



End-of-Year Assessment
Grade 7 Reading

Read the following and answer the questions below:

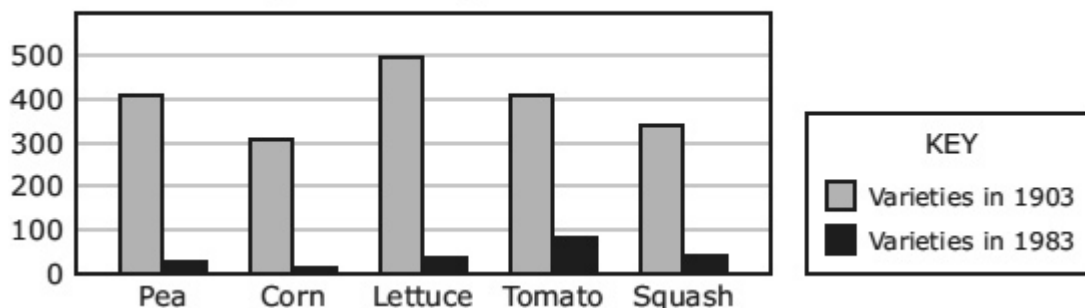
The World's Most Valuable Vault

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

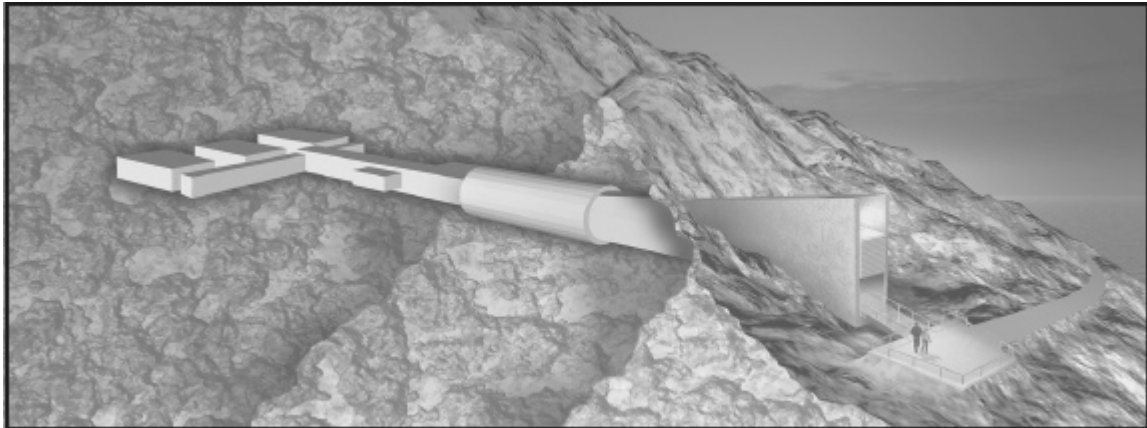
The World's Most Valuable Vault

- 1 Deep beneath the permafrost about 600 miles from the North Pole, a concrete chamber is keeping a treasure safe. The vault is hidden 390 feet inside a mountain in Norway's remote Svalbard Islands. This isolated location ensures that the treasure concealed in the vault will remain untouched by any human or natural disaster. The vault was built to withstand bomb blasts and earthquakes, but the treasure it shields is not what you might expect. This vault was not built to store precious gems or gold bars. It was designed to store something even more valuable and critical to our very survival—food. This vault is sometimes called the Fort Knox of food.
- 2 The idea of storing seeds has been discussed by global organizations since the 1980s. Dr. Cary Fowler, who was president of the Global Crop Diversity Trust at the time of the vault's creation, explained that construction plans for such a vault began to come together shortly after several natural disasters devastated global food crops. Fowler and his agency want to collect and safely store seeds to make sure they do not disappear in the future. He and other scientists are concerned that plant diversity is rapidly diminishing. "We are losing biodiversity every day," Fowler explains. "It is kind of a drip, drip, drip—it's also inevitable. We need to do something about it." When a type of food is no longer grown because of a natural disaster, such as a flood, or because it becomes unpopular or too expensive to grow, it can disappear from stores and kitchens forever. The Global Crop Diversity Trust wants to prevent this by preserving as many varieties of seeds as possible. The assortment at the vault ensures that food supplies can be maintained or replenished if necessary.

Varieties of Important Crops in 1903 and 1983



- 3 The Svalbard Seed Vault opened in 2008 with more than 11,000 seed samples from around the world. It has the capacity to store 4.5 million seed samples. The entry to the vault is a carefully guarded tunnel behind a steel door illuminated by fiber-optic light and sunlight reflected off mirrors. There is no full-time staff at the automated facility, and no single person has all the codes to gain entry to the chambers. The chambers in the vault have rows of shelves that hold the packaged seeds. The frigid arctic climate keeps the chamber at a constant temperature of -18°C , which ensures the life of the seeds, even in case of a power failure.



