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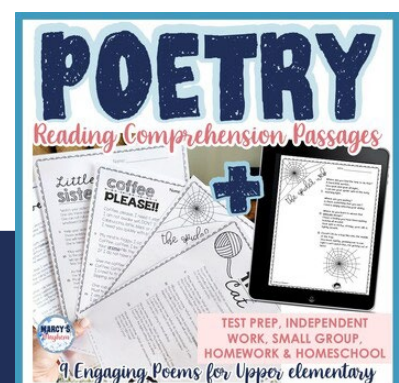
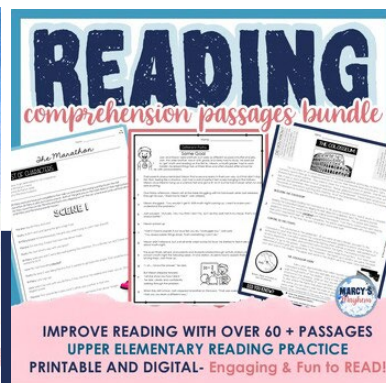
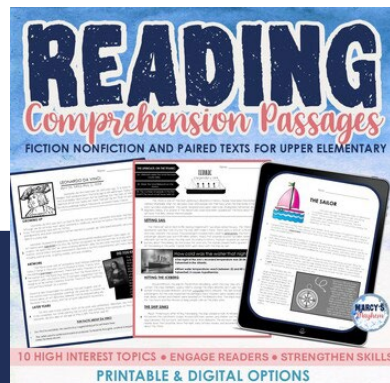
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# THE TREEHOUSE

"I want a Treehouse," I randomly say one morning at breakfast.

My father turns and smiles. His ears perk.

"A treehouse?" He questions me. I can make that happen.

A few weekends passed, and I nearly had forgotten my request.

5 Dad pulls up in the driveway. His truck bed full of lumber.

"Help me," he states.

I **begrudgingly** take pieces of wood after wood piece out.

We haul them to a pile in the grass.

For months, each spare second, my father is in the backyard.

10 His routine follows a pattern: work, backyard, rest.

One Sunday, his arms and the back of his calves were burnt to a crisp.

"Making headway," he says at dinner.

Finally, one afternoon, I go to the backyard.

A bunch of random wood piles and a few boards are posted in the tree.

15 "All this work for nothing," I think.

"Can you play catch, Dad?" I ask.

"Not today, son," he replies.

The pattern continues into the fall: work, backyard, rest.

Then, all of a sudden, the house form begins to take shape.

20 I can imagine it in my mind.

"Can I help you, Dad?" I ask.

"I have wanted that all along," he says.

Climbing up the ladder, we work until dinnertime.

My pattern changes to school, backyard, rest.

25 Then one day, the treehouse is complete.

The last nail is hammered.

The last hinge is secure.

Dad turns to me and says, "She's all yours."

We climb down the ladder to the ground. We stare up at my treehouse.

30 We stand smiling and looking in awe at what was built.

I hug my father tight.

There is a twinge of sadness that my treehouse is now complete.



**Use “The Treehouse” to answer the following questions below.**

1. Why are the events in stanzas 4-7 (lines 12-22) important to the poem’s resolution?

- A. The speaker just wants his father to hurry up.
- B. The speaker’s attitude changes.
- C. The speaker’s father is in the construction business.
- D. The speaker realizes that the weather is changing.

2. After reading the poem “The Treehouse,” which of the following statements below supports the theme?

- A. A treehouse can not be built quickly.
- B. Building something takes imagination.
- C. Love is shown in different ways.
- D. Courage is found from within.

3. Read the line below.

**begrudgingly** take wood piece after wood piece into the backyard.

Which of the following words is a synonym for the word **begrudgingly** in the text?

- A. Agreeable
- B. Annoyed
- C. Grateful
- D. Deliberate

4. What is the most likely reason the poet describes his father’s “arms and the back of his calves are burnt to a crisp” in line 10?

- A. To reveal the hard work and sacrifice his father is making for his child.
- B. To highlight that his father remains happy over time.
- C. To indicate that his father is not applying sunscreen every four hours.
- D. To explain the way his father looks at dinnertime.

5. Read line 32 of the poem. What does this line help the reader to understand?

- A. This line shows that the narrator will probably cry.
- B. This line indicates that the narrator cannot believe that all his hard work paid off.
- C. This line suggests that the narrator will more than likely build something again soon.
- D. This line shows the narrator understands the love that went into his father’s gift.

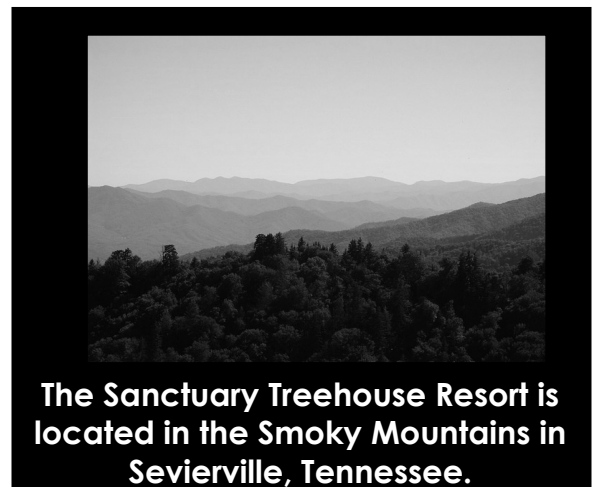
# SANCTUARY TREEHOUSE RESORT

NOT YOUR AVERAGE PLACE TO STAY

1 Have you ever had a dream that seemed too big to become a reality? Many of us have, and often we talk ourselves out of it. However, this was different for Brian and Amanda Jensen when they created Sanctuary Treehouse Resort. Although the resort didn't come to fruition immediately after the initial idea, the goal was eventually achieved. The Jensen's prove that you can bring your dreams to life if you're willing to put in the effort. They're proud to show their children what it takes to make dreams come true and even involve them in various aspects of the resort, such as creating artwork, naming the treehouses, and contributing to the decor and landscaping. In short, the Sanctuary Treehouse Resort is not your average place to stay.

