

6

Dear Incoming 6th grade,

Time has really flown by this year. I enjoyed getting to know each of you throughout the year, and seeing you all work very hard. You should all be proud of your accomplishments!

Over the summer, I would like for you to read two books. One book should be a Nonfiction book, and the other book should be a Fiction book.

Please follow the attached book report guidelines to complete both book reports, which may be either handwritten or typed.

In addition, I am going to be sending each of you home with Readworks articles. Please highlight each article and answer all questions in complete sentences with proper punctuation.

I hope you all have a great summer! I will see you in September for another great school year!

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Vallarelli



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64324*	Highlighter Chisel Tip Yellow (EACH) Made in USA	1
480259*	Scissors Stainless Steel Pointed 5"	1
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13106*	Protractor Translucent Plastic 6"	1
18802*	Metal Compass w/Pencil	1
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89024F705*	Disinfecting Wipes Pop-Up Medium Canister Bleach Free (use for surfaces)	1
03501*	Index Cards Ruled White 100ct 3x5	2
61112*	Pencil Pouch - Zippered Heavy Canvas w/Grommets, See-Through Front, Exterior Mesh Pocket w/Zipper Assorted 8.5x9.75	1
15087508034494*	Stretchable Book Covers Solid Assorted	4
COPYPAPER*	Copy Paper 20lb White Ream/500ct Letter/8.5x11	1
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Walk the Plank!

W.M. Akers

Walking the plank is not a fun thing to do. Here's how it works. A pirate sticks a long piece of wood off the side of his ship and makes you stand at one end. He puts his sword at your back and bellows, "Walllllk the plank!" You walk across the plank toward the water. When you run out of plank, you fall in the water. Probably there are sharks down there. The ship sails away, and that's the end of you.

The thing is, pirates never really made anyone walk the plank. This may surprise you, since it's in a lot of movies and TV shows. It's a nasty thing to do, and pirates were pretty nasty, so it *seems* like something they would do. But in fact walking the plank was imagined by Robert Louis Stevenson, a 19th century novelist, whose most famous book is *Treasure Island*. A fictional pirate like Long John Silver might make you walk the plank, but a real-life pirate never would.

That is what was going through Tommy's mind as he stood on the end of the plank staring out at his doom. His best friend Jack stood behind him. Tommy felt the point of Jack's wooden sword digging into his back.

"I said, walllllk the plank!" shouted Jack.

"The thing is," said Tommy, "pirates never really made people walk the plank. That was invented by Robert Louis Stevenson, who—"

"I'm a pirate! Do you think I care about books?"

They were standing on the edge of Jack's tree house, which had a lot of uses. Sometimes it was a submarine. Sometimes it was a spaceship. Sometimes it was just a tree house. That afternoon, it was serving as a pirate ship. They had been pirates all afternoon, and everything was going fine until Tommy made the mistake of criticizing his captain. Jack was always the captain, since this was his tree house. And Captain Jack's number one rule was that the crew must never question his orders.

So when the Captain ordered his first mate to hand over three chocolate chip cookies, Tommy was supposed to do so without complaint. But chocolate chip cookies were his favorite. He'd suffered through a whole boring bologna sandwich to get to them, and now that he was finished, Jack wanted to take them away. Tommy didn't care who was the captain. He stuffed all three cookies into his mouth and chewed as fast as he could. And so Captain Jack sentenced him to walk the plank.

"I'm getting tired of waiting, Mister Tommy. Walllllk the plank!"

Tommy looked at the ground. They had jumped out of the tree house tons of times, but it was easy when you had a running start. It would be harder to just walk into thin air. He could see why Robert Louis Stevenson thought this would be a scary thing. There was no way out. Unless...what would a pirate do?

Tommy didn't hesitate. He spun around as fast as he could and kicked his leg into the air. Jack's sword went flying, and before Jack knew what had happened, Tommy leapt onto the sword. He popped up and pointed it at Jack's back.

"Yaaargh!"

"What are you doing?" whined Jack.

"This is a mutiny! I'm the captain now. And I say that you have to walllllk the plank!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What were Jack and Tommy pretending the tree house was?

