

Teacher reads the directions only. Student reads the passage and answers.

Directions: Read the passage. Afterwards, fill in the circle of the best answer according to the passage. Remember to reread the passage to check your answers.

Jess's Journey

Jess stood back and watched the white smoke of the rocket trail up into the sky. After a few seconds, the boom of the engines reached her. The silver rocket was bound for the asteroid mines on the edge of the galaxy. "Someday," she whispered to herself. "Someday I'll ride in a rocket like that."

"Hey! Jess! Look lively, girl! Get those engine valves over to the launch pad right away."

Jess made a face at her older brother. Her family's business supplied replacement parts to the mighty rockets. She saw them, touched them, even worked on them. But she'd never been off Earth. "It's not fair," she grumbled. "All my friends have at least been to the moon on vacations."

She lugged the box of valves down a long tunnel to the loading bay. As she placed it on the counter, a siren sounded overhead. "Fuel leak in section five! All personnel report to emergency stations."

In less than a minute, everyone poured out of the loading bay. Jess stared around the huge room. She was alone, and at the end of the loading bay was a sleek silver rocket. Before Jess had time to think about what she was doing, she had climbed into the rocket.

"I'll just look at the pilot's controls," Jess promised. "Then I'll leave." Just then she heard the voice of the rocket's pilot. "Oh no!" Jess wailed softly. Quickly, she scurried into the storage hold and hid behind some boxes. From her hiding spot, Jess heard the heavy doors groan and clang shut. The rocket shuddered as a tug moved it to the launch pad. "It's too late to get out, now," said Jess. "I guess it's my time to go into space."

1 Which detail supports the main idea of the passage?

- Jess picks up a box of engine valves.
- Jess works in her family's business.
- Jess makes a face at her older brother.
- Jess says she'll ride on a rocket someday.

C1.1
RL.7

A Wildlife Garden

Even the friendliest city turns a cold shoulder to wild animals. With a little time and effort, you can make a place for wild animals. Animals have three basic needs: food, water, and shelter. All three needs can be met in your backyard.

To make a wildlife garden in your backyard, decide what kinds of wild animals you want to attract. Birds, insects, frogs, toads, snakes, and small mammals will all be happy to share your yard with you. First, do some research on the animals that are native to your area. Then, plant some bushes, grasses, and flowers that will provide food for the animals. You might plant *Buddleia* bushes for butterflies and a serviceberry tree for birds.

All animals need water. Some people create ponds and fountains in their wildlife gardens. Others are lucky enough to have natural streams nearby. But animals don't need anything expensive or elaborate; they just need a reliable source of water. You can take care of this by putting in a birdbath or keeping a pot or child's wading pool filled with water.

Different animals need different kinds of shelter. A pile of logs can be a good shelter for snakes. A corner full of damp rocks is a good home for toads. Trees and tall grasses will attract birds and small mammals. Try to provide a variety of shelters in your yard.

A wildlife garden is a good way to help wild animals. It may take some time to get used to living with the animals you attract, though. For instance, mice can be pests, but they are food for owls, foxes, and snakes. Many people dislike bugs and spiders, but they are important parts of a healthy garden.

2 The pile of logs is an example of _____.

- shelter in a wildlife garden
- a source of food for wild animals
- a place to provide reliable water
- a way to attract owls

Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes is a man best known for his poetry. However, he wrote more than poems. Hughes also wrote plays, short stories, essays, historical pieces, radio scripts, newspaper articles, and even songs. One of the songs that Hughes wrote contained the lyrics for "Street Scene," a successful Broadway musical.

Prior to becoming a famous poet, Hughes worked as a busboy in a Washington D.C. restaurant. One day during his career as a busboy, Hughes noticed the famous writer Vachel Lindsay sitting at one of the tables. Here was his big chance. Hughes gave Lindsay some of his poems to read. Instantly recognizing talent in the poems, the writer decided to help Hughes get started with his career. At that moment, a famous writer was made.

Before he died in 1967, most of Hughes' writings were translated into various languages. Many people admire Hughes for the insightful and honest writing he produced. People think that his writing is among the greatest of the twentieth century.