This illustration of the vault shows how it is built into the mountain.

Courtesy of Global Crop Diversity Trust

- 4 This facility was built by the Norwegian government. Storage is free at the vault because preserving the seeds is important. Sealed in foil packages and stored in boxes, corn seeds from Mexico and pea seeds from Nigeria have been deposited for future use. On the vault's four-year anniversary, it received seeds for amaranth, an ancient grain treasured by Aztecs and Incas, and for a modern variety of wheat from North America that allows the plant to carry a larger amount of grain at the top without falling over. The vault is also home to seeds for lima beans that can grow at extreme altitudes, tomato seeds for a new kind of tomato with increased vitamin A, and hundreds of thousands of other rare varieties of common crops.
- 5 Fowler reports that when visitors tour the seed vault, they get emotional. He believes it is because when they are standing in the chamber with the greatest collection of biodiversity in the world, they sense that something important is happening and that the Svalbard Seed Vault is playing an important role in the preservation of humanity.



The seeds are labeled and stored on shelves.

© Photo by Mari Tefre/Svalbard Global Seed Vault

Third party trademark Global Crop Diversity Trust™ was used in these testing materials.

7. Read the information about the origin of the word replenish.

from Latin plenus, meaning "full"

This information helps the reader understand that replenished in paragraph 2 means —

- A. built up again
- B. highly valued
- C. properly managed
- D. correctly used

8. The main reason for building the vault in an isolated, underground location was to —
- A. ensure that it would be difficult for people to retrieve seeds they put in the vault
 - B. decrease the amount of power necessary to keep the seeds at a cold temperature
 - C. minimize the number of people that would be necessary to monitor the vault
 - D. prevent outside events from damaging the contents of the vault
9. Based on the selection, the reader can conclude that the seed vault —
- A. stores rare seeds more securely than common seeds
 - B. can be toured by visitors at any time
 - C. is maintained by several different countries
 - D. provides a unique and vital resource

10. Read the dictionary entry below.

critical \ˈkri-ti-kəl\ *adj*

1. relating to a stage of illness
2. tending to evaluate unfavorably
3. needed to serve a purpose
4. using careful judgment

Which definition best fits how critical is used in paragraph 1?

- A. Definition 1
- B. Definition 2
- C. Definition 3
- D. Definition 4

11. The problem–solution organization of paragraph 2 helps the author emphasize the —

- A. difficulties other seed vaults have encountered in the past
- B. severity of the decrease in seed varieties
- C. reasons some seeds disappear more quickly than others
- D. best way to prepare for a natural disaster

12. What is the best summary of the selection?

- A. On the fourth anniversary of the Svalbard Seed Vault, rare seeds from North America and ancient grains were added to the vault. The vault contains many seeds with special genetic traits that may be useful in the future. Visitors are often awed by the biodiversity secured in the seed vault.
- B. The seeds in the Svalbard Seed Vault are stored in rows of sealed boxes in a highly secure vault. The vault is made of steel, located inside a mountain, and requires the use of many codes to enter. The cold environment preserves the seeds even if power to the facility is lost.
- C. The Svalbard Seed Vault is located in an isolated region of Norway. The vault was created to protect varieties of seeds from being lost and to preserve them for later use. Many rare seeds have already been sent to the vault and have contributed to the effort to maintain biodiversity.
- D. The Svalbard Seed Vault is considered the greatest store of crop diversity to date. Efforts to build the seed vault began when scientists noticed that crop variety had decreased significantly in recent years. The vault contains many rare and ancient seeds.

Read the following and answer the questions below:

From Here to the Sargasso

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

From Here to the Sargasso

by Andrew S. Williams

- 1 We walk onto the beach in the late evening, as the last rays of the sunset scatter a vivid red amongst the clouds. The beach itself is already dark, shaded from the final remnants of daylight by a dense row of condos pressed against the edge of the dunes.
- 2 It's the first day of a week in Florida, a brief respite from jobs and lives to get together as a family. Mom is walking next to me, but worry lines her face. I can tell her mind is on my little brother, Charlie. He couldn't join us; instead, he's driving across the country to Los Angeles, where a suddenly opened spot in a dance school awaits him. For the rest of us, the beach awaits instead.
- 3 We cross from the wooden walkway onto the warm white sand. The heat of the day has given way to a cooling breeze, and the worry in the air fades under the calm of an evening shore.
- 4 The beach is nearly deserted. There are only two other figures visible in the dark: one tall, one short, watching a nearby patch of sand. It looks like a mother and child. The child runs toward us. "They're hatching!" she yells, before hurrying back to her mom.
- 5 As we approach, I see a roped-off area about four feet square, where a shallow hole has been dug into the sand. In the middle is something small and dark. "Look," says the mother, "it moved!"
- 6 The child stops running around to stare at it for a moment. The woman looks up at us. "Do you have a cell phone on you?"
- 7 We don't, and she laughs. "Figures. The one day my husband decided not to come with us, they hatch. 'Oh no,' he said, 'they'll never hatch tonight.'" She points to one of the corners of the square, where a wooden stake marks the line that humans shall not cross (under pain of fines and/or imprisonment from Volusia County). On it is written a series of dates.
- 8 "See," she says, "June 22nd is when the nest was discovered. August 7th is the earliest they could have hatched, and August 31st is the most likely date. They're ten days early. On the one night we have no flashlight, no cell, no car..." She sighs. "Are you all here on vacation?"