- A an island
- B a spaceship
- C a submarine
- D a pirate ship

2. What is the main conflict in this story?

- A Jack wants to eat all the cookies, but Tommy wants to share them.
- B Jack wants Tommy to walk the plank, but Tommy does not want to.
- C Tommy wants Jack to let him be Captain, but Jack does not want to.
- D Tommy wants to stop pretending to be pirates, but Jack does not want to.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"So when the Captain ordered his first mate to hand over three chocolate chip cookies, Tommy was supposed to do so without complaint. But chocolate chip cookies were his favorite. He'd suffered through a whole boring bologna sandwich to get to them, and now that he was finished, Jack wanted to take them away. Tommy didn't care who was the captain. He stuffed all three cookies into his mouth and chewed as fast as he could."

Based on this evidence, what conclusion can you draw about how Tommy felt?

- A Tommy felt neutral and did not mind that Captain Jack wanted the cookies.
- B Tommy felt a little sad, but thought Captain Jack was being fair.
- C Tommy felt annoyed and thought Captain Jack's order was unfair.
- D Tommy felt calm, but thought Captain Jack's order was unfair.

4. Tommy is afraid to walk the plank. What evidence from the text best supports this conclusion?

- A "You walk across the plank toward the water. When you run out of plank, you fall in the water."
- B "A fictional pirate like Long John Silver might make you walk the plank, but a real-life pirate never would."
- C "[Tommy] could see why Robert Louis Stevenson thought [walking the plank] would be a scary thing."
- D "Tommy didn't hesitate. He spun around as fast as he could and kicked his leg into the air."

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A While pretending they are pirates, Jack orders Tommy to walk the plank, but Tommy finds a way out.
- B While playing pirates, Jack orders Tommy to give him three chocolate chip cookies.
- C Although walking the plank is common in movies and TV shows, real pirates would not make someone walk the plank.
- D Jack and Tommy enjoy playing pretend in Jack's tree house.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"So when the Captain ordered his first mate to hand over three chocolate chip cookies, Tommy was supposed to do so without complaint. But chocolate chip cookies were his favorite. He'd suffered through a whole boring bologna sandwich to get to them, and now that he was finished, Jack wanted to take them away. Tommy didn't care who was the captain. He stuffed all three cookies into his mouth and chewed as fast as he could. And so Captain Jack sentenced him to walk the plank.

"I'm getting tired of waiting, Mister Tommy. Walk the plank!"

As used in this context, what does the word "sentence" mean?

- A a kind suggestion
- B a complete unit in language
- C to order a punishment
- D to help or assist

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Jack was always the captain _____ this was his tree house.

- A however
- B therefore
- C although
- D because

8. What did Tommy do that caused Captain Jack to sentence him to walk the plank?

9. How does Tommy avoid walking the plank?

10. Explain why Tommy decides to become the captain and order Jack to walk the plank. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Sticky Fingers, Helping Hands

by ReadWorks



Who doesn't enjoy a chocolate bar?

Okay, maybe not everyone loves chocolate, but a lot of people do. No matter the vehicle-ice cream, cake, as a beverage, or simply in a candy bar-chocolate is enjoyed by millions of Americans. It's readily available, too; all you have to do for a taste is visit a corner market or a drug store, and you'll find a shelf of various chocolate bars waiting.

A lot goes into a chocolate bar, though, and ultimately, its origins trace back further than the grocery store checkout line. Your favorite Halloween candy has roots even deeper than the company that manufactured it. The next time you get to indulge, take a look at the candy wrapper. What's the most important ingredient in a chocolate bar, the one that makes chocolate...well, chocolaty? It's cocoa.

The origins of that corner-store chocolate bar start in fields along the Equator, in countries in South America, Africa, and South Asia. Cocoa comes from the seeds of cacao trees, which thrive in hot, humid climates. This is why most of the world's supply comes from places like Ghana or Nigeria in West Africa. Some cocoa is harvested in countries like Brazil, near the cacao tree's original habitat.

Chocolate farming may sound like a dream job, but unfortunately, the reality of life on a cocoa

farm is less than idyllic. Cocoa farms are usually located in small villages in remote areas of countries that are still developing a lot of the luxuries taken for granted by people who live in first world countries: running water, reliable electricity, accessible education, and so on.

The demand for chocolate throughout the world is high, so farmers work extremely hard to pick cocoa pods. The average workday hours an American may be used to do not apply on these farms-workers don't get scheduled breaks or eight-hour shifts. Laws restricting child labor don't apply here, either. Some cocoa farms use slave labor, buying and selling people as young as children to work long days in dangerous conditions.