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

2 When the Jensen family's four children were young, they had a fantastic treehouse in their backyard. It had bunk beds, trap doors, ziplines, and a swing. The couple used to joke about renting it out when their children grew out of it. However, little did they know that this would spark an idea that would later become the world's largest treehouse resort. The Jensen's worked tirelessly to create a unique experience in the Smoky Mountains while preserving the wildlife and natural beauty of the location.



## NOT ACTUALLY BUILT IN THE TREES

3 When you arrive at the resort, you will notice that the treehouses are not actually built in the trees. During construction, the owners discovered that building a treehouse in a tree could shorten its lifespan and increase susceptibility to environmental factors such as wood rot and wind. However, this does not take away from the experience of staying at the resort. You can still enjoy amenities such as rope pulleys, slides, hanging beds, escape hatches with ladders, drink chutes, and breathtaking views. In addition to these, the resort also offers standard amenities such as wifi, heated toilet seats, and outdoor tubs.

## WHAT CAN I DO WHEN I VISIT?

4 Although going to the resort is a blast, you will not want to stay only at your treehouse when you visit the area. The Smoky Mountains are one of America's most beloved national parks. There are lovely views with jagged mountain tops, cascading waterfalls, lush forests, and many more activities for couples, families, or to enjoy solo. While staying at Sanctuary Treehouse Resort, you should take advantage of the shopping, golf, restaurants, and shows available to see. In addition, the area has Dollywood nearby, caverns, aquariums, and much more! Visiting here might be a breath of fresh air many people seek when they book a vacation!

Use “Sanctuary Treehouse Resort, Not Your Average Place to Stay” to answer the following questions below.

6. Read the sentence below.

Although the resort didn't come to fruition immediately after they first had the idea, this goal was eventually attained.

Which of the following words below helps the reader to understand what the word **fruition** means?

- A. Although the resort
- B. Immediately after
- C. Had the idea
- D. Eventually attained

7. Read the sentence below.

Pirates Voyage dinner and show is located near the Treehouse Resort. Pirates Voyage not only includes a four-course dinner but also a unique show that is on a pirate ship!

Which of the following locations would this sentence best fit in the selection?

- A. The introduction
- B. How it all began
- C. Not actually built in the trees
- D. What can I do when I visit?

8. What do you think is the author's main purpose in writing “Sanctuary Treehouse Resort, Not Your Average Place to Stay?”

- A. To entertain readers with a story about a dream.
- B. To persuade readers to book a vacation immediately.
- C. To inform readers about how the resort came about and what to do while visiting.
- D. To describe the most beloved national park in America.

9. What can the reader conclude based on the selection, “Sanctuary Treehouse Resort, Not Your Average Place to Stay”?

- A. People who visit the Sanctuary Treehouse Resort seek a unique experience.
- B. People who visit the Sanctuary Treehouse Resort are more than likely disappointed they are not built in a tree.
- C. It is common for people to keep their dreams from coming to fruition.
- D. It will be the best experience of your life to visit the Sanctuary Treehouse Resort.

**Use "Treehouse" and "Sanctuary Treehouse Resort, Not Your Average Place to Stay" to answer the following questions below.**

10. Read the first stanza (Lines 1-3) in the "Treehouse " Which sentences from the selection "Sanctuary Treehouse Resort, Not Your Average Place to Stay" best expresses a SIMILAR feeling?

- A. The Jensen's prove that you can bring your dreams to life if you're willing to put in the effort.
- B. In short, the Sanctuary Treehouse Resort differs from your average place to stay.
- C. When the Jensen family's four children were young, they had a fantastic treehouse in their backyard. It had bunk beds, trap doors, ziplines, and a swing.
- D. The couple joked about renting it out when their children grew out of it.

11. How does the audience in the poem "Treehouse" DIFFER from the audience in the selection "Sanctuary Treehouse Resort, Not Your Average Place to Stay"?

- A. The audience in the poem did not put in as hard of work as the Jensen family did in the selection.
- B. The audience in the poem only shows what hard work can do in the present day, while the audience in the selection shows what hard work can do in the long term.
- C. The audience in the poem only aspires to build something as big as what was built in the selection.
- D. The audience in the poem is almost exactly the same as the audience in the selection.

12. What message is found in BOTH the poem "Treehouse" and the selection "Sanctuary Treehouse Resort, Not Your Average Place to Stay"?

- A. Building something is only for some.
- B. You will regret not following your dreams.
- C. While having dreams is great, it also takes hard work to accomplish them.
- D. If you work hard, your dreams will also take form.

## EXTENDED RESPONSE ORGANIZER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In the poem "Treehouse," question 4 asks, What is the most likely reason the poet describes his father's "arms and the back of his calves are burnt to a crisp" in line 10? Use the organizer below to prove your answer.

Look back at your answer choices. Which answer choice did you select for this question? \_\_\_\_\_

**Central Idea: Explain why you selected the answer choice that you did.  
Provide two examples from the text below.**

### TEXT EVIDENCE PROOF #1

1. Write what the text says to prove your answer below.

2. How does this text evidence help prove your answer?

Where was this piece of evidence located in the text? (Line #, paragraph, page #, etc.)