3 The main idea of the last paragraph is that _____.

- Many people from different places admired Langston Hughes' work
- Langston Hughes had his writings translated into different languages
- Langston Hughes is a twentieth century writer
- Langston Hughes died in 1967

C1.2
RL7

4 The author wrote this passage mainly to _____.

- persuade
- entertain
- inform
- criticize

C10.2
RL7

Trapped

Ten hours had passed since Josh was first locked in the dismal, dank attic. The stench of the old chest of clothes was making him nauseous. Josh kept reminding himself to relax, yet he nervously began to panic and tremble. He hoped that someone would come and rescue him before he became hysterical. After living in the same house for eighteen years, Josh refused to believe that he had locked himself inside the attic. Occasionally, he would walk to the door to see if it would open, but he had no such luck.

The hot sun was beaming through the tiny window in the attic. Josh woke up to the realization that it was not a nightmare he was having because he was still trapped in the attic. He could not determine why his mother and father had not come home at all the night before. Josh's intent had been to surprise his parents for their thirty-fifth anniversary. The reason Josh ventured into the attic was to hunt for an old photograph of his parents so he could use it to create an anniversary gift. At this moment, Josh was wishing he had just gone to the store and purchased a greeting card like most people.

Suddenly Josh heard the telephone ringing. He tried to be absolutely quiet so that he could hear what was being said. The voices on the answering machine sounded familiar; they were those of his parents. Incredibly, his parents had the same idea: they had gone to Josh's apartment to surprise him with a visit. His roommate revealed Josh's secret visit. On the answering machine, Josh's parents told him that they were anxious to see him when they returned home in a few hours.

5 This passage is mainly about _____.

- a family reunion
- a surprise that went wrong
- a surprise party
- a family trip

Tina

As a baby you kept crying,
Although I tried to ignore you.
This was something I quickly found
Would be extremely difficult to do.

I was angry with my mom and dad
For bringing you to me.
Never could I ever replace my first love,
The one that escaped so quickly.

As the days and nights went on,
You seemed to grow on me.
Your light gray eyes and soft fur
Were so cute and cuddly.

"No, no!" I said to myself
Trying to hold in my feelings.
"I must not give in to this one,
My old love will be reeling!"

As the months grew long
The urge steadily increased within me.
Again I felt that I was betraying my first love.
This was something that just should not be.

At last I cannot resist the longing, which is swelling inside of me.
Although I love my first cat,
The purring that Tina makes is so adorable, can't you see?

6 Which of the following events happened before the passage begins?

- The author falls in love with Tina.
- The author ignores Tina.
- The author notices how pretty Tina is.
- The author loses the first cat.

Snow Day

Joe went to bed feeling apprehensive about returning to school the next day. He was depressed that his winter break was over, but he would be happy to see his friends again since he had not seen them in two weeks. The buzzing of the alarm clock startled Joe as he unsuccessfully attempted to press the snooze button. Drowsily, Joe exited his bed and began his morning ritual. He sluggishly hauled himself to the bathroom with his eyes still pressed shut. Joe heard his mother saying something as he stumbled into the shower. Due to the fact that he was still half-asleep, Joe decided to wait until he finished showering to determine what his mother had said.

As Joe got out of the shower, he imagined that he heard people yelling and making sloshing sounds. He assumed that he must still be half-asleep and that his ears were deceiving him. As he walked into his bedroom toward the window, the yelling became louder. Gazing out of the window made Joe's heart skip a beat. It was like Joe was still sleepwalking through a fantastic dream. There was snow everywhere!

Putting on his shoes, Joe dashed out of his bedroom and rushed down the stairs to see what was happening. Joe was so excited and impatient that he felt as if he was going to burst. Joe hoped his mother would say the magic phrase that every child loves to hear. She did not disappoint him. Schools would be closed due to the inclement weather and there would be a "snow day." Immediately after she said this magic phrase, Joe swiftly put on his winter coat and gloves and proceeded to join in on the fun outside.

7 Which of the following events happened last?

- Joe pressed the snooze button.
- Joe went downstairs.
- Joe got into the shower.
- Joe got dressed.