- 9 "Yes," I nod. "We just got here today."
- 10 "We've been coming down here for years," she says. "We're locals. And we've never seen a nest of sea turtles hatch."
- 11 We wait for a few minutes. The baby turtle seems to be taking a break from his attempts to free himself from the nest. "Why don't we keep walking," Mom suggests, "then come back and see how they're doing?"
- 12 We start down the beach, but a moment later the little girl shrieks, "They're coming!"
- 13 We hurry back to the nest, where a few other beachwalkers have been drawn in as well. A baby turtle, no bigger than a half-dollar coin, has made it out of the nest and about one foot toward the water.
- 14 "Where's he going?" the little girl asks.
- 15 "Into the ocean," her mother says. "He has a long way to swim to reach his home."
- 16 "But where's his home?"
- 17 "Many miles away," she answers softly. "A place far out in the ocean, called the Sargasso Sea."
- 18 "Wow..."the girl says. She hurries off to the water to dip her feet in the surf, and then runs back to join her mother, watching the baby turtle make its slow progress along the sand.
- 19 The turtle doesn't notice his group of fans, this somber assembly of a few quiet adults and a rambunctious little girl. He's operating on instinct, and instinct doesn't tell him to stop and wave. So he scrambles over sand dunes half an inch high and massive clumps of seaweed the size of my foot, single-minded in his determination to reach the breaking waves.
- 20 Behind him, one of his siblings has made it out of the nest and started toward the water. It doesn't seem to be as strong, though, and the first turtle is putting an increasing amount of distance between them. Family ties aren't very strong in sea turtle families.
- 21 Behind me, Mom snuffles. "It makes me think of Charlie leaving the nest."
- 22 The turtle has reached the water's edge, where the remnants of a wave are soaking into the sand. He scrambles forward, and a wave washes over him. It pushes him backward, then pulls him toward the ocean. Then another, pushing the turtle backward, then pulling him forward as it recedes.
- 23 "That one's Freddy," the little girl says to her mother, as the turtle, caught on the wave, recedes out of reach.
- 24 We lose sight of Freddy almost instantly in the dark water. I know he's out there, paddling furiously, rocked and tumbled by the back and forth of the waves, trying to reach a destination over the horizon. The odds are against him, but I can't help rooting for him, hoping he's one of the turtles who beats those odds.

- 25 Freddy's sibling has reached the water, and without looking back, I know there are more on the way. But I can't take my eyes off the horizon, hidden by the murky darkness of twilight.
- 26 Come on, Freddy. You can do it.

"From Here to the Sargasso" by Andrew S. Williams, from *Every Day Fiction*, copyright © 2011 by Andrew S. Williams. Used by permission.

13. How does the setting advance the plot of the story?

- A.** It allows the characters to witness an uncommon event.
- B.** It gives the characters the opportunity to identify a problem.
- C.** It offers the characters a chance to develop new relationships.
- D.** It causes the characters to feel unsafe.

14. Why doesn't the narrator watch the other turtles hatch at the end of the story?

- A.** He is consumed by his thoughts about the first turtle's destiny.
- B.** He doesn't have the patience to observe such a long process.
- C.** He is concerned that his mother has started worrying again.
- D.** He doesn't want to ruin the experience for the little girl.

15. What is the primary theme of this story?

- A.** The young must make their own path in life.
- B.** Home is wherever a person feels accepted.
- C.** People have a responsibility to protect nature.
- D.** Strangers can bond while sharing an experience.

16. Using the first-person point of view allows the author to —

- A.** describe the occasion's importance to the local residents
- B.** explain the narrator's complex relationship with his mother
- C.** present each character's thoughts about the event
- D.** help the reader feel closely connected with the narrator's experience

17. Why are the woman's comments about the nest in paragraphs 6 through 10 important to the story?

- A.** They explain why it is problematic that the turtles are hatching early.
- B.** They establish that the woman is knowledgeable about the life cycle of turtles.
- C.** They reveal the significance of seeing the turtles hatch from their nest.
- D.** They show that the local residents think tourists disregard the safety of the turtles.

18. In paragraph 19, the author refers to the turtle's onlookers as a "group of fans" to show that —
- A. people are leading the turtle to the ocean
 - B. the crowd wants the turtle to succeed
 - C. the narrator feels like part of the crowd
 - D. the narrator wishes more people could see the event

Read the following and answer the questions below:

Natural Inspiration

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.