Additionally, many of these cocoa farmers aren't making much money, even though the world population loves its chocolate! Sometimes, greedy middlemen-a term for the marketers and salespeople who buy cocoa pods from farmers and sell them to chocolate makers around the world-buy for very little and sell for a much higher price. This means the traders are the ones making money, instead of the farmers.

As people involved in the global trade of cocoa began to find out about the slavery, child exploitation, and unsafe conditions on cocoa farms, they started to demand change. National and international regulations emerged to help regulate the labor and trade of other crops, such as coffee and tea. Cocoa joined the list of commodities that could be "fair trade."

Fair trade is a term that applies to anything farmed or made and traded, usually from small communities in developing countries to bigger communities with first world economies. The fair trade movement aims to fix the ugly scenarios on places like cocoa farms: lots of hard work, no access to medicine, not enough food, and definitely no fair pay.

To be certified as a fair trade product, a farm must adhere to some important rules. First of all, farming practices must be earth-friendly. Sustainability is a big issue for farmers worldwide, and fair trade organizations take it seriously. If a farm can't treat the land well, will it also treat its workers poorly?

Then, the concept of fair trade requires living and work conditions for laborers that are safe and clean. Fair trade certified operations promise better lives for the people doing the work. Fair trade organizations also prohibit the use of child labor and fight back against slave trafficking.

Finally (and this is where the "fair" part of fair trade really comes in), fairly traded products typically sell at higher prices to consumers so that the producers-the cocoa farmers-are getting paid a fair amount, often designated by the country's minimum wage.

Becoming fair trade certified is a process, and certification is sometimes expensive. However,

once an operation is fair trade certified, the farmers start to earn more money, as their products sell at a higher price. With increased profits, working conditions will also improve.

How can you tell the difference between fair trade chocolate and something that isn't? Look at the label on the candy you're about to enjoy. If there's a symbol on it that reads "Fair Trade Certified," you'll know that the cocoa in your chocolate bar didn't come from a farm that hurts its workers-and that's definitely something sweet.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which ingredient makes a chocolate bar taste chocolaty?

- A. sugar
- B. butter
- C. cocoa
- D. milk

2. The problem explained in the passage is that cocoa farmers worked in poor conditions for very low pay. What was the solution?

- A. Cocoa became a fair trade product, which helped farmers to be paid more.
- B. Cocoa farmers formed a union to petition their governments for better pay.
- C. Cocoa farmers stopped harvesting cocoa until their wages were raised.
- D. Cocoa farmers got used to the poor working conditions and accepted them.

3. Some cocoa farms use unethical methods to harvest cocoa. What evidence from the passage best supports this conclusion?

- A. "Chocolate farming may sound like a dream job, but unfortunately, the reality of life on a cocoa farm is less than idyllic."
- B. "Cocoa farms are usually located in small villages in remote areas of countries that are still developing a lot of the luxuries taken for granted by people who live in first world countries."
- C. "Some cocoa farms use slave labor, buying and selling people as young as children to work long days in dangerous conditions."
- D. "The average workday hours an American may be used to do not apply on these farms-workers don't get scheduled breaks or eight-hour shifts."

4. Read the following sentences: "As people involved in the global trade of cocoa began to find out about the slavery, child exploitation, and unsafe conditions on cocoa farms, they started to demand change." Based on this information, what conclusion can you make?

- A. People in the cocoa trade already knew about the use of slavery on cocoa farms.
- B. People did not agree with the use of slavery or child labor on cocoa farms.
- C. People wanted to change the unsafe conditions on cocoa farms, but didn't care about slavery.
- D. People wanted to end child exploitation on cocoa farms, but not unsafe conditions.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. the development of fair trade cocoa
- B. how chocolate is made from cocoa pods
- C. the process of becoming fair trade certified
- D. slavery and child labor on cocoa farms in Africa

6. Read the following sentences: "A lot goes into a chocolate bar, though, and ultimately, its **origins** trace back further than the grocery store checkout line. Your favorite Halloween candy has roots even deeper than the company that manufactured it."

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**origins**" mean?