### TEXT EVIDENCE PROOF #2

1. Write what the text says to prove your answer below.

2. How does this text evidence help prove your answer?

Where was this piece of evidence located in the text? (Line #, paragraph, page #, etc.)

Restate the question above to prove your answer.

I can tell that I selected the correct answer to the question

\_\_\_\_\_, based on the following text

evidence example \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_. These two pieces of

information help me to prove that \_\_\_\_\_.

# TROUBLE

I got in trouble and was sent to my room.  
Stomping up the stairs, I head to my tomb.  
Then, sitting on my bed, I quietly fume.

To explain my case, it suddenly feels dire.

- 5 My mother's full attention it will definitely require.  
With the darkness around me, I suddenly fire.

Lying on top of the covers, I shiver in my clothes.  
My head hits the pillow, and off I doze.  
What was on my mind, I hardly know.

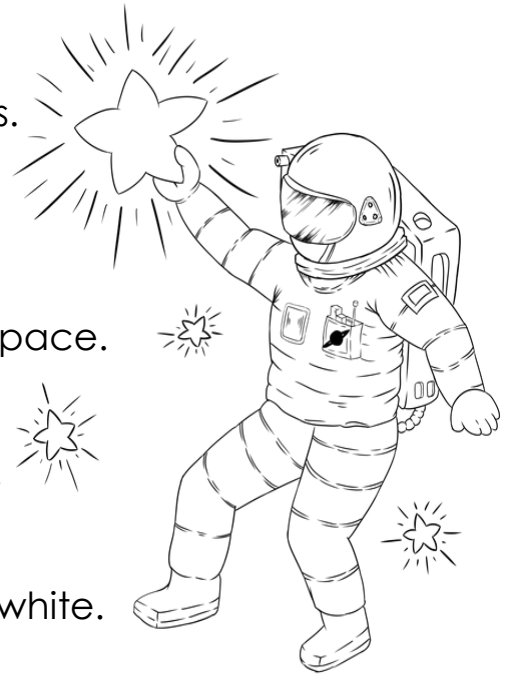
- 10 Suddenly, I am in a faraway place.  
Whisked away in a ship and heading to outer space.  
Which then leads to a crazy alien chase.

Then, swiftly, I land in a castle and am a knight.  
This genre is my favorite type to write.

- 15 In a battle with fire-breathing dragons, I fight.  
"Woohoo," I win and ride off on a horse that is white.

That last part was stressful, so I headed to the beach.  
To soak up some sun, for sunscreen, I reach.  
This location makes me realize that my life is a peach.

- 20 Next, I hear Mom's voice shaking me; my cheek is covered in drool.  
Each night, we eat dinner together; it is our rule.  
"I want you to explain what happened," she says. "I didn't mean to be cruel."





## Use “Trouble” to answer the following questions below.

1. What is most likely the reason that the poet refers to his room as a tomb in line 2?
  - A. To emphasize that he does not want to go there.
  - B. To highlight that dreams occur in space.
  - C. To describe to the reader that his room is cold and dark.
  - D. To explain that he feels not listened to.
2. Which words below could replace the word dire in line 4?
  - A. Critical
  - B. Immediate
  - C. Unimportant
  - D. Extreme
3. Read the line below.

This location makes me realize that my life is a peach.

What does this figurative language style mean?

- A. The poet would enjoy a piece of fruit.
  - B. The poet is finally happy with this part of the dream
  - C. The poet realizes that his life is excellent.
  - D. The poet would like to stay at the beach forever.
4. Describe the rhyming pattern in this poem.
  - A. Every other line of the poem rhymes.
  - B. All the lines in each stanza rhyme with each other.
  - C. The rhyming pattern is hard to identify.
  - D. The poem follows an A-B rhyme pattern.
5. How do you think the poet's feelings change from stanza 1 to stanza 7?
  - A. A. The poet went from outrage to acceptance.
  - B. The poet went from frustrated to hopeful.
  - C. The poet went from unsure to terrified.
  - D. The poet went from defeated to frantic.

## A WAY TO ESCAPE

1 I walk into my house and shout, "Mom, Dad, I am home!" When no one responds, I look around and realize that they're not in the living room. I raise my voice, "Mom... Dad..." and hear them yelling from the back bedroom. Whenever my parents fight, I try to stay out of their way because my mother can be tough as nails, and my father is an angry bull.

2 I drop my backpack by the stairs and make my way to the kitchen to grab a snack. I pick up an apple and pour myself a glass of milk before heading to my bedroom. I switch on the lamp by my bed and flop down on it. I noticed the fantasy novel lying on my nightstand, which I had stayed up late reading the night before. I pick up the book and am instantly transported to a faraway world where my parents' arguments don't exist.



3 Unsure how much time had gone by, I almost didn't hear the tap, tap, tap on my bedroom door. Looking up from my book, I see my sister gingerly enter my bedroom on her tiptoes.

4 "I thought I would find you here," she says.

5 "They are at it again," I roll my eyes.

6 My sister shakes her head. "Do you mind if I join you?" she says. She holds up a book in her hand. Gingerly enters

7 "Not at all," I say. I scoot over and take the book from my sister's hand. "This was one of my favorites when I was your age," I tell her.

8 "Will you read it to me?" she asks. "I would love to be able to write a book like this." she continues.

9 We both get under the covers of my bed and snuggle up close. Opening the book, a wave of happiness makes its way through me. We begin the story, and I can tell my sister is enjoying it. She moves even closer to me and has her hands on the pages so she can see the words. As I read the words, she follows with her eyes.

10 Chapter after chapter passes, and we lose track of time. Neither of us even realizes that the light in my room is getting fainter and fainter until it is so dark I can barely see the words on the page.