Natural Inspiration

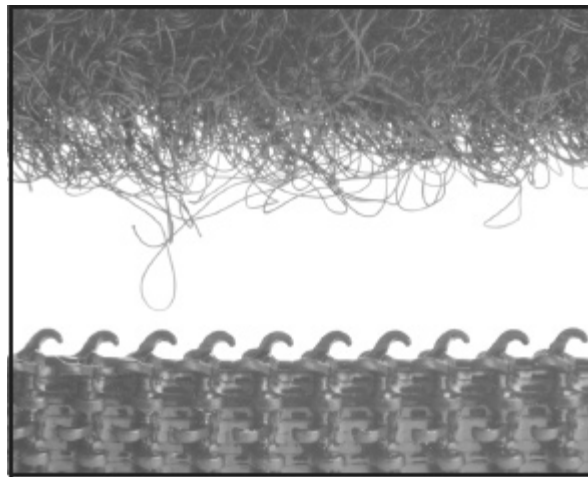
- 1 Many inventors spend years thinking about and developing their ideas before their inventions become reality. Sometimes, though, a person unexpectedly stumbles across the perfect idea, as did the Swiss engineer George de Mestral.
- 2 Mestral was born in 1907 and became interested in building and design when he was a child. As an adult he worked for an engineering company. In 1941, Mestral was outside with his dog when he noticed small, round seedpods stuck to his clothing and his dog's fur. As he was removing these pesky burrs, he began wondering how the seedpods attached themselves to different materials.



A burr is a seed with hooks that discourage animals from eating the seed.

© Shannon Beauford/Dreamstime.com

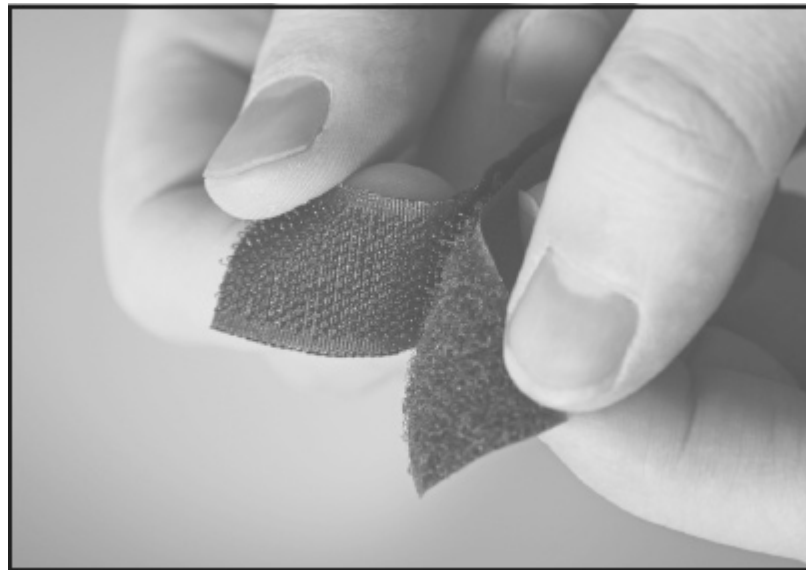
- 3 Wanting to learn the answer, Mestral took a look at the burrs under a microscope. What he saw was that the prickly stickers on the burrs had hooks. It was these tiny hooks that allowed the burrs to latch onto the soft loops in the fabric of his clothing and in his dog's fur. Mestral realized he could create something similar that could be used as a fastener. He began to call his idea "velcro"—a combination of the words "velvet" and "crochet."¹ Velcro also became the name of the company that manufactures the fastener.
- 4 When Mestral first presented his idea to manufacturing companies, the companies were not interested. After several rejections, he enlisted the help of sewing experts in France to develop his idea. At first Mestral used cotton for his two-sided fasteners, but repeated fastening and unfastening caused the cotton to wear too quickly. He eventually began using the synthetic material nylon, which was sturdier. It took Mestral nearly 10 years to perfect his design and automated production methods. The invention was patented in Switzerland in 1955.



Velcro has become the term for this type of hook-and-loop fastener.

© iStock.com/calebphoto

- 5 Velcro began to sell very well and became known as the “zipperless zipper.” In the 1960s the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began using Velcro to secure equipment in the zero-gravity environment of outer space. Velcro was also used to fasten devices in hospitals, hold together car parts, and make the seats of airplanes detachable. In 1968, Velcro made its first appearance on footwear, and soon children around the world were fastening their shoes with Velcro instead of shoelaces.



A Strip of Velcro

© Stocksnapper/Dreamstime.com

- 6 Today the Velcro company is worth millions of dollars because so many people have recognized the variety of uses for the hook-and-loop fastener. Just as Mestral was inspired by nature to create his invention, people continue to be inspired to find new uses for Velcro.

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¹Crochet is a method of making cloth that uses a hooked needle to form and weave loops.

A Brilliant Beetle

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.

