

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 3 |
| Meeting Standards | 6 |
| Answer Sheets | 7 |
| Paired Passages | |
| Unit 1 <i>Nonfiction:</i> To the Egress | 8 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> To the Cyclops | 9 |
| Unit 2 <i>Nonfiction:</i> Why a Lie Is a Falsehood | 12 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> What Came First | 13 |
| Unit 3 <i>Nonfiction:</i> Training on an Anthill | 16 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> The Means of Survival | 17 |
| Unit 4 <i>Nonfiction:</i> A Weapon Not Often Used | 20 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> Auntie Barbara's Feral Cat | 21 |
| Unit 5 <i>Nonfiction:</i> What Happened in April | 24 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> The Colossal Cat | 25 |
| Unit 6 <i>Nonfiction:</i> Revolutionary Spy | 28 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> Inside the Mind of a Sculptor | 29 |
| Unit 7 <i>Nonfiction:</i> The Abominable Snowman | 32 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> The Cryptozoologist and the Tracks | 33 |
| Unit 8 <i>Nonfiction:</i> Only on the West | 36 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> When Parched | 37 |
| Unit 9 <i>Nonfiction:</i> The 900 | 40 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> Trivial Facts | 41 |
| Unit 10 <i>Nonfiction:</i> The Uneven Steps | 44 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> Vacation Journal: Ireland | 45 |
| Unit 11 <i>Nonfiction:</i> In a Minute | 48 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> No Lolling | 49 |
| Unit 12 <i>Nonfiction:</i> Civil War Nurse | 52 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> Why Nurses Jumped | 53 |
| Unit 13 <i>Nonfiction:</i> True Snake Tales | 56 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> Where Rattlesnakes Slither | 57 |
| Unit 14 <i>Nonfiction:</i> Sleeping on Nails | 60 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> The Impossible Nap | 61 |
| Unit 15 <i>Nonfiction:</i> The Disappearing Man | 64 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> A Fictional Interview Filled with Facts | 65 |
| Unit 16 <i>Nonfiction:</i> Telltale Hair | 68 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> Details that Don't Make Sense | 69 |
| Unit 17 <i>Nonfiction:</i> The Bald Chimpanzee | 72 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> Letter from St. Louis | 73 |
| Unit 18 <i>Nonfiction:</i> After 46 Years | 76 |
| <i>Fiction:</i> All My Riches | 77 |

Table of Contents (cont.)

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----|
| Unit 19 | <i>Nonfiction: One of the Modern Wonders</i> | 80 |
| | <i>Fiction: Agreeing with a Wonder</i> | 81 |
| Unit 20 | <i>Nonfiction: A World Below</i> | 84 |
| | <i>Fiction: Where No Person Has Gone Before</i> | 85 |
| Unit 21 | <i>Nonfiction: Similar to Coasting on Snow</i> | 88 |
| | <i>Fiction: The Dragon</i> | 89 |
| Unit 22 | <i>Nonfiction: The Decapitating Fly</i> | 92 |
| | <i>Fiction: Doctor Ants</i> | 93 |
| Unit 23 | <i>Nonfiction: The Largest Country on the Continent</i> | 96 |
| | <i>Fiction: The Good Excuse</i> | 97 |
| Unit 24 | <i>Nonfiction: Presidential Anecdotes</i> | 100 |
| | <i>Fiction: Playful Insults</i> | 101 |
| Unit 25 | <i>Nonfiction: The Problem with French Fries</i> | 104 |
| | <i>Fiction: One Food Only</i> | 105 |
| | Bibliography | 108 |
| | Answer Key | 110 |

Introduction

An Australian millionaire announced that he would tow an iceberg from Antarctica to Australia. Everyone laughed. Then, to everyone's astonishment, an iceberg appeared on the horizon.

* * * * *

It can't be a hoax! It's on the Internet. That's a real picture of a man holding a colossal cat. Why, that cat must be as large as a pony!

If a student read either one of these statements out of context, the student might have a difficult time knowing which statement is fiction and which one is nonfiction. In addition, the student would have no idea how the two statements could be tied together or used to support an argument or idea.

If, on the other hand, the student read these statements in context and understood how they fit into an entire passage, the student would be able to answer with confidence that, as strange as it may seem, an iceberg did appear on the Australian horizon in 1978. (The iceberg was a colossal mountain of garbage covered in white plastic sheets, shaving cream, and firefighting foam.) The student would then be able to compare, contrast, or tie this fact to the fictional passage about two children discussing a doctored photograph viewed on the Internet. (Both passages deal with April Fools' Day pranks.)

When Parched . . .