11 It is then that I hear my mother's voice. "Charlotte, are you here?" "Claire, where are you?" she says. With the voice getting closer, I hear her footsteps coming up the stairs. Then, another set follows those footsteps. Suddenly, both of my parents are standing in my room.

12 "Why didn't you guys tell us you were home?" my mother inquires.

13 My father comes in behind my mother, giving her a sweet squeeze on the shoulder.

14 "We didn't hear either of you come in." My father states.

15 "Come downstairs," my mother says. "I am going to get dinner together."

- 16 Both of my parents turned to leave my room, shutting the door behind them.
- 17 I turn to my sister. "Adults are so strange," I tell her. We both giggle. "We can go down soon, but let's find out what happens next," I tell her.
- 18 "Definitely," she says.
- 19 We pull the covers back over our heads and continue reading.

**Use “A Way To Escape” to answer the following questions below.**

6. In the story “A Way To Escape,” how does the narrator deal with her parents’ fighting?
- A. The narrator grabs a snack and goes to her room.
  - B. The narrator decides to take a nap and is interrupted by her sister.
  - C. The narrator and her sister escape into a good book.
  - D. The narrator is still trying to escape.
7. Reread paragraphs 4-7. Based on these paragraphs, what can the reader infer about the sisters?
- A. The older sister doesn’t really want to read to the little sister but is just being nice.
  - B. This is not the first time the sisters have heard their parents fight.
  - C. Having someone to read with is better than reading alone.
  - D. The older sister has read many books.
8. Which words from paragraph 3 of the story “A Way To Escape” help the reader understand what **gingerly** means?
- A. Unsure how much time has gone by
  - B. I almost didn’t hear
  - C. Looking up from my book
  - D. Entering my bedroom on her tiptoes
9. Read the line below. What does the author’s use of simile in paragraph 1 of the story suggest about how the author feels about her parents’ fight?

Whenever my parents fight, I try to stay out of their way because my mother can be tough as nails, and my father is an angry bull.

- A. Both parents are stubborn, and it is best to leave the adults alone.
  - B. The mother is powerful, and the father is like a bull.
  - C. The narrator is unsure which parent is stronger, so she would rather have a snack.
  - D. The narrator is annoyed that the parents are fighting.
10. What is the best summary for the story?
- A. The sisters are tired of their parents fighting, so they read a book. While they are reading, it gets dark outside.
  - B. When the reader arrives home, she realizes her parents are fighting again. To escape, she and her sister get lost in a book. Later, the parents discover their daughters are not home and pretend everything is fine when they find them.
  - C. The older sister has passed on her love of reading to her younger sister. She and her sister spend the afternoon reading their new favorite novel.
  - D. Parents sometimes fight, and the sisters decide to read a book to escape. When it gets dark, they have dinner.

**Use “Trouble” and “A Way to Escape” to answer the following questions below.**

11. In the poem “Trouble,” what does the main character value similarly to what the little sister values in the story “A Way to Escape”?

- A. Writing
- B. Reading
- C. Sleeping
- D. They do not have anything in common.

12. Which topic is addressed by the character of the story that is not addressed by the speaker of the poem?

- A. The characters in the story are okay with going to their room, while the speaker in the poem dislikes his room.
- B. Both the character in the story and the speaker of the poem feel forced to go to their room.
- C. The characters in the story voluntarily go to their room while the speaker of the poem is told to go.
- D. Both the character in the story and the speaker of the poem have a vivid imagination.

13. How are the sisters in the story “A Way to Escape” and the speaker in the poem “Trouble” alike?

- A. All the characters are upset with their parents in the story.
- B. All the characters find ways to escape what is happening in reality.
- C. All the characters feel their bedroom is the best place in the house.
- D. All the characters would rather take a nap than deal with consequences.

## EXTENDED RESPONSE ORGANIZER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In the selection "A Way to Escape," question 7 says, to reread paragraphs 4-7. Based on these paragraphs, what can the reader infer about the sisters?

Look back at your answer choices. Which answer choice did you select for this question? \_\_\_\_\_

**Central Idea: Explain why you selected the answer choice that you did.  
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evidence example \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_. These two pieces of

information help me to prove that \_\_\_\_\_.

# IS THAT SNAIL SLEEPING?

Is that snail sleeping? This might be the most random topic you learn about today, but regardless, a snail's sleep cycle is random. While most animals' sleep cycle is measured over 24 hours, a snail has no regard for a sense of time. A snail is awake based on the environmental factors around them. Since they require a moist, wet environment, they are probably awake and moving around if the weather favors those conditions.



## SO, HOW LONG DOES A SNAIL SLEEP?

As mentioned in the paragraph above, a snail's sleep cycle is not measured similarly to other animals. A snail's sleep cycle can be measured over the course of 2-3 days. When researchers measured the snail's sleep cycle over 13 hours, they found that it took about 7 mini-naps during that time. Then they remain active for about 30 hours. Also, if weather conditions are too cold or too hot, they might go to sleep and wake up when the outside surroundings are better. Many people who own snails will worry that their snail is dead when it is still too long; it might just be that it is asleep. If you see a snail that appears to be unconscious, don't worry; it might just be hibernating at the time.

## WHAT IS ALL THAT SLIME ABOUT?

Snails have lots of slime coming from their body, also known as mucus. This slimy substance, coming from them, benefits the snail. In fact, it helps them to stay alive. The slime that comes from outside the body is also called the snail's "foot." The foot allows the snail to move along surfaces with ease. Snails can only move in a straight line and sometimes turn. The snail cannot go backward due to the slimy trail it relies on. Inside the snail's body is also a mucus that keeps it alive. Since staying moist is essential for a snail, you will notice that they are most active at night. Although snails can hide inside their shells, the shells can be thin, which makes them vulnerable to the sun's harmful effects. Also, salt is hazardous to snails and harmful. If you know anyone who has tried to injure a snail with salt, please ask them to stop.