Plants in the Basement

The main floor of the Portland, Oregon, house where Mike Wilder lives does little to stir his friends' curiosity. Carpeted stairs, however, lead to a basement that is beyond their wildest dreams.

Being in Mike Wilder's basement is like being on another planet. The area glows with the white light of UV lamps. The floor is a maze of terrariums filled with plants. But don't be fooled. These aren't average garden-variety plants. They are carnivorous plants. They eat living things.

The dainty, velvet-leafed butterwort and the purplish Asian pitcher plant consume only very small insects. The Nepenthes, with its large pitcher-shaped traps can grow large enough to capture frogs and lizards.

Wilder does not feed his plants very often. They survive mostly on water and light. When he began his collection seven years ago, he was mostly interested in the feeding process. After a while, though, he became more of a collector. He takes great pride in his diverse mix of plants.

His current favorite is a sundew from Australia. A full-grown sundew has narrow, furry, green leaves tipped with starbursts of yellow and red. When an insect lands on one of these flowers, it closes like a trap.

The same plant needs more than just bugs for survival. The "fur" or tiny white hairs on the sundew's leaves serve as dewdrop collectors. The plant's ability to gather even a tiny drop of moisture is necessary in its native desert-like habitat.

Although Wilder began his collection only seven years ago, his basement is a jungle of over 500 different plants. The plants hail from as far away as Borneo, Venezuela, and Mexico. Every time Wilder looks at one, he feels as if he is looking at another part of the world. The visitors to his basement think so, too.

8 What caused Wilder to start his unusual hobby?

- He was eager to see other parts of the world.
- He wanted to decorate his basement with style.
- He was curious to see how carnivorous plants ate.
- He wanted to make his friends curious about where he lived.

C4.0
RL7

A Change of Plan

All around Sandy could hear the zipping of backpacks and gym bags as the students searched for mechanical pencils, erasers, and calculators. Mrs. Hoda's weekly algebra quizzes were difficult enough, but the chapter tests were killers! Sandy knew failing this test would mean failing the class, going to summer school, and ruining the family vacation.

But this time Sandy had bought the test answers from a student who had taken Mrs. Hoda's algebra class last year. Sandy had painstakingly coded the test answers into the memory of the calculator. In the memory, the first number, "127.3", meant that for question 1 the answer was 27.3. It would be so simple! Just sit still and look like the serious, solemn student clacking away at the calculator, but simply just record the answers. Then, in the summer, it was off for three weeks of sun and sand at the beach.

The room suddenly hushed to silence as Mrs. Hoda announced, "Please take out a piece of paper. Because of changes in the state's testing requirements, this test will ask you to show your work, and the majority of points will be given for correct procedures rather than just the final answer."

9 According to the passage, what would not happen if Sandy failed the algebra test?

- Sandy would go to summer school.
- Sandy would miss playing in summer sports.
- Sandy would ruin summer vacation.
- Sandy would fail the class.

C4.0
RL 7

One Delicious Carnival Ride

Every year, it is like a carnival ride.

We enter the house, warm and welcoming.

Smells rush through my nose, delicious and mouth-watering.

"Sit! Sit!" my grandmother says, prodding and poking.

One by one, we squeeze in, uncles and aunts and cousins and all,

Inhaling and exhaling joyous sighs and laughter.

The ride begins.

Platters, bowls, and plates -

Hoisted high in the air, balancing on her shoulders, cupped in an elbow,

Grasped in each hand, my grandmother swirls around our anticipation.

Stuffed mushrooms and eggplant and tomatoes.

Caponata and bruschetta.

We pass and scoop and slurp and gulp.

Impatiently, we await the next ride.

Not a moment too soon, my grandmother returns in a blur.

Salads of arugula, radicchio, sweet peppers and hot peppers, and salami and prosciutto are thrust onto the table.

The clanking and clanging and careening of dishes never stops.

Until...

My favorite.

Spaghetti, ravioli, fettuccine, linguine, and gnocchi.

My head spins and undulates as each bowl drips with green sauces and red sauces, creamy sauces and chunky sauces.

Aroma of garlic, basil, oregano mix in the air, steam up the window.