Ramon said, "I'm parched! I've got to drink some water, and soon."

Samantha said, "You don't want to get dehydrated. Did you know that people who are even mildly dehydrated will develop excessive thirst? They will become irritable, weak, and nauseated. Ramon, are you irritable, weak, or nauseated?"

Before Ramon could say whether he was irritable, weak, or nauseated, Shabbir joined in. "Ramon," he said, "you should be looking for bees. Bees are usually within several miles of water."

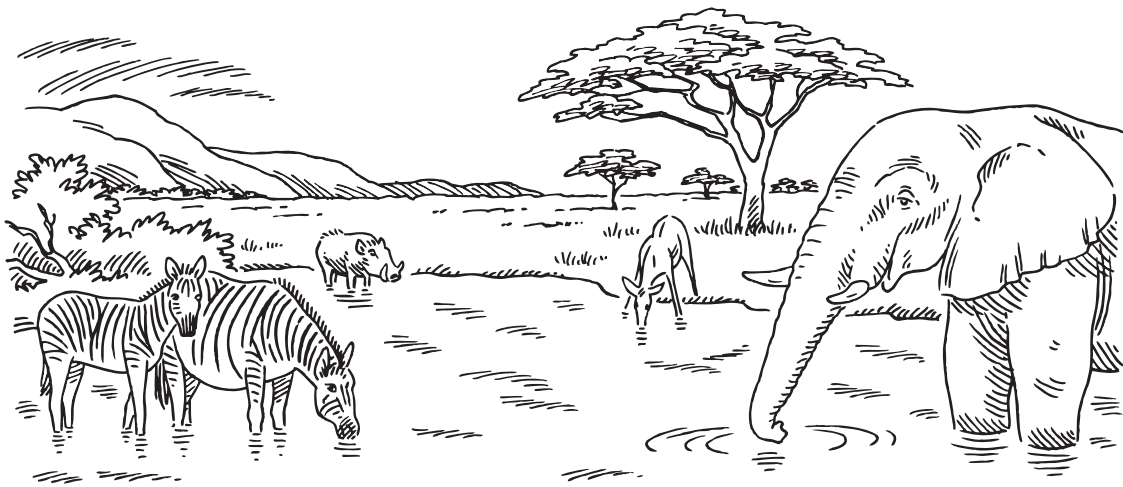
"Or mosquitoes and flies!" chimed Kaitlyn. "Mosquitoes and flies are usually a good predictor that water is close."

"I think Ramon should just wait till dawn or dusk," said Jonathon. "Then he can watch the flight path of birds. Birds frequently fly toward water in a low, direct path at dawn and dusk."

"I think he should look for frogs right now instead of waiting to observe birds at dawn or dusk," said Misako. "Frogs are a good indicator that water is near."

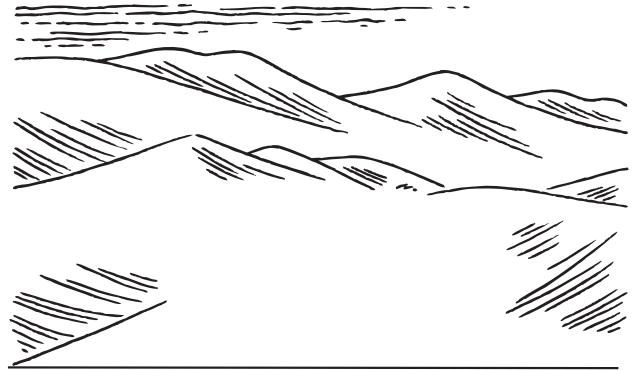
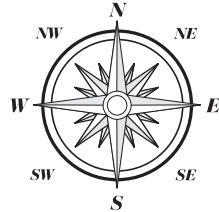
"Enough about insects, birds, and reptiles!" said Dylan. "Mammals frequently visit watering holes at dawn and dusk. Just look for animal trails. If you find several trails that merge into one, that's a real good indicator that you're on the right track."

"Um," said Ramon, "I appreciate all of the advice, but I think I'm just going to walk on over to the water fountain over by the playground, turn the handle, and take a drink."



Show What You Know (cont.)

6. On the picture of the desert to the right, draw an “X” where one might find a Namib beetle. Use the compass to help you.



7. Fill in the chart to keep straight who said what to Ramon.

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Animal</i> | <i>Information About</i> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | bees | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Write three or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. “Only on the West”

9. “When Parched . . .”

10. Describe a time when you began to feel or could have felt excessive thirst. Tell how you prevented dehydration. *(Use a separate piece of paper. Your answer should be one paragraph long.)*