## OTHER FUN SNAIL FACTS

Did you know that a snail can live up to 30 years old? While snail shells will grow with them as they age, they can come in many different sizes. Some snails will remain very small their entire lives, while certain sea snails can grow up to 30 inches. When snails are first born, their shells are soft. The snail's shell is considered an organ and is great for protection, plus it will harden as the snail ages. Snails absolutely love to eat plants and algae. Many people who own ponds will invest in snails to help keep their ponds clean. Snails can be incredibly strong, too! They generally lift ten times their weight. If you ever try to pick up a snail, they have a tight grasp, and lifting them might feel almost impossible. Who knew a boring old snail could be such an exciting animal?

## Use “Is that snail sleeping?” to answer the following questions below.

1. Which words below could not replace the word **unconscious** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph?
  - A. Dozing
  - B. Aware
  - C. Asleep
  - D. Crashed
2. What is the best summary of the article?
  - A. The snail's sleep cycle might just be one of the most random facts you will ever learn. While they operate on a 30-hour sleep cycle, snails take many mini-naps between those times. The snail must also be in a moist environment to thrive properly.
  - B. The snail has a unique lifestyle. Besides having a strange sleep pattern, they produce a lot of slime and love plants. A snail can only move forward and has a tighter grasp than you might think.
  - C. When studied, a snail has a different sleep cycle than most animals. The snail's sleep process, hibernation periods, and awake time are mainly based on environmental factors. A snail also has some interesting characteristics that are not typical of other animals.
  - D. A snail will use slime to move around in a forward direction. Although a snail cannot turn, it will stay the most active in the evening hours and during the night. During the day, snails try to stay away from the sun.
3. Which idea is supported throughout most of the article?
  - A. A snail uses environmental factors to determine when the animal is awake and asleep.
  - B. A snail lifestyle is more difficult than most people think.
  - C. You will most likely see snails active on plants or eating algae.
  - D. If you see a still snail, it could mean it is hibernating.
4. Based on the information in paragraph 3, why does a snail have so much slime?
  - A. A snail must produce slime to move in one direction.
  - B. A snail must produce slime not only for mobility but also for survival.
  - C. A snail produces slime mainly when it is cool outside and not sunny.
  - D. A snail could be seriously injured or killed if it encounters salt.



# AMERICAN BADGERS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AMERICAN BADGERS



1 The American Badger is a mammal found in North America. It is characterized by the distinctive black and white stripes on its face. Belonging to the Mustelidae family, which also includes weasels, ferrets, and otters, this animal can weigh anywhere from 14 to 35 pounds. Although they are not typically aggressive toward people, habitat destruction can make them a nuisance to farmers and other humans. Detering a badger from an area can be difficult when trying to get them to leave.

## BADGER BEHAVIOR AND WHERE THEY DWELL

2 Badgers are known for their impressive burrowing skills. They use their strong front arms to dig holes where they sleep and retreat when necessary. The burrows can be up to 9-10 feet deep, around 30 feet long. Inside the cave, badgers have a main space and a sleeping area as their "bedroom."



3 While badgers do not hibernate, they tend to sleep for extended periods (about 29 hours) as winter approaches. Badgers are nocturnal animals, so you are unlikely to see them during the day. However, you might see many burrows in a small radius. Due to their love of digging, there might be many burrows in a small area, and they might also tear up a person's garden and eat the fruits and vegetables in the area. Badgers can be highly disruptive to farmers, who sometimes have to protect their livestock and eggs from the animal.

4 Badgers are solitary animals and prefer to live alone in their burrows. A female badger typically has 1-5 offspring at birth. These badgers are usually born in a grass-lined bed prepared by their mother. These infants are helpless at birth because they cannot see immediately and have a very thin layer of fur.

## A BADGER'S DEFENSE

5 Although badgers are not particularly big animals, they can defend themselves well. A badger's first line of defense is generally retreating to their burrow. However, if hiding is impossible for a badger, they might fight with their strong claws or teeth. In addition, a badger has a few tricks up its sleeve for protecting themselves. A badger might play dead or spray an unpleasant smell if it feels threatened by another animal. While a badger could be aggressive to a smaller animal, they will generally leave humans alone.

## SOME EXTRA BADGER FACTS

6 Badgers have an incredible sense of smell and hearing, yet they are almost blind. A badger's home is also called a sett. A sett is generally a maze of underground tunnels and chambers. A badger tends to keep its set very clean and generally does not bring food or use the restroom in their home. A badger often has a community toilet resembling a shallow pit, usually built at the edge of their territory.

**Use “American Badger” to answer the following questions below.**

5. Read the line below.

Although they are not typically aggressive toward people, habitat destruction can make them a nuisance to farmers and other humans.

Which words in the sentence can help the reader to understand what nuisance means?

- A. Typically
- B. Aggressive
- C. Habitat
- D. Annoy

6. Which idea from the selection is illustrated by the photograph besides paragraph 2?

- A. The photograph allows the reader to see what a burrow might look like.
- B. The photograph shows the reader where the animal creates its burrow.
- C. The photograph is inaccurate because the American Badger is nocturnal.
- D. The photograph helps the reader to understand why the animal can be considered a nuisance.

7. The author most likely wrote this selection to-

- A. Encourage the reader to advocate for the American Badger
- B. Describe how a badger can dig their burrows.
- C. Explain to the reader the lifestyle of an American Badger
- D. Identify the ways an American Badger can defend itself.

8. Read the line below.

In addition, a badger has a few tricks up its sleeve for protecting themselves.

