea about the birdhouse to Diego by speech alone, he draws a picture. The picture helps Diego see what Martin has in mind and leads Diego to suggest an improvement. The process of drawing and talking continues, and Martin believes the ideas that Diego has voiced "will make [his] birdhouse stronger!" This evidence shows that drawing can help people explain their ideas to others.*



## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 540

1. **A** *green bean seeds*
2. **B** *A tiny stem grew after some time.*
3. **B** *The main character is doing a good job of taking care of the bean plant.*
4. **C** *because the main character put work into taking care of the beans*
5. **A** *The main character takes care of a green bean seed and helps it start growing into a plant.*
6. **A** *need*
7. **B** *because*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Plants need water and sunlight to grow.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *The main character put the plant in a sunny spot and watered it. Answers may also note that the main character put the seed in soil to help the plant grow.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *The bean plant would stop growing and most likely die if the main character forgot to give it water. This is because "plants depend on water" to grow. The text shows that the plant's soil occasionally got dry, so it continually needed water; if the main character did not provide it, the plant probably would not have survived.*

**Teacher Guide & Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 730

1. **A** playgrounds
2. **A** People raised money to build playgrounds where all kids can play.
3. **B** "Children in wheelchairs and kids with vision or hearing problems found it difficult to get around a playground."
4. **C** The changes have made it easier for children to get around playgrounds.
5. **B** New playgrounds have been built that allow all children to have fun.
6. **C** join in
7. **B** because
8. **Suggested answer:** Playgrounds were not safe places for children in wheelchairs and kids with vision or hearing problems.
9. **Suggested answer:** Students may name any of the changes mentioned in the article: low steps, ramps, handrails, drums, chimes, other instruments, and rain wheels.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the text. For example, students may respond that low steps have made playgrounds safer. One reason playgrounds used to be unsafe is that they made it difficult for some kids to get around. Low steps have made it easier for kids to get around and play safely.