- A. a company that makes chocolate
- B. the process of making something
- C. transporting goods between two places
- D. beginnings, the source of something

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

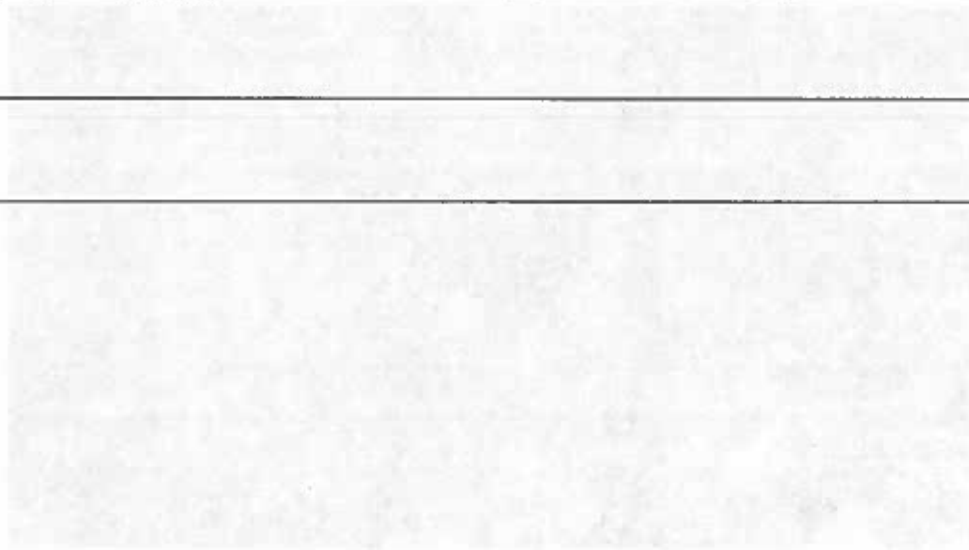
There is a high demand for chocolate worldwide, _____ many cocoa farmers do not make much money due to greedy middlemen.

- A. so
- B. yet
- C. after
- D. namely

8. What does the fair trade movement aim to fix?

9. Explain the rules a farm must adhere to in order to be certified as fair trade.

10. Explain how the fair trade movement helps improve the lives of cocoa farmers. Support your answer using information from the passage.



Drip-Tips and other Adaptations in the Rainforest

by Mimi Jorling



Tropical rainforests have ideal climates for plant growth. Tropical rainforests are hot, humid, and wet. They have abundant rainfall and are warm year-round. Temperatures range from about 85 degrees Fahrenheit during the day to 70 at night. Tropical rainforests get at least 80 inches of rainfall each year. (Compare that to how much your town or city gets each year.) These two factors also create challenges for the plants that live there. As a result, plants in tropical rainforests have adapted to these conditions by making adjustments in how they grow.

The perfect conditions for plant life-warm temperatures and plenty of water-cause plants to grow quickly. One consequence of rapid plant growth is the depletion of nutrients in the soil. It also creates a thick layer of leaves in the upper part of the forest (the canopy) that blocks sunlight from reaching the forest floor.

Most plants get their nutrients, water, and oxygen from soil. However, in the rainforest, where soil is not nutrient-rich, many plants don't rely on it for their source of food. Some plants called epiphytes, or air plants, have learned to get water and nutrients from the air. Some examples of epiphytes in rainforests are mosses, lichens, and orchids. Although they often live on other plants, they don't take any nutrients from the other plant-they get what they need straight from the air with special root systems.

Other plants that grow on plants actually DO take nutrients from that plant. They are called parasitic plants, and the plant they grow on is called a host plant. Instead of getting food and water from the soil, parasitic plants have developed roots to cling to a host plant, pierce

through its leaves, stem, or trunk, and suck the nutrients out of the host. An example of a parasitic plant you might know is mistletoe. Parasitic plants can kill their host plant if they grow too rapidly. However, they tend to *not* kill their host plant because without a host, the parasitic plant will also die.

Another condition created by rapid plant growth is a lush canopy that shades out plants living below. Large trees grow quickly, reaching for sunlight. They create a dense shade that prevents sunlight from reaching the forest floor. In fact, only about 1 to 2% of sunlight reaches the ground in a tropical forest. Since plants depend on sunlight for growth, very few plants live on the ground. Instead, they find ways to live on other plants by climbing them, as vines do, or by growing very large, dark green leaves to absorb as much sunlight as possible.