What does the author mean by using this style of figurative language?

- A. The American Badger enjoys playing dead.
- B. The American Badger is similar to a skunk when it sprays an unpleasant smell.
- C. The American Badger has a secret plan or weapon for defense.
- D. The American Badger does not have sleeves.

9. Read the fact about American Badgers below.

An American Badger's typical lifespan is around ten years. The Badger can live much longer in captivity due to better living conditions.

Which section would this fact best fit in?

- A. What you need to know about American Badgers
- B. Badger behavior and where they dwell
- C. A Badgers Defense
- D. Some Extra Badger Facts

**Use “Is That Snail Sleeping?” and “American Badgers” to answer the following questions below.**

10. The author focuses their selections on the animals —

- A. unusual traits that make it unique.
- B. mobility and how it thrives in nature.
- C. variety of traits, both physical and needed for survival.
- D. lines of defense.

11. What can the reader conclude after reading “Is that Snail Sleeping?” and “American Badgers” is similar in BOTH of these selections?

- A. Animals in nature each have one unique characteristic that sets them apart from other animals.
- B. Both of these animals are most active when the sun is not out.
- C. Each animal moves similarly.
- D. It would be difficult for either animal to trade habitats.

12. Which behavior was observed among the snails that was not observed among the American Badgers?

- A. A snail might appear dead when it is sleeping, and an American Badger might play dead to trick other animals.
- B. A snail is not very active in the colder months, while an American Badger can be.
- C. The American Badger is a cleaner animal, while a snail has lots of slime and is not clean.
- D. A snail can have a firm grip to attach itself to places, while an American Badger's strength is not mentioned in the selection.

## EXTENDED RESPONSE ORGANIZER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In the selections "Is That Snail Sleeping," and "American Badger," question 11 asks, what can the reader conclude after reading "Is that Snail Sleeping?" and "American Badgers" is similar in both of these selections?

Look back at your answer choices. Which answer choice did you select for this question? \_\_\_\_\_

**Central Idea: Explain why you selected the answer choice that you did.  
Provide two examples from the text below.**

### TEXT EVIDENCE PROOF #1

1. Write what the text says to prove your answer below.

2. How does this text evidence help prove your answer?

Where was this piece of evidence located in the text? (Line #, paragraph, page #, etc.)

### TEXT EVIDENCE PROOF #2

1. Write what the text says to prove your answer below.

2. How does this text evidence help prove your answer?

Where was this piece of evidence located in the text? (Line #, paragraph, page #, etc.)

Restate the question above to prove your answer.

I can tell that I selected the correct answer to the question

\_\_\_\_\_, based on the following text

evidence example \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_. These two pieces of

information help me to prove that \_\_\_\_\_.

# WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT GARBAGE DAY?

How many wastebaskets do you have where you live? In many households, there are several trash cans. Did you know the average American produces almost 5 pounds of trash daily? Typically, the night before the trash is picked up, you haul your garbage to the curb, where a truck will pick it up and take it away, but have you ever really thought about where it goes?

## THE HISTORY OF WASTE

For as long as humans have walked on the Earth, they have created trash. In fact, as early as 3000 B.C., the first landfill was built. Back in those days, landfills looked a lot different. People would dig a hole, bury their trash, and cover it up. Around 2000 B.C. China discovered a way to recycle and compost its trash. They also learned how to recycle bronze for later use. As civilization progressed, cities recognized how toxic waste and trash could harm human health. They began banning the throwing away of trash within miles of the city. Britain introduced the first sanitation workers when the black plague hit Europe in the 1300s. These men were called "rakers," and their job was to rake up trash weekly. During this time, these men faced the challenge not only of keeping their city clean but also of staying healthy and avoiding the deadly plague.

## WHERE DOES THE TRASH GO?

Today, when we throw away trash, it is generally sent to a landfill. A landfill's purpose is to keep us safe and reduce the contamination of debris to people. By sending garbage to a landfill, people can hopefully avoid the diseases and filth that can come with not having waste in the proper place. A landfill must be constructed correctly to keep the trash from seeping into the groundwater. Generally, a landfill is lined with clay, and then a thin layer of plastic is placed over the clay. Any toxins that are collected in the trash are then carried through pipes and treated.



The trash is compacted tightly when it reaches a landfill and then covered with soil. The soil is supposed to help with strong odors and rodent problems. Dumps can be dangerous to people's health, and finding alternatives like recycling and Composting might help prevent landfills from filling up so quickly.

## REDUCE, COMPOST, AND RECYCLE

Landfills filling up is a common problem for communities. The best way to help avoid overfills is to reduce, compost, and recycle. One way to do this is to reduce consumption and extra shopping. Each time a person buys something, it's just another thing that may need to be thrown out. Purchasing used items and using items for multiple purposes is a fantastic way to reduce waste. Did you know our oceans are filled with plastic bottles, food wrappers, and grocery bags yearly? Things like this can be recycled, which means they can be reused. Composting is another excellent way to reduce waste, and it is easy! All you do to compost is find a place, drop in items, and turn the soil occasionally. A compost pile is generally made from rotten fruits or vegetables, coffee grounds, eggshells, grass clippings, and more. When all these household items are stored together in a central location, a compost pile enriches the soil and makes it easier for plants and flowers to thrive.

**Use “What Would We Do Without Garbage Day?” to answer the questions below.**

1. Which of the words below could not replace the word contamination in paragraph 3?
  - A. Pollution
  - B. Decay
  - C. Purification
  - D. Poisoning
  
2. Who is the author most likely addressing in this reading selection?
  - A. Someone knowledgeable about recycling and composting.
  - B. Someone unaware of how much garbage an average person creates.
  - C. Someone who is looking to help our environment.
  - D. Someone who finds any type of history fascinating.
  