We clean our plates, lick off our forks, and go for another round.

Another ride.

Just when I think this whirligig will slow down,

Poised above my head are platters brimming with desserts.

Cookies and cakes, candies and pies take flight around me.

Biscotti, spumoni, rosettes, cannoli, cheesecake,

All savored, chewed, nibbled, and swallowed without a crumb left.

The dishes and platters and bowls and pots reach to the ceiling.

My grandmother, in her sauce-splattered shoes and well-worn apron,

Laughs as we rest for just a second and cry out for more!

And so the ride begins again.

10 At the end of the poem, the people probably _____.

- eat again
- leave for home
- stop eating food
- go to a carnival

C5.0
RL 7

The Nazcas

Who were the Nazcas? The Nazcas were an ancient people in Peru whose culture rose and declined between 100 B.C. and 700 A.D. They not only made beautiful pottery but created lines and figures on the desert floor of southern Peru known as the famous Nazca Lines. They cover a five-mile area between the towns of Nazca and Palpa. Some of these lines are perfectly parallel. Others are an interesting combination of geometric shapes, flowers, and giant creatures that are best seen from the air. Some of these creatures include birds, reptiles, whales, a monkey, a spider, and a figure that resembles an alien dressed in a space suit.

How did the Nazca people make these lines and figures? Making these lines was very time consuming. The Nazcas had to move millions of rocks to uncover the ground beneath them. Then they had to pile millions of rocks into lines and designs. In this part of Peru, there is approximately one half inch of rainfall every five years. As a result, these images have lasted for thousands of years.

Why did the Nazca people make these giant, intricate designs? No one really knows the answer, but many have made guesses. Some scholars believe that the lines were pre-historic roads, astronomical calendars, or even a landing zone for extraterrestrials. Others believe that ancient farmers may have used the markings to predict rain for their crops. The roads may also have been used as religious roads for pilgrimages. A study in the late 1960's found that some of the roads pointed to the positions of the sun and moon and the rising and falling of bright stars.

The Nazca Lines remain an intriguing, unsolved mystery. Who knows? Perhaps in the not-too-distant future, the mystery of the famous Nazca Lines will be solved.

11 From this passage, you can conclude that the Nazca Lines _____.

- were simple to create
- involved a large work force
- will disappear over time
- will always remain a mystery

C5.0
RL 7

A young French sculptor was anxious when he sailed on his first trip to America. He was on an important mission. The people of France wanted to give a gift to America. They wanted to show their friendship and admiration towards the new country. His gift was to be a beautiful statue built by the talented sculptor, Auguste Bartholdi. Bartholdi had made many statues in France, but he could not think of a good idea for this one.

As the ship pulled into the harbor of New York, Bartholdi went on deck to have his first look at America. At the entrance to the harbor stood tiny Bedloe's Island. Suddenly his anxiety vanished! "That is where I want my statue!" he cried. "It will be a statue of a tall lady, like my mother. She will hold a torch in her hand to welcome people. I will call her Liberty Enlightening the World!" The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886.

Today, the Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor, just as Bartholdi imagined it over one hundred years ago. It took more than ten years for him to complete the statue, and looking at it, one can see why.

The "Lady" weighs 225 tons. The torch is 305 feet above the base of the pedestal. Her hand is 16 feet long and her arm is 42 feet long. One finger alone is eight feet long, much taller than most men and women. Her skin is made of more than 300 copper sheets. Thirteen strong lamps light her torch.

Through the years, the torch has continued to burn brightly. It is a welcome symbol of liberty and freedom in America and is one of the most universal symbols of political freedom and democracy. Bedloe's Island, where the statue stands, was renamed Ellis Island in 1956. Ellis Island has been the "gateway to the world" for millions of immigrants to the United States.

12 In this passage "admiration" means _____.

- anger
- respect
- dishonesty
- fear

Manatees are gentle sea creatures. The manatee is often referred to as a "sea cow" because it grazes on marine grass and other water plants. They feed in both saltwater and fresh water grazing for six to eight hours a day. The manatee can grow to nearly fourteen feet long, and weigh two thousand pounds. It spends most of its life either eating or resting. The life span of a manatee is not known exactly, but is estimated to be approximately fifty years.