Hot, humid, and wet conditions are also ideal for bacteria and fungi to grow. Water trapped in the crevices of a plant, in combination with warm temperatures, is a breeding ground for bacterial and fungal growth, which can harm plants. One adaptation many plants have made in the tropical forest is to develop smooth bark so that water runs off quickly. Another adjustment plants have made to shed water efficiently is to grow leaves with 'drip tips.' This shape prevents water from collecting on leaves. Look at the shape of leaves of plants around you. If possible, and after checking with an adult, gently pour water on the plant and watch where it goes. It may be channeled toward the stem of the plant or far away from it. These observations can give you clues to how a plant lives.

The environments plants and animals live in provide useful and harmful conditions for living. As a result, all living things must learn how to adapt to the challenges of where they live. These are some of the adaptations plants in a tropical rainforest have made to survive in their particular environment.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What are the climates of tropical rainforests ideal, or perfect, for?

- A. building roads
- B. raising cattle
- C. extreme sports
- D. plant growth

2. One effect of rapid plant growth is the depletion of nutrients in the soil. What is another effect of rapid plant growth?

- A. the depletion of animal life in the lower part of the rainforest
- B. the creation of a thick layer of leaves in the upper part of the rainforest
- C. an increase in temperature from 70 degrees Fahrenheit to 85 degrees Fahrenheit
- D. a decrease in rainfall from 80 inches each year to 65 inches each year

3. Read these sentences from the text:

"There are also some plants called parasitic plants. They grow on other plants, their host plants. Parasitic plants actually DO take nutrients from their host plants. Instead of getting food and water from the soil, parasitic plants have developed roots to cling to a host plant, pierce through its leaves, stem, or trunk, and suck the nutrients out of the host. An example of a parasitic plant you might know is mistletoe. Parasitic plants can kill their host plants if they grow too rapidly."

Based on this evidence, how might a rapidly growing parasitic plant kill its host plant?

- A. by sucking too many nutrients out of its host plant
- B. by sucking too few nutrients out of its host plant
- C. by preventing the host plant from taking in food and water from the soil
- D. by trying to help the host plant take in food and water from the soil

4. Read these sentences from the text:

"Another condition created by rapid plant growth is a lush canopy that shades out plants living below. Large trees grow quickly, reaching for sunlight. They create a dense shade that prevents sunlight from reaching the forest floor. In fact, only about 1% to 2% of sunlight reaches the ground in a tropical forest. Since plants depend on sunlight for growth, very few plants live on the ground. Instead, they find ways to live on other plants by climbing them, as vines do, or by growing very large, dark green leaves to absorb as much sunlight as possible."

Based on this information, what can you conclude about the connection between a leaf's size and the amount of sunlight it absorbs?

- A. The smaller a leaf is, the more sunlight it absorbs.
- B. The larger a leaf is, the more sunlight it absorbs.
- C. The connection between the size of a leaf and the amount of sunlight it absorbs cannot be predicted.
- D. Large leaves and small leaves absorb about the same amount of sunlight.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Some plants, such as mosses, lichens, and orchids, have learned to get water and nutrients from the air.
- B. Instead of getting food and water from the soil, parasitic plants have developed roots to cling to a host plant, pierce through its leaves, stem, or trunk, and suck out nutrients.
- C. Plants in tropical rainforests have adapted to their warm and wet conditions by making adjustments in how they grow.
- D. Water trapped in the crevices of a plant, in combination with warm temperatures, is a breeding ground for bacterial and fungal growth.

6. Read these sentences from the text:

"Some plants called epiphytes, or air plants, have adapted to get nutrients from the air. Some examples of epiphytes in rainforests are mosses, lichens, and orchids. Although they often live on other plants, they don't take any nutrients from the other plants—they get what they need straight from the air with special root systems.

There are also some plants called parasitic plants. They grow on other plants, their host plants. Parasitic plants actually **DO** take nutrients from their host plants."

Why might the author have capitalized the word "DO"?

- A. to point out a similarity
- B. to make a contrast
- C. to summarize a process
- D. to make an argument

7. Read these sentences from the text:

"Some plants called epiphytes, or air plants, have adapted to get nutrients from the air. Some examples of epiphytes in rainforests are mosses, lichens, and orchids. Although they often live on other plants, they don't take any nutrients from the other plants-they get what they need straight from the air with special root systems."

How could the last sentence best be broken in two?