3. What is the primary purpose of the section “Where Does The Trash Go?”
  - A. To explain the way a landfill is created and its importance.
  - B. To help the reader to understand what happens to the trash after it is collected.
  - C. To describe alternatives for getting rid of waste.
  - D. To let the reader know the damaging effects of a landfill.
  
4. What do you think is the purpose of the picture next to paragraph 3?
  - A. To help the reader visualize where trash ends up.
  - B. To help the reader understand how much trash a truck can hold.
  - C. To help explain to the reader how a landfill is constructed.
  - D. To describe to the reader how the landfills are getting fuller each day.
  
5. Which sentence from the text supports that composting is a good alternative to reducing waste?
  - A. Composting is another excellent way to reduce waste, and it is easy!
  - B. All you do to Composter is find a place, drop in items, and turn the soil occasionally.
  - C. A Compost pile is generally made from rotten fruits or vegetables, coffee grounds, egg shells, grass clippings, and more.
  - D. When all these household items are stored together in a central place, a Compost pile makes the soil rich and easy for plants and flowers to thrive.

# TRASH ALTERNATIVES

## CHARACTERS:

**Violet:** A seventh-grade student at Pinemore Middle School

**Dad:** Violet's father

**Mrs. Jenny:** The drama teacher at Pinemore Middle School

**Principal Terry:** The Principal of Pinemore Middle School

**Captain Green** - The leader of the Eco Heroes

**Dr. Reuse** - The genius scientist

**Randy Recycle** - The resourceful ranger

**The Colossal Composter** - The Composting superhero

**Plastic Warrior** - The hero dedicated to battling plastic pollution

[Violet is watching T.V. when her father comes in from work. He drops his jacket on the chair and walks down the hall.]

## SCENE 1

- 1 **Dad:** I'm heading to the shower, Violet. Be out in a few minutes.

[A few moments later, Dad returns down the hall and sits on the couch where Violet is still watching TV.]

- 2 **Violet:** How was work, Dad?

- Dad:** It was busy as always and hard work. I am growing even more concerned about the  
3 landfill. People throw away too much stuff. I am worried that if people don't wise up, we will have a real problem on our hands. Not only that, but our landfills can be hazardous to our health if not taken care of properly.

- Violet:** I wonder if people don't know what is happening at our landfills? Do you think other  
4 families discuss the importance of composting and recycling as much as we do in our home?

- 5 **Dad:** [chuckles] Probably not, Violet. I see it firsthand, so it's on my mind. Let's turn off the T.V. and get ready for dinner.

[Violet and Dad go to eat dinner and then head to bed.]

## SCENE 2

[The following day, Violet talks to Dad at the breakfast table.]

- 6 **Violet:** Dad, I thought of what you said last night about the landfills. I want to do something to help.

- 7 **Dad:** What do you have in mind?

- Violet:** What if I wrote a play? The kids at school and I could act it out to raise awareness of  
8 the importance of recycling, composting, and such. Maybe we could use some of the profits to help start a recycling program.

9 **Dad:** Wow, what a fantastic idea! Let me know what I can do to help.

10 **Violet:** I will talk with Mrs. Jenny when I get to school today.

[Violet gets up from the table and puts her dishes in the sink.]

11 **Violet:** See you later, Dad! I am heading to the bus stop.

### SCENE 3

[Violet enters drama class. A few minutes before the class starts, Violet decides to speak to Mrs. Jenny. She explains what she wants to do regarding having a play and using the money to create a recycling program.]

12 **Mrs. Jenny:** What an excellent idea, Violet! I will speak with Principal Terry right after school today and let you know. Why don't you get started writing that play? I will let you know tomorrow what he says.

13 **Violet:** I will get to work right away.

[When Violet leaves school that day, she goes home and begins writing her play. She does not leave her room until the play is complete. The next day at school, Mrs. Jenny tells Violet they can stage the play there. The only problem is that they have only a month to write, cast, and build props. Violet and Mrs. Jenny work very hard daily to complete and raise awareness for the production.]

### SCENE 4

[It is the night of the play. The auditorium is sold out. Violet and Mrs. Jenny are behind the curtain, preparing to start the play.]

14 **Dad:** [Goes behind the curtain to find Violet.] Violet, I am so proud of you! The place is packed! This event is going to be so awesome for our town.

15 **Violet:** Thanks, Dad. I am nervous. I know it is important. Now go find your seat because the play is about to start.

16 **Dad:** [Hugs Violet.] Ok, I am going to my seat right now. [Leaves the stage.]

[The curtain rises, and the play begins.]

17 **Captain Green:** [addressing the team] Eco Heroes, assemble! Our beloved city is drowning in waste, and we must do something about it. You know I have a short fuse for garbage and other muck around our amazing town!

18 **Professor Reuse:** [excitedly] Fear not, Captain Green! I've developed a new invention that will revolutionize recycling.

19 **Ranger Recycle:** [holding up a blue recycling bin] I've scouted the city for recycling hotspots. We're ready to take action!



20 **The Colossal Composter:** [Has a compost bin in hand.] Don't forget about the power of Compositing. It's nature's way of recycling. [mutters under his breath.] And the most important, in my opinion.

21 **Plastic Warrior:** [Draws his plastic sword from his belt.] Plastic pollution won't stand a chance against me!

22 **Captain Green:** Excellent! Citizens are counting on us. Let's showcase the importance of recycling to the town's people.

[Violet and Mrs. Jenny direct the cast until the play is over. Once the play ends, the audience roars in applause. Violet and Mrs. Jenny excitedly take the stage with the other cast. The entire cast takes a bow while Principal Terry heads to the stage to address the crowd.]