Manatees move at a slow pace in the water. They are curious and friendly and will often approach people. They have even been known to come close enough for a pat on the back or roll over for a tummy rub.

These sea mammals are generally gentle and calm creatures relishing in their relaxed daily lives. Sometimes manatees collect where the current is strong for an activity that researchers have termed "body surfing." The animals repeatedly ride the current downstream, then work their way back up. Sometimes the entire group rides sideways to the current, or moves diagonally across it, with frequent nuzzling and vocalizing between rides.

In some areas, the number of manatees is becoming smaller and smaller. The growing population of humans in Florida, especially along the coast, has caused serious problems for the sea mammals. The many boats prove to be a danger because the propellers can cause lacerations on the backs of the slow-moving mammals. These wounds can be serious and take a long time to heal. Manatees can also become caught in fishing nets and drown.

13 According to the passage, what are "lacerations"?

- wounds
- boat propellers
- deep waters
- small manatees

Shakespeare is to writing as Henry Ford is to the automobile," said Mrs. Johnson, Amy's English teacher. Amy wasn't completely convinced though because she wasn't sure she comprehended what Mrs. Johnson meant. Henry Ford had invented a way to mass-produce cars. In other words, he could build a large amount of cars in a short amount of time. Did that mean Shakespeare invented a printing press or some other way to quickly mass-produce books?

Amy decided the best place to take her question was to the library. When she got there, she put her books down and went straight to the shelves where she'd seen a Henry Ford book. She didn't find the book, but she found a book about the printing press. She discovered that Shakespeare had not invented the printing press. Instead, it was some guy a few hundred years before Shakespeare! She knew she had to go to the Shakespeare section to see what she could learn about him.

The first thing she saw was all the different books that were entitled, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. She was almost afraid to pull one of those enormous books down, but she did anyway. Soon, a big smile came to Amy's face because she realized what Mrs. Johnson meant now. Just as Henry Ford had produced thousands of cars, Shakespeare had written thousands of poems, plays, and sonnets.

14 Choose one of the following statements from the passage that is true.

- Amy only needed to see the Shakespeare section of the library to find an answer.
- Amy found the book on Henry Ford.
- Mrs. Johnson answered Amy's question about Shakespeare.
- Mrs. Johnson compared Shakespeare to Henry Ford.

C10.1
RL 7

Jake wanted to play baseball, but he also wanted to play drums in a rock `n' roll band. The school counselor told him he could schedule both baseball and band, if he wanted, but Jake wanted to know if he was going to learn rock `n' roll drumming by joining the high school band. The counselor explained that he couldn't put Jake in a rock `n' roll band, but he could surely learn basic music fundamentals in the school band. Jake was reluctant, but he let the counselor enroll him in both baseball and band.

Baseball was no problem since Jake found that he had natural ability on the field. But trying to learn rock `n' roll in a high school band was another story. The first time he asked his drum instructor about it, the instructor just laughed. "Stick around a little longer and you'll see for yourself." Every day in band seemed like a hundred years to Jake. The instructor took him over the basics of music, over and over, but Jake couldn't see any rock in it at all.

A couple of weeks later, the instructor told Jake to stay a few minutes after class. Jake couldn't believe it when the instructor pulled out something that appeared to be a set of drums for rock `n' roll. For the next 20 minutes, the instructor gave Jake his first lesson in rock `n' roll drumming! All the basics Jake had learned in the past weeks suddenly made sense!

15 Choose one of the following statements from the passage that is true.

- Jake decided to discontinue band class.
- Jake took band instead of baseball.
- Jake eventually appreciated learning the basics of drumming.
- Jake was unable to learn how to play rock `n' roll.

C10.1
RL.7

Keiko's Report

Setting: The family living room; dark. Tuesday at 11:00 PM.

The father is sitting in a chair. Outside a car drives up. A car door opens and closes, and the car drives away. A young girl quietly opens the door and steps inside. She closes the door and turns to see her father sitting there, waiting.

Keiko: Hi Dad. You didn't have to wait up.

Father: *(calmly)* Do you know what time it is?