A Brilliant Beetle

- 1 Natural resources are materials or substances that occur in nature and are of some value to humans. Depending on the environment, certain natural resources are more scarce than others and therefore more valuable. More than one billion people currently live in environments where water is in short supply, making water one of the most highly prized natural resources on the planet. Scientists are always searching for ways to increase access to this valuable resource. They may have found a solution in an unlikely area: one of the most arid places on Earth.
- 2 Despite being one of the world's driest places, with only several inches of annual rainfall, the Namib desert in Africa is home to many creatures. The Namib beetle is a unique organism that thrives in this environment because of its amazing physical adaptation. The wings on the Namib beetle are filled with bumps and grooves that help it collect water from the air. The top of each bump is smooth like glass and attracts water. But the slopes of each bump and the troughs in between the bumps have waxy surfaces that repel water.



The Namib Beetle

© Lucidwaters/Dreamstime.com

- 3 The design of the Namib beetle's wings allows the beetle to harvest water in an environment where there is virtually none. The beetle takes advantage of the fog that rolls into the Namib desert about six times a month. Each time this occurs, the Namib beetle positions its body at a 45-degree angle to the wind. As the wind pushes the fog across the desert, each bump on the beetle's back collects tiny droplets of water. When enough moisture has been collected from the fog, a drop rolls off the bumps into the waxy grooves and then into the mouth of the beetle.



A Drop of Water at the Mouth of the Namib Beetle

© Martin Harvey/Afrpics

- 4 Scientists are using the Namib beetle's wing design as a guide for creating their own water-collection surfaces. Scientists working at a laboratory for the British Ministry of Defence have embedded dozens of glass spheres into thin layers of wax.

Similar to the bumps and grooves on the wings of the beetle, the smooth glass bubbles collect water, while the wax repels it. By placing the glass-and-wax panels in environments with high-moisture air, the scientists think they will be able to collect water. The scientists hope the beetle-inspired panels can increase people's access to water in areas where water is scarce.

- 5 The Namib beetle's extraordinary wing design may also provide unexpected solutions to other modern-day problems. In areas where dense fog causes disruptions, panels of these water-gathering surfaces may be able to eliminate the fog. This could potentially reduce travel delays at airports and prevent fog-related hazards on roadways. It seems that studying this little beetle may lead to a variety of benefits for humans.

19. Use the first passage to answer the following question.

The photographs in the article help the reader understand the —

- A. reason nylon is superior to cotton for making Velcro
- B. similarity between man-made Velcro and naturally occurring burrs
- C. difficulty Mestral had creating his design for Velcro
- D. reason Mestral thought Velcro would be a useful invention

20. Use the first passage to answer the following question.

One challenge that Mestral encountered while inventing Velcro was finding —

- A. different uses for Velcro
- B. a country willing to approve a patent for Velcro
- C. a way to make a profit by selling Velcro
- D. a manufacturer that would produce Velcro

21. Use the first passage to answer the following question.

The reader can conclude from the details in paragraph 4 that Mestral —

- A. was determined to make his idea for Velcro a reality
- B. did not receive the product rights for Velcro
- C. was denied help because companies had difficulty manufacturing Velcro
- D. wanted Velcro to be known as the world's best fastener

22. Use the first passage to answer the following question.

What is the best summary of the article?

- A. Velcro, a fastener named from a combination of the words “velvet” and “crochet,” was invented by the Swiss engineer George de Mestral. He modeled Velcro after burrs that he found in nature. He learned that nylon was the best material to use to make Velcro.
- B. George de Mestral was an engineer from Switzerland who had a curious mind. After studying burrs stuck to his dog’s fur, Mestral decided to create a new kind of fastener. Velcro, the product that Mestral created, is a hook-and-loop fastener that works the same way burrs work in nature.
- C. George de Mestral was the engineer who invented Velcro, a type of hook-and-loop fastener modeled after burrs Mestral found stuck to his dog’s fur. Mestral overcame many obstacles as he worked to produce Velcro. Today, Velcro is commonly used to fasten a variety of materials.
- D. A curious man, George de Mestral noticed one day that burrs were stuck to his dog’s fur. He looked at these burrs under a microscope and saw that tiny hooks on the burrs allowed them to latch onto the fur. Mestral went on to invent Velcro, which uses hooks similar to those found on the burrs.

23. Use the second passage to answer the following question.

The photograph after paragraph 3 is included in the selection to —

- A. show the process of how fog turns into water
- B. allow the reader to envision the size of the Namib beetle
- C. help the reader visualize how the Namib beetle collects water
- D. demonstrate how much water is needed by desert insects

24. Use the second passage to answer the following question.

The author focuses on a unique feature of the Namib beetle in order to highlight how the beetle —

- A. could serve as a source of water for desert travelers
- B. struggles to survive in a dry part of the world
- C. uses its wings to stay cool in an arid environment
- D. is able to provide itself with water in the absence of rain

25. Use the second passage to answer the following question.

The author wrote this selection most likely to —

- A. prove that water can be obtained from moist air
- B. explain how an animal has adapted to living in a hostile environment
- C. show how people can apply designs from nature to create solutions to global problems
- D. emphasize that water is a scarce resource in many areas on Earth

26. Use both passages to answer the following question.

What is one way that Velcro and the water-collection panels are **similar**?