A. Although they often live on other plants, they don't take any nutrients from the other plant. As an illustration, they get what they need straight from the air with special root systems.

B. Although they often live on other plants, they don't take any nutrients from the other plant. For example, they get what they need straight from the air with special root systems.

C. Although they often live on other plants, they don't take any nutrients from the other plant. Third, they get what they need straight from the air with special root systems.

D. Although they often live on other plants, they don't take any nutrients from the other plant. Instead, they get what they need straight from the air with special root systems.

8. Describe the climate conditions of a tropical rainforest.

Include at least three pieces of information from the text.

9. Read these sentences from the text:

"Hot, humid, and wet conditions are also ideal for bacteria and fungi to grow. Water trapped in the crevices of a plant, in combination with warm temperatures, is a breeding ground for bacterial and fungal growth, which can harm plants. One adaptation many plants have made in the tropical forest is to develop smooth bark so that water runs off quickly."

Explain how the adaptation these plants have made might help them.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Plants in tropical rainforests have adapted to their conditions by making adjustments in how they grow. Support this conclusion with evidence from the text.

Adventure on a Hot Air Balloon



The wind is starting to blow stronger, and when you're riding in a basket under a hot air balloon, just 400 feet above ground, that's not necessarily a good thing. Keith Rodriguez looks to the horizon and squints. He had planned to take off from Scioto Downs, a horse racetrack south of Columbus, Ohio, fly a few miles north, and land his balloon in a barren cornfield next to his pickup truck.

Then the wind changed. Instead of a light breeze from the south, now Rodriguez's bright red balloon is getting hit by stronger, colder winds headed west. He has plenty of propane fuel in his tank—he probably could ride the wind halfway to Pennsylvania. But that would be dangerous. Rodriguez's choice of landing sites just became very limited. As the balloon switches direction and floats east, everything below becomes a wide carpet of suburban sprawl—big-box stores, major highways, and strip malls. Beyond the stores lie forests.

The only factor in Rodriguez's favor is that it's early, just after 7 a.m. The highways are filling up with people driving to work, but otherwise the morning is quiet and still.

"Oh boy," Rodriguez thinks. "If I don't land, like now, this could get bad."

The balloon has no propeller or engine, so Rodriguez can't change direction on his own—he's entirely dependent on the wind. The only thing he controls is altitude. He does this by changing the properties of two invisible gases: air and propane. Sitting on the floor of the wicker gondola are three tanks of propane, compressed to its liquid form. The tanks are connected via black rubber hoses to two burners overhead. Each burner is nearly as big as Rodriguez's head.

Rodriguez turns a knob on one side of the burners. This releases propane from a tank into the heating coil, where it is ignited by a pilot light. This heats the propane from a liquid into a gas. The gas catches fire, and flames leap two feet high into the balloon.

The balloon rises. Rodriguez has a plan in mind. The flame heats the air inside the nylon balloon. This works on a simple principle: hot air is lighter than cold air. One cubic foot of air

weighs about an ounce. If you heat that air by 100 degrees, its weight drops by about 7 grams. So every foot of heated air inside Rodriguez's balloon can lift about 7 grams. Just by himself, Rodriguez weighs 170 pounds, which equals 77,110 grams. That means he needs about 11,015 cubic feet of hot air just to raise his own body off the ground. This is why hot air balloons are so big—they must trap tremendous amounts of heated air. Rodriguez's balloon is a common size, trapping about 100,000 square feet of air. The balloon is 90 feet tall and 65 feet wide.

As Rodriguez gives his short burst of flame, the air inside swirls in complicated, invisible patterns. Little of it escapes out the hole in the bottom—instead, it cools off gradually by coming into contact with the surrounding air outside the balloon's thin nylon wall. As this happens, the balloon gradually sinks. To drop altitude more quickly, Rodriguez can pull a cord attached to a parachute valve at the very top of the balloon. Since the hottest air sits at the top, this releases the balloon's most buoyant air and increases the speed of descent.

Rodriguez gives the cord a short pull, and the gondola drops.

"I don't have an altimeter, and I can't really see anything happening inside the balloon," Rodriguez thinks. "I have to pilot by feel."

Pushed by the wind, the balloon is flying quickly now. It's floating over the back wall of a Wal-Mart when Rodriguez grabs hold of the parachute valve cord and gives it a long, hard tug. The balloon drops. Quickly. The hot air balloon is sinking, but still flying forward.