Keiko: It's 10:30. I told you I'd be on time.

Father: It's just after eleven.

Keiko: *(looking at her watch)* That can't be! This old watch! I told you I needed a new one, but you said this one was good enough!

Father: *(slowly reaching out his hand)* Show me your watch.

Keiko: You think I'm lying!

Father: Our watches said the same thing when you left five hours ago. Now yours is 30 minutes slow? Show me your watch.

Keiko: Well, I did loan it to Amy while we were at the library. I don't know what she did with it! She could have changed it. I just know it says 10:30 now.

Father: So, you don't know what time it is, do you?

Keiko: Well, I thought it was 10:30. That's what my watch says.

Father: *(in a quiet voice)* The library closed at 10:00. It doesn't take an hour to get home. And where is the report you were working on?

Keiko: *(confused)* I... I left it in, ah, in Martha's car. She's picking me up for school tomorrow, and I don't need it tonight.

Father: What kind of report was it?

Keiko: I had to write a paper for social studies on the topic, "Respecting Authority."

Father: So you were studying in the social sciences section of the library?

Keiko: *(matter-of-factly)* Of course I was! Where *else* would I get the information I need?

Father: First floor, corner farthest from the entrance, near the bathrooms?

Keiko: *(hesitating)* Yes, I think so...

Father: That's where you were sitting?

Keiko: Well, uh, no, that's where I found books. Then I took them with me to study with my friends. And I was also on the computer some. Did you go to the library tonight? *(Father nods.)* Were you checking up on me? Don't you trust me?

Father: Your sister wanted to check out some storybooks. We thought we'd stop by and say hello. We had the librarian page you on the intercom. You never responded. Now, where were you?

Keiko: *(searching)* Oh, you went to the *public* library! Well, um, we weren't *there*. We, uh, we went to the library at the community college!

16 The purpose of this passage is to _____.

- teach a moral lesson
- introduce report writing
- demonstrate the use of the library
- detail the dangers of riding in cars with friends

The Lady or the Tiger?

In the classic story, "The Lady or the Tiger," by Frank Stockton, an attractive young man is faced with a peculiar, perplexing predicament.

In primeval times, there lived a high-spirited king who was jovial when situations had a slight glitch to them. One of his borrowed ideas was the public arena. Transgressions were punished and virtue was rewarded in the enormous stadium. When a subject in his dominion was accused of a misdeed, his loyal subjects would congregate in the arena. Elevated on his throne, the king was surrounded by his devoted court. The accused would then step into the arena. Directly across were two identical, massive doors. Behind one of the doors was a ravenous tiger, and behind the other was an exquisite lady. The person on trial had to open one of the doors with no assistance from anyone.

This semi-barbaric king had a daughter whom he cherished. Her mistake was to fall in love with the most handsome and brave man in the kingdom. When the king found out, the man was promptly incarcerated. When the day that would determine the man's fate arrived, the people gathered from near and far. The audience was astounded, for never had they seen such a distinguished young man.

The princess did what no one else had ever accomplished before; she had discovered the secret of the doors. She not only knew behind which door stood the lady, but she also knew whom the damsel was. She had frequently seen the two conversing and flirting with each other. When the young man glanced in the direction of the princess, she raised her hand from the cushioned armrest. Without any hesitation, the young man opened the door on the right.

Which came out of the opened door, the lady or the tiger?



The mood of this story can best be described as _____.

- peaceful
- uplifting
- fearful
- baffling

Considered one of the most beautiful animals in the world, tigers are found in Siberia, India, Mynamar, and Sumatra. Indian tigers are the most numerous. Their habitat can be tropical rainforests, mountain forests, snow-covered forests, marshes, and grasslands.

Male tigers can measure up to thirteen feet and weigh as much as five hundred seventy pounds. Females, however, are relatively smaller. Cubs, usually two or three, are born three to four months after mating. Since the male disappears immediately after the birth, the female takes full responsibility for her offspring. She safeguards her cubs from other animals in a sheltered cave or among tall grass or thick bushes.