- A. The creators of both inventions experimented with different materials.
- B. The inventions were both inspired by the same environment.
- C. The models for both inventions were discovered in unexpected sources.
- D. The inventions received the same amount of support in the beginning.

27. Use both passages to answer the following question.

Which idea is presented in **both** the article and the selection?

- A. Simple inventions can provide for basic necessities.
- B. Inventors can find ideas by carefully observing nature.
- C. Selecting the appropriate materials for an invention can be challenging.
- D. Inventions have the greatest chance of success when large companies manufacture them.

28. Use both passages to answer the following question.

How did the development of Velcro **differ** from the development of the water-collection panels?

- A. The water-collection panels took years to create, while Velcro was created in a short period of time.
- B. The water-collection panels are made of synthetic materials, while Velcro is made of natural materials.
- C. The design of the water-collection panels has changed many times, while the design of Velcro has changed very little.
- D. The water-collection panels are intended to solve a specific problem, while Velcro is designed to be applied in many different situations.

29. Use both passages to answer the following question.

One **difference** between the Velcro in “Natural Inspiration” and the water-collection panels in “A Brilliant Beetle” is that —

- A. Velcro is an expensive item to reproduce, whereas the water-collection panels are made from affordable materials
- B. Velcro has been replaced by other inventions, whereas the water-collection panels are still being used
- C. Velcro has become a commonplace item, whereas the water-collection panels are not widely used
- D. Velcro is useful only in the clothing industry, whereas the water-collection panels can be used in many industries

Read the following and answer the questions below:

Poplars

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Poplars

by Edward Bliss Reed

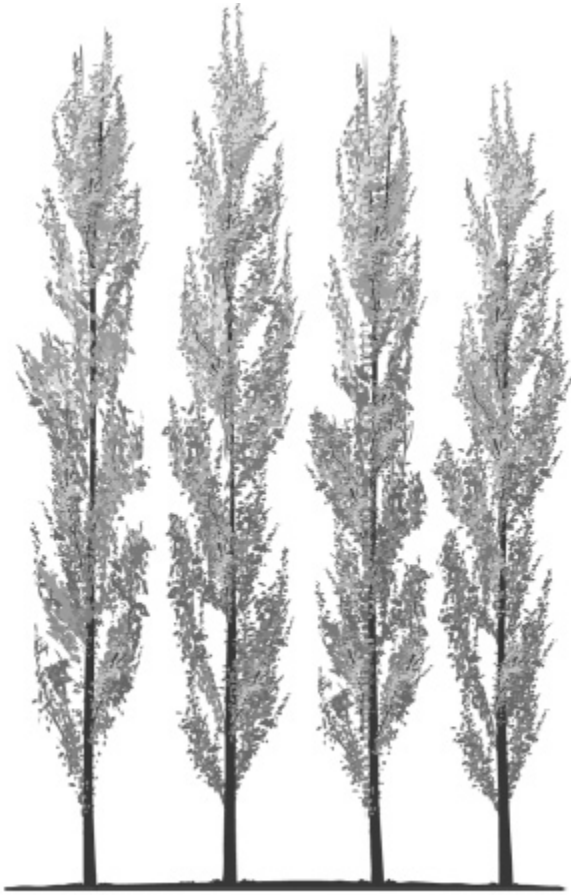
The poplar is a lonely tree.
It has no branches spreading wide
Where birds may sing or squirrels hide.
It throws no shadows on the grass
5 Tempting the wayfarers who pass
To stop and sit there quietly.

The poplar sees each neighbor tree
Loved by the birds. The oriole
Swings from the elm its home; the bole
10 Of that rough oak, above, around,
Hears the woodpecker's rapid sound
As on he works industriously.

The poplar is a slender tree.
It has no boughs where children try
15 To climb far off into the sky.
To hold a swing it's far too weak,
Too small it is for hide-and-seek.
Friendless, forsaken it must be.

The poplar is a restless tree.
20 At every breeze its branches bend
And signal to the child, "Come, friend."
Its leaves forever whispering
To thrush and robin, "Stay and sing."
They pass. It quivers plaintively.

25 Poplars are lonely. They must grow
Close to each other in a row.



Public Domain

30. In the first stanza, the poet suggests that one reason the poplar is not useful is that it —
- A. loses its leaves in the fall
 - B. does not provide much protection for others
 - C. does not grow very tall
 - D. grows in areas where few other things live

31. The poet uses personification in the fourth stanza to describe the poplar's attempt to —

- A.** attract visitors
- B.** remain active
- C.** provide directions to others
- D.** resist being moved by the wind

32. Line 1 is important to the poem because it helps —

- A.** introduce a familiar setting
- B.** describe the speaker
- C.** create imagery
- D.** establish the mood

33. In stanza 2, the poplar is described mainly as —

- A.** cautious
- B.** envious
- C.** curious
- D.** arrogant

34. Why is the last stanza important to the poem?

- A.** It suggests that the poplar may become a desirable tree.
- B.** It shows how a poplar copes with its situation.
- C.** It implies that the poplar wants to be a unique tree.
- D.** It provides an explanation for the size of a poplar.