It looks as though it's about to slam into the edge of Wal-Mart's roof but it sails over it, with only about 15 feet to spare. Still, Rodriguez does not let go of the cord. He drops and drops, right between the light poles of the nearly empty parking lot. Just a few feet above the ground, Rodriguez releases the parachute cord, turns the knob above his head and fires both burners. The steep descent slows. The gondola touches lightly against the asphalt, and then drags to a stop. There are only two people in the parking lot, standing near the entrance to the store. They look toward the balloon, their eyes and mouths open wide in shock.

"That was a little closer than I expected," Rodriguez says to himself, laughing. "I really needed to land quick."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What makes landing the hot air balloon a challenge?

- A) the gondola
- B) the wind
- C) the parking lot
- D) the time of day

2. What problem does Keith Rodriguez solve?

- A) how to fly from Ohio to Pennsylvania in his hot air balloon
- B) how to increase the altitude of his hot air balloon
- C) how to safely land his hot air balloon
- D) how to change direction on his own in his hot air balloon

3. A hot air balloon floats because the air inside the balloon is warmer than the air outside of it.

What information from the story supports this statement?

- A) Hot air is lighter than cold air.
- B) One cubic foot of air weighs about an ounce.
- C) The air inside the balloon swirls in complicated, invisible patterns.
- D) The hot air balloon is sinking, but still flying forward.

4. Based on information in the passage, what would make a good landing area for a hot air balloon?

- A) a large, open space with no buildings
- B) a large space with lots of tall buildings
- C) a small, narrow space near a highway
- D) a small space, such as the roof of a building

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A) a hot air balloon that scares lots of people when it lands in a parking lot
- B) a hot air balloon that does not work properly
- C) a person who gets stuck up in the air and does not know what to do
- D) a person trying to land a hot air balloon in difficult conditions

6. Read the following sentences: "To drop **altitude** more quickly, Rodriguez can pull a cord attached to a parachute valve at the very top of the balloon. Since the hottest air sits at the top, this releases the balloon's most buoyant air and increases the speed of descent."

What does the word **altitude** mean in the sentence above?

- A) length
- B) width
- C) height
- D) volume

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Keith Rodriguez was planning to land in a cornfield; _____, he changes his mind because of the wind.

- A) previously
- B) however
- C) as a result
- D) for example

8. What effect does pulling the cord attached to the parachute valve have on Rodriguez's balloon?

9. Based on what the story explains about air temperature, why does pulling the cord have this effect?

10. Keith Rodriguez makes a successful but dangerous landing in a parking lot. Based on information in the story about his location, the weather, and how hot air balloons work, explain whether his decision to land in the parking lot was or was not a good idea. Please use evidence from the passage.

BOOK REPORT GUIDELINES

This year, you will be expected to hand in a book report every month. The due dates for book reports will be listed on the attached paper. Each report should be on a different book. For example, if you are reading Harry Potter, I only want one book report on that book. Below are guidelines as to how the report should be written and the information that needs to be included in your report:

- Introduction Paragraph – Introduce the book that you are reading. Provide information about the main characters, the setting of the story (where it takes place), and any other information that you think would be important for your audience to know.
- Conflict – What is the problem in the story? What are the characters in the story trying to do to solve the problem? What obstacles are the characters facing throughout this process?
- Conflict Resolution – How is the problem solved? What steps were taken to solve the problem?
- Conclusion Paragraph – What were your thoughts about the book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Would you read another book by the author of this story? Can you make any connections between the book and things that have happened in your life – if so, what are the connections you made?

Your book report should be ***four paragraphs long (remember, a paragraph is at least four sentences long!!)***. I have given you the information that needs to go in each paragraph. Please make sure you provide the information that you are asked to give and answer each question with plenty of details. Provide any other information that you feel is important to the report and the understanding of the story.

Your report will be graded on the following:

- Paragraphing – paragraphs are at least four sentences long; each paragraph has a topic sentence at the beginning.
- Spelling/Punctuation – be sure that you spell everything correctly and use correct punctuation.
- Information about the book – make sure you answer the questions I have given you. Use the questions as a guide to help you write your report.
- Length – the report should be four paragraphs long, no more and no less. Follow the guidelines above to set up your report.