The color and markings of tigers differ according to their environment. Some have stripes that are close together. Some have fur of reddish-gold with black stripes while others are pure white with big, bold, black stripes. Their varied markings enable them to be well concealed so they can hunt effortlessly. Their sense of sight and hearing is exceptional. Tigers' bodies are extremely powerful, enabling them to kill an animal three to four times their size. Their paws are exceptionally large and their claws are razor-sharp. Four large, pointed teeth are found in the front corners of their mouths. Two are in the upper jaw and two are in the lower jaw. In their territory they occupy their time by hunting, eating, drinking, and sleeping.

Tigers, who are meat eaters, feast on hoofed animals, such as wild pigs, antelopes, deer, and buffaloes. Tigers kill their prey in one of two ways. They either bite the back of the animal's neck or squeeze their powerful jaws around the throat of the animal. After the prey is killed, they drag it to a nearby bush and feed. Tigers roar loudly while feasting to keep other animals away.

18 The tone of this passage can best be described as _____.

- humorous
- sarcastic
- gloomy
- serious

Get Cooking

What can you learn watching television? You can learn how to build a house, speak Japanese, or plant an herb garden. If you like cooking shows, the choices seem endless. Julia Child starred in the first show of this kind and revolutionized how Americans cook and eat.

Julia McWilliams was born in Pasadena, California, in 1912. She was a mischievous girl who preferred the outdoors to the kitchen. She once had to scramble over a fence to escape being caught hurling mud pies at passing cars.

Although Julia graduated from college with plans of becoming a novelist, she took a job at the Office of Strategic Services--the early C.I.A.--in Washington, DC. When an overseas assignment in Ceylon presented itself, Julia eagerly accepted. She was thrilled to work among "spy types." She found her work, as a research assistant, pure drudgery. However, the exotic location, top-secret clearance, and a man named Paul Child made it worthwhile.

Paul was a lover of fine food, but aside from mud pies, Julia had never developed a particular interest in the subject. Paul took Julia to his favorite restaurants, hoping to give her a crash course. Soon the two were married and had moved to Paris. There, Julia decided to enroll in the world-famous Cordon Bleu cooking school.

Julia's teacher thought she lacked natural ability but found her energy remarkable. Before long, Julia and two friends opened a French cooking school of their own. It was designed especially for Americans living in Paris. Ten years later, Julia and her partners published a book called *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. This in turn led to Public Television's greatest success, "The French Chef" in 1963.

Two hundred episodes, eight series, and eleven books later, Julia Child remains America's best-loved and best-known chef.

◆19 "Get Cooking" is an example of a _____.

- fiction story
- recipe
- biography
- legend

**Pushing Up the Sky
(From the Northwest Snohomish Tribe)**

The Creator made the world by moving westward and giving each group a different language. When he reached Puget Sound in the West, he had many languages remaining, so he scattered them all around Puget Sound and to the north.

As it happened, the sky was made too low so that many people continuously bumped their heads, but since all the people spoke a different language, they were unable to work together to solve the dilemma.

The wise men from each of the different groups finally congregated to discuss possible ways to lift the sky. They agreed all people and animals and birds should help to push it up higher. However, everyone would need to push simultaneously. "How can we get everyone to push at the same time?" asserted one of the wise men. "We are birds flying with our eyes closed for we don't speak the same language."

Another wise man proposed, "When it comes time to push, someone will shout 'Ya-hoh!' which means 'Lift together!' in all our languages."

The wise men conveyed that message to all the people and animals and birds and told them when the lifting of the sky would happen. Everyone fashioned giant poles out of fir trees to use in pushing against the sky.

The day for lifting the sky came, and all the people and animals and birds raised their poles and touched the sky. Then the wise men shouted at the tops of their lungs, "Ya-hoh!" Everybody pushed the sky with titanic strength, but it only moved slightly.

"Ya-hoh," the wise men shouted a second time, and everybody hoisted again with all their strength. The sky elevated a few inches more. With every other breath, the wise men thundered, "Ya-hoh," and the people pushed the sky inch by inch until it was in place where it is now. To this day, when people want to work together, everyone yells, "Ya-hoh!"

20 "Pushing Up the Sky" is an example of a _____.

- science fiction story
- myth
- biography
- poem