35. By describing qualities that the poplar lacks, the poet emphasizes —

- A.** why the poplar is unappealing to others
- B.** how the poplar is affected by its environment
- C.** why the poplar grows near different types of trees
- D.** how the poplar finds relief from its problem

Read the following and answer the questions below:

Just a Trim

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Just a Trim

Characters

LONNIE: 13-year-old girl

ASIA: 13-year-old girl

JEREMIAH: Asia's brother, 11 years old

- 1 *[The curtain rises. Asia and Lonnie are sitting on a couch in Asia's living room reading magazines.]*
- 2 **LONNIE:** Would this haircut look good on me? *[She turns the magazine around so that the page is facing Asia.]*
- 3 **ASIA:** *[Squeals.]* Yes! I love the asymmetrical cut for the summer.
- 4 **LONNIE:** It's so cool. Raquel Johnson totally rocked this look at the music awards show last week. Have you heard her new song?
- 5 **ASIA:** Of course! *[Singing.]* "Sometimes you have to find a perfect—"
- 6 *[Jeremiah enters quickly.]*
- 7 **JEREMIAH:** *[Faking panic.]* Is everything okay? It sounded like someone was hurt!
- 8 **ASIA:** Very funny. Go away.
- 9 **JEREMIAH:** Trust me. I do not want to be here. I'm just getting my baseball cap. *[He walks to the other side of the room, retrieves his cap, and exits.]*
- 10 **LONNIE:** This style has to be cut flawlessly.
- 11 **ASIA:** It can't be that hard to copy. There's some layering around your face, but it looks easy enough.
- 12 **LONNIE:** I'll call the salon around the corner.
- 13 **ASIA:** You should let me do it. Right now.
- 14 **LONNIE:** Do you even know how to cut hair?
- 15 **ASIA:** Yes. My family never goes to the salon. My dad cuts our hair. I've watched him do it a thousand times. The scissors and apron are upstairs.
- 16 **LONNIE:** *[Raising her eyebrows.]* So you've never actually cut anyone's hair before?
- 17 **ASIA:** Don't worry. Anyway, why should you pay a salon when I'll do it for free?

- 18 **LONNIE:** [*Pauses.*] Fine. But start by just trimming my hair. Then we'll see.
- 19 **ASIA:** I'll get the scissors.
- 20 [*Asia runs offstage. Lonnie sits in a chair, tapping her foot and flipping through a magazine. Asia enters and puts an apron on Lonnie.*]
- 21 **ASIA:** This shouldn't take long.
- 22 [*Lonnie closes her eyes tightly. Asia holds a thick bunch of Lonnie's hair and puts it between the blades of the scissors. She closes her eyes and cuts. When she opens her eyes, she lets out a deep breath.*]
- 23 **LONNIE:** [*Opening one eye.*] Is everything okay?
- 24 **ASIA:** Of course!
- 25 [*Asia smiles widely as she continues cutting. She sings and snips with gusto. Lonnie sits quietly. After a few minutes, Asia stops singing and stares at Lonnie's hair. Jeremiah enters.*]
- 26 **JEREMIAH:** Asia, have you seen my baseball ba—What are you doing?
- 27 **ASIA:** I'm giving Lonnie a makeover.
- 28 **JEREMIAH:** Into what?
- 29 [*Lonnie sits up straight and stares at Jeremiah.*]
- 30 **ASIA:** Go away, Jeremiah. [*To Lonnie.*] Don't worry. Everything's fine.
- 31 **JEREMIAH:** Sure, if you want to look like a wild dog. [*He exits.*]
- 32 **LONNIE:** Can I have a mirror?
- 33 **ASIA:** Not yet. [*She stops cutting and holds the magazine next to Lonnie's face. She looks at the magazine and then at Lonnie. She speaks slowly.*] How would you feel about parting your hair on the left instead of the right?
- 34 **LONNIE:** [*Anxiously.*] What? Why? In the magazine the girl's hair was parted in the middle.
- 35 **ASIA:** Relax! [*She continues cutting Lonnie's hair.*] I'm just adding some... flair.
- 36 **LONNIE:** Give me a mirror!
- 37 **ASIA:** You have to wait until I'm done. [*She continues cutting.*]
- 38 **LONNIE:** Asia! Stop. I want to see my hair.
- 39 **ASIA:** No problem. I just finished. It's exactly what I was going for.
- 40 [*Lonnie stands and walks over to the mirror hanging on the wall. She shrieks.*]
- 41 **LONNIE:** Oh, no! I can't let anyone see me like this!
- 42 **ASIA:** Why not? It's cut short on one side and long on the other. It's just like in the magazine. Well, maybe a little different, but that's a good thing, right? You don't want to copy someone's look anyway, do you? You're a trendsetter!
- 43 **LONNIE:** There is nothing attractive about this. [*She holds up a mangled cluster of hair in front of her watering eyes.*]
- 44 **ASIA:** [*Frowning.*] You don't like it?
- 45 **LONNIE:** If you think it looks so great, then put on this apron and I'll give you this haircut.