23 **Principal Terry:** Wow! That play was a breath of fresh air! Thank you so much, Violet and Mrs. Jenny, for all your hard work. You have raised so much money and awareness in our town about recycling and other waste disposal methods.

[Violet and Mrs. Jenny look at each other and blush.]

24 **Principal Terry:** In fact, there was such an interest in this play that I have big news. I just got off the phone with the mayor, and he wants this play to run again at Town Hall.

[Violet and Mrs. Jenny's jaws drop. The audience continues to clap. Violet and Mrs. Jenny get a standing ovation. After the event is over, Violet makes her way to find her Dad.]

25 **Violet:** [Runs up to hug Dad.] Can you believe the news, Dad? Who would have thought a little idea could have such a great outcome?

26 **Dad:** I am so very proud of you, Violet!

27 **Violet:** Sounds like I will be swamped for a little while.

28 **Dad:** [Laughs] Sounds like it. I can't wait to begin to see the impact this play will have on our town.

29 **Violet:** Me neither. Let's go home. I am exhausted.

[Violet and her father turn to leave the building.]

**Use “Trash Alternatives” to answer the questions below.**

6. What does line 8 reveal about the main character, Violet, in the play?

- A. Violet wants to learn ways to help her town.
- B. Violet is someone who takes action on what she believes in.
- C. Violet wants nothing more than to make her father proud of her.
- D. Violet is interested in an acting career.

7. Read the sentence in line 17 below.

You guys know I have a short fuse for garbage and other muck around our amazing town!

What is the most likely reason the playwright uses this idiom in the line?

- A. To identify the character's authority amongst the other characters within the play.
- B. To explain the crucial character's role in the play.
- C. To suggest that garbage not disposed of correctly angers him.
- D. To show that the character takes his job very seriously.

8. Why is line 24 important to the plot?

- A. It reveals the solution to the problem in the play.
- B. It provides the climax to the plot.
- C. It establishes a new setting in the play.
- D. It introduces a second conflict to the play.

9. What is the main theme of the play?

- A. Always be thinking of ways to help others.
- B. Practicing good habits is important in society.
- C. Understand that others' viewpoints are different.
- D. Taking action on something you believe in can have big results.

10. Which word below describes how Violet is more than likely feeling at the end of the play?

- A. Meek
- B. Ignorant
- C. Honored
- D. Startled

**Use “What would we do without garbage day?” and “Trash Alternatives” to answer the following questions below.**

11. In what ways is the nonfiction article “What would we do without garbage day?” similar to the play “Trash Alternatives”?

- A. Both the nonfiction article and the play highlight the importance of finding other ways to get rid of garbage.
- B. Both the nonfiction article and the play describe all the ways our landfills are polluted.
- C. Both the nonfiction article and the play are written from the same point of view.
- D. Both the nonfiction article and the play favor cycling.

12. In what ways is the nonfiction article “What would we do without garbage day?” different from the play “Trash Alternatives”?

- A. The nonfiction article only provides facts, while the play only provides opinions.
- B. The nonfiction article describes a problem while the play describes a solution.
- C. The nonfiction article provides the reader with an overview of a problem while the play's main character tries to take action.
- D. The nonfiction article offers no insight into how to address the landfill situation, while the play is packed full of different ideas.

13. Read the line below.

As civilization progressed, cities recognized how toxic waste and trash could harm human health.

Which line from the play is similar to this line?

- A. It was busy as always and hard work.
- B. I am starting to get even more concerned with the landfill.
- C. I am worried that if people don't wise up, we will have a real problem on our hands.
- D. Not only that, but our landfills can be hazardous to our health if not taken care of properly.

## EXTENDED RESPONSE ORGANIZER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In the selections "What Would We Do Without Garbage Day," and "Trash Alternatives," question 11 asks, In what ways is the nonfiction article "What would we do without garbage day?" similar to the play "Trash Alternatives"?

Look back at your answer choices. Which answer choice did you select for this question? \_\_\_\_\_

**Central Idea: Explain why you selected the answer choice that you did.  
Provide two examples from the text below.**

### TEXT EVIDENCE PROOF #1

1. Write what the text says to prove your answer below.

2. How does this text evidence help prove your answer?

Where was this piece of evidence located in the text? (Line #, paragraph, page #, etc.)

### TEXT EVIDENCE PROOF #2

1. Write what the text says to prove your answer below.

2. How does this text evidence help prove your answer?

Where was this piece of evidence located in the text? (Line #, paragraph, page #, etc.)

Restate the question above to prove your answer.

I can tell that I selected the correct answer to the question

\_\_\_\_\_, based on the following text

evidence example \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_. These two pieces of

information help me to prove that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answer Keys

### Treehouse

1. B

2. C

3. C

4. A

5. D

### Sanctuary Treehouse Resort

6. D

7. D

8. C

9. A

### Treehouse & Sanctuary Treehouse Resort

10. A

11. B

12. C

### Trouble

1. C

2. A

3. C

4. B

5. B

### A Way To Escape

6. C

7. B

8. D

9. A

10. B

### Trouble & A Way To Escape

11. A

12. C

13. B

## Answer Keys

Is That Snail Sleeping?

1. B

2. C

3. A

4. B

American Badger

5. D

6. B

7. C

8. C

9. A

Is That Snail Sleeping? & American  
Badger

10. C

11. B

12. D

What Would We Do Without Garbage  
Day?

1. C

2. C

3. B

4. A

5. A

Trash Alternatives

6. B

7. C

8. A

9. D

10. C

What Would We Do Without Garbage  
Day? & Trash Alternatives

11. A

12. C

13. D