- 46 **ASIA:** Well...umm...we have different facial structures. You look nice with shorter hair. My face is round. Long hair suits me better.
- 47 **LONNIE:** Just admit that you messed up. This haircut is terrible!
- 48 [Asia stares at the ground and says nothing. There is a moment of quiet. Jeremiah enters.]
- 49 **JEREMIAH:** Are you sure my bat isn't in— [*He stops and stares at Lonnie's hair. He walks to Lonnie and takes off his baseball cap.*] I think you're going to need this. [*He puts the hat on her head and exits.*]
- 50 **LONNIE:** What am I going to do? You ruined my hair!
- 51 **ASIA:** Look, I'm sorry. [*Pauses.*] I'll call the salon and set up an appointment for both of us. I'll get the same haircut as you. We'll be all anyone can talk about.
- 52 **LONNIE:** In a good way, I hope. And the next time you get one of your wild ideas, you get to go first.
- 53 **ASIA:** [*Smiling.*] That's fair. I'm sure that way I'll give it a little more thought.
- 54 [*Asia and Lonnie begin sweeping up the hair clippings. Curtain closes.*]

36. Why does the playwright include the stage directions in paragraph 22?

- A. To imply that Asia is taking the task of cutting Lonnie's hair seriously
- B. To indicate that both Lonnie and Asia are nervous about the haircut
- C. To reveal that Asia has more experience cutting hair than she said she did
- D. To show that Asia is pleased she has a chance to cut someone's hair

37. Why does Lonnie agree to let Asia cut her hair?

- A.** Lonnie decides that a free haircut from Asia is better than paying for a salon haircut.
- B.** Lonnie trusts that Asia's father has taught Asia how to cut hair properly.
- C.** Lonnie knows Asia has access to the right tools for cutting hair.
- D.** Lonnie believes that her hair will look just like the style she wants if Asia cuts it.

38. What does the word gusto mean in paragraph 25?

- A.** Concern
- B.** Precision
- C.** Curiosity
- D.** Enthusiasm

39. What is the best summary of the play?

- A. Asia and Lonnie look through magazines and notice a hairstyle worn by a singer they like. Lonnie wants her hair cut in that style, and Asia tells Lonnie she has watched her father cut hair. Lonnie agrees to let Asia cut her hair. While Asia is cutting hair, her brother comes in and out of the room looking for his baseball bat. Asia finishes Lonnie's haircut, but Lonnie says it is terrible.
- B. Lonnie sees a hairstyle she likes in a magazine and agrees to let Asia cut her hair. Lonnie worries when Asia won't give her a mirror and Jeremiah comments on her appearance. Asia tries to improve the haircut, but Lonnie is upset when she finally gets to see it. Asia tries to make Lonnie feel better, and the girls agree to get matching haircuts together at a salon.
- C. Asia and Lonnie are looking through magazines when they decide they like a singer's hairstyle. Asia suggests that she can cut Lonnie's hair to look like the style in the magazine. Asia persuades Lonnie to let her do it by saying that she has seen her father cut hair many times. After Asia finishes, the girls plan to go to the salon together to get matching haircuts.
- D. Lonnie wants a haircut like the one she sees in a magazine. Asia offers to cut her hair for free, and Lonnie agrees to let her. Jeremiah, Asia's brother, makes comments about Lonnie's hair that worry her. When Lonnie finally sees her finished haircut, she blames Asia for ruining it. She tells Asia to put on the apron so that Lonnie can cut her hair with the same style.

40. Why does the playwright include the sensory language in paragraph 43?

- A. To show the reader that Lonnie is overreacting to the situation
- B. To allow the reader to better visualize the style of the haircut
- C. To help the reader understand how distraught Lonnie feels
- D. To tell the reader that Lonnie puts a lot of thought into her hairstyle

41. Asia's dialogue in paragraph 51 is important because it shows that she —
- A. appreciates having a chance to practice cutting hair
 - B. is envious of how good her friend's hair looks now
 - C. prefers having her hair cut by a professional
 - D. wants to be supportive of her friend
42. What can the reader infer about Asia and Lonnie based on how the play ends?
- A. Asia and Lonnie will get into trouble for the mess that they made.
 - B. Asia and Lonnie will have their hair cut only by professionals in the future.
 - C. Asia and Lonnie will continue to be friends despite what has happened.
 - D. Asia will choose a hairstyle different from the one Lonnie chose.

